



VERMONT
LAW SCHOOL

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LAW
FOR THE
COMMUNITY
AND THE
WORLD

LAW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Become a Catalyst for Change

Vermont Law and Graduate School, a private, independent institution, is home to a law school that offers ABA-accredited residential and online hybrid JD programs and a graduate school that offers master's degrees and certificates in multiple disciplines, including programs offered by the Maverick Lloyd School for the Environment and the Center for Justice Reform. Our graduate-level programs emphasize the intersection of environmental justice, social justice, and public policy. Both the law and graduate schools strongly feature experiential clinical and field work learning.

The mission of our law school is captured elegantly by the school's motto: Law for the Community and the World. With a legacy of leadership in environmental law and restorative justice, we prepare students for legal careers that serve the public interest—whether they choose to work for law firms, businesses, government agencies, or nonprofits. Our graduates gain the professional skills they need to advance the progress of society.

VERMONTLAW.EDU

Dear Prospective Student,

I am proud to serve as Dean of Vermont Law School and as a professor in our residential and online JD programs.

When I reflect on why I love this school, several things come to mind: our faculty's deep practical experience, how we practice what we preach, our expertise in online education, and our nurturing community, both in person and online.

We believe that students learn best by doing, so most of our faculty (including me) have experience as attorneys before becoming full-time teachers—as attorneys general, at the EPA, as district attorneys, public defenders, attorneys in private practice, at big firms and solo practices, in industry, and for non-profits such as the Conservation Law Foundation, Environmental Defense Fund, Client Earth, PETA, and more. We also have a nationally ranked experiential

program that lets students earn credit for working in clinics or in externships, representing real-life clients under the supervision of faculty.

We practice what we preach. We are proud of our prestigious top-ranked environmental law program and one of the country's only restorative justice programs in a law school. We don't just teach students environmental law and restorative justice practices, we live them. From our LEED-certified buildings to our advocacy outside of the classroom for environmental policy, to our use of restorative justice circle processes to address issues as a community, we aim to lead by example.

We have been leaders in online education for more than a decade and were one of the first law schools to offer fully online master's degrees. Since then, we have continued to use best practices in online education to develop and offer one of the country's few ABA-accredited online JD programs, whereby students earn a JD degree part time in three and a half calendar years, all online except for three four-day visits to Vermont.



We have built—both in person and online—a community that I cherish. If you choose to learn here, I think you will find this community to be supportive and nurturing. From our Academic Success Program to our Career Services Office, you will find faculty, staff, and peers committed to you. Consider a visit, or sit in on one of our online classes to see for yourself.

Above all else, I love this school because I appreciate how needed it is in this world, to produce top-level attorneys and professionals, and to educate students on how to use the law to protect our natural environment and lead the way for justice reform.

Come join us!

BETH McCORMACK

Dean of Vermont Law School
& Professor of Law



A JD Program at your pace

3-YEAR JD—THE TRADITIONAL LAW SCHOOL TRACK

Students take courses in the fall and spring, putting what they have learned to work during the summer. This is the best option for those looking for the full on-campus experience. Students can also take master's courses in the summer and earn a joint JD/master's in the same amount of time.

ACCELERATED 2-YEAR JD

The Accelerated JD program allows students to take full course-loads for six consecutive semesters, allowing students to start their career a year ahead of their traditional JD-track peers. AJD students have full access to the law school's curriculum, clinical programs, and experiential opportunities

ONLINE HYBRID JD—MEETING YOU WHERE YOU'RE AT

Delivered through a mixture of online classes and three brief, in-person residential sessions over 3.5 years, the Online Hybrid JD offers the same rigorous legal education as the school's residential JD—with flexibility that allows working professionals to earn a law degree without sacrificing their income or having to relocate. This ABA-approved program is 10 semesters long and can be completed in 3.5 years.

REDUCED RESIDENCY JD—ONE YEAR HERE

RRJD students can spend as little as three semesters on campus before completing the remainder of their degree requirements with a combination of full-time externship and online JD courses.

