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**Presentation or session title** (100 characters)

Evaluating Strategic Litigation as a Tool for Climate Change Mitigation

**Presenting Author(s)\*** (Eg: Dr Robyn Mildon1 , Howard White2, Bianca Albers1)

Professor Jacqueline Peel (1), Dr Anita Foerster (2).

\*Please only list the authors who will be attending the summit. If your abstract is accepted, all authors must register for summit in order for your abstract to appear in the program. For a panel, please list all panel members. We will not accept proposals for all-male panels.

**Affiliation** (Eg: 1.Centre for Evidence and Implementation, Australia 2.Campbell Collaboration)

1 & 2 - Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

**Country of residence**

Australia

**Type of session** (please select from the dropdown list)

**Individual presentation**

**Theme** (please select from the dropdown list)

Using evidence for better policy, programs and practice

**Objectives/aims** (Please describe the objectives and/or aims of the study or activity you wish to present on, or for the panel you suggest to include in the GEIS 2018 program. Max 600 characters.)

How can evaluators contribute to emerging understandings of the role of strategic litigation in shaping climate change mitigation outcomes? Strategic litigation programs and court decisions have been influential in producing policy change on important social questions such as civil rights and environmental protection. Their use in the climate change sphere is more recent, although the number of climate change cases being brought, the diversity of actions pursued, and the range of jurisdictions involved is rapidly increasing. Despite this surge in legal action on climate change around the world, important questions remain over how these lawsuits contribute to policy and behavioural change and how to increase their effectiveness and impact. This presentation examines these questions, drawing upon an independent evaluation of the ClientEarth strategic climate litigation program in Europe, funded by the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).

**Methods** (What methods were used as part of your study or activity? If you are submitting a panel proposal, what will be the format of your session? Max 600 characters.)

The ClientEarth program seeks to use court challenges and litigation risk as a driver for policy and behavioural change to address air quality and associated greenhouse gas pollution, greenhouse emissions from the private sector, and transformation of the energy market in Europe. We employed a mixed methodology to review this program including document review and qualitative research techniques. Our evaluation was structured around the widely used OECD DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, sustainability) and was informed by theory-based approaches drawing on a theory of change developed by the evaluation team in partnership with CIFF and ClientEarth.

**Main findings** (Please describe the results and/or outcomes of your study or activity. If you are submitting a panel proposal, describe the expected results from this panel. Max 600 characters.)

In this presentation, we will discuss some of the main challenges encountered in this evaluation, including the difficulty of assessing causal links and how to assess ‘success’ of a program of strategic climate litigation, as well as our approach to overcoming these challenges. These reflections are important to build the evolving body of knowledge in this area and ultimately support the use of evidence for developing and delivering better strategic climate change litigation.

**Please note: If you are submitting an abstract for a symposium or panel**, please ensure your responses above describe the aims and intended results for your panel. Under ‘methods’, please include a description of your session format and panel participants.