

Environmental Law Resources and Career Guide



SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA School of Law
**Emmett Institute on Climate
Change & the Environment**

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ABOUT UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA School of Law, founded in 1949, is the youngest major law school in the nation and has established a tradition of innovation in its approach to teaching, research, and scholarship. Our 18,000 alumni include nearly 200 state and federal judges, several members of Congress, top attorneys in government and private practice, attorneys who are improving the lives of people in under-represented communities, and scholars who teach in law schools around the United States.

UCLA Law offers students a strong foundation in the law and practical training in a collaborative environment. The school's numerous centers, programs, and institutes allow students to tackle some of the most challenging and urgent issues of our time, under the direction of expert faculty. Students may seek specializations in many fields and may join clinics, organizations, and journals alongside others who share their passions to advance knowledge and push for positive change.

UCLA Law is firmly committed to diversity and inclusion, which we believe are fundamental to our role as a leading public law school in one of the most diverse cities in the world. We accomplish these goals by bringing together members of the law school community with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to consider meaningful issues.

ABOUT THE EMMETT INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment is among the leading environmental law programs in the country, with faculty members renowned for their public service, teaching excellence, and scholarship in state, federal, and international law. Located in Los Angeles, a diverse city facing unique environmental justice and climate change challenges, the Emmett Institute provides J.D. and LL.M. students unmatched opportunities for mentoring, career placement, and experiential learning. Through groundbreaking research and public interest initiatives, the Emmett Institute helps shape climate change and environmental law and policy in California, the United States, and jurisdictions around the world. Through its two clinics, the Emmett Institute provides pro bono legal services for non-profit and community-based organizations, including local environmental justice organizations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to UCLA Law’s environmental law program! This guide is for anyone interested in learning more about environmental law offerings at UCLA Law and about careers in environmental law.

We use the term “environmental law” to mean something very broad and to include areas at the intersection of traditional environmental concerns and topics such as human rights, civil rights, public health, international law, land use/housing, business law, municipal law, tribal law, public policy, and other spheres. Environmental law covers a wide range of issues, including climate change, environmental justice, energy, air, water, natural resources, public lands, wildlife, oceans, land use, conservation, and agriculture. It explicitly includes efforts to reduce the disproportionate harms borne by low-income communities and communities of color due to decades of environmental injustices. Environmental law occurs at the international, national, state, and local levels and shapes how people experience and interact with the environment and their communities.

The career opportunities for environmental lawyers are broad and span multiple sectors, including jobs in government, private practice, and public interest organizations. Within each of these sectors, the practice of environmental law may include litigation, transactional law, negotiation, administrative practice, legislative lawyering, lobbying, policy advocacy, and/or compliance counseling. The goals of this guide are to highlight the breadth of opportunities that exist for environmental lawyers and to provide resources and advice to assist students and graduates with job applications and career development. (This guide is intended as a supplement to individualized faculty counseling, and we encourage all UCLA Law students and alumni who want to learn more to contact the Emmett Institute co-executive directors, Sean Hecht and Cara Horowitz, so that they can provide more tailored information and advice.)

In Part 2, the guide provides an overview of UCLA’s many environmental law opportunities. From substantive environmental law courses to experiential education and extracurricular activities, there are plenty of options for students who want to learn about and gain hands-on experience in environmental law. Part 3 summarizes UCLA Law’s general career development resources, including services offered by the Office of Career Services and the Office of Public Interest Programs. Parts 4, 5, and 6 focus on career opportunities in the non-profit, government, and private law firm sectors, respectively. Each section contains a list of relevant employers. Part 7 provides a high-level overview of consulting, in-house counsel, and mediation career opportunities. Part 8 includes a list of post-graduate fellowship programs and opportunities. Part 9 provides a brief overview of judicial clerkship opportunities. Part 10 collates some helpful online job search engines and job boards. Part 11 features a diverse set of alumni narratives from UCLA Law graduates who are practicing environmental law. This guide includes hyperlinks. We recommend viewing it on a computer.

The Emmett Institute welcomes students from all backgrounds and is committed to enhancing the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the law school and in the environmental law field, through fostering increased representation of groups underrepresented in the profession. We recognize the history, especially, of underrepresentation of BIPOC students in the field, and are committed to remedying that condition.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AT UCLA

This section describes the numerous opportunities to explore environmental law at UCLA and develop your career. UCLA Law offers many resources to prepare students for careers in environmental law, including the renowned Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, personalized academic and career counseling, and one of the country's most extensive environmental law curricula, covering a range of state, federal, and international issues.

A. EMMETT INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The **Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment** is one of the country's leading environmental law programs. Founded in 2008, the Emmett Institute is dedicated to creating and advancing legal and policy solutions to climate change, environmental justice, and other environmental challenges and to training the next generation of leaders to address these issues. It fosters informed debate and analysis to educate the public, policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders on critical environmental and environmental justice issues. The Emmett Institute gives students opportunities to work at the forefront of climate and environmental advocacy in California and around the world. It also provides students with scholarship funding, experiential learning opportunities, and connections to a network of alumni in leadership positions across the country. Through one-on-one mentoring, our faculty help students find internships and early-career positions in the government, nonprofit, and private sectors.

Students are highly encouraged to interact with Emmett Institute faculty, seek their advice, and utilize the resources and tools at the Institute. Students seeking advice on career development should also utilize the Office of Career Services and the Office of Public Interest Programs, both discussed further below.

B. OTHER UCLA LAW PROGRAMS AND CENTERS

UCLA Law is an especially good place to study environmental law because of the robust set of programs and centers whose work overlaps with, and enhances, the offerings of the Emmett Institute. Many environmental law students find themselves interested in the intersection of environmental law and other issues well-covered by UCLA Law's programs and centers. We encourage students to take advantage of the deep resources available across the law school, including through the following programs and centers. Additional information on all of UCLA's centers can be found **here**. For specific information on each center's projects and course offerings, please contact the center directly.

The **Animal Law and Policy Program** explores the nexus between public policy and the treatment of farm animals, pets, and wildlife to build a fact-driven, sustainable legal approach to all species. Students can join the Animal Law Society, which hosts events on animal rights and related topics.

The **Critical Race Studies Program** is the first law school program in the United States dedicated to critical race theory in legal scholarship. The cornerstone of the program is the **CRS specialization**, a competitive academic course of study engaging top students who are committed to racial justice scholarship and legal practice. The CRS specialization enhances coursework with a variety of collaborative and interdisciplinary experiences to integrate theory and practice. The CRS program

hosts an annual symposium that draws top scholars from around the country for discussion of cutting-edge topics and works with student-led clinics to provide students with on-the-ground training and opportunities for representation and advocacy.

The **David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy** is one of the nation's most innovative and successful law school public interest programs. The Epstein Program offers a specialization in public interest law, which strives to provide an innovative and intellectually ambitious curriculum that trains students to engage in sophisticated representation of traditionally underrepresented individuals, communities, and interests, while utilizing a range of problem-solving tools. Students must apply and be accepted to the Epstein Program in order to complete the specialization. Prospective students can apply by completing supplemental application materials as part of their UCLA Law application. UCLA Law students can apply to transfer into the Epstein program during the summer between their first and second years. The Epstein Program is administered by the Office of Public Interest Programs, which provides career counseling and programming for Epstein students, as well as all other students who are interested in public interest career opportunities.

The **International and Comparative Law Program** offers courses, seminars, and clinics taught by top scholars, as well as highly regarded journals, international moot court opportunities, and student organizations. Students can pursue a **specialization** in international and comparative law.

The **Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy** offers classes and activities focused on entrepreneurship, negotiation, executive communications, and transactional law. The Institute offers two Business Law and Policy Specializations, which are suitable for students interested in practicing transactional law, as well as those students who desire to become business litigators. Students may choose from two specializations: Business Law (with recommended tracks for Bankruptcy and Corporate Law) and Taxation. The Institute also offers a number of real-world experiences and extracurricular activities, including transactional law and negotiation competitions, student organizations, and lunch-and-learn events.

The **Native Nations Law & Policy Center** is a national resource for the support of Native Nations. Through clinical programs led by eminent faculty, the Native Nations Law & Policy Center addresses critical public policy issues facing Native tribes, while offering students invaluable opportunities for legal training. The **Tribal Legal Development Clinic** serves Native American communities directly, providing legal expertise and support to those most in need, while students engage with tribal leaders, officers, and attorneys to contribute services to Indian tribes. Additionally, a joint **J.D./M.A. degree in American Indian Studies** offers an integrated study program to produce law graduates with a rich understanding of tribal cultures.

The **Promise Institute for Human Rights** is the center of human rights education, research, and advocacy at UCLA and around the region. The Promise Institute empowers students with enriching teaching and experiential opportunities in human rights law, engages with diverse frameworks and disciplines to generate new thinking on human rights, and advocates for change in coalition with academics, practitioners, and activists.

The **Program on Understanding Law, Science & Evidence (PULSE)** gives students the opportunity to explore critical issues including the challenges and opportunities for the use of forensic science evidence, how psychological research on implicit bias may affect legal understandings of

discrimination, and what role scientific evidence plays in disputes over climate change. Student-focused colloquia, conferences, lectures, and workshops by scholars also inform the PULSE arena of study.

The **Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy** conducts legal research in food law and policy to improve health and quality of life for humans and the planet. Through its publications, courses, clinic, and events, the Resnick Center affords students valuable scholarship, research, and networking opportunities. Students can also gain unique policy advocacy training within the food justice movement through UCLA's **Food Law and Policy Clinic**. Students can also enroll in UCLA's Graduate **Food Studies Certificate Program**.

The **Ziman Center for Real Estate** is a joint undertaking of UCLA Law and the UCLA Anderson School of Management. The Ziman Center supports a broad range of real estate-related courses and sponsors an array of student organizations, programs, and activities to augment student training and development.

C. SPECIALIZATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

UCLA Law offers a **Specialization in Environmental Law**. Students completing the specialization create a demonstrated record of study, gain experience in environmental law, and prepare for careers at public interest organizations, government agencies, and private law firms. Students work with a faculty advisor to create an individualized curriculum package that meets the student's academic and career objectives. To earn the certificate, students must complete five courses in environmental law and produce a supervised research paper. Upon successful completion of the required courses, students are awarded a diploma notation at graduation.

The specialization is not a requirement to practice environmental law, and all students are welcome to seek advice and guidance from Emmett Institute faculty members whether or not they enroll in the specialization.

UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IoES) offers a **Leaders in Sustainability Certificate** (LiS) graduate certificate, which is open to graduate students from across the University, including law students. Enrolled students take a core sustainability class along with electives of their choosing. Working with other students, faculty, and professionals, they initiate a leadership project that measurably advances sustainability. The LiS Certificate is free to UCLA graduate students from any discipline. Visit the IoES website for additional information about the LiS application process and course requirements.

D. COURSES

UCLA Law offers many courses that will prepare students for careers in environmental law, including numerous courses led by Emmett Institute faculty members who have been recognized for their teaching excellence. Course offerings vary by semester and academic year. Visit the UCLA Law [Curriculum Guide](#) for a list of current environmental courses. Course requirements for the Environmental Law Specialization can be found [here](#).

Course selection is important, and many factors can shape a student's workload, such as individual course workloads, externship or work commitments, extracurricular activities, and personal responsibilities. How you combine your classes and other commitments can greatly impact how challenging your semester is, and the number of units you take does not guarantee your semester will be more or less challenging. By choosing commitments strategically, you can position yourself to do your best work.

When planning your schedule, consider the time you are required to dedicate to each class (e.g. hours of lecture plus hours for reading/homework, four hours of work per unit for an externship, four to five hours of work per unit of clinic work, etc.). Next, think about how much time you will dedicate to each of your extracurricular, work, and personal commitments (e.g. 10 hours/week working as a Research Assistant, five hours/week serving on a student organization board). Then, add up the hours for all of your commitments. This will give you an estimate of how many hours you will be working each week, and you can decide if that number needs to be adjusted.

It can also be helpful to map out important deadlines, events, and "crunch times". If your commitments have overlapping deadlines or scheduling conflicts, you may want to remove something or need to make arrangements in advance.

You may also want to consider how courses are graded. UCLA Law offers classes that are graded on a curve and others that are not. Some classes can be taken Pass/No Pass. A professor may choose to give a take home final or an in-class exam, while others may require a final paper or a series of small assignments. For example, seminars can help balance a heavy doctrinal course load, while providing students with the opportunity to focus on specific topics or fulfill the Substantial Analytical Writing (SAW) requirement. Clinics typically require a significant time commitment, so it may make sense for a student to take a lighter course load when they are enrolled in a clinic. Students are not allowed to enroll in a clinic and an externship in the same semester. An independent study provides students with the opportunity to focus on a specific area of interest that may not be covered by an existing course, while providing flexibility for students enrolled in externships.

We highly recommend scheduling an appointment with an Emmett Institute faculty member and/or UCLA Law's [Office of Student Services](#) to discuss your course load. It can also be helpful to speak with students or alumni who have taken courses that you are interested in to learn more about the classes and professors; they may even offer you an outline!

E. EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

UCLA Law offers students the opportunity to work on real-world legal issues with under-represented clients or groups grappling with social and economic challenges. Students can build their skills through **clinics**, **practicums**, and **simulation** courses.

Two clinics and two simulation courses focus on environmental law. Students can represent nonprofit advocacy groups, environmental justice organizations, and government agencies in the **Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic** and engage with elected officials through the **California Environmental Legislation and Policy Clinic**. In the **Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions** simulation course, students gain practical skills in business and environmental law by negotiating the simulated sale of a facility. The **Regulatory Lawyering** simulation, taught within the context of environmental law, covers a host of regulatory issues that arise while managing a business.

The **Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic** trains law students in environmental lawyering. Under the supervision of Emmett faculty, students work closely with nonprofit, community-based organization, and government agency clients on the most important environmental and environmental justice issues in Southern California and beyond. The Clinic offers excellent opportunities for students to obtain hands-on experience practicing environmental law. Students who take this six-unit course work on large and small cases, involving federal and state law. The Clinic teaches conceptual frameworks that support lawyering skills, while exposing students to real-world environmental law practice through intensive clinic projects.

The **California Environmental Legislation and Policy Clinic** exposes students to the workings of the California Legislature, and Sacramento in general, and to the unique role attorneys can play in the lawmaking and policy process. It provides a practical skills experience in researching, drafting, and pursuing adoption of California environmental legislative and regulatory changes. Students work with elected officials and their staffs to identify and refine policy objectives focused on conservation, climate change, housing and land use policy, water quality and water rights, and other environmental policy goals. Students also interact with state officials, lobbyists, and public affairs professionals.

The **Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions** simulation course teaches substantive knowledge and practical skills needed by lawyers practicing in the fields of business, real estate and environmental law. The course uses the simulated sale of an actual facility (including the real estate and business) to explore these areas. Course work will include legal analysis, drafting, and simulated negotiation in a series of scenarios. Substantive environmental, real estate and business law needed for the course will be taught as part of the course. Courses in Environmental Law and Real Estate Finance would be helpful, but are not prerequisites. The class is a graded, four credit course.

The **Regulatory Lawyering** simulation course introduces students to regulatory practice, with the goal of developing the basic skills and experience needed in such a practice. While taught in the context of environmental law, the skills covered in the course are central to a broad range of regulatory practice areas. In a series of simulated scenarios, the course covers a number of industrial or commercial facilities facing a variety of environmental regulatory issues. The course is self-contained, and previous experience in courses such as Environmental Law or Administrative Law is not necessary.

In the past, the **Food Law and Policy Clinic** and **Tribal Legal Development Clinic** have also featured clinic projects that address intersectional issues, including environmental law.

F. SUMMER POSITIONS AND EXTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Law students can bolster their environmental law experience through summer positions and by enrolling in externships during the academic year.

Summer Positions

Rising second- and third-year law students typically spend their summers working as law clerks or summer associates at law firms, non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Summer positions are excellent opportunities to work full-time for employers that specialize in environmental law and policy. Students can gain substantive experience in environmental law, while also building connections with environmental law practitioners.

For positions at the largest private law firms, most hiring typically occurs through the **On-Campus Interview (OCI)** process and other national job fairs. The OCI process is geared toward rising 2L students. In the past, the OCI process occurred in August (before the fall semester). As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 OCI process will be held in January 2021 (before the beginning of the spring semester). The January 2021 OCI process will be called the Winter Interview Program (WIP), and it will also be geared toward 2Ls. Some large firms, particularly those outside of California, request students apply to them directly. It is critical to stay in touch with OCS to ensure you properly strategize for your goals and that you remain up to date about the timing of and venues for various OCI programs, as dates can change. Small and mid-sized firms typically have separate application processes that occur at various times throughout the school year.

A number of small and mid-sized law firms, corporate counsel, and public service employers participate in the **Fall Interview Program (FIP)**. These interviews typically occur in September and are hosted by OCS, either virtually or on campus. In the past, a number of environmental organizations, including Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council, Surfrider, and the U.S. Department of Transportation have participated in FIP. For more information on OCI, including WIP and FIP, we recommend contacting **UCLA Law's Office of Career Services**.

Each February, UCLA Law hosts the **Annual Southern California Public Interest/Public Sector Career Day**. Over 100 public interest organizations participate in the Career Day, and many organizations conduct interviews for summer and post-graduate positions. This is a good opportunity to learn about a large number of organizations and engage in "table talk" with their representatives. Students can also participate in informal lunchtime discussions that focus on a variety of substantive areas of public interest practice, including environmental law, or attend presentations on student debt relief and U.S. Department of Justice job opportunities.

Many nonprofit organizations and government agencies do not participate in the aforementioned processes. Students will typically need to apply through each employer's website. Every employer is different and requires individualized research to apply. Students can also utilize job search engines, which are discussed in Part 9.

Students who work at public interest organizations may be eligible to receive **Summer Public Interest Funding** from UCLA Law. Many rising 2L and 3L students are able to take advantage of these programs. Summer funding programs are administered by the Office of Public Interest Programs, and interested students should contact that office early in the application cycle for more information.

Externships

Externships provide students with the opportunity to earn academic credit while gaining real-world experience in not-for-profit, government, judicial, or transactional settings. Students can participate in one full-time externship or two part-time externships. Students are required to enroll in a corresponding externship seminar where they process their experiences and grapple with the challenges their peers are navigating in their placements. Externships are an excellent opportunity to explore potential career paths, gain experience in substantive environmental law, and build relationships with practicing attorneys. For additional information on UCLA Law's requirements for externs and to search for placement opportunities, visit the [UCLA Law Externship Office](#).

It can be helpful to think about your summer positions and externships holistically. Students have three or four opportunities (depending on whether they enroll in one full-time or two-part time externships) to work for different employers and explore various environmental career paths during law school. You may think about using these opportunities to build a portfolio of experiences that exposes you to different practice settings (e.g., government and private firm), substantive areas of law (e.g., water law and land use), and types of legal work (e.g., transactional and litigation). A few examples are below, but there are an endless number of combinations, and your own approach should be informed by your goals and needs—and the Emmett Institute co-directors are happy to help guide you. Extensive employer lists can be found beginning on pages 16 (non-profit organizations), 19 (government), and 24 (private firms).

Examples:

- A student who is interested in public interest environmental law may try to spend one summer working for a government agency, another summer working for a small environmental nonprofit, such as LA Waterkeeper, and extern at a large environmental nonprofit, such as Earthjustice.
- A student who is interested in land use, water, and wildlife may try to work with attorneys who specialize in each of these issues, i.e. at a land use firm, for the California Coastal Commission, and for the Center for Biological Diversity.
- A student who is considering a career in litigation and policy may try to work for the California Office of the Attorney General, a private law firm, the California Legislative Analyst's Office, and an environmental nonprofit organization that engages in policy advocacy, such as NRDC.
- A student who wants to work in the private sector may try to work for a smaller law firm doing transactional work, a larger law firm in the litigation practice group, and as a judicial extern.

Again, these are just examples. You should feel free to craft a pathway that reflects your interests, priorities, and goals. There are *many* ways to use your law school years to set yourself up for success in your career.

UCDC Law Program (Washington, D.C.)

The UCDC Law Program is a full-semester (14 week) externship program offered to UC law students. Students can receive 13 total course credits for enrolling in this program, which includes a weekly seminar course and a full-time field placement. It is the responsibility of the student to secure a full-time field placement. This semester is designed to help California law students gain hands-on experience in learning how federal statutes, regulations, and policies are made, changed, and understood in Washington, D.C. Students interested in applying for this program should contact the [UCLA Externship Office](#) to confirm their eligibility to participate.

G. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UCLA Law students can take advantage of numerous extracurricular offerings and professional development opportunities. From student organizations to competitions and conferences, there are many enriching activities to fill your time outside the classroom. Extracurricular activities are encouraged, and many alumni have found them to be valuable. However, students do not need to feel pressured to participate in extracurriculars. At least a few alumni have said, “do not try to do everything, but do something.” Try to select one or two extracurriculars that sound interesting. From there, you can determine the level of involvement that works best for you.

Student Organizations

UCLA Environmental Law Society

The UCLA Environmental Law Society (ELS) aims to educate students about current issues in environmental law and policy provide a space to facilitate conversations about environmental justice and problem-solving, and foster a supportive and inclusive community for students interested in addressing environmental issues and environmental justice. ELS is committed to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environmental law community through its own events and through working with affinity student organizations. ELS plans events featuring practitioners, advocates, activists, and professors, arranges an annual trip to the Environmental Law Conference in Yosemite, and organizes environmentally-focused activities for students. ELS events are an opportunity to meet students who are interested in environmental law. ELS also organizes a formal 1L student mentorship program and facilitates informal opportunities for students to seek advice from their peers and alumni in the field.

ELS members have historically attended and participated in a wide variety of competitions, conferences, and symposia, including: the California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Conference, the Pace Environmental Moot Court Competition (January), the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (February), the California Lawyers Association Environmental Negotiations Competition, and LA County Bar Association Environmental Law Section events.

Any student may join ELS. The [ELS mailing list](#) is one prominent distribution channel for informing current law students about environmental law job openings, as well as events and other opportunities of interest in the field.

Rising 2Ls and 3Ls can run for ELS Executive Board positions: President, Communications Director, Community Chair (2), Environmental Justice Chair, and Off-Campus Events Coordinator. Elections are held during the spring semester and any member of ELS may vote. 1Ls, 2Ls, 3Ls, LLMS and MLSs can all apply to be Board Representatives, which are non-voting board positions. Board Representative applications are released during the fall semester. Board Representatives are selected by a vote of the 6 Executive Board members.

UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy

The *UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy (JELP)* produces a high-quality, biannual journal on cutting-edge environmental legal and policy matters. In continuous publication since 1980, *JELP* is entirely run and produced by the students of UCLA School of Law. Articles and comments published in *JELP* are written by leading scholars and practitioners throughout the country, and often the world, and by students focusing on environmental law at UCLA.

JELP enjoys a strong partnership with the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, often in the form of publishing special symposia issues of the Journal. Together with the Environmental Law Society, *JELP* assists in hosting speakers and events that complement the environmental law curriculum at UCLA School of Law and fosters the continued growth of the vibrant environmental community at UCLA.

1Ls may join as staff editors during the spring semester, and 2Ls and transfers may join in the beginning of the fall semester. New members are required to fill out an application and complete a production test. Officer transitions occur during spring semester.

Competitions

Pace Environmental Moot Court Competition (White Plains, NY)

The Jeffery G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition (“NELMCC” or “Pace Moot Court”) is a nationally recognized moot court competition that focuses on issues within environmental law. This competition provides a great opportunity to practice written and oral advocacy skills, while also demonstrating interest in environmental litigation and legal practice. It is “open universe” and thus requires each team to research and write advocacy briefs for one party, while additionally arguing the issues for all parties involved. This is a large moot court competition, and UCLA School of Law typically sends teams every year.

The competition is held during the spring semester, and invitations to apply are distributed by Emmett Institute faculty to all students.

California Lawyers Association Environmental Negotiations Competition (Location varies)

The Environmental Law Section of the California Lawyers Association regularly hosts an annual student negotiations competition. In contrast to moot court, this competition focuses on building students’ negotiation skills within an environmental context. This is a “closed universe” competition, and students need not have prior environmental legal knowledge to participate. Typically, only one team competes per law school, and space is limited to 20 teams per competition. UCLA School of Law regularly sends a team to this competition.

The competition is held during the spring semester, and invitations to apply are distributed by Emmett Institute faculty to all students.

Conferences

California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite (Yosemite, CA)

The Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite is California’s largest and most prestigious gathering of leaders in environmental, land use, and natural resources law. The Environmental Law Society at UCLA organizes an annual law student trip to attend the Conference. This is a terrific opportunity to network with environmental law professionals, gain insight into the current state of environmental issues, and spend time in nature.

Historically, 1Ls have sometimes been hesitant to attend the Conference, but professors understand how valuable the Conference is and are often very accommodating. Spending one weekend

in nature learning about environmental law will not derail your whole semester! You may even come back feeling refreshed and inspired.

Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (Eugene, OR)

The Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) is an annual gathering for environmental activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and concerned citizens. Past topics include labor and human rights, air and water pollution, Native American treaty rights, environmental justice, corporate responsibility, international environmental law, water rights and dam removal, oil and gas litigation, genetic engineering, and urban growth. This is an excellent opportunity to network with environmental professionals interested in public interest law. UCLA Law does not organize a trip to PIELC, but students may request conference funding from the Office of Career Services.

Professional Associations

Professional associations provide an opportunity to learn about current environmental law issues and network with practicing attorneys. Most professional associations offer free or discounted memberships and event pricing for law students.

American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources

The American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources is committed to providing members across the country with opportunities to enhance professional skills, stay on top of current developments, and dialogue in environmental, energy, and natural resources law.

