

Community Lawyering for Environmental Justice Part 11: Onshore Renewable Energy Permitting

Faculty Biographies

Nadia Ahmad, Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Environmental and Earth Law Certificate Program, Barry University School of Law – Nadia B. Ahmad is an Associate Professor at Barry University School of Law. Professor Ahmad’s research explores the intersections of energy siting, the environment, and sustainable development and draws on international investment law and corporate social responsibility. She has published over 30 scholarly articles and book chapters. In 2016, she was recognized by the Orlando Business Journal as a 40 Under 40 honoree for her leadership and community involvement.

Professor Ahmad was competitively selected twice to present at the Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Scholarship at Columbia Law School. She has presented her research on the law and policy of advanced biofuels in Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Cambridge, Doha, Denver, New York, and San Francisco. Prior to joining the Barry Law faculty, Professor Ahmad was the inaugural Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Law at Pace Law School. She also worked as a Legal Fellow with Sustainable Development Strategies Group on tax policy for natural resources, community development agreements, and mineral leasing rights for projects in Afghanistan, Mali, and Mozambique.

At the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment at Columbia University, she advised on offshore drilling laws for Sierra Leone. Professor Ahmad’s earlier experience included working for a multinational oil and gas company in the Denver-Julesburg Basin and in private law practice in Florida in the areas of land use, zoning, asset protection, and bad faith insurance litigation defense. Professor Ahmad earned an undergraduate degree in Comparative Literature with language emphases in Latin and English from the University of California at Berkeley with high honors.

Her undergraduate thesis examined representations of tradition and modernity in Indo-Anglian literature from 1947 to 1997. She completed her law degree (J.D.) from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she was a Virgil Hawkins Fellowship recipient. At UF Law, she served as executive editor of the Florida Journal of International Law and wrote about women’s property rights in Post-Partition South Asia. Later, she earned a masters of law (LL.M.) in Environmental and Natural Resources Law from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she explored the legal barriers for the deployment of advanced renewable technologies in the Global South and worked on the editorial review of the Journal of Energy & Natural Resources Law.

She currently serves as Vice Chair of the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice’s Environmental Justice Committee, which was presented with the 2016-2017 ABA Committee Excellence Award, and the ABA Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources’ Superfund and Natural Resource Damages Litigation Committee. She is an official expert for multilateral development organization, International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) Taskforce

on Bamboo for Renewable Energy (TFB4RE), which promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan.

She was previously Chair of the Younger Comparativists Committee's Linkages and Engagement Advisory Group of the American Society of Comparative Law, Regional Chair of Mid-Florida for the Florida Muslim Bar Association, Chair of the Florida Bar's Media and Communications Law Committee and a Board Member of the City and County of Denver's Human Rights and Community Partnerships Advisory Board. Professor Ahmad is a member of the state bars of Florida and Colorado. Professor Ahmad's most publications and working papers may be found on Social Science Research Network.

Brenda Brickhouse, Technical Executive, Equitable Decarbonization Interest Group, Electric Power Research Institute – Brenda Brickhouse is a Technical Executive at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Ms. Brickhouse leads EPRI's Equitable Decarbonization Initiative and is involved in research efforts characterizing priority sustainability issues, on the intersection of sustainability and enterprise risk management, optimizing sustainability strategy and in decision making and investments, and understanding the equity and environmental justice implications and opportunities associated with decarbonization and the clean energy transition.

Prior to joining EPRI, Ms. Brickhouse served as Chief Sustainability Officer at the Tennessee Valley Authority and held a variety of environmental, operational and leadership roles in the utility industry and in consulting. Ms. Brickhouse received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Master of Public Affairs from NC State University and a Master of Energy Regulation and Law from Vermont Law School where she focused on energy justice and environmental justice.

Danielle Fidler, Senior Attorney, Clean Energy Program, Earthjustice – Danielle Fidler is a senior attorney with the Clean Energy Program, which uses litigation and advocacy to speed the just transition to a clean energy economy. She is a member of the Program's FERC Practice which focuses on reforming the nation's electric system to ensure a level playing field for clean energy resources and unburdening frontline communities from the ongoing harms of fossil fuel power plants. Her portfolio includes transmission planning, capacity markets, and resource adequacy issues primarily at the federal level and in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

Before coming to Earthjustice, Danielle previously served as an assistant attorney general with the New York Attorney General's Office and a senior enforcement attorney with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where she specialized in complex enforcement cases. Danielle was a member of the U.S. Department of Justice's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill trial team, and also served as a Brookings Fellow to the Senate Finance Committee.

Danielle has a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and a law and master's degree from George Washington University.

Zoe Vogel, Public Interest Environmental Law Fellow, Environmental Law Institute – Zoe is currently a Public Interest Legal Fellow at the Environmental Law Institute, and previously served as a law clerk at ELI during the summer of 2022. Zoe received her J.D. with honors from Tulane University Law School, where she served as the Editor-in-Chief for the Tulane

Environmental Law Journal, a student attorney with the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, and an Intersectionality Chair for the Environmental & Energy Law Society. During her time there, she also held positions with the National Wildlife Federation, the Tulane Institute on Water Law and Policy, and Louisiana's Center for Planning Excellence. She previously earned her B.S.B. from the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management, during which time she worked as a farm intern to better understand the lived experience of environmental policies (shoutout to Tangletown Gardens!).