

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

**2015 - 2016  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic  
6329 Freret Street, New Orleans, LA 70118  
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[www.tulane.edu/~telc](http://www.tulane.edu/~telc)

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## Message from the Director

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September 8, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

TELC's student attorneys continue to represent clients who seek to protect the Atchafalaya Basin. Non-Louisianans may know the Basin from the PBS documentary, "Atchafalaya Houseboat," or from the photographs of C.C. Lockwood (including the U.S. Post Office's 2012 Louisiana Forever stamp). But they may not realize that the Basin is a valued national resource: it is the nation's largest river swamp, with 885,000 acres of forested wetlands and 517,000 acres of marshland. It is also central to Louisiana's Cajun culture, having enabled generations to make a living from crawfishing, fishing, and hunting. But the Basin is under siege. It faces a "death by a thousand cuts" as oil and gas exploration and production, logging, private hunting reserves, road-building, and other encroachments disrupt natural hydrology, destroy cypress stands, and block access to traditional fishing grounds.

Many projects in the Basin require the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' approval, as they involve destruction of wetlands and are thus subject to the Corps' permitting system for "discharge of dredged or fill material" under the Clean Water Act. The Corps, however, is an inconsistent protector of the Basin at best. Its enforcement division does not even have boats to inspect for compliance. Although Corps personnel will ride on violators' and permittees' boats (and therefore see what those people choose to show them), Corps policy prohibits inspectors from riding on our clients' boats. A Corps employee summarized (in an e-mail) the status of one area in the Basin as follows: "This is a mess. Probably a mix of non-compliance and straight-up unauthorized activities." The email offered an example: "nearly 10 years ago, we issued a permit ... to replace culverts that we are only now learning were never authorized in the first place." That area is still a mess; in fact, the Corps has authorized construction of an additional road connecting to the prior problematic construction.

The Corps approves many projects in the Basin under "general permits," which—by law—are supposed to have "only minimal cumulative adverse effect on the environment." Corps authorizations under these permits can be fast and loose. Plus, they occur without public notice or opportunity to comment. TELC's clients—Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West, and Gulf Restoration Network—challenged reissuance of one of these permits after it became apparent that 1) the Corps authorized projects under the permit after it expired and before reissuance, 2) when the Corps reissued the permit, it skipped the step of looking at cumulative impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act, and 3) the Corps had failed to determine whether the permit would result in "only minimal" impacts. The result? A "voluntary" remand that may lead to reform of this particular permit. A victory, therefore, for our clients and our student attorneys! But it is not the victory we wanted it to be. A voluntary remand avoids a public airing of the Corps' deeply flawed standard operating procedure.

One lesson for our students is that administrative law (which is what allows our clients to challenge Corps actions) is an inherently frustrating tool. On the other hand, it is administrative law that empowers ordinary citizens to call out the U.S. government—the world's most powerful sovereign—in a public courtroom. In another time or place, presumably, the sovereign might have had such disputants taken out and shot. So it should come as no surprise that the government gets the benefit of the doubt when people challenge its behavior in court.

TELC tries to impress upon our students the power of the tools that their pending degrees provide, even as those students learn how difficult it can be to wield those tools effectively enough to preserve their clients' members' way of life or to protect an endangered national resource.

Very truly yours,



Since 1989, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic has provided free legal representation and community outreach to hundreds of community groups, low-income individuals, and local governments that have historically been left out of environmental decision-making processes. TELC helps the Louisiana Bar meet its obligation under the legal profession's rules to ensure that access to justice is not denied to people who cannot afford legal services or whose cause is controversial or unpopular. TELC also contributes to the Louisiana legal community by training ethical and competent litigators. To learn more about us, please visit [www.tulane.edu/~telc/](http://www.tulane.edu/~telc/).

TELC is a proud member of the Mississippi River Collaborative, [www.msrivercollab.org](http://www.msrivercollab.org).



Student Attorney Carra Smith (right) conducts client interview with Ms. Penny Bennett



Student Attorney Amanda Serfess (standing at left) with (from left) Stephanie Anthony, Marylee Orr (Executive Director, Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)), and Wilma Subra (LEAN).

Each year, the Clinic trains approximately 26 law students to practice environmental law. The Louisiana Supreme Court and the U.S. District Courts in Louisiana have adopted “student practice” rules that authorize Clinic students to appear “in court or before any administrative tribunal in Louisiana.” This authorization is a privilege, carrying with it the responsibility to provide zealous, diligent representation that meets the highest standards of professional behavior. Clinic students are sworn to place “the interests of the client” above their “personal interests or clinic interests.”

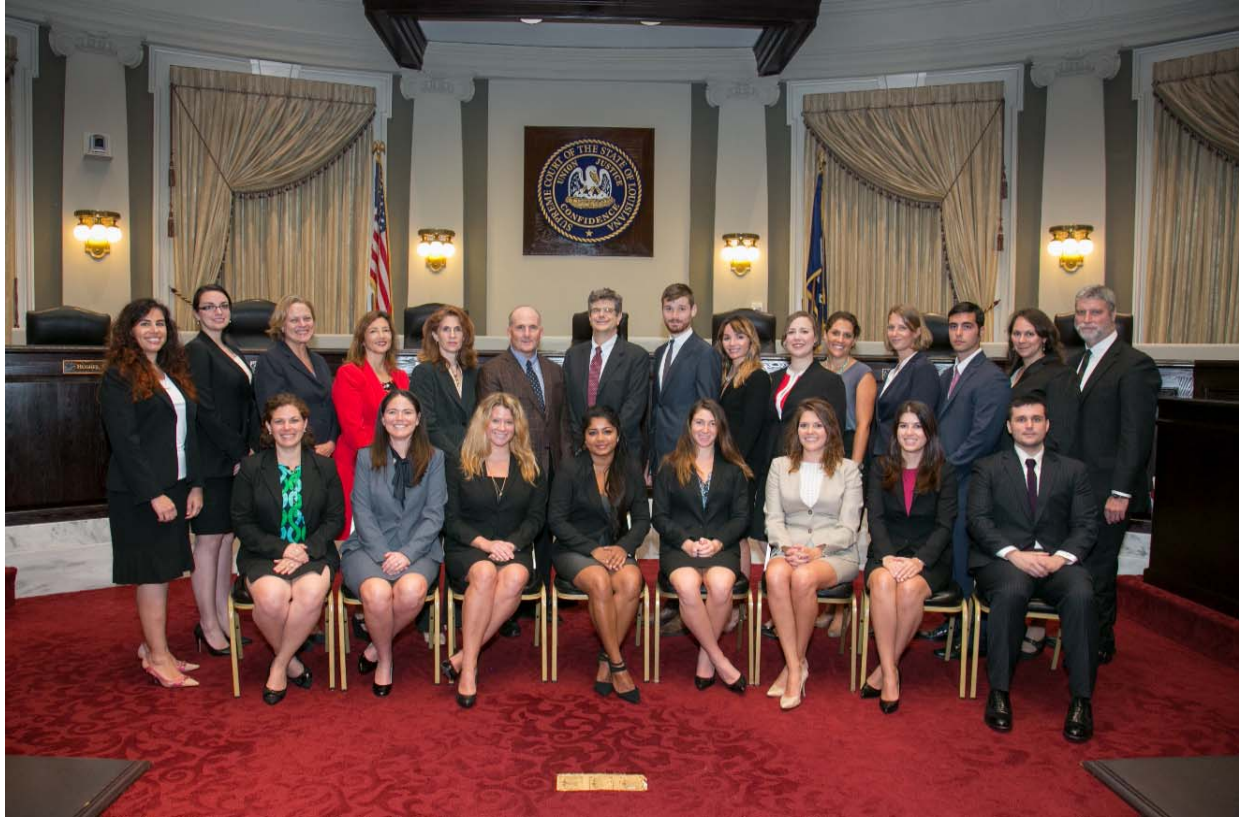


Student Attorney Alison Dunbar at the fall 2015 swearing in ceremony



Assistant Dean Jim Letten congratulates Student Attorney Gretchen Trauth at the fall 2015 swearing in ceremony