California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section

The California Lawyers Association Environmental Law Section is dedicated to furthering the knowledge of members in the fields of law affecting the environment and environmental regulatory law. Substantive areas and topics include air, litigation, energy, waste management, natural resources, water, land use, toxics, and the California Environmental Quality Act. The Section hosts the annual Environmental Law Conference at Yosemite and offers educational opportunities throughout the year, including opportunities for online participatory MCLE credit and self-study MCLE credit.

Los Angeles County Bar Association Environmental Law Section

The Environmental Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) hosts events in and around the greater Los Angeles area that law students are welcome to attend. These events typically include full-day symposia in the fall and spring, as well as lunch seminars. Students interested in attending these events should keep an eye on the **LACBA Calendar**, which can be filtered by environmental law.

3. CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AT UCLA LAW

This section describes the various career services offered at UCLA Law. While most resources do not focus on environmental law specifically, they are valuable career development tools. Students are encouraged to utilize the resources made available by UCLA Law's Office of Career Services and Office of Public Interest Programs, in addition to meeting with the Emmett Institute co-executive directors, Sean Hecht and Cara Horowitz, for individualized counseling.

A. OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES

The **Office of Career Services** (OCS) is the primary career development resource for UCLA Law students. OCS assists students with career counseling and job placement. The career counselors have decades of practice in the private law firm, in-house counsel, and government settings, and they have built relationships with alumni and employers around the country. The office also hosts panels and events on specific areas of law, coordinates On-Campus Interviews (OCI), manages job and clerkship databases, sponsors the Alumni-Mentor Program, and maintains a resource library to support students, alumni, and employers. OCS also provides resume and cover letter review services and organizes mock interviews.

B. OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS

Law students interested in a public interest/public sector environmental law career can utilize the **Office of Public Interest Programs** (OPIP). OPIP works with the Office of Career Services to sponsor public interest career events and programs, including the Government Reception and Information Fair (fall) and the Annual Public Interest Career Day (February). OPIP provides individualized counseling to help students plan, create, and implement educational and pro bono opportunities and summer placements. They also help students and alumni secure post-graduate positions in the public interest sector. They organize mock interviews, facilitate networking opportunities, and assist students with post-graduate fellowship applications.

4. CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

Environmental nonprofits play a critical role in protecting communities and the environment. There are international, national, and local environmental nonprofits. Some work on a range of environmental issues, while others focus on a specific issue area. There are organizations where attorneys practice environmental law and litigate cases, and there are organizations that focus on policy advocacy. Environmental lawyers may also seek employment at community-based organizations.

Employment opportunities at environmental nonprofit organizations vary from year to year. Unlike private firms, which often hire new attorneys every year, nonprofits typically only hire when an existing position needs to be filled or when they have funding to create a new position. Many nonprofit organizations will host law students as externs and provide academic credit. Additionally, a nonprofit organization may be willing to serve as a host organization for a student who receives post-graduate fellowship funding from another source, such as UCLA Law or a third-party funder. Fellowships are discussed in more detail in Part 8.

The following list includes organizations that currently or have previously employed environmental attorneys in legal or policy positions and/or hosted post-graduate legal fellows.

- [Alaska Conservation Foundation](#) (Anchorage, AK)
- [Animal Defense Legal Fund](#) (Cotati, CA)
- [Animal Outlook](#) (formerly Compassion Over Killing) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Animal Welfare Institute](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Bluegreen Alliance](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) (Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento, CA)
- [California Farm Bureau Federation](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Center for Biological Diversity](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Center for Clean Air Policy](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#) (Arlington, VA)
- [Center for Food Safety](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Center for International Environmental Law](#) (Washington, DC and Geneva, Switzerland)
- [Center for Ocean Solutions](#) (Monterey, CA)
- [Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment](#) (Oakland, CA)
- [Clean Water Action](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Climate Resolve](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [Community Water Center](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Communities for a Better Environment](#) (Huntington Park, CA and Oakland, CA)

- [Conservation International](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Conservation Law Foundation](#) (Boston, MA)
- [Defenders of Wildlife](#) (Washington, DC)
- [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) (Bristol, PA)
- [Delta Stewardship Council](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Earthjustice](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [EarthRights International](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Environment America](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Environmental Defense Center](#) (Santa Barbara, CA)
- [Environmental Defense Fund](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Environmental Integrity Project](#) (Washington, DC)
- [Environmental Law Alliance](#) (Eugene, OR)
- [Environmental Law Foundation](#) (Oakland, CA)
- [Environmental Law & Policy Center](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Environmental Law Institute](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Friends of Animals](#) (Centennial, CO)
- [Friends of the Earth](#) (Berkeley, CA and Washington, D.C.)
- [Friends of the River](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Greenlining Institute](#) (Oakland, CA)
- [Greenpeace](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Heal the Bay](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [Humane Society of the United States](#) (Washington, DC)
- [Institute for Policy Integrity](#) (New York, NY)
- [Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [Los Angeles Waterkeeper](#) (Santa Monica, CA)
- [Los Padres Forest Watch](#) (Santa Barbara, CA)
- [Mercy for Animals](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [Midwest Environmental Advocates](#) (Madison, WI)
- [National Audubon Society](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [National Environmental Law Center](#) (Boston, MA and Seattle, WA)
- [Natural Heritage Institute](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [Natural Resources Defense Council \(NRDC\)](#) (Multiple Locations)

- [National Wildlife Federation](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [The Nature Conservancy](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [NextGen America](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Oceana](#) (Washington, DC)
- [The Ocean Conservancy](#) (Washington, DC)
- [Orange County Coastkeeper](#) (Costa Mesa, CA)
- [Our Children's Trust](#) (Eugene, OR)
- [People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals \(PETA\)](#) (Norfolk, VA)
- [Planning and Conservation League](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [PolicyLink](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Rainforest Alliance](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Resources for the Future](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Rocky Mountain Institute](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [San Diego Coastkeeper](#) (San Diego, CA)
- [San Francisco Baykeeper](#) (Oakland, CA)
- [SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [Sierra Club](#) (Oakland, CA; Washington, DC)
- [Sierra Fund](#) (Nevada City, NV)
- [Southern Environmental Law Center](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Surfrider Foundation](#) (San Clemente, CA)
- [Tri-Valley CAREs](#) (Livermore, CA)
- [Trust for Public Land](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Waterkeeper Alliance](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Western Environmental Law Center](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Western Resource Advocates](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Wild Equity Institute](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [WildEarth Guardians](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Wilderness Society](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation](#) (Malibu, CA)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [World Resources Institute](#) (Washington, D.C.)

5. GOVERNMENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Working for a government agency is another excellent opportunity to gain experience in environmental law. There are large government entities that address numerous areas of law and have departments or sections that are dedicated to environmental law, such as the California Office of the Attorney General. There are also agencies that are specifically dedicated to addressing environmental issues. Within the category of environmental agencies, there are those that cover a variety of environmental issues, e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as agencies that specialize in a particular issue or subset of issues, e.g. California Coastal Commission.

Government attorneys enforce laws and defend the government in lawsuits against it. Thus, they may act as prosecutors or defense counsel, depending on the case. Working for a government agency offers the opportunity to see issues from many sides, while endeavoring to find a middle ground and ensuring enforcement of existing laws.

Governments also employ attorneys in policy and administrative advocacy positions. Advocacy positions may involve working for an elected official to create laws or drafting rules on behalf of an administrative agency.

Government agencies regularly attend the annual Government Reception and Information Fair (fall) and the Public Interest Career Day (February). The California Coastal Commission, California Public Utilities Commission, and the Department of Justice Environmental Division have all participated in on-campus interviewing at the Public Interest Career Day. Contact UCLA Law's Office of Public Interest Programs for more information on these programs.

A. FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many federal job openings can be found at [USAJobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov), where applicants may search for environmental law positions within all agencies. This website is not comprehensive, however, so applicants should also check official websites for job openings.

[Army Corps of Engineers \(ACE\)](#) (Multiple Locations)

[Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#) (Multiple Locations)

[Department of Defense \(DOD\)](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Department of the Interior \(DOI\)](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Department of Justice \(DOJ\), Environment and Natural Resources Division](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) (Multiple Locations)

[EPA's Environmental Appeals Board](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#) (Washington, D.C.)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) (Multiple Locations)

National Park Service (Multiple Locations)

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) (Washington, D.C.)

White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (Washington, D.C.)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Washington, D.C.)

B. STATE OF CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The State of California employs many attorneys. Some California government agencies offer internships, externships, and post-graduate fellowships for recent graduates and junior attorneys. Other agencies tend to hire attorneys who have at least a few years of professional experience. Every agency is different, so it can be helpful to speak with attorneys who work for the agency to learn more about their hiring process. Many UCLA Law alumni work for California agencies, and the Emmett Institute can help facilitate introductions.

Intern and extern hiring processes for government agencies are typically straightforward and require a cover letter, resume, references, transcript, and writing sample. Most full-time positions have rigorous hiring processes. Job announcements are posted on www.jobs.ca.gov, which also has information about minimum qualifications and examinations. Entry-level positions that are classified as “Attorney” require prospective applicants to take the Attorney Exam to qualify. The exam is online and open continuously. The Attorney Exam is not substantive, but rather it asks the prospective applicant to describe their experience performing a variety of tasks. Prospective applicants can take the examination before they meet all of the qualifications. For example, third-year law students and recent graduates may take the Attorney Exam and be interviewed for a position before they have taken the Bar Exam, but they cannot be hired until they have been admitted to the Bar. The exam is valid for one year after it is taken. After one year, the exam must be retaken to apply for a position.

Agencies must post each position separately and may only consider candidates who applied for that position. Interested candidates must apply for each available position separately and are welcome to apply for multiple available positions.

Bar admission is usually required, though sometimes a position may be filled by a Graduate Legal Assistant classification. See the specific job posting for minimum qualifications.

A very helpful senior attorney who works for the California State Water Board summarized his advice to job seekers. Though some of his advice is specific to the Water Board hiring process, most of it applies across California agencies:

“Getting hired as an attorney for a state agency basically involves three steps. **First**, you have to take an examination specific to attorneys and be ranked high enough on the resulting hiring list to be eligible for employment. The exam is typically not a test, and often involves nothing more than a review of your education and experience. Most agencies share their hiring lists with other agencies, so it pays to take any available exam even if you are not interested in working for that agency. **Second**, you have to apply to a state agency with an opening, after the opening is announced. **Third**, you have to be selected by that agency, usually after an interview and a review of a writing sample and references.

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) does not conduct its own attorney exams. The California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) administers a multi-agency Attorney exam. In addition to taking that exam, you should also seek out Graduate Legal Assistant exams conducted by any state agency and the Deputy Attorney General exam conducted by the Office of the Attorney General. We advise signing up for all three types of exams. Also, if multiple state agencies are offering Graduate Legal Assistant exams you should consider taking the exam at multiple agencies. The Graduate Legal Assistant exam is open to students in their last year of law school. The Attorney and Deputy Attorney General exams are open to persons eligible to take the bar exam.

You can find information about the multi-agency Attorney exam via Cal HR's [Exam Search](#).

CalHR also maintains lists of examinations and job opportunities for [open positions](#). Searches for Attorney or Graduate Legal Assistant will produce the relevant exams.

You can also find information about the Attorney General's exams at <http://oag.ca.gov/careers/exams#continuous%20open>.

Once listed, you are eligible for employment off of the list for a year, and you can apply again for later lists. (Eligibility depends on how your scores are ranked. The top three ranks are eligible, but once everyone in a rank gets hired another rank opens up for eligibility.) **As the Attorney General only updates its list once or twice a year, there can be substantial delays and it's best to sign up for an exam well before you plan on applying for a job. Graduate Legal Assistant exams, in particular, are held infrequently.**

Note also that once you get on a list you may receive notices of job openings, often in areas that may not interest you. The notices will provide information as to how you need to respond to keep your listing active. Pay careful attention to the instructions as you may be removed from an active list if you do not properly respond.

In addition to getting on a list, and as the time approaches when you will be available for employment, you need to watch for announcements of job openings. As indicated above, the CalHR search function at <http://jobs.ca.gov> includes employment opportunities, and searches for Attorney and Graduate Legal Assistant should indicate the relevant job postings.

In some cases, an agency with only a job posting for Attorney may be willing to hire off of the Graduate Legal Assistant list, so it's worth checking. We have done so at the State Water Board's Office of Chief Counsel. When we are hiring, we are also interested in hearing from people who are not on any list, but who have a passion for the State and Regional Water Boards' work and who have signed up and expect to be placed on a list soon. Please note that State Water Board's Office of Chief Counsel and Office of Enforcement post job listings and conduct their hiring separately, so you may want to contact both offices.

It may also help to contact specific agencies to let them know you are interested, even if you do not have the results of your exam yet, but you will need to have made yourself eligible by taking an exam before they can hire you."

While the following list is not exhaustive, it contains many relevant state agencies. For students who are interested in working for a government agency in a different state, this list can help you identify parallel agencies in the state of your choice.

