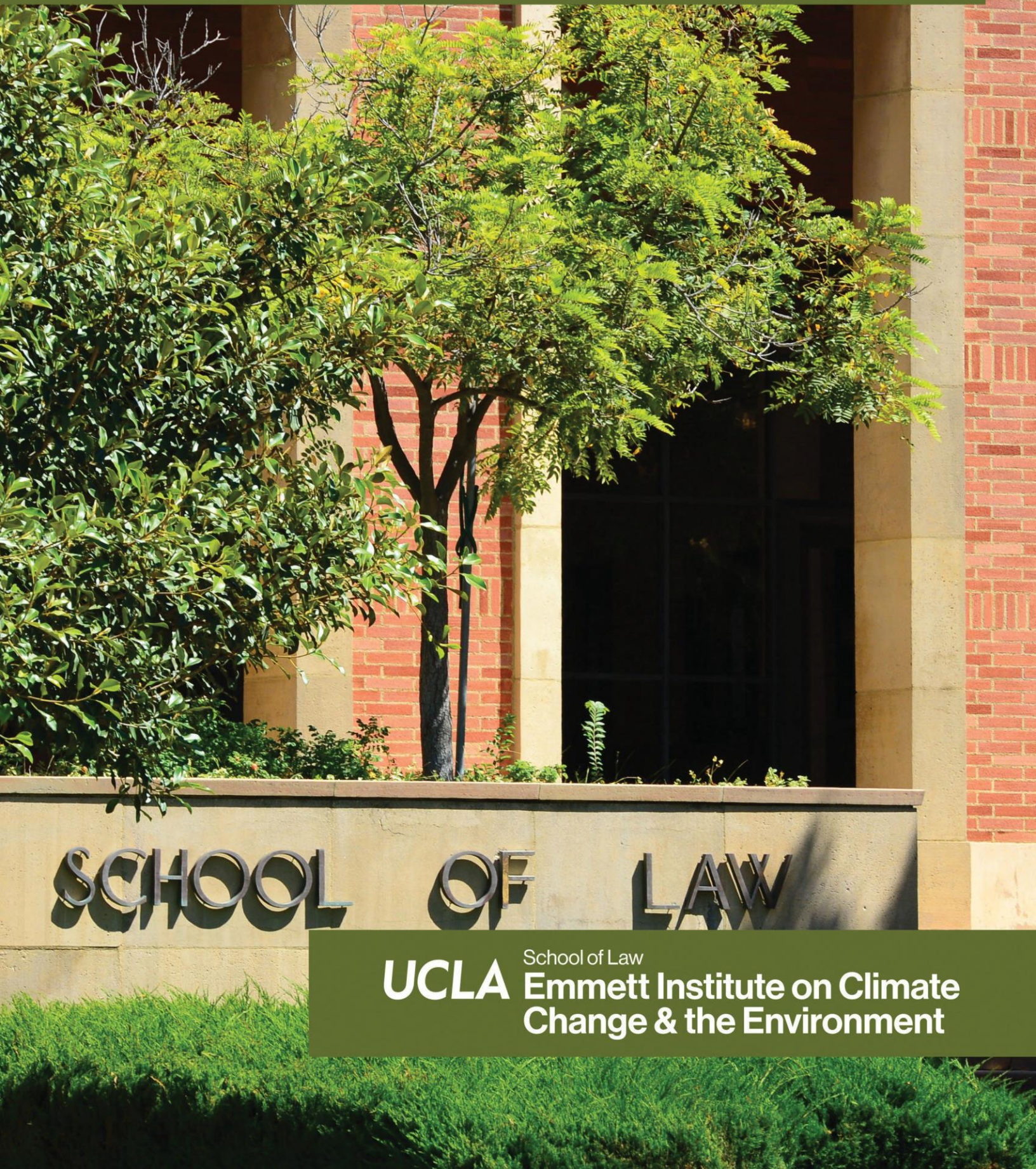


Environmental Law Resources and Career Guide



SCHOOL OF LAW

UCLA

School of Law

**Emmett Institute on Climate
Change & the Environment**

ABOUT THE EMMETT INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	2
INTRODUCTION.....	2
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AT UCLA.....	3
A. EMMETT INSTITUTE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT	3
B. OTHER UCLA LAW PROGRAMS AND CENTERS.....	4
C. SPECIALIZATIONS AND CERTIFICATES	6
D. COURSES.....	6
E. EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION.....	7
G. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	10
CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AT UCLA LAW.....	13
A. OFFICE OF CAREER SERVICES	14
B. OFFICE OF PUBLIC INTEREST PROGRAMS	14
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR.....	14
GOVERNMENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	17
A. FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	18
B. STATE OF CALIFORNIA EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	19
C. LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.....	22
PRIVATE LAW FIRM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	23
ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.....	34
A. PLANNING AND CONSULTING FIRMS	34
B. IN-HOUSE COUNSEL OPPORTUNITIES	35
C. PLANNING AND CONSULTING FIRMS	36
FELLOWSHIPS.....	37
JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS.....	42
ONLINE JOB SEARCH RESOURCES	42
ALUMNI NARRATIVES.....	44

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 mentorship, 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.

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 and 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 executive director, Cara Horowitz, so that she 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.

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 the country's leading environmental law program. Founded in 2008, the Emmett Institute is dedicated to creating and advancing legal and policy solutions to climate change, environmental injustice, 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 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 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, now offering the **Native Nations Law JD Specialization**, this specialization comprises courses focusing on tribal legal systems, federal Indian law, and international advocacy for Indigenous rights. In addition to this, 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**. To apply, J.D. students are encouraged to **declare their intent** to pursue the specialization during the spring semester of their 1L year, and ordinarily are required to do so before the end of the fall semester of 2L. 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, companies, 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. Students in the specialization represent clients through our environmental law clinics and serve as externs with nonprofits and government agencies. 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), 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 necessarily dictate how challenging your semester will be. 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 each 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 make arrangements in advance.

You may also want to consider how courses are graded. UCLA Law offers some 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 while enrolled in a clinic. Students are not allowed to enroll in a clinic and an externship in the same semester. 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 organizations, 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 policy and the lawmaking 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 to explore these areas. Course work will include legal analysis, drafting, and simulated negotiation in a series of scenarios. Substantive information about 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. Some large firms, particularly those outside of California, request students apply to them directly. It is critical to stay in touch with **UCLA Law's Office of Career Services (OCS)** to ensure that you properly strategize for your goals and 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 FIP, we recommend contacting [OCS](#).

