

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

VL
VERMONT
LAW SCHOOL

2020
2021

FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

Environmental challenges have never been more pressing or more complex. But at Vermont Law 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, and the sustainable food movement. 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.

“VLS ALLOWS YOU TO BE A STUDENT, COMMUNITY MEMBER, ACTIVIST, ADVOCATE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE JUST A STUDENT. YOU CAN DO OTHER THINGS YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT. YOU LEAVE HERE WITH MORE THAN ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE TO HAVE THE IMPACT YOU WANT TO HAVE IN WHATEVER SPHERE OF LAW YOU PURSUE.”

—JAMESON DAVIS JD'20/MELP'19



Environmental Justice Law Society students
in the Hothouse Earth podcast studio

ENVIRONMENTAL 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, concentration programs, and the renowned Summer Session program. These programs range from the Master of Environmental Law and Policy, which VLS has awarded to over 2,500 students since the program's inception in 1978, to the LLM in Food and Agriculture Law, which welcomed the first students in fall 2015. The master's degrees may be completed in as little as one year or up to five years. Students have the choice and flexibility to complete a master's or LLM degree on campus or online, or a hybrid of both.

MASTER'S DEGREES

- The [Master of Environmental Law and Policy](#) (MELP) program is designed for students who want to develop expertise in environmental law and policy while obtaining interdisciplinary training in science, economics, and public advocacy.
- The [Master of Energy Regulation and Law](#) (MERL) program responds to opportunities presented by the rapid growth of the clean energy sector, as well as the environmental challenges associated with traditional energy production and transmission, 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.

LLM DEGREES

- The [LLM in Environmental Law](#) offers post-JD 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 those with a JD degree to specialize in the law of clean energy, regulation, markets, and the environment.
- The [LLM in Food and Agriculture Law](#) allows post-JD students to take advantage of our extensive food and agricultural law curriculum and develop a deep specialty in an important area of environmental law.

JOINT DEGREES

Vermont Law School students may combine the JD with a master's or LLM degree to develop expertise in environmental, energy, or food and agricultural law.

- [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](#)



Jerry Thomas JD/MELP'21 (right) and Cameron Humphrey of Yale's School of Forestry & the Environment, visit Alabama for the Environmental Justice Clinic

"VLS IS A SMALL SCHOOL, SO YOU HAVE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH PROFESSORS AND CLINIC DIRECTORS, WHO WANT TO HELP YOU SUCCEED AT SOMETHING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN, AND THEY PROVIDE A LOT OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR THAT."

—KORINA MATYAS, MELP'19

DUAL DEGREE PROGRAMS



1

Vermont Law School students can combine a JD or master's degree with degrees from other institutions.

- 1 [JD/Master of Environmental Management](#) with the **Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies**



2

- 2 [JD/Master of Philosophy](#) with the Department of Land Economy at the **University of Cambridge**



3

- 3 [JD, LLM, or Master's/ Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA](#) with the **University of Vermont** School of Business Administration



4

- 4 [MELP/Master of Science in Natural Resources](#) with the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the **University of Vermont**



5

- 5 MELP/MBA with the Tuck School of Business at **Dartmouth College**

SUMMERS-ONLY MASTER'S PROGRAM

JD students from any other law school may earn a master's degree from Vermont Law School with one summer of classes, one summer externship, and at least one online course. Special arrangements with the law schools at Boston College, Elon University, Northeastern University, Quinnipiac University, the University of South Carolina, and the University of South Dakota allow those students to transfer additional JD credits to the master's degree and earn the degree at a lower cost.

CONCENTRATIONS

Concentrations are a tangible indication that students have mastered a specific subject area. The environmental program at Vermont Law School offers the following concentrations:

- [Concentration in Climate Law](#)
- [Concentration in Energy Law](#)
- [Concentration in Food and Agriculture Law](#)
- [Concentration in Land Use Law](#)
- [Concentration in Water Law](#)

SUMMER SESSION

Vermont Law School's [Summer Session](#) is nationally recognized for its impressive range of courses taught by VLS 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 VLS JD, LLM, and master's students; JD students from other law schools; nonlaw graduate students; teachers; citizen advocates; practicing attorneys; planners; and state and federal agency personnel. Summer Session also includes the popular Hot Topics in Environmental Law lecture series.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Nondegree educational opportunities are available through the VLS Summer Session. Practicing attorneys can take summer courses or attend our summer lecture series for 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.



VERMONT JOURNAL
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 <http://vjel.vermontlaw.edu/>.

"AS A SECOND-CAREER LAW STUDENT, I KNEW BEFORE COMING TO VLS WHAT I WOULD DO WITH A LAW DEGREE. I WOULD WORK RELENTLESSLY TO GET JUSTICE FOR THOSE WHOSE VOICES ARE SYSTEMICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM—NON-HUMAN AND HUMAN ALIKE. OUR SYSTEM CAN WORK FOR EVERYONE—including the future generations of all life—it just takes advocates willing to fight vigorously to make that happen."