California Air Resources Board (Sacramento, CA)

California Attorney General's Office (Multiple Locations)

Natural Resources Section

Environment Section

Land Law Section

California Coastal Commission (also at Public Interest Career Day) (Multiple Locations)

California Department of Conservation (Sacramento, CA)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Sacramento, CA)

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (Sacramento, CA)

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) (Sacramento, CA)

California Department of Toxic Substance and Control (Sacramento, CA)

California Department of Water Resources (Sacramento, CA)

California District Attorneys Association (Sacramento, CA)

Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project

California Energy Commission (Multiple Locations)

California Environmental Protection Agency (Sacramento, CA)

California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) (Sacramento, CA)

(manages zero emission vehicle program)

California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Sacramento, CA)

California Independent Systems Operator (Folsom, CA)

California Legislature (Sacramento, CA)

California Legislative Analyst's Office (Sacramento, CA)

California Natural Resources Agency-Legal Section (Sacramento, CA)

California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (Sacramento, CA)

California Public Utilities Commission (also at Public Interest Career Day) (Sacramento, CA)

California State Lands Commission (Sacramento, CA)

California State Parks Legal Office (Sacramento, CA) California

State Water Resources Control Board (Sacramento, CA)

C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The following list is intended to serve as a sample of local government agencies in California. Small cities and counties may have fewer specialized departments, and environmental issues may be covered by the City Attorney or City Manager. These jobs can provide terrific opportunities to influence the development, implementation, and enforcement of local environmental laws and policies that affect people every day.

[Bay Area Air Quality Management District](#) (San Francisco, CA)

[City and County of San Francisco District Attorney](#) (San Francisco, CA)

[Los Angeles City Attorney, Land Use, Environmental Justice](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office, Division of Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles County Counsel](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles County Management Fellows Program](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles Department of Water and Power \(LADWP\)](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles District Attorney, Environmental Crimes](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[Metropolitan Water District of Southern California](#) (Multiple Locations in Southern California)

[Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority \(MRCA\)](#) (Los Angeles, CA)

[San Diego City Attorney, Environment & Land Use](#) (San Diego, CA)

[San Diego County District Attorney](#) (San Diego, CA)

[San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission](#) (Sacramento, CA)

[San Francisco City Attorney, Health & Human Services, Land Use, Public Utilities](#) (San Francisco, CA)

[Santa Clara Office of the County Counsel, Government Operations, Environment](#) (Santa Clara, CA)

[South Coast Air Quality Management District](#) (Diamond Bar, CA)

Additional Resources:

Complete list of local [Air Quality Management Districts](#)

Complete list of [California Regional Water Quality Control Boards](#)

6. PRIVATE LAW FIRM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Working at a private firm can provide lawyers with fantastic training in a range of important skills, especially early in a lawyer's career. Many firms also give lawyers a chance to work in a high-resource, high-demand setting that is focused on solving clients' problems through creative, and sometimes cutting-edge, advocacy. Larger firms typically hire new lawyers every year and choose their post-graduate hires from among their summer associates.

The following firms all specialize in environmental law to some degree. These firms vary in size, and the availability of internship and summer associate positions varies. Several of these firms sponsor the Environmental Law Conference in Yosemite or have a presence in the environmental law community. It is important to note that some firms specialize in public interest environmental law, while others represent and defend companies in enforcement actions.

This list is organized alphabetically. Each firm's relevant practice areas are included, and private public interest and environmentally-focused law firms are specified.

Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo

- Offices: San Francisco, CA and Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environment and natural resources, energy and utility, land use, local government law, building codes, litigation, and legislation and rulemaking
- Represents labor organizations, trade associations, public agencies, environmental, consumer and community groups and other non-profit associations

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy and environment policy, food and agriculture policy, and transportation policy and regulation

Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: energy and utilities and real estate, including land use

Alston & Bird

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, environmental compliance, permitting and transactions, environmental enforcement defense, environmental litigation, land use, toxic torts

Altshuler Berzon LLP

- Office: San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental protection and public health litigation
- Private public interest law firm
- Hosts a one-year environmental fellowship program in conjunction with NRDC

Anderson & Krieger LLP

- Office: Boston, MA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental enforcement, litigation, and compliance, land use and zoning, clean energy, and public law

Angel Law

- Office: Santa Monica, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, land use, public law
- Primarily represents environmental organizations, citizen groups, and individuals
- Private public interest law firm specializing in environmental law

Ashurst LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, environmental and planning law, compliance, contaminated sites, water, waste, legislation and policy, clean energy, climate change

Baker Botts

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy litigation and regulatory practice, environmental aspects of business transactions, air quality, climate change, environmental criminal enforcement, legislation and regulatory issues

Baker, Keener, & Nahra, LLP

- Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental toxic torts
- Small plaintiff firm

Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp LLP

- Office: San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and compliance, land use, development, and natural resources

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental litigation and regulatory practice

Bassi Edlin Huie & Blum

- Offices: Los Angeles and San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, CERCLA, HSSA, permitting, compliance, and toxic torts
- Defense firm

Beasley Allen

- Offices: Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL
- Relevant practice areas: environmental disasters, toxic exposure, and water contamination
- Plaintiffs' firm

Best, Best & Krieger LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA and Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, natural resources, municipal law, land use, energy, and water

Beveridge & Diamond

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, natural resources, energy, climate change, water, environmental justice, citizen suits
- Environmental law firm

Bick Law LLP

- Office: Newport Beach, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, clean air, water, energy, toxics

Boies, Schiller, Flexner LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental and energy

Bricklin & Newman

- Offices: Seattle and Spokane, WA
- Relevant practice areas: land use, environmental, energy, toxic torts

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, natural resources, land use, water

Burke Williams Sorenson LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, land use, and natural resources

Cascadia Law Group

- Offices: Olympia and Seattle, WA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, air quality, natural resources, energy, Federal Indian Law, water

Chatten-Brown & Carstens LLP

- Offices: Hermosa Beach and San Diego, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, CEQA, land use, historic preservation, oil, and mining
- Private public interest law firm specializing in environmental law and land use
- Fun fact: Four of the firm's six attorneys are UCLA Law alums

Cohen Milstein

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental toxic torts

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP

- Offices: New York, NY, San Francisco and Santa Monica, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, contamination, toxic torts, environmental justice, water law, land use and coastal public access
- Private public interest law firm

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP

- Offices: Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, land use, brownfields, and renewable energy

Cozen O'Connor

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and enforcement, environmental regulatory compliance, utility and energy, zoning, land use, and development

Crowell Law Office

- Office: Sedona, AZ
- Relevant practice areas: tribal advocacy

Crowell & Morning

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, environment, natural resources, chemicals, air, water, climate change, endangered species, wildlife, federal lands, mining, toxics

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, food and beverage, environmental litigation, real estate, contaminated properties, compliance, permitting, water law

Donahue, Goldberg, Weaver, & Littleton LLP

- Offices: New York, NY and Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and land use
- Private public interest law firm

Downey Brand

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA and NV
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, food and agriculture, natural resources, and land use

Engstrom, Lipscomb & Lack

- Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Relevant practice areas: groundwater contamination and toxic torts
- Plaintiff firm

Eubanks and Associations, LLC

- Office: Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: public interest law, environmental law

Foley & Lardner

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy litigation and corporate environmental law

Gibson Dunn

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law, enforcement defense, toxic tort, class action, regulatory and compliance counseling

Girardi | Keese

- Offices: Los Angeles and San Bernardino, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental and toxic torts
- Plaintiff firm
- Fun fact: This was one of the firms that represented plaintiffs in the “Erin Brockovich” case.

Goldfarb Lipman

- Offices: Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego, CA
- Relevant practice areas: land use

Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian, & Ho

- Office: Oakland, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, toxic torts, Clean Water Act, Proposition 65
- Civil rights and workers’ rights class action firm

Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP

- Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental and climate change litigation, carbon regulation and trading, clean technology, green building, energy, brownfields, regulatory and compliance

Greenberg Traurig

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, energy litigation, liquefied natural gas, oil and gas pipeline regulation, regulatory and compliance, real estate

Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden, PC

- Offices: Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego, CA
- Relevant practice areas: land use, mining, and water law

Hanson Bridgett LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, air, contaminated property, environmental crimes, Proposition 65, food and beverage, land use, sustainable impact and business investing, water

Harmon, Curran, Spielberg & Eisenberg LLP

- Office: Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: nuclear safety, chemical contamination, clean-up and disposal

Hausfeld

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, toxics

Holland & Hart

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, natural resources, American Indian Law, endangered species, environmental compliance and enforcement, water law

Holland & Knight

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law (advocacy, litigation, transactions), energy, mining, pipelines, natural resources, water law, wind energy

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: regulatory, real estate, energy, renewables and clean power, environmental law, air, climate change, environmental justice, land use, natural resources

Ice Miller LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and enforcement, natural resources, mining, brownfield redevelopment

Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: government, land use, environmental law, and energy

Kaplan, Kirsch & Rockwell

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, climate change, environment, public lands, conservation, litigation, Native American law, land use, zoning

Keesal Young and Logan

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law-civil and criminal liabilities

King & Spalding

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, energy, food and beverage, toxics and environmental torts

Kronick Moskowitz Tiedemann & Girard

- Offices: Sacramento and Roseville, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental, natural resources, climate change, energy, land use, water law

Latham & Watkins LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law (litigation and transactions), energy, air quality, climate change, chemical regulation, international environmental law (China and Europe)

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation
- Plaintiff firm
- Represented plaintiffs in litigation regarding the Exxon Valdez oil spill, Porter Ranch gas leak, and the BP Gulf oil spill

Lozeau Drury LLP

- Office: Oakland, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and administrative practice, land use
- Clients include many environmental nonprofit organizations

McGuireWoods

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy litigation, policy, regulation, and transactions, environmental law, air, brownfields, chemicals, waste, waste, toxic torts, land use

Miller Nash Graham & Dunn

- Offices: Portland, OR and Seattle, WA
- Relevant practice areas: land use, environmental litigation and compliance

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy regulation, environmental counseling and litigation

Morrison & Foerster LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental litigation, toxic torts, and chemicals

Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental litigation, transactions, and compliance, enforcement defense

Meyers Nave

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: California drought, California Public Utilities Commission, climate change and green initiatives, energy, environmental law, land use, and water law

Nossaman LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environment, land use, energy and utilities, water

Norton Rose Fulbright

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: energy, climate change, and sustainability

O'Melveny & Myers, L.L.P.

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental litigation and transactions, natural resources, energy, utilities, water

Paul Hastings

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environment, energy, litigation, real estate

Perkins Coie

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, compliance, and enforcement, remediation, energy, natural resources

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw and Pittman LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation and regulatory practice

Polsinelli

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental and natural resources law

Remy Moose & Manley, LLP

- Office: Sacramento, CA
- Firm specializes in California environmental and land use law

Richards, Watson & Gershon

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Firm specializes in California environmental and land use law

Schiff Hardin

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environment law, permitting and compliance, energy

Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environment law, including permitting and compliance, hazardous waste, crisis response services on high profile environmental matters

Sher Edling, LLP

- Office: San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: climate change, land and water contamination
- Specializes in high-impact, high-value environmental cases that hold polluters accountable, including climate damages litigation
- Represents states, cities, public agencies, and businesses

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP

- Office: San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: government, land use, renewable energy, and environmental law
- Private public interest law firm specializing in environmental law
- Offers three-year fellowships for recent law school graduates-Applications are due by Labor Day for fellowships beginning in the fall of the following calendar year.

Silicon Valley Law Group

- Office: San Jose, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental liability, compliance, and litigation, land use

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law, energy, climate change, mining

Snell and Wilmer

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, natural resources, energy and utilities, water

The Sohagi Law Group

- Office: Brentwood, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, municipal law, CEQA, land use, affordable housing, conservation, water quality

Soluri Meserve

- Office: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, resource and water management, land use
- Private public interest law firm specializing in environmental law

Somach Simmons & Dunn

- Offices: Sacramento, CA, Boulder, CO, and Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: agriculture, land use, toxics and hazardous waste, air quality, Endangered Species Act, local government, and water practice areas
- Small environmental firm

Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, natural resources, water rights, Tribal law

Strumwasser & Woocher

- Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental and land use litigation, solar energy, public utilities law
- Private public interest law firm

Stoel Rives LLP

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental litigation, energy, natural resources, climate change, Indian Native and Alaskan law, arctic law, contaminated sites, land use

Terris, Pravlik & Millian LLP

- Office: Washington, D.C.
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, federal environmental law, clean air, NEPA, contamination
- Represents individuals, neighborhood groups, national environmental organizations, and governments
- Private public interest law firm

Venskus & Associates

- Offices: Los Angeles and Ojai, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental law, land use, CEQA, clean water, coastal preservation, historic preservation
- Private public interest law firm

Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld

- Offices: Alameda, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, CA and Honolulu, HI
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation (enforcement) and environmental compliance
- Represent unions, employee benefit plans, and individual employees

Wiggins, Childs, Pantazis, Fisher & Goldfarb

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, clean air, water pollution, solid waste, wetlands, wild lands, mass tort and class actions
- Plaintiffs' firm

Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate energy and infrastructure (transaction),

7. ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many private businesses hire environmental attorneys to perform legal and non-legal work. A background in environmental law can be utilized at a planning or consulting firm, in an in-house counsel position at a company, and as a mediator at an alternative dispute resolution company. The following lists provide several examples for each job category; the lists are not intended to be comprehensive. For additional information on consulting, in-house counsel, and mediation career opportunities and to connect with alumni who work in these fields, please contact UCLA's Office of Career Services.

