



# Susan D. E. Shaw

LLM · LLB (Hons) · DipLP · NP | Solicitor & Notary Public (Scotland)

*Strategic legal counsel for systemic transition*

## UN LEGAL EXPERT

Harmony with Nature

Expert Member, 2018–

## IUCN WCCEL

World Commission on

Environmental Law

Expert Member, 2016–

## EU PROGRAMME LEAD

€7m · 29 jurisdictions

ClientEarth, EU-28 + Türkiye

## GOVERNMENT REFORM

EU law transposition

Scottish Government / SEPA

## CONTACT

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Living Law® / Susan D. E. Shaw

## RECOGNITION

### Law Society of Scotland

Solicitor & Notary Public ·  
2007–

### UN Harmony with Nature

Legal Expert Member (Earth  
Jurisprudence) · 2018–

### UN Minamata

#### Convention on Mercury

Accredited Observer · from  
inaugural COP, 2017–

### Rights of Nature Project,

#### University of

#### Gothenburg

Advisor · 2023–

## AWARDS

### Best Environmental Law Specialist, UK

Global 100 · multi-year, 2020–  
2024

## LANGUAGES

English · native

Norwegian

French · B2 (CEFR)

## PROFILE

Scottish-qualified solicitor, governance adviser, and international legal expert working on the legal dimensions of systemic environmental transition. Two decades advising boards, governments, and institutions — spanning government legislative reform, EU-wide strategic litigation leadership, UN and IUCN expert appointments, and the design of governance architecture that holds under regulatory, political, and market pressure. Founder of Living Law® (2012), where she leads litigation, advisory, and governance mandates engaging international institutions and transboundary environmental issues, delivering **legally defensible frameworks and decision-ready counsel** across multi-jurisdictional and transboundary contexts.

*Ecovation in Law* integrates legal analysis, scientific evidence, governance design, and rights-based frameworks to help institutions navigate environmental transition through legally defensible decision-making — positioning clients ahead of regulatory and market shifts rather than behind them.

## AREAS OF COUNSEL

### Strategic transition & governance

- › Systemic transition & institutional resilience
- › Governance reform & architecture
- › Regulatory foresight

### Strategic litigation & accountability

- › Multi-jurisdictional litigation
- › Corporate accountability & greenwashing
- › Regulatory intervention & enforcement

### Emerging legal frameworks

- › Rights of Nature & Earth Jurisprudence
- › Environmental Democracy
- › Planetary Boundaries governance

### International law & human rights

- › International environmental law
- › Treaty & multilateral frameworks
- › Human & environmental rights

### Environmental & climate law

- › Environmental & climate law
- › Planning & development
- › Compliance & enforcement

## ADVISORY SCOPE

- Board-level advisory on systemic transition, regulatory exposure, and governance resilience
- Government and multilateral advisory on treaty compliance, legislative design, and governance reform
- Multi-jurisdictional strategic litigation and enforcement across environmental and human rights law
- Corporate accountability and ESG risk frameworks in transboundary and international contexts
- Legally defensible, investment-grade transition strategies for institutional and corporate clients
- High-level multilateral diplomacy and international legal and policy process engagement

## REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

### **Pan-European energy transition enforcement — 29 jurisdictions**

*Project Leader · ClientEarth · EU-28 + Türkiye · 2015–2017*

Held project leadership for a €7m+ EU-wide strategic litigation and advocacy programme advancing coal phase-out, industrial emissions enforcement, and fossil fuel subsidy challenge across 29 jurisdictions. Directed decentralised legal teams and a network of 30+ expert organisations; led in-country missions engaging national ministries, think-tanks, and civil society across Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Poland, Romania, Spain, the UK, and Turkey. Engaged directly with the European Commission and Parliament; contributed to test-case litigation before the Court of Justice of the European Union. Authored legal pleadings, compliance submissions, and policy briefs integrating legal, scientific, and economic expertise.

### **Greenwashing litigation & corporate accountability — multi-jurisdictional**

*Living Law® · 2012–present*

Developed and applied legal frameworks addressing misleading environmental claims and corporate accountability in multi-jurisdictional and transboundary contexts — using existing law in anticipatory ways to address unlawful and anti-competitive practice. Approaches now reflected in practice across multiple jurisdictions internationally.

### **EU Water Framework Directive — national transposition**

*Legal Policy Officer · Scottish Government / SEPA · 2004–2007*

Led projects supporting the transposition of one of the most substantial environmental reform programmes in a generation. Drafted legislation, regulations, and policy memoranda, liaising across devolved Government and Whitehall departments, and interfacing with science and industry. Secured parliamentary approval against industry opposition. The integrated water and climate governance frameworks established remain in place.