## Fall 2015 Student Attorneys



From top left: Maria Kalousi-Tatum, E. Carra Smith, Clinical Instructor Corinne Van Dalen, Deputy Director Lisa Jordan, Clinical Instructor Liza Calderon, Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Greg Gerard Guidry, Clinic Director Adam Babich, Robert Pawlinski, Gretchen A. Trauth, Alison M. Dunbar, Jessica P. Marsh, Suzanne S. Kimble, Francis C. Cannone, Clinical Instructor Machel Hall, Assistant Dean Jim Letten  
From bottom left: Rachael Ruiz, Amanda Serfess, Katherine Van Marter, Cristel John, Sarah Kalis, Katherine P. Decker, Catherine Simon, Terence J. Alost

Terence J. Alost  
Francis Cannone  
Katherine Decker  
Alison Dunbar  
Cristel John  
Sarah Kalis  
Maria Kalousi-Tatum  
Suzanne Kimble  
Michael Margherita  
Jessica Marsh  
Robert Pawlinski  
Rachael Ruiz  
Amanda Serfess  
Catherine Simon  
E. Carra Smith  
Gretchen Trauth  
Katherine Van Marter

## Spring 2016 Student Attorneys



From top left: Dalton Hirshorn, Maria Kalousi-Tatum, Gretchen Trauth, Carra Smith, Jessica Marsh, Chance Raymond, Robert Pawlinski, Ralph Smith; Middle row: Francis Cannone, Michael Bush, Amanda Serfess, Rachael Ruiz, Catherine Simon, Suzanne Kimble, Alison Dunbar; Front row: Amanda Nicodem; Kristen Hilferty, Terence Alost

Terence J. Alost  
Michael Bush  
Francis Cannone  
Alison Dunbar  
Kirsten Hilferty  
Dalton Hirshorn  
Maria Kalousi-Tatum  
Suzanne Kimble  
Jessica Marsh  
Amanda Nicodem  
Robert Pawlinski  
Chance Raymond  
Rachael Ruiz  
Amanda Serfess  
Catherine Simon  
E. Carra Smith  
Ralph Smith  
Gretchen Trauth

## Student Attorneys at Work



Robert Pawlinski and Kristen Hilferty



Nolan Bush



Suzanne Kimble and Jessica Marsh



Sarah Kalis, Jacob Kronish, Clinical Instructor Machel Hall, and Alison Dunbar



Maria Kalousi-Tatum



Francis Cannone

Summer research assistants help TELC's staff keep our cases moving between semesters. Undergraduate interns assist in the Community Outreach Program, providing support for clients, coalitions, and collaborations.

### Summer '16 Research Assistants



Baker Beers, Marisa Andrews, Samantha Shear, Yiqi Zhai, and Robert Tornillo

July 2016: Smoke test of the Centreville, Mississippi, sewerage system



### Fall '15, Spring and Summer '16 Interns

Jeremy Apolinski  
Christina Griffin  
Jennifer Janowsky  
Jessie Rosen



Jeremy Apolinski



Christina Griffin



TELC is a client-centered environmental legal services organization. This past year, TELC received requests for legal assistance from individuals and community groups across Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, and along the Mississippi River basin. TELC clients are diverse – ethnically, culturally, and geographically – and have varying needs for environmental legal representation. Many have struggled for generations to protect their loved ones, homes, and local businesses against illegal and hazardous air pollution, water pollution, and wetlands degradation. Some are inspired to action because of proposed hazardous operations they had never before seen in their residential community. Others are passionate about saving endangered species or cleaning up public waterways for future generations.

The Clinic represented the following client groups from July 2015 - July 2016:

Apalachicola Riverkeeper	Louisiana Environmental Action Network
Atchafalaya Basinkeeper	Midwest Environmental Advocates
Center for Biological Diversity	Missouri Coalition for the Environment
Charter Fisherman’s Association	Ouachita Riverkeeper
Concerned Citizens of Belle River	Oakville Community Action Group
Gordon Plaza Association	Save Our Hills
Gulf Restoration Network	Sierra Club
Iowa Environmental Council	Town of Abita Springs
Kentucky Waterways Alliance	Tennessee Clean Water Network
Little Tchefuncte River Association	Vanishing Earth
Louisiana Audubon Council	Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association
Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association – West	Waterkeeper Alliance

\*This list does not include the names of individual clients or the names of directly impacted neighborhood groups or churches affiliated with larger membership-based client organizations.

### Adam Babich, Director



Adam Babich has directed TELC since May 2000. He is a professor at Tulane Law School, where he teaches environmental and administrative law. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1983 and his B.A. from Dickinson College in 1977. He has served as an assistant attorney general for the Colorado Attorney General's CERCLA Litigation Section, as adjunct attorney for the Environmental Defense Fund, as partner in a Denver law firm, as editor-in-chief of the Environmental Law Institute's Environmental Law Reporter, and as a law clerk for the Colorado Supreme

Court. Under Adam's watch, TELC received the 2010 Federal Bar Association's (New Orleans Chapter) Camille F. Gravel, Jr. Pro Bono Award and has raised more than \$3 million in foundation grants, individual donations, and attorney fee awards.

### Lisa Lavie Jordan, Deputy Director



Lisa Lavie Jordan, a New Orleans native, originally came to the Clinic in its early years as a student attorney from 1990-1991. She received her LL.M. in environmental law, with distinction, from Tulane in 1991. She went on to serve as a prosecutor in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office, where she eventually became a member of the office's Violent Offender Strike Force. In 1996, she returned to the Clinic, this time as a Supervising Attorney. Lisa left in 1998, but returned in July 1999 to serve as Acting Director of the Clinic for the 1999-2000 academic year. In 2006, she returned to the Clinic as a Supervising Attorney and then as Deputy Director. Lisa retains an interest in trial education, having taught in Tulane's Trial Advocacy Program, as well as the NITA program, and having served as a coach for Tulane ATLA trial teams.