JOINT MASTER'S AND LLM PROGRAMS

- JD/Master of Climate and Environmental Policy
- JD/Master of Energy Regulation and Law
- JD/Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy
- JD/Master of Animal Protection Policy
- JD/Master of Arts in Restorative Justice
- JD/LLM in Energy Law
- JD/LLM in Environmental Law
- JD/LLM in Food and Agriculture Law





Real-World Experience

Preparation for the practice of law requires context and application. Law clinic and externship students experience firsthand what lawyers do and how expertise is built. Students may help file an asylum claim or seek to expunge a criminal record. They may actually litigate cases while externing with public defenders or prosecutors across the country. Students may help set national governance standards for farmers' markets or work in the environmental division of a state's Attorney General's office. Students protect endangered species and draft legal documents necessary to develop community solar projects. Questioning witnesses on the stand, conferring with judges in chambers—it's all in a day's work, and VLGS encourages students to be creative, take risks, and work on real cases with real consequences.

CLINICS

- Center for Justice Reform Clinic
- Energy Clinic
- Environmental Advocacy Clinic
- Environmental Justice Clinic
- Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic
- Food and Agriculture Clinic
- South Royalton Legal Clinic
 - Family Law Project
 - Vermont Immigrant Assistance
 - Veterans Legal Assistance Project of Vermont
- Transnational Environmental Clinic
- Small Business Law Clinic

CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

- Animal Law and Policy Institute
- Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
- Center for Justice Reform
- Environmental and Climate Justice Center
- Environmental Law Center
- Environmental Tax Policy Institute
- Institute for Energy and the Environment
- National Center on Restorative Justice
- U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law



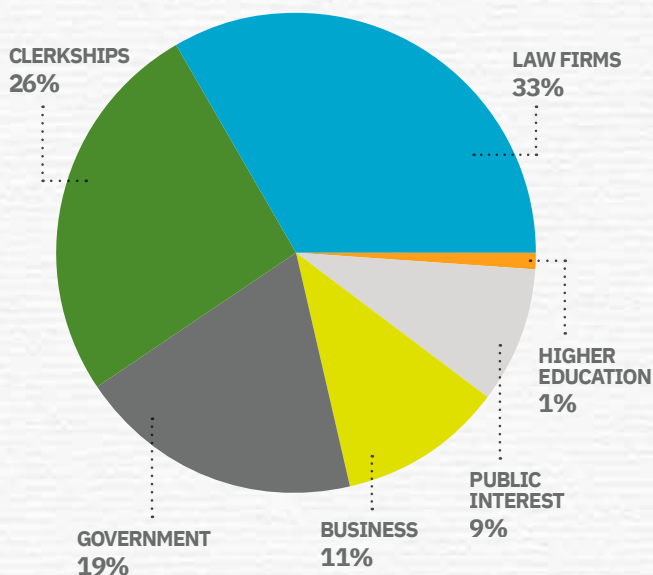
National Reach

VLGS graduates are advocates, changemakers, and leaders. Upon graduation, students spread nationwide, putting their education to work in law firms, courts, governmental agencies, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations.

2022 GRADUATES AT A GLANCE

WORK IN
30
STATES

*Represented by graduates, plus Guam,
District of Columbia, and Venezuela*



CLERKSHIPS

RI: **1** AK: **3** NJ: **3** DE: **1** VT: **5** CO: **3**
WA: **1** VA: **2** ME: **2** CT: **2** PA: **1** NE: **1**
NY: **1** GUAM: **1** FERC/OALJ: **1**

(Of those most are Trial level, but others include:
US Dist. of VT (Fed.), ME Supreme (**2**), NE Court of
Appeals, RI Supreme and several mid-level courts.)

NATIONAL JOBS

- **4** grads hired into federal honors programs
- EPA in D.C.
- DOJ—Exec Office of Immigration Review
- FERC Office of Administrative Law Judges
- Morgan & Lewis (Philadelphia) and Beveridge & Diamond (Austin)
- Troutman Pepper in DC
- Eastern Environmental Law Center
- Georgetown University Climate Center
- Knauss Fellowship with NOAA
- Environmental Law Institute
- Federal Regulatory Energy Commission (FERC)
- US Park Service, Washington State Senate
- Enhesa
- **2** positions at Water Courts
- CT Human Rights Commission, NOAA
- Disability Rights Oregon
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network
- Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office



