**Comenius University / International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference**

**ENCLE - IJCLE 2019 Improving the Future: Using Clinical Legal Education to Educate Lawyers for a Just Society**

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| Title | Professor |
| Lead Presenter First Name | MICHAEL |
| Lead Presenter Last Name | ROBINSON-DORN |
| Organisation of Lead Presenter | UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE SCHOOL OF LAW |
| Name/s and details of other presenters |  |
| Title of Proposal | Environmental Justice in Clinical Legal Education: Helping to Bend the Arc (or build the Ark) |
| Summary of Proposal | This paper is designed to introduce the work of clinics involved in environmental justice work in the United States, including discussion of the multiplicity of: 1) issues (e.g., client empowerment, increasing transparency and accountability in decision-making and ensuring meaningful participation and engagement with affected communities); 2) fora in which that work takes place (e.g., litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, community-level organizing); and 3) clinical methodologies (e.g., working with community-organizers, agency and legislative staffs, and interdisciplinary university teams). Insights with respect to challenges that clinics and students face when working on these issues will also be addressed. |
| Abstract Proposal | Increasingly, law clinics in the United States are working on environmental justice matters - that is, matters related to the meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens. These matters are located at the intersection of environmental law, natural resources law, civil rights law, administrative law, and public health. For some clinics and clinical programs, this marks an expansion of their programs from traditional environmental and natural resources law to include environmental justice. For others, including some long-standing and outstanding clinics, environmental justice is located at the center of what they do.   This paper will introduce clinical colleagues to the work of one or more environmental clinics involved in environmental justice work in the United States, including discussion of: 1) the multiplicity of issues (e.g., client empowerment, increasing transparency and accountability in decision-making and ensuring meaningful participation and engagement with affected communities in matters as diverse as the siting of facilities, addressing historic contamination and public health concerns, ensuring equitable access to clean, healthy recreational opportunities and natural resources, and climate change adaptation and planning; 2) the multiplicity of fora in which that work takes place (e.g., litigation, legislative and administrative advocacy, community-level organizing); 3) the multiplicity of clinical methodologies (e.g., working with community-organizers, agency and legislative staffs, and interdisciplinary university teams); and 4) insights with respect to challenges that clinic(s) and students face when working on these issues.  The lead presenter is a Clinical Law Professor who has founded two environmental law clinics in the United States, one at the University of Washington, and the other at the University of California, Irvine. Over the last few years, the UC Irvine Environmental Law Clinic has expanded its representation of clients to include a significant number of environmental justice matters. In addition to students and the Director, the Clinic includes two Fellows whose focus is environmental justice. The presenter has previously served as a Board Member of the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA). Here are links to his bio and CV: https://www.law.uci.edu/faculty/full-time/robinson-dorn/; https://www.law.uci.edu/faculty/full-time/robinson-dorn/robinson-dorncv.pdf  The presenter is open to expanding this into a paper-length presentation if that is what the host committee prefers. |