Example Planning and Consulting Firms:

AEI Consultants

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental consulting & due diligence, site investigation & remediation, building assessments, energy efficiency, environmental health, safety, and compliance

Ascent Environmental, Inc.

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Practice areas: CEQA, NEPA, climate change, natural resources, strategic regulatory guidance

Better World Group

- Offices: Los Angeles and Sacramento, CA
- Services: nonprofit consulting, climate policies, environmental strategies, ballot measures,

Dudek

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental planning and permitting, water infrastructure, treatment design, and supply planning, natural and cultural resources management, site assessment and remediation

EEC Environmental

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental consulting, engineering, compliance, litigation support, research

Estolano Advisors

- Offices: Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento, CA
- Services: urban planning and public policy firm, nonprofit and business consulting, grant-making strategies, technical assistance programs and outreach, strategic planning community planning, multi-stakeholder engagement, policy research and analysis

Integral Consulting

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental consulting, engineering, compliance, litigation support, research

Ramboll

- Office: Denmark
- Services: environmental consulting

Soil / Water / Air Protection Enterprise (SWAPE)

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Services: environmental consulting

Terraphase Engineering

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental compliance, due diligence, liability management, enforcement, and litigation

7th Generation Advisors

- Office: Santa Monica, CA
- Services: environmental and nonprofit consulting, environmental law enforcement, climate litigation funds, First Nations Tribal Council, eco-literacy

Example In-house Counsel Opportunities:

Bird

- Sample positions: City Policy & Compliance Manager, Corporate Counsel
- Urban mobility/scooter company

Bloom Energy

- Sample position: Environmental Compliance
- Energy company

BNSF Railway

- Sample position: Environmental, Health, & Safety Counsel
- Railroad company

Caruso

- Sample position: General Counsel
- Real estate developer

Estee Lauder Companies

- Sample position: Associate Counsel, Sustainability
- Cosmetics company

Genentech

- Sample position: Environmental Counsel
- Biotech company

Impossible Foods

- Sample position: Regulatory Affairs
- Plant-based food company

NBCUniversal

- Sample position: Land Use/Environmental Counsel
- Entertainment company

The Wonderful Company

- Sample position: Environmental Counsel
- Food company

Recology

- Sample position: Associate General Counsel-Environmental
- Resource recovery company

Southern California Edison

- Sample position: Regulatory Attorney
- Energy company

Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas)

- Sample positions: Senior Environmental Counsel; Infrastructure Policy Manager, Energy
- Energy company

Tesla

- Sample Positions: Corporate Counsel, Supercharger; Legal Counsel, Compliance
- Electric vehicle company

Example Mediation, Arbitration, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Companies:

CONCUR, Inc.

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental conflict resolution, environmental policy analysis, training, scientific review, strategic planning

Environmental Mediation Center

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: environmental conflict resolution, environmental policy analysis, environmental and agricultural dispute resolution programs

JAMS

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Services: mediation and alternative dispute resolution, energy issues

Land Use and Environmental Mediation Group

- Office: San Diego, CA
- Services: environmental and land use consulting, facilitation, and mediation

8. FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are a great opportunity for recent graduates to begin their careers. Most fellowships last one or two years. Fellowship offerings vary from year to year. While some employers have longstanding fellowship programs with consistent hiring timelines, other employers hire fellows based on need and funding. Additionally, some organizations may be willing to host fellows who are able to secure outside or third-party funding.

In addition to organizational fellowships, there are several project-based public interest fellowship programs. These programs include the [Equal Justice Works Fellowship](#), [Skadden Foundation Fellowship](#), [Justice Catalyst Fellowship](#), and [Echoing Green Fellowship](#). These programs accept fellows every year and have rigorous application processes. The Office of Public Interest Programs counsels students who are interested in applying to these fellowship programs and can help students create competitive applications. **If you are interested in applying to a project-based fellowship in environmental law, please contact UCLA Law's Office of Public Interest Programs**, in addition to speaking with Emmett Institute faculty.

The following list includes both ongoing and past fellowship opportunities, as well as hyperlinks to the most recent job postings and hiring information. Some application deadlines may have passed. For new job postings, sign up for the ELS listserv and individual employer listservs and utilize job search databases. You can also reach out to organizations to find out if they will be hosting future fellows.

[California Attorney General's Honors Program](#) (Multiple Locations)

Honors Program attorneys will work with Department experts on important issues involving criminal justice, consumer protection, preserving the environment, maintaining a fair marketplace, and, above all, preserving the rule of law.

[ChangeLab Solutions](#) (Oakland, CA)

One-year policy fellowship in Oakland, CA working on a range of issues, including healthy eating, active living, healthy housing, sustainable communities, and tobacco control.

[Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (Multiple locations)

One-year fellowship in the Litigation Department of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) at the Philip Merrill Environmental Center. The fellow will take a lead role in developing litigation CBF will bring or supporting litigation in which CBF is currently engaged. The fellow will work closely with the Vice President for Litigation, litigation counsel, litigation staff, and other CBF staff, including scientists, land planners, lobbyists and educators.

[Columbia Law School, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law](#) (New York, NY)

[Climate Change Law Fellowships](#) – Postdoctoral Research Scholar/Associate Research Scholar: two-year fellowship that involves research and writing on issues regarding climate change and the law, with some work on developing and implementing advocacy strategies. Fellows may also help organize conferences, seminars, and collaborative publications. Each fellow can either be employed as a Postdoctoral Research Scholar or an Associate Research Scholar. The Postdoctoral Research Scholar requires a JD, JD equivalent, or LLM within three years of beginning the fellowship. The Associate

Research Scholar appointment is only available to those whom have already completed another fellowship or postdoctoral training following their law degree.

Community Water Center (Multiple locations)

One-year fellowship seeks to place a successful candidate in a community without safe water and local water board members. The role of the fellow will include creating and updating resources for community members and legal practitioners regarding drinking water governance and advocacy, as well as providing legal and advocacy support for other Community Water Center programs as needed.

Conservation Law Center (Bloomington, IN)

Graduate Fellow Attorney: one-year position with an option for a second year depending on interest and performance (most fellows complete two years). Projects revolve around conservation legal issues, and work may comprise of litigation, conservation transactions, preparing comments on proposed agency actions and rules, research, and legislation analysis. Fellows also work with students at the Conservation Law Clinic with the Maurer School of Law. Must be licensed in any state bar within 6 months of employment.

Earthjustice (Multiple locations)

Post-Grad Legal Fellowship: externally funded fellowship that may span one to two years (depending on funding). Earthjustice may provide limited funding for fellows who do not receive funding from a law school or other funding source. Students interested in applying may apply to multiple offices based on legal interests. Six Earthjustice offices and programs accept fellowship applicants, including the Clean Energy Program (Washington, D.C.); Fossil Fuels Team, Climate and Energy (San Francisco); Healthy Communities (Los Angeles); International Program (San Francisco); and the Toxics Team (New York or Washington, D.C.). Fellows work closely with seasoned Earthjustice attorneys, policy and communications staff, and clients to develop litigation and advocacy strategies, typically being involved with tasks such as factual investigation, legal research, discovery, briefing, witness preparation, and oral advocacy. Applicants may include third-year law students, judicial clerks, or other recent law school graduates.

Emory Law, Turner Environmental Law Clinic (Atlanta, GA)

Law Fellow: two-year fellowship that involves teaching, legal work, and research in environmental law. Fellows are required to research and write at least one article, policy paper, or other approved publishable project on a topic relating to environmental law. Ideal for entry-level environmental attorneys between 0-3 years of experience.

Environmental Defense Fund (Washington, D.C.)

EDF offers a number of fellowship opportunities, including the U.S. Clean Air, Federal Clean Energy Legal Fellow program. Current job postings can be found [here](#).

Environmental Law Institute (Washington, D.C.)

Public Interest Law Fellow: The law fellow works closely with ELI attorneys and other professionals, including U.S. and international partners, to advance environmental protection by analyzing existing legal tools, developing new ones, and crafting innovative approaches.

Environmental Law and Policy Center (Multiple locations)

ELPC has previously hosted a two-year fellowship in Chicago, Columbus, Grand Rapids, or Minneapolis working on climate change, clean energy, environmental protection, and natural resources preservation litigation and innovative policy advocacy.

Greenlining Institute (Oakland, CA)

Policy and Legal Fellowship: Oakland-based economic and environmental justice organization

Georgetown Environmental Law and Justice Clinic Fellowship (Washington, D.C.)

Washington, D.C.-based two-year position as a staff attorney and clinical teaching fellow. The clinical fellow/staff attorneys are responsible for the day-to-day supervision of students, guiding them in conducting research, writing, and analysis. The staff attorneys will also have their own opportunities to engage in oral and written advocacy on their projects, including the chance to argue before federal, state, or administrative judges.

George Washington University Law School, Environmental and Energy Law Program (Washington, D.C.)

Two-year teaching and research position ideal for those with existing teaching experience. This fellowship provides opportunities to co-teach law school courses in Environmental Lawyering, Energy and Sustainability, and other related topics. Fellows can also publish articles resulting from independent research on topics involving environmental or energy law. Fellows are also expected to assist in publishing regular newsletters and generating content for the program's social media platforms. For more information, see the job description for the 2020-2022 fellowship: Environment and Energy Law Fellowship

Harvard Law School, Environmental & Energy Law Program (Cambridge, MA)

EELP Legal Fellow: one-year fellowship, with the potential to renew, that involves research and writing on environmental issues. Work projects are provided based on programmatic needs, but Fellows can develop new projects either independently or collaboratively with the Program. Open to candidates who have earned a JD in the past 3 years. Requires 2 years of experience practicing law, with demonstrated interest in environmental law. This is a yearly position, and the 2021-2022 position will likely be posted in Fall 2020.

Clinical Fellow: one-year fellowship that involves working with the Clinic Director and staff attorneys on environmental and natural resource cases and assisting in supervising the students working in the clinic. Open to candidates who have earned a JD in the past 3 years. Requires 1-year experience.

Indiana University, Environmental Resilience Institute (Bloomington, IN)

Fellow in Conservation Law: two-year fellowship position ideal for attorneys with interests in private-land conservation, energy law, easements and other property tools, bird migration conservation, and public-private collaborations. Applicants have the option to teach a law course if they choose.

New York Office of the Attorney General, Environmental Protection Unit/NYU School of Law

State Energy & Environmental Impact Center Fellowship: one-year, NYC or Albany-based fellowship is an opportunity to serve as a special assistant attorney general in the Environmental Protection Bureau, under the Division of Social Justice in the New York State Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The

fellowship is funded by the NYU School of Law, which hires the successful candidate and provides ongoing support through its State Impact Center. The special assistants provide the OAG with additional litigation resources on clean energy, climate change and other environmental matters through litigation, advanced legal work, and inter-organizational coordinating.

New York University, Institute for Policy Integrity (New York, NY)

Legal Fellow: one to two-year fellowship involving projects researching regulatory policy on issues regarding environmental, energy, public health, and consumer protection. This can include drafting amicus briefs, regulatory comments, advising advocacy organizations, supervising NYU Law School students on projects within the Regulatory Policy Clinic, and publishing articles, op-eds, and other literature.

NRDC/Altshuler Fellowship (San Francisco, CA)

This one-year environmental law fellowship is based out of San Francisco, CA. A major portion of the fellow's time is spent working on cases brought jointly by NRDC and Altshuler Berzon LLP enforcing federal and state environmental statutes primarily involving western water issues, including endangered species protection, ecosystem restoration and water policy reform.

Oceana (Washington, D.C.)

Law Fellows support Oceana's campaigns focus on promoting responsible fishing; combating seafood fraud; stopping illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; defending U.S. environmental laws; advocating for clean offshore energy; and fighting the expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling.

Public Justice (Multiple locations)

Food Project Fellowship: two-year, Oakland or Washington, DC-based fellowship with a nonprofit organization dedicated to pursuing high impact lawsuits nationwide. Public Justice's Food Project works to address the impact of our nation's current corporate industrialized factory farm system on independent farmers, animals, land, water, consumers and the public.

Save the Sound (formerly Connecticut Fund for the Environment) (New Haven, CT)

Jobs and Opportunities: Save the Sound has previously offered the Peter B. Cooper Legal Fellowship: two-year, full-time position ideal for new attorneys, which involves advocacy to state and federal courts, and local administrative agencies. This position may also involve working with the University of Connecticut Law School Environmental Law Clinic. Prefers but does not immediately require admission to the Connecticut or New York bar. JD is required.

Shute, Mihaly, and Weinberger, LLP (San Francisco, CA)

Three-year fellowship for highly qualified recent law school graduates, public-interest fellows, and judicial clerks. Fellows function as junior associates in our firm and gain hands-on experience and instruction in environmental, land use, energy, real estate, and local government law by conducting research, writing briefs and memoranda, drafting agreements and transactional documents, counseling clients, participating in administrative hearings and case strategy discussions, and appearing in court once admitted to practice in California.

