

**PAUL GALLAY, J.D.**  
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## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **Columbia Climate School**

**Director, Resilient Coastal Communities Project** **2021 - present**

In partnership with the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, support actionable, equitable solutions to coastal flooding and foster complementary benefits such as habitat restoration, job creation and community empowerment.

**Faculty Member, Sustainable Development Program** **2018 - present**

Courses developed and taught: *US Water And Energy Policy* (SDEV 4050); *Building Climate Justice: Co-Creative Coastal Resilience Planning* (SDEV 4650); and, *The New York City Watershed: From Community Displacement to Collaboration and Climate Adaptation* (SDEV 4550).

**Steering Committee Member and Co-Principal Investigator** **2023- present**  
**Environmental and Climate Justice at Columbia Project**

Aided by a Provostial *catalyst grant*, the ECJaC Project serves as an interdisciplinary meeting space, incubator, and laboratory to support and advance needed research, education, and public service work in Environmental and Climate Justice.

### **Riverkeeper**

**President & Hudson Riverkeeper** **2010 - 2021**

Enriched Riverkeeper's 52-year tradition of clean water advocacy and watershed protection, pursuing targeted litigation and gaining passage of cutting-edge safe drinking water laws. Fostered regional resiliency, increased community empowerment and established diversity, equity and inclusion as core values.

Built Riverkeeper's water quality testing program into the largest in the state, helping to drive \$3.9 billion in infrastructure funding and new controls on toxics in drinking water. Guided Riverkeeper's campaign in support of NY's precedent-setting ban on fracking. Stewarded Riverkeeper's oversight work as signatory to 1997 NYC Watershed Agreement. Raised revenue, staffing and volunteer advocacy to new highs. Partnered with the Riverkeeper board of directors to revitalize governance and complete three successive five-year strategic plans.

### **Maine Coast Heritage Trust**

**President** **2008 - 2010**

Expanded community support for conservation by increasing its relevance to working waterfront and farming communities. Established and funded grants program to support coastal towns & businesses. Broadened public access to MCHT's preserves and managed MCHT's successful application for national accreditation.

## **Westchester Land Trust**

**Executive Director**

**2000 - 2008**

Organized creation of a dozen new municipal land acquisition programs and tripled the number of communities where WLT conserves land. Coordinated \$73 Million in new open space, NYC Watershed buffer, farmland and park acquisition projects. Achieved seven-fold increases in preservation activity and funding. Created an endowment amounting to four years' operating expenses and obtained the gift of a permanent home for the organization. Gained certification as one of the nation's first seven accredited land trusts.

## **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Regional Attorney, Special Assistant to the Commissioner**

**1990 - 2000**

Managed legal, policy initiatives at the Department's 180-person New York City office, supervising enforcement, remediation, public affairs, permitting and habitat programs. Closed rogue oil barge operations and waste transfer stations. Obtained comprehensive oil spill cleanups at NYC airports, transit facilities and housing complexes. Obtained reductions in nitrogen pollution and wet weather overflows at area wastewater plants. Oversaw closure of Fresh Kills Landfill, the world's largest waste management facility. Spearheaded a multi-year "trackdown" initiative to find and eliminate the most significant sources of pollution in New York Harbor. Managed the first state-supervised brownfields cleanup project in New York City history, transforming a defunct power plant into the area's largest paper recycler.

## **Office of the New York State Attorney General**

**Assistant Attorney General, Environmental Protection Bureau**

**1987 - 1990**

Represented DEC and other state agencies in environmental enforcement and permitting litigation. Obtained federal and state court orders protecting wetlands, closing numerous illegal waste disposal sites and defending water conservation measures preserving the sustainability of Long Island's potable groundwater supply.

## **Cole & Deitz**

**Associate Attorney, Litigation Department**

**1984 - 1987**

Pursued commercial litigation in state and federal court including land use, environmental impact review and pollution abatement cases.

