

Editors' Note

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EDITORS' NOTE

Dear Readers,

For more than two decades, the *Sustainable Development Law and Policy Brief* (“*SDLP*”) has published works analyzing emerging legal and policy issues within the fields of environmental, energy, sustainable development, and natural resources law. *SDLP* has also prioritized making space for law students in the conversation. We are honored to continue this tradition in Volume XXIII.

This second Issue explores the intersections of a range of legal issues with climate change. From financial systems; to displacement of people and immigration; to issues of sovereignty, tribal relations, and the Law of the Sea; to international treaties and protection of biodiversity—climate change is not just about climate but rather touches a multitude of aspects of life today, and consequently is driving significant changes across our legal systems.

The Guinan article explores the environmental impacts of crypto-asset mining and how U.S. law can not only regulate the industry but also its negative environmental and energy consumption impacts. Specifically, the article looks at state and local regulations and the impacts of the 2022 federal Inflation Reduction Act. The article makes significant recommendations for a unified federal-based regulatory scheme. The Streeter, Hunter, and Snape article looks to the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere as a critical international treaty for addressing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation that is being exacerbated by climate change and calls for the U.S. to lead an effort to revitalize the implementation of this treaty.

The Stephens feature dives into the “Great Climate Migration” and the challenges of international and domestic legal frameworks to address climate change-related harms. These challenges are illustrated through a case study of a family of climate refugees from Kiribati and explores recent legal precedent in the U.S. which may provide a roadmap for how to prove and measure harms resulting from climate change. This issue is rounded out with the Macneill feature which discusses how the intersections of international law on indigenous rights, the international Law of the Sea, and climate change have shaped a sovereignty dispute over a small island in the Arctic and the management of its natural resources.

We would like to thank all the article and feature authors for their insights and dedication to raising important legal issues. We would also like to thank the faculty advisors, Executive Board, staff, and publisher of *SDLP* for making this publication possible. Finally, we would like to thank our readers, whose involvement and investment in *SDLP* are the reason we have been able to continue this publication for more than twenty years.

Sincerely,



Rachel Keylon & Meghan Sullivan

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