Natural Resources Law Teachers Newsletter
Spring 2022

A message from Hillary Hoffman and Katrina Fischer Kuh, editors of the Natural Resources Law Teachers Newsletter

We hope that you managed to enjoy yet another whirlwind spring semester, despite the ongoing disruption from Covid-19. We continue to be heartened to see the scholarship, teaching, programs, and other activities you have undertaken, and enjoyed reuniting with many of you in-person at the Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute in Monterey.

We wish you a restorative summer. For anyone looking for a bit of vicarious adventure, we invite you to follow the journey of our colleague Karl Coplan, who set sail in May on a year-long sea voyage around the world with his spouse, Robin. Their final stop is Tasmania – Australia and you can follow the journey here.

A message from Alex Ritchie, Executive Director, and Jaleen Edwards, Associate Director

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute that was held on June 1-3, 2022, in Asilomar just outside Monterey, California. Special thanks to Co-Chairs Robin Craig and Janice Weis, and the other members of the Planning Committee: Todd Aagaard, Reed Benson, Karrigan Bork, Warigia Bowen, Rebecca Bratspies, Deborah Curran, Holly Doremus, Tim Duane, Monika Ehrman, Rick Frank, Jacqueline Hand, Amy Hardberger, Jennifer Harder, Elizabeth Hubertz, Sharon Jacobs, Dave Owen, Lee Paddock, Justin Pidot, Heidi Robertson, Jonathan Rosenbloom, J.B. Ruhl, Rachael Salcido, Jim Salzman, Melissa Scanlan, Kristen van de Biezenbos, Gina Warren, and Sandra Zellmer.

We would like to remind you that the Foundation has several funding programs that are available to natural resources, energy, and environmental law professors and students interested in natural resources and energy law at all accredited law schools. These include grants for law professors, including travel funding for scholarly research, our Equity and Inclusion Scholarships for students who identify as either Black or Indigenous (including Native American and First Nation), and travel funding for students to attend our programs. For more information, please contact Jaleen Edwards at jedwards@fnrel.org.

Here is what you missed at the Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute!


Jessica Ann Bacher (Pace), Executive Director of the Pace Land Use Law Center, continues to develop and implement projects relating to local land use practice, energy siting, distressed property remediation, transit-oriented development, sustainable communities, land use responses to sea level rise, and code enforcement, as well as provide strategic assistance to numerous municipalities. Recently, she presented on “Municipal Solar Ordinances: Consideration and Guidance” through the NY-Sun PV Trainers Network. She is also the Director of the Health Law and Policy Program at Haub Law and recently published an article “Pace Implements New Online Health Law and Policy Certificate Program” in the WESTCHESTER & FAIRFIELD COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNALS and another article about Haub Law’s Health Law and Policy Summit held in May.

Lisa Benjamin (Lewis & Clark) published “Group Companies and Climate Justice” CURRENT LEGAL PROBLEMS 74(1) (2021) 405. The article examines corporate litigation cases in the United Kingdom and highlights the role of corporate group structures in complicating efforts to impose liability on parent companies
for the activities of their subsidiaries, particularly where those subsidiaries are located in the Global South. The paper argues that climate change forces a reconceptualization of company law, including transnational corporate liability, and that these reconsiderations are not only appropriate, but given the contested histories of many of these companies in the Global South, long overdue.

Reed D. Benson (New Mexico) Director of UNM’s Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program, had his latest article, “A Contentious Mission: Water Supply and Corps of Engineers Reservoirs,” published in Vol. 32 of the DUKE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY FORUM (2022). It reviews the Corps’ water supply authorities and practices, examines the Corps’ failed effort to adopt a national Water Supply Rule, and analyzes legal and policy issues regarding water supply from existing Corps projects. Benson wrote a paper on “Five Federal Lands Fundamentals” and was the opening speaker for The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law’s public lands conference in Santa Fe. He also provided an overview of the Endangered Species Act at the annual CLE program of the New Mexico Bar’s Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law Section. He serves as Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for The Foundation’s 2022 Water Law Institute, set for November 4-5 in San Diego.

Laurie Beyranevand (Vermont) was invited to speak on the panel “Addressing Food, Water, & Air Pollution Through Health Law” at the Health Law and Environmental Justice, Health Law & Policy Brief Symposium, American University Washington College of Law (April 1, 2022). She also presented at the Food and Drug Law Institute’s (FLDI) Food and Dietary Supplement Safety and Regulation Conference as a webinar panelist for “Technology and Innovation: Can it Improve Both Food Safety and Food Access?” (March 31, 2022).


Amy Laura Cahn (Vermont) testified before the House Natural Resources Committee Hearing on the Environmental Justice for All Act (H.R. 2021) (February 15, 2022) (testimony) and before the Vermont House Committee on Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife on An Act Relating to Environmental Justice in Vermont (S.148) (April 13, 2022). Professor Cahn was invited to present “Environmental Justice Litigation Part 1” as part of the Environmental Law Institute’s Environmental Justice 101 series (April 26, 2022).
**David Cassuto (Pace)**, Director, of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s Brazil-American Institute for Law and Environment, authored a book review of JUSTICE A FAIR START IN LIFE: UNDERSTANDING THE RIGHT TO HAVE CHILDREN by Carter J. Dillard and was recently quoted in the BBC News article regarding the SEC’s lawsuit against the Vale mining company regarding the Brumadinho collapse.