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 before mentioned 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 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 Emmett Institute faculty are happy to help guide you. Extensive employer lists can be found beginning on pages 16 (non-profit organizations), 20 (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

Student Organizations

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.

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 injustice. 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 (March), 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.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AT UCLA LAW

This section describes the 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 Executive Director, 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 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 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.

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, some that focus on policy advocacy, and some where attorneys engage in a hybrid of litigation and advocacy work. 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 Legal Defense Fund](#) (Cotati, CA)
- [Animal Outlook](#) (formerly Compassion Over Killing) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Animal Welfare Institute](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Appalachian Citizens' Law Center](#) (Whitesburg, KY)
- [Bluegreen Alliance](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Brightline Defense Project](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) (Los Angeles, Oakland, and Sacramento, CA)
- [California Farm Bureau Federation](#) (Sacramento, CA)

- [Cascadia Wildlands](#) (Eugene, OR)
- [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 on Race, Poverty, and the Environment](#) (Oakland, CA)
- [Center for Ocean Solutions](#) (Monterey, CA)
- [Community Water Center](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Communities for a Better Environment](#) (Huntington Park and Oakland, CA)
- [Conservation International](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Conservation Law Foundation](#) (Multiple locations in New England)
- [Cottonwood Environmental Law Center](#) (Bozeman, MT)
- [Defenders of Wildlife](#) (Washington, DC)
- [Delaware Riverkeeper Network](#) (Bristol, PA)
- [Delta Stewardship Council](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [Earth Island Institute](#) (Berkeley, 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 in the Midwest and Washington, DC)
- [Environmental Law Institute](#) (Washington, D.C.)
- [Environmental Protection Information Center](#) (Arcata, CA)
- [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)
- [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#) (Fresno, CA)
- [Mercy for Animals](#) (Los Angeles, CA)
- [Midwest Environmental Advocates](#) (Madison, WI)
- [Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy](#) (St. Paul, MN)
- [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)
- [New Mexico Environmental Law Center](#) (Sante Fe, NM)
- [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)
- [Public Health Law Center](#) (St. Paul, MN)
- [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)
- [Sierra Club](#) (Oakland, CA; Washington, DC)
- [Sierra Fund](#) (Nevada City, CA)

- [SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission](#) (San Francisco, CA)
- [Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance](#) (Salt Lake City, UT)
- [Surfrider Foundation](#) (San Clemente, CA)
- [Tri-Valley CAREs](#) (Livermore, CA)
- [Trust for Public Land](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Trustees for Alaska](#) (Anchorage, AK)
- [Waterkeeper Alliance](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Western Environmental Law Center](#) (Multiple Locations)
- [Western Mining Action Project](#) (Lyons, Colorado)
- [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.)

