



For Immediate Release:

March 8, 2019

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Press Conference: Multnomah County will host a press conference today at 2:00 pm PST at Multnomah Building, 501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. in Portland, 6th floor. The press conference will be live-streamed via Facebook on the [Our Children's Trust Facebook page](#). Plaintiff Kelsey Juliana and her attorney will be present at the press conference, along with Chair Deborah Kafoury, Commissioner Lori Stegmann & Commissioner Sharon Meieran.

Multnomah County Supports Youth Climate Lawsuit Against the State of Oregon

The most populous county in the State to file amicus brief in support of the youth plaintiffs in Chernaik v. Brown

Salem, Oregon -- Today, Multnomah County, the most populous county in the state of Oregon, will file an *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief with the Oregon Supreme Court in support of two young plaintiffs' climate change lawsuit, *Chernaik v. Brown*.

Courtney Johnson, counsel for plaintiffs and staff attorney with **Crag Law Center** in Portland, said:

"This case will have broad implications for current and future Oregonians and their health, prosperity, and safety. As we ask the Supreme Court to take review, the County's participation helps show the Court how important this case is."

In January, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled that the common law public trust doctrine imposes no affirmative duty on the state to protect public trust resources like beaches. The court declined to state

which natural resources fall within the scope of the public trust, leaving much of the youth plaintiffs' questions unanswered.

Plaintiffs Ollie Chernaik, 18 and Kelsey Juliana, 22 are now asking the Oregon Supreme Court to review their case and find that under Oregon law the state has a duty to protect our atmosphere, waterways, and wildlife from the impacts of climate change. The public trust doctrine was adopted by the Oregon Supreme Court more than a century ago and provides that the state holds certain natural resources in trust for the benefit of all Oregonians. Oregon Governor Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum defended the State's failure to address climate change, arguing in the case that the state had no responsibility to the youth to protect state public trust resources from climate change.

The case is one of many related legal actions brought by youth in several states and countries, all supported by Our Children's Trust, and all seeking science-based action by governments to stabilize the climate system. Our Children's Trust also supports the climate lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*, which was brought by 21 youth plaintiffs, including *Chernaik v. Brown* plaintiff Kelsey Juliana.

Youth plaintiffs are represented by Crag Law Center and Liam Sherlock at Hutchinson, Cox, Coons, Orr & Sherlock, P.C. Kelsey and Ollie's lawsuit was filed with the help of Our Children's Trust.

Our Children's Trust is a nonprofit organization, leading a coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to below 350 ppm by the year 2100. We elevate the voice of youth, those with most to lose in the climate crisis, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of all present and future generations.

www.ourchildrenstrust.org/

Crag Law Center is a community-based public interest law firm that provides legal aid for the environment, protecting and sustaining the natural legacy of the Pacific Northwest. crag.org

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