**Karl Coplan (Pace, Emeritus)**, lectured on Citizen Suits at the “Green Earth Forum” at the Centre for Laws on Environment, Natural Resources and Economics, hosted by the Law School of Beihang University (BUAA). He also commented on the article from Next Avenue, “Can YOU Really Impact Climate Change?”. In honor of his recent retirement, Haub Law celebrated his distinguished faculty achievements at a gathering of fellow faculty, alumni, students and colleagues. Shortly thereafter, he set sail on his year-long sea voyage around the world with his spouse, Robin.

**Jason Czarnezki (Pace)** continues to build out the Sustainable Business Law Hub, which was launched at Pace | Haub Environmental Law in Fall 2021 and his article, “Addressing Environmental Challenges Through New Sustainable Business Law Hub,” in the WESTCHESTER & FAIRFIELD COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNALS, describes some of that progress. Another article, “Addressing Environmental Challenges Through New Sustainable Business Law Hub,” co-authored with Achinthi Vithanage, was published in WESTCHESTER LAWYER MAGAZINE. His recent research delves into eco-labeling and the challenges that individual consumers face when buying products to issues concerning retailers, wholesalers, and public institutions (schools, government agencies, etc.) in the context of sustainable procurement, and the evolution of sustainable business law. His article, “The Dubitante Opinion” (39 AKRON L. REV. 1 (2006)) was recently cited in the dissent of a Maine Supreme Court case of Weinstein v. Old Orchard Beach Fam. Dentistry, LLC, 2022 Me. 16 (2022).

**Robin Kundis Craig (USC)** published the Fifth Edition of ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN CONTEXT in Fall 2021 and will be publishing RE-ENVISIONING THE ANTHROPOCENE OCEAN with Jeffrey M. McCarthy in summer 2022. Her recent articles include: “Re-Valuing the Ocean in Law: Exploiting the Panarchy Paradox of a Complex System Approach,” 41:1 STANFORD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL 3-80 (Feb. 2022); “Adapting to a 4°C World,” 52 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER 10211-10239 (March 2022, with multiple co-authors); “How Law Structures Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making: A Comparative Approach,” ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE (March 2022, with Sanne Akerboom); and “Promoting “Climate Change Plus” Industries Through the Administrative State: The Case of Marine Aquaculture,” YALE JOURNAL ON REGULATION (forthcoming June 2022). Craig serves on the Capitol Hill Ocean Week Advisory Committee, as Co-Chair of the Natural Resources Law Teachers Committee, and on the Planning Committee for the Foundation’s Water Law Institute. This semester she has given talks at University of Oregon, St. Louis University, University of Kentucky, Tulane, George Washington University, USC, and Case Western and for the American Law Institute and the Federalist Society. She also helped to organize the Southern California Law Review’s Chris Stone Symposium on Environmental Law.

**Elyse Diamond (Pace)**, Director of the Public Interest Law Center, was the lead speaker of the session program “Career Paths in a Changing Climate: Tips for Environmental Law Career
Advising”, at the 2022 NALP Annual Education conference.

**Tim Duane (USC)** packed up his office after nine years at the University of San Diego and moved to the mountains of Flagstaff, Arizona in the spring. Tim is now a Senior Fellow at the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources & the Environment and Research Professor of Law at the S.J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. His scholarship at the Stegner Center will focus on Colorado River management in the face of climate change, land use, and the emergence of violent domestic extremism in conflicts over public lands management. He will teach a one-month advanced course each semester on Renewable Energy Law, Wildlife and Biodiversity Law, or Land Use Regulation. Tim is also spending more time on creative activities (photography, music, and screenwriting) through his new AZ LLC, [www.aspensierra.com](http://www.aspensierra.com).


**Elizabeth Elia (New Mexico)** taught her Business Planning class with a special focus on renewable energy development. The upper-level seminar combined real property, land use, business associations, electric utility regulation, and real estate finance to examine the legal and practical issues influencing small- and large-scale solar and wind project development today. Professor Elia also moderated a CLE panel discussion hosted by the UNM School of Law’s Business Law Society and Natural Resources and Environmental Law Committee entitled “NM Renewable Energy Development.” Laura Sanchez, Chief Policy and Legal Advisor for PNM (New Mexico’s largest Investor Owned Utility), Kelsey Rader, Sustainability Officer for the City of Albuquerque, and Joan Drake, Member of Renewable Energy Practice Group at Modrall Sperling, LLC were panelists for the event. On August 9th from 10:30 – 11:30 Mountain Time, Professor Elia will moderate the ABA’s Real Property Trusts and Estates section’s free Professor’s Corner webinar discussion on current issues in siting renewable energy projects. Please plan to join in!