—ANDREW CLIBURN JD'21



Whitney Shields MFALP'17 (left) and Sophia Kruszewski JD'13

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 agricultural law from a variety of perspectives and experiences. CAFS is also a center for research and advocacy. Student clinicians and research assistants work with local, regional, national, and international partners to develop legal tools and policy recommendations geared toward addressing food systems challenges related to the environment, public health, the economy, food security, and animal welfare. The Center benefits from an experienced legal and advocacy team, including [Laurie Beyranevand JD'03](#), Director; [Sophia Kruszewski JD'13](#), Clinic Director and Assistant Professor; [Emily Spiegel](#), Assistant Professor; [Lihlani Nelson](#), Associate Director and Research Fellow; [Claire Child MELP'16](#), Assistant Director and Research Fellow; [Francine Miller LLM'18](#), Senior Legal Fellow; [Whitney Shields MFALP'17](#), Clinical Teaching Fellow; [Cydney Bence JD'20](#), LLM Fellow; and [Molly McDonough](#), Environmental Communications Specialist.



CENTER INITIATIVES

- Train students, in one of the first food and agriculture law clinics in the nation, to develop law and policy solutions that support the food system
- Assist farmers and food producers with new federal food safety regulations for produce farmers through the Extension Legal Services Initiative
- Support the local food economy by connecting small-scale farms and food entrepreneurs with free legal assistance through the Vermont Legal Food Hub
- Provide legal resources and tools for farmers regarding land access, including leasing, purchasing, and transferring land, through the Farmland Access Legal Toolkit
- Reduce food waste and address food insecurity through the National Gleaning Project, which supports and raises the visibility of gleaning organizations
- Elevate local food law and policy innovations that increase access to healthy food through the Healthy Food Policy Project
- Enable consumers and food producers and entrepreneurs to understand the law of the food label through the Labels Unwrapped project
- Advocate for broad, transformative food law and policy change through the Blueprint for a National Food Strategy Project

"I FOUND VLS'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

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. The IEE's faculty includes [Kevin Jones, PhD](#), the Institute's Director and Professor; [Jeannie Oliver LLM'15](#), Assistant Professor and Staff Attorney for the Energy Clinic; and [Tade Oyewunmi, LL.D.](#), Assistant Professor and Senior Energy Research Scholar. The Institute is also staffed by a program coordinator, two staff attorneys, a student LLM fellow, and approximately twenty JD, LLM, and master's students who serve as research associates and clinicians.



Environmental Advocacy Clinic faculty and staff

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. In 2019, the clinic partnered with the National Wildlife Federation and now represents the Federation on high impact legal and other matters to protect the resources that wildlife and people rely on. A faculty of experienced environmental attorneys and professionals works closely with the student teams on each case or project, including [Jim Murphy LLM'06](#), Director; [Ken Rumelt LLM'12](#), Senior Attorney; [Patrick Parenteau](#), Senior Counsel; [Rachel Stevens LLM'16](#), Staff Attorney; [Mason Overstreet LLM'19](#), Staff Attorney; and [Monica Litzelman MELP'12](#), Litigation Paralegal. The students have worked on an impressive array of matters in various federal and state courts, including the Vermont and United States Supreme Courts.

CLINIC PROJECTS

- Partnering with Earthjustice to advocate for an environmental justice community in Newark, New Jersey, surrounded by polluting facilities
- Opposing Trump Administration rollbacks of key environmental laws
- Protecting air quality in Springfield, Massachusetts by helping community members stop a proposed biomass facility
- Participating in a relicensing procedure for a nuclear power facility in Miami to ensure climate change and water resources concerns are addressed during the process
- Litigating a Clean Water Act enforcement case
- Challenging illegal pesticide spraying in a Vermont community

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 such as *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

"VLS 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

"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



Fall 2019 Environmental Justice Clinic students

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLINIC

Founded in 2019, VLS’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. [Marianne Engelman-Lado](#), an environmental justice lawyer and advocate with civil rights experience from her work at Yale, Earthjustice, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, and the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., directs the clinic.

CLINIC PROJECTS

- Representing five communities across the country living in the shadow of polluting facilities in successful litigation against EPA, challenging its unreasonable delay in responding to their civil rights complaints about the placement of facilities in communities of color
- Working with two Alabama communities of color fighting the harmful impacts of landfills that have disrupted their way of life
- Partnering with community-based groups across Vermont and other states to strengthen policies to achieve environmental justice and to ensure that states take the cumulative effects of multiple sources of pollution into consideration in permitting
- Working with environmental justice activists to draft stronger federal and state protections through legislation at federal and state levels
- Challenging the disproportionate impacts of industrial animal production on communities of color and low-income communities

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental law must serve all communities. Vermont Law School strives to arm our students with the full range of tools they might need to assist a community in overcoming an environmental challenge.

