



LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN COASTAL NEW ENGLAND

11TH MARINE LAW SYMPOSIUM

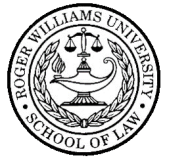
Roger Williams University School of Law

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Dena Adler is a Climate Law Fellow at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School. Dena's work at the Sabin Center includes tracking U.S. and international trends in climate change litigation and developing legal and regulatory tools to advance the efforts of governments and private actors to adapt to a changing climate and to mitigate the effects of climate change. During the first year of her fellowship, she has worked on projects related to the growing impacts of coastal flooding and hurricanes in the U.S., including new avenues for litigation and reforms for the National Flood Insurance Program. Before starting at the Sabin Center, she completed a J.D. at Yale Law School and a Masters of Environmental Management at Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. While at Yale, Dena worked with the Yale Climate Change Dialogue and City of Paris to expand global action on climate change by designing legal mechanisms that could link climate commitments from cities, regional governments, and corporate actors to the international treaty regime. She has completed legal internships at the Environmental Defense Fund, Earthjustice, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality.



Melissa Chalek is a Policy Analyst with the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law/Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. Her research is focused on adaptation responses to coastal hazards throughout New England. Ms. Chalek previously worked as a research assistant for Rhode Island Sea Grant on shellfish management issues, including authoring the legal framework chapter of the *Rhode Island Shellfish Management Plan*. She also clerked for the Rhode Island Superior Court. Prior to entering the legal profession, Ms. Chalek had a career as a zoo keeper, focusing on aquatic animals. She received her J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law and a B.S. in Marine Biology and a Master of Marine Affairs, both from the University of Rhode Island.



Jessica Grannis is the Adaptation Program Director for the Georgetown Climate Center and is a Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor at the Harrison Institute for Public Law, at Georgetown University Law Center. Ms. Grannis oversees staff and student research and analysis of federal, state and local adaptation efforts. Her publications include an Adaptation Tool Kit for Sea Level Rise (2012) and a book chapter on Coastal Retreat in *The Law of Adaptation to Climate Change: U.S. and International Aspects* (2012, with Peter Byrne). Prior to joining the Harrison Institute, she was staff counsel for the California State Coastal Conservancy and the Ocean Protection Council. She holds a B.A. in history from the University of Chicago; a J.D., Cum Laude, from University of California Hastings College of the Law; and a L.L.M., with honors, from Georgetown Law.



Elena Mihaly is a Staff Attorney at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), a New England-wide environmental advocacy non-profit. Elena works in CLF's Resilient Communities Program, where she focuses on developing and implementing law and policy solutions to enhance community climate preparedness. Elena's recent publications include a CLF Report titled *Climate Adaptation and Legal Liability: A Legal Primer and Workshop Summary Report* (2018), and an article titled *Avoiding Septic Shock: How Climate Change can cause Septic System Failure and whether New England States are Prepared*, 23 Ocean & Coastal L.J. 1 (2018). She has presented on the topic of climate adaptation liability at regional and national conferences. Elena received her J.D., summa cum laude, and Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.



Deanna Moran is the Director of Environmental Planning at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) where she focuses on climate adaptation and the built environment through planning, development, and regulation. She is the co-author of the CLF Report, *Climate Adaptation and Legal Liability: A Legal Primer and Workshop Summary Report*. Deanna holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Design from the University at Buffalo and a Master's in Public Policy and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University.



Shaun O'Rourke is Director of Stormwater and Resiliency at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and Chief Resilience Officer for the State of Rhode Island. Prior to joining RIIB, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design at the Boston Architectural College, where he continues to serve as a member of the faculty. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer focusing on public sector infrastructure projects. Shaun holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from the University of Vermont.



Read Porter is the Senior Staff Attorney with the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law/Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. Prior to joining the Institute in 2016, Mr. Porter was a senior attorney and directed the Invasive Species Program at the Environmental Law Institute, a non-profit environmental policy research and education organization based in Washington, DC. He also served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Julia Smith Gibbons on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. Porter has extensive experience in a wide range of ocean and coastal law and policy topics, including fisheries and aquaculture, compliance and enforcement, marine protected areas, offshore energy, invasive species, and other topics. Read earned a J.D., cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was editor in chief of the *Harvard Environmental Law Review*, and a B.A., summa cum laude in Geology from Amherst College.



Thomas Ruppert leads the Florida Sea Grant College Program's Coastal Planning Program. Through this program Mr. Ruppert, a licensed attorney, works with partners to develop legal and policy analysis for local governments on planning for sea-level rise, community resilience, and associated long-term challenges and opportunities for Florida's coastal communities. He has worked with over a dozen partners to organize and host legal workshops on coastal issues and flood insurance around the state. Mr. Ruppert is currently involved with several initiatives within Florida communities planning for sea-level rise and maintains a website of original resources at www.flseagrant.org/climatechange/coastalplanning/. Mr. Ruppert has authored and co-authored numerous legal articles and frequently serves as an invited presenter at events in Florida and in other coastal states.



Katie Spidalieri, an Institute Associate at the Georgetown Climate Center, provides legal and policy analysis on adaptation projects at the federal, state, and local levels. Her work focuses on adaptation in the coastal sector, including evaluating land use and other tools and strategies, such as managed retreat, to adapt to rising seas and flooding. Prior to joining the Climate Center, Katie worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and state environmental agencies in Maryland and North Carolina in permitting, environmental compliance, offshore energy and infrastructure development, land use, and community engagement and outreach in the place-based management of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments. Katie graduated magna cum laude with a J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and the University of Virginia where she received two degrees, with distinction, in history and an interdisciplinary Environmental Thought and Practice Program.



Julia Wyman is the Director of the Marine Affairs Institute at Roger Williams University School of Law/Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program. Ms. Wyman has extensive state and national ocean and coastal law and policy experience. Ms. Wyman most recently served as Ocean and Environmental Counsel for Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island. Prior to that, Ms. Wyman served as the Staff Attorney at the Marine Affairs Institute, and the Policy Analyst for the Coastal States Organization in Washington, DC, an organization that represents the interests of the Governors of the thirty-five coastal states, commonwealths, and territories. Much of Ms. Wyman's work has focused on coastal adaptation to climate change. Ms. Wyman serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at RWU School of Law, where she teaches courses related to ocean and coastal law and policy. Ms. Wyman received her J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law and her B.A. from Trinity College.

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