

# 2023-2024 UPDATE



**Animal Law &  
Policy Institute**

VERMONT LAW & GRADUATE SCHOOL

## News from the World's Fastest Growing Animal Law and Policy Program

The past academic year, the faculty and staff with the Animal Law and Policy Institute (ALPI) have continued to develop new residential and online degree programs with cutting-edge curricula, support and mentor students, and host professionals working to advance legal protections for animals while participating in their own animal advocacy efforts.



(Left to right) Laura Ireland, ALPI Associate Director; Professor Pamela Vesilind JD'08; Professor Delcianna Winders, ALPI Director; Professor Laura Fox JD/MELP'13, Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic Director

## Find More Online at [vermontlaw.edu](https://vermontlaw.edu)

### Degree Programs

- JD Concentration in Animal Law
- Animal Law Track in the Online Hybrid JD
- Animal Law LLM
- Master of Public Policy: Animal Protection Policy Track

### Animal Law Distinguished Scholar

### Summer Media Fellows

### Careers

### News and Events

### Donate and Support

### Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic Annual Report



## Animal Law and Policy Courses

- Animals and the Law
- Animal Ethics
- Animal Law in Practice
- Animal Protection Policy
- Animal Rights Jurisprudence
- Animal Welfare Law
- Biodiversity Protection
- Climate Change, Extinction and Adaptation
- Environmental Crimes
- Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic
- International Animal Law
- The Law of Animals in Agriculture
- Ocean and Coastal Law
- Science of Animal Law and Policy
- Undercover Investigations of Animal Operations

## Educating Animal Advocates

While VLGS has a long animal law history—it was one of the first schools to offer an animal law course, is home to one of the first animal law student groups, and has dozens of accomplished graduates working in the animal protection field—this year we welcomed our first students earning a Master’s in Animal Protection Policy, a law degree through the animal law track in the Online Hybrid JD program, and an Animal Law LLM degree.



(Left to right) Professor Fox JD/MELP’13, Parker Holt JD’24, Taylor Rush JD’24, Andrea McMillan JD’24, Jenna Kemmer JD’24, Mario Heitmann MAPP’24, and Professor Winders celebrating at Commencement.

We are proud to offer specially curated courses, providing a practical foundation for a number of impactful career paths that include litigation, lobbying, nonprofit leadership, academia, and government regulation. It is exciting to see the number of graduates entering the animal law and policy field grow every year!



Our first Animal Law LLM graduate at VLGS, Julia Williams LLM’24

Learn How to Join our Life-Changing Degree Programs at [vermontlaw.edu/admissions](https://vermontlaw.edu/admissions)



## Summer in Vermont

Each summer, the Animal Law and Policy Institute welcomes two media fellows and an Animal Law Distinguished Scholar to join our robust summer program. Last year, Kenny Torrella with Vox and freelancer Grace van Deelen joined us as media fellows, thanks to generous funding from the ASPCA. Angela Fernandez, full professor at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, served as our first Brooks Institute for Animal Rights Law and Policy Animal Law Distinguished Scholar.

Our four-day to three-week sessions are perfect for working professionals who would like to incorporate animal advocacy in their practice, students attending schools without animal law and policy offerings, media professionals, and anyone hoping to learn from leading animal law scholars and practitioners.



Summer Animal Welfare Law Professors Mary Hollingsworth (and son) and Dr. Heather Rally; Laura Fox JD/MELP'13, Delcianna Winders, Laura Ireland, Angela Fernandez, and Kenny Torrella

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I spent two wonderful weeks as the Distinguished Animal Law Scholar in 2023. During that time, I greatly benefited from interactions with the other scholars and fellows visiting the law school to teach courses in the summer program and speak in the Hot Topics series.

Vermont is quickly becoming a hub of animal law expertise under the strong leadership of Delci Winders. The visit was a terrific opportunity to meet and interact with others participating in this endeavor.

Our hosts, administrators, staff and faculty (clinical and academic) were all so warm and welcoming. They provided the perfect environment to both enjoy the beautiful outdoors Vermont has to offer and to work in the peacefulness of the woods. It was a magical experience!

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**Angela Fernandez,  
2023 Animal Law  
Distinguished Scholar**

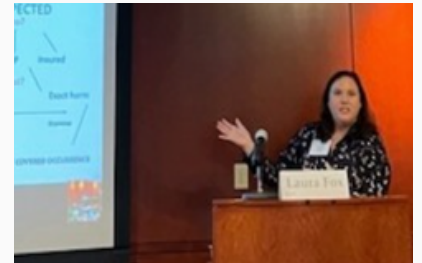


## Scholarship and Presentations

Throughout the year, faculty and students participated in and contributed to dozens of conferences, competitions, academic publications, media interviews, and events.



VLGS students and faculty at the NYU Animal Law Student Summit



Laura Fox presenting at the George Washington University Law School's Animals and the Anthropocene: A Legal Scholarship Symposium



Drew McCormick JD'24 and Taylor Rush JD'24, winners of the appellate competition and best brief at the National Animal Law Competitions at Harvard Law School

Keep up to date on all ALPI happenings on the **VLGS animal law blog** and by following us on Instagram and LinkedIn!



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