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 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. 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 [**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 [here](#).

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](#) 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 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 Use and Conservation Section*
 - *Public Rights Division*
- [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 Substances 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 State Lands Commission](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [California State Parks Legal Office](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [California State Water Resources Control Board](#) (Sacramento, CA)
- [California Public Utilities Commission](#) (also at Public Interest Career Day) (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 (San Francisco, CA)
- Santa Clara Office of the County Counsel (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](#)

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. Many of the large law firms have environmental law practice groups, however that does not mean that all of a firm's offices have

environmental attorneys. To find which offices have environmental attorneys, search the firm's website by practice group. Then review the list of attorneys associated with that practice group. The lists should provide an overview of which offices have attorneys that work on environmental law and the relative size of the practice group in each location. If you are interested in working in a specific location, you can start with the location and then review the list of all attorneys who work in that particular office to see if any of them work on environmental issues.

Abbott & Kinderman, Inc

- Offices: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: land use, environmental, real estate, and business law

Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo

- Offices: San Francisco and Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental 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 environmental 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
- Hosts a one-year environmental fellowship program in conjunction with NRDC
- *Private public interest law firm*

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*

Arent Fox Schiff

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environment law, permitting and compliance, environmental social and governance, toxics and remediation

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, and 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

Bartkiewicz, Kronick & Shanahan

- Offices: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: water resources, land use, governmental, and related issues

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

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

Beasley Allen

- Offices: Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL
- Relevant practice areas: environmental disasters, toxic exposure, and water contamination
- Plaintiff 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 and transactions, compliance counseling, water, energy, toxic torts, CEQA/NEPA, Proposition 65

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, community involvement

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, natural resources, Federal Indian Law

Carstens, Black & Minteer 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: Three of the firm's four attorneys are UCLA Law alums

Cohen Milstein

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: environmental toxic
- *Plaintiffs' side civil rights and complex litigation law firm*

Cole Huber LLP

- Offices: Roseville, CA
- Relevant practice areas: municipal law and environmental law

Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP

- Offices: New York, NY, Seattle, WA, 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

Crowell & Moring

- 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 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

Edlin Gallagher Huie + Blum

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

Ellison, Schneider, Harris & Donlan LLP

- Office: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: California energy commission, energy law, water law

Engstrom, Lipscomb & Lack

- Office: Los Angeles, CA
- Relevant practice areas: groundwater contamination and toxic torts
- *Plaintiffs' side law firm*

Eubanks and Associations, PLLC

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

Fennemore Craig

- Offices: Multiple locations
- Relevant practice areas: natural resources, land use, real estate, green business, food and beverage, mining, water 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

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

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

Harrison, Temblador, Hungerford & Guernsey

- Office: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: mining, land use, and natural resources

Hausfeld

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

Herum Crabtree Suntag

- Offices: Stockton, CA
- Relevant practice areas: agriculture law, appellate advocacy, arbitration, environmental law,

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)

Law Office of Don Mooney

- Office: Davis, CA
- Relevant practice areas: corporate environmental law (litigation and transactions), California water rights, climate change, property rights, and endangered species

Law Offices of Thomas N. Lippe

- Offices: San Francisco, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, land use, water rights, and water pollution

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

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

Neumiller & Beardslee

- Offices: Multiple locations in CA
- Relevant practice areas: agricultural law, business and commercial law, eminent domain, employment and labor law, environmental law, land use and development, probate and trust litigation, public agency 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

Peebles Kidder

- Offices: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: natural resources and tribal governance

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

Pioneer Law Group

- Offices: Sacramento, CA
- Relevant practice areas: resource and property development, real estate, mining, and energy

Polsinelli

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

Remy Moose & Manley, LLP

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

Resources Law Group

- 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

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, municipal law, health care 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

Sycamore Law, Inc.

