

# PLACE PROGRAM IN LAW, COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES ARE RARELY SIMPLE.** From climate change to local conservation, the challenges of sustainability and long-term environmental health raise complex scientific, ethical, economic and political questions that defy easy answers.

**PLACE** at UVA empowers students to confront these questions so they can build the practical skills, analytic tools and hands-on experience needed to effect change as environmental leaders in government, business and the nonprofit sector.

The program combines outstanding legal teaching with opportunities for interdisciplinary study, clinical experience and scholarly inquiry.



Students in the *ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLINIC*, led by *PROFESSOR CALE JAFFE '01*, recently worked on issues related to clean energy, climate policy and the Atlantic Coast pipeline.

Interacting with faculty who research and shape the law at the local, regional and global levels, students at UVA Law experience environmental law as it is practiced today, and study how it can better meet the next generation of challenges.

With a wide range of courses, conferences, student groups and opportunities for independent study, students are part of a vibrant intellectual community that crosses boundaries of academic disciplines and between practice and scholarship.

## COURSES AND SEMINARS

Climate Change Law  
Conservation Planning  
and Law  
Construction Law  
Eminent Domain,  
Expropriation and

Emergency Action  
Energy and  
Environmental  
Products Trading  
and Commodities  
Regulation  
Energy and the  
Environment  
Energy Regulation and

Policy  
Environmental Law  
Historic Preservation  
Law  
International  
Environmental Law  
Land Use Law  
Law of Place and Place  
of Law

Law of Public-Private  
Partnerships  
Modern Real Estate  
Natural Resources Law  
and Policy  
Public Utility  
Regulation Seminar  
Theory and Practice  
of Biodiversity

Conservation  
Urban Law and Policy  
Water Law and Policy  
Wine and the Law

## CLINICS

Advanced  
Environmental Law  
and Community  
Engagement Clinic  
Environmental Law  
and Community  
Engagement Clinic

Representing 2020-23 school years  
Not all courses are offered every year.



**PROFESSOR MICHAEL A. LIVERMORE**, director of *PLACE*, is the co-author of the book "Reviving Rationality: Saving Cost-Benefit Analysis for the Sake of the Environment and Our Health" and leads the podcast "Free Range With Mike Livermore," featuring discussions with experts on environmental issues.



**PROFESSOR ALISON GOCKE** has expertise in environmental and energy issues from both the scientific and legal perspectives. Gocke, who previously led Yale Law School's Environmental Protection Clinic, has written on the regulation of the U.S. electricity grid and the history of interstate natural gas pipelines.



**FERNANDO MERCADO-VIOLAND '24** has served on the Virginia Council on Environmental Justice as a law student, and as a deputy White House liaison at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prior to law school.



**NESTLED IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS**, Charlottesville and surrounding Albemarle County provide a beautiful and uniquely fruitful setting for the study of land use and environmental issues.

## UNIVERSITY COURSES

Students may receive Law School credit for related graduate courses offered by other University departments and schools, including classes on topics such

as preservation planning, land use policy, ecology, climatology and business-government relations. Students can obtain joint degrees in law and land use planning, business or environmental sciences.

**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLINIC** Students in the clinic represent environmental nonprofits, citizens' groups and other community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment of

Virginia and other parts of the country. The clinic works closely with lawyers at the Southern Environmental Law Center, a preeminent environmental public interest law firm headquartered in Charlottesville.

Students participate in a range of activities on environmental matters. They comment on administrative rules, participate in permitting proceedings, advocate before state administrative agencies and boards,

and contribute to factual investigations and litigation.

## BEYOND THE CURRICULUM THE LAW SCHOOL'S SUPPORT FOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE LAW GOES DEEPER THAN COURSE OFFERINGS.

**SYMPOSIA** Over the past dozen years, the Law School has sponsored national conferences on growth management, nature conservation, environmental contracting, revitalization of contaminated land, transboundary watershed management and climate change. Law students help plan these conferences and edit and publish the papers that emerge from them.

**VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL** Founded in 1979 and managed and edited by students, the journal is a leader in environmental legal scholarship.

**VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FORUM** This popular and active student group hosts speakers and networking events, and sponsors law students who participate in environmental moot court and negotiation competitions. The forum, in cooperation with the Law School's Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center, also provides pro bono opportunities to students interested in environmental law.



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