**Alex Erwin (Pace)** is wrapping up his time at Pace | Haub Environmental Law as a Visiting Professor and will soon be moving on to Florida International University College of Law as a full-time professor. He has a forthcoming article in the CORNELL LAW REVIEW on Building Better Species: Assisted Evolution, Genetic Engineering, and the Endangered Species Act Vol. 108 (2023 Forthcoming), Florida International University Legal Studies Research Paper No. 22-07.)
Michael Fakhiri (Oregon) is serving as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (2020-2026). He published on the right to food and food systems in the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, American Journal of International Law Unbound, and Development. He briefed the UN Security Council on conflict and hunger, presented a report about food systems to the UN General Assembly, presented a report to the UN Human Rights Council on seeds, and participated in policy negotiations at the UN Committee on World Food Security. He was invited to provide his perspective to the Scottish Parliament on their proposed “Good Food Bill” and the EU Parliament on food governance. He delivered the Annual Lecture at the Centre for Critical International Law at the University of Kent which was entitled “The Radical Potential of the Right to Food”. Fakhri’s op-eds appeared in the GUARDIAN, ALJAZEERA, INTER PRESS SERVICE, and the NEW ARAB. His gave interviews to press outlets such as Reuters, Al Jazeera, TRT, Deutschlandfunk, Die Ziet, NRC, Bistandsakuelt, and Geneva Solutions.

Josh Galperin (Pace), was a contributing author to the article “Adapting to a 4°C World”, which was published in the ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER and includes contributions from the Environmental Law Collaborative. He moderated a panel session during Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s virtual symposium titled “Labor and the Environment – Envisioning a Green New Deal.” He joined the Advisory Board of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s recently launched Sustainable Business Law Hub and his article “The Haub Law Farm Bill Law Sets its Sights on the Future”, was published in the WESTCHESTER LAWYER MAGAZINE.

Susan Gary (Oregon) co-authored, with Keith Johnson and Tiffany Reeves, “ERISA Regulations Should Address Evolving Nature of


Shelby D. Green (Pace), was appointed co-counsel of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s Land Use Law Center and is currently working
on a project (with Prof. John Nolon) to help small commercial tenants navigate the effects of the pandemic, including a recovery lease for small businesses that keep tenants in and helps the landlords avoid vacancy. She presented on a panel on “Design Liability: Professional Responsibility, Safety, and Social Justice” at the 2022 Arkansas Law Review Symposium – Construction Law in The Legal Academy. She spoke about the effect of new construction inventions on the cost and supply of housing construction. She also presented at the Seton Hall Law Review Symposium – American Cities Struggling with Economic Justice Reform on the panel “Reinventing Cities to Create Opportunities for Affordable Housing.” She spoke about rethinking zoning, moving away from Euclidean zoning to moving towards adaptive rezoning, which promotes greater affordability and availability of housing. Adaptive rezoning, among many things, includes allowing for creative design with issues like climate change. She is also working on an article with Pace | Haub Environmental Law 2L, Bailey Andree, on state control of land use policy. She serves as editor of the Keeping Current Property column in the PROBATE & PROPERTY MAGAZINE. She remains the Chair for the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of the ABA’s Legal Education Group.

**Alexander Greenawalt (Pace)** participated in an educational discussion faculty panel on “Putin’s War in Ukraine: Legal Pathways to Restore Peace”, outlining how international law, humanitarian law, human rights, energy law and environmental law shape the roles that nations take in response to this war, with its humanitarian tragedy and unprecedented refugee crisis. His op-ed, “The Perils of Accusing Putin of Genocide”, was published in the NY DAILY NEWS. Professor Greenawalt was also quoted in the Politifact article “War Crime Prosecutions in the Russia-Ukraine War: What to Expect.”

**Craig A. Hart (Pace)**, Executive Director of the Pace Energy & Climate Center (PECC), was named to the “2021 Energy & Environment Power 100” list published by CITY & STATE NEW YORK MAGAZINE, which includes public officials, energy executives, environmentalists, activists, academics and others who are driving the debate on climate change and reinventing how New Yorkers get their power. Most recently, he participated in a panel discussion “Ukraine Under Attack”, speaking on the consequences of Russia’s invasion for Eurasian energy trade and global markets at an Inside Intelligence event hosted by Johns Hopkins University. He also participated in the Haub Law faculty panel on “Putin’s War in Ukraine: Legal Pathways to Restore Peace”, focusing on the energy security aspects involved. He oversaw PECC’s newest report, *Strengthening Small Farms and Their Communities Through Solar Farming — Ridge View 350 MW Solar PV Project Social and Economic Impact Assessment*, which assesses the social and economic impacts of a 350 MW solar PV project to be installed on approximately 40 farms in the Town of Hartland, Niagara County, New York by EDF Renewables. The PECC was also engaged by the U.S. Department of Commerce to assist the Honduras Electricity Energy Regulatory Commission in drafting a regulation and standards that promote the adoption of microgrids.

