Contributors

EDITORS

Randall S. Abate is an Associate Professor of Law and Project Director of the Environment, Development & Justice Program at Florida A&M University College of Law. Professor Abate teaches Environmental Law, International Environmental Law, Environmental Justice: Domestic and International, Human Rights and the Environment Seminar, Advanced Topics in Environmental Law Seminar and Constitutional Law I and II. Professor Abate joined the Florida A&M College of Law faculty in 2009 with 15 years of full-time law teaching experience at five law schools. He has taught international environmental law courses in study abroad programs in Nairobi, Vancouver, Northern India and the Cayman Islands. Professor Abate has published and presented widely on environmental law topics, with a recent emphasis on climate change law and policy. His articles on climate change law and policy have appeared in the Stanford Environmental Law Journal, Cornell Journal of Law and Public Policy, Connecticut Law Review, Duke Environmental Law and Policy Forum, Washington Law Review, William and Mary Environmental Law and Policy Review, and Pace Environmental Law Review. Professor Abate delivered climate change law and justice lectures in three cities in Brazil in 2010, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Nairobi, Kenya in 2012. Early in his career, Professor Abate handled environmental law matters at two law firms in Manhattan. He holds a BA from the University of Rochester and a JD and MSEL (Environmental Law and Policy) from Vermont Law School.

Elizabeth Ann Kronk is an Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Tribal Law and Government Center at the University of Kansas School of Law. Professor Kronk teaches Federal Indian Law, Native American Natural Resources and Property. She previously taught the law of climate change, energy law, environmental law, agricultural law, tribal criminal law and procedure and civil procedure. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Kansas, Professor Kronk was a member of the faculties at Texas Tech University School of Law and the University of Montana School of Law. She has also taught Marine Environmental Law at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China. In 2010, Professor Kronk
was selected to serve as an Environmental Justice Young Fellow through the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and US–China Partnership for Environmental Law at Vermont Law School. In addition to teaching, Professor Kronk serves as an Appellate Judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals in Michigan, USA. She previously served as Chair of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) Indian Law Section and now serves as a Director on the national FBA Board of Directors. Before entering into academia, Professor Kronk practiced energy, environmental, and federal Indian law in Washington, DC. Professor Kronk received her BS from Cornell University and her JD from the University of Michigan Law School. She is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

**Dr Deepa Badrinarayana** is an Associate Professor of Law at Chapman University School of Law. Professor Badrinarayana has worked on environmental law issues in the United States and India for more than a decade. Her research focuses on understanding the influence and impact of trade and investment concerns on international environmental and human rights regulation. Professor Badrinarayana’s articles on these issues have appeared in the *Washington Law Review*, *Fordham Environmental Law Review*, and *Environmental Law Review*. In addition to Torts, Professor Badrinarayana teaches international environmental law and trade law courses. She was a Research Fellow at Pace’s Center on Environmental Law in 2006 and a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University School of Law’s Center on Global Legal Problems in the 2005–2006 academic year. She has also served as a consultant at the United Nations Global Compact. In India, Professor Badrinarayana was a researcher at National Law School of India University’s Centre for Environmental Education, Research and Advocacy for a World Bank funded Government of India Project on Environmental Capacity Building. Professor Badrinarayana holds SJD and LLM in Environmental Law degrees from Pace University School of Law, where she was the Henry M. Feldschuh Fellow, and BA and LLB degrees from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. In 2011, Professor Badrinarayana received a teaching award for Curriculum Innovation in Sustainability Studies.

**Keely Boom** is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney. Keely is a Koori woman by birth, and now resides on the land of the Yuin people, south of Sydney.
She holds a double degree in Law and Commerce from the University of Wollongong. Ms Boom is currently a PhD candidate in international climate litigation at the University of Wollongong. She has practiced law in Australia and is an Executive Officer of the Climate Justice Programme.

