



LAW STUDENTS *for*
CLIMATE
ACCOUNTABILITY

#DoneWithDunn FAQs

Law students: [sign the letter](#) to boycott Gibson Dunn

What is this campaign about?

- Time and time again Gibson Dunn has stood with high-paying clients and against the climate and frontline communities, particularly Indigenous communities.
- It's not clear there is any line Gibson Dunn wouldn't cross for profit. That's unacceptable.
- In April 2021, [Law students from across the country](#) called on Gibson Dunn to commit to a standard for its fossil fuel work.
 - Gibson Dunn needs to be able to say what fossil fuel work is incompatible with their commitments to climate change and frontline communities.
 - Gibson Dunn never responded to this request.
- In December 2021, law students launched a boycott of Gibson Dunn.

How can you take action?

- Follow [Honor the Earth](#) and [Indigenous Environmental Network](#) for the latest updates and actions on their week of action about the Dakota Access Pipeline.
- Ask law student groups you are a part of to [sign on to our demand to Gibson Dunn](#) as organizations ([sample email linked](#)).
 - Please read the important information under “**What about students who have worked or plan to work for Gibson Dunn?**” before sharing.
- Reach out to friends and listservs to encourage other organizations to sign on as well
- Share the #DoneWithDunn campaign on social media ([toolkit linked](#)).

Why Gibson Dunn?

- More than almost any other firm, Gibson Dunn has used its skills to oppose climate action and the demands of frontline communities. For instance, The [2020 Law Firm Climate Change Scorecard](#) found [Gibson Dunn](#) did the second most anti-climate litigation of any top 100 law firm.
- Gibson Dunn has worked for the Dakota Access Pipeline
- Gibson Dunn has ensured Chevron has paid zero damages for dumping billions of gallons of toxic waste in Indigenous communities in Ecuador
- Gibson Dunn is helping Chevron evade liability for climate deception and destruction in a number of climate accountability suits.
- Gibson Dunn represents a plaintiff in *Brackeen v. Haaland*, a lawsuit seeking to strike down the Indian Child Welfare Act, a vital law protecting against the removal of American Indian children from their communities
- Gibson Dunn has also [used extreme tactics](#), such as filing frivolous motions and targeting opposing counsel.
- As law students, we want to stand in solidarity with Native activists and demand better from Gibson Dunn, the law firm that has done so much to push forward the Dakota Access Pipeline and undermine the Indian Child Welfare Act.



Why did we call for a standard before a boycott?

- This is not a radical ask: all we're saying is that Gibson Dunn should have some standard guiding its fossil fuel work other than profit.
 - If Gibson Dunn really has no standard other than profit guiding their work, they start to sound a lot like mercenaries.
- Climate standards are becoming very common: [banks](#), [insurers](#), and [PR agencies](#) are increasingly committing to climate and other ethical standards.
- Gibson Dunn needs to be able to say what fossil fuel work doesn't align with its commitments to climate change and frontline communities.
- **Gibson Dunn has not responded to our request for an ethical standard in April 2021. In December 2021, we launched a boycott.**

What has Gibson Dunn done on DAPL?

- Gibson Dunn has been the primary firm representing the Dakota Access Pipeline in litigation.
- Even after watching mass protests by Native activists who were attacked by [dogs](#) and [water cannons](#), and despite knowing that the pipeline would transport [500,000 barrels](#) of oil a day and threaten tribes' water supply and cultural heritage, Gibson Dunn has decided to fight against the tribes in court for years.
- Gibson Dunn has played a key role in keeping pipeline construction and operations going even though the pipeline was improperly authorized. DAPL is currently operating in spite of a [court ruling](#) that the Army Corps of Engineers failed to adequately consider the risk of oil spills when conducting its environment review--meaning that Gibson Dunn's work is the reason that tribes are being subjected to the risk of oil spills at this very moment.

What did Gibson Dunn do in the Ecuador Chevron case?

- Texaco (now part of Chevron) dumped [billions of gallons of toxic waste](#) in Indigenous communities in Ecuador and in 2011 an [Ecuadorian court](#) found Chevron liable for \$9.5 billion in damages.
- Gibson Dunn has been representing Chevron throughout the litigation. Chevron [refused](#) to pay the judgment and insisted on moving the case to US courts, even though Chevron had originally sought to move the case from the US to Ecuador.
 - Indigenous communities have received no compensation for the [cancer](#), birth defects, and irreversible environmental damage they have faced.
- Gibson Dunn has taken extreme measures to ensure Chevron evades liability.
 - Gibson Dunn targeted the communities' lawyer, [Steven Donziger](#), with flimsy charges of fraud. He has now been under house arrest for over 500 days.
 - Gibson Dunn had [114 lawyers](#) working on the case, seeking to overwhelm the public interest plaintiffs in documents and frivolous motions.
 - Gibson Dunn extensively coached the key witness, Alberto Guerra, who was paid a [salary](#) by Chevron and later [recanted](#) important parts of his testimony.

What has Gibson Dunn done in the climate accountability lawsuits?

- Many [states](#) and [localities](#) are suing Chevron and other fossil fuel companies in tort suits, seeking to hold them liable for climate damages and deceiving the public on climate change.



- Chevron is the [second biggest emitter](#) of greenhouse gases of any company in the world.
- Gibson Dunn is representing Chevron in many of these cases, helping provide an army of lawyers for the fossil fuel companies seeking to evade accountability.
 - Gibson Dunn is going far beyond the required role of a lawyer--Ted Boutros, the lawyer representing Chevron in many of these cases, even called Chevron “a great American company” in a [recent interview](#).

What are some of the extreme tactics Gibson Dunn has used?

- As described above, Gibson Dunn went to extreme lengths in the Chevron Ecuador case to stop the judgment from being enforced.
- Gibson Dunn [falsified evidence](#) in a case to extradite a political dissident from Djibouti on dubious terrorism charges.

What harmful non-fossil fuel work has Gibson Dunn supported?

- Gibson Dunn is representing the plaintiffs in [Brackeen v. Bernhardt](#), a case seeking to invalidate the Indian Child Welfare Act, a key law which protects against the removal of American Indian children from their communities.
- Gibson Dunn is [seeking](#) to overturn New York’s COVID-19 moratorium on evictions.
- Gibson Dunn recently hired [David Fotouhi](#) and [Eugene Scalia](#), high-level Trump administration officials.

What about Gibson Dunn’s pro bono work?

- Much of Gibson Dunn’s pro bono work is valuable, including their recent initiative on [racial justice](#), and they should do more of it.
- However, Gibson Dunn also classifies some questionable work as pro bono. Gibson Dunn is working on Brackeen v. Bernhardt, a case seeking to invalidate the Indian Child Welfare Act, on a pro bono basis.
- But the average Gibson Dunn attorney spends only about 6% of their billable hours on pro bono work.
 - ([120](#) pro bono hours per year out of roughly 1,950 total billable hours)
- 6% of Gibson Dunn’s work shouldn’t get it off the hook for the 94% that is devoted to work like the Dakota Access Pipeline and helping Chevron destroy the climate.