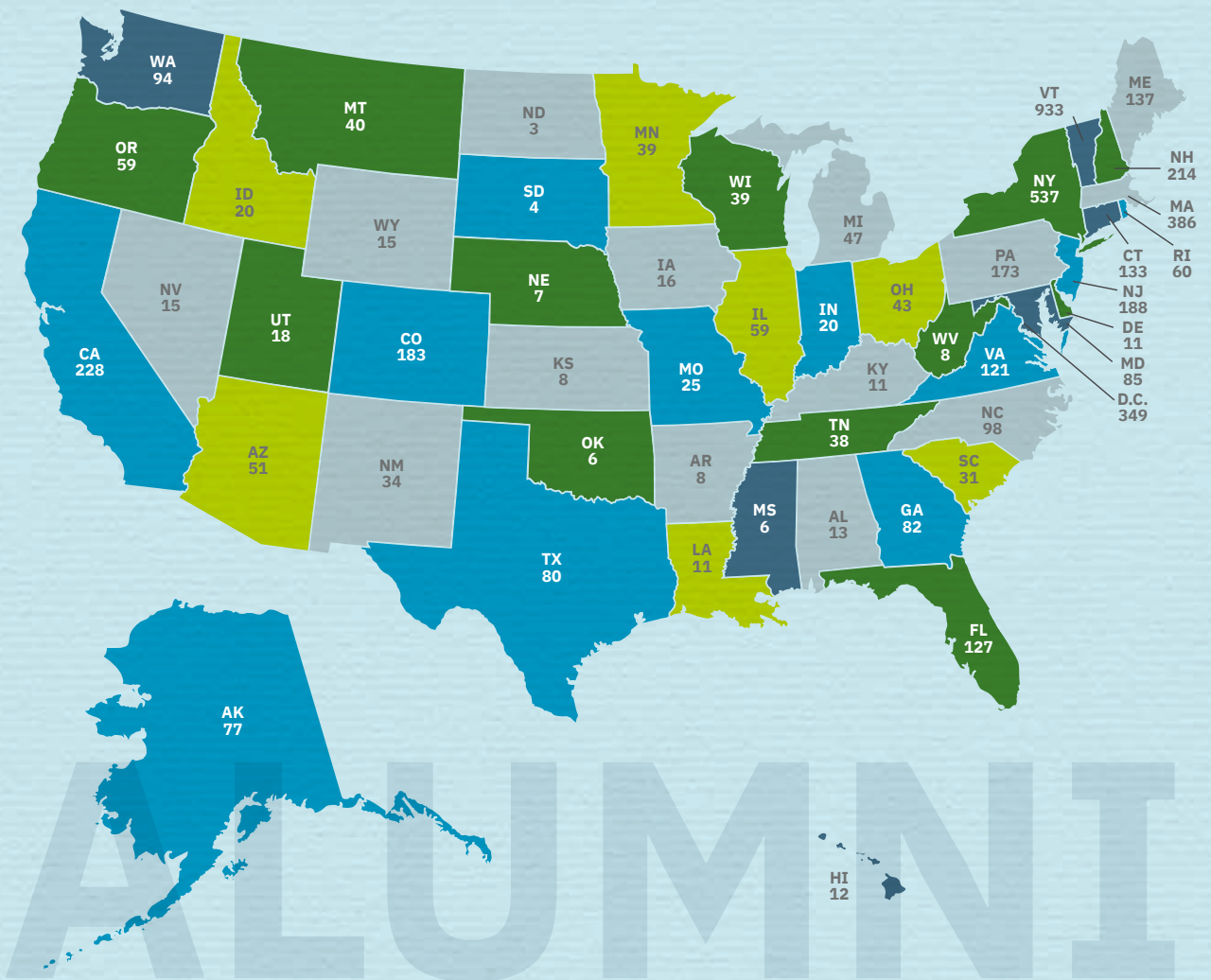
“Performing the externship was hands down the most valuable experience I had while at VLGS. Being able to work directly with alumni gave me great perspective on the value of my education.”

—WILLIAM STOCKER JD/MELP’21



THE VLGS STORY IS POWERFUL

Across the country and around the globe, VLGS alumni make a difference wherever they are. Of the **8,692** VLGS alumni, more than **900** work in government, over a quarter of whom are on the federal tier, with sizable contingents at the Environmental Protection Agency (**57** alumni), the Department of Justice (**32**), and in the military (**21**). More than **250** work in the federal government, state governments have **500** alumni in their ranks, and local governments have **153**.



“There is nothing like the power and compassion of the VLGS community. It will change you. It will buoy you up. It will help you grow and give you the confidence to go out and better our world. Come to Vermont for the beauty, the education, and the unique experience of a lifetime.”

