

I. Community Lawyering for Environmental Justice Pt. 3: Conflict Checks

September 27, 2022, 12:00 – 1:30 pm EST

Moderator: Kristine Perry

Panelists: Sabrina Ashjian, Jeremy Orr, Laura Powell

A. Introduction to the series, the Environmental Law Institute's Pro Bono Clearinghouse

- a. Part three of the series will focus on conflict checks and the process for taking on a matter through the ELI Pro Bono Clearinghouse. Conflict checks are an integral preliminary step to taking on a new case. How does the process work, and how does it differ between fields? What should attorneys do before taking on a case at the Pro Bono Clearinghouse? Join ELI and expert panelists to discuss conflict checks and how to manage them at law firms, nonprofits, clinics, and more.

B. Introduce panelists, after their introduction, the panelists will have 10 minutes each to talk generally about how they handle conflict checks in their work

- a. Sabrina Ashjian, clinical supervising attorney at UC Berkeley's Environmental Law Clinic
- b. Jeremy Orr, Director of Litigation and Advocacy Partnerships at Earthjustice
- c. Laura Powell, Fish & Richardson

C. Special considerations with conflict checks (highlighting the differences between an academic clinic, firm, and non-profit practice areas)

- a. Timing of the conflict check and defining the attorney client relationship **[Sabrina/Jeremy/Laura]**
- b. What happens if there is a conflict? How to proceed, what information do you give the prospective client? **[Sabrina/Jeremy/Laura]**
- c. Conflict checks and working with other groups, firms, etc. If a firm is conflicted out, can you still collaborate with them on certain pieces of the case? **[Sabrina/Jeremy/Laura]**
- d. Highlighting best practices and successful examples of pro bono work **[Sabrina/Jeremy/Laura]**

D. Questions from audience