



# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FOR THE **COMMUNITY** and the **WORLD**



---

**VERMONT**  
LAW SCHOOL

2022-2023

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAMS**

# Table of Contents

---

The Environmental Law Program .....	<b>1</b>
Environmental Degree Programs .....	<b>2–3</b>
Animal Law and Policy Institute .....	<b>4</b>
Center for Agriculture and Food Systems .....	<b>5</b>
Environmental Advocacy Clinic .....	<b>6</b>
Environmental Justice .....	<b>7</b>
Institute for Energy and the Environment .....	<b>7</b>
U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law .....	<b>8</b>
Law Lab for International Sustainable Development ..	<b>8</b>
Environmental Tax Policy Institute .....	<b>9</b>
Tuholske Institute for Environmental Field Studies ..	<b>10</b>
International Environmental Law and Policy .....	<b>11</b>
The Curriculum .....	<b>12–13</b>
Environmental Faculty and Teaching Staff .....	<b>14–15</b>
Adjunct, Online, and Summer Faculty .....	<b>16</b>



# ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

Environmental challenges have never been more pressing or more complex. But at Vermont Law and Graduate School, a new generation of leaders is stepping up to meet them.

For nearly 50 years, Vermont Law School has educated law and policy students on the basis of one ideal: to develop leaders who use the power of the law to make a difference. Our dedicated and distinguished faculty cultivate a learning environment rich in cooperative spirit. The Environmental Law Center is home to the most comprehensive graduate environmental law program in the country, consistently ranked among the best by *U.S. News & World Report*.

With a multidisciplinary, hands-on education drawing from law, policy, science, economics, and

ethics, our students are equipped to make an impact. Our graduates are on the frontlines of environmental advocacy, the clean energy revolution, the sustainable food movement, and animal protection. They are trailblazers in environmental justice, fighting to ensure that environmental law serves all communities. They are skilled in working with environmental and public policy issues within the framework of the legal system—and they are prepared to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century.

*“In serving as champions for environmental protection and justice, we serve as champions for the entire world community and the future generations who will inherit our planet—nothing we do matters more.”*

—**RODNEY SMOLLA**, President,  
Vermont Law and Graduate School



## Environmental Degree Programs

Vermont Law and Graduate School offers the Juris Doctor degree on a traditional 3-year schedule, as well as accelerated, extended, and online hybrid options. In addition, the school offers LLM degrees, concentration programs, and the renowned Summer Session program. The Vermont School for the Environment at VLGS offers several master's degrees in policy. JD students may pursue a joint JD/master's degree or joint JD/LLM degree.

### Master's Degrees

- The **Master of Climate and Environmental Policy (MCEP)** is designed to provide fulsome training in applied public policy, with a deep grounding in areas of climate change and environmental justice.
- The **Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL)** program responds to opportunities presented by the rapid growth of the clean energy sector by offering intensive training in energy law, regulation, markets, and policy analysis.
- The **Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)** is designed for students who want to develop the legal infrastructure needed to support sustainable food and agricultural systems.
- The **Master of Animal Protection Policy (MAPP)** trains students in the policy advocacy skills needed to effectively advocate for animals.



### Master of Laws (LLM) Degrees

- The **LLM in Environmental Law** offers students the opportunity to prepare for a career practicing environmental law with a private firm, as a public interest environmental litigator, or in academia.
- The **LLM in Energy Law** allows students to specialize in the law of clean energy, regulation, markets, and the environment.
- The **LLM in Food and Agriculture Law** allows students to take advantage of our extensive food and agricultural law curriculum and develop a deep specialty in an important area of environmental law.

### Concentrations

Concentrations are a tangible indication that students have mastered a specific subject area. Our environmental program offers the following concentrations:

- **Animal Law**
- **Climate Law**
- **Energy Law**
- **Food and Agriculture Law**
- **Land Use Law**
- **Water Law**

## Dual Degree Programs

Vermont Law and Graduate School students may combine a JD degree with degrees from other institutions.

- **JD/Master of Environmental Management** with the Yale School of the Environment
- **JD/Master of Philosophy** with the Department of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge



## Summer Session

Our Summer Session is nationally recognized for its impressive range of courses taught by VLGS professors and leaders from national and international nonprofit environmental groups and research centers, federal and state agencies, academic programs at other law schools, and private practice. Attendees include JD, LLM, and graduate students; citizen advocates; practicing attorneys; and state and federal agency personnel. Summer Session also includes the popular Hot Topics in Environmental Law lecture series. JD students from any other law school may earn a master's degree from Vermont Law and Graduate School with one summer of classes, one summer externship, and at least one online course. Practicing attorneys can take summer courses or attend our summer lecture series for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit.

## Vermont Journal of Environmental Law

For over twenty years, the *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law*



(VJEL) has published on all facets of environmental law. The journal staff seeks to provide a forum for enlightened discussion on the emerging environmental issues affecting our local, regional, and global communities. The journal is published exclusively online. VJEL is about environmental discourse and environmental action, and online publication greatly embodies both. Please visit [vjel.vermontlaw.edu](http://vjel.vermontlaw.edu).

## Environmental Externships

An integral part of our environmental degree programs is gaining real-world experience through externships. Our JD, LLM, and joint degree students explore environmental law and policy in a wide variety of settings both locally and worldwide. In the Semester in Practice program and the Judicial Externship program, JD students spend a full semester off campus in a governmental, public interest, or private legal setting under the direct supervision of an experienced attorney or judge.

