



# COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

---

## SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW

### **Sabin Center for Climate Change Law and Its Founder/Director Michael Gerrard to Receive Individual Awards from the New York State Bar Association**

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) will present the [Sabin Center for Climate Change Law](#) with the 2020 Environmental & Energy Law Section Award – its highest honor – for “distinguished service to the protection of the environment” on Friday, Jan. 31 during the NYSBA’s annual meeting. This award recognizes the distinguished leadership of the Sabin Center and its significant work in developing legal tools to address critical environmental issues.

The core mission of the Sabin Center is to develop and promulgate legal techniques to address climate change and to train the next generation of lawyers who will be leaders in the field. The Sabin Center is a member center of the [Earth Institute](#) at Columbia University, and frequently collaborates with Earth Institute scientists on cutting edge interdisciplinary research. The Center’s activities are spearheaded by Michael Gerrard, Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at [Columbia Law School](#) and founder and faculty director of the Sabin Center and [Michael Burger](#) ’03, executive director of the Sabin Center and senior research scholar at Columbia Law School.

**"The climate crisis is here. It is not going away. Lawyers and the law have a central role to play in helping society make the necessary transition from fossil fuels to clean energy, and from inequitable vulnerability to resilience,"** said Burger. **"We are honored that NYSBA, a climate leader in its own right, recognizes the Sabin Center's contribution to this effort."**

In addition, [Michael Gerrard](#) will receive the Environmental & Energy Law Section Council Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the public and to the field of environmental law.

**"After 30 years practicing environmental law in New York, in 2009 I joined the Columbia faculty to teach environmental and energy law and to found and direct what is now the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. This gratifying recognition from my long-time professional colleagues reflects the transition that the whole field must make to addressing the most pressing environmental issue of the age,"** said Gerrard.

Over the years, the Sabin Center has emerged as a leading center of expertise, providing timely information and resources on key topics and promoting advances in the interrelated fields of climate law, environmental regulation, energy regulation and natural resources law. The Center features free and easy-to-use online legal resources on its [website](#), such as the [Silencing Science](#)

[Tracker](#), the [Climate Deregulation Tracker](#), [Climate Change Laws of the World](#), [U.S. and Non-U.S. Climate Change Litigation charts](#), among others.

---

**Media contacts:** Tiffany Challe, Communications Associate at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law ([tc2868@columbia.edu](mailto:tc2868@columbia.edu); 212-8540594), Nancy Goldfarb, Director of Public Affairs, Columbia Law School ([ng2319@columbia.edu](mailto:ng2319@columbia.edu); 212-854-1584)