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FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD



Graduate Degree Programs



MASTERING THE LAW

Vermont Law School has the top-ranked environmental law program in the country and a national reputation for dispute resolution and clinical/experiential learning. We are looking for advocates and risk-takers who want to change the world, not fit into it. Our purpose is to train and equip the leaders, policymakers, and professionals our communities and our world most desperately need. Creative. Savvy. Entrepreneurial. Devoted to social justice. Dedicated to protecting the environment. Guided by a moral compass and the conviction that a more just society—indeed the survival of the planet as we know it—ultimately rests on the power of good law.

Autumn Proudlove MERL '13, a policy analyst at the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, is working on two high-profile U.S. Department of Energy projects geared toward expanding the nation's supply of renewable power.

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OUR PROGRAMS

MASTER'S DEGREES

A master's degree from Vermont Law School is different from degrees at other places. Instead of studying theories about how policies work, our master's candidates learn the law and how to use it to effect change. By studying advocacy, regulations, legislation, and markets, they acquire the tools to create more just systems and a more sustainable world. Our graduates get jobs as policy analysts and leaders.

LLM DEGREES

Our LLM degrees prepare post-JD students to specialize in environmental law, to gain deep expertise in the laws and policies relating to energy or food and agriculture, or—for lawyers educated outside the U.S.—to build a foundation in American law and sit for the New York or Washington, D.C., bar exam. The programs are designed to enhance career options. To make a bigger mark on our communities and our world.

ENVIRONMENT

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MYANMAR LOOKS TO
THE U.S. FOR CASE
STUDIES, FOR POLICY
IDEAS, FOR ADVICE.
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

“ MAY AUNG MELP '15

Prior to coming to Vermont Law, May Aung consulted with EPA experts in her work for Myanmar's Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

(MELP)

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Climate change. Land use. Water justice. International trade. Sustainable food and energy systems. Some of the most critical challenges facing our world today make up the curriculum in our multidisciplinary Master of Environmental Law and Policy program. Our program covers environmental law, policy, science, and communications, with added emphasis on economics and advocacy. There's both depth and breadth in the academic offerings—more than 50 environmental law courses, more than any other law school in the country. We provide experiential learning opportunities with state and federal agencies and nonprofits, including “fourth semester” externships that allow students to gain experience where they plan to pursue careers. Our faculty includes top national scholars, lawyers, and policymakers, and internationally recognized researchers. Our students bring rich and diverse experiences and perspectives to their

classrooms. They go on to varied and meaningful careers. MELP graduates are making an impact in a wide range of positions, including:

Senior Policy Advisor, Species Conservation, World Wildlife Fund, Washington, D.C.

Lead Energy Project Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, D.C.

Bureau Chief, Wildlife, Department of Planning and Natural Resources, U.S. Virgin Islands

Program Manager, Northeast Fish Conservation, The Ocean Conservancy, Maine

Director, Scenic By-Ways Program, Georgia

Land Protection Specialist, Tax Credit Connection, Inc., Colorado

Executive Director, Land Trust Accreditation Commission, New York

Program Analyst, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.



Students discuss current environmental issues in Professor Melissa Scanlan's “New Frontiers in Environmental Policy” class. “Students enter Vermont Law School wanting to speak truth to power,” says Scanlan. “They graduate with the skills to be heard.”

Macarena Vassallo LLM '15

As an Associate Attorney in Santiago, Chile, Macarena Vassallo represented a Canadian multinational mining company, performing environmental assessments, processing environmental agreements and permits, facilitating civic participation, negotiating with local communities, mediating conflict, and managing crises. Her boss told her that to further her career, she should get an advanced degree from the best environmental law school in the U.S. At Vermont Law, Vassallo has re-oriented her professional goals. She thinks, now, that an ideal position would be advocating in government or state enterprises—though she'd be just as pleased to be placed in the private sector or with an international organization. "I need to be trusted by both sides," she says. "VLS is giving me all the tools I need to do that."

I HOPE TO GO BACK TO CHILE AND USE THE POWER OF THE LAW TO IMPROVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

“ ” MACARENA VASSALLO LLM '15



Just a few minutes' walk from campus, Jamie Ervin MELP '15 stands by the White River. He chose VLS, he says, because of the Natural Resources dual-degree option with the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment.

LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The LLM in Environmental Law is designed for students who have already earned a law degree and wish to pursue intensive study and practical training in environmental law. Students in the program choose to focus their study in such areas as climate change, land use, natural resources, or environmental tax policy—or tailor a course of study to directly match their professional goals. The cornerstone of the 30-credit program is our Graduate Seminar—a potentially

career-changing series of guest speakers leading discussions on a wide range of current environmental issues.

The reasons for getting an LLM have a lot to do with a competitive market that rewards specially trained lawyers. The extra degree opens doors, leads to raises, enhances networking. In some cases it re-routes careers, such as the people who arrive here as criminal attorneys and leave with jobs prosecuting environmental crimes.



OUR LEGAL SYSTEMS WILL CRITICALLY AFFECT HOW HUMANITY DEALS WITH ENERGY IN A CARBON-CONSTRAINED WORLD.

 PROFESSOR MICHAEL DWORKIN

ENERGY

Master of Energy Regulation and Law 12

LLM in Energy Law 16

Energy students at VLS learn from internationally recognized scholars and some of America's leading advocates for more sustainable and just energy policies.

(MERL)

MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW

A disastrous dependency on fossil fuel. Environmental and social catastrophes associated with a warming planet. A growing demand for energy worldwide. Smart-grid technology. The rise of alternative energy markets and infrastructures. A dizzying host of new law and policy challenges for energy companies, private law firms, regulators, and legislators. In the face of such challenges and opportunities, Vermont Law School began offering a dedicated, yearlong master's degree program in the fall of 2013. The Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) offers intensive training at the intersection of energy and law, regulation, policy, and economic analysis. Courses are taught by a faculty that includes experienced environmental litigators, former high-level government officials, practicing attorneys, and thoughtful visionaries.

At most law schools that teach the subject, energy means oil and gas. At

Vermont Law School we teach energy in the context of justice and the environment and what we want the world to be 50 years from now. We have heard from recent graduates who handed their coursework syllabus to prospective employers, and hardly needed to complete their interviews. "You've studied all this?" they were asked.

"Our passion and special training," says Professor Kevin Jones, "is concerned with the energy policy of the future. That's our strength—and that's where we're placing our graduates." From long-standing ties with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to clean-energy tech start-ups, from helping with solar growth in Latin America to "wind-energy central" jobs in America's Midwest, the MERL degree offers a path to careers of being paid to do good work. Most of those jobs are in a sector of the national and global economy that will continue to grow for better or worse. We're committed to the better.



ENERGY PIPELINE: Recent MERL graduates Heather Calderwood '14, Autumn Proudlove '13, and Achyut Shrestha '14 bring their VLS expertise to the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center. Says Proudlove, "We're constantly impressing our colleagues with the amount of energy knowledge we have at such an early point in our careers."



**LEGAL SYSTEMS
MAY BE LOCAL, BUT
CLIMATE CHANGE
IS GLOBAL.**

 CARLA SANTOS LLM '15

Carla Santos LLM '15

Carla Santos (second from left) is a Global Energy Fellow in Vermont Law's Institute for Energy and the Environment. Her research has focused on renewable energy projects, with an emphasis on sustainable biomass energy. Prior to coming to VLS, she worked as an attorney at Rio de Janeiro's Environmental Agency, where she was responsible for analyzing environmental licenses and environmental impact statements, and drafting state regulations. She represents a growing number of international students looking to Vermont Law School for cutting-edge research and best-practice education—with an eye toward making a difference back at home.

ENERGY UP CLOSE Environmental attorneys interested in energy must understand both science and trade—and the needs and limitations inherent to both. They gain that understanding here.

LLM IN ENERGY LAW

The legal system will critically affect how humanity meets the challenge of energy and environmental issues. In the private sector, in government policy and regulation, in advocacy, in teaching and research, in setting the frameworks for emerging markets and technologies, from local to state to federal to international levels: the emerging generation of legal experts will shape the future of the planet. Vermont Law School is dedicated to giving that generation the expertise and broad vision it will need to play a leading role. The LLM in Energy Law degree is designed for those who have already earned JDs who are inspired by that challenge.