**Hillary Hoffmann (Vermont)** published "Coming Home Again: Inherent Tribal Sovereignty, the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, and their Potential for Endemic Wildlife Reintroduction" (with Andrew Cliburn) in ARIZONA JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (January 2022), and presented "The Environmental Law Legacy of the Roberts Court: 2005-2021," for the Boston Bar Association (March 17, 2022). In July, Hillary will be joining the executive leadership team at
the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition/Bears Ears Tribal Commission, where she will lead the Coalition’s intergovernmental land management planning effort for the Bears Ears National Monument.


Alice Kaswan (San Francisco) participated on a panel discussing “The Political Case for (and against) Carbon Pricing” at Florida State College of Law on March 7, 2022. On April 1st, in honor of April Fool’s Day, she presented (remotely) “Climate Change and Climate Justice” at the University of Richmond’s Public Interest Law Review Symposium on Environmental Justice, as well as presenting (in person) “California's Integrated Approach to a Clean Energy Transition” in a symposium on Climate Change and the Law: Global to Local Legal and Policy Challenges at the University of Wisconsin School of Law, where she also participated in a roundtable on integrating climate change across the curriculum. On April 22, she presented “California Climate Justice” in a USF campus forum as part of a university environmental justice education initiative. She is also co-chairing USF’s Laudato Si’ working group, which seeks to develop an action plan for integrating environmental and social justice into the life of the university. If you are engaging in similar institutional work, please connect.


Kati Kovacs (Rutgers) is serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals at the Department of the Interior.

Sophia Kruszewski (Vermont) published “Planting the Seed: A Proposal for a Farm Operation Test Under the FSMA Produce Safety Rule” (with Samuel Ingraham) in KENTUCKY JOURNAL OF EQUINE, AGRICULTURE, AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW (2021).

Katrina Fischer Kuh (Pace) co-authored the “Ethics and the Profession 2021 Annual Report” (with James May), in American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources Law: The Year in Review 2021 (2022). She also published “Informational Regulation, the Environment, and the Public” in the MARQUETTE LAW REVIEW 105 Marq. L. Rev. 603 (2022). She served on the planning committee for the fifth Environmental Law Collaborative Workshop, “Facing the Worst Climate Case: The Role of Law,” and contributed “Precommitment Strategies to Avoid the Justice Worst Case in the Climate Worst Case,” to “Adapting to a 4°C World,” 52 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER 1021-10239 (March 2022, with multiple co-authors). She co-
chaired and contributed to “Legal Aspects of Climate Change Adaptation,” a report issued by the International Bar Association. She discussed climate litigation as a panelist in a joint program sponsored by the Sections on Natural Resources and Energy Law and Torts and Compensation Systems at the AALS Annual Meeting and on the panel “Climate Change Regionally: Comparative Perspectives” as part of the Sabin Center-UNEP Annual Conference on Global Climate Litigation (April 2022). She was appointed the co-chair of the New York State Bar Association Task Force on Implementation of the Green Amendment, was a discussant at the roundtable “A Public Interest Law Consultation on New York State’s Bill of Rights Green Amendment” at New York City’s Century Association, and joined the Board of Green Amendments for the Generations.

Jan Laitos (Denver) has published two articles in 2022 and provided updates to one of his treatises: “A Better Algorithm for Environmental Law,” 52 ENVTL. L. REP’T., Issue # 6 (2022); “Replacing the Standard Algorithm for Environmental Law,” 13 GEORGE WASHINGTON JOURNAL OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 19 (2022); LAW OF PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION 3D ED. (Wolters Kluwer July 2022). He was the Keynote Speaker to the annual conference of the Colorado Alliance of Mineral and Royalty Owners, speaking on the topic of “The 2021-2022 Term of the United States Supreme Court and the Prospects for Private Property.”

Shirley Lin (Pace) joined the Advisory Board of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s recently launched Sustainable Business Law Hub. She also moderated a panel session of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s virtual symposium titled “Labor and the Environment – Envisioning a Green New Deal.” She was appointed an Executive Board Member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Labor Relations and Employment Law. Additionally, her article Bargaining for Integration (96 N.Y.U. L. REV. 1826 (2021)) now has print copies available. She also presented on Mass Accommodations at the closing plenary of the Jacobus tenBroek Disability Law Symposium, "A Broader Role for the ADA in a Post Pandemic World."


Erica Lyman (Lewis & Clark) and Nick Fromherz (Lewis & Clark) contributed to a panel on wildlife trade and zoonotic disease risks at the CALS/ALDF Animal Law Conference, and also presented at the California Animal Law symposium on combating the illegal wildlife trade. Professor Lyman presented at Vermont’s Animal Law symposium on wildlife and corporate accountability, lectured virtually at Greater Zimbabwe University, gave a presentation on zoonotic disease risk and regulation of the wildlife trade at Florida State University, and presented at the AALS conference in January. Professor Lyman and Fromherz hosted a workshop at Lewis & Clark exploring approaches to wildlife protection and continue to lead trainings for judges and prosecutors on combatting wildlife trafficking. They also published a manual for mutual legal assistance in Peru and its border countries, and an accompanying investigation and prosecution guide for Peruvian prosecutors handling wildlife trafficking cases (forthcoming). Professors Lyman and Fromherz recorded webinars: "Problems in Fisheries and the Fisheries Trade" and "Just Passing Through? How U.S. Law Treats Wildlife in Transit to Foreign Destinations." In March 2022, Ecuador’s Constitutional Court cited an opinion piece by Professors Lyman and Fromherz in a decision on the rights of nature.