## Recent Externships

- Advocates for the West
- California Department of Justice, Attorney General, Environment Section
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Environmental Law Institute
- Environmental Working Group
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division
- Mercy For Animals
- Montana Water Court
- New York Department of Environmental Conservation
- Northeast Wilderness Trust
- Nourish Colorado
- Southern Environmental Law Center
- U.S. Department of the Interior Office of the Solicitor
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Vermont Attorney General, Environmental Division
- Vermont Cannabis Solutions
- Vermont Natural Resources Council
- Private law firms in multiple states with environmental practices

*“My externship experience with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of the Solicitor is unparalleled to anything I have done. The topics discussed in my environmental law classes came to life in my work every day. The experience reaffirmed my appreciation for our national parks and my passion for wildlife.”*

—MICHELLE R. AMIDZICH  
JD/MFALP’22



## Animal Law and Policy Institute

---

The Animal Law and Policy Institute trains future leaders in animal advocacy while centering animals in the fight for environmental protections. Students, staff, and faculty in the Institute advance animal protection through education, training, scholarship, and policy development. Engaging with policymakers, journalists, advocacy organizations, and communities, the Institute serves as a resource hub for animal law and policy issues. It also collaborates closely with other campus programs, encouraging the wider legal community to expand protections for animals.

The Animal Law and Policy Institute is dedicated to supporting aspiring advocates through robust course offerings, mentoring, and experiential learning.

### Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic

The Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (FAAC) empowers students to become effective advocates for animals while developing skills that can be applied in a variety of arenas throughout their careers through hands-on experience with real-world matters. Students represent clients in litigation as well as legislative, policy, and regulatory matters aimed at improving the treatment and status of farmed animals. With billions of land animals and even more aquatic animals farmed for food annually in the U.S., animals are involved in every legal institution, from local prosecutors to various state and federal agencies with overlapping authority and responsibility, and everything between.



Students in the FAAC learn how to navigate and engage with these institutions and the individuals who comprise them. FAAC students develop a wide range of advocacy skills that are central to farmed animal protection, but that are also transferable to other areas, including navigating ethics issues that arise in the context of impact litigation, building and managing coalitions and clients with divergent interests, client outreach and communication, developing relationships with experts, and navigating the relationship between legal and media strategies.

*“The Animal Law and Policy Institute’s classes, practicums, and professors helped me realize my true passion of pursuing animal law. This past year I have honed my advocacy skills in a subject where our clients have no voice. Everything I have learned in the Animal Law and Policy Institute has set me up for success as I make the transition from graduate school to the professional field.”*

—VANESSA BEANE '22

# Center for Agriculture and Food Systems

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) trains



law and policy students to develop real-world solutions for a more sustainable and just food system. CAFS offers a comprehensive array of residential, online, and experiential courses. These diverse course offerings, the Food and Agriculture Clinic, and varied degree options give students the opportunity to explore food and agriculture law from a variety of perspectives and experiences. CAFS is also a center for research and advocacy. In partnership with local, regional, national, and international partners, the team addresses food system challenges related to food justice, food security, farmland access, farmworkers' rights, animal welfare, worker protections, the environment, and public health, among others. CAFS works closely with partners to provide legal services and policy support that respond to their needs and develop resources that empower the communities they serve. Through its Food and Agriculture Clinic and Research Assistant program, students work directly on these projects, engaging in innovative work that spans the food system.

## Center Initiatives

- Train law and policy students in one of the first food and agriculture law clinics in the nation to work at the intersection of food, agriculture, and environmental law
- Support the local food economy by connecting small-scale farms and food entrepreneurs with free legal assistance through the Vermont Legal Food Hub
- Advocate for policy reform to protect farmworkers and other food system workers from exploitative labor practices and public health threats
- Empower consumers to understand food labels and make more informed food choices
- Assist farmers, including historically marginalized farmers and heirs' property owners, with land access and conservation through the Farmland Access Legal Toolkit
- Reduce food waste and address food insecurity through the National Gleaning Project

*"I found VLGS's Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy program to be the most rooted in activism, social consciousness, and a land ethic of any of the options I considered."*

—**ALYSSA HARTMAN MFALP'19**, Executive Director, Artisan Grain Collaborative



# Environmental Advocacy Clinic

Since 2003, the Environmental Advocacy Clinic has provided hands-on learning opportunities for law students, achieving environmental protection goals and often representing clients who otherwise would not have the resources for legal representation. The clinic provides a structured, supportive setting in which students develop skills in environmental advocacy, litigation, administrative processes, as well as client interaction. A faculty of experienced environmental attorneys and professionals works closely with the student teams on each case or project. The students have worked on an impressive array of matters in various federal and state courts, including the Vermont and United States Supreme Courts.

*“Learning by doing is key to becoming a successful lawyer. My clinical experience set me up with the tools necessary to become a true advocate for the wild creatures and wild places that I—and my clients—hold most dear.”*

—**KELLY NOKES JD’15**, Shared Earth Wildlife Attorney,  
Western Environmental Law Center

## Clinic Projects

- Partnering with Earthjustice to advocate for an environmental justice community in Newark, New Jersey, surrounded by polluting facilities
- Addressing the restoration of key environmental and wildlife protections that were weakened under the previous administration
- Advancing responsible renewable energy projects on public lands and public waters
- Protecting at-risk bats in Vermont from pesticide spraying
- Pushing for a 21st century regulatory scheme to protect surface waters in Vermont
- Advancing legal tools to protect communities and resources from the pollution of factory farms







# Institute for Energy and the Environment



The Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) is a national and world energy policy resource focused on the energy policy of the future.

