

# Ira Feldman

## BIOGRAPHY

Ira Feldman is a US-based sustainability leader with an interdisciplinary skill set and a global reach. Ira is at the leading edge of the convergence of sustainability, climate adaptation and ecosystem services. He has over 30 years' experience as an attorney and consultant focusing on environmental regulatory innovation (e.g., alternatives to "command and control" regulation), strategic environmental management, sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility. Ira's substantive work has explored the role of ESG (environment-social-governance) factors in the financial sector; the implications of "soft law" or "private law" – especially international voluntary standards -- for business and government; the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to advance sustainable development and resilience; and, the potential for "blockchain" technology to advance climate adaptation solutions and mobilize finance.

Ira is currently a PhD candidate in sustainability management at the University of Waterloo. His doctoral research focuses on the alignment of national-level sustainability policies in developed countries with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He presently holds adjunct faculty positions at the City University of New York (CUNY) in the Sustainability in the Urban Environment program; at Fordham University in the Gabelli School of Business; and at George Mason University in Environmental Science & Policy. To advance the state of play in sustainability in higher education, Ira founded the not-for-profit Sustainability Curriculum Consortium (SCC) in 2015 and continues to serve as its Managing Director.

In the climate adaptation space, Ira is the founder and managing director of Adaptation Leader, a Maryland-based 501(c)3 not-for-profit. He co-chaired the Policy Committee of the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP); introduced climate adaptation to the practicing legal community in the US through his leadership role in the American Bar Association (ABA); coordinated in the international ISO process (TC207 SC7) the Adaptation Task Force (ATF), which developed the roadmap for ISO's suite of climate adaptation standards; served on the Adaptation Working Group of the State of Maryland's Climate Commission and advised on state-level adaptation planning processes in Florida and Alaska. Ira's leadership and work in the climate adaptation community of practice also includes developing and delivering the first-of-its-kind graduate-level climate adaptation course at Penn and establishing the "Climate Adaptation Scholars"™ group on LinkedIn (currently with over 3000 members in 160 countries).

Ira has long played a leading role in defining future domestic policy directions through his participation in environmental management and sustainability policy initiatives such as the President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD) and the Multi-state Working Group on Environmental Performance (MSWG). Previously, as Special Counsel at US EPA headquarters, he pioneered new enforcement settlement approaches; developed the Agency's audit and self-disclosure policy; and was the architect of EPA's first corporate voluntary excellence program.

A past chair of the ABA-SEER Climate Change, Sustainable Development & Ecosystems Committee, Ira also served on the ABA President's Task Force on Sustainable Development in 2013-15 and represented the ABA in the development of the SDGs at the UN. Reflecting the depth and breadth of his expertise, Ira has served on the advisory boards of such diverse organizations as the Center

for International Environmental Law (CIEL); the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE); the Sustainability Accounting Advisory Board (SASB); and the International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP).

In his consulting practice, as president and senior counsel of greentrack strategies, Ira has been team leader or has partnered with other consultancies and law firms, to assist governmental entities, multilateral organizations, think tanks, corporate trade associations and SME's, on a wide range of implementation, policy development, and training activities. He has been in the forefront in the development of corporate voluntary excellence programs, environmental performance tools and strategies, and international voluntary standards such as the ISO 14000 series, ISO 26000 and GRI.

Ira is committed to advancing sustainability thinking in the US through policy initiatives and electoral politics; bringing clarity and coherence to the emerging field of sustainability professionals; assisting colleges and universities with faculty and curriculum development for sustainability in higher education; and remaining an active contributor and innovator in the sustainability and climate dialogue.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

PhD candidate (Sustainability Management, University of Waterloo, 2024)

Advanced Certificate (Management of Public and Not-for-Profit Organizations, Georgetown University School of Public Policy, 2003)

Advanced Certificate (Risk Assessment and Environmental Toxicology, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, 1995)

J.D. (Columbia University School of Law, 1985)

M.S. (interdisciplinary environmental studies, University of Pennsylvania. 1980)

B.A. (interdisciplinary environmental studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1979)

Bar Admissions: New York State and District of Columbia

## **CURRENT POSITIONS**

Adaptation Leader, Founder & Chairman (2019- present)

Greentrack Strategies, president & senior counsel (1996 – present)

