

Foreword

*Christina Libre and Katalina Hadfield**

Dear Readers,

Traditionally, *Ecology Law Quarterly's* fourth annual installment reflects the theme and substance of our Annual Symposium. In 2022, this convening of practitioners and thought leaders focused on environmental justice. While environmental justice is amenable to a variety of definitions and interpretations, this Symposium focused on the ways in which mainstream environmental law has left behind, burdened, and overlooked the expertise of communities of color, the poor, workers, and other marginalized populations. Importantly, the Symposium's roster of incredibly insightful and accomplished panelists explored pathways to rectify this legacy and work toward a more just future.

This year, we are pleased to be publishing the direct transcripts from the Symposium. Our panelists provided a wealth of thoughtful commentary throughout four panels, and we know readers will appreciate the nuance and candor they brought to each discussion.

Our first panel transcript discusses California's Cap-and-Trade Program and its interplay with the Carbon Offset Program. We will hear from three industry experts who discuss the economic, political, and environmental justice implications of the Programs. Our panelists use their expertise to show us the many faults of these programs, including how they privatize the public issue of pollution and how they fail to materially reduce carbon emissions in a meaningful way. The conversation then turns to broader questions of pollution and extraction, with a robust discussion on how our society can balance energy use and resource extraction with their impacts on overlooked and underserved communities.

Our second panel transcript explores government strategies for a just transition. We will hear from three panelists, each at different levels of government—federal, state, and county—discussing their work to make a clean energy transition fair and thoughtful for people of all walks of life. This panel focuses heavily on a place-based approach to just transition, recognizing that all communities are unique and require a tailored approach to a clean energy transition. Panelists explain how partnerships between multiple levels of

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governance are key in a just transition, but community engagement and input is the cornerstone of a fair and justice-oriented strategy.

Our third panel transcript explores a variety of topics related to the green economy, with a focus on a just transition. This panel was moderated by Berkeley Law's Professor Daniel Farber, and it featured two panelists: Renee Hatcher, an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law and Director at the Community Enterprise & Solidarity Economy Clinic, and Jose "JB" Tengco, Vice President for State Affairs for the Bluegreen Alliance. The discussion covered a variety of topics, with particular emphasis on the fact that growth has left a lot of people behind, including ordinary workers and disadvantaged communities, and generated dramatic environmental problems, not least of which climate change. The panelists describe important and imaginative efforts to create a green economy that works for everyone.

Our fourth and final panel transcript explores in greater depth what a just transition looks like for communities of color. This panel convenes several Black women working in various corners of the environmental legal space. The discussion is moderated by Alicia Arrington, a current student at the University of California, Berkeley pursuing a dual degree in city planning and in law, and Candice Youngblood, an Attorney at Earthjustice and alum of Berkeley Law. They are accompanied by Savonala "Savi" Horne, Executive Director of the Land Loss Prevention Project, and Kimberly Leefatt, an Attorney at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Thank you immensely to all who contributed to the Annual Symposium that led to this issue. We truly hope that the knowledge and wisdom imparted by these panelists can help us to build a future that is environmentally just for not just those in power, but for everyone on planet Earth.

With warm regards,

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