- Offices: San Francisco and Santa Barbara, CA
- Relevant practice areas: environmental litigation, water issues, endangered species, land use, and climate change/impacts

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 (transactional)

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.

A. 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

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, and enforcement

7th Generation Advisors

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

B. IN-HOUSE COUNSEL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird

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

C. PLANNING AND CONSULTING FIRMS

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

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. Applications for these fellowships are typically due in the summer or early fall of students' final year of law school, so be sure to begin looking into these fellowship opportunities early.**

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. The deadline to apply for the Attorney General's Honors Program is typically early-to-mid fall of students' final year of law school.

ChangeLab Solutions Public Health Law Fellowship (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. Fellows will be matched with host sites at state, tribal, local, or territorial health departments, CDC, or other public health law organizations that support work in the public health law and policy fields.

Columbia Law School, Sabin Center for Climate Change Law Fellowships (New York, NY)

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 will conduct independent research, literature reviews, and benchmarking studies on a wide variety of issues related to climate change law, with a special focus on issues related to climate justice and equity, as well as develop and implement 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

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, Graduate Fellow Attorney (Bloomington, IN)

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.

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

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 (Multiple locations)

EDF offers a number of fellowship opportunities. Current job postings can be found [here](#). Most recently, EDF offered a fellowship in climate risk assessment.

Environmental Law Institute, Public Interest Law Fellow (Washington, D.C.)

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. ELI offers both a one-year and a two-year fellowship opportunity. Each fellowship is an entry-level professional legal position. The one-year fellowship begins in September 2023 and ends August 2024; the two-year fellowship begins September 2023 and ends August 2025. Past law fellows have gone on to judicial clerkships and environmental and human rights advocacy organizations, academia, federal agencies, and law firms. A list of past ELI law fellows can be found [here](#).

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. A list of open positions may be found [here](#).

Greenlining Institute, Policy and Legal Fellowship. (Oakland, CA)

Oakland-based economic and environmental justice organization, The Fellowship Programs are year-long programs for young leaders who are seeking hands-on policy advocacy experience, leadership training, and personal and professional growth. Greenlining Institute seeks individuals who are committed to equity and justice for communities of color. Legal Fellows will be assigned to one or more areas of Greenlining's consumer protection advocacy and will develop expertise in those areas under the direction and guidance of Greenlining's legal team.

Georgetown Law, 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. Fellows' case load involves a mix of litigation matters, regulatory work, and other advisory projects. We select cases of national importance and/or local necessity in which we can protect and promote the health of marginalized communities, and the health of wild places and resources.

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.

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

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 2024-2026 position will likely be posted in Fall 2023.

NYU School of Law, NYU Law Fellows Program (Multiple Locations)

In 2017, following the launch of the State Impact Center, all attorneys general and their senior staff were invited to apply to the NYU Law Fellow program. Interested attorneys general described their need for additional support on clean energy, climate and environmental matters, and certified that they could participate in the program under applicable federal and state laws. NYU pays the salaries of the law fellows, but the fellows' sole duty of loyalty is to the attorney general in whose office they serve. All work performed by the fellows is entirely identified and managed by their respective AG offices. The law fellows serve as Special Assistant Attorneys General (SAAGs) for a limited term on clean energy, climate, and environmental matters with regional or national significance. NYU Law Fellows have served in the following attorney general offices: DC, DE, CT, IL, MA, MD, MN, NM, NY, OR and WA.

NYU School of Law, Institute for Policy Integrity, Legal Fellow (New York, NY)

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, Food Project Fellowship (Multiple locations)

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. Candidates able to assist with supporting the fellowship by obtaining third-party funding, for example, from their law school, are encouraged to do so.

Save the Sound, Peter B. Cooper Legal Fellowship (New Haven, CT)

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 2024-2026 Emmett/Frankel Fellowship can be found [here](#).

University of Texas School of Law, Environmental Justice Fellow at Lone Star State Legal Aid (Houston, TX)

One -year, Houston, TX-based fellowship 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 Programs (Washington, D.C.)

Since 1953, the Attorney General's Honors Program has been recognized as the nation's premier entry-level federal attorney recruitment program. The Honors Program attracts candidates from hundreds of law schools across the country representing a broad cross-section of experiences and interests. Selections are made based on many elements of a candidate's background, including a demonstrated commitment to government service, academic achievement, leadership, journal, moot court and mock trial

experience, clinical experience, past employment, and extracurricular activities that relate to the work of Justice and the relevant component. The U.S. DOJ offers placements at its Environmental and Natural Resources Division. The application window typically opens between late July and early September each year.