The energy curriculum here is more extensive than at any other institution in the world, ranging from required courses

such as “Energy Law and Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World” to electives on renewable energy, energy justice, and essentials of the electric grid. We offer valuable hands-on externships. Real work in the first energy law clinic in the country. Independent research overseen by mentors in our highly respected Institute for Energy and the Environment. The students—some of them re-imagining themselves after years as practicing attorneys—bring their own passion and commitment to the equation.

As Marc Mihaly, president and dean of the law school, has said, “Climate change models now predict catastrophic impacts by the year 2050. That span between now and 2050 represents the span of careers of the people sitting in our classrooms right now. That’s their shot, and they know it.”

FOOD

Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy 20

LLM in Food and Agriculture Law 24

**WE WILL NEVER
SHY AWAY FROM
SPEAKING THE
TRUTH ABOUT
FOOD.**

 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JAMIE RENNER

FARM TO TABLE: Jamie Renner, director of one of the country's first Food and Agriculture Clinics, meets with research assistant Kara Shannon '15. As the food and ag staff like to say, "The food movement grows here."

(MFALP)

MASTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW AND POLICY

Vermont Law School is building the most comprehensive sustainable food, agriculture, and environmental law program in the country. The program has a dual mission: to train the next generation of food and agriculture advocates and entrepreneurs, and to create the innovative legal tools that will support the new food movement.

With an array of residential and distance learning courses, and clinical training in one of the nation's first food and agriculture clinics, the Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) offerings reflect a powerful marriage of agriculture policy, food

safety, and environmental law. The curriculum has been rigorously designed to help students develop skills in agriculture and food policy advocacy, with an additional emphasis on food entrepreneurship. Courses include Public Health Implications of U.S. Agriculture and Food Policy, Law and Policy of Local Food Systems, and The Modern Farm Bill. There's an intentional blending in the recipe: a solid grounding in existing law and systems supporting the kind of forward-looking, visionary study that will lead to new ideas and innovative solutions.

LEARNING LABS: Organic carrots from Luna Bleu Farm, South Royalton, Vermont. Twenty-two small farms and orchards operate within a 10-mile radius of Vermont Law School's campus.

Fresh Thinking

Students on campus have a chance to shop seasonally at the South Royalton Farmer's Market for organic foods, grass-fed beef, free-range poultry, and locally farmed and foraged produce. The market provides an organic experience of the new, more sustainable food economy. VLS's new Food and Agriculture Clinic is partnering with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont and the national Farmers' Market Coalition to produce Farmers' Market Toolkits—guides that will help farmers' market leaders nationwide navigate common but complicated business and legal choices.

WE'RE WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE REINVENTING HOW WE GROW AND DISTRIBUTE FOOD. WE'RE FUELING THE MOVEMENT.

“ LAURIE RISTINO, DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS



The Worthy Burger, a popular “craft beer and burger bar” near the Vermont Law campus, offers students a real-world taste of the locavore and farm-to-table revolution.

LLM IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW

Popular culture is drawing increasing attention to how our country mass-produces and industrially distributes its food. A more sustainable, more diverse, and more local set of systems is taking root—one that will require creative new policies and legal tools, new standards and regulations, new markets, and new innovations to flourish and endure. Our new LLM degree in Food and Agriculture Law—designed for students with their JD training already behind them—promises to be out in front in that enterprise.

The ground is shifting quickly, and with it an entirely new area of important jobs and positions is opening up. Existing government agencies are faced with regulating a fast-changing landscape. Major nonprofits are embracing food and

agriculture advocacy. New nonprofits are organizing to fight GMOs and to keep seed control in the commons. Artisanal distilleries have sprung up alongside craft breweries. Grass-fed beef and free-range poultry. Local food hubs and local food manufacturing and distribution co-ops. Urban gardens. Food labeling. Ethnic and specialty fruits and vegetables. Humane treatment of animals. Farmer’s markets. All of them, to varying degrees, involved with new legal issues of definition, taxation, governance, liability, markets, requirements, and regulations.

