NEW ECONOMY LAW CENTER AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

Vermont Law School just launched the New Economy Law Center: a global community focused on the legal infrastructure needed for the new economy. This movement has emerged to provide an alternative system where ecological integrity, social justice, and vibrant democracy are essential.

“The law must grow to meet new societal concerns, sometimes leading, sometimes lagging, but always there to identify and provide the new guidance and norms that are needed,” said Gus Speth, who will co-direct the center with Associate Dean Melissa Scanlan.

“Vermont Law School is already pioneering practical demonstrations of law for the New Economy,” Scanlan said. “In the fall of 2014, VLS opened two new law clinics, one focused on establishing community solar projects and another developing local and regional food system. They are examples of how we’re at the forefront of developing the law for a new economy that is aligned with and not undermining environmental protections.”

In addition to Speth and Scanlan, Fellows of the Center include VLS Professors Patrick Parenteau, Kevin Jones, Laurie Ristino, Laurie Beyranevand, and Jennifer Taub. Beyond VLS, Fellows include, among others, author and environmental activist Bill McKibben, James Salzman of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Janelle Orsi of the Sustainable Economics Law Center, and Linda Sheehan of the Earth Law Institute.

The Center will sponsor symposia, fellowships, and internships to create a lively forum for exploring the role of the law and legal change in transitioning to a new economy.

SIXTH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Vermont Law School will host the Sixth Annual Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship on October 3, 2015. This event offers environmental law scholars the opportunity to present their works-in-progress, to get feedback from their colleagues, and to meet and interact with those who are also teaching and researching in areas related to environmental and natural resources law, or any related specialty areas.

The Colloquium is directed by Professor Hillary Hoffmann.

The Colloquium will include a keynote address by Holly Doremus, the James H. House and Hiram H. Hurd Professor of Environmental Regulation and Co-Director of the Center for Law, Energy and the Environment at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

She is a leading scholar and teacher in the areas of environmental law, natural resources law, and law and science.

The weekend will wrap up with a hike to enjoy Vermont’s gorgeous fall foliage.

VLS SEeks Applicants for Energy Faculty Position

Vermont Law School invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position to teach and conduct research in energy law and to teach a first year course, most likely Constitutional Law. Preference will be given to applicants with work experience in these fields.

Qualifications include a JD degree, a record of academic excellence, and demonstrated success or potential for success in teaching and scholarship.

Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, research agenda, and list of references to facultysearch@vermontlaw.edu. VLS embraces diversity in its recruitment and hiring efforts. Accordingly, candidates of color, women, and those from other underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply for this position.
On April 27, 2015, Chief Judge Christina Reiss of the United States District Court in Vermont issued an 84-page decision that was an important, preliminary victory for Vermont’s labeling law for genetically engineered (GE) foods.

The Clinic has been working on the GE labeling project for more than three years: first, representing the Vermont Public Interest Research Group in legal advocacy toward passage of the law, and now helping to defend the law in court along with the Center for Food Safety. Governor Shumlin signed the law into effect on May 8, 2014, and several industry groups sued the State on June 12th of that year.

Judge Reiss’ April 27th ruling denied the Plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction and dismissed several of their claims. Most significantly, the Court found that Vermont had substantial interests in requiring labels on GE foods, and the disclosure requirement is constitutional under the First Amendment. The Court also dismissed the industry’s commerce clause claims, as well as most of the industry’s preemption claims. However, the Court did indicate the State’s “natural” prohibition would face an uphill battle. The opinion is available on our website, along with our briefing at the district court level.

Industry appealed the Court’s denial of the preliminary injunction to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where we will continue to remain involved as amicus curiae in support of the State.
MEARS RETURNS TO HELM OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

David Mears ’91, commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, will return to VLS in the fall to lead the nationally recognized Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC). Mears previously served as director of the clinic in 2009–10.

Mears will succeed ENRLC Director Doug Ruley, who plans to return to his family home in North Carolina after a period of transition.

“David and Doug are among the nation’s best environmental law leaders, and we’re fortunate to count them among our colleagues at Vermont Law School,” VLS President and Dean Marc Mihaly said. “We welcome David back to the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, and are exploring ways that we may continue to work with Doug.”

Before serving as the commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Mears taught at VLS as associate professor from 2005 to 2010 and served as assistant director and then director of the ENRLC. He also taught law at Sun Yat Sen University in Guangzhou, China, as a Fulbright Scholar. Prior to joining VLS, Mears served as an attorney for the state of Texas, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

“David is a beloved alumnus and leader in Vermont, and we are pleased to see him return to our clinic,” said Professor Jackie Gardina, vice dean for faculty. “But this isn’t a goodbye to Doug. He remains very much a part of the Vermont Law School family, and is a key player in the nationally recognized achievements of the clinic.”