CLIMATE JUSTICE PRACTICUM

The Climate Justice Practicum is an innovative collaboration between Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Public Health. In the course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied projects that address issues of climate justice. Each team works with a partner organization – a state agency, community organization, or other non-governmental organization. The course involves a weekly seminar as well as fieldwork that affords the opportunity to have a real world impact on pressing issues. Projects focus on the ways in which industry efforts to expand the use of biogas reinforce industrial models of agriculture, analysis of transportation justice issues in rural areas, and work on how to integrate questions of equity into state climate action plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COURSES

- Environmental Crimes
- Environmental Justice
- Global Food Security
- Native Americans and the Law
- Race and the Law Seminar

“IN THE EJ CLINIC AND THE CLIMATE JUSTICE PRACTICUM, WE TEACH OUR STUDENTS THAT ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MUST SERVE COMMUNITIES AND ALIGN WITH JUSTICE. WE STRIVE TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS AND TOOLS THAT LAWYERS NEED TO ASSIST COMMUNITIES IN ACHIEVING THEIR OWN VISION FOR THEIR FUTURE. OUR STUDENTS WORK TO ADVANCE THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT AND, AT THE SAME TIME, GAIN EXPERIENCE WORKING ON LAW AND POLICY ISSUES AT THE NEXUS OF ENVIRONMENT, RACE, AND POVERTY.”

—MARIANNE ENGELMAN LADO, Director, Environmental Justice Clinic

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, which is supported by a number of public and private organizations, 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. 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 in an effort to respond to the environmental governance needs of the region. [Siu Tip Lam](#), a former assistant attorney general in the Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, is the Director. The program's staff includes Associate Director Professor [Yanmei Lin](#), along with a program coordinator, a project leader in Myanmar, a student fellow, and VLS faculty advisor [Jack Tuholske](#).



PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- Provide environmental governance trainings in Myanmar, to give stakeholders a range of legal and policy tools that can be adopted to provide broad scale protection of the country's key biodiversity areas
- An Environmental Mission Scholars program that provides 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
- Provide opportunities for VLS students to work on cutting-edge research projects relating to environmental issues in China and throughout Southeast Asia
- Provide opportunities for regional dialogues among stakeholders to share experiences and lessons learned in developing an effective environmental governance system in light of local conditions



LAW LABORATORY FOR INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Law Laboratory for International Sustainable Development researches innovative law and policy instruments to promote international sustainable development. The Lab seeks to promote an integrated approach to economic law, environmental law, and development law under the umbrella of sustainable development law and policy. The Lab works globally with research institutes, NGOs, and international development agencies, under the direction of **Sheng Sun MELP'18**.

LAB RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- The Research Initiative on International Law and Policy Collaboration for Sustainability is a consortium of researchers, academic institutions, and policy practitioners working to enhance international collaboration to promote sustainability. In 2020, the Law Lab, the World Resources Institute, and the University of International Business and Economics organized a discussion of cross-agency coordination mechanisms to regulate trade to protect the global forest ecosystem.
- Partnerships with the Law School at China Central University of Finance and Economics, the Institute of Ecology and Sustainable Development at Shanghai Academy of Social Science, and China Agricultural University will bring diversified research skills and expertise to the Law Lab, especially on green finance, rural development, and international economics.
- Professor Ping Wu from East China University of Technology, a PEL and Law Lab visiting scholar in 2019–20, studies ecological compensation law and policy benefiting farmers and rural communities.
- The Law Lab hosts visiting scholar Professor Mingming Liu from China Agricultural University in 2020–21. Professor Liu is a leading scholar on China's climate law and policy and the country's experimental carbon trading scheme.

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. [Janet E. Milne](#), the Institute's director, has devoted her career to matters involving taxation, the legislative process, and the environment. She has taught environmental tax policy at VLS since 1994.

INSTITUTE INITIATIVES

- Active participant in the Global Conferences on Environmental Taxation; co-chair of the 21st Global Conference in September 2020, a global virtual 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 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
- 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
- Invaluable research by VLS students throughout these and other projects

HOTHOUSE EARTH PODCAST

Vermont Law School's podcast, *Hothouse Earth*, debuted in 2019. Hosts [Mason Overstreet LLM'19](#), assistant professor and staff attorney at the Environmental Advocacy Clinic, and [Jeannie Oliver LLM'14](#), assistant professor and staff attorney at the Energy Clinic, 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 included "Climate Migration—Not If, But When," "On the Streets and In the Courts: The Youth Climate Movement," and "Environmental Justice." Subscribe at hothouseearthpodcast.com.



FIELD STUDY CLASSES

Vermont Law School 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 Chile. 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

- Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law
- Ecology
- Environmental Governance in the Developing World: Southeast Asia Field Study
- Forest Law and Policy
- Global Sustainability Field Study: Havana, Cuba
- International Climate Change: COP in Santiago, Chile
- Protected Public Lands and Tribal Rights: Utah Field Study
- Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study



Global Sustainability Field Study students at the University of Havana



Old Chancellor Day Hall, McGill University Faculty of Law

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Environmental issues are global issues. The unique opportunities at Vermont Law School prepare our graduates to be leaders in [international environmental law and policy](#). A curriculum of over one dozen international environmental courses is further 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

- Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law
- International Environmental Law and Policy
- Global Energy Law and Policy
- International Law of Food
- Global Food Security
- International Trade and the Environment
- International Climate Change

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING THROUGH COURSES, EXTERNSHIPS, AND CLINICS

- In the International Climate Change course, students serve on VLS's observer delegation, attending the Conference of the Parties (COP) and supporting a Least Developed Country (LDC) state party delegation to engage in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations through a service-learning partnership
- In JD Semesters in Practice and Masters Externships, 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