## **ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

**Brooklyn College - Executive Committee, The Science and Resilience Institute for Jamaica Bay**

**2021 - present**

**Clarkson University - Adjunct Professor of Environmental Law**

**2014 - 2017**

**Williams College - Visiting Professor of Environmental Law**

**2004 - 2007**

## **EDUCATION**

**Columbia University School of Law**

**Juris Doctor, May 1984**

**Williams College**

**Bachelor of Arts, June 1981**

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**Book Chapter:** Building a Better Model for Flood Protection Planning (Climate Justice Now: Crossing Disciplines to Combat our Planetary Crisis; Columbia University Press March 2026).

**White Paper:** Fair and Accountable Adaptation Planning: 5 key roles for co-governance (January 2026).

**Project Report:** The Resilient Coastal Communities Project - 2026 Impact Plan (December 2025).

**Book Chapter:** *Transparency, Accountability and Justice: Why Governments Must Share Flood Protection Planning Leadership with Frontline Communities.* (Urban Sustainable Government: Governance, Finance and Politics; Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais November 2024)

**Policy Brief:** *Improving Coastal Resiliency Projects with The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Protecting coastal communities through investment in green infrastructure and communities.* November 2024.

**Journal Article:** *Advancing Equitable Partnerships - Frontline Community Visions for Coastal Resiliency Knowledge Co-production, Social Cohesion, and Environmental Justice* (Geoforum, June 2024).

### **Working Papers and Presentations:**

**Conference Presentation:** Relationships to action: sustained networks create fair and accountable adaptation in US coastal frontlines across 32 cases (ACSP, November 2025).

*Designing Community-led Plans to Strengthen Social Cohesion: What Neighborhoods Facing Climate-driven Flood Risks Want From Resilience Planning* (August 2022).

**Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning - Annual Conference (October 2023)** 'Advancing Equitable Partnerships: Frontline Community Visions for Coastal Resiliency Knowledge Co-Production, Social Cohesion, and Environmental Justice' (co-authors: Aya Morris, Bernadette Baird-Zars, Jacqueline M. Klopp, Annel Hernandez, Lexi Scanlon, and Hannah Su-An Lin (Columbia Climate School, Center for Sustainable Urban Development), Victoria Sanders (New York City Environmental Justice Alliance).

**Columbia Climate School - At What Point Managed Retreat? Conference.** *Towards A More Community-Driven Conversation About Risk And Relocation.* (June 2023)

**Fordham University International Conference on Social and Environmental Justice.** *Advancing Equitable Partnerships: Frontline Community Visions for Coastal Resiliency Knowledge Co-Production, Social Cohesion, and Environmental Justice.* (May 2023)

**Columbia Climate School - Decarbonization, Climate Resilience & Climate Justice Conference.** *Coastal Resilience Planning in NYC: Seeking Safety, Finding Justice.* (March 2023)

**Columbia World Projects - Horizontal & Urban-scale Coalitions to Address The Wicked Problem of Coastal Adaptation.** At the Water's Edge Conference. October 2022.

**Columbia Climate School - Designing Community-led Plans to Strengthen Social Cohesion: What**

*Neighborhoods Facing Climate-driven Flood Risks Want From Resilience Planning.* June 2022.

**Williams College - Just Futures Roundtable.** *Retreat/Refusal/Resilience.* March 2022.

**Columbia Climate School - Lamont Doherty BPE Lecture Series.** *How To Foster Science-driven Public Policy.* November 2021.

**Harvard University - Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure.** *Valuing Green Infrastructure: Next Generation Planning Perspectives on Urban Water Management.* Feb 2017.

**Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs - Uehiro-Carnegie-Oxford Conference on Global Warming.** Closing keynote: *Community Advocacy and Climate Change.* Oct. 2015.

## **SERVICE APPOINTMENTS**

**New York City Watershed Agricultural Council** - Board of Directors

**Columbia Law School** - Public Interest/Public Service Council

## **HONORS & AWARDS**

**Environmental Advocates of NY** (2008)

**Theodore Gordon Flyfishers Association** (2014)

**Riverkeeper** (2021)

**Hudson River Fishermen's Association** (2021)