



2025 TEXAS A&M LAW ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Shaping Communities: The Role of Zoning in Environmental Justice

Friday, February 21, 2025 | 10:15 am – 2:00 pm | 2.25 CLE hours

Texas A&M University School of Law | Fort Worth, Texas

Zoning policies have shaped the development of cities across the United States, often creating patterns of segregation and inequity that persist today. While zoning laws have long been seen as tools to promote urban growth and orderly land use, they have also contributed to environmental injustices. Presented by the **Energy, Environment, & Natural Resources student group**, this conference introduces environmental justice, analyze how zoning practices can disproportionately expose minority and low-income communities to harmful pollution, and explore strategies for effective advocacy.

10:15-10:30	Welcome
10:30-11:15	Overview of Environmental Justice; EJ History; Litigation Strategies Brief introduction of environmental justice EPA history related to environmental justice, and discussion of EJ litigation. (Moderated by Sarah Morton) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professor Sara Zampierin, Texas A&M School of Law• Professor Clara Potter, Tulane University School of Law
11:15-12:00	How Zoning Creates Environmental Justice Problems How Discriminatory Zoning/Redlining Exposes Vulnerable Communities to Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Haley Varnadoe, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas• Michael Bates, Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:15	Impacts on Communities Firsthand experiences of environmental justice impacts. (Moderated by Erin Goodson) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teena James, community leader for Echo Heights Stop Six Environmental Coalition• Richard Perez, community leader for Fort Worth Environmental Coalition of Communities• Caleb Roberts, Executive Director, Downwinders at Risk
1:15-2:00	Solutions to Zoning-Induced Environmental Justice Problems Strategies to advocate for environmental justice. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teena James, community leader for Echo Heights Stop Six Environmental Coalition
2:00-3:00	Networking Reception

Sponsored by the **Good Bull Fund** and the Energy, Environmental, and Natural Resource Systems Law Program