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Gore's Climate Project and the UW School of Law Join Forces to Address Climate Change and Human Rights

Seattle, WA - University of Washington School of Law students are convening over forty panelists from around the world for *Three Degrees: The Law of Climate Change and Human Rights Conference*. This conference will bring together a diverse panel of legal scholars, NGO leaders, and policy makers to debate the future of the law as it applies to climate change victims. The intention of the conference, which will be held at William H. Gates Hall on the UW campus May 28-29, is to create and sustain a dialog to influence international policy makers attending the [United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009 \(COP 15\)](#) later this year.

Three Degrees will confront the humanitarian crisis at the heart of climate change. It will offer an opportunity for creative problem-solving and collaboration by engaging the historically separate fields of environmental, human rights, refugee, and public health law collectively in addition to diverse scholarly fields as such as philosophy and atmospheric science. The centerpiece of the conference, a Socratic (Fred Friendly-style) dialogue, moderated by former PBS facilitator Kim Taylor-Thompson, will challenge panelists to debate legal and policy responses to a fictitious disaster scenario based on a three degrees Celsius rise in the Earth's temperature. The conference will create an international forum to test the available remedies, raise the legal issues associated with these remedies, and collaborate over necessary advancements in the law in order to respond to the foreseeable human consequences of climate change.

Three Degrees is partnering with The Climate Project ("TCP") to help develop messaging specifically about the human impacts of climate change. In a 'climate-change-changes-everything' kind of world, TCP and *Three Degrees* can help facilitate a top-down, bottom-up integration of the human rights discourse, linking legal and academic scholarship with grassroots education efforts. To this end, *Three Degrees* is working to develop a complete multimedia slide module for TCP presenters to use in explaining the human impacts of climate change to audiences around the world. "The legal community is uniquely empowered to address the

impacts of climate change,” said Jenny Clad, Executive Director of The Climate Project. “*Three Degrees* can advance the global dialogue on climate rights.”

The Climate Project (TCP) is a nonprofit organization based in Nashville, Tennessee, which began operations in June 2006 with the mission of increasing public awareness of the climate crisis at a grassroots level in the United States and abroad. Started as a modest effort to train a few individuals to deliver a slide show based on Gore’s Academy Award-winning documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, TCP has since grown a base of 2,600 volunteer presenters who travel the country and the world talking to community groups about the hazards facing the planet and what can be done to prevent more damage.

“Partnership with the organization started by Gore will take the conference’s findings and distribute them on a global grassroots scale,” said UW law student and TCP presenter Jeni Krencicki Barcelos, a Gates Public Service Scholar and conference organizer.