Maxine Burkett is an Associate Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai‘i and served as the inaugural director of the Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy (ICAP). Professor Burkett attended Williams College and Exeter College, Oxford University, and received her law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Burkett’s courses include Climate Change Law and Policy, Torts, Environmental Law, Race and American Law and International Development. She has written in the area of Race, Reparations and Environmental Justice. Currently, her work focuses on ‘Climate Justice’, writing on the disparate impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, in the United States and globally. She has presented her research on Climate Justice throughout the United States and in West Africa, Asia, Europe and the Caribbean. As the Director of ICAP, she led projects to address climate change law, policy, and planning for island communities in Hawai‘i, the Pacific region, and beyond. Professor Burkett recently served as the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics at the Wayne Morse Center, University of Oregon. She was the Fall 2010 scholar for the Center’s ‘Climate Ethics and Climate Equity’ theme of inquiry. She is the youngest scholar to have held the Wayne Morse Chair.

Dr J. Mijin Cha is a Senior Policy Analyst in the Sustainable Progress Initiative at Demos, a progressive think tank based in New York City. Her current work focuses on how to adopt metrics beyond GDP and ways to implement sustainable economic growth. Prior to joining Demos, Dr Cha was the Director of Campaign Research at Urban Agenda, where she was the primary author of the ‘New York City Green Collar Jobs Roadmap’. She has also worked as a senior policy specialist working with legislators and local advocacy groups to promote smart growth, clean energy, and green economy legislation at the state level. Dr Cha began her advocacy career at the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment under the guidance of the late Luke Cole. Her international work experience includes working in Nepal with the Integrated Center on International Mountain Development (ICIMOD) on a Ford Foundation project to increase access to environmental justice in rural areas of South Asia and as an external academic advisor to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Asia Regional Office on a project to increase access
to environmental justice in rural areas of India and Nepal. She has also taught a course in Environmental Justice as an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School. Dr Cha is a graduate of Cornell University and holds a JD from the University of California, Hastings College of Law and LLM and PhD degrees from the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies.

Eugenia Charles-Newton is a Faculty Service Librarian at Texas Tech University School of Law. She received her BA from Arizona State University, her JD from the University of Kansas, and her MA in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona. Ms Charles-Newton has had extensive involvement with American Indian policy and legislation. In 2004, she worked in the Arizona Department of Gaming where she served as a Tribal Liaison working with 21 federally recognized tribes who just negotiated the Arizona Tribal-State Gaming Compacts under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. In 2009, she interned for Senator Tom Udall (D-NM) in Washington, DC where she worked closely with the Senator and his staff on S 797, the Tribal Law and Order Act, which was signed into law in July 2010. Prior to arriving at Texas Tech University School of Law, she worked as a consultant for various Navajo Nation business entities, focusing primarily on issues that affected the Tribes’ agricultural and water industries. She also served as a mediator on the Navajo Nation for employment disputes. Eugenia is an enrolled member of the Dine (Navajo) Nation and was born and raised on the Navajo reservation.

Leonardo A. Crippa is an international law scholar and practitioner with substantial legal experience. He holds a JD from Universidad Nacional de Tucuman, Argentina and an LLM degree from American University. As a law student in Argentina, he won several national and international writing contests and moot court competitions on international law, and received several honours and awards. As the Center for Justice and International Law’s Staff Attorney, he litigated several human rights cases within the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS). Currently, as the Senior Attorney of the Indian Law Resource Center, he analyses multilateral development banks’ policies and procedures and advocates for a human rights-based approach in climate change related policies. He also leads standard setting initiatives at the United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS) concerning the rights of indigenous peoples and international financial institutions. He continues to practice international law within the UN and IAHRS representing indigenous peoples from Mexico and Central and South America. He has also authored several articles on Argentine constitutional law,
Climate change and indigenous peoples

international human rights and environmental law, and international financial institutions.

Dr Megan Davis is a Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law Centre at the University of New South Wales. Professor Davis is a Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court and is an expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. She is also a member of the International Law Association’s Indigenous Rights Committee and the Australian government’s Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. Professor Davis is a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman from southeast Queensland and is the co-Chair of the Ethics Council of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples.

