

**Australian Wild Law Judgments Project
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Due: Monday March 2nd, 2015

Interested participants are invited to submit a 300-500 word abstract to the Wild Law Judgments Project, by emailing: convenor@earthlaws.org.au by Monday March 2nd, 2015.

The abstract should describe the judgment you will be writing or rewriting, and the approach you intend to take in writing/rewriting your selected judgment. Participants may work either within existing legal principles and traditional judgment formats or alternatively, adopt the more radical position of drawing on principles outside existing law and/or adopting less traditional formats for judgement writing. We are anticipating that the final collection will be divided into two parts to reflect this division.

Accepted participants will be invited to write a 5,000 word contribution, consisting of the rewritten judgment together with a brief commentary about how their rewritten judgment differs from the original judgment and why this approach was taken. These contributions will be due by December 2015.

The judgments can be based on existing judgments or encompass hypothetical judgments. For instance, some writers have already stated a preference for writing judgments in matters which did proceed to judgment or have not yet been litigated.

For more information about the Wild Law Judgment Project, please visit this website:

<http://www.earthlaws.org.au/events/wild-law-judgment-project/>

BACKGROUND

The aim of the Wild Law Judgment Project is to produce a body of jurisprudence that offers an earth centred perspective of key common law decisions. The Australian Wild Law Judgment project, which draws its inspiration from various feminist judgment projects, poses a unique critical challenge to the dominant human-centred focus of the common law. This project will open up Australian judicial decision-making to critical scrutiny from a wild law perspective. The challenge for each participant is to choose an Australian judgment and to re-write it from a wild law perspective. The original judgment might be found in any area of law, including constitutional law, torts, corporations law, property law, contracts, criminal law and taxation law.

The Wild Law Judgment project requires us to re-write judgments through a wild law lens, putting all life and life's support systems at the centre of judgments. In doing this, we are mounting a challenge to the hegemony of anthropocentrism in the common law.

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- 1) Re-imagine law from an Earth-centred and 'wild' world view;
- 2) Create a body of alternative jurisprudence comprising specific re-written judgments; and
- 3) Stimulate new thinking among students and practitioners about the role of law in nurturing the Earth community.

WRITTEN OUTPUT FROM PROJECT

Selected abstracts will be presented in a book proposal to Routledge in mid 2015. All papers will be peer reviewed before final acceptance into the collected edition.

We envisage that there will be two distinct bodies of work produced by participants, based on the two approaches discussed by Justice Preston. We are planning, therefore, to divide the collection into two parts. Part one of the book will contain judgments in which writers have worked within existing common law principles in order to reach outcomes consistent with earth justice. These authors will rewrite existing judgments and use existing laws as the basis of their logic, argument and conclusions.

Part two will feature judgments in which writers have modified existing law or worked outside existing law, drawing on transformative/creative/radical visions for a different jurisprudence. In other words, these will be judgments based on broader or more radical principles than those found in existing common law and legislation. For example, an author may draw on the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth and reimagine and rewrite an Australian judgment based on this civil society charter, rather than existing international or domestic law. Alternatively judgments in this category may alter aspects of existing legislation, to provide for more scope and possibilities in the writing of judgments.

For further information, please contact: Michelle Maloney (convenor@earthlaws.org.au) or Dr Nicole Rogers (nicole.rogers@scu.edu.au)

Prepared 4 February 2015