

# Corporate Climate Accountability Litigation: Law, Strategy and Accountability

## Call for Presentations

June 15, 2026 | Columbia Global Center, Paris

The Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, the GDR ClimaLex, CNRS, and the Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences (ISJPS) at Université Paris 1-Panthéon Sorbonne, with the support of the Columbia Global Paris Center and the Alliance Program, invite submissions for presentations at the **Corporate Climate Accountability Litigation: Law, Strategy and Accountability**. The workshop will bring together a small group of experts to examine the evolving legal theories, procedural dynamics, evidentiary challenges, and remedial approaches shaping corporate accountability for climate harm.

The workshop is designed as a collaborative research exchange. Contributions should therefore engage with broader conceptual, comparative, or theoretical questions; those that focus solely on describing a single case will not be prioritized unless they clearly develop generalizable insights or conceptual arguments. Submissions may involve works-in-progress or recently published papers with a forward-looking agenda. We will give special attention to early career researchers.

## Conference Themes

We welcome proposals for presentations addressing the following topics and themes:

### 1. Causes of Action and Liability Theories

How legal doctrines conceptualize responsibility, harm, and obligation in corporate climate cases. Illustrative topics include:

- How traditional tort and nuisance doctrines are being adapted, stretched, or resisted in response to climate-scale harm;
- The role of human rights and constitutional frameworks in reframing corporate obligations and state–corporate relationships;

- The emergence of consumer protection and unfair competition law as tools to address climate deception and misrepresentation;
- Corporate governance, shareholder responsibility, and state ownership as alternative entry points for accountability beyond regulation.

## 2. Procedural Gatekeepers and Judicial Power

The role of standing, jurisdiction, admissibility, and forum selection in shaping which climate claims reach the merits. Illustrative topics include:

- How courts deploy standing and admissibility doctrines to define legally cognizable climate harm;
- Jurisdiction, forum selection, and transnational litigation as tools of inclusion or exclusion;
- Preemption, separation of powers, and institutional competence as framing devices in climate cases;
- The strategic role of procedure in structuring litigation pathways and outcomes.

## 3. Proving Climate Harm

Evidentiary and methodological questions in corporate climate litigation, including causation, attribution, foreseeability, expert evidence, and approaches to quantifying damages or loss. Illustrative topics include:

- How courts conceptualize causation and contribution in the context of diffuse and cumulative climate harm;
- The relationship between foreseeability, risk, and evidentiary thresholds in corporate liability cases;
- Evidentiary approaches to demonstrating climate-related damages, including economic and non-economic harm;
- The role of expert evidence in shaping judicial understanding, credibility, and standards of review.

## 4. Remedies and Judicial Authority

How courts conceptualize and deploy remedies, including damages, injunctions, structural relief, and mitigation or adaptation-oriented orders. Illustrative topics include:

- How courts frame the purpose of remedies in climate litigation, including compensation, prevention, deterrence, mitigation, adaptation, and broader governance effects;
- Judicial comfort and discomfort with different forms of relief, including injunctions, damages, and structural or supervisory remedies, and orders with mitigation or adaptation implications;
- The extent to which courts explicitly recognize mitigation and adaptation as remedial aims, and how these logics interact with liability findings;
- The institutional role of courts and the limits of remedial innovation in addressing systemic harm.

Across all themes, we particularly welcome proposals that:

- Offer comparative or cross-jurisdictional perspectives
- Identify doctrinal tensions or emerging trends
- Engage with underlying theories of responsibility, governance, or adjudication
- Draw connections between litigation, regulation, and broader climate governance

### Submission Guidelines:

Please submit a proposal that includes:

- **Title of Presentation**
- **Presenter Name(s) and Affiliation(s)**
- **Contact Information**
- **Short Bio**
- **Abstract (250–350 words)** summarizing the focus, methods, and relevance of the proposed presentation

**NOTE:** Please disclose any use of generative AI tools in the preparation of your submission. If applicable, please briefly describe how such tools were used.

### Timeline:

- The deadline for submissions is March 30, 2026.
- We will review proposals on a rolling basis and will respond to submissions by April 15, 2026.
- **Authors are expected to submit a preliminary draft, no longer than 10 pages, by May 15, 2026.**



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**Please submit proposals to [sabinsorbonneparisconference@gmail.com](mailto:sabinsorbonneparisconference@gmail.com).**