



Workshop on Strategic Litigation

April 17, 2018

Washington, DC

Climate Advisers welcomes you to join a workshop to discuss the role of generally applicable criminal laws in the United States to pursue forest crime in developing countries – “Strategic Litigation”. The workshop will bring together former U.S. Federal prosecutors and U.S. legal policy experts along with international law enforcement officials, developing country civil society advocates and leaders from international investigative NGOs. The objective of the workshop will be to assess the potential of Strategic Litigation in the United States to combat forest crime and to begin to develop a common vision for ramping up efforts in this area.

Agenda

April 17th

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| 8:30am | Breakfast and networking |
| 9:00am | Welcome and introductions |
| 9:15am | What is Strategic Litigation and what do people think about it? |

In preparation for the workshop, Climate Advisers has interviewed several dozen expert prosecutors, law enforcement officers, international officials, forest policy experts, financial professionals, and civil society advocacy leaders from the global North and South. This session will summarize the findings of these interviews to provoke an open discussion about the potential of strategic litigation to combat forest crime in developing nations.

10:30am – Coffee Break

11:00am – What U.S. laws are available for Strategic Litigation?

Environmental laws such as the Lacey Act offer tremendous potential to pursue forest crime. However, these are not the only statutes available to pursue criminal conduct. Corruption, tax evasion, wire fraud, bribery, money laundering and other crimes often accompany illegal deforestation and land clearing. This session presents the array of generally applicable U.S. laws available to fight deforestation, and enables consideration of the best litigation strategies.

12:30pm – Working Lunch Discussion: Recent Successes

1:15pm – What are the Obstacles and Opportunities re Pursuing Strategic Litigation?

Excellent work on-the-ground by NGOs in developing countries, supplemented by new tools for international transparency, such as Global Forest Watch, are creating unprecedented transparency into forest crime. Developed countries have expanded the scope and reach of their laws and courts, covering a large fraction of forest crime. What are the opportunities to capitalize on these trends for Strategic Litigation? What big obstacles remain?

2:45pm – Way Forward/Next Steps for Strategic Litigation

What actions are needed to make progress? To succeed, a durable motivated effort is needed across a range of actors and issues. This final session will develop the outline of a strategy to pursue Strategic Litigation in a more systematic fashion.

3:55pm – Concluding remarks

4:00pm – Workshop concludes