

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program



SUNY Buffalo Law School
The State University of New York

NEW YORK STATE'S LAW SCHOOL



A world of difference

For environmental lawyers, every day is Earth Day. And as federal regulation and the nation's "green" consciousness get more and more attention, the demand for specialists in environmental law is growing.

The field of environmental law encompasses a broad range of issues, including advances in sustainable energy, such as wind and solar power; increasing public awareness of global climate change; the debate over hydrofracturing for oil and gas extraction; and efforts to increase environmental sustainability. Environmental lawyers help businesses and individuals operate responsibly. They also help governments and work in the nonprofit arena, prosecuting reckless polluters and advocating on green policy issues.

At SUNY Buffalo Law School, you can study environmental law in a place where it really counts. Western

New York's historical significance includes nearby Niagara Falls and the Love Canal cleanup site, remediated by the first federal Superfund grant. SUNY Buffalo is situated at the juncture of two Great Lakes, with major implications for water resources management.

The curriculum and faculty focus in environmental law is called the **Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program**. The school's core strength in environmental law includes professors who are specialists in wetlands law and policy; international environmental law; the transnational governance of forests, animals and biodiversity; local

environmental law; and conservation. These areas of faculty expertise are bolstered by skilled adjunct professors who practice environmental law and other faculty with related interests.

SUNY Buffalo Law School is serious about attracting talented students who can flourish during their law school years and succeed by putting their environmental law training to work in the world. Toward that end, the school has designated an **Environmental Law Research Scholarship**. The award pays a student in his or her second and third years to conduct research with faculty members who do environmental law work.

FACULTY

Expertise in the classroom

SUNY Buffalo Law School's strength in environmental law includes both longtime and recently hired faculty members, as well as adjunct professors who bring real-world experience to their teaching. The core faculty meeting this critical need for our students include:



Professor Irus Braverman focuses on the evolving role of nature and

conservation and on the interrelations between human and nonhuman animals. She has recently published several highly regarded books and articles in these fields.



Professor Kim Diana Connolly is a specialist in wetlands law and policy and has

recently published on international wetlands protection and the relationship between wetlands protection and climate change. She also runs the Environmental Law and Policy Clinic.



Professor Errol Meidinger is an international environmental law scholar whose

research focuses on the relationship between international trade and rapidly changing governance institutions, including both state and non-state actors.



Associate Professor Jessica Owley teaches natural resources, property and

federal Indian law, and has published extensively on conservation easements and other innovative mechanisms for environmental protection.

Qualifying courses include:

- Animals and the Law
- Animal Law Clinic
- Administrative Law
- Climate Change
- Greening Buffalo
- Historic Preservation Law
- Environmental Advocacy
- Environmental Law and Policy
- International Environmental Law
- International Trade and Environment
- Introduction to New York State Administrative Law
- Land Use Planning
- Law and Economics
- Law and Nature
- Local Government Law
- Mass Torts
- Natural Resources
- Pollution Control
- Public Interest Environmental Law
- State and Local Government Law
- Wildlife and Biodiversity Law

Note that not every course is taught every year.

The work of our full-time faculty is deepened and broadened by adjunct professors including:

Jane C. Cameron is an assistant attorney general with New York's Environmental Protection Bureau. Her interests include urban environmental justice, home health and safety.

Richard J. Lippes '69 is a veteran Buffalo environmental

attorney who pursued the original Love Canal litigation in the 1980s. His current cases include representing those affected by industrial pollutants.

Thomas L. Tyler is on long-term assignment from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to the Environmental Council of the States, where he is senior counsel. He is working on Clean Air Act and climate change issues.

Adam Walters, a partner with the Buffalo law firm Phillips Lytle, focuses his practice on environmental, land use and zoning issues.

Samuel D. Magavern is co-director of the Partnership for the Public Good. His work is focused on the revitalization of the Buffalo Niagara area's environmental assets, including Lake Erie, Niagara Falls and the waterfront.