Vermont Law School Clinical Fellowships (Royalton, VT)

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 Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENLRC). The position may be focused on toxics, environment and natural resources, food and agriculture, global energy, or U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law. 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. Applications usually must be submitted by spring.

Yale/NRDC Legal Fellowships (Multiple locations)

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.

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.

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

Earth Negotiations Bulletin

- Climate change jobs, including from EGC and California- China Climate Initiative

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”

Idealist

- Job board focused on nonprofit organizations
- Filter for “Legal” under “Job Function” and for specific fields under “Issue Areas”

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

ALUMNI NARRATIVES

The following Alumni Narratives were provided by UCLA Law graduates who are working in the environmental arena. These experiences 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.

Sean Anderson, ‘22 Attorney, CalRecycle

I am an Attorney on the Circular Economy and Regulations Development Section for the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). In my current role, I am responsible for implementing and enforcing the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (SB 54), a statewide extended producer responsibility law that seeks to reduce waste and limit the impacts of single-use packaging and plastic single-use food service ware. My current position and career path are directly attributable to the incredible education and resources that were made available to me by the Emmett Institute at UCLA School of Law.



As a law student in the California Environmental Legislation & Policy Clinic, I worked alongside other students in the clinic and under the supervision of Julia Stein to research and draft an early version of the law that was ultimately passed by the California State Legislature as SB 54. Through this work, I experienced firsthand the challenges and fulfillment of crafting novel laws designed to address urgent environmental problems. This experience introduced me to the role that environmental lawyers can play in the legislative and administrative processes—both in shaping environmental laws prior to their passage and in implementing and enforcing laws after their passage—and ultimately inspired me to pursue a career in state government.

My experience has not been a direct path. When I began law school at UCLA, I wasn’t sure I wanted to pursue a career in environmental law. I sought experiences in housing law and tenants’ rights and enrolled in a variety of courses before deciding to specialize in environmental law. Once making this decision, I pursued a wide-ranging environmental law curriculum, including law seminars, interdisciplinary courses outside of the law school, and two environmental law clinics. I also worked as a Research Assistant for two Emmett Institute professors. Throughout these experiences and more,

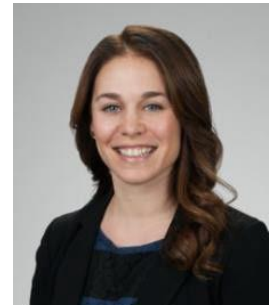
I was exposed to a wide breadth of topics and theories that comprise the field of environmental law.

After graduating law school in 2022, and before starting my current role at CalRecycle, I worked for a private firm practicing commercial litigation. Although I knew I wanted to practice environmental law, I used this opportunity to develop valuable skills that would translate to my current role. My advice to current law students who are interested in pursuing a career in environmental law would be to embrace all experiences as opportunities to learn and grow. Participate in clinics, serve on law journals, volunteer for pro bono opportunities, and participate in clubs—whatever feels right to you. Much of my legal education happened outside of the classroom, and many of these experiences have proved invaluable to me long after graduation.

Nikki Buffa, '06

Partner, Latham & Watkins

I graduated from UCLA's Public Interest Law Program in 2006. While at UCLA Law I participated in the Environmental Law Clinic, sat on the Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and cofounded the UCLA 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.

Tom Cormons, '06,
Executive Director, Appalachian Voices
Council Member, White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council

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.

Gabriel Greif, '21
Associate Attorney, Eathjustice

My journey toward environmental law started in undergrad at UC Riverside. Having grown up in Los Angeles, I had some familiarity with the Inland Empire's status as a burgeoning logistics hub, with warehouses and distribution centers pushing out agriculture and housing. But living in Riverside and seeing long lines of idling diesel trucks along the freeway reified the harms caused by these industries, particularly in low-income communities and communities of color. While I had not previously thought about lawyering as a possible career path, I increasingly saw environmental law as a means of driving change for communities that suffer from inequitable planning and land use decisions.



While I was thrilled when UCLA accepted me for law school, I had no clue how much my choice of school would drive my career choices. The staff and faculty with the Emmett Institute provided me with invaluable mentorship and career guidance during and after law school. UCLA's seminars and clinical offerings allowed me to think critically about the practical applications of environmental law, particularly through an equity-focused lens. And many of my classmates from UCLA continue to be close friends and important resources.

