

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW EDUCATION FOR THE JUDICIARY: Importance, Challenges, and the Role of California

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Introduction

- Importance of environmental law
- Complex and dynamic environmental challenges
- Critical legal area for education
- Critical role of judges
- Impact on public health, economic development, ecosystem sustainability



Roadmap



1 INTRODUCTION

2 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

3 ROLE OF CALIFORNIA AS A LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL EDUCATION

4 JUDGE'S PERSPECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL EDUCATION

5 CONCLUSION



Climate Change and Environmental Law



Climate Change

A photograph of two young corn plants growing in a field of cracked, dry earth under a clear blue sky. The plants are in the foreground, with one slightly taller than the other. The ground is parched and cracked, indicating a drought. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

- Predicted temperature and precipitation changes
- Extreme weather events: floods, droughts, fires
- Implications on communities, economies, and ecosystems

Increasing Role of Environmental Law and Courts

Figure 1.1. Total climate change cases over time, US and non-US (up to 31 May 2022)

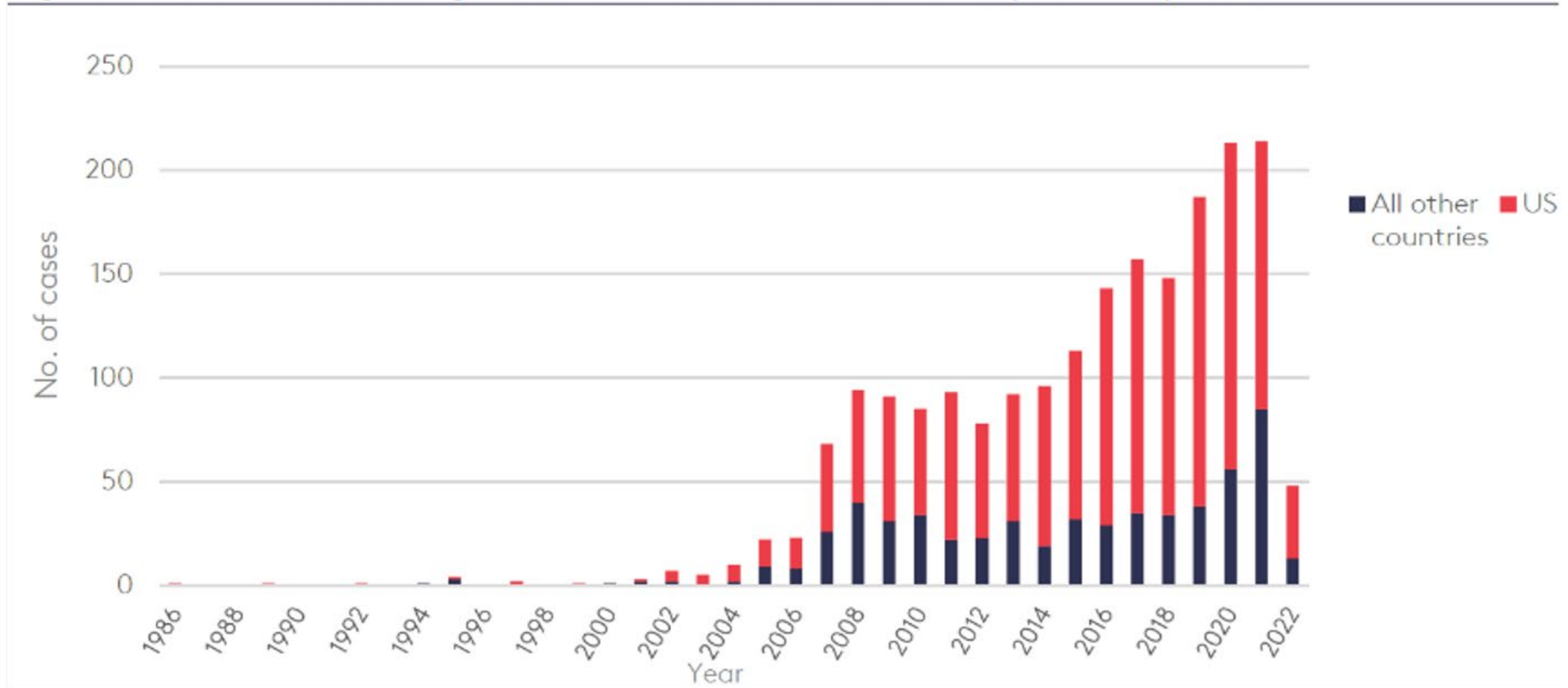


Chart showing growth of climate cases. *Source:* Joana Setzer & Catherine Higham, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy, *Global Trends in Climate Change Litigation: 2022 Snapshot* (June 2022) (figure based on data from the Sabin and Climate Change Laws of the World databases).

