

**Dianne Dillon-Ridgley one of *Women's E-news'* “21 Leaders for the 21st century”**

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) is honored to congratulate Dianne Dillon-Ridgley for her recognition as one of “21 Leaders for the 21st century” for 2015 by Women’s E-news. Currently executive director of the Women’s Network for a Sustainable Future, Dianne served until recently as Chair of CIEL's Board of Trustees. Over more than three decades as a leader in both the women's movement and the sustainability movement, Dianne has demonstrated the profound linkages between the causes of justice, equality, and sustainability.

A lifelong advocate for human rights, female empowerment, and sustainability, Dianne made her first foray into the environmental field as a college intern during the early days of the Environmental Protection Agency. Since then, the Dallas-native has traveled around the globe promoting women's rights and fighting for environmental sustainability. For nearly a decade, she served as the United Nations representative for the World YWCA, advocating for education and political access for women in international conferences and negotiations around the world. She attended the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio by appointment of the White House, followed by the 1997 UN General Assembly on the results of Rio, and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa – the only person to have participated on all three US delegations.

During the 1980s, Dianne served four terms as the president of the Association of Iowa Human Rights Agencies. In the late 1990s, she served as CEO of the Women’s Environment and Development Organization. From 1997 to 2014, she served on the board of Interface, Inc., the world's largest manufacturer of modular carpet tiles and global leader of sustainable design. And for more than a dozen years, she contributed her expertise, insights and boundless energy to CIEL as a member of our Board of Trustees, including as the first female Chair of the CIEL Board.

“They are all connected, all essential,” she says of her many accomplishments, which include campaigns for awareness around female genital mutilation and strides in sustainable design and business. Dianne insists that everything from human rights to the ecosystem to corporate accountability is interconnected.

"Again and again through her work, Dianne has demonstrated – and embodied – the linkages between the environment, human rights, and social justice that underlie CIEL's own mission," says CIEL President Carroll Muffett. "We are privileged to be a small part of her tremendous legacy, and offer our heartfelt congratulations on this richly-deserved recognition."

A gala honoring the “21 Leaders” will take place on May 5 at the JW Marriott Essex House in New York City. Tickets to the event can be purchased: <http://womensenews.org/21leaders> or visit [www.ciel.org](http://www.ciel.org) to make a contribution towards a more just and sustainable society.

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*Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) uses the power of law to protect the environment, promote human health, and ensure a just and sustainable society. CIEL is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocacy in the global public interest, including through legal counsel, policy research, analysis, education, training and capacity building.*