Webinar Series – Human Rights Due Diligence for Climate Change Impacts

Episode 2 – The (intended) impact of climate change litigation on corporate due diligence

Speaker Biographies

Olanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun is a Professor of Environmental Law, and currently the Vice Chancellor of the Lagos State University, Nigeria. For 27 years he has taught environmental law at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and published numerous works in learned journals. He has served as consultant to Government and bodies such as the European Commission and Global Environment Facility, and on environment bodies like the Lagos Water Regulatory Commission; Expert Group for Development of Climate Change Policy & Legislation for Nigeria; National Consultant Law & Policy for the Establishment of Baseline in Relation to Conservation of Globally Important Biodiversity in Nigeria; and Regional Representative Africa – Environment Health and Safety Committee of the IBA. He was a member of the IBA 18 – Man Special Task Force on Climate Change Justice and Human Rights which produced the book: Achieving Justice and Human Rights in an Era of Climate Disruption (2014).

Stijn Franken is a partner in our Dispute Resolution group. He specializes in product liability (Bison, DSM, GSK, Eli Lilly, Sanofi, Philips), new risks (Urgenda, Scheuten, Shell, TU Delft), insurance law (AIG, HDI, Amlin, Travelers, AXA, Allianz), as well as law of damages. He successfully defended Dutch/UK insurers in a multi-billion euro US asbestos claim and British American Tobacco in the first-ever Dutch tobacco claim. Stijn is presently representing insurers (Aegon, Achmea) in mass claims pertaining to unit-linked life insurances and advising on the coverage of various large directors' liability claims (LyondellBasell Industries, Fortis, Intech). Stijn graduated in law from the University of Leiden in 1992 and obtained a master's degree from the University of London. He joined NautaDutilh in 1994 and became a partner in 2003. Stijn is lecturing insurance law at Leiden University, product liability law at Grotius Academy, a board member of various law associations (VASR, VvVW), and a member of the editorial staff of two legal journals (AV&S, Bb).

Ingrid Gubbay is the head of the human rights and environmental disputes at the London office of the law firm HausfeldGlobal. She has been a litigator for over 24 years and is recognised for her work in a number of ground breaking cases, in both Australia where she formerly practiced, and the UK. Recently, she acted as co-counsel together with the NGO Earth Justice, in the first Petition submitted to the UN Childrens Rights Committee on behalf of 16 children drawn from variously climate affected regions of the world against five G20 Countries. Ingrid’s work is mainly focussed on domestic/international climate emergency cases and related high level policy development. She is also a Trustee of three social enterprises, including one based in the Netherlands which trains and empowers youth to become sea rangers to work with European Government fisheries, to stop/monitor illegal fishing in the Mediterranean and Baltic seas.

Jolene Lin is an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore’s Faculty of Law (NUS). She is also Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for Environmental Law. Jolene’s research focuses on global climate change law, strategic climate change litigation, and transnational environmental law. Jolene has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals including the Journal of Environmental Law, the European Journal of International Law, and the American Journal of International Law. She is the author of Governing Climate Change: Global Cities and Transnational Lawmaking (Cambridge University Press, 2018) and is co-editor (with Douglas A. Kysar) of the forthcoming Climate Change Litigation in Asia Pacific (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Annalisa Savaresi is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Law at Stirling University. She is an expert in climate change law and on the interplay between human rights and climate change law, with 20 years’ experience working with international and nongovernmental organizations. Since turning to academia in 2009, she has contributed to numerous law and policy reports for international organisations and governments. She has given evidence to the UK, the EU and Scottish Parliaments and provided technical advice in the context of the world’s first inquiry into the human rights violations associated with the impacts of fossil fuel corporations – the ‘Carbon Majors inquiry’. Her publications have been widely cited and she has taught environmental law
Holly Stebbing is a commercial litigation and dispute resolution lawyer based in London. Her practice focuses on disputes in the energy, infrastructure and natural resources sectors, both domestic (including UKCS) and international. She has a wide range of experience, including litigation in the Commercial Court, Technology & Construction Court, Chancery Division and appellate courts, institutional and ad hoc commercial arbitration (LCIA, ICC, SCC, LMAA, SIAC), all forms of ADR and incident response (including representing clients in the Crown Court and Coroner's Court). Holly’s clients include IOCs and NOCs, mining companies, renewable energy providers, oilfield services contractors, construction companies, utilities and petrochemical companies. She advises on all forms of commercial dispute, including licensing and concession arrangements, joint venture and shareholder disputes, construction matters, M&A litigation, decommissioning, third party access to infrastructure, offtake and trading agreements and transportation and processing arrangements. Holly has been tracking climate litigation developments globally for a number of years and is leading the firm’s response to this new and novel area of litigation. She regularly writes and delivers training and thought leadership presentations on this topic. Holly is recommended in Legal 500 for oil and gas, mining and minerals and commodities and physicals, as well as dispute resolution and international arbitration. She was recognised in Legal Week as a rising star for the future. She holds a Masters’ degree in Energy and Natural Resources Law and is one of the contributing editors for Getting the Deal Through: Energy Disputes.

Sudhanshu Swaroop QC is a barrister practising commercial, arbitration and public international law. He is in chambers at Twenty Essex in London. Sudhanshu’s public international practice has involved some of the leading cases of recent times, including on immunities, law of the sea and international human rights. Sudhanshu’s commercial and arbitration practice encompasses shipping and international trade, banking and finance, energy and natural resources and investment treaties. He has particular experience of group and tort claims against multinational corporations, having acted in several of the important English cases. These include Chandler v Cape, on the duty of care owed by a parent company. Drawing on his background in both commercial and public international law, Sudhanshu has developed expertise in climate change. He is currently acting in a claim against Australia in the United Nations Human Rights Committee, challenging Australia’s record on fossil fuel emissions and seeking remedies to protect the Torres Strait Islands from rising sea levels. The case has attracted worldwide media coverage and was hailed on CNN as a “landmark.”