

Newsletter

Big warm greetings to the Youth Climate Courts Community,

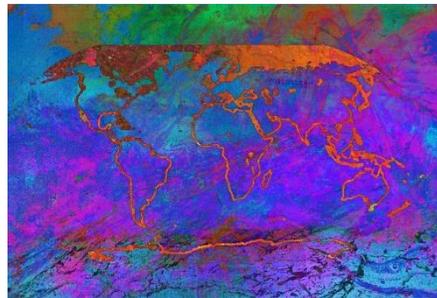
PIELC

PUBLIC INTEREST ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

Climate Court organizing team also presented a panel at the Organizing 2.0 Conference in New York City in April.

YCC Presented at the PIELC

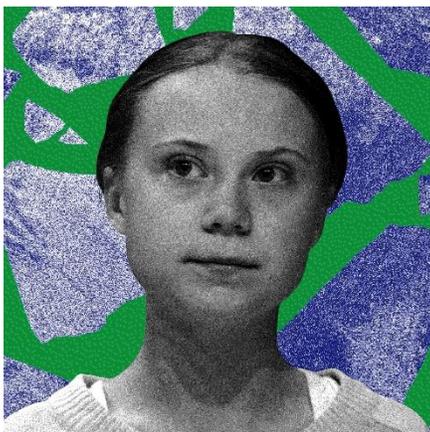
You may remember that our first newsletter featured Youth Climate Courts leaders presenting on a panel at the 2021 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon Law School. Their panel was recorded and can be viewed [here](#). A Youth



IPCC Report

Since then, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released its [Sixth Assessment Report](#) just this month, and it's headline findings are more than dire. Climate change is definitely here and it is a crisis of Code Red proportions for humanity, according to the UN secretary general. If there were ever a time to pressure local governments to step up and do their share to protect their community's human rights, that

time is now and Youth Climate Courts are a powerful and effective way to accomplish that.



Greta Thunberg

Greta and three of her young friends published a Guest Opinion in the *New York Times* on August 20th, 2021. They wrote: "For children and young people, climate change is the single greatest threat to our futures. We are the ones who will have to clean up the mess you adults have made, and we are the ones who are more likely to suffer now. [Children are more vulnerable](#) than adults to the dangerous weather events, diseases and other harms caused by climate change, which is why a [new analysis](#) released Friday by UNICEF is so important."

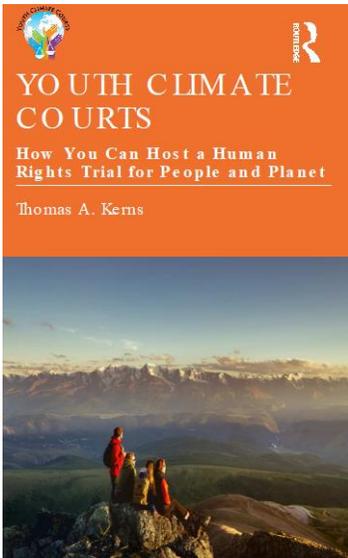
The UNICEF Report introduces the Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), which uses data to generate new global evidence on how many children are currently exposed to climate and environmental hazards, shocks and stresses.

It finds that virtually every child on the planet is exposed to at least one climate or environmental hazard right now. A staggering 850 million, about a third of all the world's children, are exposed to four or more climate or

environmental hazards, including heat waves, cyclones, air pollution, flooding or water scarcity. A billion children, nearly half the children in the world, live in “extremely high risk” countries, the UNICEF researchers report.

Greta and her friends conclude: “We are in a crisis of crises. A pollution crisis. A climate crisis. A children’s rights crisis. We will not allow the world to look away.”

That **UNICEF Report, “The Climate Crisis is a Child Rights Crisis,”** and summaries of the Report can be viewed and downloaded here. <https://www.unicef.org/reports/climate-crisis-child-rights-crisis>



Youth Climate Courts book out on October 15th

Finally, one more announcement: The book, *Youth Climate Courts: How You Can Host a Human Rights Trial for People and Planet*, is being published by Routledge, the highly respected multinational publisher headquartered in the UK. The book is due out on October 15th, just in time for the COP26 climate meetings in Glasgow in early November. Routledge describes the book this way:

“This book focuses on Youth Climate Courts, a bold new tool that young people in their teens to mid-twenties can use to compel their local city or county government to live up to its human rights obligations, formally acknowledge the climate crisis, and take major steps to address it.

Tom Kerns shows how youth climate leaders can form their own local Youth Climate Court, with youth judges, youth prosecuting attorneys and youth jury members and put their local city or county government on trial for not meeting its human rights obligations. Kerns describes how a Youth Climate Court works, how to start one, what human rights are, what they require of local governments, and what governmental changes a Youth Climate Court can realistically hope to accomplish. The book offers young activists a brand new, user-friendly, cost-free, barrier-free, powerful tool for forcing local governments to come to terms with their obligation to protect the rights of their citizens with respect to the climate crisis.

This book offers a unique new tool to young climate activists desperate for genuinely effective ways to directly move governments to aggressively address the climate crisis.”

The book can be pre-ordered at [Routledge](#), [amazon](#) and other booksellers.

Meanwhile, to learn more about Youth Climate Courts and how to organize your own independent Youth Climate Court, visit: <https://www.youthclimatecourts.org/>

Many thanks to all you for your climate activism and your care for our common home.

– The Youth Climate Courts team

Greta Thurnberg Image Credit: Illustration by The New York Times; Photograph by Pablo Blazquez Dominguez\Stringer

IPCC Image Credit: Changing, by Alisa Singer "As we witness our planet transforming around us we watch, listen, measure ... respond."
www.environmentalgraphiti.org – 2021 Alisa Singer