### Corinne Van Dalen, Clinical Instructor and Staff Attorney

Corinne Van Dalen received her JD in 1990 from the University of Florida, where she also received a B.S. in Journalism in 1986. Following law school, Ms. Van Dalen began her practice in New Orleans representing community organizations in Fair Housing Act suits. In 1992, Ms. Van Dalen moved to Washington, D.C. to work as a legislative specialist for the Coastal States Organization and later for a private law firm counseling clients on environmental matters. Returning to litigation in 1996, she worked at the Washington D.C.-based firm Arnold & Porter on product liability cases. In 2001, Ms. Van Dalen took a position with a firm that brought her back to New Orleans where she worked on insurance coverage suits involving pollution claims. She joined the Tulane Law School faculty in 2005 where she supervises and trains student attorneys at the Environmental Law Clinic. As supervising attorney, she has represented Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Sierra Club, Gulf Restoration Network, and several community organizations in citizen suits and permit challenges under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Louisiana Coastal Resources Management Act, and Louisiana Environmental Quality Act.

### **Elizabeth Livingston de Calderón, Clinical Instructor and Staff Attorney**



Elizabeth Livingston de Calderón started her career in private practice, first with Winthrop, Stimson, Putnam & Roberts in New York City and then with Pepper Hamilton in Detroit, Michigan. She moved to New Orleans in 2002 to teach Legal Research & Writing at Tulane Law School, and directed Tulane Law School's international graduate legal studies program from 2004 to 2006. Ms. Calderón earned her J.D. *magna cum laude* from Tulane Law School, where she was a member of the Tulane Law Review. She also earned an M.A. in classical

languages from Tulane University and a B.A. from Connecticut College. She joined the clinic in May 2006.

### **Machelle Lee Hall, Clinical Instructor and Staff Attorney**



Machelle Lee Hall received her JD from Tulane University Law School where she was the Editor in Chief of the Tulane Environmental Law Journal, her MA from Central European University, and her BA from Hamline University. Ms. Hall worked at F. Gerald Maples, PA in New Orleans for 4 years, where she represented clients in the Comer global warming, Miss. River Gulf Outlet takings, Murphy oil spill, and CAPECO oil facility explosion cases. Before becoming an attorney, Ms. Hall was a consulting archaeologist performing

cultural resource and environmental compliance for highway, pipeline, commercial construction, superfund and other development and mitigation projects in the Upper Midwest and Gulf Coast states. Ms. Hall also volunteers for the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council, New Orleans Association for Women Attorneys, Louisiana SPCA, and Linda Bruneau Regional Breast Cancer Association.

### **May Thi Nguyen, Community Outreach Director**

May Nguyen received her JD from UCLA, School of Law, her M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies, and her B.A. from Amherst College. In the wake of the BP Oil Spill, Nguyen took a 1 year leave of absence from law school to successfully help coastal Louisiana fishing communities demand recognition and calculate damages for their lost subsistence use due to the BP Oil Spill. For her contribution, Nguyen received the Rishwain Social Justice Entrepreneurship Award. In law school, she was a legal intern at the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC). Nguyen is passionate about working with families and grassroots leadership and organizers to integrate law and policy tools with their organizing and communications tactics to advance the client's overall campaign.



### **Linda Swanner, Legal Assistant**

Linda Swanner joined the Clinic in April 2006 as the Clinic's legal assistant and webmaster. Ms. Swanner previously worked in the Office of Academic Services at Tulane Law School. Her move was prompted by her interests in environmental and environmental justice issues. She provides administrative and clerical support to faculty, clinical staff, and student attorneys. Ms. Swanner is also is TELC's webmaster.

### TELC's Legal Advisory Board

The Legal Advisory Board reviews case approval memoranda and recommends approval or disapproval of individual cases. Board members also provide TELC's staff with invaluable advice. We find that the process of seeking case-specific approval from a board forces us to think objectively and critically about potential cases before committing to them. Board members' questions can uncover aspects of a proposed case that we had failed to consider. Neither Tulane University nor Law School administrators appoint or control this board.

### Legal Advisory Board Members

Professor Paul Barron  
Professor Kirsten H. Engel  
Monique Harden, Esq.  
James M. Hecker, Esq.  
Professor Jane L. Johnson  
Professor Maxine Lipeles  
Michele Merkel, Esq.  
Karla Raettig, Esq.  
Ronald Simon, Esq.



Haywood Martin (Sierra Club Delta Chapter), May Nguyen (TELC Community Outreach Director), Dean Wilson (Atchafalaya Basinkeeper), and Paul Orr (Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper)

## EPA Launches Environmental Justice Investigation

On June 28, 2016, EPA's Office of Civil Rights announced it will investigate allegations of civil rights violations that TELC submitted on behalf of the Ouachita Riverkeeper and Louisiana Environmental Action Network. This "Environmental Justice" complaint alleges that a Clean Water Act decision by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) has the effect of "subjecting individuals to discrimination because of their race" under EPA's civil rights regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 7.35(b). It explains that ADEQ extended a Clean Water Act permit that allegedly allows Georgia-Pacific, LLC to discharge untreated wastewater to Coffee Creek, converting the creek into a toxic flume to carry its waste through a majority African-American area in the community of West Crossett, Arkansas. These issues have recently surfaced in the press (Emily Crane Linn, *How a Paper Plant in Arkansas is Allegedly Poisoning the People of Crossett*, *Newsweek* (April 12, 2016) and in a documentary movie (Company Town, Penn Road Productions (2016)). EPA's decision to investigate is not a decision on the merits of the complaint.

## Federal Agency to Assess Community Exposure to Landfill Contaminants

On March 3, 2016, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) agreed to design and implement a hydrogen sulfide air-monitoring program in response to a petition that TELC submitted on behalf of the Oakville Community Action Group. The monitoring program concerns impacts of emissions from the Industrial Pipe Landfill on the adjacent African-American community of Oakville in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The landfill has disposal areas located within 100 feet of Oakville residences.



## Fishing Management Amendment Upheld

On January 5, 2016, a U.S. District Court upheld Amendment 40 to the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico under the Magnuson Stevens Act. Amendment 40 benefits members of the Charter Fisherman's Association (CFA) by enhancing protection of the overfished red snapper and by providing for an equitable division of the quota for the recreational sector of the fishery

From left: Captain Shane Cantrell (Executive Director, Charter Fisherman's Association (CFA)), Captain Steve Tomeny (CFA), Kristen McConnell, (Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)), Alison Dunbar (student attorney, TELC), Captain Scott Hickman (CFA), Captain Gary Jarvis (CFA) Monica Goldberg (EDF), Adam Babich (Director, TELC), and Captain Billy Archer (CFA)

between federally permitted charter boats and private anglers. TELC represented CFA, which intervened to defend the government's promulgation of Amendment 40 in *Coastal Conservation Ass'n v. Dep't of Commerce*, No. 15-cv-1300 (E.D. La., Jan. 5, 2016) (2016 WL 54911). The case is currently on appeal, but in the meantime Amendment 40 remains in effect.