The IEE leads the nation in preparing students for the clean energy transition. Its energy law program has the largest selection of clean energy law and policy courses available, leading clean energy experiential opportunities, and a seamless integration with a world-class environmental law and policy program, including unparalleled climate law course offerings. The institute serves as a center for graduate research on the transition to a clean energy future and maintains a unique and vibrant student-staffed Energy Clinic, which works on developing and implementing legal and business models for community energy resources. In addition, a Research Associate program works more broadly on energy issues ranging from clean transportation policy to cybersecurity of the electric grid.

## Environmental Justice Clinic

Founded in 2019, VLGS's Environmental Justice Clinic focuses on interdisciplinary practice at the intersection of civil rights and the environment. Student clinicians work in partnership with communities of color and low-income communities on projects to address racial discrimination and improve environmental quality. Students work in small teams on projects to address inequality and discrimination in environmental decision-making as well as procedural inequities experienced by communities as they try to assert their own vision for the future of their neighborhoods, towns, and cities.

### Environmental Justice Clinic Projects

- Work with communities of color around the country to fight harmful impacts of landfills and other polluting facilities
- Partner with community-based groups across Vermont and other states to strengthen policies to achieve environmental and climate justice
- Work with environmental justice activists to draft stronger protections through legislation at federal and state levels
- Advocate for state and federal policies to ensure enforcement of civil rights laws that protect environmental justice
- Challenge the disproportionate impacts of industrial animal production on communities of color and low-income communities

*"The Environmental Justice Clinic was my first real experience doing any kind of environmental law work at all. And it was one of the most meaningful experiences I've had while at VLGS. It gave me a glance, a taste, of the contemporary work attorneys do in environmental law."*

—LUIS GONZALES JD'23

### Institute and Energy Clinic Projects

- Develop legal and business models promoting community renewables ownership with a focus on increasing low-income solar ownership and advocating for climate justice
- Collaborate with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems on the Farm and Energy Initiative, which unites interests in the economic health of farms and sustainable energy production
- Author books including *The Electric Battery: Charging Forward to a Low Carbon Future*; *A Smarter, Greener Grid: Forging Environmental Progress from Smart Energy Policies and Technologies*; and *Global Energy Justice*
- Research reports and publications on climate refugees, community choice aggregation, cybersecurity of the electric grid, smart cities and microgrids, clean transportation policy, and stakeholder governance in Regional Transmission Organizations

*"VLGS has empowered me to push for a future where clean energy can be distributed equally throughout the world. The MERL has given me tools to see the bigger field at play and to be able to go where I want. A lot of people in the energy field don't have such a specialized look at it."*

—CHARLES SPENCE MERL'19

# U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law

The U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law



(PEL) is a collaborative program to advance environmental and energy law and policy in China and throughout Southeast Asia. The goal of PEL is to strengthen the rule of law in environmental protection and to build capacity among individuals and academic, government, and private-sector institutions to solve environmental problems in Asia. At its inception in 2006, PEL's goals were to strengthen the capacity of Chinese education, government, and civil society sectors to become effective environmental problem solvers; to improve China's policies, laws, and regulations to advance the development of environmental law in China; and to enhance municipal, provincial, national, and international networks in China to advance best practices in environmental protection and energy regulation. Building upon the success it has achieved in China, PEL has expanded its geographic scope to respond to the environmental governance needs of the region.

## Partnership Projects

- Through an Environmental Mission Scholars program, provide experiential training to young legal professionals from China to become environmental advocates and stewards
- Train stakeholders, including judges and prosecutors, to apply and enforce environmental laws and take steps to increase the role prosecutors could play in civil enforcement of environmental laws
- Conduct practical legal research that promotes public participation in National Park governance
- A collaborative project to engage with Chinese scholars and prosecutors on wildlife protection laws and their enforcement in China and the U.S.
- Provide opportunities for regional dialogues among stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned in developing an effective environmental governance system in response to local conditions

*“PEL is building a support network and promoting public participation not only in China but also in Southeast Asia—which is amazing! PEL is empowering people to protect their environmental rights.”*

## Transnational Environmental Law Practicum

The Transnational Environmental Law Practicum allows students to team up with organizations in Asia to work on research and consultation projects. Some of the research that students have done includes:

- Environmental governance systems of India, Mongolia, and Nepal, with a focus on legal mechanisms for public participation in providing natural resource safeguards in the development of large-scale linear infrastructure projects
- Policy and legislative frameworks to reduce emission of greenhouse gases (specifically short-lived climate pollutants) in countries throughout Asia
- Legal mechanisms for environmental impact assessment (EIA) of development projects, with a focus on providing policy suggestions for China

## Law Laboratory for International Sustainable Development

The Law Laboratory for International Sustainable Development studies innovative law and policy instruments to promote sustainable development on a global scale. Law Lab works internationally with research institutes, NGOs, and development agencies from different countries. In 2022, partnering with World Resources Institute, Law Lab launched a multi-year research program studying policies and regulations safeguarding the social and environmental integrity of global supply chains, focusing on supply chains that are climate-significant and have little to do with sensitive issues such as national security. In a changing and riskier world, crises like trade disputes, the COVID-19 pandemic, and geopolitical conflicts have disrupted global supply chains and underscored the importance of supply chain resilience. Currently, the program focuses on three groups of supply chains: forest products, agricultural soft commodities, and renewable energy. Students may work as research assistants for Law Lab.