Sonoma County Counsel's Office (Sonoma, CA)

CROWN (Climate, Renewable Energy, Open Space, Water, and Natural Resources) Fellowship

Program: one-year, embraces all areas of public law practiced by Sonoma County Counsel's Office, including environmental law.

Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) (Multiple locations)

The SELC provides numerous Associate Attorney positions for entry-level attorneys interested in environmental litigation. They have nine offices in Charlottesville, VA; Chapel Hill, NC; Atlanta, GA; Charleston, SC; Washington, DC; Birmingham, AL; Nashville, TN; Asheville, NC; and Richmond, VA.

Glynn D. Key Associate Attorney Fellowship: one-year position open to recent law graduates or attorneys completing clerkships. Focuses on public health and environmental issues in the Southeast and the rest of the nation.

UCLA School of Law, Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (Los Angeles, CA)

UCLA offers several fellowship opportunities, including the Emmett/Frankel Fellowship in Environmental Law and Policy and the Shapiro Fellowship in Environmental Law and Policy. The Emmett/Frankel and Shapiro Fellowships in Environmental Law and Policy are both two-year internally-funded fellowships that involve research and writing in the law and policy of climate change and the environment and assisting with Emmett Institute projects. Fellows are also expected to teach a course in environmental law for at least one semester. Open to candidates who have earned a JD in the past several years or expected by June of the year in which students apply. The job description for the 2020-2022 Emmett/Frankel Fellowship can be found [here](#).

University of Texas School of Law (Houston, TX)

Environmental Justice Fellow at Lone Star State Legal Aid: one one-year, Houston, TX-based fellowship is with an important environmental law legal aid organization. Successful fellows will work with a team of environmental attorneys to combat environmental injustice and improve health and quality of life in low-income communities in Texas. Lone Star's current environmental justice docket includes permit challenges to reduce air and water pollution and ensure proper cleanup of waste; citizen suit enforcement actions; National Environmental Policy Act comments and litigation; and civil rights complaints.

U.S. DOJ Attorney General's Honors Program (Washington, D.C.)

Federal government training program for new attorneys.

Vermont Law School (South Royalton, VT)

Global Energy Fellowship: two-year fellowship that provides the opportunity to obtain an L.L.M. degree in energy law free of cost, while also working on multiple projects for the Institute on Energy and the Environment, including supervising students on programmatic projects. Prior experience in energy law and policy required.

U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law Fellowship: two-year fellowship that provides the opportunity to obtain an L.L.M. or Master's degree free of cost. This fellowship involves working closely with faculty at the U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law program, as well as take a lead role on at least one major project. Language skills in one of the Southeast Asian languages preferred. Prior experience in environmental or energy law required.

Food and Agricultural LLM Fellowship: two-year fellowship that provides the opportunity to obtain an L.L.M. degree in Food and Agricultural Law at no cost. Fellowship involves working 20 hours a week on major projects for Vermont Law School's Center for Agriculture and Food Systems program regarding food labeling and regulations, food safety regulations, biodiversity and agriculture, among other topics. Successful candidates may teach a course and supervise students and interns within the program. Must obtain admission to Vermont bar within first year of position.

Environment and Natural Resources Law Clinic Fellowship: two-year fellowship position that provides the opportunity to obtain an L.L.M. degree in Environmental Law free of cost, while also working as a part-time staff attorney for the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC). The Fellow will be expected to work closely with clinic staff to represent clients and supervise student clinicians. Must obtain admission to the Vermont bar within first year of position.

Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic Toxics Fellowship: two-year fellowship position that provides the opportunity to obtain an L.L.M. degree in Environmental Law free of cost, while also working part-time as a staff attorney in the ENRLC. The position involves taking the lead role in managing a project designed to aid communities faced with toxic pollution problems throughout northern New England. The fellow also has the option to teach practicum and assist in teaching student clinicians. Requires a minimum of two years legal experience in practicing environmental law. Requires admission to Vermont bar within first year of the position.

Yale/NRDC Legal Fellow (Multiple locations)

Legal Fellow: two-year legal fellowship position that focuses on litigation and policy efforts to redress environmental and public health harms. In the first year, the Fellow will be placed within one of the offices of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), which include New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Chicago, or Santa Monica, depending on the fellow's interests and NRDC's needs. There the fellow will be supervised by experienced NRDC attorneys. In the second year, the fellow will work at Yale in New Haven, CT to coordinate and co-teach the Environmental Protection Clinic at Yale along with NRDC experts and a Yale faculty member. Clinic projects include litigation support, administrative advocacy, legislative drafting, strategic communications planning, networking building, scientific literature reviews, and more. Requires obtaining a J.D. within three years prior to applying. Must be admitted to the state of the NRDC office in which the fellow will work.

9. JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

Judicial clerkships are an opportunity to work for a judge, federal or state, and help them analyze the cases on their docket and reach appropriate decisions in those matters. As a clerk you will spend your time writing memos and opinions for your judge (thereby sharpening your legal research and writing skills), learning about many different substantive areas of law, and analyzing oral arguments and trials. While clerkships do not focus on environmental law per se, they provide excellent experience for attorneys who are interested in litigation. Many UCLA Law alumni have completed clerkships before practicing environmental law.

The application process is very rigorous, and prospective clerks typically start applying one or two years in advance. **Students who are interested in judicial clerkships should contact UCLA Law's Office of Career Services.** OCS guides clerkship candidates by facilitating faculty involvement, assisting with the application process, and connecting applicants with former clerks and other clerkship-related resources. OCS' clerkship director provides individual counseling and sponsors judicial clerkship programs and events for students to meet judges, clerks, and faculty. OCS also maintains a clerkship database.

10. ONLINE JOB SEARCH RESOURCES

CalCareers

- Official job board for State of California positions

Careers in Sustainability

- Environmental job resources curated by UCLA’s Sustainability Department

Citizen Yang, Law and the Environment

- Environmental job board run by a Santa Clara Law Professor

Climate Jobs

- Environmental job board maintained by LA-based nonprofit, Climate Resolve

Environmental Career Opportunities (ECO Jobs)

- Environmental job board

Federal Government (USAJobs)

- Official job board for Federal positions

GoInHouse

- Job board for in-house and general counsel positions
- Filter by “environmental,” “energy,” and/or “compliance”

LA Legal Jobs

- Job board maintained by the Los Angeles County Bar Association

Martindale Hubbell

- Attorney database
- For public interest law firms, Advanced Search—Law Firms & Organizations tab

National Lawyers Guild

- Association of progressive lawyers.
- Visit the Referral Directory tab which contains name, address, email, and telephone information for NLG members, most of whom work for very small, public interest-oriented law firms.

PSJD

- Online clearinghouse for law students and lawyers to connect with public interest job listings and career-building resources
- Narrow by Environmental
- For private public interest law firms, Select Law Firm—Public Interest Focus

UCLA Law Symplicity

- UCLA Law’s internal jobs database
- Narrow by Practice Areas: Administrative, Energy, Environmental, Municipal, Natural Resources, Oil and Gas, Transportation, Water, Wetlands

11. ALUMNI NARRATIVES

The following Alumni Narratives were provided by UCLA Law graduates who are working in the environmental arena. Their stories are intended to illustrate different career paths. While these alumni narratives can be helpful and inspiring, it is important to realize that everyone's path is unique. We hope you will enjoy their stories.

Melodie Meyer '20 **Legal Fellow, Yurok Office of the Tribal Attorney**

I first felt a calling to serve indigenous communities during my Undergraduate education at the University of New Mexico. There I earned my bachelor's degree in Native American Studies with a minor in Honors Studies. I joined the KiVA Club, which is the oldest Native American organization on UNM's campus. The KiVA Club is an indigenous advocacy group that seeks to create a healthy community on UNM's campus for Native students. In a leadership role with this organization I realized I wanted to be an advocate, leader, and overall hardworking member of my community. In the KiVA Club and different classes taught by indigenous scholars, I studied and researched various issues in the indigenous community. In order to connect to my own tribe, the Pueblo of Laguna, I interned with Laguna's Environment and Natural Resources Department. I discovered that working on environmental issues, and especially the complex issues that arose from the Jackpile Uranium Mine on my reservation, was what I had a passion for. It was at this time that I connected my family's stories and trauma with what had been done through environmental harm like the uranium mine. Law classes that I took in my senior and junior years also spurred me to apply to law schools after I graduated.



Once I had been accepted to UCLA Law, I continued to gain leadership experience in Native organizations and how to respectfully and effectively work within indigenous communities. The Native American Law Student Association was an especially crucial part of my law school experience because I learned about tribal and Indian law and made a number of professional and academic connections. I clerked for the Wishtoyo Foundation my 1L summer, where I worked on water law issues and indigenous environmental justice issues. I took many amazing classes and clinics on indigenous people's history and contemporary issues, including Critical Race Theory, the Tribal Legal Development Clinic, Federal Indian Law, Art & Cultural Property, Land Displacement and Dispossession, the Human Rights in Action Clinic, and Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change. In these experiences I formed a critical analysis of how the law operated to oppress indigenous rights to self-determination and land, as well as an approach to challenging legal systems as a part of a colonial structure. During my 2L summer, I clerked for Fredericks Peebles & Patterson, LLP which was a nationwide Indian Law firm that served a number of tribes. I found that I enjoyed working for tribes on cultural resource issues and environmental law issues, and it solidified my desire to someday return to my own tribe to help build and enforce environmental policy that reflected traditional values. In my 3L year, I worked to complete an Environmental Law specialization and found many of the required classes helped me to exercise my voice as an important critique and addition to environmental public interest advocacy.

During my final year of law school, I applied to and received the Justice Catalyst Fellowship to work with the Yurok Tribe's Office of the Tribal Attorney (OTA) in Klamath, CA. I selected the Yurok OTA as a host because I knew I would learn valuable skills from the position and the lawyers working in the office. I also admired the innovative environmental justice and policy work that the Yurok Tribe was consistently committed to. I am very excited for this new chapter in my life and I know through this experience I will become closer to achieving my goals to serving indigenous communities and protect mother earth.

My advice to environmental law students, especially environmental law students of color, is to attend networking events and enroll in classes that put you outside your comfort zone. I often felt that my community organizing, and indigenous knowledge didn't fit into the environmental law box, but it's important to remember that it takes many generations for us to expand and change the field. I would recommend writing a reflection about yourself and why you decided to go to law school that you may read it any time you are feeling defeated or lost.

Alex Gay, '19
Legal Fellow, Earthjustice

My primary interest throughout law school was climate law and policy. I interned at the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board. Since graduating, I've been working as a legal fellow at Earthjustice's Washington, D.C. office, where I focus on national air toxics issues.

One piece of advice I'd offer to current students is to take a wide array of environmental law courses. It's likely that your first job(s) after law school will not be in the area of environmental law that you are most interested in. Having familiarity with a large swath environmental issues makes the job application process a bit easier. Relatedly, it seems like the issues that most acutely impact communities do not always get the most attention. Be open to shifting your focus based on need.

Finally, know that the coffee at Jimmy's was once worse than it is now. Rejoice and be glad.

Heejin Hwang, '19
Environmental Justice Fellow, Lone Star Legal Aid

Hello! My name is Heejin Hwang, and I am a 2019 UCLAW graduate. My goal in law school was to combine my background in civil rights with my budding interest in environmental justice. Being part of the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy (PILP) and specializing in Critical Race Studies provided practical and theoretical support for this work. In addition, three classes significantly influenced my current path: (1) Rebellious Lawyering with Professor Gerald Lopez, (2) Land, Dispossession, and Displacement with Professor K. Sue Park, and (3) Regulation of the Business Firm: Theory and Practice with Professor Timothy Malloy. For experiential development, I interned with the Wishtoyo Foundation, a Native-led nonprofit organization engaging in environmental litigation, and with the



Natural Resources Defense Council, and I took UCLA's Environmental Law Clinic and Community Economic Development Clinic. These experiences affirmed my desire to work with low-income communities and, as a Californian, to get exposure to environmental justice advocacy outside of California.

Thankfully, the perfect opportunity opened up, and I am on a one-year fellowship working with Lone Star Legal Aid's Environmental Justice Team in Houston, Texas. We work with low-income individuals and communities in East Texas on issues ranging from air pollution from the petrochemical industry, port expansions, hurricane impacts, displacement caused by infrastructure projects, Superfund redevelopment, and more. I love working with our clients and learning about the deep histories of their communities. After this fellowship, I will work at a firm in Houston and then clerk in Riverside, California. Because my time in Houston has been so invaluable and opened my eyes to new issues and approaches, I recommend that students interested in environmental justice be geographically open in their internships and job search. Particularly as work-from-home becomes more prevalent in the current pandemic, think outside the box, contact alumni (who are all around the country), and don't give up! You never know how it might work out.