For lawyers interested in food and agriculture and in meaningful, creative careers, there could be no more fertile time.

GLOBAL

LLM in American Legal Studies 28

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS LOVE EXPERIENCING LAW SCHOOL HERE—AND THEY ALSO HAPPEN TO PASS THE BAR EXAM AT AN EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH RATE.

▣ PAM STEPHENS, ACTING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW PROGRAMS



Professor Pam Stephens centers four students in the class of '15 from the University of Cergy-Pontoise, France.

LLM IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES

There are other U.S. law schools that give foreign-trained lawyers a grounding in American law—but few of them integrate those students into the fabric of their communities the way Vermont Law School does. In our LLM in American Legal Studies program, students with law degrees from outside the United States join our first-year JD students on campus from Day One, and go through the same course requirements and foundation-building first-year curriculum side-by-side with them. In addition to being fully involved with the life of the school, the LLM students get the same close faculty support as our first-year students, plus special one-on-one training in case briefing, résumé and legal writing, and exam preparation. It is the combination of solid preparation and supportive

community—with the networking, relationships, and memories that grow out of that close-knit experience—that distinguishes the program.

Originally created to support students from our partner school at France's University of Cergy-Pontoise, the LLM in American Legal Studies degree is now offered to internationally trained students from any accredited school.

As with the other graduate programs at VLS, this degree comes with a clear and positive career implication. As one French student recently put it, "More and more international firms are looking for lawyers who speak excellent legal English. At Vermont Law you will gain both the camaraderie of being a full member of the community and the technically precise study of American Law."

Olga Kariywasam LLM '12, head of the legal department in the multinational publisher Egmont Russia, poses in Moscow's Red Square. "My goal was to sit for the New York bar," she says. "But I cannot even begin to articulate how much more Vermont Law School did to help me to get here."



WHAT GRABS STUDENTS IS HOW DEEPLY THEY CAN SPECIALIZE HERE.

“ ANNE LINEHAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER; ACADEMIC ADVISOR FOR ALL MASTER’S AND LLM STUDENTS

OUR PROGRAMS

GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

In addition to the traditional Juris Doctor degree, Vermont Law School offers a number of master’s degrees, LLM degrees, joint degrees, dual degrees with other academic institutions, certificate programs, and a renowned Summer Session program. These programs range from the Master of Environmental Law and Policy, which has been awarded to more than 1,500 students since the program’s inception in 1978, to the new LLM in Energy Law and Master of Energy Regulation and Law programs, which welcomed their first students in the fall of 2013, to the nascent and innovative LLM and master’s programs in food and agriculture law.

- Master of Environmental Law and Policy
- Master of Energy Regulation and Law
- Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy
- LLM in Environmental Law
- LLM in Energy Law
- LLM in Food and Agriculture Law

SUMMERS-ONLY MASTER’S PROGRAM

JD students from any law school may earn a master’s degree from Vermont Law School with a combination of summer classes, online classes, and a summer externship. Special arrangements with Northeastern University, University of South Carolina, University of South Dakota, and Quinnipiac University allow those students to transfer additional JD credits to the master’s degree and earn the degree at a lower cost.