—WENFANG LIANG LLM'22



## Environmental Tax Policy Institute

The Environmental Tax Policy Institute analyzes the ways in which taxation can be used to address environmental problems. By serving as a resource for the public and private sectors, nongovernmental organizations, the press, and academia, the Institute seeks to better inform the public policy debate about the role of environmental taxes at the federal, state, and local levels.

### Institute Initiatives

- Active participant in the Global Conferences on Environmental Taxation; co-organizer of the 21st Global Conference in 2020, a global event
- Analysis of proposals for carbon taxes at the federal and state level, including key design issues, as well as the relationship between carbon taxes and cap-and-trade programs
- Exploration of the ability to earmark carbon tax revenues, published by Professor Janet Milne as “How Durable is a Lockbox for Carbon Tax Revenue?” in the *Pittsburgh Tax Review*
- Sharing of knowledge about other countries’ use of carbon taxes and other environmental taxes
- Development of *The Handbook of Research on Environmental Taxation*, edited by Janet E. Milne and Mikael Skou Andersen, and *Environmental Taxation and the Law*, edited by Professor Milne
- Research on how environmentally related taxes might help finance climate change adaptation, published as “Storms Ahead” in the *Vermont Law Review*
- U.S. contributor to a European project evaluating tax incentives that preserve cultural heritage
- Investigation of the potential role of environmental pricing in the emerging digital economy and the role of environmental taxation in ESG (environment, social, and governance) factors



Students in the Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study class

## Tuholske Institute for Environmental Field Studies

VLGS established the Tuholske Institute in 2021 in memory of Jack Tuholske, a beloved faculty member, renowned litigator, and pioneer in field studies for environmental law students. The institute offers students a number of opportunities to study environmental law and policy through hands-on, immersive learning experiences. Our students meet with staff of international NGOs in Southeast Asia and serve as an observer delegation at the UNFCCC in Egypt. They meet with tribal leaders in Utah and hike in the public lands of Montana. They study forestry and ecosystems in our own backyard in Vermont.

### Environmental Field Classes

- Balancing Perspectives in Coastal Resource Management: Maine Field Study
- Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law
- Conservation Agriculture Policy
- Ecology
- Forest Law and Policy
- Global Sustainability Field Study: Havana, Cuba
- International Climate Change: COP in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
- Protected Public Lands and Tribal Rights: Utah Field Study
- Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study

# International Environmental Law and Policy

Environmental issues are global issues. The unique opportunities at Vermont Law and Graduate School prepare our graduates to be leaders in international environmental law and policy. Our curriculum is enhanced by study opportunities through our partnerships with leading foreign universities. Hands-on learning through experiential courses, externships, and clinics rounds out the academic experience.

## International Courses

- Environmental Governance in the Developing World
- Global Energy Law and Policy
- Global Food Security and Social Justice
- International Climate Change
- International and Comparative Environmental Law
- International Environmental Law and Policy
- International Law of Food
- Transnational Environmental Law Practicum

## Experiential Learning

- In the International Climate Change course, students serve on VLGS's observer delegation, attending the Conference of the Parties (COP) and supporting a Least Developed Country state party delegation to engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations through a service-learning partnership
- Through our JD Externship Program, students have interned for a variety of international environmental law actors, including the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva, Refugee Legal Aid Project in Cairo, UN Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, and the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice
- The Transnational Environmental Law Practicum combines classroom instruction with project implementation, with students teaming up to work on an environmental-related legal or policy research project for partner organizations in China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos.



## Hothouse Earth Podcast

The school's podcast, Hothouse Earth, debuted in 2019. Our hosts speak with our faculty and other experts on fast changing environmental law and policy developments like regulatory rollbacks and subsequent lawsuits. Our guests provide concise, accessible conversation on the most pressing issues of our time. Recent episodes include "Quantity Unknown—The Uncertain Future of Vermont's Surface Waters," "Plant Patents, Biodiversity, and Public Domain Seeds," and "Elevate," a miniseries on women in environmental law and policy. Subscribe at [hothouseearthpodcast.com](http://hothouseearthpodcast.com).



# The Curriculum

## ANIMAL PROTECTION

### Animal Ethics +

Introduces students to the main ethical approaches applied to humane relationships with domesticated, wildlife, and captive wild animals

### Animal Welfare Law

The role of law in understanding and reforming the relationship between humans and animals and improving the condition of animals maintained for human profit and entertainment

### Animals and the Law

A survey of American law affecting animals and the legal reforms underway

### Animals in Agriculture

The growing body of state and local farmed animal welfare laws, some of which are poised to transform industrial animal agriculture as we know it

### Animal Protection Policy +

Explores the intersection of animal protection with other social justice movements, the roles of animals in society, and emerging developments

### Connected Justice Seminar: Animals, People, and Places

The legal and political parameters of animals, people, and places, and the possibility of an integrated approach to legally protect their rights

### Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic

Empowers students to become effective animal advocates through real-world work, including initiatives aimed at improving the treatment and status of animals used for food