Nick Fromherz (Lewis & Clark) and Erica Lyman contributed to a panel on wildlife trade and zoonotic disease risks at the CALS/ALDF Animal Law Conference, and also presented at the California Animal Law symposium on combatting the illegal wildlife trade. Professor Fromherz presented on fisheries issues during the Peruvian judiciary's 4th International Congress on Environmental Justice in December, served as a panelist for a USAID-funded workshop on the value of amicus briefs in the Latin American region, and taught several modules for an anti-wildlife-trafficking diploma program at Peru’s Universidad Católica Sedes Sapienti. Professors Lyman and Fromherz hosted a workshop at Lewis & Clark exploring approaches to wildlife protection and continue to lead trainings for judges and prosecutors on combating wildlife trafficking. They published a manual for mutual legal assistance in Peru and its border countries, and an accompanying investigation and prosecution guide for Peruvian prosecutors handling wildlife trafficking cases (forthcoming). Professor Lyman and Fromherz recorded webinars: "Problems in Fisheries and the Fisheries Trade" and "Just Passing Through? How U.S. Law Treats Wildlife in Transit to Foreign Destinations." In March 2022, Ecuador’s Constitutional Court cited an opinion piece by Professors Lyman and Fromherz in a decision on the rights of nature.

Tricia Matthews (Florida State University) will teach a course in Animal Law this fall. She also teaches Legal Writing & Research to first-year students. In the fall, she will continue to serve as faculty advisor for the Animal Legal Defense Fund Chapter of FSU Law School.

Smita Narula (Pace), Co-Director of the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies, spoke on the panel “Is Climate Stability a Human Right?” sponsored by the Section on International Human Rights at the AALS 2022 Annual Meeting. She also presented on a panel organized by the South Asian Bar Association and co-sponsored by the ABA’s Civil Rights and Social Justice Section and Brooklyn Raga Massive, entitled “Caste, The Diaspora, and the South Asian Legal Community,” where she spoke about her work to ensure recognition of caste as a protected category in international
human rights law. She was featured in the Spring 2022 Human Rights and Climate Change Webinar Series, jointly organized by the University of Iowa College of Law’s Center for Human Rights and the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative. Her remarks focused on the unequal burden of climate change on the Global South, drawing from her recent book chapter titled “Human Rights and Climate Change.” Also, she presented her paper “Can a Right to a Healthy Environment Deliver Climate Justice?” at the City College of New York’s Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference as well as at the University of Houston’s Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Center’s lecture series on Energy Transition and Climate Governance. She also participated in the Haub Law faculty panel on Putin’s War in Ukraine: Legal Pathways to Restore Peace, focusing on related human rights issues.

John R. Nolon (Pace, Distinguished Professor Emeritus) wrapped up overseeing the student-driven Land Use, Human Health, and Equity Project at Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s Land Use Law Center, with the 40th and final blog focusing on lessons learned over the past two years. During that time, over 30 students labored to find and report on innovative land use strategies by local governments to mitigate the adverse effects of catastrophic environmental change on human health. This Spring, he also facilitated a student society-led reading circle on laws for protecting water quality at different levels of government. In honor of his recent retirement, Haub Law celebrated his distinguished faculty achievements in teaching, scholarship, and service to the school at a gathering of fellow faculty, alumni, students, and colleagues. Additionally, the Pace Environmental Law Review (PELR) Board announced a new competition, the Annual Professor John R Nolon Student Writing Competition, to honor his years of service to promoting student scholarship at Pace | Haub Environmental Law. Entries on Environmental Constitutionalism are encouraged from any law student.

Todd Ommen (Pace) is the Managing Attorney and Director of the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic (PELC). Under his leadership, the Clinic was involved in notable successes such as putting “the final nail in the coffin” of a Homeowners Association’s attempt to prevent access to a conservation easement created to protect and honor an historic Native American site. On behalf of Friends of Wickers Creek (FOWCAS), the clinic sued the HOA in 2017, then defeated a motion to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, and won the Clinic’s own motion for summary judgment. The Clinic then briefed and won on appeal, after which the HOA sought leave to appeal to the New York Court of Appeals, which the Clinic opposed. The Court of Appeals subsequently agreed with the Clinic and denied the motion, finally ending the litigation in favor of FOWCAS. Most recently, he participated as a panelist in the NYSBA’s Local & State Government Law Section Annual Meeting 2022 Program and spoke on “Litigation and Related Impacts of the Green amendment to the NYS Constitution.” He will also be taking over the reins, from Prof. Karl Coplan, to write the problem question for Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s 2023 National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition (NELMCC).

