The UK Earth Law Judgments Project

Call for judgment writers, commentators, artists and other participants
Invitation to online workshop

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 and commentary writers, artists 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.

Introductory workshop on ‘Judgment writing from an Earth law perspective’

Our planned initial event at the Middle Temple has been postponed, and we will now hold an initial half-day workshop online on the morning of Wednesday 1st July 2020. The workshop will introduce those interested in writing judgments and commentaries to the idea of alternative judgment writing, to explore the vision for the UK Earth Law Judgments
Project and to provide an opportunity for networking. It will include talks from the leaders of the Australian Wild Law Judgment Project and the UK project leads.

**How to participate in the online workshop on July 1st**
If you wish to participate in the project as a judgment writer, commentary writer, artist or to be involved in some other way, and would like to join the workshop on July 1st, please provide a brief (maximum 300 word) outline of your field of expertise or interest and how you would like to contribute to the project and include a brief biography (max 100 words).

**The deadline for expressions of interest is Monday 22nd June. Participants will be notified by Wednesday 24th June.**

Please note that no additional preparation will be required in advance of the workshop. The workshop will be free of charge.

**Call for judgment writers extended**
Judgment and commentary 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 and Tort Law.

If you would like to rewrite a judgment, please send a proposal including a title and 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).

Due to the challenging circumstances that many of us faced around the time of our initial deadline, please note that **we will be extending the deadline for submission of abstracts for judgments until September 4th.**

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**) and Dr Bonnie Holligan, University of Sussex (**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).