A VARIED PROGRAM

Opportunity awaits

At SUNY Buffalo Law School, you'll be exposed to a broad range of ways to learn and practice environmental law. Beyond the traditional training in "thinking like a lawyer," the school offers many opportunities to experience what environmental lawyers do every day – ensuring you'll graduate practice-ready for the field.

THE RENEW INSTITUTE *Interdisciplinary research*

The Law School is a major part of a broad University at Buffalo initiative to support research on energy, environment and water, bringing legal expertise to bear on issues involving these life-giving resources and solidifying the school's reputation for excellence in environmental law. UB's RENEW Institute – the acronym stands for Research and Education in Energy, Environment and Water – brings together faculty in six academic units for interdisciplinary work.

The coalition is in keeping with the Law School's deeply held conviction that the best lawyers don't practice in isolation, but rather as part of teams that reach across disciplines to best serve their clients.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY CLINIC

Hands-on experience

In the Law School's Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, students get academic credit for hands-on experience with real-world issues affecting environmental stakeholders. Examples include working on legal aspects of the first North

American transboundary designation of a wetland of international importance, as well as climate change issues affecting the Great Lakes. As a clinic student, you will learn skills that you will carry with you into the legal profession: applied research, client interviewing and counseling, advocacy, fact investigation, drafting, teamwork and interdisciplinary coordination.

BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL

Learning while publishing

Another valuable opportunity is the Buffalo Environmental Law Journal, which is entirely edited by SUNY Buffalo Law students. The journal publishes high-quality articles that analyze legal environmental issues, including climate change, energy, natural resources management, land use and pollution.

The journal publishes articles written by practitioners, professors and students. As a student editor, you'll be involved in cutting-edge environmental legal discourse and develop your management, organizational, research and editing skills.

HEALTHY HOMES PRACTICUM

Advocating for health

Students participating in the Healthy Homes Practicum provide legal support to the National Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, which has chosen Buffalo as one of 17 pilot cities for its work in promoting safer housing.

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Courtroom experience

Teams of students hone their advocacy skills through participation in moot court competitions like the Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition. Faculty act as coaches to provide you with the opportunity to compete against other law schools nationwide.

BUFFALO ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY

Student Involvement

The Buffalo ELS is a student-run organization that brings together students and faculty for environmentally focused initiatives including Earth Week celebrations, fundraising events and presentations by notable scholars.

ALUMNI

At work in the field

SUNY Buffalo Law-trained attorneys are making a difference worldwide in environmental law and related fields, following their passion wherever it leads, and attracting national recognition. One of our alumnae was recently honored by the American Bar Association as a Distinguished Environmental Advocate for her work as a clean-water activist. A sampling of alumni currently doing rewarding environmental work includes:

Dr. Elizabeth Kim '94, above, is senior coordinator for the Law of the Sea in the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs at the U.S. State Department. She is responsible for developing, formulating and coordinating U.S. objectives and initiatives in oceans policy and heads U.S. delegations in United Nations negotiations on oceans issues. Before joining the State Department in 2008, Kim worked for 11 years at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on marine pollution control, including the regulation of ocean dumping and vessel discharges. She has a doctoral degree in marine ecology.



Daniel A. Spitzer '93 practices in the area of environmental law with the Buffalo firm Hodgson Russ. His practice involves numerous renewable energy projects, including representing municipalities, developers, land owners and financing entities. His work, from project inception through successful litigation, includes some of the largest wind farms in the Eastern United States.

Leslie J. Darman '94 is an attorney in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of General Counsel. She counsels the agency on Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act matters and works with the Department of Justice on defensive litigation against EPA.

Ryan A. McPherson '02 serves as chief sustainability officer for the University at

Buffalo. McPherson coordinates University-wide environmental efforts through UB Green, the campus environmental office, partnering with the Environmental Stewardship Committee and focusing on promoting sustainable practices in all UB operations.



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ENVIRONMENTAL AND
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LAW PROGRAM

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