



2022 PFAS DISPOSAL SYMPOSIUM

Speaker Bios & Headshots

[KEYNOTE - Monday, May 23, 2:00 PM EDT](#)

[Panel 1 - Why Do We Fight? PFAS Disposal Is Harming Our Communities - Monday, May 23, 2:20 PM EDT](#)

[Panel 2 - How Do We Win? Successful Strategies for Organizing for Equitable PFAS Disposal - Monday, May 23, 4:00 PM EDT](#)

[Panel 3 - Where Are We Moving? Safer Models for PFAS Disposal - Tuesday, May 24, 2:00 PM EDT](#)

Speakers at the 2022 PFAS Disposal Symposium convened by the Cancer Free Economy Network together with Sierra Club and Center for Health, Environment & Justice include **Jose Luis Aguayo**, Senior Science Associate, Center for Health, Environment & Justice; **Linda Birnbaum**, Scientist Emeritus, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Toxicology Program; **Sherry Costa Hanlon**, Community Activist, Taunton, MA; **Doug Halter**, Chief Revenue Office, 374Water; **Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz**, Supervising Senior Attorney, Earthjustice; **Sonya Lunder**, Senior Toxics Policy Advisor, Sierra Club; **Pamela Miller**, Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Co-Chair, International Pollutants Elimination Network; **Daniel Rosenberg**, Director, Federal Toxic Policy, Healthy People and Thriving Communities Program, Natural Resource Defense Council; **Cheryl Sommer**, Board President, United Congregations Metro East; **Tasha Stoiber**, Senior Scientist, Environmental Working Group; and **Jane Williams**, Executive Director, California Communities Against Toxics. See below for full speaker bios and headshots.

KEYNOTE - Monday, May 23, 2:00 PM EDT



Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., D.A.B.T., A.T.S. is the former Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health, and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). After retirement, she was granted scientist emeritus status and still maintains a laboratory. As a board-certified toxicologist, Birnbaum served as a federal scientist for 40 years. Prior to her appointment as NIEHS and NTP Director in 2009, she spent 19 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she directed the largest division focusing on environmental health research.

Birnbaum has received many awards and recognitions. In 2016, she was awarded the North Carolina Award in Science. She was elected to the Institute

of Medicine of the National Academies, one of the highest honors in the fields of medicine and health. She was also elected to the Collegium Ramazzini, an independent, international academy comprised of internationally renowned experts in the fields of occupational and environmental health, and received an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Rochester and a Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Illinois. She has also received Honorary Doctorates from the University of Rhode Island, Ben-Gurion University, Israel, and Amity University, India; the Surgeon General's Medallion 2014; and 14 Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards, which reflect the recommendations of EPA's external Science Advisory Board, for specific publications. Dr. Birnbaum recently received the Winslow Award, the highest honor from the Yale School of Public Health. She has also received numerous awards from professional societies and citizen's groups.

Birnbaum is an active member of the scientific community. She was vice president of the International Union of Toxicology, the umbrella organization for toxicology societies in more than 50 countries, and former president of the Society of Toxicology, the largest professional organization of toxicologists in the world. She is the author of more than 1000 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, abstracts, and reports. Birnbaum's own research focuses on the pharmacokinetic behavior of environmental chemicals, mechanisms of action of toxicants including endocrine disruption, and linking of real-world exposures to health effects. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Queensland in Australia, the School of Public Health of Yale University, the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the Curriculum in Toxicology, and the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as in the Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program at Duke University where she is also a Scholar in Residence.

A native of New Jersey, Birnbaum received her M.S. and Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Panel 1 - Why Do We Fight? PFAS Disposal Is Harming Our Communities - Monday, May 23, 2:20 PM EDT



Jose Luis Aguayo is the Senior Science Associate for the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ). He holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in public health. Before CHEJ, Jose worked for Eastern Research Group as a contractor for the USEPA, providing research and data analysis assistance to the Safety and Sustainability Division. He also worked at the Environmental Working Group researching toxic ingredients in food and personal care products. Jose's current focus is on providing technical assistance to environmental justice (EJ) communities and advancing a number of other EJ initiatives.

Pamela Miller founded Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) in 1997 and serves as Executive Director. She brings more than 35 years of research, education, and advocacy experience to her present work. Pamela works passionately for environmental and reproductive justice, health, and human rights. In addition to serving as Executive Director for ACAT, Pamela was elected in 2016 as Co-Chair of the International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN), a network of over 600 environmental health and justice



organizations working in more than 124 countries. Alaska in 1989 following the Exxon Valdez oil spill to serve as a research biologist and campaigner with Greenpeace.



Tasha Stoiber is a Senior Scientist for the Environmental Working Group and works to better understand the connections between exposure to chemicals and public health. As a member of EWG's science investigation's team, she researches contaminants in drinking water, indoor air pollution, and chemicals in consumer products. She holds dual bachelor's degrees in biological sciences and environmental engineering from Michigan Technological University. She worked as an environmental engineer for three years before returning to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry & technology. She moved to the San Francisco Bay Area for a post-doctoral position at the University of California-Davis and the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park. She joined EWG's San Francisco office in 2014.

