



**The Ved Nanda Center for
International & Comparative Law**
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Call For Contributions



Corporate Climate Liability Comparative Legal Insights September 25, 2026

The Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law is pleased to invite contributions to a workshop on “**Corporate Climate Liability: Comparative Legal Insights**” to be held at the Sturm College of Law, University of Denver, Colorado.

This workshop will explore the evolving legal landscape of corporate litigation in the context of climate change. The program will feature interactive panels focused on key developments and challenges shaping this area of law.

The workshop aims to foster comparative analysis and critical discussion on how corporations are held liable for their climate impacts and how they manage climate-related risks. Topics will include emerging trends in corporate climate litigation in national and supranational courts, enforcement mechanisms across jurisdictions, and the role of investors, consumers, and civil society in shaping corporate climate behavior through action in the courts.

We are pleased to announce that the keynote lecture will be delivered by **Justice Brian Preston**, Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, Australia.



Workshop Objectives

After decades of jurisprudence focused on holding governments accountable for inadequate climate mitigation and adaptation, whether failing to meet international emissions targets or violating human rights linked to climate change, attention has shifted toward the private sector. Courts are increasingly asked to determine what companies can be held directly accountable for. This trend gained momentum with the landmark *Milieudefensie v. Shell* decision, which set a precedent for corporate climate responsibility. Recent months have seen a surge in rulings exposing companies to climate-related legal risks. A French court convicted TotalEnergies in the first greenwashing case against an oil major for misleading consumers about carbon neutrality pledges. At the same time, some companies are pushing back, using legal avenues to challenge regulations or to silence civil society through SLAPP suits. Scrutiny extends beyond fossil fuel firms to sectors like aviation and finance, where investors, consumers, and NGOs increasingly recognize climate risk as a source of tangible legal exposure. Growing concern also surrounds emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence and large-scale data centers.

Topics of interest may include, but are not limited to:

Substantive Issues:

- Voluntary ESG and climate disclosure frameworks and enforceable regulations as triggers for litigation.
- Fiduciary duties as a legal basis to sue companies or financial institutions that fail to comply with climate-related obligations.
- Litigation strategies and regulatory responses to misleading climate-neutrality claims in greenwashing complaints.
- Influence of international courts and human rights courts on corporate behavior regarding climate obligations.

Procedural Issues:

- Standing, remedies, evidentiary standards, and other hurdles in mitigation and adaptation cases, along with extraterritoriality concerns and jurisdictional challenges in cross-border corporate climate litigation.
- Strategic lawsuits against public participation and anti-SLAPP mechanisms shaping climate litigation dynamics.



Submission Guidelines

We invite submissions from scholars, researchers, and practitioners in law, political science, economics, and related fields. All contributions should primarily address the legal and regulatory dimensions of corporate climate liability. We welcome both theoretical and practice-oriented work, including detailed case studies. Priority will be given to papers with a comparative or international perspective, as well as those examining multiple jurisdictions or supranational frameworks. We encourage early career researchers as well as more established scholars to submit proposals, as the Ved Nanda Center aims to foster a supportive and inclusive environment, where they can explore and develop their ideas.

The Ved Nanda Center we will help defray the costs of travel and accommodation. Virtual participation may be considered for those unable to travel.

To apply, please submit the following materials (in English):

- Title and abstract (maximum 500 words). Submissions should clearly outline the research question and key arguments.
- Author's full name and institutional affiliation
- Short bio or résumé (max 150 words)

Please send your submission by **March 1st, 2026**, via email to louise.seiler@du.edu. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **April 15, 2026**.

The proceedings of the workshop will be published in a paper series on International and Comparative Environmental Law, made available on the Ved Nanda Center website. The paper series will compile the contributions of the speakers and must be submitted by participants within three months following the workshop. Contributions should not exceed 3,000 words.