### **School District Drops Plan to Relocate High School Students to Site of Toxic Waste Dump**

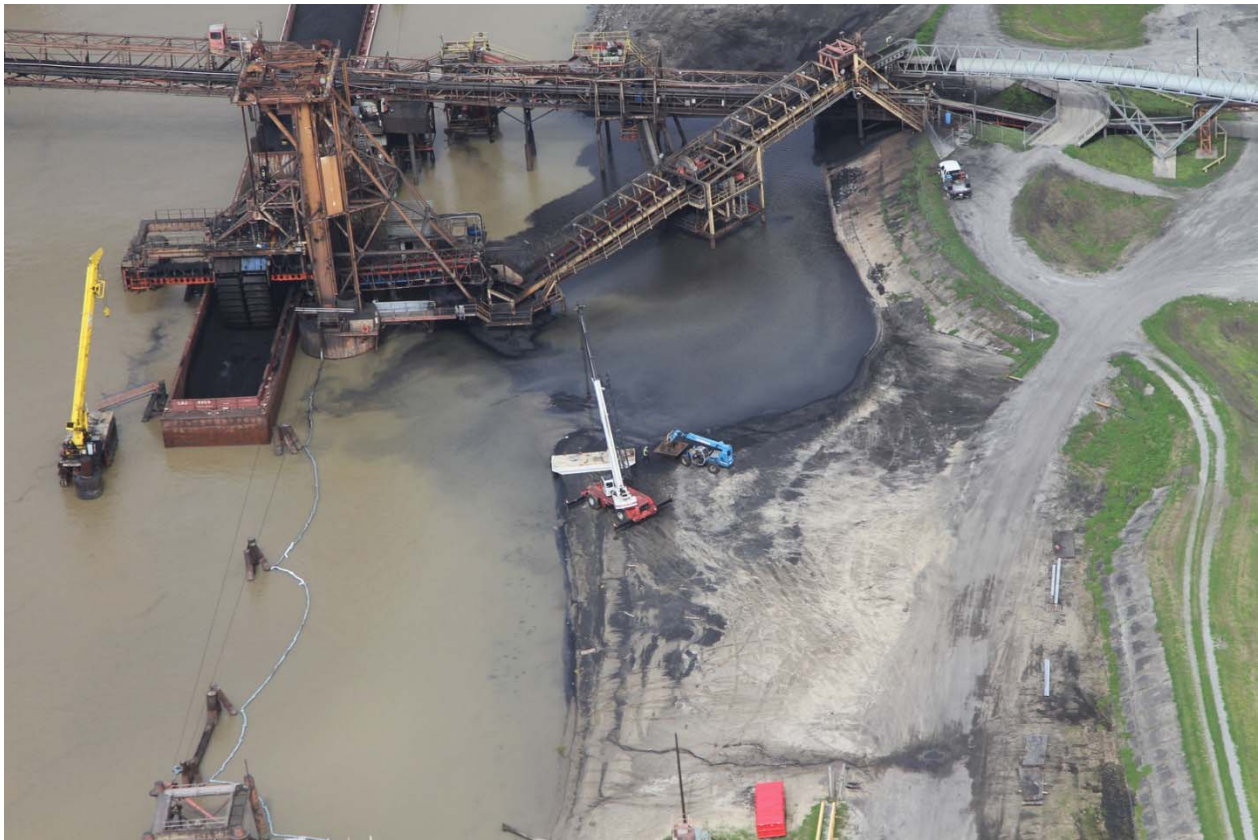


From Left: Suzanne Kimble (Student Attorney), Pat Bryant (Justice & Beyond), Monique Harden (Advocates for Environmental Human Rights), Royal Arceneaux (Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association), Darryl Malek-Wiley (Sierra Club), and Jim Raby (President, Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association)

Along with Monique Harden of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights (AEHR), TELC served as counsel for the Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association and Sierra Club in a challenge to a controversial plan by Louisiana's Recovery School District to move students, teachers, and staff from the existing Cohen High School building to a rebuilt Booker T. Washington School on the site of a toxic waste dump known as the Clio Street / Silver City Dump. In the 1940s, the City built the original Booker T. Washington School on that dump for predominately African – American students. That school closed in 2005, after Hurricane Katrina. On August 3, 2015, TELC and AEHR sent a Notice of Intent to File Suit under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The Notice alleged hazardous waste violations associated with management of school construction on the toxic waste dump and served as a backdrop to subsequent discussions between the Recovery School District and the Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association. As a result, the District announced on October 21, 2015, that it will rebuild Cohen High School in its current location rather than move students, teachers, and staff to the dump site.

## **Court Enters Consent Decree to Settle Lawsuit about Spills from a Coal Loading Terminal to the Mississippi River**

On October 7, 2015, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana signed a consent decree that orders United Bulk Terminals Davant, L.L.C. (UBT) to update its pollution control technology and implement new inspection and monitoring procedures aimed at preventing spills of coal and petroleum coke into the Mississippi River. The settlement also requires the facility to wet the coal and petroleum coke and stop operating during high wind conditions to reduce the amount of coal and petroleum coke dust blowing into neighboring communities and wetlands. In addition, the decree creates a dispute resolution process to determine whether to require other measures to minimize the discharge of coal and petroleum coke to the river. UBT also agreed to pay \$75,000 to the Woodlands Conservancy to fund coastal restoration projects, such as non-native plant removal and wetland reforestation. The United Bulk terminal is the largest of five existing coal terminals in Louisiana on the lower Mississippi River. TELC represented the Gulf Restoration Network, Sierra Club, and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network in the litigation.



United Bulk Terminals Davant facility

## Settlement Lifts Secrecy on an 11-Year Oil Leak in the Gulf of Mexico

On September 3, 2015, TELC's clients - Apalachicola Riverkeeper, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and the Waterkeeper Alliance - lodged a settlement with Taylor Energy Company, L.L.C., to resolve litigation about a persistent oil leak from a destroyed Taylor platform approximately 11 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Taylor and the U.S. government had been attempting to respond to the leak in secret. They had been basing the response on drastically understated estimates of daily oil flow (four gallons per day instead of at least eighty-five). The settlement unfortunately will not stop the leak. Nobody currently knows how to do that. TELC's clients adopted a "sunlight as disinfectant" approach, relying on public disclosure to 1) increase chances of an effective solution and 2) help the government and members of the public more accurately assess the risks of offshore drilling proposals. Taylor withdrew its claims of confidentiality as to most relevant documents and agreed to contribute \$400,000 to Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium to support related research.



From left: Student Attorney Katherine Van Marter with Marylee Orr (Executive Director, Louisiana Environmental Action Network) and Machel Hall (TELC Supervising Attorney)

## EPA Disapproves Louisiana's 2014 Clean Water Act Impaired Waters List

On July 21, 2015, in response to comments filed by TELC on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, the Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club, Delta Chapter, EPA disapproved Louisiana's 2014 list of impaired waters submitted under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. EPA listed the nearshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico as impaired for Dissolved Oxygen due to the Gulf's Dead Zone, and listed forty other waterbodies identified by TELC's clients as improperly delisted by Louisiana as impaired for minerals.