### **Rights of Nature & international advocacy**

*Living Law® · UN Harmony with Nature (2018–) · IUCN WCEL (2016–)*

Contributor to the development of emerging legal frameworks — including Rights of Nature, Earth Jurisprudence, and Environmental Democracy — before international fora, including the UN Trusteeship Council and UN SDG events, New York. Contributor to the IUCN World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law (Brazil, 2016). Advanced Rights of Nature in UK policy discourse before the concept entered mainstream regulatory debate.

### **Landfill gas-to-energy public–private partnership**

*Solicitor · Local Government · Scotland · 2007–2012 · MJ Awards recognised*

Negotiated a landmark partnership from deadlock through committee and full Council — unlocking an ongoing six-figure municipal revenue stream and achieving approximately 30,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annual methane abatement. The project remains operational today.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Founder & Managing Partner

*Living Law® · Scotland & international · 2012–present*

- Established Scotland's first public-interest environmental law firm; leads litigation, advisory, and governance mandates engaging international institutions and transboundary environmental issues.
- Advises institutions, governments, and boards on systemic environmental risk, transition strategy, and governance architecture.
- Contributes to UN and IUCN legal frameworks and international governance development; represents clients and advances advocacy before UN, EU, national regulatory and judicial fora.
- Maintains full regulatory responsibility as principal of a Law Society of Scotland regulated firm — AML, client due diligence, data protection, and professional compliance.
- Founder, *Living Law Futures* — a capacity-building and mentorship programme developing the next generation of environmental law practitioners.

### Project Leader — EU Energy Transition & Environment

*ClientEarth · London & EU-28 + Türkiye · 2015–2017*

- Held project leadership for a €7m+ EU-wide strategic litigation and advocacy programme across 29 jurisdictions, coordinating a network of 30+ expert organisations.
- Built, managed, and directed decentralised legal teams; led in-country missions across 8+ member states engaging ministries, think-tanks, NGOs, and academia.
- Engaged directly with the European Commission, Parliament, and national ministries; authored legal pleadings, compliance submissions, and policy briefs integrating legal, scientific, and economic expertise.
- Coordinated cross-border coalitions securing systemic reform in EU climate and energy law; organisational spokesperson across jurisdictions.

### Senior Solicitor — Planning & Environmental Law

*Tier 1 commercial practice · Scotland · 2012*

- Advised private-sector and institutional clients on regulatory compliance, development consent, and dispute resolution.

### Solicitor (and Trainee Solicitor)

*Local Government · Scotland · 2007–2012*

- Broad practice across commercial, environmental, governance, and regulatory law; advised to Chief Executive and elected member level; clerked Planning and Area Committees; conducted advocacy before domestic courts and Public Local Inquiries.
- Negotiated the landmark landfill gas-to-energy partnership — 30,000+ tCO<sub>2</sub>e abatement per annum and a sustained six-figure municipal revenue stream.
- Member, CEO Leadership and Direction working group on business transformation — MJ Awards recognised. Admitted to Court following year one of traineeship.

### Legal Policy Officer

*Scottish Government / SEPA · Edinburgh · 2004–2007*

- Led projects supporting the EU Water Framework Directive transposition — the most significant environmental reform in a generation; drafted legislation, regulations, and policy memoranda; advised Ministers and cross-departmental officials.
- Stagiaire, Office of the Solicitor to the Scottish Executive — supported research on the UK and Scottish Climate Change Bills. Seconded SEPA advisor on civil contingencies and ecological risk frameworks.

## INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT & THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Invited speaker — Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogues (2022).

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- Contributor — IUCN World Declaration on Environmental Rule of Law (Brazil, 2016).

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- Appearances before the UN Trusteeship Council and SDG events, UN Headquarters, New York — as UN Expert (Harmony with Nature).

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- Oral evidence — Environmental Audit Committee, UK House of Commons, on post-Brexit environmental safeguarding.

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- Multiple UN COPs, compliance committees, and international governance dialogues — critical minerals, plastics, ecological governance.

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- Contributor to international legal and policy discourse on Environmental Rule of Law, Rights of Nature, and Earth Jurisprudence.

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- Collaboration with the Stockholm Resilience Centre on legal frameworks addressing Planetary Boundaries (LLM research, 2014).

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- Work featured in the Financial Times, The Guardian, and BBC.

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## EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

### **LL.M. International Environmental Law**

Stockholm University · 2014 · Grade VG

*Thesis: International Law in the Anthropocene: Within Planetary Boundaries · informed by the Stockholm Resilience Centre.*

### **Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (DipLP)**

University of Edinburgh · 2007 · Top 10%, Public Administration

### **LL.B. (Hons), Bachelor of Laws**

University of Dundee · 2004 · 2:1

*Dissertation: Is Sustainable Development of Living Marine Resources Possible? — first-class research.*

### **Admitted Solicitor · Notary Public**

Law Society of Scotland · 2007–

## REFERENCES

- Available on request.
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