JOINT DEGREES

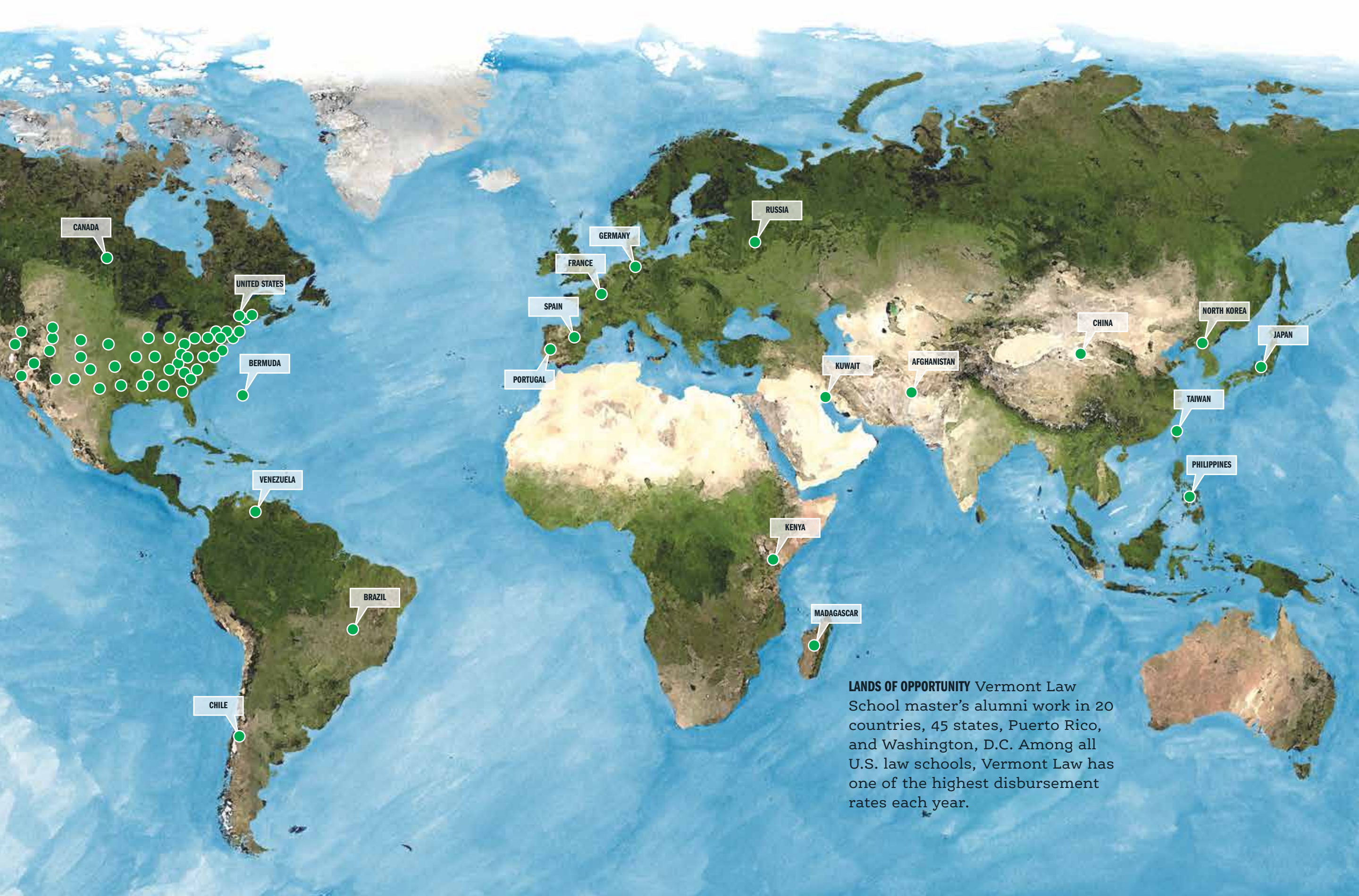
Graduating with two degrees from Vermont Law School is an attractive path for students who are passionate about environmental law and policy. The joint degree program offers a deeper and richer educational experience—and opens up additional employment options. Students may complete a joint JD/master’s degree in 3 years. A JD/LLM joint degree takes 3 years plus 2 semesters.

- JD/Master of Environmental Law and Policy
- JD/Master of Energy Regulation and Law
- JD/Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy
- JD/LLM in Environmental Law
- JD/LLM in Energy Law
- JD/LLM in Food and Agriculture Law

CERTIFICATES

Certificates are a tangible indication that students have mastered a specific subject matter area. Vermont Law School students may pursue specialized certificates in:

- Business Law
- Climate Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Energy Law
- Food and Agriculture
- General Practice
- International and Comparative Law
- Land Use Law
- Water Law



LANDS OF OPPORTUNITY Vermont Law School master's alumni work in 20 countries, 45 states, Puerto Rico, and Washington, D.C. Among all U.S. law schools, Vermont Law has one of the highest disbursement rates each year.