Richard L. Ottinger (Pace, Emeritus) continues to advocate for strong action on climate change and the pursuit of good clean energy policy. He recently published an article “Moving to Clean Energy—Will It Take a War?” in BLOOMBERG LAW. He was also recently quoted in the article “Cutting the Environmental Cost of Construction” in the University of Maryland’s publication, MARYLAND TODAY.
Gabe Pacyniak (New Mexico) presented his work-in-progress “Keeping All the Lights On: A Roadmap To Universal Service” at Arizona State University’s Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators, the 2022 AALS annual conference, the Energy Policy Institute’s 10th Annual Conference, and at the Vermont Law School’s Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship. Gabe and students in the Natural Resources and Environmental Law clinic worked with legislators and advocates in New Mexico to pass the Community Energy Efficiency Development Block Grant Act, which creates a new state program to provide energy efficiency improvements to communities with the highest energy burdens. His clinic students also successfully represented community groups in a formal rulemaking to set ozone precursor standards on oil and gas sources, resulting in requirements for more frequent leak detection and repair on wells near where people live, work, and play, and represented Native American Pueblos in a challenge of the Navigable Water Protection Rule. In March, Gabe was appointed to New Mexico’s Climate Change Task Force Technical Advisory Group. He also received grants to conduct research on environmental justice impacts of large greenhouse gas emitters and to support legal analysis of state implementation of climate policies.

Patrick Parenteau (Vermont) presented "How Climate Change will Impact the Sports Industry" at the UNH Franklin Pierce Law School Earth in Play Symposium (March 31, 2022); "Citizen Suit Opportunities in Asia" at the 2nd ASEAN Environmental Law Conference (April 4, 2022); "My Own Private Idaho Wetland: What Will the Supreme Court do with the Sackett Case?" at the Lewis and Clark Law School Symposium, The Clean Water Act at 50: Requiem or Resurrection? (April 8, 2022); "Status of Climate Litigation in the US" at the Minnesota Attorney General Environmental Law CLE (April 14, 2022); "Looking back over 50 years of Environmental Advocacy" at the Vermont Attorney General Earth Day CLE (April 22, 2022); “Status of Climate Litigation in the US" at the 18th Annual Law and Environment Conference sponsored by the University College Cork Ireland (May 5, 2022). He taught a specialized course, Green Finance, in Spring 2022 that was approved as a permanent addition to the VLS environmental curriculum. Lastly, he is retiring from full-time teaching after a great 30-year run. Next chapter TBD.

Margot Pollans (Pace), Director of the Pace Food Law Program, published an article, Eaters, Powerless by Design, in the MICHIGAN LAW REVIEW (120 Mich. L. Rev. 643).

Nicholas A. Robinson (Pace, Emeritus), lectured at the hybrid IUCN High Level Judicial Event on the role of the courts and climate change; at the European Regional Event of the 12nd World Environmental Law Congress as part of the symposium on Measuring the Effectiveness of Environmental Law Through Legal Indicators; on “The Role of Environmental Law in Coping with the Next Pandemic,” at the Green Earth Forum at the Centre for Laws on Environment, Natural Resources and Economics at Beihang University Law School; and at the online symposium Assessing UNEA 5 - The Next Steps Forward: Beyond UNEA 5.2 and UNEP’s 50th Anniversary, organized by the University of Nairobi. His article on “Environmental Due Process – Magna Carta’s ‘The Law of the Land,’” is the lead article in the symposium on “Innovations in and Revival of the Common Law” (Vol. 38 (No. 5) NR&E, p.4, ABA SEER Winter 2022). He organized the Haub Law faculty panel on Putin’s War in Ukraine: Legal Pathways to Restore Peace. He continues to support the NY Green Amendment with talks, including “The Green Amendment: How it Will
Jennifer Rushlow (Vermont) was appointed Interim Dean of the new Vermont Graduate School. In this new role she will lead the development of new graduate programs as part of VLS’s strategic plan, while continuing to oversee its environmental law programs as Associate Dean for Environmental Programs and Environmental Law Center Director. She was also appointed as Reporter to the Vermont Supreme Court Evidence Rules Committee.

Erin Ryan (Florida State University) received a university-wide teaching award for Innovation in Teaching this Spring. As Vice President of the FSU Faculty Senate, she continued to serve on the State University System Advisory Council of Faculty Senates. She published “Environmental Rights for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Public Trust Doctrine and Rights of Nature Movement,” 42 CARDOZO L. REV. 2447 (2021) with Holly Curry & Hayes Rule (analyzing the anthropocentric public trust doctrine and the ecocentric rights of nature movement) and “The Public Trust Doctrine, Property, and Society,” in PROPERTY, LAW, AND SOCIETY (Graham et al., eds., 2022) (reviewing the development of public trust principles in U.S. law to protect different values, in different resources, and vindicated by different legal mechanisms in different jurisdictions). She presented “Privatization, Public Commons, and Takingsification in Environmental Law” at the Association for Law, Property, and Society; her forthcoming public trust book at the University of Utah and Tulane; and work on the Clean Water Act, public trust, and rights of nature at Arizona State and Case Western. She also participated in “The Public Nuisance Project” at the Law and Economics Center Annual Research Roundtable.

