


**Imperial College
London President**

ALICE GAST: A SERIAL BULLY AND CORPORATE PREDATOR

Imperial College London takes pride in its reputation as a leading public research university. But apparently, the university was negligent in thoroughly researching Alice Gast's background before hiring her as president. Alice Gast should not serve

another day as the 554,000 pounds-a-year (\$753,000) face of Imperial College London unless she resigns immediately from the board of directors of scofflaw oil giant Chevron Corporation based in the United States. 

Ms. Gast has served on Chevron's board since 2012, making her one of the longest reigning board members. Her compensation for serving on the board in 2020 was 274,050 pounds (\$375,000), a nice sum for a side job. Her Chevron stock is valued at about 2 million pounds (\$2.7 million). **In her role as one of the twelve members of the board, she is responsible for the brutal policies harming people and the planet for which Chevron is notorious. In essence, Imperial College London President Gast represents a plague on society.**

Chevron's entire board of directors, including President Gast, have been woefully negligent with respect to environmental protections and human rights abuses during the entirety of all of their terms serving as the top policymakers of Chevron. This statement is supported by irrefutable evidence documented in **Dr. Nan Greer's report, "Chevron's Global Destruction: Ecocide, Genocide, and Corruption"** released on September 21, 2021. Her report and thousands of witnesses worldwide refute Chevron's claims that its core values focus on "Integrity and Trust" and "Protect People and the Environment." Its board of directors' propaganda further falsely



declares, "The Chevron Way: 'We conduct our business in a socially and responsible manner, respecting the law and universal human rights to benefit the communities where we work.'"

The Executive Summary of Dr. Greer's report condemning Chevron states: "Chevron has used vast financial resources, political muscle, bribes, and retaliatory litigations to squash lawsuits and incident reports from communities and countries affected by their oil and gas extraction. Chevron appears to be among the most destructive oil companies in the world, destroying land and ocean ecosystems, poisoning rivers and streams, eliminating livelihoods, ravaging communities, and financing paramilitary

Chevron board member Alice Gast bares responsibility for perpetuating environmental disaster in Ecuador.

violence, while filing frivolous and punitive litigations against anyone who dares to hold the company responsible for its crimes...

"As a multinational corporation, Chevron is expected to adhere to international business regulations and human rights laws and regulations. However, the company tends to behave as if it can act with impunity, failing to obey national and international laws... As this report documents, **rather than addressing human rights and environmental incidents, the company has consistently chosen to bribe officials, hire thugs to intimidate people, or litigate against its victims.**"

Alice's Ecuador: Mayhem, Miscarriages, Birth Defects and Death

In her role as a director of Chevron, Ms. Gast has made, and continues to rubber stamp, policies and decisions that continue to do great harm to people and the planet.

In 1993, environmental and human rights attorney **Steven Donziger** toured the Amazon Rainforest region in the city of Lago Agrio in Ecuador. There he witnessed the horrific sight of hundreds of toxic oil waste pits poisoning the land, water and air that are still prevalent today. For nearly three decades, the unflappable Mr. Donziger has led the cause for justice for 30,000 Indigenous people after suing oil giant Chevron to clean up its massive pollution and provide aid to thousands of victims of its deadly negligence.

In 2011 he won a \$9.5 billion judgement against Chevron which the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, the country's highest court, in an 8-0 decision, confirmed in 2018.

Chevron has \$240 billion (177 billion pounds) in assets and is headed by CEO Michael Wirth. Wirth's 2020



Photo: Lou Dematteis / Redux

Toxic water pours into a waste pit in Ecuador.



Indigenous people in northeast Ecuador at one of Chevron's 900 toxic waste pits that continue to leach into the water table.

compensation was more than \$29 million (21.3 million pounds) and his Chevron stock holdings are valued at about \$167 million (123 million pounds). Sixty percent of the inhabitants of Chevron's polluted Lago Agrio live in poverty.

Gast's Complicity in Imprisoning Human Rights Crusader Steven Donziger

In response to losing the lawsuit, Chevron, which ironically succeeded in getting the case moved from the United States to Ecuador, pulled all of its assets out of Ecuador and hired Randy Mastro, partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, to file a SLAPP lawsuit under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) as the first step to waging a ruthless assault against Donziger and the Ecuadorian people. England's High Court of Justice has censured Gibson Dunn for fabricating evidence, while in the United States, judges in California, Montana, and New York have censured and fined Gibson Dunn for misconduct including witness

tampering, obstruction, intimidation, and what one judge called "legal thuggery."

Randy Mastro was Deputy Mayor under former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Mr. Giuliani later became President Donald Trump's disgraced lawyer. The RICO complaint was steered to accommodating **Federal District Judge Lewis Kaplan in New York City. From day one, it became clear that Judge Kaplan was in the pocket of Chevron.**

SLAPP stands for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. Such lawsuits are used by corrupt corporations to intimidate and stop a person or group from speaking out against their unethical and criminal activities especially as they relate to environmental devastation and human rights abuses.

Chevron falsely claimed the Ecuadorian judgment was based on fraud committed by Donziger, including his allegedly bribing Ecuadorian judges and ghostwriting a judgment.

Donziger repeatedly requested to have his RICO trial decided by a jury but

Kaplan ruled that he, like a dictator, would be the sole arbiter of justice.

It became clear that Kaplan, a former defense lawyer for tobacco companies and a member of the right-wing Federalist Society, to which Chevron is a major donor, is heavily biased in favor of



Imprisoned environmental and human rights attorney Steven Donziger.