Po Dong is an LLM candidate at the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). He received his LLB from CUPL. His research focuses on environmental law and energy law issues. The research projects he has participated in include ‘Legal Issues of Energy Security’ (China Law Society project), ‘Research on access to biological genetic resources and benefits sharing legislation’, ‘Research on improvement of legislation of biological genetic resources’ (Ministry of Environmental Protection research project), and ‘China’s Vehicle Emissions Regulations’ (CUPL/ Vermont Law School student joint research project). From 2006 to 2008, Po Dong worked as a volunteer at the Legal Aid Center of CUPL. Currently, he is also a volunteer at the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV).

Naomi Johnstone is a scholar-practitioner in the fields of indigenous rights, customary law and transitional justice. She has previously worked with the United Nations in Aceh (Indonesia); interned with the International Crisis Group in Sri Lanka; and conducted a research project on customary law and legal empowerment for the International Development Law Organisation in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) while working at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (New Zealand). Most recently, she worked as Research Counsel in Chief Judge’s Chambers for the Waitangi Tribunal and Maori Land Court (New Zealand) and conducted research for International IDEA.

Dr Patricia Kameri-Mbote is a Professor of Law at both the University of Nairobi and Strathmore University. She is currently on leave of absence from the University of Nairobi and has been working at Strathmore University since 2009 to establish Strathmore Law School, which admitted its first class in July 2012. She earned her doctorate from Stanford University in 1999 specializing in property rights and environmental law.
She had earlier studied law in Nairobi, Warwick and Zimbabwe. She has taught law since January 1990 and has also taught at the Southern and Eastern Africa Research Centre on Women’s Law (SEARCWL) at the University of Zimbabwe since 2001. She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a founding director of the International Environmental Law Research Centre with headquarters in Geneva and offices in London, Delhi and Nairobi. She is the Chair of the Association of Environmental Law Lecturers in Africa Universities (ASSELAU); a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law, the Council for Legal Education in Kenya and the Kenya National Academy of Sciences; and a member of the UNEP Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict and Peace-building. She has published widely in her areas of expertise. Some of her recent publications include: ‘Challenges to Sustainability in Africa’, in Development, Volume 54, Number 2 (February 2011) and ‘Avenues for Climate Change Litigation in Kenya’, in Jutta Brunnée et al. (eds), Climate Change Liability: Transnational Law and Practice (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 2011) (with Collins Odote).

Philomena Kebec is an enrolled member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Ojibwe). She received her BA from the University of Minnesota in 2002 and her JD from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2008. After clerking for the Hon Kathleen A. Mottl of Minnesota’s Tenth Judicial District, she worked for the Indian Law Resource Center, Washington DC. While at the Indian Law Resource Center, she advocated for the recognition of the human rights of indigenous peoples by governments and international finance institutions implementing REDD+ programs. Ms Kebec currently serves as the staff attorney at the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa where she assists the band in natural resource protection and economic development, maintains an active multi-jurisdictional child protection practice, and participates in community-based environmental initiatives on the Bad River Reservation. She is admitted to practice law before the Tribal Court of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Supreme Court of the States of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. Her chapter was written with the generous support of the Indian Law Resource Center.

Sarah Krakoff is a Professor of Law at the University of Colorado Law School. She teaches and is widely published in the areas of American Indian law and natural resources law. Her publications include American Indian Law: Cases and Commentary (with Bob Anderson, Bethany Berger and Phil Frickey), and many articles on the subjects of American Indian tribal sovereignty, environmental ethics, public lands, and climate change.
When Professor Krakoff first came to the Law School, she was the Director of the American Indian Law Clinic, supervising students in a range of federal Indian and tribal law matters. She succeeded in securing permanent University funding for the Clinic before moving to non-clinical teaching in 1999. Before coming to Colorado, Professor Krakoff was awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship to work on the Navajo Nation as Director of the Youth Law Project for DNA-People’s Legal Services. Professor Krakoff clerked on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for Judge Warren J. Ferguson from 1992–93, and received her JD from Boalt Hall, UC Berkeley, in 1991 and her BA from Yale University in 1986.