EDUCATION ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

- International Dual Degree with University of Cergy-Pontoise in Paris: Dual JD/M1 and M2 Degrees, with eligibility to sit for the bar exams in US and France
- International Dual Degree with University of Cambridge: Dual JD/MPhil in Environmental Policy
- Semester exchanges at University of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris; McGill University Faculty of Law, Montreal; University of Paris 1 (Panthéon-Sorbonne); and University of Trento (Italy)

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTERNSHIPS

An integral part of our environmental degree programs is gaining real-world experience through externships. Our master's, LLM, and joint degree students explore environmental law, science, 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

- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Blue Ocean Law
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for International Environmental Law
- City of New Haven, CT, Food Systems and Policy Division
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Earthjustice
- Earthworks
- Hawaiian Electric
- Massachusetts Land Court
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Nevada Attorney General, Natural Resources Section
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust
- Sierra Club
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Solicitor
- U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Private law firms in multiple states with environmental practices

"NOT ONLY DOES THE WORK I DO DAILY [AT MY EARTHJUSTICE EXTERNSHIP] ALIGN WITH WHAT I WANT TO DO AS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY ONE DAY, BUT THE ORGANIZATION, AND THEIR WORK, PROMOTES AND ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, WHICH IS WHY I CAME TO LAW SCHOOL. I WANT TO FIGHT FOR A MORE UNDERSTANDING AND EQUITABLE NATION THAT ADDRESSES CHALLENGES AND INEQUITIES ON THEIR FACE INSTEAD OF SHYING AWAY FROM CHANGE BECAUSE IT MAY BE THE EASIER THING TO DO."

—MARIANA MUÑOZ JD'21

THE CURRICULUM

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW +

The implementation of legislative policy through administrative agencies

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

How to communicate complex environmental issues to a general audience

ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL RESEARCH

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

AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The regulatory and incentive-based programs that affect our agricultural crops, and the environmental impacts of these programs

AIR POLLUTION LAW AND POLICY

A detailed reading of the Clean Air Act and an exploration of the major statutory provisions

ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ☉

The local, state, and federal laws and policies that govern the transition to renewable energy sources

ANIMALS AND THE LAW

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

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION LAW AND POLICY

Clean transportation policy options and how electric vehicles can support a cleaner, smarter electricity grid

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 gases 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 PRACTICUM

Student teams and partner organizations carry out applied projects that address issues of climate justice

COMMUNICATIONS, ADVOCACY, AND LEADERSHIP +

The skills to advocate, counsel, investigate, persuade, research, and educate

COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW RESEARCH SEMINAR

A seminar for students interested in researching the environmental law systems of other countries

COMPARATIVE U.S.-CHINA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The environmental challenges for China's 1.3 billion people and efforts to address them through law and regulation

CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE POLICY

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

ECOLOGY

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

END USE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

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

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

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

ENVIRONMENTAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION +

Alternative dispute resolution processes for resolving complex, multiparty environmental disputes

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND MARKETS +

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE

The theory and practice of enforcement of the federal pollution control laws

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW +

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

THE FARM BILL

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

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 IMPACT LITIGATION

The potential and limitations of litigation against the industrial agriculture system

FOOD REGULATION AND POLICY

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

FOREST POLICY AND LAW

The policy and legal issues affecting forests and forest management

GLOBAL ENERGY LAW AND POLICY

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

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

The legal landscape of global hunger

GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY FIELD STUDY: CUBA

A field course focused on sustainable energy and agriculture in Cuba

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

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

The structure and basic principles of international environmental law and policy

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

LAND CONSERVATION LAW

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

LAND USE REGULATION

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



An Energy Clinic team visits a net zero energy model home

LAND TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCE

How land is divided and transferred, including an introduction to the title system, title insurance, and land contracts

LAW AND POLICY OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

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

NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE LAW

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

NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

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

NEGOTIATING ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

The skills to effectively negotiate and develop mutual gains solutions in the environmental context

NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

A new American environmentalism is needed and with it new environmental policies and laws

OCEAN AND COASTAL LAW

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

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

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

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

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

SCIENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

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

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The range of state and local government authority, as well the constitutional, statutory, and practical limitations on its exercise

THREE ESSENTIALS OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

Fundamental legal, engineering, and business knowledge for energy professionals

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

+ Available online and on campus

⦿ Available online only

ENVIRONMENTAL FACULTY AND TEACHING STAFF

The environmental faculty members at Vermont Law School are teachers who know the law, work at their craft, and care about their students; scholars who challenge conventional wisdom and push the envelope of knowledge; and professionals who respect environmental values, enjoy what they do, and devote their talents to making the world a better place.

Laurie Beyranevand '03 PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

JD, Vermont Law School; BA, Rutgers College. Before joining the faculty at VLS, she was a staff attorney with the Disability Law Project of Vermont Legal Aid, Inc. She has served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Marie E. Lihotz, PJFP, in New Jersey and in the Office of the Vermont Attorney General, Environmental Unit. She was appointed to serve on the Food and Drug Law Institute's Academic Programs Committee for a three year term. She teaches 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. She has worked as an attorney at Byrne Law, PC, and at EcoLaw. She was a Natural Resources Law Clerk at the Vermont Legislative Council, a Consultant Sustainability Analyst for the Sustainability Roundtable, Inc., and a legislative intern at American Farmland Trust.



