



Jim Blackburn
Attorney for The Aransas Project



Photo courtesy of Jim Blackburn

James B. Blackburn, Jr., the Attorney for The Aransas Project, has long been an advocate for the Texas Gulf Coast and responsible water management. Blackburn currently practices Environmental Law and Environmental Planning at Blackburn & Carter in Houston, Texas and is also a Professor In the Practice of Environmental Law in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rice University. Blackburn heads the Minor in Energy and Water Sustainability in the School of Engineering at Rice and has developed courses in sustainability, including “Sustainable Design” and “Sustainability Metrics: Target Houston”. In addition to his teaching projects, Blackburn is working in conjunction with various non-profit groups and government entities to develop a research program at the SSPEED Center at Rice involving coastal development after Hurricane Ike. Blackburn was awarded the Barbara C. Jordan Community Advocate Award by Texas Southern University in 2007 for his “unwavering commitment to protecting our environment and the health of Texans throughout the Gulf Coast region” and in 1998 was the recipient of the Bob Eckhart Lifetime Achievement Award for Coastal Preservation Efforts from the General Land Office of the State of Texas. Blackburn is also an accomplished author, most recently publishing “The Book of Texas Bays” in 2004, and “Birds, A Collection of Verse and Vision”, in 2009. Blackburn holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law and a Master’s in Environmental Science from Rice University.