Wyatt Sassman (Denver) published “Community Empowerment in Decarbonization: NEPA’s Role,” 96 WASH. L. REV. 1511 (2021), which uses upcoming revisions to NEPA’s

Dan Rohlf (Lewis & Clark) recently completed teaching an environmental law and sustainability course in the Faculty of Law at the University of Trento in northern Italy. He is on sabbatical this year, which included teaching in Italy as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Trento. Professor Rohlf recently completed an article to be published in FRONTIERS IN CONSERVATION SCIENCE entitled “Mainstreaming the Ambition, Coherence, and Comprehensiveness of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework into Policy”, which he co-authored with a scientist and Swedish expert on biodiversity conservation in the EU. He is also putting the finishing touches on an article advocating for reform in interpreting and implementing Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act and has consulted with teams in Australia and New Zealand working on reforming endangered species conservation laws in their countries. He has also recently eaten a lot of pasta and pizza.

John Ruple (Utah) traveled to the White House to participate in a meeting on mining law reform and strategic mineral supply issues. John, Jamie Pleune (University of Utah), and Erik Heiny (Utah Valley University) presented based on their recent article, “Evidence-Based Recommendations for National Environmental Policy Act Implementation,” 46 COLUMB. J. ENVTL. L. 273 (2022), at the Climate Change Symposium hosted by Columbia’s Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. John and Jamie also published “A Big Step Forward for the National Environmental Policy Act,” in THE HILL (May 2, 2022).
implementing regulations to consider the role of communities in decarbonization policies, and “Beyond Emissions: Migration, Prisons, and the Green New Deal,” 51 ENVTL. L. 161 (2021), a paper with Danielle C. Jefferis arguing that immigration reform should be understood as a key element of climate policy guided by the Green New Deal. Wyatt’s current work focuses on how the legal structures of oil & gas extraction disempower communities where extraction occurs. Through this work, Wyatt contributed “Communities of Extraction” to the Law and Political Economy blog’s series on just transitions and presented “Law and the Political Economy of Petrosuburbs” at the 2021 Vermont Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship and 2021 Clinical Law Review Writers’ Workshop at NYU.


Madrid 2022, pp. 717-742. He also authored an editorial about the Russian military’s attack on a Ukrainian civil nuclear power station in “Playing with fire: military attacks against a civilian nuclear power station,” 40 JOURNAL OF ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW 159-164 (2022). In the spring 2022 semester he co-taught “EU-US Comparative Climate Change and Energy Transition Law” for a combined DU-University of Copenhagen course with Dr. Beatriz Martinez Romera of the University of Copenhagen Faculty of Law.

Emily Spiegel (Vermont) was invited to speak at the conference From the Land of Kansas: 2022 Farmers’ Market Virtual Workshops. She presented “Farmers Market Legal Toolkit: Managing Risks” to 108 farmers’ market managers and vendors and other direct-to-consumer producers (February 2022).

Cliff Villa (New Mexico) taught courses in Environmental Justice and International Environmental Law in Spring 2022. In March, Cliff led a group of his students to the U.S.-Mexico border region for a tour of colonias. Colonias are small, unincorporated border communities often struggling with environmental pollution and lack of infrastructure. With support from the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law, students participating in the Border Environment program visited colonias on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, meeting with local leaders and learning about their struggles and successes. Through this program, students may become more effective advocates for colonias and the UNM School of Law may develop deeper ties to communities along our southern border. In April, Cliff presented a paper at Lewis & Clark’s symposium commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Cliff’s paper, “Don’t Blame the Flint River,” examines the achievements of the Clean Water Act for improving urban waters plus the limitations of the statute for ensuring protection of EJ communities. Also in April, Cliff’s article, “No ‘Box to be Checked’,” tracing the development of legal principles for environmental justice through case law, was published by the NYU ENVTL. L. J.

Achinthi Vithanage (Pace), Associate Director of Environmental Law Programs, authored an article, “Antithetical to Reasoned Decisionmaking,” for THE ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM by the Environmental Law Institute. She recently delivered a virtual lecture at the Institut d’Etudes politiques de Lyon (Sciences Po Lyon) in France on the intersection of human rights and climate change, with a focus on climate justice. She presented on “Women’s Empowerment for Climate Empowerment” at the ABA’s United Nations 66th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women CSW99 and NGO CSW66 Forum and was invited by the Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues (S/GWI) at the U.S. Department of State to be a climate & gender expert academic speaker at their virtual brownbag series on the gender-climate nexus. This series seeks to improve understanding and bolster engagement on the gender-climate nexus across State Department bureaus and U.S. Missions. Her talk on “Addressing Correlations Between Gender-Based Violence and Climate Change: An Expanded Role for International Climate Change Law and Education for Sustainable Development” was based on her article published in the PACE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW. She continues to serve as Co-Chair of ABA SEER’s International Environmental & Resources Law Committee and was appointed inaugural Co-Chair of ABA SEER’s Environmental Law Society Network (ELSN). She contributed to Chapter Y - International Environmental and Resources Law, in ABA
SEER’s The Year in Review 2021 (2022). She will be joining SEER Council in Fall.