Jenny Carter '87 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; STAFF ATTORNEY, ENERGY CLINIC

JD, MSEL, Vermont Law School; BA, Rollins College. She is the co-founder and general counsel for American Indoor Air Quality Assessment Services, and the co-founder and general counsel of Calypso Continuing Education, a multi-media online professional education C-Corp. She was the co-owner and director of regulatory compliance for Allstate Home Inspection and Household Environmental Testing.



John D. Echeverria PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, Yale University; MSF, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; BA, Yale College. He was the executive director of the Georgetown Environmental Law and Policy Institute at Georgetown University Law Center from 1997–2009. He has produced several books and numerous articles on the private property rights issue, land use management, and natural resource management. He organized the annual conference on Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations for twenty years. He teaches Water Resources Law and the LLM Graduate Seminar.



Marianne Engelman-Lado ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CLINIC

JD, University of California at Berkeley; MA, Princeton University; BA, Cornell University. Professor Engelman-Lado is the Douglas Costle Chair in Environmental Law at VLS for 2019–20. She is on the faculty of Yale's School of Public Health and School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. She has been Chair of the Environmental Health Practice Group at Earthjustice and she served for 10 years as General Counsel at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, a non-profit civil rights law firm.



David Firestone PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, Harvard University; BS, Wayne State University. Former attorney, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; visiting fellow in the faculty of laws, King's College, England; and seminar leader for the U.S. Information Agency in Eastern Europe, Austria, and Micronesia. The fifth edition of his book *Environmental Law for Non-Lawyers* was published in 2014. He teaches Environmental Law.



Hillary Hoffmann PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, S.J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah; BA Middlebury College. She serves on the Sierra Club Litigation Committee, the Native American Rights Fund Supreme Court Working Group, and she has written numerous articles, blog posts, and general commentary on energy, tribal land and resource rights, and climate adaptation in natural resources law and policy. She is a visitor at Indiana University School of Law in the fall semester. She teaches Native Americans and the Law, Natural Resources Law, and Protected Public Lands and Tribal Rights: Utah Field Study.



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; Master's, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin; BS, University of Vermont. Dr. Jones has been the Director of Power Market Policy for the Long Island Power Authority and the Director of Energy Policy for the City of New York. His book *The Electric Battery* was published in 2017. He teaches Energy Regulation, Markets, and the Environment; Environmental Economics and Markets; and Global Sustainability Field Study: Cuba.



Sophia Kruszewski '13 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CLINIC

JD, Vermont Law School; BS, University of Michigan. At the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, she focused on the Food Safety Modernization Act, Farm Bill, and Clean Water Act. She has worked for the Center for Food Safety and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and interned with the Honorable Judge Paul L. Friedman of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia.



SIU TIP LAM

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, U.S.-ASIA PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

JD, Northeastern University School of Law; AB, Harvard University. She was an assistant attorney general in the Environmental Protection Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, where she handled a variety of cases enforcing environmental laws and regulations. She worked as a litigation associate at the Boston law firm of Brown, Rudnick, Freed & Gesmer.



MARK LATHAM

PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, University of California—Berkeley; BSN, Illinois Wesleyan University. Prior to joining the VLS faculty, he was a partner and chair of the environmental practice group at Gardner, Carton, and Douglas (now Drinker, Biddle and Reath) in Chicago and Washington, D.C. He specializes in a wide range of environmental issues that arise in corporate and commercial real estate transactions and brownfields redevelopment. He teaches Environmental Issues in Business Transactions.



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. Ms. Lin was a program officer for the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative's China program for more than 3 years, managing and implementing projects in the areas of environmental law, open government information and civil society development in China. Prior to that, she was a lecturer and researcher for China Institute of Environment and Resources Protection in Minority Areas at the Central University for Nationalities. She teaches Comparative Environmental Law Research and Ecological Governance and Law in China.



REED ELIZABETH LODER

PROFESSOR OF LAW

PhD, Boston University; JD, University of Connecticut; AB, MA, Boston University. She clerked for the Honorable Thomas P. Smith of the United States District Court in Bridgeport, Connecticut. She then practiced law at the firm of Peckham, Lobel, Casey and Tye, in Boston, while teaching at Boston College Law School. Professor Loder joined the VLS faculty in 1989. Her article "Animal Dignity" appeared in *Animal Law* (Lewis and Clark, 2017). She teaches Animals and the Law.



THOMAS MCHENRY

PROFESSOR OF LAW; PRESIDENT AND DEAN

JD, New York University Law School; MSF, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies; BA, Yale College. He is a former partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Los Angeles, where he practiced general environmental law with an emphasis on air quality, climate change, hazardous waste, environmental diligence, land use, and energy issues. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable Lawrence K. Karlton, Chief United States District Judge of the Eastern District of California, in Sacramento. He teaches Forest Policy and Law and New Frontiers in Environmental Policies.



