

## The UK Earth Law Judgments Project

### Call for judgment-writers, commentators and other participants

#### **Background**

The UK Earth Law Judgments Project will involve the reimagining and rewriting of significant cases in UK law (including English, Scots and Northern Irish law) from an ecocentric perspective. It builds on the work of feminist judgment projects in a number of jurisdictions, and the recent Wild Law Judgment Project led by Australian scholars.

The project aims to change legal culture by:

- inspiring ecoconscious ways of thinking about and practicing law among judges, legal practitioners, academics and students; and
- furthering critical debates around the idea of Earth law, wild law and ecocentric paradigms. What might or should an ecocentric jurisprudence look like in the UK?

#### *What is Earth Law?*

This project uses the term 'Earth law' to recognise the diversity of ecocentric ways of thinking about relationships between people and planet. These include Earth jurisprudence and Wild Law, rights of nature approaches, proposed new legal concepts (e.g. Ecocide), ancient and indigenous holistic belief systems (e.g. Buddhism, Druidism), and local earth-centred customary practices that connect people and place. The project will create a space for reflection on, and critique of, different ecocentric visions. It does not favour any one normative paradigm, but aims to explore a range of potential avenues for the development of ecocentric jurisprudence in the UK.

#### **Call for judgment writers, commentators and other project participants**

The project aims to engage academics from a range of backgrounds, as well as legal professionals and the broader public. The main academic output from the project will be an edited collection of the reimagined judgments, along with commentaries. We are inviting proposals for judgments and commentaries. We are also keen to hear from others (for example, artists) who would like to become involved in alternative ways.

#### *Workshop for judgment writers*

An initial workshop for judgment writers will be held at the Middle Temple in the heart of London's legal community on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2020. The workshop will provide a space for judgment writers to learn and to develop their idea further and will include input from a judge on the judgment-writing process. Judgment writers are sought from all legal (or non-legal) backgrounds. No specialist knowledge of 'environmental law' is necessary and

interdisciplinary contributions and collaborations are encouraged. If you are not from a legal background, but would like to be involved, please do contact the project leads to discuss further.

We are looking for proposals that reimagine key cases across a broad range of legal areas, including (but not limited to):

- Criminal Law and Evidence
- Commercial Law
- Contract Law
- Employment Law
- Environmental Law
- Family Law
- Human Rights Law
- Planning law
- Property and Trusts Law (including both Land and Personal Property Law)
- Public law
- Tort Law

The proposal should include a brief (max 300 words) description of the judgment you would like to rewrite and an explanation of why you think that this judgment would be interesting to reimagine. Alternatively, you may wish to propose a judgment for a case that has yet to be brought in the UK courts, based on a set of facts that raise questions about people-nature relationships that are of significance in the UK. Please also provide a brief biography (max 100 words).

A later workshop will bring together judgment writers and commentators. If you wish to participate in the project as a commentator or to be involved in some other way, please get in touch, sending a brief biography (max 100 words). We will add you to our project mailing list for future activities and events.

**The deadline for submission of proposals for judgments is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020.**

For more information about the UK Earth Law Judgments Project, please contact the project leads Dr Helen Dancer, University of Sussex ([H.E.Dancer@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:H.E.Dancer@sussex.ac.uk)) and Dr Bonnie Holligan, University of Sussex ([B.Holligan@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:B.Holligan@sussex.ac.uk)). Details about the project can be found at the project webpage, [http://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/research/projects/earth\\_law](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/law/research/projects/earth_law).