



# Environmental Justice & Community Engagement

## Environmental Justice Clinic

**Ruhan Nagra**  
Associate Professor of Law  
Director, Environmental Justice Clinic  
University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
**S.J. QUINNEY  
COLLEGE OF LAW**

# What is environmental justice?

- No group of people—for example, indigenous communities—should disproportionately bear the environmental and health burdens of industrial activities (**distributive justice**)
- Affected communities should be meaningfully involved in decision-making processes (**procedural justice**)

# Key questions

- What does meaningful involvement in decision-making mean?
- What are some of the barriers to meaningful involvement that communities often face?

# Barrier #1

Ensuring that the community—not the project developer—sets the agenda and terms of community engagement



## Barrier #2



Maintaining community cohesion in the face of company tactics that may be designed to “divide and conquer”

## Barrier #3

Information asymmetry  
and lack of transparency





## Barrier #5

“Corporate capture” of government agencies by project developers





# Questions?

Please feel free to contact me at  
**ruhan.nagra@law.utah.edu** or on  
my cell phone at **(314) 435-2377**