JANET E. MILNE

PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL TAX POLICY INSTITUTE

JD, Georgetown University Law Center; BA, Williams College. She has served as an attorney for the Washington Post, as an attorney with the Washington firm of Covington and Burling, and as Senator Lloyd Bentsen's staff member responsible for tax, international trade, and health care issues. She is the editor of *Environmental Taxation and the Law*. She teaches Climate Change: The Power of Taxes and Land Use Regulation.



JAMES MURPHY LLM'06

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CLINIC

LLM in Environmental Law, Vermont Law School; JD, Boston College Law School; BA, University of Vermont. He is senior counsel for the National Wildlife Federation's Climate and Energy Program, where he coordinates NWF's nationwide legal and policy advocacy on energy development and climate change related issues. Prior to joining NWF in 2003, he did work with the Conservation Law Foundation and was in private practice.



JEANNIE OLIVER LLM '14

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; STAFF ATTORNEY, ENERGY CLINIC

LLM in American Legal Studies, LLM in Environmental Law, Vermont Law School; LLB, University of Auckland. She served as a judge's clerk at the New Zealand Court of Appeal; as legal counsel for the New Zealand Commerce Commission; and in private practice in a corporate law firm in Auckland. Most recently, she was a staff attorney at the Vermont Department of Public Service where she focused on renewable energy facilities. She is the cohost of VLS's Hothouse Earth podcast.



MASON OVERSTREET LLM'19

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; STAFF ATTORNEY, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CLINIC

LLM, JD, MELP, Vermont Law School; BS, University of Alabama. Formerly an LLM Toxics Fellow with the EAC, he has clerked with the Vermont Attorney General Environmental Protection Division and served as a Fall Associate with Conservation Law Foundation and a Research Associate with the Earth Law Center. Prior to law school, he was the Conservation Director for Friends of the West Shore in Lake Tahoe, California. He is the cohost of VLS's Hothouse Earth podcast.



TADE OYEWUNMI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND SENIOR ENERGY RESEARCH SCHOLAR

LLM, Oil and Gas Law, University of Aberdeen; LL.D, University of Eastern Finland; BL, Nigeria Law School. Professor Oyewunmi came to VLS in 2019. Previously, he was a Research Fellow at Tulane University Law School. He has been a Senior Researcher in International and European Energy Law and Policy at the Centre for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law, at UEF, Finland, and Senior Counsel at Adepetun Caxton Martins Agbor & Segun in Nigeria. He teaches Energy Law and Policy and Oil and Gas Development and the Environment.



PATRICK A. PARENTEAU

PROFESSOR OF LAW; SPECIAL COUNSEL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CLINIC

JD, Creighton University; LLM, Environmental Law, George Washington University; BS, Regis College. Former commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation; general counsel for the New England Regional Office of U.S. EPA; vice president for conservation, National Wildlife Federation; environmental counsel with Perkins Coie in Portland, Oregon; and former director, Environmental Law Center at VLS. He spent the fall 2018 semester on a Fulbright Fellowship at University College Cork, Ireland. Professor Parenteau teaches Climate Change and the Law; Climate, Extinction, and Adaptation; and Water Quality.



SARAH REITER '13

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; FACULTY DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING

JD, Vermont Law School; MS, College of Charleston; BS, U.S. Naval Academy. A former meteorologist, Professor Reiter was a commissioned United States Air Force Officer. She has worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Stanford University's Center for Ocean Solutions, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. She holds an Honorary Research Associate position at the University of Oxford. She teaches Environmental Dispute Resolution, International Climate Change Law, and Ocean and Coastal Law.



JONATHAN ROSENBLOOM

PROFESSOR OF LAW; DIRECTOR OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

LLM, Economic Development, Sustainability, and Planning, Harvard Law School; JD, New York Law School; BArch, Rhode Island School of Design. Professor Rosenbloom was the Dwight D. Opperman Distinguished Professor of Law at Drake University Law School. He founded the Drake Law Fellowship in Sustainability and Local Ordinance Project. He co-directs the Sustainable Development Code, which includes the best sustainability practices in land use through an evaluative framework. He teaches State and Local Government.



KENNETH RUMELT LLM'12

PROFESSOR OF LAW; SENIOR ATTORNEY, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CLINIC

JD, St. Louis University; LLM, Vermont Law School; BA, University of Colorado. He has worked as a contract attorney with firms in St. Louis, Missouri and Denver, Colorado on toxic tort claims. Before law school, Mr. Rumelt spent two years as an intern with the EPA National Hazardous Waste and Superfund Ombudsman in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the VLS faculty, Professor Rumelt served as a clinic fellow with the EAC.



JENNIFER RUSHLOW

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; ASSOCIATE DEAN, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAM; DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

JD, Northeastern University School of Law; Master's in Public Health, Tufts University School of Medicine; BA, Oberlin College. Previously, she was a senior attorney for Conservation Law Foundation and Director of Farm & Food. Prior to joining CLF in 2011, she was an associate at Anderson & Kreiger LLP. She argued and won a major climate change case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (*Kain v. Department of Environmental Protection*) in 2016. She teaches Air Pollution Law and Policy.