Sustainability Curriculum Consortium (SCC), Founder and Managing Director (2016 – present)

NovaSphere, Board member (May 2018 – present)

## **PREVIOUS POSITIONS**

Adaptation Ledger, Co-founder and Principal (2016 – 2022)

Capital Environmental, vice president (1995 - 96)

US Environmental Protection Agency, Special Counsel, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) (1990 – 95)

Skadden Arps, associate attorney (1987 - 89)

Kaye Scholer, associate attorney (1985 - 87)

#### Other proprietary projects

#### **Climate Adaptation Scholars™ and CAPPS™**

Owner/Moderator LinkedIn and Collaborase/ScribeHub Groups

January 2012 – present

[www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=4240827](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?about=&gid=4240827)

#### **Sustainability Lexicon Project™**

Founder & Director

May 2010 - present

### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

#### **City University of New York (New York , NY)**

Adjunct professor, “Sustainability in the Urban Environment” Program (2015 – present)

- Environmental Policymaking

#### **George Mason University (Fairfax, VA)**

Adjunct Faculty, Environmental Science & Policy (2018 – present)

- Business and Sustainability
- The Challenge of Climate Adaptation

#### **Fordham University (New York, NY)**

Adjunct Professor, Gabelli School of Business (2017 – present)

- Foundations of Sustainable Business

#### **University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)**

Lecturer, Masters in Environmental Studies (MES) (2002 – 2016)

- Exploring Ecosystem Services
- The Challenge of Climate Adaptation
- Crossing Borders
- Transboundary Issues in Environmental Law, Regulation and Management

- Global Environmental Issues
- Environmental Management: Law and Policy (Wharton School)

#### **Vermont Law School (South Royalton, VT)**

Lecturer, Center for Environmental Law (Fall 2013)

- Introduction to Environmental Law

#### **Washington College of Law, American University (Washington, DC)**

Environmental Law Summer Institute (2004 – 2006)

- Environmental Regulatory Innovation

#### **Vytautas Magnus Law School (Kaunas, Lithuania)**

Adjunct Professor, Michigan State Program in Transnational Law (2001-2002)

- US, European Union and Lithuanian Environmental Law -- a comparative approach

### **ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES**

#### Environment and Sustainability Organizations

##### **Boston University, Institute for Global Sustainability (IGS)**

Senior Fellow, September 2021 – August 2023

##### **National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE)**

Senior Fellow for Sustainability Policy and Education, January 2017 – January 2019

##### **International Society of Sustainability Professionals (ISSP)**

Member, February 2009 – present

Board of Directors, April 2008 - August 2013

ISSP Management Team, August 2009 - May 2013.

Coordinator, Policy and Standards, October 2011 - May 2013

##### **American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)**

Member, April 2013 – Present

Policy Committee, Co-chair, January 2017 – January 2019

Climate Migration & Receiving Communities (CMMR), founding leadership team, January 2021- January 2022

##### **SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board)**

Advisory Council and Education Committee, December 2012 – May 2016

Affiliate Network, September 2017 – present

**Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI)**

Advisor, Climate Adaptation; Expert to ISO TC 207/SC7

Jan. 2015 – May 2018

**Vermillion Institute (Calgary, Canada)**

Senior Advisor

March 2011 – present

Environment and Sustainability in Higher Education

**Sustainability Curriculum Consortium**

Founder & Managing Director

October 2015 – present

**Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)**

Advisory Council, January 2015 – December 2016

Corporate member, September 2017 – September 2023

**American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC)**

May 2012 – Jan. 2014

Member, Climate Adaptation Committee

**Association for Environmental Studies & Sciences (AESS)**

Member, May 2014 - present

Law Associations & Initiatives

**American Bar Association**

ABA President's Task Force on Sustainable Development (2013 – 2015)

Member, ABA Delegation to World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (2002)

**American Bar Association (ABA-SEER)**

Section on Environment, Energy & Resources (SEER)

May 1985 – September 2019

Chair, "Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Ecosystems" Committee (2002 - 2004)

Vice Chair, "Climate Change, Sustainable Development & Ecosystems" Committee (2004 – 2013, 2015 – 2018)

**American Bar Association (ABA-SIL)**

Section on International Law (SIL)

September 2006 – September 2019

Vice Chair, "Corporate Social Responsibility" Committee (2006 - 2013)