Panel 2 - How Do We Win? Successful Strategies for Organizing for Equitable PFAS Disposal - Monday, May 23, 4:00 PM EDT



Sherry Costa Hanlon -Soccer/Rugby mom with a JD from Suffolk Law School in Boston and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Working on issues of environmental justice and the benefits of a healthy home, work and natural environment; former industrial hygienists evaluating various work environments to terminate/mitigate worker exposure(s) to toxins and other safety/health hazards.

Member of Clean Air Taunton (CAT) in Massachusetts. CAT is a coalition of caring and concerned citizens, grateful for the help of partners like Clean Water, the Coalition for Social Justice, Conservation Law Foundation. We are working to stop small-minded leaders in our city from promoting and approving a sludge gasification plant. The Aries gasification plant will receive and process 400 tons of sludge per day and operate 24 hours a day 7 days a week and release toxins including PFAS into our air. The City of Taunton generates only 8 tons of sludge per day. This plant proposes to gasify almost 1/8 of all sludge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Thanks to Taunton's State Senator, State Representative, and three City Councilors who care, the building of the facility has been paused. But we continue to educate and advocate until we can ensure PFASs have no place in any community anywhere. Knowing we are not alone lightens the load.

Jane Williams serves as the Executive Director of California Communities Against Toxics (CCAT). CCAT works to protect communities from industrial pollutants. Jane carries on the tradition of her mother, environmentalist Norma "Stormy" Gail Williams, working to protect the health of people and the environment as a common cause. Her mother, Norma, had launched a campaign that sought to identify toxins causing a brain cancer cluster among children in her small town of Rosamond, California. Jane has organized dozens of communities to successfully fight the building of



facilities that would pollute their environments, such as incinerators, landfills, nuclear waste dumps, and industrial plants. Jane has also served on a number of federal and state advisory committees that study the effects of toxic chemicals on children and public health.



Jonathan Kalmuss-Katz is a senior attorney on Earthjustice's Toxic Exposure and Health team, which is dedicated to protecting people and the environment from toxic chemicals. Jonathan is currently engaged in several matters involving PFAS, including a lawsuit brought on behalf of national and community organizations challenging the Department of Defense's incineration of PFAS-containing waste. He is also working on cases involving the Environmental Protection Agency's evaluation and regulation of harmful chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA") and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act ("FIFRA"). Before joining Earthjustice, he worked at an environmental law firm in New York City, where he focused on litigation involving environmental impact review and hazardous substance remediation under state and federal law. He is a graduate of NYU School of Law and Carleton College.

Cheryl Sommer is the current Board President of the United Congregations of Metro East. UCM is a faith-based coalition that advances social and environmental justice issues in the East Saint Louis area of Illinois. Cheryl has been a leader within UCM since 2002. Throughout her time with UCM, Cheryl has helped establish a drug court in St. Clair County, successfully led a fight to stop her city's water system from being privatized, and helped lead UCM's statewide efforts to eliminate an overly rigorous and unnecessary basic skills test that created a major teacher shortage in Illinois. Related to environmental issues, Cheryl has a lead role in UCM's current battle with the Veolia Incinerator in Sauget, IL. She led a two-year effort to get the Illinois legislature to ban PFAS incineration in the state. Cheryl has spent the majority of her adult life working in church-based ministry and is passionate about the potential that congregations of all faiths have in being agents of change for social and environmental justice.



Panel 3 - Where Are We Moving? Safer Models for PFAS Disposal - Tuesday, May 24, 2:00 PM EDT



Daniel Rosenberg is a Senior Attorney and Director of Federal Toxics Policy at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). His primary focus currently is the implementation of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the twin crises of plastic waste and PFAS. From 2005 to 2008 he served as the Energy and Environment counsel for Senator Frank Lautenberg. Prior to working for Senator Lautenberg, Daniel worked in NRDC's Water Program beginning in 2000, where he focused on wetlands protection and mountaintop removal mining. Before joining NRDC, Daniel worked for U.S. PIRG on legislative and regulatory issues including

safe drinking water, clean air standards, pesticides, and Superfund. Daniel is a 1994 graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center. He is married with three children and lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Doug Hatler is the Chief Revenue Officer of 374Water. Doug is an environmental scientist and engineer who has spent the past 36 years applying technology to solve the most pressing global environmental problems that impact human health and the beneficial use of water.



Sonya Lunder (she/her) is the Senior Toxics Policy Advisor for the Sierra Club nationally. She supports Sierra Club's federal and state and local policy campaigns to address the harmful and ongoing use of toxic chemicals. Her recent focus on PFAS led her to question the safety and efficacy of disposal practices and organize activists and policy-makers for urgent attention to disposal issues. Sonya has a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of California, Berkeley. She lives and works in Colorado, where she enjoys skiing, biking and gardening...sometimes all in the same week.

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The Cancer Free Economy (CFE) is a network cultivating an inclusive movement to promote healthy environments where no one gets sick because of toxic chemicals where they live, learn, work, and play. We believe that cancer is an all-too-common diagnosis that devastates families and communities, for which a key opportunity for prevention has been largely left on the sidelines: hazardous chemicals in the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the products we use. We believe everyone's health matters, and that the most effective change comes from a holistic approach that engages new voices and strengthens existing movements. For more information about the network contact: [Hello@CancerFreeEconomy.org](mailto>Hello@CancerFreeEconomy.org)

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