Jon-Daniel Lavallee is a JD candidate also pursuing a Natural Resources Law & Policy Certificate at the University of Colorado Law School. He received his BA from Gordon College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in Communications. He would like to thank Professor Sarah Krakoff for giving him the opportunity to co-author her chapter on Natural Resource Development in this book.

Jingjing Liu is the Associate Director of Vermont Law School’s US–China Partnership for Environmental Law and an Assistant Professor of Law. Professor Liu teaches Chinese Law and Comparative Environmental Law Research. She received her LLB and LLM degrees from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China and an LLM from Columbia Law School. Before joining Vermont Law School in 2007, Professor Liu worked as a research fellow at the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco where she conducted extensive research on China’s environmental issues, and at the Center for Law in the Public Interest in Los Angeles on several projects related to environmental justice. Professor Liu’s presentations include ‘China’s Environmental Mediation: Past Popularity, Present Challenges & Future Revitalization’ at Harvard Law School, ‘Development of Specialized Environmental Courts in China’ at Pace Law School’s Symposium on Environmental Adjudication Around the World, and ‘The Latest Developments of China’s Water Pollution Prevention and Control Law’ at the China Environment Forum of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She is an editor of Volume 7 of the Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability – China, India, and East and Southeast Asia: Assessing Sustainability.

Andrew Long is an Associate Professor of Law at Florida Coastal School of Law. Professor Long heads environmental law activities at the school and organizes the annual Northeast Florida Environmental Summit. He earned an LLM from New York University School of Law, where he
served as an advisor to the *NYU Environmental Law Journal*, and a JD from Willamette University College of Law, where he served as an editor on the *Willamette Law Review*. Professor Long has published on a range of international and United States law issues, primarily those involving climate change, biodiversity protection and related areas. Currently, his work focuses on the reorientation of international environmental law to overcome fragmentation through programs and incentives that recognize underlying connections among issues. Professor Long has presented his work throughout the United States and in Europe. Among other service activities, Professor Long serves as a vice-chair on the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (ABA SEER) International Environmental Law Committee and Endangered Species Committee.

**Lillian Aponte Miranda** is an Associate Professor of Law at Florida International University College of Law, where she teaches courses on Civil Procedure, Property and International Human Rights as well as a seminar on Indigenous Peoples in International Law. Professor Miranda also served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Oregon School of Law, where she developed and taught her seminar on Indigenous Peoples in International Law. Professor Miranda’s scholarship engages the intersection of international law, international human rights, and the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. Her articles have primarily focused on the status and rights of indigenous peoples under international human rights law, with an emphasis on land and resource rights. She has been invited to present her scholarship at national and international conferences and symposia. She was elected Co-Chair of the American Society of International Law’s Rights of Indigenous Peoples Interest Group and served in that capacity from 2008–2012.

**Clement Yow Mulalap** is the Legal Adviser for the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the United Nations. He is a native of the FSM island of Yap, whose indigenous population is known for its successful cultural preservation and sustainable environmental practices. Before pursuing a legal career, Mulalap taught for two years at Xavier High School, a Jesuit college preparatory institution in Chuuk, FSM, that educates young women and men from all over Micronesia. Having received a JD with an emphasis on Asia-Pacific Law from the William S. Richardson School of Law (WSRSL) at the University of Hawai‘i and an LLM in International Legal Studies from New York University School of Law, Mulalap now focuses his attention on public international law, particularly international environmental law and international human rights. Mulalap’s career-long goals are to advance the
stature of the FSM on the international stage and protect the legal interests of FSM citizens living abroad, all while sustaining the FSM’s rich cultural contributions to the world. Mulalap dedicates his current scholarship to the late WSRSL Professor Jon Van Dyke – a teacher, mentor, and inspiration for many Micronesian lawyers.