Steering Committee, "Corporate Social Responsibility" Committee (2013- 2015)

**World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development**

Thematic Working Group "Law and Economy"

Community of Practice on "Public-Private Partnerships"  
June 2013 – June 2016

**UNCITRAL -- UN Commission on International Trade and Law**  
Expert Group on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)  
October 2013 – October 2018

**Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)**  
Advisory Council  
May 2014 – May 2016

**Environmental Law Institute (ELI)**  
Council of Partners  
May 2006 – May 2011

#### International Standards Development

**International Organization for Standardization (ISO TC 207)**  
ISO TC 207 SC 1 and SC 4 (ISO 14000 series)  
January 1994 – September 2001  
US/ANSI Expert, ISO 14031 (Environmental Performance Evaluation); ISO 14050 (Terms & Definitions); ISO 14063 (Environmental Communications) US TAG to TC 207, Vice Chair, Sub-TAG 4 on Environmental Performance Evaluation

**International Organization for Standardization (ISO WG/SR)**  
Working Group on Social Responsibility (ISO 26000)  
March 2005 – November 2009  
US/ANSI Expert to WG/SR for SSRO stakeholder group  
Member, Chairman's Advisory Group (CAG) for WG/SR  
Co-Chair, Service, Support, Research & Others (SSRO) Stakeholder Group in WG/SR  
Co-Chair, Drafting Team Environment in WG/SR USTAG to WG/SR,  
SSRO representative to Stakeholder Council

**International Organization for Standardization (ISO TC 207)**  
ISO TC 207/ SC 7  
Adaptation Coordinator, SC 7, April 2015 – May 2018  
Chair, Climate Adaptation Task Force (ATF)

#### National Policy Initiatives

**President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD)**  
Environmental Management Task Force  
April 1997 – August 1999

**National Environmental Policy Institute (NEPI)**

Advisor to former Congressman and NEPI Executive Director Don Ritter  
March 1995 – April 1999  
Reinventing the Vehicle for Environmental Management (1995)

**Multi-state Working Group on Environmental Performance (MSWG)**

Member, Officer, Director  
June 2001 – June 2011

Public Service Appointments

**State of Maryland**

Maryland Climate Change Commission, Adaptation Working Group  
September 2007 – May 2009

**Montgomery County, Maryland**

Sustainability Working Group  
September 2008 – 2010  
Advisor to Working Group Co-chairs

**City of Rockville, Maryland**

Environment Commission  
October 1999 – April 2002  
Served successively as member, vice chair and chair of the commission

**Gov. Martin O'Malley, Maryland**

O'Malley-Brown Environment & Natural Resources Transition Team  
November 2006 – May 2007

**Attorney General Doug Gansler, Maryland**

Maryland AG Environmental Advisory Council  
November 2006 – 2012

Campaign policy positions

**Environment 2004**

National Advisory Council  
October 2003 – November 2004  
Coordinated Maryland and Boston Convention events

**Obama-Biden 2008 Campaign**

Energy & Environment Team  
September 2007 – November 2008  
Coordinator, Ad Hoc Group for Sustainable Change

**Obama-Biden 2012 Campaign**

Energy & Environment Team  
February 2012 – November 2012  
National Organizing Committee

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Ira Feldman. "Receiving Communities: When climate change forces an exodus from affected regions, where will the displaced go?" *Environmental Forum* (September/October 2023), 32-39.

Ira Feldman. "Climate Competitiveness: An Annotated Bibliography," in Bruce Piasecki, *Wealth and Climate Competitiveness: The New Narrative on Business and Society*. Rodin Books (2023), annotated bibliography available at: <https://www.wealthandclimatecompetitiveness.net/copy-of-climate-competitiveness>

Rebecca Potter, Krista Hiser, Tina Evans & Ira Feldman (eds.). *Key Competencies: Practical Approaches to Teaching Sustainability*. Sustainability Curriculum Consortium (SCC) and Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) (June 2023), available at: <https://www.curriculumforsustainability.org/scc-aashe-key-competencies-book>

Peter Soyka & Ira Feldman. "Climate Change Adaptation: ESG Investing's Most Important Missing Piece?" Adaptation Leader white paper (October 2022), available at: <https://www.adaptationleader.org/esg-special-report/>

Oliver Bream-Mackintosh, Amy Burnett, Ira Feldman, Jenna Lamphere, Thomas Reuter & Emmanuelle Vital. "Can Sustainability Knowledge-Action Platforms Advance Multi-Level Sustainability Transitions?" *Data & Policy*. (2022, in press) (Final version of paper presented at Data for Policy, the 5th International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), Barcelona, September 2021, available at: Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5235334>.