TELC developed the Clean Air Initiative in response to requests for legal assistance to address issues of nearby air pollution that threatens human health – including pollution from chemical and petrochemical manufacturing activities. These activities are especially concentrated in low-income and minority communities. TELC’s legal efforts endeavor to abate dangerous air emissions, deter industry violations of the Clean Air Act, and support effective client participation in the government permitting and enforcement processes.



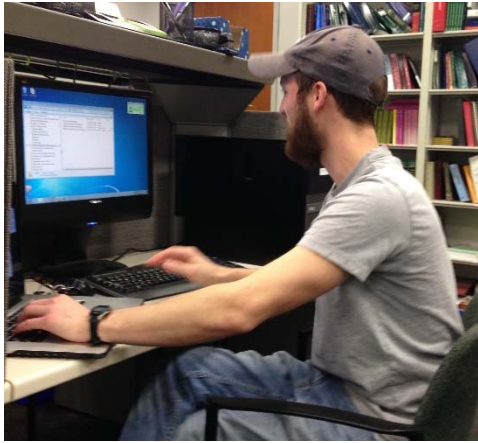
The Clinic provided legal representation on the following clean air issues from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

### **Lawsuits & Administrative Adjudications**

On March 3, 2016, TELC filed a lawsuit on behalf of Louisiana Environmental Action Network against Exxon Mobil Corporation in the Middle District of Louisiana alleging that Exxon’s Baton Rouge chemical plant discharges toxic air pollutants and other air contaminants in violation of its permit and fails to lawfully report unauthorized discharges.

On December 23, 2015, TELC filed a lawsuit on behalf of Louisiana Environmental Action Network and Sierra Club against EPA in the Middle District of Louisiana, seeking an injunction to require EPA to grant or deny the plaintiffs’ petition for an objection to a state-issued air permit for Yuhuang Chemical Inc.’s new methanol manufacturing plant in St. James, Louisiana. EPA has since granted most of the petition pursuant to a settlement of the lawsuit.

## Comments, Notices, and Administrative Petitions



Student Attorney Michael Margherita

On May 12, 2016, TELC submitted public comments to LDEQ on behalf of the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, seeking reform of a Clean Air Act permit for Oxbow Calcining, LLC's petroleum coke calcining plant in Baton Rouge based on allegations that emission exemptions violate the Clean Air Act and that monitoring requirements do not assure compliance with permit limits.

On May 4, 2016, TELC sent a Notice of Intent to sue to EPA on behalf of Toni Offner and Cynthia Portera to enforce EPA's non-discretionary duty to respond to a petition for an EPA objection to a Clean Air Act permit renewal. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality had issued a renewed permit to Bunge North America for a grain elevator in Destrehan, Louisiana.

On January 15, 2016, TELC submitted comments on behalf of Save Our Hills and others to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, opposing a minor source air permit to Southern



From left: Suzanne Kimble and Alison Dunbar (Student Attorneys), Oneil Couvillion (Louisiana Environmental Action Network (LEAN)), Doug Bowen (Save Our Hills), Marylee Orr (Executive Director, LEAN), Rachael Ruiz (Student Attorney), and Willie Fontenot (Sierra Club – Delta Chapter)

Aggregates LLC for a proposed sand and gravel mine adjacent to the Oak Hills residential subdivision in Livingston Parish, Louisiana.

On January 4, 2016, TELC filed a petition to EPA on behalf of Toni Offner and Cynthia Portera, seeking an EPA objection to a Clean Air Act permit renewal and modification that the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality issued to Bunge North America for a grain elevator in Destrehan,

Louisiana. The petition alleges that the grain elevator is out of compliance with its current permit yet the renewal fails to include a required compliance schedule.

On October 12, 2014, TELC submitted comments on behalf of Toni Offner and Cynthia Portera, opposing the issuance of an air permit modification proposed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to Bunge North America Inc.'s grain export facility in Destrehan, La. The

comments allege that: 1) LDEQ, as public trustee, has never conducted an environmental analysis with respect to the facility, 2) Bunge is not in compliance with its existing permits and its permit application fails to include a compliance schedule; and 3) the facility is an ongoing nuisance to the community.

On August 12, 2015, TELC sent a Notice of Intent on behalf of Sierra Club and the Louisiana Environmental Action Network to sue EPA pursuant to the Clean Air Act. The lawsuit would seek to require the agency to respond to a petition that asked EPA to object to a Clean Air Act permit. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality issued the permit to Yuhuang Chemical, Inc. for a new methanol manufacturing plant in St. James, Louisiana.



Rachael Ruiz and Amanda Serfess



Dalton Hirshorn



Cristel John



From Left: TELC's Corinne Van Dalen and Lisa Jordan, with Jackie Dadakis (Board President, Alliance for Affordable Energy) and Casey DeMoss (Chief Executive Officer, Alliance for Affordable Energy), accept the Alliance for Affordable Energy - Groesch Award for community leaders who have helped champion affordable, sustainable energy in Louisiana

The Water Quality Protection Initiative provides legal assistance to clients concerned about groundwater and surface water quality. TELC provides legal research, analysis, writing, and representation to enforce the Clean Water Act against polluters and to abate harmful discharges.

The Clinic provided legal representation on the following water quality protection issues from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

### **Lawsuits & Administrative Adjudications**

On January 5, 2016 TELC filed a lawsuit on behalf of Gulf Restoration Network against the Town of Centreville, Mississippi, in the Southern District of Mississippi, alleging that the Town is in violation of its Clean Water Act permit because it discharges sewage through a residential neighborhood and into Stafford Creek, and is failing to maintain and monitor its sewerage system, including the pipes.

TELC continued its work on litigation on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network and others that seeks to require EPA to set numeric nutrient water-quality criteria to reduce or eliminate the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf Restoration Network and its co-plaintiffs are on their second round on this case. The Fifth Circuit vacated an earlier district-court victory in April 2015 (*Gulf Restoration Network v. McCarthy*, 783 F.3d 227 (5th Cir. 2015)). On remand, TELC—working with colleagues from the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Law & Policy Center—has played a significant role in briefing the case, which is now pending again before the district court.

TELC is working on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network to implement a 2014 U.S. district court consent decree that requires the City of Hattiesburg to come into compliance with the Clean Water Act regarding discharges from its sewage treatment plant. The city is violating the consent decree but is in negotiations with both the State of Mississippi and GRN.

### **Comments, Notices, and Administrative Petitions**

On March 8, 2016, TELC sent a Notice of Intent to Sue on behalf of Penny Bennett and Darryl Bennett to AmeriPure Processing Company, Inc., providing notice of allegations that AmeriPure is violating the Clean Water Act due to 1) unpermitted discharges into the town of Franklin, Louisiana’s stormwater system, 2) pass-through violations caused by discharges into Franklin’s sewerage system, and 3) violations of the sewer pretreatment regulations pertaining to oyster processing plants.



Student attorneys Carra Smith and Nolan Bush consult with Darryl Bennett

On March 8, 2016, TELC submitted comments to EPA on behalf of Gulf Restoration Network, Little Tchefuncte River Association, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Sierra Club Delta Chapter, and the Louisiana Audubon Council seeking EPA disapproval of Louisiana’s proposal to drastically lower the dissolved oxygen water quality criteria in thirty-four waterbodies north and west of Lake Pontchartrain, including some Louisiana-designated Natural and Scenic Rivers and Streams.

