

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM and SPECIAL ISSUE

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Changing Faces of Business Law and Sustainability

The Business and Human Rights Initiative at the University of Connecticut, the Center for the Business of Sustainability at Penn State University's Smeal College of Business, the College of Business at Oregon State University, and the *American Business Law Journal* (ABLJ) are pleased to invite submissions related to the role of business law to support and enhance firm and societal engagement on sustainability. This theme is consistent with 2020 AACSB Standard 9.

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and public protests for social justice—as well as whole host of other emerging risks and threats to the environment and society—have generated newfound questions about the appropriate roles of legal rules, principles, and institutions towards promoting sustainable and broad-based value through business. Legal scholarship provides fertile ground for identifying the definitions, conflicts, contradictions, barriers, and limitations of business sustainability. It also provides promise for generating solutions to these challenges that accord with the rule of law, fairness, and equity while furthering the interests of firms and impacted communities. Effective scholarship in this regard requires a perspective that transcends any single area of law, regulatory domain, industry, or jurisdiction.

We seek manuscripts related to any areas of law applicable to the ways in which sustainability is, or should be, addressed by business. Appropriate topics include, but are not limited to:

- Legal structures, opportunities, or regulatory mechanisms to incentivize or increase sustainability in business
- Private and hybrid public-private governance mechanisms related to sustainability and business
- Incentive systems for technological and commercial innovation in sustainability
- Regulation of ESG investing, reporting, and risk management practices
- Critiques of legal and economic structures that fuel unsustainable business practices
- The implications of diversity, equity, and inclusion practices by business for sustainability
- The intersections of business sustainability with human rights and/or globalization
- Issues related to the intersection of business, sustainability, and environmental justice, social justice, and/or structural racism

Only submissions related to the sustainability theme will be considered for the Symposium. Submissions incorporating interdisciplinary approaches and/or comparative and international law are welcome, as are submissions from researchers based outside of North America. It is expected that 8-12 papers will be selected for the Symposium.

If you wish to present at the Symposium, please send a 1,000-2,000 word précis of your paper, along with your CV, by Monday, November 1, 2021 to ablj2022symposium@gmail.com. You will be notified whether your submission was selected no later than Friday, November 19, 2021.

The Symposium will be held virtually by Zoom on Friday, February 25 and Saturday, February 26, 2022. In addition to the presenters, other participants will include, among others, the Symposium organizers, members of the *ABLJ* board, and invited discussants with applicable knowledge and expertise on sustainability and other issues addressed in the papers. Presenters must commit to submitting a complete draft of their paper no later than Friday, February 11, 2022 (two weeks prior to the Symposium), attending the entirety of the Symposium, and potentially serving as a discussant. Participants are expected to read and provide feedback on other papers in advance of the Symposium. For co-authored papers, all authors are welcome to participate in the Symposium.

Papers presented at the Symposium will be eligible for consideration by the *ABLJ* for publication in a special issue devoted to the Symposium theme in Volume 59, Issue 4 (2022). The *ABLJ* is rated an A journal on the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) journal quality list and is the premier peer-reviewed research journal in business law. Papers submitted for consideration by the *ABLJ* must conform to The Bluebook (21st Edition) and may be between 12,000 and 20,000 words in length (inclusive of footnotes). To be considered for publication in this issue, you must submit your paper for peer review to the *ABLJ* by Friday, April 1, 2022 to abljsubmission@alsb.org. It is expected that 4-5 articles will be published in the special issue.

Questions regarding the Symposium may be directed to stephen.park@uconn.edu.

Symposium co-organizers:

Stephen Park

Associate Professor of Business Law and Satell Fellow in Corporate Social Responsibility
Director, Business and Human Rights Initiative
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Dan Cahoy

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On behalf of the *ABLJ*:

David Orozco

Bank of America Professor of Business Administration
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Editor-in-Chief, *American Business Law Journal*, Volume 59