### Undercover Investigations of Animal Operations

The intersection of criminal law, tort, and ethical issues, as well as what does and does not constitute actionable animal cruelty

### Science of Animal Law and Policy +

An overview of scientific concepts, thinking, culture, and vocabulary, and how to use this information to inform effective animal protection law and policy efforts

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Climate Change and the Law +

How existing laws may address climate change and how new, more comprehensive laws may be fashioned

### Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems

The legal challenges raised by the unavoidable need for our society to adapt to the impacts of global warming

### Climate Change Mitigation

The legal, policy, and economic issues in our attempt to mitigate our carbon footprint and reduce greenhouse gasses

### Climate Change: The Power of Taxes

How tax systems can be used to reduce greenhouse gasses and develop more environmentally compatible technologies

### Climate, Extinction, and Adaptation

The ecological, social, and ethical consequences of climate change and various legal and policy options to address it

### Climate Justice +

How climate change impacts can or should be distributed; and how those impacts can be addressed through collective action at local, national, and global levels

### Fundamentals of Climate Change +

The science of climate change; its social cause and effect, including its disproportionate impacts; and public policy approaches (and critiques)

### International Climate Change Law

A study of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol; students represent VLS at COP as members of its Observer Delegation

## ENERGY REGULATION

### Energy Efficiency Policy

The reasons for, techniques of, and results from energy efficiency measures around the U.S.

### Energy Clinic

Students progressively develop knowledge, skills, and values integral to the field of energy law and policy, while helping clients meet local energy needs with reliable, clean, and affordable resources

### Energy Law and Policy +

Key issues in American energy policy, and ways to ease the strains that the policy puts upon environmental sustainability

### Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment +

The legal, economic, and structural issues involved in both energy regulation and energy markets, focusing on electricity

### Global Energy Law and Policy

Energy policy frameworks, policies implementing global and regional climate commitments, and emerging issues outside of the U.S.

### Oil and Gas Production and the Environment +

The major contracts used to explore for and produce oil and gas in the U.S. and internationally

### Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development

Legal and policy issues associated with the development and project financing of renewable energy projects

### Sustainable Transportation

This course explores the rapidly changing electricity and transportation sectors, including how electric vehicles can support a smarter, cleaner, more efficient grid

### Three Essentials of the Electric Grid

Fundamental legal, engineering, and business knowledge for energy professionals

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

### Environmental Health Law

An examination of the field of environmental health, including toxic torts, lead poisoning, food protection, and pesticides

### Environmental Justice +

Discrimination and justice concerns about the benefits and burdens of environmental protection and natural resource management

### Environmental Justice Clinic

Students gain experience working on law and policy issues at the nexus of environment, race, and policy, while also learning essential community lawyering skills

### Environmental Restorative Justice

How restorative justice theory and practice can be applied to environmental crimes, conflicts and harms

### Fundamentals of Environmental Justice +

Examines the history and evolution of environmental justice social movements in the U.S. and internationally, and causes, impacts, and solutions to environmental racism

### Land Use and Racial Justice

The legal framework for understanding planning and zoning from the perspective of race

### Native Americans and the Law +

The constitutional, statutory, and jurisprudential rules of law which make up the field of Federal Indian Law

### Structural Inequity +

Provides students with an intersectional awareness of structural inequality and systemic racism and their relationships to public policy, law, and environmental movements

### Toxic Exposure and Public Health

Looking at federal programs that have allowed disproportionate toxic impacts to persist, from the perspective of community health

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Cannabis Law

A survey of cannabis regulation and enforcement, and the current and anticipated regulatory landscapes

### Conservation Agriculture Policy

State and federal conservation programs to assist farmers in achieving conservation compliance

### The Farm Bill

An introduction to the breadth of policies and legal authorities included in the Farm Bill

### Farmworkers and the Law

Tools and strategies used by farmworker advocates, including litigation and legislative and administrative advocacy

### Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture

An overview of the Farm Bill and other laws that affect growing policy, animal husbandry, and food production

### Food and Agriculture Clinic

Students engage in law and policy work that addresses challenges related to food and land justice, public health, the economy, food security, and animal welfare

### Food Regulation and Policy

Current policies regarding food regulation and how to effectively advocate for policy changes

### Global Food Security and Social Justice

The legal landscape of global hunger

### The International Law of Food

An analysis of contemporary international legal and policy issues related to food

### Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy

A survey of American law affecting agriculture and food and the traditional divisions between agriculture, food, and environmental regulation

### IP and the Food System

In the food system, intellectual property tools can differentiate products, but can also be used to diminish the rights of others, leading to inequity

### Local Farm and Food Law

A study of policies that affect distribution of food and state-level initiatives to bolster local food markets

## FUNDAMENTALS

### Administrative Law

The implementation of legislative policy through administrative agencies

### Environmental Appeals

Fundamentals of appellate practice and procedure, and a survey of topics that loom large in environmental appeals

### Environmental Crimes

An exploration of the most common federal offense committed by U.S. corporations: environmental crime

### Environmental Ethics

The foundations of environmental reasoning: intrinsic value theory, biocentrism, ecofeminism, deep ecology, and spirituality

### Environmental Law

The law pertaining to environmental issues such as population, economic growth, energy, and pollution

### Land Use Regulation

The traditional legal controls available to regulate the use of land, including local zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations

### Legislation and Regulation Survey

An introduction to the legislative process, regulatory agencies, and agency law-making, with a particular emphasis on the legislative process and the administrative state

### Science for Environmental Law

The science most relevant to environmental law, including climate science, air and water pollution, toxicology, and endangered species management

+ Available online and on campus

o Available online only

## INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL

### Environmental Governance in the Developing World

Developing and implementing strong environmental governance systems in the developing world

### Global Sustainability Field Study: Cuba

A field course focused on sustainable energy and agriculture in Cuba.