California as a Leader in Environmental Law

California's complexity:

- Regulatory framework
- Standards
- Diverse geography and ecosystems

Educational focus areas:

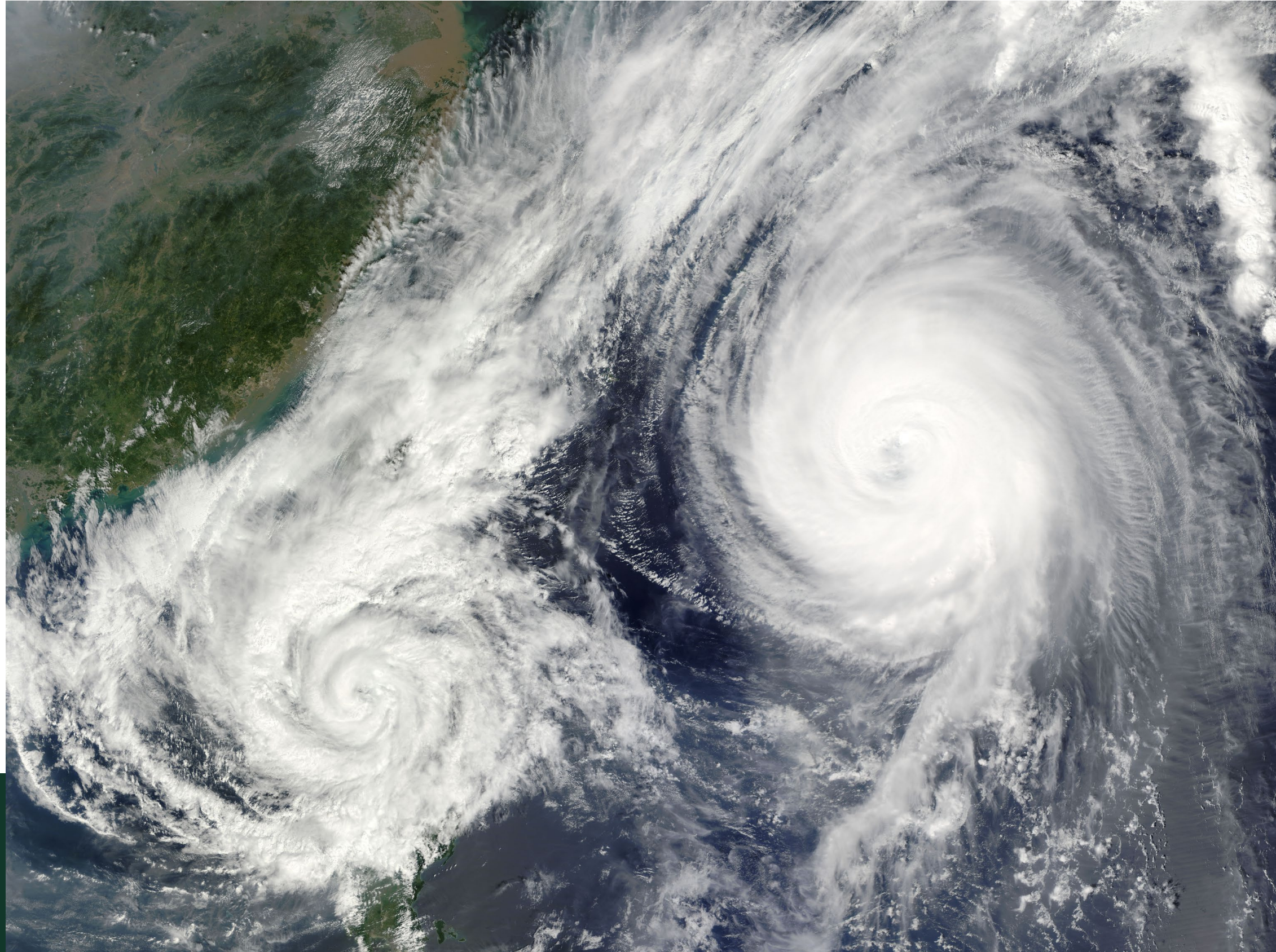
- Complex litigation
- CEQA
- Water law
- Environmental law



Collaboration and Leadership

- California judiciary collaborates with national bodies:
 - Judicial Consortium on Water and the Environment
 - Dividing the Waters symposium
 - Tribal judges at Judicial Council educational programs
- Promotes best practices and knowledge sharing

A Judge's Perspective





A Judge's Caseload and Environmental Law Cases

- Expected increase in cases due to climate change
- Unique challenges of environmental law cases

Unique Challenges in Environmental Law Cases

- Specialized pleadings
- Expert testimony
- Extensive evidence
- Complex trial processes and organization

Importance of Continuing Education

1

Up-to-date
knowledge of
the law

2

Efficient case
management

3

Improved
decisions




Benefits to Judiciary and Public



- Decisions based on latest:
 - Legal standards
 - Regulations
 - Scientific knowledge
- Interdisciplinary studies = holistic decisions for the public



Conclusion



Importance of Continuous Education in Environmental Law for Judicial Officers

- Legal landscape is always changing
- Environmental law is intertwined with science and technology
- Continuous legal education is essential
- Ensures California is a leader in environmental law