

Speaker Bios
Environmental & Natural Resources Section
Environmental Justice CLE – December 9, 2020

Dr. Lisa Benjamin is an Assistant Professor at Lewis & Clark Law School where she teaches Environmental Justice, International Climate Change, Energy Resources and Administrative Law. Her research investigates the intersection of corporate, energy and environmental law with a focus on climate risk and climate justice. She also researches climate change from the perspective of developing countries. She is currently a member of the Compliance Committee (Facilitative Branch) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has been an adviser to, and member of, the Bahamian national delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Janet Bebb: Janet has been a project leader in open space planning, design and construction in Portland for over twenty-five years. She has led large public works and has contributed to the success of many Portland public spaces including Jamison Square, Tanner Springs, Saturday Market, and Director Park. As Strategic Projects Manager at City of Portland and Principal Planner at Metro, she consistently brought a high standard of innovation and integration of disciplines to projects and enjoyed teaching project management skills to staff. Janet also has contributed to urban renewal planning in Portland with a broad view of the role of parks in economic development; she has spoken nationally on this topic.

Originally from Oklahoma, Janet has a B.A. in International Studies and M.L.A. in Landscape Architecture. She has lived and studied languages in diverse cultures; she brings to the Albina Vision a passion for communication and community building that is inclusive and celebrates our diversity.

Charles Lee
Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Charles Lee is widely recognized as a true pioneer in the arena of environmental justice. He was the principal author of the landmark report, *Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States*. He helped to spearhead the emergence of a national environmental justice movement and federal action including the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Executive Order 12898, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice.

Mr. Lee is currently the Senior Policy Advisor for Environmental Justice at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He led the development and implementation of EPA's agency-wide environmental justice strategic plans, e.g., Plan EJ 2014 and EJ 2020. He has served in multiple capacities, ranging from creating the United Church of Christ's environmental justice program to directing EPA's environmental justice office. He was a charter member of the NEJAC, where he chaired its Waste and Facility Siting committee, as well as serving on the National Academy of Science/Institute of Medicine Committee on Environmental Justice and numerous other panels. In these capacities, he led efforts to incorporate environmental justice into EPA's rulemaking process, develop models for collaborative problem-solving, transform brownfields redevelopment into a community revitalization paradigm, advance approaches to address cumulative risks and impacts, lay a strong science foundation for integrating environmental justice into decision-making, and advancing environmental justice at the state level. A major focus of his current work is building long-term capacity to advance environmental justice at the state level.

Mr. Lee has authored numerous papers, reports, journals and articles on environmental justice over the past three decades. He has taught or presented at numerous schools and conferences, including the seminal academic conference on "Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards" at the University of Michigan. He is the recipient of many awards for his work, including the American Public Health Association's first Damu Smith Environmental Achievement Award. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy presented to him the EJ Pioneer Award on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 12898. In February 2017, the 122nd Session of the South Carolina House of Representatives passed Resolution H*3732 to honor his lifetime of accomplishments in environmental justice and contributions to bettering the lives of communities in that state.