### International and Comparative Environmental Law

An introduction to comparative law and methodology, and substantive and procedure laws related to environmental public interest litigation

### International Environmental Law and Policy

The structure and basic principles of international environmental law and policy

### Transnational Environmental Law Practicum

Classroom instruction combined with environmental legal project implementation for partner organizations in China, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Balancing Perspectives in Coastal Resource Management: Maine Field Study

The common law and statutory underpinnings of coastal resource ownership and use

### Biodiversity Protection

An examination of biodiversity, the growing threats to it, and U.S. and international laws to combat those threats

### Ecology

A field course on an integrative science that can provide insight into many contemporary environmental problems

### Environmental Advocacy Clinic

Law students, supervised by an experienced lawyer, represent clients to promote access to justice on important environmental and natural resources issues

### Land Conservation Law

The legal issues around donation of conservation easements and private/public partnerships for land conservation

### Natural Resources Law

The statutes and regulations governing the management of the federal lands and their resources

### Ocean and Coastal Law

The natural components of estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystems and some of the conservation issues confronting them

### Protected Public Lands and Tribal Rights: Utah Field Study

A Utah-based study of federal laws governing public lands, tribal treaty rights, and other legally protected tribal interests in federal lands

### Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study

Montana provides the venue for a comparative study of the competing legal mandates and diverse philosophies of federal land management

### Water Quality

The Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Ocean Dumping Act

### Water Resources Law

The allocation of water among competing claimants—for consumptive uses, waste disposal, recreation, and other purposes

## SUSTAINABILITY AND BUSINESS

### Environmental Business Transactions

Liability, diligence, and drafting issues in complex environmental business transactions

### Environmental Economics and Markets

How market-based tools to protect the environment work, their basic assumptions, and the challenges they face during implementation

### Environmental Governance and the Private Sector

How environmental laws and policies interact with business and private sector behavior in adopting environmentally friendly policies

### Fundamentals of ESG

How environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors are increasingly influencing private governance due to pressure from consumers, investors, and regulators

### Green Finance

The financing of investment in all financial sectors that integrate environmental, social, and governance criteria into investment decisions

### Sustainable Social Enterprise

How social enterprises, such as cooperatives and B Corps, pursue the triple bottom line of sustainable development goals

## SKILLS

### Advanced Environmental Legal Research

The most useful, efficient strategies and resources for environmental law research

### Environmental Dispute Resolution

Alternative dispute resolution processes for resolving complex, multiparty environmental disputes

### Environmental Research and Writing

Public policy writing and research, including instruction in social science qualitative research methods such as case studies and interviews

### Policy Design

Examines the formulation and implementation of public policy to inform the design of new or modified policies and analysis of existing policies

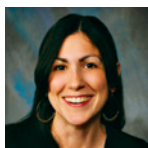
### Quantitative Analysis

The public policy applications of social science quantitative techniques to help students become effective consumers, producers, and critics of evidence supporting policy design and implementation

# Environmental Faculty and Teaching Staff

**Laurie Beyranevand JD'03**  
**Professor of Law; Director, Center for  
Agriculture and Food Systems**  
JD, Vermont Law School;  
BA, Rutgers College

COURSES:  
Administrative Law; Food Regulation and Policy



**Genevieve Byrne**  
**Assistant Professor of Law; Staff  
Attorney, Farm and Energy Initiative**  
JD, Lewis and Clark College of Law;  
BA, Vassar College

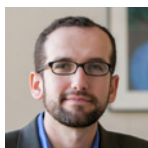
COURSES:  
Energy Law and Policy



**Jenny Carter JD'86**  
**Assistant Professor of Law; Staff  
Attorney, Energy Clinic**  
JD, MSEL, Vermont Law School; BA,  
Rollins College



**Christophe Courchesne**  
**Assistant Professor of Law; Senior  
Attorney, Environmental Advocacy Clinic**  
JD, Harvard Law School



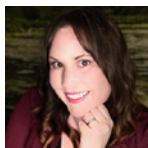
**David Firestone**  
**Professor of Law**  
JD, Harvard University; BS, Wayne State  
University

COURSES:  
Environmental Law



**Laura Fox JD'13**  
**Visiting Professor; Director, Farmed  
Animal Advocacy Clinic; Douglas M.  
Costle Chair in Environmental Law**  
JD, Vermont Law School

COURSES:  
Climate, Extinction, and Adaptation



**Michael Harris MSL'92**  
**Associate Professor of Law; Director,  
Environmental Advocacy Clinic; Interim  
Director, Environmental Justice Clinic**  
JD, Boalt Hall School of Law, University of  
California, Berkeley; MSL, Vermont Law  
School; BA, Pitzer College

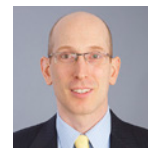


**Hillary Hoffmann**  
**Professor of Law**  
JD, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University  
of Utah; BA Middlebury College