CLINIC WINS ACT 250 APPEAL BEFORE VT SUPREME COURT

On July 17, 2015, the Vermont Supreme Court ruled in favor of VLS’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic in a precedent-setting Act 250 (Vermont’s land use law) opinion regarding rock crushers that were sited next to a residential community in Granvilleville, Vermont. These crushers have created significant noise and clouds of rock dust that neighboring residents cannot escape. The Supreme Court reversed the Environmental Court and held that Act 250 permitting jurisdiction turns on the location and impacts of such development, rather than on whether such activities have occurred somewhere on the tract at some point in history—in this case, an 1100-acre tract owned by the Rock of Ages corporation. The opinion is available on our website.

Representing neighbors of the facility, the Clinic worked on this case for almost four years before the District Commission (the local Act 250 permitting authority), the Environmental Division of Vermont’s Superior Court, and the Supreme Court. An incredible series of student clinician teams has shared in this result. These past and present clinicians include Matt Acardi, Megan Backsen, Whitney Beckham, Catie Davis, Brett Dugan, Zjok Durst, Priya Gandbhir, Emma Hempstead, Christina Hung, David Keagle, James LaRock, Zach Mauldin, Qian Meng, Sarah Mooney, Jamie Myers, Daniel Niedzwiecki, James Packman, Richard Sala, Carey Smith, Hannah Smith, Ligia Smith, Rachel Stevens, Thomas Webb, and Emily Wilmott.

BRINGING SOLAR TO SORO

Three graduating clinicians from VLS’s Energy Clinic, Claudia Colon, Jacinta Ritchie, and Annika Kolasa, were awarded the John Delemarre Award for their contribution to the sustainability of the Vermont Law School campus. These students from Puerto Rico, Seattle, and Chicago left their mark on VLS through their leadership in successfully bringing 500 kW of solar to South Royalton, Vermont. Before the end of 2015, this successful energy clinic project will source over 50% of the school’s electric use from locally-developed clean solar energy.

In December 2014, VLS released a Request for Proposals for a 20-year net metering agreement with a solar project developer for a 500 kW solar project to offset approximately half of VLS’s annual electricity usage. The RFP was designed to make a significant contribution to meeting VLS’s Climate Commitment goals, promote a local project consistent with the community’s and VLS’s values, and also provide valuable experience for the VLS Energy Clinic students who developed the RFP.

Following the students’ detailed evaluation of the top alternatives, the Energy Clinic identified Tunbridge Solar Royalton’s proposal as the best option because of a highly favorable local site, superior technology, expected savings and risk, and overall company values, including use of local labor and businesses. The photovoltaic system will consist of 2250 Solarworld Sunmodule Pro-Series XL 315 watt solar panels. Tunbridge Solar is a family-owned small business that is working to bring abundant renewable energy to Vermont. The solar project will be located in the town of Royalton, a few minutes’ drive from VLS.
NEW LLM IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE FELLOW: GABRIELA STEIER ’17

Gabriela Steier is VLS’s newest LLM Fellow in Food and Agriculture Law. Originally from Germany, she earned a BA degree from Tufts University, a JD from Duquesne University, and is pursuing a doctorate in comparative law from the University of Cologne, Germany. Since 2015, she has been teaching a food law and policy course at Duquesne, and is a visiting professor at the University of Perugia, Italy, teaching EU-US comparative food law.

Gabriela is co-founder and partner of Food Law International, LLP, which promotes scholarship in international sustainable food law and policy. She has published widely on international food law and policy, and is the editor of the forthcoming textbooks: International Food Law and Policy (Springer 2015) and International Farm Animal, Wildlife and Food Safety Law (Springer 2016). She was named “Recent Graduate of the Year” by Duquesne. Gabriela is the first student in VLS’s new online LLM in Food and Agriculture Law degree. She will be working with VLS’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems on the Land Tenure and National Gleaning Projects, both funded by the USDA National Agriculture Library.

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS LAUNCHES FOOD LABELING WEBSITE

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) at Vermont Law School has launched a new food labeling website, LabelsUnwrapped.org, the only site of its kind that explains to consumers the law behind food labels.