Ira Feldman & Todd LeVasseur. "Sustainability literacy: faculty, staff, and students as agents of change," (Guest editorial) *Int. J. Sust. Higher Ed.*, July 2021, Vol. 22 No. 5, 961-963, available at: <<https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/IJSHE-07-2021-510/full/pdf>>.

Ira Feldman & Matt Polsky, "Climate change, a divided America, and the need for sustainability policy," LinkedIn Pulse article, January 20, 2021, available at: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/climate-change-divided-america-need-sustainability-policy-ira-feldman/>

Ira Feldman, "The Green New Deal – Is it Sustainable?" (Op-ed) *The Hill*, February 9, 2019

American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP), "Adaptation Finance Policy Brief," Policy Committee Task Force Report (December 2018)

Ira Feldman, Karl Schultz & Tom Baumann, "Advancing Climate Adaptation Solutions and Mobilizing Finance Via Integration of Blockchain, Smart Standards and a Unified Metric for Vulnerability Reduction" (May 2018)

Ira Feldman, "International Voluntary Standards and Implementation of the Paris Agreement," (summary and analysis of COP-22 panel), GHGMI blog (February 2017).



Ira Feldman, Reid Lifset, et al., "The Circular Economy: Regulatory and Commercial Law Implications," Environmental Forum, Fall 2016.

Ira Feldman, "Partnerships and Partnerships: A Brief Guide to the Evolving PPP Landscape," International Law News, Fall 2016.

Ira Feldman & John Dernbach, "The ABA Embraces Sustainability – from the Earth Summit to Rio+20 and Beyond," International Law News, Winter 2015.

Richard Field & Ira Feldman, "The United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda," International Law News, Winter 2015.

John Dernbach, Lee DeHihns & Ira Feldman, "The Growing Importance of Sustainability to Lawyers and the ABA," ABA-SEER Trends, July 2013.

Ira Feldman, "Book Review: ISO 26000: The Business Guide to the New Standard on Social Responsibility, by Lars Moratis and Timo Cochiius," ISSP Insights, Nov. 2012, reprinted in Greenleaf Publishing blog, Oct. 11, 2012.

Ira Feldman, "Rio+20: The Summary of All Summaries," An edited synthesis of Rio+20 reports and commentary prepared for ISSP, June 2012.

Ira Feldman, "ISO Standards, Environmental Management Systems and Ecosystem Services" chapter in: Djordje Pinter & Uwe Schubert (editors), Wirtschaft – Gesellschaft – Natur, Ansätze zu einem zukunftsfähigen Wirtschaften, Metropolis Verlag, Marburg Germany, May 2011, reprinted in Environmental Quality Management, Spring 2012.

Ira Feldman, Marsha Willard, et al., "Competencies for Sustainability Professionals," ISSP report, 2010, reprinted in Environmental Quality Management, Fall 2010.

Ira Feldman, "Business & Industry: Transitioning to Sustainability" chapter in J. Dernbach (ed.), Agenda for a Sustainable America, Island Press/ELI, 2009.

Peter Soyka, Mark Bateman & Ira Feldman, "Environmental Investing Practices in Europe: A Harbinger of Future U.S. Best Practices?" chapter in R. Taylor Mancuso (ed.), Environmental Cost Management, Nova, 2009.

Ira Feldman & Joshua Kahan, "Last to the Party: The Hill Takes Up Climate Change Adaptation," 11 Climate Change, Sustainable Development & Ecosystems (ABA/SEER Committee) 1, August 2008.

Ira Feldman & Sarah Jensen, "Preparing for the Day After Tomorrow: Frameworks for Climate Change Adaptation," 8 Sustainable Development Law & Policy 61, Fall 2007.

Ira Feldman & Richard Blaustein, "Ecosystem Services as a Framework for Law and Policy," 37 Environmental Law Reporter 10756, October 2007.