Stephanie Oehler, '19
Honors Attorney, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Regional Counsel, Region 9

I entered law school with the goal of becoming a public interest environmental lawyer working in the non-profit or government realm after graduation. During my 1L year, I enrolled in the environmental law modes course and joined the Environmental Law Society (ELS) and Journal of Environmental Law and Policy (JELP). I attended as many lunch talks and events as I could, and met with professors to plan a course schedule and discuss potential internships for the next years that would best prepare me for a career in this field.



During my 2L and 3L years, I transferred into the David J. Epstein Program in Public Interest Law and Policy, which allowed me to learn public-interest specific lawyering skills amongst peers pursuing careers in a variety of public interest fields. I enrolled primarily in environmental law courses, ranging from Administrative Law and Environmental Justice, to California Environmental Law and Comparative Environmental Law, as well as the exceptionally valuable Environmental Law Clinic. I also became more involved in student groups, serving as the Off-Campus Events Coordinator for ELS and the Co-Editor-in-Chief of JELP. These activities allowed me to get to know my classmates better, meet experienced environmental advocates and potential future colleagues, and learn more about emerging issues in environmental law.

My work experiences during law school prepared me to put the skills I was learning in the classroom into action. I interned with the California Coastal Commission and Earthjustice, and externed with the Environmental Justice division of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. After graduation, I accepted a one-year position as the Public Interest Law Fellow at the Environmental Law Institute. At the conclusion of my fellowship, I will be joining the Office of Regional Counsel for Region 9 of the Environmental Protection Agency as an Honors Attorney.

Eric Sezgen, '19
Research Attorney, Southern California Edison

I graduated from UCLA Law in 2019. I did both the environmental law and the international and comparative law specializations. In law school, I took several seminars, which allowed me to follow many different research interests in the climate and energy space. Work-wise, I focused on California energy issues. I had some previous background working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the Grid Integration Group, but even in the few years between that experience and law school, the landscape rapidly changed. I had a general idea of how administrative agencies and utilities worked in tandem to further California's climate goals but did not know the intricacies of the system.



My 2L year, at the Yosemite Environmental Law Conference, one of the keynotes was given by UCLA Law graduate Liane Randolph, who was a Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Her keynote was both interesting and inspiring. This sparked my interest in potentially working at the CPUC. Through the public interest career day at UCLA, I did an internship at the CPUC in the Administrative Law Judge Division. There I was exposed to many different proceedings and saw in more detail how administrative processes worked to handle many of the rapidly changing energy issues. I also started reading different filings submitted by different California utilities. One filing I found particularly thought-provoking was Southern California Edison's 2018 Integrated Resource Plan. It read more like a white paper and was one of the most compelling road maps for decarbonization and electrification that I had seen. That later led me to research and apply to a position in the Resource Policy and Planning Group in the Regulatory Law Department at Southern California Edison that filed the plan. I currently work in that group researching and writing materials for the Renewable Portfolio Standards, Green Tariff/Shared Renewables, and Integrated Resource Plan proceedings.

My path up to this point was improvisational, and I was reacting to things I found interesting and inspiring. Taking different environmental law classes and going to different events facilitated by the Emmett Institute and the Environmental Law Society, like the Yosemite Environmental Law Conference and lunch talks, helped me make sense of a rapidly expanding climate and energy landscape.

Sunjana Supekar, '19
Associate, Chatten-Brown, Carstens, & Minter

My name is Sunjana Supekar and I graduated from UCLA Law in 2019, with specializations in Critical Race Studies, Public Interest Law and Policy, and Environmental Law. I am an associate at Chatten-Brown, Carstens, & Minter, a public interest environmental law firm based in Southern California. The day I wrote this, Los Angeles County saw record-breaking heat of 121 degrees Fahrenheit and campers in the Sierra National Forest found themselves surrounded on all sides by fire. Elsewhere in the world, southwest Louisiana residents grappled with the aftermath of what the National Hurricane Center deemed an "unsurvivable" storm surge, and residents of Karachi, Pakistan reckoned with monsoon floods that killed at least 23 people. These hazards related to climate change strike all

over the world, and in alarming disproportion against those who are already overburdened and those who contributed the least to their root cause.

I'm sharing this because I think part of what helped me endure law school was continuously reflecting upon, and reminding myself, why I became a law student. I came to law school specifically to pursue a career in public interest environmental law and justice, transitioning from a short earlier career in various other fields. To that end, I took several Environmental Law courses, including Environmental Law, Ocean Law and Policy, and Energy Law, to gain context and foundational knowledge of environmental law. I pursued the Critical Race Studies specialization and took several CRS courses, including Critical Race Theory, which helped me understand how the law constructs and perpetuates racism, including environmental racism. I applied for summer internships and semester externships with organizations whose work I admired and wanted to explore. And I took clinical courses, such as the Environmental Law Clinic, which provided invaluable practical legal knowledge.

These paths led me to seek public interest employment after graduation, and I was very lucky to find a position at Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter. In this role, I work on a number of cases that relate to protecting the environment and communities, and that mostly involve enforcement of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). I really enjoy working on these cases and in the small firm setting, with a small group of wonderful attorneys. For students who are unsure about which path to take, I really encourage them to reflect on what motivated them to become law students, particularly environmental law students, and where they want to make their contributions to the legal field.

Crescent Cheng, '18

Land Use and Associate Corporate Counsel, Wishtoyo Foundation



I recently started my second legal job at the Wishtoyo Foundation, a nonprofit organization that preserves and protects Chumash culture and cultural environmental resources, and supports indigenous communities and all communities through educational, scientific, and cultural programs. My role as Wishtoyo's Land Use and Associate Corporate Counsel is to (1) provide legal advice and project management related to the permitting and development of Wishtoyo's new cultural environmental Conservancy in Santa Paula, and (2) to provide legal advice related to organizational governance matters. While the latter is new for me, I had substantial experience with the former at my first job as an associate in the Environment and Land Use group at Nossaman LLP. At Nossaman, I assisted renewable energy developers in getting their environmental & wildlife permits and helped to both challenge and defend projects approved by local governments. Both the job at Nossaman and the job at the Wishtoyo Foundation were directly traceable to my experience while in law school. I worked at Wishtoyo during my 1L summer, through which I was introduced to attorneys at Nossaman, where I worked during 2L summer.

I think that it really helps to have experiences that you can talk about in interviews, and the easiest way is to get that is to take the Environmental Law Clinic and extern somewhere. I externed at the AG's office in the land law section, and the City Attorney's Environmental Justice Unit and am really grateful for the context.

Beth Kent, '18

Emmett/Frankel Fellow in Environmental Law & Policy 2020-2022, UCLA School of Law

Prior to joining UCLA Law's Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, I completed a two-year fellowship with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT). LANLT is a community-based, non-profit organization that builds parks and community gardens in low-income communities and communities of color throughout Los Angeles County. My fellowship was funded by LANLT and the UC President's Public Interest Fellowship, and I applied through the Office of Public Interest Programs.



During law school, I prioritized gaining hands-on experience through clinics, externships, and summer positions. I knew I wanted to focus on public interest environmental law and policy, so I looked for government and nonprofit opportunities. I enrolled in the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic and the Food Law and Policy Clinic, and I spent two semesters externing at NRDC. My summer positions were at Earthjustice and the California Office of the Attorney General in the Land Law Section. Working on real-world issues is a great way to learn, and it is also an opportunity to support active environmental justice campaigns. On campus, I served as ELS President and was an editor for JELP. ELS and JELP are both great ways to work with Emmett faculty and to meet other students who are interested in environmental law.

When I was applying for post-graduate positions, I was looking for an opportunity at a nonprofit in Los Angeles that focused on environmental justice issues. There are a handful of environmental justice organizations in LA, but not all of them have attorneys, so the options are a bit limited. That being said, it is totally possible to find an environmental justice (EJ) organization that is willing to host a fellow! I recommend working on EJ projects during law school (think: clinic projects, independent study projects, and externships) and trying to build relationships with people who work at EJ organizations or on EJ issues at big greens, like Earthjustice and NRDC.

Rica Garcia, '17

Bureau of Environmental Justice, California Attorney General's Office

I graduated from the UCLA School of Law in 2017, specializing in Public Interest Law and Policy and Critical Race Studies. Immediately after graduation, I joined Shute, Mihaly, & Weinberger LLP as an Environmental Law Fellow. My practice involved conducting environmental litigation in federal and state court regarding environmental, land use, local government, and tribal government law. After concluding my fellowship, I started working at the Bureau of Environmental Justice in the California Attorney General's Office. My practice focuses on enforcing policies to protect historically oppressed communities that continue to face environmental racism.

During law school, I served as Chief Comments Editor for the UCLA Law Review, co-chair of the Skid Row Clinic, and representative on the Student Bar Association. I also worked as an intern with the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment, Natural Resources Defense Council, Schonbrun Seplow Harris & Hoffman LLP, and National Center for Youth Law.

I also earned a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, where I concentrated in Community Economic Development and Housing. Prior to

graduate school, I attended the University of California, Berkeley, where I earned a B.A. in Urban Studies, B.S. in Society & Environment, and a minor in Global Poverty & Practice.

Benjamin Harris, '16
Shapiro Fellow in Environmental Law & Policy 2019-2021, UCLA School of Law

I am honored and privileged to have spent the majority of my adult life associated with UCLA: I not only attended both college and law school here, but I returned after law school for two years as a fellow at the Emmett Institute! My extensive time on campus has taught me many things, including some insights about the wide variety of possibilities for a career in environmental law.

First, I highly recommend any and all students interested in practicing in a litigation capacity to pursue a judicial clerkship at any jurisdictional level, because of the unique perspective it affords and the unparalleled opportunity to enhance your legal analysis and writing skills. I clerked for Judge Stephen V. Wilson for the United States District Court in the Central District of California; it was certainly my most rewarding legal experience to date. Getting a feel for the inner workings of a court's chambers can be instrumental in shaping your approach to practicing in court, and you'll do more legal research and writing in your clerkship term than in any other job you'll ever have. For me, the fast pace of the docket, and the ability to learn about different types of legal disputes in depth, kept the position highly engaging and worthwhile. If you haven't thought about pursuing a clerkship before, hopefully this will give you the nudge you need to begin looking into it further.



Second, I found my brief stint in private practice to be insightful and worthwhile. Although I never intended to work at a law firm, I spent almost two years at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in Century City after graduating from law school. My experience at the firm taught me a variety of skills associated with the litigation process. Many important aspects of litigation work are not part of the typical course instruction in law school, so experiencing it firsthand allowed me to understand everything that parties must go through once a case is filed in court. Even if you intend to practice environmental law during your career, gaining early experience at a firm is a common and beneficial route toward a productive career in litigation.

Third, I highly recommend that all students interested in environmental law become involved with any or all of the Emmett Institute programs offered on campus. In particular, I valued my experience as a student in the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, which was a vital practical learning experience that helped me prepare for actual client work after graduation. I recently co-taught the Environmental Clinic in Spring 2020, and being on both sides of the course made me appreciate even more how rare of an opportunity it is to engage directly with clients on substantive projects as a law student. There are a host of other incredible environmental courses offered by the Emmett Institute and UCLA faculty, and I would suggest taking any and all courses that interest you. Exposure to the different facets of environmental law could give you the inspiration to tailor your desired career path to a subject you weren't thinking about before, whether that subject is climate change, water issues, environmental justice, species protection, or anything else you might learn about.

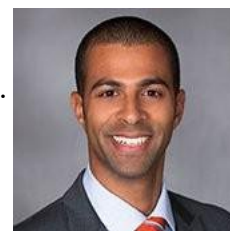
Fourth, I also valued my time during law school as a member of the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy. JELP taught me how the Bluebook works, and it was a great

opportunity to hone my sense of thoroughness and attention to detail in the legal writing context. It has definitely been a huge time-saver for me in private practice to have internalized many of the commonly-used citation formats. Plus, you get to learn about cutting-edge environmental issues from a wide variety of scholars as part of your journal obligations; you might even be able to publish an article in the journal yourself, as I was fortunate enough to have done myself!

Phil Hoos, '12

Deputy Attorney General, California Attorney General's Office

When I started at UCLA Law in 2009, I knew I wanted a career in environmental law, and so I took part in as many related classes and clinics as I could. My path diverged slightly from my initial plan, however, when I decided to join a large private firm after law school as an associate working on matters of financial fraud and commercial litigation. It turns out, these experiences (especially the litigation training I received in private practice) were instrumental in helping me transition to, and thrive in, the job I have today at the California Office of the Attorney General (AGO). At the AGO, I work in the Natural Resources Law Section defending and enforcing state environmental laws relating to wildfires, and clean air and water. My career at the AGO is full of novel and hands-on litigation experiences that carry real impacts for the people of California.



Oscar Espino-Padron, '11

Staff Attorney, Earthjustice



I graduated from the law school in 2011. During law school, I participated in the Immigration Law Clinic and completed summer clerkships at the UCLA Labor Center and Wage Justice Center in Los Angeles. After graduating from the law school, I worked with the Wage Justice Center until 2015. In 2015, I joined Earthjustice in Los Angeles as Healthy Communities Program associate attorney. In 2018, I became a staff attorney in the Community Partnerships Program at Earthjustice in Los Angeles. In that role, I work directly with communities throughout California to address environmental burdens through litigation and advocacy.