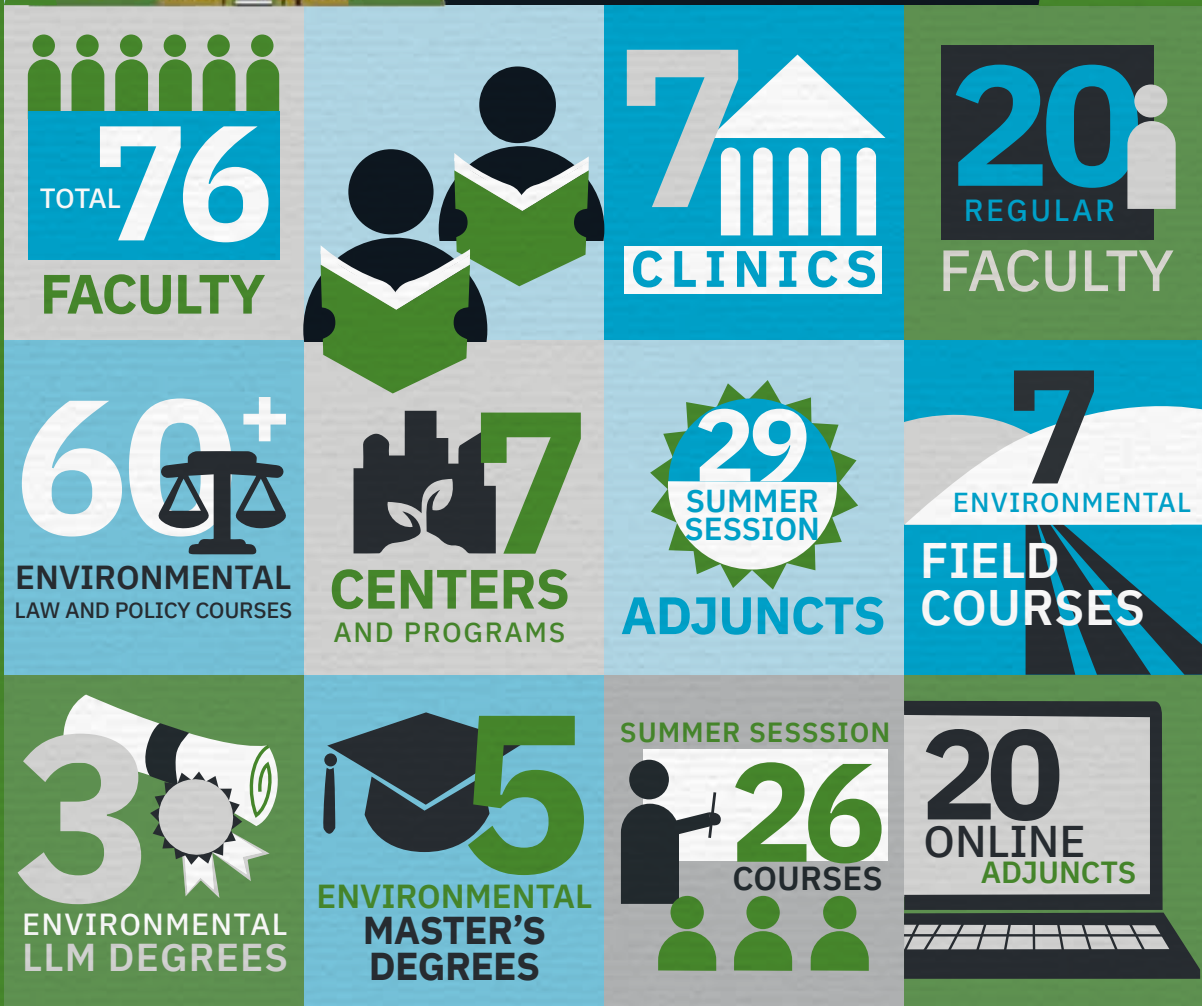
—DAVE CELONE, JD’92, Vice President of Alumni Relations and Development



Founded in 1978, the **ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER** at Vermont Law and Graduate School houses the largest environmental law program in the country, consistently ranked among the nation's best by *U.S. News & World Report*. The multidisciplinary program positions graduates to take lead roles in solving the world's most complex and significant environmental problems, from land use to the intersectionality of climate change.



TOP ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL



“VLGS’ Maverick Lloyd School for the Environment is the runway for tomorrow’s environmental leaders to launch their careers. We equip our students with a full toolbox of knowledge and skills for making change. In this time of climate crisis and its disproportionate impacts around the world, training leaders in environmental protection is critical to the future of our planet and communities.”