Elvin Nyukuri is currently pursuing her post-graduate studies at the Open University (UK). Her main research is on climate change policies and vulnerability of tropical forest communities in East Africa. For more than a decade, Ms Nyukuri actively engaged in multi-disciplinary research on topics including environmental governance, energy and water security, agriculture, and food security for the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) in Kenya. She was the region coordinator for International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD), Sub-Saharan Africa. She also coordinated the Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change project from 2008–2010. Her research on climate change has been greatly shaped and influenced by the Capacity Building for Least Developed Countries (CLACC) mentorship programme managed by the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED). As a regional CLACC fellow for East Africa she participated in various CLACC initiatives at the national, regional, and international levels such as strengthening climate change civil society networks in Kenya, community-based adaptation projects and capacity building for Least Developed Country negotiators. Ms Nyukuri has also contributed to the existing body of knowledge on climate change through publications including Vulnerability of Ogiek to Climate Change (forthcoming); Children in a Changing Climate (IDS 2010); Climate Change and Conflicts in the East & Horn of Africa (ACTS 2009); and Climate Change and Energy in Kenya (ACTS 2008).

Hari Osofsky is an Associate Professor with tenure and the 2011 Lampert Fesler Research Fellow at the University of Minnesota Law School. She is also the Interim Director of the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and of the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health and the Life Sciences, a Fellow with the Institute on the Environment and an affiliated faculty member in geography and conservation biology. She received her BA and JD from Yale University, and is a PhD candidate in Geography at the University of Oregon. Professor Osofsky has published a co-edited book on climate change litigation with Cambridge University Press, a casebook on climate change law and policy with Aspen Publishers, and has received peer recognition from both legal and geography scholars for her recent articles. She has contributed to numerous public policy efforts, and her current leadership roles include:
President of the Association for Law, Property, and Society; President-Elect of the American Association of Law School’s Section on Property; Executive Council member of the American Society of International Law; member of the International Law Association’s Committee on the Legal Principles of Climate Change; and Board of Governors member of the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT).

Judith V. Royster is a Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Native American Law Center at the University of Tulsa College of Law. She teaches Federal Indian Law and Native American Natural Resources Law, among other subjects. Professor Royster is a co-author and member of the Board of Editors of Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law (LexisNexis) and co-author of Royster and Blumm, Native American Natural Resources Law: Cases and Materials (2nd edn, Carolina Academic Press, Durham, NC 2008). Her scholarship focuses on Indian tribal water rights and mineral and energy development. Her article, ‘Mineral Development in Indian Country: The Evolution of Tribal Control Over Mineral Resources’, 29 Tulsa L.J. 541 (1994), was cited by Justice Souter in his dissent in United States v Navajo Nation, 537 U.S. 488 (2003). Professor Royster holds BA, MA and JD degrees from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr Irina L. Stoyanova is an independent researcher whose work and expertise have focused on indigenous peoples’ rights and activism, sustainability, and international environmental policymaking. She earned her MS and PhD from the Environmental Science and Public Policy Department at George Mason University. Dr Stoyanova devoted her dissertation to examining the contemporary struggles of the world’s indigenous communities to voice their concerns and fully participate in decision-making processes. She used the indigenous peoples in the northernmost parts of Russia as a case study. While at George Mason University, Dr Stoyanova taught environmental science, environmental policy, social science research methods and data analysis courses. In 2011 and 2012, she was invited as a guest lecturer at the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University. Dr Stoyanova has further applied her passion to protect and empower indigenous communities and safeguard the biological richness of the territories they occupy through her involvement with the Rainforest Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Dr Victoria Sutton is the Paul Whitfield Horn Professor at Texas Tech University School of Law. She is a member of the Lumbee Indian Nation, and a founding member of the Policy Advisory Council of
Climate change and indigenous peoples

