

Dr. Roda Verheyen Attorney at Law

April 2023

Dr. Roda Verheyen is partner in the law firm “[Rechtsanwälte Günther Partnerschaft](#)”, based in Hamburg/Germany. She has been fighting for climate protection for decades. Roda has worked successfully on behalf of Greenpeace in various climate lawsuits.



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„The law exists to protect people and the environment. Climate protection must be a human right.”

Background

- Born 1972
- Studies of law in Hamburg, Oslo and London.
- From 2001 to 2006 independent consultant, among others for the “Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit” (GTZ), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Friends of the Earth, Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD, London) and Germanwatch e.V., member of the German delegation to the Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 2002 Founded the international network Climate Justice Programme with Peter Roderick.
- 2005 PHD in international law/climate change law
- Since 2006 Attorney at Law
- Lecturing in the field of international law and climate protection law
- Founder and board member of Green Legal Impact Germany e.V
- Since 2021 Judge at the Hamburg Constitutional Court

Languages

English, French, Norwegian and Spanish

Legal fields

- Environmental law
- Planning law
- Public building law
- International law
- Political consultation

Roda Verheyen: Legal representation in Greenpeace climate change litigations

<https://www.greenpeace.de/klimaschutz/klimakrise/klimaklagen> (german text)

Completed lawsuits:

- October 2018: climate lawsuit at the Berlin Administrative Court with three families from organic farms affected by the climate crisis. Although the Berlin Administrative Court dismissed the lawsuit in the first instance on October 31, 2019, it also made clear that climate lawsuits are admissible in principle - a partial success for the plaintiffs.

<https://www.greenpeace.de/klimaschutz/klimakrise/teilerfolg-erster-instanz> (german text)

- February 2020: Nine young people file an appeal with the Federal Constitutional Court, supported by Greenpeace. On April 29, 2021, the Federal Constitutional Court confirms that the federal government's inadequate climate policy threatens the civil liberties of the young generation - a historic ruling.

<https://www.greenpeace.de/klimaschutz/klimakrise/zweite-klimaklage-verfassungsbeschwerde> (german text)

Ongoing proceedings:

- November 2021: Supported by Greenpeace, four plaintiffs demand Volkswagen AG in two independent proceedings to cease worldwide production of climate-damaging internal combustion engines by the end of the decade. The Detmold and Braunschweig Regional Courts dismiss both suits in the first instance, and the plaintiffs announce that they will appeal.

<https://www.greenpeace.de/klimaschutz/mobilitaet/vw-klage-gericht> (german text)

- April 2023: Eight European Greenpeace country offices file a lawsuit against the EU Commission before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg regarding the EU Taxonomy Regulation. They demand the annulment of the Delegated Act on the inclusion of nuclear and gas in the EU Taxonomy.

<https://www.greenpeace.de/klimaschutz/klimakrise/eu-taxonomie-klage> (german text)

Contact

Please direct your interview requests for Roda Verheyen regarding Greenpeace climate lawsuits to michelle.bayona@greenpeace.org or simone.miller@greenpeace.org.

→ About Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an independent campaigning network which uses non-violent, creative confrontation to expose global environmental problems and to force solutions which are essential for a green and peaceful future.

Greenpeace Germany

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