Ira Feldman & Adam Saslow, "Sorting Tools: Enhancing Environmental Performance," summary and synthesis report prepared for Multistate Working Group on Environmental Performance, proceedings of a February 2005 event at Pace Law School, November 2007.

Ira Feldman & Adam Saslow, "Sustainability Assessment: West Virginia," report prepared for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, commissioned by the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), February 2005.

Ira Feldman, "The Stakeholder Convergence: Enhanced Public Participation and Sustainable Business Practices," chapter in C. Bruch (ed.), *The New Public: the Globalization of Public Participation*. (ELI, 2002), updated and reprinted in 33 *Environmental Law Reporter (ELR)* 10495, July 2003.

Ira Feldman & Douglas Weinfield. "Understanding the Emergence of Environmental Management Systems: Policy, Regulatory, and Management Uses of the EMS Framework." *Trends (ABA Environmental Section)*, January 2002.

Ira Feldman & Douglas Weinfield. "Environmental Management Systems: Policy, Regulatory, and Management Implications of EMS and Related Standards," chapter in M. Gerrard (ed.), *Environmental Law*, Matthew Bender, 2001.

Ira Feldman, "Environmental Management Systems and Public Policy: The 'Major Country' Report," (report prepared for the Government of Jamaica and USAID), January 2000.

Ira Feldman, "The Inevitability of Multidisciplinary Practice," *Environmental Law & Practice*, Fall 1999.

Ira Feldman & Michelle Wyman, "Environmental Management Systems and Regulatory Substitution in Bavaria," *International Environmental Systems Update*, November 1998.

Ira Feldman, "ISO 14000 Can Underpin a New 'Dual Track' Regulatory System," *Environmental Business Journal*, January 1997, reprinted in *FELSEF Journal*, January 1999.

Ira Feldman, "The Future of Environmental Management," introductory chapter in T. Tibor & I. Feldman (eds.), *Implementing ISO 14000* (McGraw Hill 1997).

Tom Tibor & Ira Feldman (contributing eds.) *Implementing ISO 14000: A Practical, Comprehensive Guide to the ISO 14000 Environmental Management Standards* (McGraw Hill 1997).

Ira Feldman, "Beyond Compliance: Escape from Command and Control," chapter in J. Cascio, *ISO 14000 Handbook* (CEEM and ASQC 1996) at 402.

Tom Tibor & Ira Feldman. *ISO 14000: um guia para as novas normas de gestão ambiental*. São Paulo: Futura, 1996.

Ira Feldman, "What is the Relationship Between 'Micro' and 'Macro' Performance Indicators?" *International Environmental Systems Update*, August 1996.

Ira Feldman, "ISO 14000: A Component of a Management Systems Alternative to 'Command and Control' Regulation," *Environmental Forum* (Environmental Law Institute), November 1995.

Ira Feldman & Michael Schiavo, "Non-Mandatory Pollution Reduction: Moving Beyond Command & Control," in National Environmental Policy Institute (NEPI), *Reinventing the Vehicle for Environmental Management* (1995).

Tom Tibor, & Ira Feldman. "ISO 14000 and the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme," *European Community Marketing Guide* (1995).

Tom Tibor & Ira Feldman. *ISO 14000: A Guide to the New Environmental Management Standards* (Irwin 1995).

Ira Feldman and Michael Schiavo, "A Private Road to Environmental Excellence: The Working of Green Track," Corporate Environmental Strategy, Summer 1995.

Ira Feldman and Michael Schiavo, "Developing an Environmental Excellence Program: Lessons Learned from the Environmental Leadership Program," Total Quality Environmental Management, Summer 1995.

Ira Feldman and Michael Schiavo, "EPA's Environmental Leadership Pilot Projects," in J. Willig (ed.) Auditing for Environmental Quality Leadership (Wiley 1995).

Ira Feldman and Michael Schiavo, "Incentives and Certainty: EPA Introduces New Audit Policy," SONREEL News (ABA), May-June 1995.

Gordon Davidson and Ira Feldman. "The Greening of Corporate America." Legal Times (special report), April 17, 1995.

Ira Feldman and Michael Schiavo, "Environmental Leadership: EPA's Beyond Compliance Program," in Environmental Auditing Handbook, (Executive Enterprises 1994), reprinted in Total Quality Environmental Management, May 1994.