CHRISTINE RYAN

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW; ENVIRONMENTAL LAW LIBRARIAN

MA, Dartmouth College; MS in library science, Simmons College; BA, University of Connecticut. She is an experienced legal research instructor. She has created and continues to expand the VLS Environmental Law Research Guide, which links to carefully selected Internet resources that support the practice of environmental law. She develops the environmental law collection of electronic resources and books for VLS, and provides information services to the VLS community. She published LibGuide, "Archived Environmental Information deleted from Federal Government Web Sites," in 2017. Professor Ryan teaches Advanced Environmental Legal Research.



MELISSA SCANLAN

PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, MS, University of California—Berkeley; BA, Catholic University of America. Prior to joining VLS, she was the University of Wisconsin Law School's Water Law and Policy Scholar. She received a competitive Equal Justice Works Fellowship and an Echoing Green Fellowship to found and direct Midwest Environmental Advocates. From 2013 to 2017, she was the Associate Dean for the Environmental Law Program and Director of the Environmental Law Center at Vermont Law School. She spent the spring 2019 semester on a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Alicante Law School in Spain. She is a visitor at Boston College Law School in 2020.



EMILY SPIEGEL

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW

JD, Duke University; BS, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Before joining the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems at Vermont Law School in 2017, she was a consultant and law fellow at the Duke University Environmental Law and Policy Clinic; a Development Law Service Intern at the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy; and an International Agricultural Development Specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service. She teaches Introduction to Agriculture and Food Law and Policy.



RACHEL STEVENS LLM'16

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW; STAFF ATTORNEY, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY CLINIC

LLM in Environmental Law, JD, Master of Environmental Law and Policy, Vermont Law School; BA, University of Georgia. She previously worked as a law clerk at Stack & Associates P.C., a boutique environmental law and land use law firm in Atlanta; at the Witcher Law Firm in Decatur, Georgia; and as an intern at the Office of the Georgia Capital Defenders. At Vermont Law School, she received the Clinical Legal Education Association Outstanding Student Award.



"WE ARE FACING A NEW LANDSCAPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES—FROM GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TO OCEAN ACIDIFICATION, FROM FOOD POLICY TO ENERGY IN A CARBON CONSTRAINED WORLD. OUR FACULTY ARE TRAINING STUDENTS TO USE LAW AND POLICY TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES."

—THOMAS MCHENRY, President and Dean, Professor of Law

EMERITUS FACULTY

RICHARD O. BROOKS

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS

LLB, Yale University; PhD, Brandeis University; BA, MA, University of Chicago. The founding director of the Environmental Law Center and former executive director of Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc., he is the author of *Ecology and Law*; coauthor of the environmental law book, *Green Justice*; author of a book on planning law, *New Towns and Communal Values*; and author of a comprehensive book on Act 250, Vermont's landmark development-control law.



MARC MIHALY

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS

JD, University of California—Berkeley; BA, Harvard University. He is the founding partner of the environmental law firm of Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger in San Francisco, where his practice emphasized environmental, regulatory, land use, appellate law, and complex negotiations. He was the President and Dean of Vermont Law School from 2012 to 2017. He teaches Land Transactions and Finance.



MICHAEL DWORKIN

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS; FOUNDING DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

JD, Harvard Law School; BA, Middlebury College. He is past chair of the Vermont Public Service Board. He clerked for the D.C. Court of Appeals and represented US EPA in appellate litigation. He has served as chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.



L. KINVIN WROTH

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS

LLB, Harvard University; BA, Yale University. He came to VLS as dean in 1996, after having served as dean of the University of Maine School of Law. As reporter and consultant to the Vermont Supreme Court's rules advisory committees since 1969, he has drafted many of Vermont's rules of procedure, evidence, and professional and judicial conduct, including rules to implement the expanded jurisdiction of the Environmental Court.



STEPHEN DYCUS

PROFESSOR OF LAW EMERITUS

LLM, Harvard University; BA, LLB, Southern Methodist University. Former visiting professor, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, and visiting scholar, Natural Resources Defense Council. Former member of the Vermont Water Resources Board. Professor Dycus cowrote the casebook, *National Security Law*. He is the author of *National Defense and the Environment* and coauthor of *Counterterrorism Law*, 3rd ed.



ADJUNCT, ONLINE, AND SUMMER FACULTY

DAVID ABEL

Advanced Communications for Environmental Advocates
Reporter, The Boston Globe

CHRIS ADAMO '04

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

ESTHER AKWII LLM'20

Law and Policy of Local Food Systems

LLM Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law School

DON BAUR

Ocean and Coastal Law
Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP

ARTURO BRANDT LLM'04

Global Energy Law and Policy
Senior Broker, Latin American Environmental Markets, Tradition Green

CHRISTOPHER BROOKS '10

Environmental Law; Legislation and Regulation
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Conservation Agriculture Policy
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JAMES CATER

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid
Independent Consultant

ELIZABETH CHANT

End Use Energy Efficiency
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JONATHAN COPPESS

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VERONICA EADY

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TIM EICHENBERG

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

KATHLEEN FALK

Environmental Law
Former Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

VICTOR FLATT

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

JOSEPH HALSO

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid
Staff Attorney, Sierra Club

ANDREW HANSON

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Senior Counsel, Environmental and Energy Regulatory Group, Perkins Coie LLP

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Chief, Environmental Crimes Section, U.S. Department of Justice

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Administrative Law; Communications, Advocacy and Leadership
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RANDOLPH HILL

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Director, Enforcement Targeting and Data Division, Office of Compliance, EPA

CARRIE JAMES LLM'16

Introduction to the Law and Policy of Agriculture, Food, and the Environment
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Founding Partner, Conservation Law, P.C.