**Mark James LLM'16**  
**Visiting Assistant Professor of Law;  
Senior Energy Fellow, Institute for  
Energy and the Environment**  
LLM in Energy Law, Vermont Law School;  
JD, University of Ottawa

COURSES:  
Energy Law and Policy; Oil and Gas Development and the  
Environment



**Kevin Jones**  
**Professor of Energy Law and Policy;  
Director, Institute for Energy and the  
Environment**  
PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's  
Lally School of Management and  
Technology; Masters, LBJ School of Public  
Affairs, University of Texas at Austin; BS, University of  
Vermont

COURSES:  
Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment;  
Environmental Economics and Markets; Global  
Sustainability Field Study: Cuba; Sustainable Energy Project  
Finance and Development



**Siu Tip Lam**  
**Associate Professor of Law; Director,  
U.S.-Asia Partnerships for  
Environmental Law**  
JD, Northeastern University School of Law;  
AB, Harvard University

COURSES:  
Environmental Issues in Business Transactions;  
Transnational Environmental Law Practicum



**Yanmei Lin**  
**Associate Professor Of Law; Associate  
Director, U.S.-Asia Partnerships for  
Environmental Law**  
LLM, New York University; Master of Law,  
Fudan University; BA, Fudan University

COURSES:  
International and Comparative Environmental Law; LLM  
Graduate Seminar; Transnational Environmental Law  
Practicum



**Reed Elizabeth Loder**  
**Professor of Law**  
PhD, Boston University; JD, University of  
Connecticut; AB, MA, Boston University

COURSES:  
Environmental Ethics





**Marc Mihalý**

**Professor of Law Emeritus**

JD, University of California—Berkeley; BA, Harvard University

**COURSES:**

Green Finance



**Christine Ryan**

**Associate Professor of Law; Environmental Law Librarian**

MA, Dartmouth College; MS in library science, Simmons College; BA, University of Connecticut

**COURSES:**

Advanced Environmental Legal Research



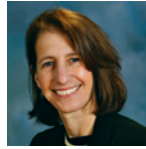
**Janet E. Milne**

**Professor of Law; Director, Environmental Tax Policy Institute**

JD, Georgetown University Law Center; BA, Williams College

**COURSES:**

Climate Change: The Power of Taxes; Land Use Regulation



**Emily Spiegel**

**Professor of Law; Faculty Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems**

JD, Duke University; BS, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service



**Jeannie Oliver LLM'14**

**Professor of Law; Staff Attorney, Energy Clinic**

LLM in American Legal Studies, LLM in Environmental Law, Vermont Law School; LLB, University of Auckland



**Benjamin Varadi**

**Assistant Professor of Law; Senior Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems**

JD, Tulane University Law School; BA, Burlington College

**COURSES:**

Cannabis Law, Law and Policy of Local Food, Local Farm and Food Law in Practice



**Patrick A. Parenteau**

**Professor of Law Emeritus; Senior Fellow for Climate Policy, Environmental Law Center; Founding Director, Environmental Advocacy Clinic**

JD, Creighton University; LLM, Environmental Law, George Washington University; BS, Regis College



**Pamela Vesilind JD'08**

**Assistant Professor of Law**

LLM in Agricultural and Food Law, University of Arkansas School of Law; JD, Vermont Law School; BA, Guilford College

**COURSES:**

Law of Animals in Agriculture



**Jennifer Rushlow**

**Dean, Vermont School for the Environment; Faculty Director, Environmental Law Center; Professor of Law**

JD, Northeastern University School of Law; Master's in Public Health, Tufts University School of Medicine; BA, Oberlin College

**COURSES:**

Climate Change Law



**Delcianna Winders**

**Associate Professor of Law; Director, Animal Law and Policy Institute**

JD, New York University School of Law; BA, University of California at Santa Cruz

**COURSES:**

Animals and the Law; Natural Resources Law



# Adjunct, Online, and Summer Faculty

## **Chris Adamo JD'04**

**The Farm Bill**  
Vice President for Federal and Industry Affairs, Danone North America

**Abigail Andre**  
**LLM Graduate Seminar**  
Environmental litigator

**Don Baur**  
**Ocean and Coastal Law**  
Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP

**Paul Beard**  
**Land Use Regulation**  
Land Use and Environmental Partner, FisherBroyles LLP

**Cydney Bence JD'20/LLM'22**  
**Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy**  
LLM Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**Lindsay Leoni Bourgoine MELP'15**  
**Maine Field Study**  
Vice President of Programs, Protect Our Winters

**Arturo Brandt LLM'04**  
**Global Energy Law and Policy**  
Senior Broker, Latin American Markets, Tradition Green

**Jennifer Byrne MELP'19**  
**Conservation Agriculture Policy**  
Manager, White River Natural Resources Conservation District

**James Cater**  
**Three Essentials of the Electric Grid: Business**  
Independent Consultant

**Chelsea L.M. Colwyn MELP'11**  
**Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study, Water Resources Law**  
Staff Attorney, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

**Jonathan Coppess**  
**The Farm Bill**  
Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Policy, University of Illinois

**Sean Donahue**  
**Environmental Appeals**  
Partner, Donahue, Goldberg, & Littleton

**Alana Degarmo**  
**Communications, Advocacy and Leadership**  
Adjunct Professor, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**Tim Eichenberg**  
**Ocean and Coastal Law**  
Former Chief Counsel, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