LabelsUnwrapped.org encourages consumers to “take charge of your food purchasing decisions” by exploring terms associated with various types of labels. The site features pages for separate categories of food—organic and natural processed food, conventional processed food, eggs, poultry, beef and pork—with interactive labels and a quiz to test one’s knowledge. On the pork page, for example, an interactive hickory smoked bacon package invites consumers to click on individual terms on the label, such as “minimally processed,” “uncured,” “locally grown,” and “naturally raised,” to learn more.

LabelsUnwrapped.org invites consumers to research the food labeling process in a fun, interactive way. The website includes a Q-and-A page that invites consumers to submit their food labeling questions, to be answered by food and agriculture law and policy experts at VLS. CAFS worked with the Neukom DALI Lab at Dartmouth College to design LabelsUnwrapped.org.

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS JOINS CUBA-U.S. AGROECOLOGY NETWORK

The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) at VLS recently joined a diverse group of sustainable food and agriculture organizations as a founding member of the Cuba-U.S. Agroecology Network (CUSAN). The goal of CUSAN is to connect U.S. and Cuban advocates of agroecology so they can share information and practices to sustainably meet local food needs.

CUSAN was launched by the Schumacher Center for a New Economics, the mission of which is to “educate the public about an economics that supports both people and the planet.”

“We are looking forward to collaborating with Schumacher and other network members to support agroecology and the exchange of information and ideas with Cuba,” CAFS Director Laurie Ristino said. “One of the benefits of being involved on the ground floor so to speak is that we get to explore the potential of the network. For our part, CAFS brings a rich portfolio of knowledge related to the U.S. food system and international aspects of food and agriculture, from both a food safety and an environmental impacts perspective.”

In 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba lost its source of petroleum and was forced to find ways to feed its people with very little or no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Cubans embraced an organic approach to farming out of necessity and demonstrated how it can work. Today, Cuba harbors a wealth of sustainable farming experience.

CUSAN is coordinated by the Schumacher Center for a New Economics, based in Great Barrington, Mass., with support from the Christopher Reynolds and Ford Foundations. For more information about the Cuba-U.S. Agroecology Network, visit www.agroecologynetwork.org.

“FOR OUR PART, CAFS BRINGS A RICH PORTFOLIO OF KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO THE U.S. FOOD SYSTEM AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE, FROM BOTH A FOOD SAFETY AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS PERSPECTIVE.”

LAURIE RISTINO
VLS PARTNERS WITH HARVARD ON NATIONAL FOOD POLICY REFORM PROJECT

VLS’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems will receive $260,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to fund a project to inform national food policy reform. The goal of the project, titled “Blueprint for Integrated National Food Policy,” is to create a more healthful, environmentally sustainable, and equitable food system that better serves children and other vulnerable populations in the United States.

CAFS will partner with Harvard Law School’s Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC) to complete research and product development during the project’s 18-month grant period.

“Together, VLS and Harvard bring powerful expertise and experience to address food system problems,” said Professor Laurie Ristino, director of CAFS. “We thank the Kellogg Foundation for this generous grant, which will enable our faculty and student clinicians to develop a first-ever legal framework to foster healthier food systems in the U.S.”

Specifically, CAFS and FLPC will identify food and agriculture stakeholders’ policy concerns and issues critical to human and environmental health. Next, they will develop a blueprint of integrated law and policy changes designed to foster more favorable health outcomes for American citizens, particularly in vulnerable populations, as well as improved environmental outcomes. The project’s law and policy tools will be available to the public to support robust dialog and food systems policy innovation.

The VLS project team will be led by Laurie Beyranevand ’03, associate director of CAFS. “We aim to develop a detailed, thoughtful, and comprehensive blueprint to inform policy reform proposals of food system stakeholders,” Beyranevand said. “We think it has the potential to catalyze food system change in a way that takes into account health, environment, social justice, and animal welfare.”

Team members said the success of the Blueprint for Integrated National Food Policy will be based largely on having a broad range of stakeholder involvement to ensure socioeconomic, racial, gender, and geographic diversity.

ASIA PROGRAM CONDUCTS EIA TRAININGS IN MYANMAR

In June 2015, VLS’s U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law conducted a training workshop on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in cooperation with the Tanintharyi Regional Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in Myanmar.

As Myanmar continues to open up, its government officials have expressed a desire to learn effective principles and techniques to promote a sustainable development path. To that end, representatives from 16 organizations and institutions attended the training, including the Tanintharyi Regional ECD, the Naypyidaw ECD, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Rural Development, the Forest Department, the Department of Mines, and the Dawei Bureau of Special Investigation. The training workshop began with an introduction to general principles of environmental sustainability, effective environmental governance, and environmental law and policy. The focus then moved to EIA’s, with an introduction to the principles of best practice in EIA systems, an overview of Myanmar’s new EIA system, and a discussion of current work on EIA’s within the Naypyidaw ECD. Finally, the training provided an introduction to the benefits of, and mechanisms for, effective public participation in the EIA process. Throughout the training, participants had the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences from their agencies with respect to EIA implementation. The workshop proved to be very productive, and the U.S.-Asia Partnership for Environmental Law will conduct several others in the fall of 2015.

