



Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law and Graduate School offers opportunities to supplement classroom learning with real-world, hands-on experience. Our on-campus experiential offerings focus on energy, food and agriculture, environmental justice, climate change, and animal protection.

Institute for Energy and the Environment/Energy Clinic

The IEE offers opportunities for any master's or LL.M student to apply for our research associate program or Energy Clinic, both of which provide experiential learning opportunities focused on climate justice, renewable energy development, clean transportation, and electric grid decarbonization. Recent research associate projects have included working on geothermal utility business models in New York, creating a class on farm electrification for the California utility PG&E, evaluating how to insert community benefit agreements into offshore wind projects, comparing battery storage policies in the U.S. and EU, promoting equity in the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and studying renewable energy development policy across the Caribbean. The Energy Clinic offers opportunities for students to work directly with clients on energy policy and transactional energy development projects. Recent projects include assisting resident-owned communities in building solar arrays, development of local net zero affordable housing, comparing state community solar programs, and assisting used car dealers in accessing federal tax credits. Our Farm and Energy Initiative, in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, promotes clean energy in the agricultural sector with projects available for both research associates and Energy Clinic students. IEE students, in addition to structured research and experiential opportunities, have opportunities to coauthor articles and reports, gain access to conferences and workshops, collaborate with international scholars, and participate in IEE team and social events. For more about the IEE's current projects, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/energy. Feel welcome to schedule an informational call with the IEE Director and faculty. To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Will Fridlund at wfridlund@vermontlaw.edu. Application review will begin on August 14, 2024.

Center for Agriculture and Food Systems/Food and Agriculture Clinic

CAFS is a center for research and advocacy, and students can become involved in a few different ways. CAFS Research Assistants work on scholarly and applied research that spans the food system, including issues addressing animal welfare, workers' rights, food waste, social justice and equity, public health, access to land, support for local foods, environmental protection, climate change, and sustainability. For more about current CAFS projects, visit: www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs. To apply for the Research Assistant program, please provide a resume and cover letter to Lindsey Cole at lcole@vermontlaw.edu. The Food and Agriculture Clinic provides practical experience and professional development opportunities in one of the nation's only law and policy clinics focused solely on food and agriculture. Students in the clinic work on CAFS projects while learning more about policymaking, research, advocacy, and the laws and policies shaping our food system through the clinical seminar. To apply for the FAC, please contact Amanda Murphy at amurphy@vermontlaw.edu to access the Common Application. If you have any questions about the FAC, please reach out to Lindsey Cole at lcole@vermontlaw.edu.

Animal Law and Policy Institute/Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic

The Animal Law and Policy Institute trains future leaders in animal advocacy while centering animals in the fight for environmental protections. Engaging with policymakers, journalists, advocacy organizations, and communities, the Institute serves as a resource hub for animal law and policy issues. It also collaborates closely with other VLGS programs, encouraging the wider legal community to expand protections for animals. The Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic (FAAC) empowers students to become effective advocates for animals while also developing skills that can be applied in a variety of arenas throughout their careers through hands-on experience with real-world matters. Students represent

clients in litigation as well as legislative, policy, and regulatory matters aimed at improving the treatment and status of farmed animals. To apply for the FAAC, please provide a resume and cover letter to Logan Volpe at lvolpe@vermontlaw.edu.

Environmental Justice Clinic

Students in the EJC will have the opportunity to work in partnership with community organizations, tribal nations, coalitions, and other stakeholders to support multi-strategy campaigns that address environmental racism to advance community health and human rights. In support of the environmental justice movement, student clinicians will learn how to (1) develop and implement legal, administrative, and policy strategies to address the disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution and land dispossession on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and low-income communities (2) contribute to intersectional organizing to push for climate justice and a just transition, and (3) engage in research and advocacy to support new law and policy on environmental justice. Students will learn and apply the foundations of community lawyering, movement lawyering, and trauma-informed lawyering practices, grounded in radical social theory and principles of human rights. The EJC partners with communities across the country, including in Vermont, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Puerto Rico. The EJC is full for Fall 2024, but will be accepting applications for Spring 2025. The Common Application process for spring clinics opens in October. For more information about the EJC, please contact Prof. Mia Montoya Hammersley at mhammersley@vermontlaw.edu.

Environmental Advocacy Clinic

The EAC is an in-house clinic that operates as a public interest law office. Students work under the supervision of clinic faculty on real-world cases for classroom credit. Clinical experience helps students become skilled professionals who can develop arguments and claims from the ground up, explore strategies and options, and communicate effectively with clients, courts, agency officials, scientific experts, and opposing parties. Student clinicians work directly with leading conservation organizations and local community groups to promote access to justice on important environmental issues. The EAC is full for Fall 2024, but will be accepting applications for Spring 2025. The Common Application process for spring clinics opens in October. Applicants from the Graduate School should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills as well as some professional experience in a legal setting. The EAC gives priority to JD students. For more information about the EAC, please contact Prof. Christophe Courchesne at ccourchesne@vermontlaw.edu.

Transnational Environmental Law Clinic

The U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law (PEL) works collaboratively with government institutions, non-government organizations, lawyers, judges, lawmakers and more to promote positive environmental governance throughout Asia. This clinic combines substantive classroom instruction with project implementation, with students teaming up to work on an environmental-related legal or policy research project for a partner organization in China or a developing country in Asia. The projects support PEL's partnering organizations' environmental advocacy and legal reform work on the ground; they provide students with an opportunity to learn about specific environmental challenges and the gaps in the laws and policies in these countries and to apply theories and concepts learned in the classroom. Partner organizations include environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, prosecutors, and law scholars. Students can enroll for 4 or 6 credits on a Pass/Fail basis, and enrollment is capped at 12. Students interested in the clinic for the fall should email Claire Andrews at candrews@vermontlaw.edu as soon as possible with a short statement of interest (no more than 1 page) and their resume. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

International Climate Change Law (ENV5218)

International Climate Change Law is a 3-credit hybrid classroom/experiential course about the major climate change treaties – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol,

and Paris Agreement – via theory and first-hand observation. Students represent VLS as a non-governmental observer delegation at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) while also engaging in service learning by supporting negotiators and/or other participating parties. This fall semester course is organized around two components: a weekly class for the full semester and one week of onsite experiential learning at the COP. By doing applied learning in international climate change law, students develop an understanding of international environmental lawmaking informed by direct experience. Interested students should send their resume, statement of interest, transcript, and references to Prof. Derek Walker at dwalker@vermontlaw.edu as soon as possible, as acceptances occur on a rolling basis. Students who are accepted to the course will receive information about logistics, including travel and expenses, directly from Professor Walker.

Global Sustainability Field Studies – Cuba (ENG5238, 1 credit)

Global Sustainability Field Studies explores energy and agricultural sustainability in Cuba, while traveling to Havana for 8 days during Thanksgiving week. If interested, please email Marine Avila Alvarez at marnieavilaalvarez@vermontlaw.edu for more information on the course and how to apply. Space is extremely limited. There is a supplemental fee.