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For inquiries or interview requests, please contact:

Pat Parenteau 802-785-4131

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez 303-946-9347

pparenteau@vermontlaw.edu

xiuhtezcatl@gmail.com

COURT CANCELS ORAL ARGUMENT FOR YOUTH-LED CLIMATE CHANGE CASE

U.S. Court of Appeals to Decide Youth Appellants' Case Based on Written Briefs

Washington, D.C. – A three-judge panel at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit determined not to reconsider its decision to rule on a major climate change lawsuit without hearing oral arguments. The case, *Alec L. v. McCarthy*, seeks recognition of a constitutional right to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate system. Arguments of counsel had been originally scheduled for this Friday, May 2. On April 24, 2014, the judges announced they would deliberate on the case based on the written briefs. The youth appellants had [asked the court to reconsider](#).

The lawsuit was filed by five iMatter teenagers and two non-profits, Kids vs. Global Warming and WildEarth Guardians. The case seeks to require the federal government to immediately implement a national climate recovery plan based on the urgent prescription reached by Dr. James Hansen and other leading international climate scientists to restore our atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ by the end of the century and avoid the disastrous scenarios of climate disruption. The action relies upon both constitutional rights and the long-established Public Trust Doctrine, which requires government to protect resources essential to the survival of all generations.

“The youth in this case make compelling arguments to recognize the rights of current and future generations to be protected from the profound threats of climate disruption, particularly threats caused by the federal government itself,” stated Vermont Law Professor Patrick Parenteau, who along with 33 other leading law professors support the youth appellants with an [amicus curiae \(“friend of the court”\) brief](#). “Our Constitution is based on protecting ‘our Posterity.’ This action asserts the legal foundation, recognized by the founding founders, that our government must safeguard the future of our children and grandchildren by taking immediate action to halt and reverse the pollution of the atmosphere. The matter is one of great historical and constitutional significance.”

Dr. Hansen and other leading international climate scientists supported the youth in an [amicus curiae brief](#) on the urgency with which our government needs to act to prevent passing “points of no return, with disastrous consequences for young people and future generations.”

“There has been a tremendous outpouring of support from youth around the country for this case,” said 13-year old Xiuhtezcatl Martinez with Earth Guardians. “Youth from around the country are taking actions to compel our government to act on the biggest crisis of our generation. We hope this court will help us with our fight to recognize a constitutional right to a healthy atmosphere and safe climate system.”

To learn more about this case visit: <http://ourchildrenstrust.org/US/Federal-Lawsuit>, and to watch *A Climate of TRUST*, our newest film in our 10-part series *Stories of TRUST: Calling for Climate Recovery* visit: <http://ourchildrenstrust.org/trust-films/AClimateOfTRUST>. Support the youth taking legal action by signing their pledge here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13OZBdoleJf-I8IaYL8kQnAf6RUMkFfmYZ6C3B-C4aE/viewform>

Our Children's Trust is a nonprofit advocating for urgent emissions reductions on behalf of youth and future generations, who have the most to lose. OCT is spearheading the international human rights and environmental TRUST Campaign to compel governments to safeguard the atmosphere as a "public trust" resource. We use law, film, and media to elevate their compelling voices. Our ultimate goal is for governments to adopt and implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans with annual emissions reductions to return to 350 ppm. www.OurChildrensTrust.org

Earth Guardians is a Colorado-based nonprofit organization with youth chapters on five continents, and multiple groups in the United States with more than 1,000 members working together to protect the Earth, the water, the air, and the atmosphere, creating healthy sustainable communities globally. We inspire and empower young leaders, families, schools, organizations, cities, and government officials to make positive change locally, nationally, and globally to address the critical state of the Earth. www.earthguardians.org

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