On September 9, 2015, on behalf of Gulf Restoration Network, TELC provided a Notice of Intent to sue the City of Centreville, Mississippi. GRN alleges that the city is violating the Clean Water Act by discharging sewage from broken pipelines into Stafford Creek.

On September 4, 2016, TELC submitted comments on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network, the Little Tchefuncte River Association, the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the Louisiana Audubon Council to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, opposing the agency’s proposal to drastically lower the dissolved oxygen water quality criteria in thirty-four waterbodies north and west of Lake Pontchartrain, including a number of designated scenic streams.



Student attorneys Katherine Decker and Robert Pawlinski with Deputy Director Lisa Jordan

## ENDANGERED WETLAND INITIATIVE

Loss of wetlands in southern Louisiana has reached catastrophic proportions, threatening the productivity of ecosystems, the economic viability of some industries, and the safety of residents. The Endangered Wetlands Initiative enhances client efforts to protect and restore wetlands by providing legal representation for administrative comments, negotiation, and litigation.



The Clinic provided legal representation on the following endangered wetlands issues from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

### **Lawsuits & Administrative Adjudications**

On December 22, 2015, TELC filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana on behalf of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association – West, and Gulf Restoration Network, challenging a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to reissue New Orleans District General Permit No. 13 without the environmental reviews or public notice required under the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The general permit allows destruction of wetlands for road-building and ring levees in association with oil and gas exploration and production. There is no provision for project-specific public participation. In addition to other areas, the permit covers wetlands in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Litigation is ongoing in *Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association – West v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, No. 11-cv-461 (W.D. La. March 22, 2011), in which our clients allege that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act when it issued after-the-fact permits for a project that altered over 600 acres of swamp in Louisiana black bear critical habitat in the Atchafalaya Basin without consulting the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

## Comments, Notices, and Administrative Petitions

On March 18, 2016, TELC submitted supplemental comments on behalf of the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association – West, the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Gulf Restoration Network, and Vanishing Earth to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, responding to SM Energy’s comments in support of its application for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit to plug four bayous which drain into Shell Island Pass, through the Atchafalaya Bay, and into the Gulf of Mexico. The project risks damage to healthy wetlands and would block navigation.



Student Attorney Terence Alost with Dean Wilson (President, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper) and Liza Calderon (TELC Supervising Attorney)

On November 30, 2015, TELC submitted comments on behalf of the Louisiana Audubon Council, the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, the Gulf Restoration Network, and the Sierra Club, Delta Chapter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, opposing in part new guidance, entitled the Louisiana Rapid Assessment Method, for how the Corps determines mitigation for wetlands destruction permitted under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, including its removal of mitigation for cumulative and indirect impacts.

On November 25, 2015, TELC submitted comments on behalf of the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, the Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association – West, the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Gulf Restoration Network, and Vanishing Earth to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, opposing approval of SM Energy’s application for a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit to plug four bayous which drain into Shell Island Pass, though the Atchafalaya Bay, and into the Gulf of Mexico. TELC’s clients assert that the project would negatively impact currently-healthy wetlands which are a model for accreting new wetlands via sediment. The project would also block navigation.

On November 5, 2015, TELC sent a petition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network, the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Tennessee the Clean Water Network, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Midwest Environmental Advocates, and Iowa Environmental Council, seeking an amendment to regulations governing the processing of Corps permit applications to require 1) written notice of all final permit decisions to each person who has submitted comments during the public comment period on a permit application and 2) publication of substantive information about all permit decisions on the Corps’ website. The Corps has denied this petition.

The Community Preservation Initiative contributes to efforts by community groups to defend their environment against damage from land use decisions that threaten the historic value, cultural fabric, and environmental integrity of the area and its people.



Student Attorney Rachael Ruiz (second from left) with Mr. Samuel Egana (Board Member, Gordon Plaza Association) (far left), Shannon Rainey (President of the Gordon Plaza association) (third from right), Marilyn Amar (Secretary of the Gordon Plaza Association) (second from right), and others

The Clinic provided legal representation on the following community preservation issues from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

### **Lawsuits & Administrative Adjudications**

On November 18, 2015, TELC filed a lawsuit in the Louisiana 19th Judicial District Court on behalf of Oakville Community Action Group, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and Gloria Mayfield against Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, appealing a solid waste permit renewal to Industrial Pipe, Inc. and Riverside Recycling & Disposal, LLC for a construction & demolition debris and woodwaste landfill and alleging agency failure to consider recent Environmental Quality Act violations involving fires at the landfill.

On July 20, 2016, TELC filed an appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit on behalf of the Charter Fisherman’s Association, appealing a district court’s denial of the Charter



Fisherman's Association's motion to intervene as a defendant in support of U.S. Department of Commerce regulations concerning the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

On February 19, 2016, TELC entered its appearance on behalf of appellee Charter Fisherman's Association before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in defense of Department of Commerce regulations concerning the Gulf of Mexico red snapper fishery under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. That case is scheduled for oral argument on November 1, 2016.

### **Comments, Notices, and Administrative Petitions**

On April 26, 2016, TELC sent EPA a complaint on behalf Ouachita Riverkeeper and Louisiana Environmental Action Network, alleging that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality violated the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by issuing a decision to administratively continue a wastewater discharge permit to Georgia-Pacific for its paper and pulp mill complex in Crossett, Arkansas. The complaint alleges that the decision has the effect of subjecting African-Americans to discrimination by failing to implement Clean Water Act safeguards. The complaint asks EPA to investigate the situation, require reform of the permit, require mitigation of harmful effects within the community, and withdraw federal funding for Arkansas' environmental programs if needed to protect the community.

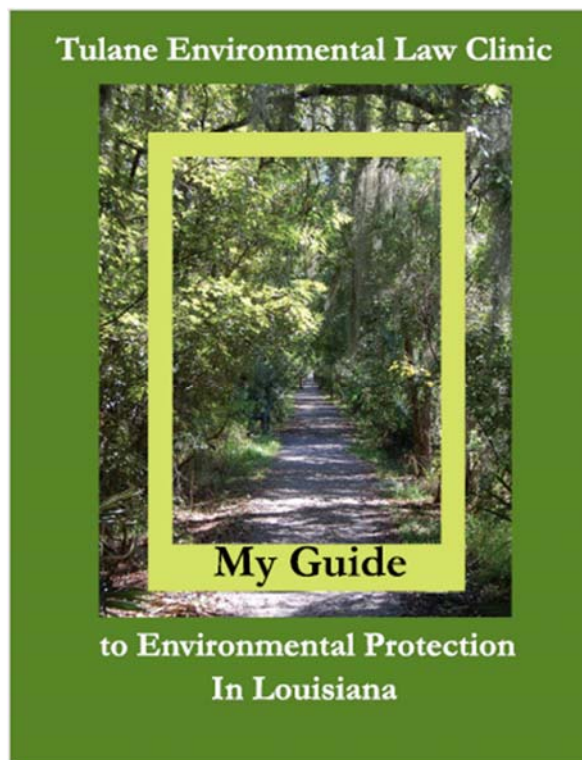
On November 18, 2015, TELC submitted comments on behalf of the Ouachita Riverkeeper to EPA, challenging the reliability of a November 2013 draft use attainability analysis prepared by Georgia-Pacific LLC regarding water quality standards for Coffee Creek and Mossy Lake in Ashley County, Arkansas.