Chevron. Later it was learned that Kaplan has investments in Chevron which constitutes a serious conflict of interest that he did not disclose and which should have barred him from any involvement in the case.

The key factual witness for Chevron in the sham RICO trial, former Ecuadorian Judge Alberto Guerra, was wrongfully influenced and essentially bribed by Chevron. Chevron had given Mr. Guerra at least \$2 million while moving him and his entire family from Ecuador to the United States. Chevron lawyers then coached Mr. Guerra for 53 days before Kaplan let him testify against Donziger. Guerra later recanted his perjured and false testimony, admitting that he had lied "repeatedly." In 2014, to no one's surprise, Judge Kaplan issued a 485-page decision against Donziger.

Kaplan later ruled that Donziger personally owes Chevron millions of dollars in fees, costs and penalties; froze his bank accounts and ordered Donziger to turn over his cellphone and computer for inspection. Knowing Judge Kaplan was on a witch-hunt, Donziger rightfully refused because doing so would reveal years of attorney-client privileged communications.

Kaplan then charged Donziger with various counts of criminal contempt, but the U. S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York declined to prosecute him. In response Kaplan, known for his gruff, sarcastic and dictatorial demeanor, appointed a biased special private prosecutor, Rita Glavin, from the Seward and Kissel law firm, at great expense to taxpayers to prosecute Mr. Donziger. Only months later did Seward & Kissel disclose that Chevron has been one of their clients.

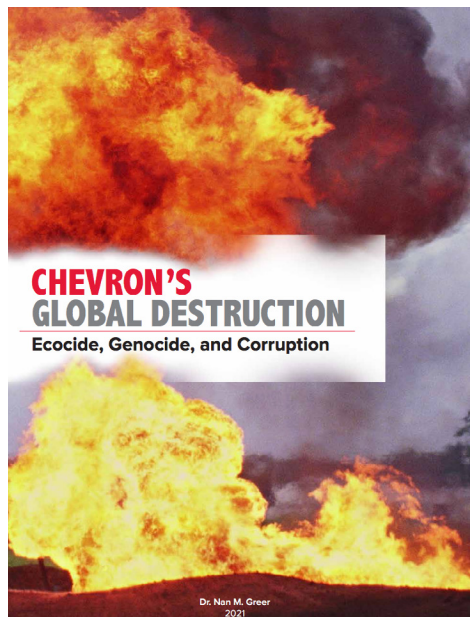
Kaplan then transferred the criminal matter to **Judge Loretta Preska**, a member of the New York Advisory Board of the Chevron-friendly Federalist Society. Like Kaplan in the civil RICO case, Preska **refused Donziger a jury trial.**

Massive Outcry Against Alice Gast's Chevron

The International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) reported on September 1, 2020 that dozens of legal organizations around the world representing more than 500,000 attorneys, along with over 200 individual lawyers, submitted a judicial complaint documenting “a series of shocking violations of the judicial code of conduct by United States Judge Lewis A. Kaplan targeting human rights lawyer Steven Donziger” after he helped Indigenous peoples win a landmark \$9.5 billion judgment against Chevron. “We wrote this judicial complaint after studying the record in this case and coming to the conclusion that Judge Kaplan has been acting as a de facto lawyer for Chevron in this litigation,” said Jeanne Mirer, the President of the IADL.

On September 29, 2021 the **United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights**, the top human rights legal body in the world, ruled that Judges Kaplan and Preska displayed a “staggering lack of objectivity and impartiality” against Mr. Donziger that violated binding provisions of international law including the right to a fair trial and impartial judge and requested the United States government release him immediately and pay compensation for a deprivation of liberty.

Donziger, after being confined to house arrest for 817 days was sent to prison for six months by Preska on October 27. No other misdemeanor defendant without a criminal record



“Chevron appears to be among the most destructive oil companies in the world, destroying land and ocean ecosystems.” From the Global Destruction report by Dr. Nan M. Greer.

has ever been confined pretrial to home confinement, let alone for more than two years, and then sent to prison.

Kaplan and Preska serve as puppets for the Chevron board's unconscionable efforts to demonize Mr. Donziger and to destroy his reputation and law practice in order to shield the company from accountability. It has taken a great toll on Donziger, his wife and teenage son with whom he resides in a modest New York City apartment. But Chevron's and Alice Gast's reprehensible behavior have not broken Mr. Donziger's resolve to hold Chevron accountable and win justice. If Chevron's board members succeed in their vendetta against Donziger and the Ecuadorian

people, it sends a stern warning to other environmental and human rights advocates to turn a blind eye if you know what's good for you.

Both judges deserve to be removed from the bench for their shameful behavior. Because of them and the policies of Chevron's board, thousands of Ecuadorians have died and continue to suffer increased rates of cancer, miscarriages, birth defects and other chronic health problems. And the area's biodiversity remains at high risk while criminal Chevron rakes in billions of dollars.

Scores of Nobel laureates have called for Chevron's vile attacks on Donziger and the people of Ecuador to end and for Chevron to be held truly accountable. **Members of the United States Congress and celebrities** like Pink Floyd co-founder and musician Roger Waters, Rock star Sting, actresses Susan Sarandon and Lucy Lawless are doing the same recognizing, as Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

On October 28, in a United States Congressional hearing, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib sternly confronted Chevron CEO Michael Wirth telling him, “Chevron has about 70 serious cases of environmental and community abuses in 31 countries worldwide owing over \$50 billion in judgements and settlements. So Mike, when are you going to cut the check!”

Imperial College London should not allow its reputation to be further tarnished by remaining intimately connected to Chevron!

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