**Iris Figueroa**  
**Farmworkers and the Law**  
Director, Economic and Environmental Justice, Farmworker Justice

**Victor Flatt**  
**Environment and the Private Sector**  
Distinguished Scholar of Carbon Markets, Global Energy Management Institute, University of Houston Law Center

**Andrea "Danny" Folds JD'18**  
**Global Food Security and Social Justice**  
Legislative Counsel, Earthjustice

**Joseph Halso**  
**Three Essentials of the Electric Grid**  
Staff Attorney, Sierra Club

**Andrew Hanson**  
**Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development**  
Senior Counsel, Environmental and Energy Regulatory Group, Perkins Coie LLP

**Deborah L. Harris**  
**Environmental Crimes**  
Chief, Environmental Crimes Section, U.S. Department of Justice

**Barry Hill**  
**Environmental Justice**  
Visiting Scholar, Environmental Law Institute

**Jessica Jay JD'97**  
**Land Conservation Law**  
Founding Partner, Conservation Law, P.C.

**Ross Jones JD/MSEL'00**  
**Climate Change Adaptation in Human Systems; Climate Change and the Law; Natural Resources Law; Environmental Law**  
Senior Lecturer, Dartmouth College

**Donald M. Kreis**  
**Energy Efficiency Policy, Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment**  
Consumer Advocate, New Hampshire Office of the Consumer Advocate

**Tom Lautzenheiser**  
**Ecology**  
Central/Western Regional Scientist, Massachusetts Audubon Society

**Benjamin Leoni JD/MELP'11**  
**Natural Resources Law, Maine Field Study**  
Attorney-Advisor, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor

**Carolina Maciel**  
**International Environmental Law and Policy**  
Animal and trade law attorney

**Andrew Marchev JD'18**  
**Introduction to the Law and Policy of Food and Agriculture**  
Attorney, Three Rivers Law, PLLC

**Francine Miller LLM'17**  
**I.P. and the Food System**  
Senior Legal Attorney, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**Sean Nolon**  
**Environmental Dispute Resolution**  
ADR Counsel, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

**Brunilda Pali**  
**Environmental Restorative Justice**  
Postdoctoral researcher, KU Leuven

**Robert Percival**  
**Environmental Governance in the Developing World**  
Director of the Environmental Law Program, Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law, University of Maryland

**Walter Poleman**  
**Ecology**  
Senior Lecturer, Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Vermont

**Mark Pollins**  
**Water Quality**  
Visiting Scholar, George Washington University, SEAS Environment and Energy Management Institute

**Brian Potts JD'04**  
**Renewable Energy Project Finance and Development**  
Partner, Environmental and Energy Regulatory Group, Perkins Coie LLP

**Heather D. Rally**  
**Animal Welfare Law**  
Supervising Veterinarian, Captive Animal Law Enforcement, PETA Foundation

**Kesha Ram Hinsdale**  
**Environmental Justice**  
Vermont State Senator

**Chris Root**  
**Three Essentials of the Electric Grid**  
Chief Operating Officer, Vermont Electric Power Company

**Jonathan Rosenbloom**  
**Land Use and Racial Justice**  
Visiting Professor of Law, Albany Law School

**Melissa Scanlan**  
**Sustainable Social Enterprise**  
Professor, Lynde B. Uihlein Endowed Chair and Director, Center for Water Policy, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences

**Patrice Simms**  
**Toxic Exposure and Health**  
Vice President of Litigation for Healthy Communities, Earthjustice

**Holly Geneva Stout LLM'14**  
**Climate Change Mitigation, Natural Resources Law**  
Attorney, California Department of Water Resources, California Water Commission

**Kerriann Stout**  
**Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership, Legislation and Regulation Survey**  
Founder and CEO, Vinco

**Vickie Sutton**  
**Native Americans and the Law**  
Associate Dean for Digital Learning and Graduate Education, Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor, Texas Tech School of Law

**David Takacs**  
**Biodiversity Protection**  
Professor of Law, University of California Hastings College of the Law

**Kathleen Vello LLM'18**  
**Administrative Law**  
Environmental and energy attorney

**Madhavi Venkatesan MELP'16**  
**Environmental Economics and Markets**  
Academic economist and environmental activist

**James Vinch**  
**Environmental Law**  
Senior Attorney, US Environmental Protection Agency

**Derek Walker**  
**International Climate Change Law**  
Vice President for the U.S. Region, Environmental Defense Fund

**Lisa Wedding**  
**Science for Environmental Law**  
Adjunct Professor, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**Samantha Williams JD'05**  
**Three Essentials of the Electric Grid**  
Midwest Director, Climate and Clean Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

**David A. Wirth**  
**International Trade and the Environment**  
Professor of Law, Boston College Law School

**Margaret York JD'15**  
**Legal and Policy Writing, Undercover Investigations of Animal Operations**  
Assistant Professor of Law, Staff Attorney, South Royalton Legal Clinic, Vermont Law and Graduate School

**Vanessa Zboreak**  
**Federal Regulation of Food and Agriculture**  
Professor of the Practice, Wake Forest University School of Law

**Xiaoyu Zhang LLM'17**  
**Transnational Environmental Law Practicum**  
Director of Partnerships, Vermont Law and Graduate School





IDEALISTS.  
REALISTS.  
CATALYSTS  
FOR CHANGE.



**Vermont Law and Graduate School**

164 Chelsea Street, PO Box 96  
South Royalton, VT 05068

**VERMONTLAW.EDU**