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Science for Environmental Law; Natural Resources Law; Environmental Law
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Managing Consultant, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

JOHN D. MILLER, JR. '09

Communications, Advocacy and Leadership
Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications, Vermont Law School

CLAYTON MITCHELL '96

Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy
Partner, Revolution Energy LLC

DAVID MURASKIN

Food Impact Litigation
Food Project Litigation Director, Public Justice

ROBERT PERCIVAL

Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law
Director, Environmental Law Program; Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

JESS PHELPS

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Associate General Counsel, The Lyme Timber Company

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Animal Welfare Law
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CARI RINCKER

Introduction to the Law and Policy of Food and Agriculture
Owner, Rincker Law, PLLC

CHRIS ROOT

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

DANYA RUMORE

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Director, Environmental Dispute Resolution Program, Wallace Stegner Center, University of Utah

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ALISON STONE

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JOSHUA STURTEVANT

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Director of Acquisitions, Nexamp

JOHANNA THIBAUT LLM'15

LLM Graduate Seminar; Oil and Gas Development and the Environment
Associate, Plains Justice

JACK TUHOLSKE

Climate Change and the Law, Climate Change Mitigation, Water Resources Law
Attorney, Missoula, Montana

MADHAVI VENKATES, PHD

Environmental Economics and Markets
Academic economist and environmental activist

SAMANTHA WILLIAMS '05

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid
Midwest Director, Climate and Clean Energy Program, Natural Resources Defense Council

DELCIANNA WINDERS

Animal Welfare Law
Assistant Clinical Professor; Director, Animal Law Litigation Clinic, Lewis & Clark Law School

DAVID A. WIRTH

International Trade and the Environment
Professor of Law, Boston College Law School

SPECIAL EVENTS AND GUESTS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020: The eleventh annual [Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship](#) offers the opportunity for environmental law scholars to present their works-in-progress and recent scholarship. The 2020 Colloquium takes place online.

SEPTEMBER 24–25, 2020: The 21st **Global Conference on Environmental Taxation**, for which VLS's Environmental Tax Policy Institute is a lead organizer, is a virtual global event this year. The central theme of GCET21 is "Environmental Taxation in an Era of COVID-19." More information about the conference is available at www.vermontlaw.edu/gcet21.

The Environmental Law Center's [Distinguished Environmental Summer Scholars](#) spend two weeks meeting with students and faculty and presenting lectures on their current work. The 2021 scholars will be:

BLAKE HUDSON, A.L. O'Quinn Chair in Environmental Studies; Professor of Law, and Co-director of the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Center, University of Houston Law Center

NATACHA MESA TEJEDA, Professor of Law, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba

EMILY M. BROAD LEIB, Assistant Clinical Professor of Law, Director of the Food Law and Policy Clinic, and Deputy Director of the Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, Harvard Law School

DAVID TAKACS, Professor of Law, University of California Hastings College of the Law

Since 2003, [Environmental Law Media Fellows](#) have been spending two weeks attending summer classes and giving lectures as part of our Hot Topics in Environmental Law brown bag lecture series. The 2021 fellows will be:

PAMELA KING, E&E News

ALEJANDRA BORUNDA, National Geographic

LISA HELD, Civil Eats

The **Norman Williams Distinguished Lecture in Land Use and Planning Law** series began in 2006. Featured speakers have included:

2020: ANITA EARLS, Associate Justice, North Carolina Supreme Court, "Implications of Implicit Racial Bias for Environmental Justice"

2019: JOHN NOLON, Professor of Law, Pace University, "From the Ground Up: Local Water Legislation that Works"

2018: THOMAS MITCHELL, Interim Dean and Professor, Texas A&M University School of Law, "How to Address Racial Disparity in Property Ownership"

2017: UMA OUTKA, Professor of Law, University of Kansas School of Law, "Shifting Energy Landscapes"

2016: PATRICIA SALKIN, Dean and Professor of Law at Touro Law Center, "Gaming the Future: A Winning Strategy for Land Use and Sustainable Development"

2015: MICHAEL GERRARD, the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice, Associate Chair of the Earth Institute, Columbia Law School, "Climate Change and Land Use Law: A Strategy to Avoid the Worst Impacts"

2014: LEE ANN FENNEL, Max Pam Professor of Law and Herbert and Marjorie Fried Research Scholar at the University of Chicago Law School, "Co-location, Co-location, Co-location: Land Use and Housing Priorities Reimagined"

2013: ROBERT L. LIBERTY, Director of the Urban Sustainability Accelerator at Portland State University, "Rising to the Land Use Challenge: How Planners and Regulators Can Help Sustain Our Civilization"

2012: VICKI BEEN, Professor and Director of the Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, NYU School of Law, "Explaining the Motivations Behind Land Use Regulation: New York City's Rezoning of Almost One Quarter of Its Land"



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