



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CLIMATE CHANGE ON TRIAL: NYU LAW PROFESSOR
LAUNCHES LANDMARK BOOK AND EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT
ON RIGHTS-BASED CLIMATE LAW**

September 15, 2025 – New York, NY – In the face of accelerating climate breakdown, a new global trend has taken shape: climate litigation rooted in human rights law. As one of the most closely watched and fast-growing legal strategies for climate action – culminating in the advisory opinions released this summer by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice – it’s reshaping how courts, governments, and communities respond to the climate crisis.

Against this historic backdrop, the NYU School of Law’s Climate Law Accelerator (CLX) announces the release of a landmark new book and educational initiative that places this rights-based revolution under a global spotlight and sheds light on the role of human rights in advancing climate justice.

Climate Change on Trial: Mobilizing Human Rights Litigation to Accelerate Climate Action, authored by César Rodríguez-Garavito, Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Climate Law Accelerator (CLX), is now available as an open-access publication from Cambridge University Press. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the rise of rights-based climate litigation worldwide, and it arrives at a pivotal moment when the highest courts on the planet are issuing groundbreaking opinions that could shape climate governance for decades to come.

Drawing on original interviews, fieldwork, and data from CLX’s original rights-based global case database, the book traces the twenty-year rise of rights-based climate litigation across jurisdictions, highlighting both the direct and symbolic impacts of legal mobilization in the Anthropocene.

“The story of rights-based climate litigation vividly displays the potential of human rights concepts and strategies in dealing with the existential challenges of the Anthropocene—from climate change to biodiversity loss to toxic pollution,” writes Rodríguez-Garavito.

More than a book, *Climate Change on Trial* is also the centerpiece of a forward-looking educational initiative aimed at supporting students, educators, lawyers, and advocates.

The accompanying initiative, all hosted by the [CLX Toolkit](#), includes:

- [Video explainers](#) and multimedia content
- A post-script to *Climate Change on Trial*
- A strategic litigation tracker and global case database

These resources are designed to empower the next generation of climate advocates and deepen engagement at the intersection of law, human rights, and climate governance.

To mark the release, NYU Law and CLX will host a **public launch event** featuring a panel of leading global experts:

Date: September 23, 2025

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 PM ET

Location: NYU School of Law, Wilf Hall, Room 512, 139 MacDougal St., NY, NY

[Register](#) or [Attend Online](#)

Panelists Include:

- **César Rodríguez-Garavito** (Professor of Law at NYU Law, Founding Director of NYU's Climate Law Accelerator)
- **Elisa Morgera** (UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change)
- **Lisa Vanhala** (Professor of Political Science, University College London)

The panel will explore the evolving role of human rights law in addressing the climate emergency – from courtroom victories to global governance shifts and loss and damage.

Download the Book: *Climate Change on Trial* (Open Access):

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009420563>

Explore the CLX Toolkit: [Climate Law Accelerator](#)

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#### **About NYU Law's Climate Law Accelerator (CLX)**

The [Climate Law Accelerator \(CLX\)](#) is an initiative of the Earth Rights Research and Action (TERRA) Program at New York University School of Law. CLX is a global collaborative hub for research, advocacy, and strategic legal action on the climate emergency. Working with scholars, impacted communities, scientists, and legal practitioners from around the world, CLX initiates and supports the legal strategies, tools, and ideas needed to secure urgent and ambitious climate action. CLX helps fill gaps in existing practice, connects practitioners and experts in different fields (from climate science and strategic communications to law and public policy), and

spearheads and supports climate legal action and other forms of advocacy.

**About César Rodríguez-Garavito.** César Rodríguez-Garavito is an Earth rights scholar, field lawyer, Professor of Law and Chair of the Center for Human Rights and Global Justice at NYU School of Law. He is the founding director of the Climate Law Accelerator (CLX), More-Than-Human Life (MOTH) Program, and the Earth Rights Research & Action (TERRA) Clinic at NYU Law. César’s work has advanced new ideas and legal actions worldwide on issues such as climate justice, Indigenous rights, and what he proposes to call “more-than-human rights” (rights of nature). His contributions to Earth rights have been recognized with a More-Than-Human Fellowship by the London Design Museum and a spot in the UN Museum's Top 10 Culture for Impact 2024 List. His work has been featured in numerous media outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, BBC, Reuters, *National Geographic*, *Emergence Magazine*, *El País* and *Atmos*. His recent publications include [More-Than-Human Rights: An Ecology of Law, Thought and Narrative for Earthly Flourishing](#) (NYU).

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