Kevin Washburn (Iowa) testified on tribal co-management of federal public lands in March at an oversight hearing before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources entitled “Examining the History of Federal Lands and the Development of Tribal Co-Management.” The hearing of the full committee was prompted by Dean Washburn’s recent article in 2022 WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW 263. His testimony offered concrete tools for implementing co-management and received favorable attention from the media and members of Congress at the hearing. Washburn has also spoken on the subject at the Yale School of the Environment with Professor Gerald Torres, at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, the Claremont Graduate University, and at conferences of the National Wildlife Federation and The Nature Conservancy. Iowa Law recently received the largest gift in its history to establish the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative, which creates a fellowship and visiting professor position in environmental and natural resources law.

Jacqueline L. Weaver (Houston) published an article analyzing the impact of new legislation passed by the Texas Legislature in the wake of Winter Storm Uri, titled “The Railroad Commission’s New Duties to Keep Texans Warm: Winter Storm Uri Forces Change” in 46 OIL, GAS & ENERGY RES. LAW 15 (Mar. 2022). She also submitted the annual update to Smith & Weaver, Texas Law of Oil and Gas (LexisNexis 2022) and posted several updates to the International Petroleum Law and Transactions casebook, available at the website link provided by the Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law to users.

Delcianna Winders (Vermont) was nominated to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection. She was elected as Chair-Elect of the AALS Section on Agriculture and Food Law and as Chair of the AALS Section on Animal Law. She published “Accelerating Catastrophe: Slaughter Line Speeds and the Environment” (with Dani Replogle) in 51 ENV’T’L. REV. 1277 (2022) and “Treating Humans Worse Than Animals? Exposing a False Solitary Confinement Narrative” in CARCERAL LOGICS: HUMAN INCARCERATION AND ANIMAL CAPTIVITY, Cambridge UP (April 9, 2022). Her recent presentations include “Global, National, Local Animal Law: Opportunities and Obstacles” at Wildlife and Welfare: Animal Law in Theory and Practice at VLS (March 29, 2022); ”A Critically Endangered Orca in the Smallest Orca Tank in the World” during VLS’s 2022 Animal Law Society Symposium (March 25, 2022); “Ecological Justice and the Right to Health” for Phoenix Zones Initiative (May 19, 2022); “Promoting Justice Through Animal Law Clinics” at the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) annual meeting (January 9, 2022); and “Slaughterhouse Workers, Animals, and the Environment” for the Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law and Policy (May 10, 2022).

Mary Wood (Oregon) received the Normandy Honor for Peace Award for her significant contributions to climate justice through research and education. This year, Wood is working with a law student fellow research team on two large donor-sponsored research projects that will result in law review articles and outreach materials. “The Forest Trust: An Ecological Endowment for Posterity,” forthcoming OREGON LAW REVIEW (2023), applies the public trust principle to forestlands, with a focus on Oregon’s old growth forests. The other, “The Pacific Northwest Framework for Atmospheric Recovery,” sets forth an organizing framework for landscape carbon sequestration across the
Pacific Northwest, a region positioned to lead the nation in carbon drawdown through natural climate solutions. Wood has delivered several presentations, including ones for the University of Wisconsin, St. Louis University, and Oregon State University. In March, she delivered the Environment Distinguished Visitor address for Lewis and Clark Law School.

Sandi Zellmer (Montana) was awarded Fulbright Specialist status, which will allow her to visit the University of Calgary Law Faculty this year for a project related to the 30 x 30 initiative to promote biodiversity and climate resilience by conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030. She was also appointed to the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL), and she continues to be involved with the Center for Progressive Reform through blogs and white papers. Zellmer completed an article entitled “Charting a Course to Conserve 30% of Freshwaters by 2030,” 64 WILLIAM & MARY L. REV. (forthcoming 2022), and a chapter on “Theodore Roosevelt: Of Mice and Men, Birds and Bison,” in PIONEERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (eds. Laitos and Nagle) (2021). In addition to various writing projects, while on sabbatical this year, she also focused on her riding projects with a fine young foxtrotter named Simon and the Backcountry Horsemen (Missoula Chapter).

Tiffany Zezula (Pace), Deputy Director of Pace | Haub Environmental Law’s Land Use Law Center, recently organized and hosted the 5th Annual Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit on “Hudson Valley Housing and Development – Planning to Stay - Aging and Resiliency”.

Cliff Villa (University of New Mexico) led his Environmental Justice and International Environmental Law students on a visit to US-Mexico border communities, where they met with local leaders and learned about environmental and related issues facing these communities.