

# YOUTH VS. CLIMATE CHANGE

*Our Children's Trust will have its trial against federal government for its role in climate change*

In 2015, 21 young plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, *Juliana vs. U.S.*, asserting the federal government's culpability in climate change. The trial starts Oct. 29 here in Eugene.

The lawsuit argues that the government's complicity in supporting energy using fossil fuels violates the section of the Fifth Amendment which states that citizens should be free from government actions that "harm life, liberty and property," according to the lawsuit.

Our Children's Trust (OCT), a local nonprofit, is working on the case. Julia Olson, executive director of OCT and a lead counsel in the lawsuit, says OCT and the plaintiffs are "very energized" about having a firm trial date, but there's a lot of work that needs to be done in the meantime. "It's going to be busy," she says.

Olson says she and the plaintiffs are in the midst of preparing for the trial, gathering factual and expert testimony and research for discovery, or evidence, for the trial.

"So, for example, everything that the federal government has done over many decades to create our energy system and the different roles that the different agency defendants have played in creating climate change and locking us into a fossil fuel energy system — putting together that factual story is a really important part of the case," Olson says.

One of the organizations supporting OCT is the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation. Started by the Oscar-winning actor, the foundation was established "with the mission of protecting the world's last wild places."

Will DiCaprio himself show up in Eugene for the trial?

"I don't know. I haven't had that conversation with them yet," Olson laughs. "I have heard that he is definitely very supportive and excited about the work that we're doing and he's proud to support OCT through his foundation."

She says the trial may offer a chance to engage with other celebrities.

"I think as we get closer to trial we'll be having more conversations with a lot of people from politicians to certain celebrities who can use their networks to get the word out and others who want to come to Eugene and be a presence in part to help focus attention on the case," Olson says.

Olson says the trial will last eight to 10 weeks. It will be held at the Wayne L. Morse federal courthouse and will be



**JULIA OLSON,  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR OF OUR  
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

first-come, first-serve for community members who want to attend.

For those who can't make it, Olson says OCT's communications team is working on projects to publicize the trial.

"The communications team is working on developing a podcast that will start coming out before trial to sort of lead up to the story and then have a weekly episode during trial," she says. "We'll also have a sketch artist in the courtroom drawing pictures each day."

She says, "OCT leads this whole campaign strategy of elevating the voice of young people to secure their rights to a climate system that sustains their life and liberties and giving them access to the third branch of government by representing them in court."

Even those outside of Eugene can participate through solidarity, she says. "There will be rallies in all 50 states on the first day of trial at federal courthouses around the country. And then globally as well there will be rallies of

people standing in solidarity with the youth. There's just a ton of stuff happening on the organizing level."

Kelsey Juliana is one of the plaintiffs in the trial. She's from Eugene and is currently a student at UO.

"I'm very ready," Juliana says. "I'm very ready to get to it."

Juliana has a long history of working for the environment in Eugene and elsewhere. "I have been advocating for action on the climate since I was 10 years old," she says. When she was 15, she first worked with OCT in suing the governor of Oregon over carbon emissions. She also walked across the country with the Great March for Climate Action when she was 18.

"This was the next thing I felt compelled to do," Juliana says.

Juliana encourages Eugeneans to come out to the trial. "We are sitting in front of federal district judges. This case might go to the Supreme Court," she says. "This is an incredible opportunity to be a part of history making." ■

# LANE UNITED FANS WORLD CUP PULSE

*Local projections for FIFA 2018*

Many local soccer fans went to Les Schwab Sports Park in Springfield on Sunday, May 20, to watch Lane United Football Club (Lane United or LUFC) take on Sounders U23 in a competitive Premier Development League Northwest Conference match. I took advantage of the opportunity to survey their sentiments about soccer's (if not sports') most popular tournament, which will be played June 12 through July 15 in Russia: the FIFA World Cup.

I asked fans two questions: First, who do they want to

win the World Cup? And, second, who do they think *will* win the World Cup?

Several fans declined to express any preference or projection, confessing a lack of knowledge of or interest in the World Cup or simply dismissing my inquiry. Some fans named countries, like the U.S., that didn't qualify for the 2018 World Cup — I didn't have the heart or time to tell them about the impossibility of such countries winning a tournament in which they aren't participating. And one fan proclaimed the futility of such questions because the competition has been rigged by Russia.

But more than 100 fans provided the following preferences and projections.

As for preferences, 15 fans want Mexico to win the 2018 World Cup, 13 fans want Brazil, 12 want Germany, 10 for Argentina, eight for Iceland and Spain, seven for Costa Rica, six for England and the U.S., four for Denmark and Egypt, three for France and Holland, two for Belgium,

and one fan each for Colombia, Italy, Northern Ireland, Panama, Peru, Portugal and Uruguay.

As for projections, 55 fans think Germany will win the soccer World Cup, 18 think Brazil will win it, 13 think Spain will, nine think France, three think Argentina and the U.S., two think England and one projection each for Belgium, Colombia, Holland, Iceland, Italy and Mexico.

If you can't travel to Moscow for soccer, Fox Sports will be showing the games and if you prefer your games with shouts of "Goooooal!" you can stream it via Telemundo.

And regardless of what happens in this year's World Cup, local fans will also have plenty of good soccer to enjoy this summer in Springfield. LUFC will be playing in Springfield again on Friday, June 22, against Victoria (B.C.) Highlanders FC, Sunday, June 24, against Starphire FC, and Friday, June 29, against Timbers U23. Find the LUFC schedule at laneunitedfc.com. ■