Dr Erika J. Techera is a Professor in the Faculty of Law, The University of Western Australia. She is a member of the University’s Oceans Institute and Centre for Mining, Energy and Natural Resources Law. Dr Techera teaches and researches in a range of international and comparative environmental law areas including marine environmental governance, cultural heritage law and indigenous peoples and natural resource management. She holds an LLB (Hons), a Masters in environmental law and an LLM in international environmental law. Her PhD thesis focused on the role of customary law in community-based marine management in the Pacific. Her previous positions include Director of the Centre for International & Environmental Law and Co-Director of the Centre for Climate Futures at Macquarie University, Sydney. Dr Techera practiced as a barrister in Sydney, Australia for a number of years prior to becoming an academic. She is a member of the IUCN Commission on Environmental Law and World Commission on Protected Areas.

Sophie Thériault is a lawyer and associate professor at the University of Ottawa’s Faculty of Law, Civil Law Section. Following the completion of her law degree at Laval University, she clerked for the Honourable Louis LeBel at the Supreme Court of Canada. She then completed an LLD at Laval University, for which she earned a scholarship from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Ms Thériault’s main fields of research and teaching are indigenous peoples and the law, environmental law, and constitutional
Contributors

Rebecca Tsosie is a Willard H. Pedrick Distinguished Research Scholar and Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. Professor Tsosie, who is of Yaqui descent, joined the ASU College of Law faculty in 1994 and served as the Executive Director of the law school’s Indian Legal Program from 1996–2011. She teaches in the areas of Federal Indian Law, Constitutional Law, Property, Cultural Resources Law, Bioethics and Critical Race Theory. Professor Tsosie also holds faculty appointments in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies and the School of Sustainability at ASU, and she is a faculty affiliate for the American Indian Studies Program. Professor Tsosie has published widely on doctrinal and theoretical issues related to tribal sovereignty, self-determination, environmental policy, indigenous human rights and cultural resources, and she is the co-author (with Robert Clinton, Carole Goldberg, Kevin Washburn and Elizabeth Rodke Washburn) of a leading casebook on Federal Indian law. Professor Tsosie annually speaks at many national conferences, and she serves as an appellate judge for the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation’s Supreme Court and for the San Carlos Apache Tribe’s Court of Appeals. Professor Tsosie received her BA and JD degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles, and also completed a President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California. She is admitted to practice in Arizona and California.

Peter Van Tuyn counsels and represents conservation groups, Alaska Native tribes, villages and corporations and community groups concerning the full spectrum of environmental issues in Alaska and in the Arctic and Pacific Oceans, including marine conservation, fisheries, climate change, clean air and water, marine mammals and endangered species and public lands. He works extensively on oil and gas planning, leasing exploration, and development activities impacting America’s Arctic and its seas. He earned his JD and MSEL (Environmental Law and Policy) from Vermont Law School and is a member of the summer faculty at Vermont Law School.

Dr Wenxuan Yu is an associate professor and faculty advisor for master degree candidates at China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), and is the director of Research and Development Division of Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims (CLAPV). He was a
visiting scholar at the US Environmental Protection Agency and Vermont Law School from 2011–2012. Professor Yu specializes in environmental law and energy law and has published more than 50 academic papers related to environmental law and energy law since 2002. He led or participated in more than 40 research projects commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), State Forestry Administration, China Law Society, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, EU-China Energy and Environment Program (EEP), and EU-China Biodiversity Program (ECBP). Professor Yu serves as council member of the Environment and Resources Law Society of China Law Society, commissioner of the first Committee of Environmental Law Branch of Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences, council member of the Environment and Resources Law Society of Beijing Law Society and also MEP’s trainer and specialist of National Training and Examination for Enterprise Environmental Supervisors. Professor Yu earned his doctoral and master degrees from CUPL, and joined Tsinghua University Law School as a postdoctoral researcher from 2007–2009. His doctoral dissertation addressing biosafety legislation was recognized as a ‘2009 China National Excellent Doctorial Thesis’.