After graduating, I took a one-year fellowship in the Southern California offices of Communities for a Better Environment, a community-led environmental justice organization. My work there focused on law and policy impacting residents of Wilmington and Southeast Los Angeles, including neighborhood oil and gas operations, local land use decisions, and statewide climate policy. After that, I returned to UCLA as a fellow with the Emmett Institute, where I was fortunate to work

on state and federal amicus briefs, policy reports and whitepapers, and legislative analysis. While I loved each of these projects, my favorite part of the fellowship was working directly with students as a co-instructor in the Environmental Law Clinic alongside Professor Horowitz. I recently joined the California Regional Offices of Earthjustice as an associate attorney, where I work on litigation to preserve the health of communities and ecosystems.

My most important piece of advice for law students and recent graduates: Keep an open mind. It's difficult to anticipate where your career will end up, and even tougher to predict how you will get there. You may expect to like one aspect of environmental law practice but find yourself falling in love with something else entirely. As the practice of environmental law becomes increasingly intersectional, having a wide variety of experiences will help you find your place. For instance, my 1L summer doing direct legal services for unhoused clients solidified my interest in the intersection between environmental justice and housing, which significantly influenced my career. To get the most out of law school, take all the experiential courses you can, apply widely for externships, talk to people in the field, and don't be afraid to explore new things!

Benjamin Harris, '16
Senior Staff Attorney, LA Waterkeeper

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. Now I work for a non-profit organization to improve water quality and enhance local water supplies in our arid region, which is the practice area I always wanted to focus on.



My career path to becoming an attorney for a non-profit organization was not as linear as others—I began my career working at a private firm for nearly two years before clerking for Judge Stephen V. Wilson for the Central District of California. I recommend considering both of these opportunities to become well-rounded in attorney skills, particularly those that wish to practice litigation extensively. In particular, clerking for a judge is a unique and rewarding opportunity to gain practical experience and learn about the inner workings of the judicial system. 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.

My extensive time at UCLA has taught me many things, including some insights about the wide variety of possibilities for a career in environmental law. I highly recommend that you become involved with any or all of the Emmett Institute programs offered on campus, including the UCLA Journal of Environmental Law & Policy. Operating in roles as a student, an instructor, and a client at the Frank G. Wells Environmental Law Clinic, I have seen the benefits both to students and clients of the opportunity to collaborate on substantive projects with real-world implications.

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 to gain exposure to different specialties of environmental law and, potentially, new inspiration to tailor your desired career path to a subject you weren't thinking about before. Working on JELP allowed me to hone my sense of thoroughness and attention to detail in the legal writing context (especially internalizing many

aspects of the Bluebook), which has saved me lots of time in practice. I was also fortunate enough to publish my own article in the journal after graduating, and I highly recommend that you consider pursuing journal article opportunities for yourself to improve your writing abilities and make a name for yourself early on in your career.

Lydia Heye '22

Associate Attorney, Earthjustice

If you had walked up to me the first day at UCLA Law and asked me where I saw myself in 4 years, I doubt I would've said I'd be working as an environmental attorney in Anchorage, Alaska. Environmental law was not even on my radar as a 1L. I came to law school to pursue a legal career that advanced racial justice. However, during my first year, I decided to go to a lunch event put on by the Environmental Law Society (ELS) that included a panel of attorneys who worked on issues relating to Indigenous sovereignty. It was then and there that I realized that I could pursue a career in environmental law while simultaneously advancing racial and social justice.



The Emmett Institute was quick to take me under their wing as I began to navigate what a career in environmental law would look like. I had no background in environmental law or policy. However, I found that connecting with Emmett faculty, students, and alumni helped tremendously. I took as many environmental law classes as could fit in my schedule my 2L and 3L years. I was the Environmental Justice Chair for ELS and the Chief Articles Editor for the Journal of Environmental Law and Policy.

Over the course of my time in law school, I had a diverse range of professional experiences. I spent my first summer as a law fellow at the Promise Institute for Human Rights where I worked on their International Criminal Law and the Protection of the Environment Project. My second summer, I spent at Stoel Rives LLP in Portland, Oregon, where I worked in their environmental practice group. After that summer, I received a post-grad job offer to return to the firm. After (many) discussions with Emmett faculty, I made the hard decision to turn down that offer and to instead try to find a position working at a public interest organization or government agency.