On September 10, 2015, TELC filed a petition on behalf of the Ouachita Riverkeeper to the EPA, asking the agency to determine that revised or new water quality standards are necessary for Coffee Creek and Mossy Lake in Ashley County, Arkansas to meet requirements under the Clean Water Act.

On August 3, 2015, on behalf of the Walter L. Cohen Alumni Association and Sierra Club, TELC sent a Notice of Intent to sue John White, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Louisiana Department of Education, Patrick Dobard, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the Recovery School District, the Orleans Parish School Board, Jacobs Engineering/CSRS Consortium, CSRS, Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., and SEMS, Inc. The Notice alleges hazardous waste violations under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for use of the Clio Street/Silver City Dump site to construct the Booker T. Washington High School for a predominately African-American population.

The Community Outreach Program endeavors to support the power and effectiveness of grassroots organizations and residents by integrating the Clinic's legal activities with long-term community strategies. The Program staff and interns strive to ensure that clients develop and maintain an overall campaign strategy that creates a context within which they can realize the full benefit of legal victories and effectively manage legal setbacks.

In December 2015, TELC updated and published “My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana,” a resource for assisting Louisiana residents in taking action against pollution and participating in government decisions about the environment. A special thanks goes out to the community outreach advisory committee members - environmental advocacy leaders across Louisiana—who provided feedback to ensure that the guide was user-friendly and responsive to the needs of Louisiana’s grassroots advocates.



**2015 Community Outreach Advisory Committee**

Monique Harden, Advocates for Environmental Human Rights  
 Marylee Orr, Louisiana Environmental Action Network  
 Cyndi Nguyen, VIET  
 Burghart Turner, former Plaquemines Parish Council Member  
 Jennifer Roberts, Educator  
 Cheryl Slavant, Ouachita Riverkeeper

Also special thanks to designers Cheri Babich and Kelsey Nibert.

The following are TELC Outreach Activities from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016:

From April through August 2016, May Nguyen served as a support team member for a Foundation for Louisiana-funded Plaquemines Parish planning process in response to sea level rise, land loss, and extreme weather. May Nguyen attended two Plaquemines Parish-wide community planning meetings to discuss sea level rise and land loss and five Support Team meetings.

From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, May Nguyen organized a monthly Louisiana Wetlands Strategy Workgroup meeting for a cross section of environmental advocates to discuss wetlands protection law and policy. The group has invited experts to present on various issues, including gas pipeline infrastructure and permitting in coastal Louisiana, development of a Louisiana Water Code, the Public Trust Doctrine, public notice about the Louisiana Rapid Assessment Methodology for wetlands mitigation banking, and tools for online permit research.

From July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, May Nguyen participated on conference calls and meetings with other advocacy groups in the U.S. Human Rights Network, helping to identify advocacy resources and opportunities for community groups. Ms. Nguyen participated in the water and sanitation workgroup. She also served on the Bi-Annual Conference National Planning Committee, as a moderator for a Right to Water panel at the December 2015 Bi Annual conference in Austin, Texas, and on the selection committee for the Bi-Annual U.S. Human Rights Movement Builder Award.

From July 2015 through July 2016, May Nguyen met five times with leaders of the Grand Bayou Village Tribe to discuss issues of environmental and social justice with respect to wetlands degradation and coastal erosion, sea level rise, land loss, and extreme weather.

On June 18, 2016, May Nguyen participated in a Climate Justice Clinic organized by Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy. It was an immigration clinic that approaches the issue from a climate change perspective, specifically highlighting forced migration due to climate change.

On June 17, 2016, May Nguyen attended the First People's Conservation Council (FPCC) quarterly board meeting. FPCC is a coalition of six indigenous tribes across Louisiana. Many are coastal tribes confronting wetlands degradation, coastal erosion, sea level rise, land loss, and extreme weather, and oil and gas development, spills, and operations.

On June 15, 2016, May Nguyen participated on a conference call with environmental legal service organizations and community members seeking help in opposing a proposed elevated highway.

From July 2015 through July 2015, May Nguyen met five times with Zion Travelers Cooperative Center (ZTCC) in Davant and Phoenix on the east bank of the Plaquemines peninsula. Some of these meetings included young environmental leaders from Connecting our Children to Their Environment, a project of ZTCC. At these meetings, the community shared concerns about wetlands degradation, coastal erosion, sea level rise, and extreme weather. We also discussed environmental advocacy strategies and youth involvement.

On June 2, 2016, May Nguyen attended a State of the Coast event and met with leaders in the environmental coastal restoration advocacy community to discuss restoration and adaptation.

From March through June 2016, May Nguyen worked with the Isle de Jean Charles Tribe and the Lowlander Center, a community advocacy organization, to discuss issues of relocation due to sea level rise and subsidence, and provided research and editing support for their campaign.

On May 25, 2016, May Nguyen participated in a meeting with the Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans, Gulf Restoration Network, and the Public Law Center, to discuss concerns about local stormwater management and land use planning.

On May 6, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Collaborative Coordinator of the Greater New Orleans Water Collaborative to discuss their program areas, share background information about TELC and share copies of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

From July 2015 through May 2016, May Nguyen participated in the monthly Louisiana Water Network meetings where a cross section of community development professionals and environmental advocates discussed water-related issues and industries in Louisiana.

On May 20, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Director of Social Justice at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans (CCANO) to discuss CCANO disaster relief programs and environmental advocacy for vulnerable people.

On May 12, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Executive Director and Communications Director of Louisiana Environmental Action Network to discuss environmental justice issues in the communities they serve, and to discuss their active cases with TELC and other areas of work. Ms. Nguyen shared copies of "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana," highlighting areas that may be of interest to them.



Student Intern Jessie Rosen introduces "My Guide" during a fundraiser for the Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

On March 14, 2016, May Nguyen attended a hearing in the 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge to support clients who challenged the relocation of a transfer station for an injection well and the expansion of its capacity.

On January 22, 2016, May Nguyen attended a documentary premiere hosted by the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and distributed copies of "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On May 11, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Executive Director of Louisiana Bucket Brigade to discuss their work and share copies of "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana," highlighting areas that may be of interest to them.

On March 23, 2016, May Nguyen attended a community action organized by the Bucket Brigade and shared information about available legal services at Tulane Environmental Law Clinic.

On May 10, 2016, May Nguyen met with Common Ground Relief and Wetlands Restoration, LLC to discuss their work, present information about TELC, and share copies of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On May 10, 2016, May Nguyen and Adam Babich met with the Gordon Plaza Association, a community group fighting to relocate their homes from the Agriculture Street Landfill in New Orleans. Also attending were representatives of the New Orleans City Council, the Office of the Mayor, EPA, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

On March 30, 2016, May Nguyen attended a "We Are One with Flint" panel presentation organized by the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice to support the Gordon Plaza Association because they had been invited to present their issue.

