

## Schedule

*8:00 am to 8:45am – Check In*

*8:45 am to 9:00am – Welcome from Dean Kevin Johnson & Introduction from Professor Albert Lin*

*9:00 am to 9:30 am – Keynote Speaker: Tariq Fancy*

[5 minute break]

*9:35 am to 11:00 am – Panel One – **Climate Disclosures Under the SEC and Beyond***

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)'s proposed climate disclosure rule would require companies to provide investors with information on climate-related risks, greenhouse gas emissions, and climate-related targets and goals. Supporters contend that the rule would enable investors to make more informed financial decisions and increase the reliability of sustainability disclosures. Critics suggest that the rule would impose heavy burdens on business and exceed the SEC's statutory authority. What are the strengths and shortcomings of the proposed rule? What will be its effects? What legal challenges will the rule face, and what are the prospects for those challenges? Are there climate disclosure requirements in other jurisdictions that should serve as models for regulation or that will interact with the SEC's rule? How do such disclosure regimes fit within overall climate action strategies?

Madison Condon (Boston University)

George Georgiev (Emory University School of Law)

Virginia Harper Ho (CityU School of Law in Hong Kong)

*Moderator - Dean Afra Afsharipour (UC Davis)*

*11:00 am to 11:10 am – Break*

*11:10 am to 12:35 pm – Panel Two – **Private Net Zero Pledges***

In the past year, thousands of businesses and other organizations have pledged to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. These voluntary pledges vary in terms of their target dates, activities and emissions covered, level of detail, and reliance on offsets. If they live up to their promise, net zero pledges could significantly contribute to the battle against climate change. But if not backed by concrete measures to reduce emissions, these pledges can deceive policymakers and the public into a sense of complacency. Are net zero pledges more than greenwashing? How should standards for net zero disclosure and implementation be strengthened? Should laws be enacted to make net zero pledges mandatory or otherwise bolster the likelihood of achieving real climate benefits? What are the implications of net zero and other private environmental governance initiatives for democratic governance and environmental equity?

Dr. Alperen Afşin Gözlugöl (Leibniz Institute for Financial Research SAFE)

Zhi Yi Yeo (University of North Carolina - Net Zero Tracker/Data-Driven EnviroLab team)

Shelley Welton (University of South Carolina School of Law)

*Moderator* – Professor Albert Lin (UC Davis)

*12:35 pm to 1:55 pm – Lunch Break*

**2:00 pm to 3:25 pm – Panel Three – Potential Legal Barriers to ESG Action**

In the investment context, ESG refers to the consideration of environmental, social, and governance factors. ESG increasingly informs not only investment strategies, but also corporate decisions and legal advice. ESG is not without controversy, however. Some states, decrying “woke capitalism,” are passing laws requiring the states to avoid doing business with companies that practice ESG. What legal regimes may constrain companies’ ability to act in environmentally sustainable ways? Do antitrust concerns inhibit companies from collaborating in the pursuit of ESG priorities, and if so, how can companies overcome these concerns? Do fiduciary duties of trustees, investment managers, and corporate officers and notions of shareholder primacy conflict with consideration of non-financial factors in decisionmaking? Might divestment campaigns give rise to claims of tortious interference with contracts? How should lawyers incorporate ESG advice into their practice, and what advice should they give?

Jill Fisch (Penn Law)

Amelia Miazad (UC Davis School of Law)

Lynn LoPucki (UCLA School of Law)

*Moderator* - Professor Menesh Patel (UC Davis)

*3:30 pm to 3:50 pm* – Closing Remarks (UC Davis Law Review)

*3:50 pm* – Reception in King Hall Courtyard

\*\* In-person event is only open to UC Davis Law students, faculty, staff, and invited guests only from the public. COVID-19 [Daily Symptom Survey](#) and face covering will be required to attend. More about [events guidelines](#). If you plan to attend in-person as an outside guest, you will be required to show your vaccination card. Acceptable formats include the original paper card, a photo of the original paper card, or a digital record of vaccination.

For more information, please contact Natasha Kang at [nskang@ucdavis.edu](mailto:nskang@ucdavis.edu) and Casey Loosbrock at [cloosbrock@ucdavis.edu](mailto:cloosbrock@ucdavis.edu).