To set myself up to pursue a public interest environmental legal career, I decided to do two externships my third year of law school. I externed with Earthjustice's Los Angeles office and the Department of Justice in their Environmental Natural Resources Division out of their Denver office. Both of those externships solidified my desire to do public interest environmental work. I was encouraged to be geographically flexible when applying for post-grad positions, and I ended up applying to a small environmental non-profit law firm in Anchorage called Trustees for Alaska. My advice to current students is to be flexible! Take up any opportunity to explore a different aspect of the field and take advantage of the incredible events Emmett/ELS put on every year!

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.



Beth Kent '18

Staff Counsel 1, Mountains Recreational Conservation Authority

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.

Chris Kolosov, '09

Energy Partner, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton, LLP

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, during a reception that I attended during my 1L year, learned about the renewable energy practice group at my prior firm, Winston & Strawn. I ultimately decided to join that group because of its unique combination of transactional and regulatory work, and because the lawyers in the group were inspiringly enthusiastic about their practices. 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 energy assignments as possible. After I returned to UCLA for my 3L year, I 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.



I graduated from UCLA Law in 2009 and 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 added project finance work (both tax equity and debt) and energy project M&A into my practice. Representing each of the key stakeholders (developers, purchasers of renewable energy projects, tax equity investors, debt providers) gave me a 360-degree perspective on the renewable energy industry that supported my election to the partnership at Winston and has helped me build my practice since I moved to Sheppard Mullin in 2022. 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.

Dustin Maghamfar, '10

Senior Federal Program Director, US Energy Foundation

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.

Jerilyn Lopez Mendoza, '96
Attorney, Eviction Defense Network

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.

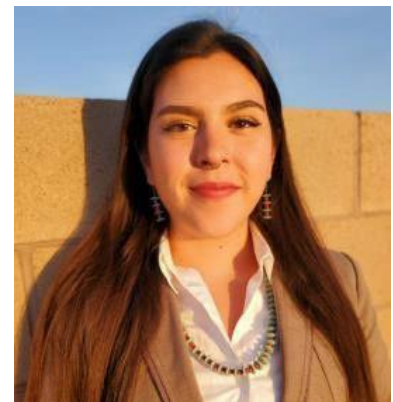


Since I passed the bar exam in July of 1996, I have had a wide variety of professional experiences. Among other things, I have worked as a litigation associate in large law firms; staff attorney and policy director at an environmental justice project office of a national non-profit; been appointed by 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.

Melodie Meyer '20
Conservation Attorney, Environmental Protection Information Center

Once I had been accepted to UCLA Law, I gained 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 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. 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.

Reilly Nelson, '22
Associate Attorney, Latham & Watkin LLP

I recognized that I could find job opportunities in non-profits, the government, and private practice that could all have significant impacts in the world and that there were so many different practices and specialties that environmental lawyers could pursue (from litigation, to land use, to corporate deal support, to regulatory advice, to policymaking—it all seemed possible).



UCLA's environmental faculty also had connections and experience working in all of these capacities and were a wealth of knowledge when considering my career path. I also tried out different types of work during my summers, spending my 1L summer in a small non-profit setting at Los Angeles Waterkeeper and my 2L summer in a corporate practice at Latham & Watkins LLP, where I am now an associate in the Environment, Land and Resources group and practice across a breadth of environmental matters. I also took both the Wells Environmental Clinic and the California Environmental Legislation Clinic for experience working closely with non-profits and in policymaking.

My best advice to students building a career is to not be too limited in thinking about possible career paths and to speak with as many people practicing law, including environmental law, as you can. Ask people about the details of their daily practice, including what kinds of clients they represent, what kinds of problems they solve, how they enjoy their work and what their path was to getting to their current position. In my experience, people are genuinely excited to talk about their work and you can get a good sense of the breadth of opportunities by hearing what other people do. I also recommend taking both environmental law clinics as these clinics provide real world practical experiences and networking opportunities. Finally, I recommend spending law school doing things you enjoy and

taking classes that interest you and not feeling too pressured to “hurry up” and find your career. Careers are long. There will be opportunities to do many different things.

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.

Kristin Peer, '07

Water and Natural Resources Attorney, Bartkiewicz Kronick & Shanahan

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.