On March 16, 2016, May Nguyen attended a Gordon Plaza Association meeting and shared TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On March 9, 2016, Adam Babich, TELC Director, Rachael Ruiz, a student attorney, and May Nguyen consulted with the Gordon Plaza Association.

On May 4, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Alliance for Affordable Energy to learn about the group's Clean Power Plan Coordination Workplan, a new policy advocacy initiative it had launched the previous month. Ms. Nguyen shared information about the clinic's legal services and offered copies of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On April 28, 2016, May Nguyen attended the Clean Power Plan Coordination Team meeting organized by Alliance for Affordable Energy with Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, Sierra Club, Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy, Louisiana Environmental Action Network, and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice where the various groups shared analysis of the Clean Power Plan and policy advocacy opportunities in Louisiana.

On May 3, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Director of Louisiana Green Corps, a nonprofit organization that provides green job training in low income communities.

On May 2, 2016, May Nguyen met with the Executive Director of Gulf Restoration Network to discuss ideas for capacity building for directly impacted communities across coastal Louisiana.

On April 19, 2016, May Nguyen attended a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) public meeting organized by Coastal Communities Consulting, a multi-cultural and multi-lingual small business technical assistance provider. Over 100 Vietnamese American fishermen attended the meeting to learn about a proposed rule to require turtle excluder devices on shrimping boats.

On February 15, 2016, May Nguyen attended a convening at Coastal Communities Consulting for leaders in Louisiana fishing communities and national environmental advocacy organizations.

On April 18, 2016, May Nguyen met with a recently hired Sierra Club Delta Chapter organizer in the Northshore area to discuss approaches to community organizing. May provided information about the clinic's legal services and also shared copies of "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On April 15, 2016, May Nguyen attended the Spring Mississippi River Commission and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District public meeting and supported TELC clients Gulf Restoration Network and Atchafalaya Basinkeeper who submitted public comments at the hearing.

On April 15, 2016, May Nguyen attended the "Beyond the Levee" event, a climate adaptation discussion organized by the Loyola Environmental Law Center and Oxfam.

On November 2, 2015, May Nguyen met with Marianne Cufone, Executive Director of Recirculating Farms Coalition and professor at Loyola Law School in New Orleans.

On October 29, 2015, May Nguyen met with Bob Verchick, Gauthier-St. Martin Eminent Scholar and Chair in Environmental Law at Loyola College of Law and shared information about TELC's then-pending "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

From July 2015 through November 2015, May Nguyen met four times with the West St. John Stakeholder community group to learn about their community struggle for environmental justice.

On March 23, 2016, May Nguyen met with the community outreach director of Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and the Executive Director of Gulf Restoration Network to discuss approaches to community engagement in Plaquemines Parish.

On January 29, 2016, May Nguyen shared TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection" with the Coastal Campaign Organizer at Gulf Restoration Network.

On March 1, 2016, May Nguyen and student intern Jennifer Janowski met with Darryl Malek-Wiley, a long time Sierra Club organizer in Louisiana, to discuss organizing best practices.

On February 2, 2016, May Nguyen attended a client community meeting in St. James Parish with Darryl Malek-Wiley.

On January 20, 2016, May Nguyen met with Darryl Malek-Wiley and delivered copies of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana" for Sierra Club grassroots organizers.

On February 29, 2016, May Nguyen went through the contents of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection" with clients advocating on behalf of wild horses in Fort Polk, Louisiana.

On February 19, 2016, May Nguyen was a panelist at the Tulane Law School Environmental Law Summit and spoke about the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate 21st Conference of Parties in Paris and the role of civil society and international advocacy.

On January 31, 2016, May Nguyen and student intern, Jessie Rosen, tabled at an Atchafalaya Basinkeeper Fundraiser in Lafayette, Louisiana. Jessie and May explained how individuals could use the guide to plan their environmental campaign.

On January 28, 2016, May Nguyen visited TELC clients in Franklin, Louisiana with Student Attorneys Carra Smith and Nolan Bush. Ms. Nguyen shared copies of TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection" and explained the information in the guide.

On March 9, 2016, May Nguyen travelled with Mabelle Hall, a clinical instructor, and Carra Smith, a student attorney, to meet with the same clients to discuss their organizing and communications plan vis-à-vis the legal strategy.

On January 27, 2016, May Nguyen met with Monique Harden, Co-Director/Attorney of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, to learn more about their programs. October 28, 2015, May Nguyen and Jeremy Apolinski, a student intern, interviewed Monique Harden about the success of the Cohen Alumni Association campaign to protect future students from toxic landfill exposure.

On January 26, 2016, May Nguyen participated in a Gulf South Rising initiative community meeting organized by the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy. Ms. Nguyen shared information about TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

From February 2015 through January 2016, May Nguyen participated in the Louisiana Gulf South Rising gatherings and helped facilitate some of the meetings.

On December 1-6, 2015, May Nguyen participated in the Gulf South Rising delegation to the U.N. Framework on Climate Change, Conference of Parties (CoP21) Climate Summit in Paris, France.



May Nguyen and other participants of the Gulf South Rising civil society delegation, including client organizations Sierra Club and Gulf Restoration Network, at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Conference of Parties 20 in Paris, France.

The Gulf South Rising delegation included over 30 community leaders and non-governmental organizations from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The delegation included three badged delegates who participated in the climate talks.

On January 26, 2016, May Nguyen attended a training on the role of research in Strategic Campaign development

for worker justice and shared information about TELC's "My Guide to Environmental Protection in Louisiana."

On January 22, 2016, May Nguyen participated in a staff and faculty luncheon hosted by the Tulane Institute on Water Law and Policy to develop a model water code for Louisiana.

On January 20, 2016, May Nguyen met with Mark Davis of the Tulane Institute on Water Law and Policy to discuss intake requests that Mark had received.

On November 10, 2015, May Nguyen co-organized a panel event about sea level rise, land loss, and extreme weather. Debbie Elliot, National Public Radio correspondent, moderated the panel.



From Left: Rev. Tyrone Edwards, Minh Nguyen, Debbie Elliot, May Nguyen, Andrew Horowitz, Theresa Dardar, and Rosina Philippe

The panel included communities leaders of southeast Louisiana - Theresa Dardar (Point-Au-Chien Indian Tribe), Minh Nguyen (Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association – New Orleans), Reverend Tyrone Edwards (Zion Travelers Cooperative Center), and Rosina Philippe (Grand Bayou Village, Atakapa-Ishak Indian Tribe).

In September – December 2015, May Nguyen participated in the Loyola Institute on Environmental Communication.

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### Remembering a client, friend, and inspiration: Florence Robinson (1938-2016)



Shown in November 2014: Oneil Couvillion, Cynthia Couvillion, Adam Babich, Jim Ragland, Florence Robinson, Frank Bonifay, student attorneys Rebecca Timmons and Bethanne Sonne, and Marylee Orr



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 The Deer Creek Foundation  
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