—**JENNIFER RUSHLOW**, Dean, Maverick Lloyd School for the Environment; Faculty Director, Environmental Law Center; Professor of Law



Home of the National Center on Restorative Justice

The Center for Justice Reform at Vermont Law and Graduate School exists to transform the ways communities engage with each other, respond to harm, and pursue justice. Our programs advance this mission by bringing national and international restorative justice leaders together with our students, to empower them to think restoratively while equipping them with the knowledge and skills to be change agents.

Students pursuing a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ) or a joint JD/MARJ degree will combine traditional law courses with restorative justice courses and experiential learning opportunities, including our Center for Justice Reform Clinic in which students will work to repair and reduce harm in our punitive legal systems. Students and professionals can also earn a Professional Certificate in Restorative Justice.

Restorative justice courses may include:

Restorative Justice Theory and Practice

Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice

Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization

Criminal Law

New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence

Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions

Ethics and Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities

Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement

Global Restorative Justice

Juvenile Justice

Peacemaking Courts

Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice

Police Use of Force



EMPLOYERS OF VLGS GRADUATES INCLUDE:

- Restorative Justice Centers
- Attorneys General Offices
- Sentencing Mitigation Specialists
- Youth/Adult Diversion Programs
- California Certified Organic Farmers
- Police Reform
- Prison Reform and Education
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- Research Coordinators
- State Legislature
- Department of Corrections
- Innocence Project
- Social Work
- Domestic/Sexual Violence Agencies
- Community Development/Organizing

“Justice is informed by the experiences and needs of those harmed, and by practicing and promoting individual and communal accountability as we strive to realize our ideals for equity and inclusion. Graduates of the Center for Justice Reform program are ready to practice restorative justice every place they show up: in their homes, in their communities, and in their workplaces, including the courtroom.”

—JESSICA BROWN, Director, Center for Justice Reform





STUDENT-RUN ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- Alliance (LGBTQ+)
- American Constitution Society
- Animal Law Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Student Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Environmental Law Society
- Environmental Justice Society
- Equal Justice Foundation
- Food and Agricultural Law Society
- International and Comparative Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Latinx American Law Students Association
- Muslim Law Students Association
- Native American Law Students Association
- Outdoors Club
- Women's Law Society
- Veteran Law Students Association

Our Campus

Nestled next to the White River in South Royalton, our 13-acre campus facilities prioritize sustainable practices. From composting toilets to minimize water usage, super windows to maximize insulation, enthalpic energy wheels to control humidity and recycle exhaust heat, and lighting solutions that use natural and energy efficient lighting for interior and exterior spaces—we practice what we teach.

Our Community

We are scientists, hackers, hikers, and musicians; talented, quirky, restless, engaged, entrepreneurial self-starters who believe in community and the power of the law to do good. We are socially conscious risk-takers with big ideas; we are idealists interested in practical training; we are friends and activists—true catalysts for change.

We are committed to fighting for tolerance and racial and social justice through teaching and scholarship, research and practice, open discussion, and public events. We believe in providing a learning environment that is inclusive of all people, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, nationality, ethnicity, ability, age, or socioeconomic class.

“We are dedicated to educating a new generation of leaders committed to causes larger than themselves. The world desperately needs professionals with the intellectual and practical skills to study, design, and advocate wise policies relating to climate change, environmental policy, and social justice.”

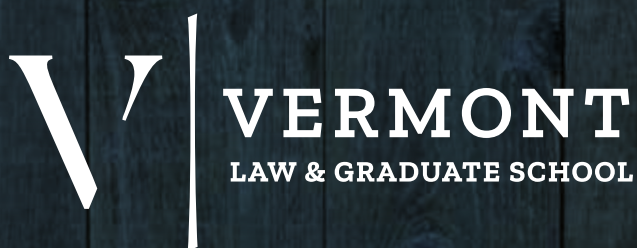
—RODNEY A. SMOLLA
President, Vermont Law
and Graduate School

Rod Smolla has been President of VLGS since July 1, 2022. He is a nationally recognized constitutional law scholar, author of 17 books and more than 100 scholarly articles. Throughout his career, he has remained active in civic affairs and constitutional law litigation. He has written briefs and presented oral arguments in state and federal courts throughout the United States, including the United States Supreme Court. He recently served as one of the principal First Amendment lawyers representing Dominion Voting against Fox News, resulting in a historic \$787 million settlement against Fox.





IDEALISTS.
REALISTS.
**CATALYSTS
FOR CHANGE.**



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