



CANDIDATE CV

Candidate for IUCN Regional Councilor, North America and the Caribbean

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Executive Director, Center for Environmental Ethics and Law (CEEL)
 Professor of International Law, Northern Illinois University College of Law

*Leading with heart.
 Empowering through ethics & equity.
 Advancing a just governance for conservation.*

HIGHLIGHTS

- 25 years of local-regional-global research, advocacy, and development in local, sub-national, national, and international environmental law and governance.
- 20 years of advancing ethics at IUCN with Members, Commissions, and Secretariat.
- 20+ edited and/or authored peer-reviewed publications on international law, environmental law, comparative law, human rights, human security, global governance, justice, and ethics.
- 10+ years of experience teaching undergraduate (BA), graduate (Masters, JD, PhD), and post-graduate (LLM) courses in the US and abroad; currently teaches JD courses on Climate Law and Policy, Decolonizing International Law, Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law and Security, and Human Rights Law.
- Leadership, advisor, and expert roles with several international organizations, boards, and steering committees that advance good governance, environmental protection, and public health.
- Ms. Gwiazdon is often invited as a keynote, opening plenary, or closing plenary panelist for international law conferences on topics related to ethics, environment, human rights, and democracy; recently:
 - 2025, invited keynote to “Ethical Futures for People and Planet,” Australian Earth Laws Alliance and the Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics (Brisbane, Australia)
 - 2024, panelist to “A Seat at the Table: Why Future Generations Need Institutional Representation,” UNGA/World Future Council (UNHQ, New York)
 - 2023, keynote, “Human Security from a Multidisciplinary Perspective: Mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a Post-Pandemic Society,” Universitas Slamet Riyadi (Indonesia)
 - 2022, closing plenary presentation at the IUCN WCEL 3rd Congress on International Environmental Law on the need to create a fertile environment for a right to a healthy environment to succeed (Norway)
 - 2021, keynote for Semana del Clima Mazoneria Latinoamericana, “Los desafíos éticos ante la crisis climática global: una mirada reflexiva desde la Mazonería,” with the Grand Lodges of Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina (an UNFCCC COP26 preparatory event), and interviewed by CNN Chile and *La Tercera* on climate ethics
 - 2020, keynote at the annual Lisbon Forum, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, speaking on ubuntu as an ethical approach for humans, nature, and nation-state solidarity

IUCN Engagement:

- CEEL (IUCN NGO Member), created to implement Res. 020 (2004), Create a Code of Ethics for Biodiversity Conservation; Biosphere Ethics Initiative adopted via Council and Res. 040 (2012); recently:
 - Ourém Relato, 2023+ - focus: local communities, limestone mining, public health, corruption
 - Gary, Rise Relato and Women International Network of Gary Symposium (WINGS), 2016+ - focus: women-led whole-of-community approach, addressing public health, education, racism, toxics
- Executive Committee Member, US National Committee (USNC) (2023+)
- Chair, Ethics Specialist Group, IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) (2021+)
- WCEL Member (2005+)
- WCPA/SSC Member, Inter-Commissional Task Force on Dams (2024+)
- Member, IUCN WCC 2025 Motions Working Group
- Co-organized the first IUCN Presidential Debate at IUCN WCC 2008

Additional Board and Advisor Roles

- Expert, UN Harmony with Nature Program
 - 2023, UNGA intervention, “A Crisis of Democracy, A Crisis of Life: A Call for an Earth Assembly”
 - 2018, UNGA intervention, “How Earth ethics can inform local and global law and governance to create sustainable consumption and production practices”
- Expert Advisor (and former Executive Member), International Network for Epidemiology in Policy
 - A call for courage: declaration on human rights and health – A statement of solidarity with civilians of Palestine and Israel and with all those affected by war, armed conflict, forced displacement, occupation, and violence globally (2024)
 - Recife Declaration on Racism as a Global Public Health Crisis (2023+)
 - INEP Declaration on human rights and health in war, armed conflict, forced displacement, occupation, and violence: statement of solidarity with the peoples of Ukraine and around the globe (2022)
- Steering Committee, Global Ecological Integrity Group (2015+); recently:
 - 2025 Conference Coordinator, “Law, Governance, and Ecological Integrity in the Era of Emergency,” Università Europea di Roma (Rome, Italy)
 - 2024 Conference Coordinator, “From Colonialism to Cosmologies: Ecological Integrity and Indigenous Knowledge in Law, Policy, and Science,” Uni. Federal de Santa Catarina (Brazil)
- Founder and Board Member, Ecological Law and Governance Association
- Local Representative (US), L’Institut International pour la Négociation Écologique (INNÉ)
- Experto Asociado, Inter-American Institute on Justice and Sustainability
- Founding Committee Member, Eco-Jurisprudence Monitor
- Regional Committee Member, Princeton Prize on Race Relations

Recent publications:

- Forthcoming, K. Gwiazdon and C. Cannon, ‘When a City Kills: The Struggle for Care, Community, and Restorative Justice in Gary, Indiana,’ in *Decolonizing International Development: A Global Feminist Critique*, Mayyada Abu Jaber and Rita Stephan, eds. (2025)
- [Ecological Integrity and International Law: Peace, Public Health, and Global Security](#) (2025 Routledge)
- [Words won’t reduce the impact of conflict on nature — what’s needed is action](#) (2024 Nature, co-authored with C. Dunn & B. Mackey)
- [The Routledge Handbook on Applied Climate Change Ethics](#) (ed.); ‘The Climate Change Disinformation Campaign...’ and ‘Saving Democracy: Denying the Alternate Reality of Climate Denialism’ (2023)
- Editorial Advisory Board, Public Health and Health Policy Ethics Journal (Springer Nature)