Dustin Maghamfar, '10

Air and Climate Counsel at House Committee on Energy and Commerce



I started at UCLA in 2006 and graduated in 2010 with a JD/MPP. I came to UCLA because I wanted to build a career in environmental law and policy, so of course I took a lot of environmental courses! I also focused on getting as much diverse practical experience as I could and on building a solid foundation in civil litigation. So in addition to environmental courses, I enrolled in as many clinics as I could and had a part-time externship with the Natural Resources Defense Council's (NRDC) Santa Monica office.

With my three summers, I focused on a diversity of practice settings and geography. I spent my first summer with the Natural Resources Section of the California Attorney General's Office in Los

Angeles, my second with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger in San Francisco, and my third with NRDC in Washington, D.C. For after graduation, I applied (unsuccessfully) for judicial clerkships, and for a variety of post-graduate opportunities in the environmental field. I had the good fortune of being hired at the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division through the Attorney General's Honors Program. After more than eight years at ENRD, I accepted a position as Air and Climate Counsel with the majority staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the House of Representatives, where I work primarily on legislative solutions to the climate crisis.

Bianca Zambão, '10 (LL.M.)
Coordinator of Socio-environmental Risks, Itaú Unibanco

I can remember as if it were today the first time I saw the UCLA Law Brochure. Two elements captured my attention in an incredible way: the word “unparalleled” for a legal education, and the amazing Southern California sun. Both (and not only them!) were confirmed throughout my LL.M. academic year.

The unparalleled legal education allowed me the possibility to build my own curriculum. That was essential since I have made my environmental career in the financial market, and my decision to pursue a LL.M. was based on the desire to have a deeper education on both the environmental field and on business, economics and public policy affairs. At UCLA Law I found wonderful faculty that understood those needs and offered me much more than what I originally expected!

I still work in the financial sector. I am based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and work for a multinational bank in an in-house position dedicated to environmental strategy and governance. Key bank regulators and investors are really concerned about how climate change can be a systemic risk for the world economy. UCLA Law gave me not only an education, but lifelong friendships from all five continents.

Chris Kolosov, '09
Energy Partner, Winston & Strawn



Law is my “second” career, and UCLA Law was my second graduate program at UCLA. I dropped out of the MFA program in the film school’s animation department after a couple of years and then spent more than a decade in the animation industry before (and while) attending UCLA Law. I came to law school intending to focus on environmental law but met an IP attorney from Winston & Strawn while attending an event my 1L year, who told me the “new” renewable energy practice group that had recently joined Winston’s LA office. I went home that night and read about the team and thought their practice sounded really interesting. So, during OCI, I focused on firms with environmental practices and on Winston. Ultimately, I decided to join Winston because the energy group’s practice was a unique combination of transactional and regulatory work, and because the lawyers in the group seemed genuinely enthusiastic about their practices, which I found inspiring.

As a summer associate at Winston, I made myself a fixture in the offices of the energy group partners, in order to get as many assignments from them as possible. I returned to UCLA knowing that I wanted to join Winston’s energy practice and took classes that would support that work – among others,

administrative law, another seminar in regulatory law, and Professor Malloy's course on environmental aspects of business transactions (which was probably the class that helped me more than any other once I started at Winston as a full-time lawyer). I graduated from UCLA Law in 2009. Due to the economic crash of 2008, my start date at Winston was deferred from September 2009 until February 1, 2010 – two weeks after the baby that I'd had during law school turned one. I spent my first few years at Winston working mostly on the developer side of renewable energy projects and in regulatory proceedings at the California Public Utilities Commission. Over the next few years, I started adding tax equity work and energy project M&A into my practice, and then also started working with a project finance partner who represents lenders that provide debt to renewable energy projects. Representing each of the key stakeholders (developers, purchasers of renewable energy projects, tax equity investors, debt providers) has given me a 360-degree perspective on the renewable energy industry that supported my election to Winston's partnership in December of 2018. More importantly, that perspective proves very useful in helping clients solve problems, which, along with collaborating with many excellent colleagues, is what I like most about my job.

Diana Varat, '08
Of Counsel, Richards, Watson & Gershon

After completing a joint degree in law and urban planning at UCLA in 2008, I was fortunate to begin my career as an associate with Richards, Watson & Gershon (RWG), a mid-size municipal law firm. Since RWG represents public agencies in California, I knew my courses in land use and community development would prepare me for collaborating with city staff (especially city planning departments), but I underestimated how much my courses in constitutional law, professional responsibility, and administrative law also would prepare me for a practice in municipal law. In hindsight, I wish I had been able to take local government law, water law, tax, and more clinical courses - and I wish I had gone to office hours more often!

For the first six years of my practice with RWG, I served as an assistant city attorney in a few cities in California, advising city staff on all manner of legal issues, from drafting contracts to reviewing environmental assessments to analyzing sign ordinances (and much more). In my experience, serving as an assistant city attorney was always interesting but also overwhelming because every day brought an entirely new set of legal issues to my desk. Many of my colleagues love that aspect of our practice, but over time I realized that I prefer to be a specialist (not a generalist). So I began to cultivate a practice focused in two specific areas. A decade into my career, I found the right balance, advising public agencies primarily on land use and housing issues and teaching urban planning to undergraduate students on the side. Giving myself the time to identify my strengths (and weaknesses) and accept that certain aspects of my practice caused me more anxiety than joy allowed me to find the right balance in my legal career. And of course, cultivating relationships with mentors, and having colleagues who I respect immensely (both in intellect and character), has been the key to a fulfilling legal career.

Kristin Peer, '07
Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency

Hello future UCLA Law grads! I'm Kristin Peer, currently the Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water Policy at the California Environmental

Protection Agency. It's a dream job. I feel very lucky to be able to use the legal skills I learned at UCLA Law (class of 2007) to help guide water policy in California. On a daily basis I have the privilege of working with other state and federal agencies, Tribes, environmental organizations and communities to ensure delivery of safe drinking water and protection of California's waterways, among many other things.



I came to CalEPA after working for the California Attorney General's Office in the Natural Resources Law section, where I defended California's resource agencies in court and prosecuted enforcement actions on their behalf for environmental non-compliance. In my first years as an attorney, I worked for a mid-sized law firm called Miller Starr Regalia that focuses on land use and real estate matters. That experience allowed me to hone technical legal skills that have served me throughout my career.

The journey to a career in environmental law started in my second year at UCLA Law, when I decided to take Professor Hecht's Environmental Law Clinic. This hands-on class gave me real-world experience in representing clients in environmental matters and ultimately laid the foundation for a very fulfilling career in environmental law. I recommend taking as many clinical courses as you can while at UCLA as no other courses will better prepare you for the job of being an attorney. Choosing a career in environmental law was one of the best decisions I ever made. I hope you continue to pursue the same. The Earth needs passionate, smart and dedicated advocates now more than ever.

Nikki Buffa, '06
Counsel, Latham & Watkins

I graduated from UCLAw's Public Interest Law Program in 2006. While at UCLAw, I participated in the Environmental Law Clinic, sat on the Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and cofounded the UCLAw chapter of the American Constitution Society. During law school, I held an externship with Judge Stephen Reinhardt, who was a U.S. Ninth Circuit Court judge at the time. I was a summer associate at Latham & Watkins, and a research assistant for Mary Nichols, who was the Director of the UCLA Institute of the Environment at the time. In my third year of law school, I did an externship at the Environmental Defense Fund.



Prior to law school, I worked at U.S. EPA Region 9 under the Clinton and Bush Administrations as a career environmental protection specialist and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the University of California at Berkeley in Conservation and Resource Studies. I joined Latham after law school and left the firm to work as a lawyer on the Obama Campaign in 2008. After serving on the transition team and eight years in the Obama Administration, I rejoined Latham. While in the Obama Administration, I was Deputy Chief of Staff at the United States Department of the Interior, where I was a key player in President Obama's success in conserving more lands and waters than any President in history. Prior to joining the Department of the Interior, I was the Deputy Director of Cabinet Affairs at the White House and, before that, the Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. I currently sit on the Board of Trustees for the National Parks Conservation Association, on the Board of Earthshot (with Professor Ann Carlson), and the Board of Advisors for UC Berkeley's Institute of Parks, People, and the Environment. At Latham, I currently represent a wide-range of clients in the firm's project siting and land use practice. I enjoy working on projects that are

high-profile and cutting-edge with lawyers at the top of their class. I sit on the firm's mentoring committee and enjoy my pro bono work with several clients, including the Ocean Cleanup and the Emmett Till Interpretive Center, which is working to protect sites related to Emmett Till and his mother Mamie Till Mobley.

**Tom Cormons, '06,
Executive Director, Appalachian Voices**



I enrolled in the Program in Public Interest Law and Policy. I took every environmental law course offered in my 2L and 3L years and gained practical experience during law school through the Environmental Law Clinic and summer clerkships with Environmental Defense, the USDOJ Environmental Enforcement Division, and the Southern Environmental Law Center. In my first position after graduation—as a Campaign Coordinator for Appalachian Voices, an organization focused on energy and environmental issues in a five-state region—I opened and

ran the group's first Virginia office. In that role, I led campaigns opposing two proposed coal-fired power plants and took on leadership roles in several state legislative efforts. After several years, I became the organization's Deputy Programs Director, taking on broader responsibilities for organizational strategy and management, as well as grant writing and relationships with funding partners. In 2013, I became Executive Director. I have led the organization's expansion to include programs advancing energy and economic solutions and new initiatives to combat the impacts of fossil fuels. I now oversee a staff of 30 in five offices across the region. I am a Member of the Virginia State Bar.

**Marc Luesebrink, '01
Senior Counsel, Environment, Health and Safety Law Group, The Boeing Company**

When I started at UCLA Law School, I knew that I wanted to be an environmental lawyer, so I did my best to take advantage of the numerous opportunities that UCLA offers. I took most (if not all) of the environmental law courses, served as a research assistant to a professor of environmental law, participated on the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and did a research project/paper on California groundwater law. All of these activities helped me feel more confident after law school when looking for a position as an environmental lawyer.

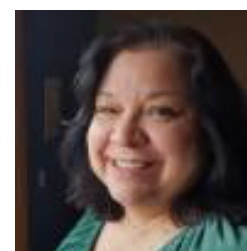
UCLA had (and continues to have) a great environmental law community. Many of my law school classmates were interested in environmental law and I got to know quite a few of them due to our shared interest. This network of friends has been a valued source of support over the course of my career, whether it be providing advice on difficult career decisions or discussing complex legal questions.

Before coming to Boeing, I practiced environmental law at two law firms, at the California Office of the Attorney General, and at Southern California Edison. As an in-house environmental lawyer at Boeing, most of my work involves counseling the company on environmental compliance, but I also oversee some litigation matters. I do not specialize in one area of environmental law or deal with a narrow range of issues. In a given week, I might handle questions related to the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, CERCLA/RCRA, OSHA regulations, and more. My work in house is diverse and no two days are the same.

My advice to law students (and potential law students) is to do as much as you can to gain experience and find out what is the best fit for you. The environmental law field is really a constellation of many, many different environmental areas (climate change, water quality, groundwater/soil contamination, habitat/endangered species conservation, air quality, energy law, water rights, cultural resources, toxic chemical management, and on and on). Each has its own community, set of laws and regulations, regulatory agencies, and traditions. And there are different ways to practice law; environmental litigation is very different from compliance counseling and practicing in house has a different dynamic from practicing at a law firm or at a government agency. Getting exposure to different areas of environmental law not only helps with finding the right niche, it also provides important context for when an environmental lawyer settles into a specialty (as most eventually do).

Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, '96
Senior Advisor, Regulatory Affairs, SoCal Edison

I am a proud UCLA alumna, class of 1996. I attended law school to work specifically on issues related to environmental justice and urban environmental issues. My professors and classmates at UCLA were very supportive of my career aspirations. While I was in law school, I found the clinical program to be very challenging and the skills I learned in the various clinical courses I have used most often in my long and diverse legal career.



Since I passed the bar exam in July of 1996, I have had a wide variety of professional experiences. Among other things, I have worked as a litigation associate in large law firms; staff attorney and policy director at an environmental justice project office of a national non-profit; been appointed by the Mayor to a public works commissioner position for the City of Los Angeles; worked as a state director of an international environmental non-profit; been appointed by the Governor to a position as an executive with a state environmental agency; and been appointed by President Obama to an international environmental board. Currently, I work as a senior advisor in regulatory affairs for a large electric utility.

As you can see, I left behind the notion of being a "traditional" attorney a long time ago. That would be my advice to you - be willing to be daring, try new things, and be creative in choosing careers that may take you off the traditional legal path. Sometimes I miss being in court and drafting law and motion, but mostly I have been professionally rewarded in every position I've taken, and felt like I used my legal skills in many ways to make a positive difference on environmental problems. I consider myself a creative problem solver, and the legal writing, analytical and other legal skills have served me well throughout my career. I wish you all the best.