HUANZHU LAW FIRM PROSECUTES CHINA’S FIRST-EVER ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC INTEREST LAWSUIT

Huanzhu Law Firm, China’s first environmental public interest law firm and one of the U.S.-Asia Partnership for Environmental Law’s main partners in China, initiated China’s first-ever civil trial for environmental public interest litigation in May 2015. The case is being tried in the Nanping Intermediate People’s Court in Fujian Province under China’s recently amended Environmental Protection Law, which took effect on January 1, 2015 and which authorized NGO’s to prosecute environmental cases in the public interest for the first time. At issue in the case is the alleged destruction of natural resources due to illegal mining activity. While the defendants in the case had received criminal convictions for their activities, the adverse impacts to the area’s vegetation and ecological system resulting from these activities remained unaddressed. Accordingly, Huanzhu Law Firm, acting on behalf of Friends of Nature and Fujian Green Home, brought this lawsuit seeking a clean-up and restoration of the site. A judgment in the case is expected soon, and could have wide-reaching implications for the development of environmental public interest litigation in China.
GREEN TAXES: A GLOBAL GATHERING

VLS’s Environmental Tax Policy Institute will co-sponsor the 16th Global Conference on Environmental Taxation, an interdisciplinary conference in Sydney, Australia, on September 23-26, 2015. The conference theme this year is “Green Fiscal Reform: Protecting our Natural Resources for a Sustainable Future.” The Institute’s director, Professor Janet Milne, is exploring the carbon footprint of data centers that power “the cloud” and the potential role of taxation in encouraging a cleaner cloud. Sara Barnowski ‘17 has been assisting with research. The Institute is a regular supporter of the conference series and hosted the 3rd Global Conference in 2002. If you would like to be added to the conference mailing list, please email jmilne@vermontlaw.edu. Information about this year’s conference is available at www.vermontlaw.edu/envirotax.

WATER AND JUSTICE PROGRAM PUBLISHES LAKE ERIE REPORT

The Water and Justice Program received funding from Lucas County, Ohio, in January 2015. Partnering with the University of Toledo School of Law, the Program published a 130-page research report entitled “Moving Forward: Legal Solutions to Lake Erie’s Harmful Algal Blooms.” The report was released in April 2015 and the program continues to work with Lucas County Commissioners and the Ohio Congressional delegation to develop legal means to curb the nutrient pollution that poisoned the water supply for 400,000 people in the summer of 2014.

In addition, the program, directed by Professor Jack Tuholske, has received approval to submit a grant proposal partnering with the University of Vermont and the Vermont Department of Environmental Quality to examine legal approaches to reducing nutrient pollution in Lake Champlain. Tuholske presented related water quality research at the University of Oregon Public Interest Environmental Law Conference in March 2015.

UNDERGRADS ENROLL IN PILOT “NEW FRONTIERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY” SUMMER PROGRAM

This summer, VLS welcomed undergraduate students into its pilot “New Frontiers in Environmental Law and Policy” summer program. The program was designed to give undergraduates the tools they need to become powerful advocates for the environment.

New Frontiers students enrolled in a course covering environmental law and policy development, including discussions of economics, federalism, and justice. Throughout the course, faculty and students discussed whether environmental justice issues have been taken into account, and how to remedy injustices.

“New Frontiers in Environmental Law and Policy is a unique opportunity for undergraduate students to connect with our advocacy-oriented faculty, who have influenced environmental policy locally and globally,” said Professor Melissa Scanlan. “We are inspired by the undergraduates’ determination to get a jumpstart on their careers in environmental advocacy and look forward to seeing what they do next.”

Professor Laurie Beyranevand ’03 mentored the undergraduates. They reviewed the major themes covered in their course, participated in substantive discussions about environmental policy, reviewed the basics of legal analysis, and visited relevant Vermont attractions, including a cohousing community that practices sustainable land management, an advocacy organization that has run successful environmental campaigns, and the state capital.

“I am continually impressed by these undergraduate students and their drive to influence environmental law and policy,” Beyranevand said. “They represent our next generation of leaders, and I am honored to contribute to their education on law and policy issues. It’s been a pleasure having them on campus this summer.”

KIM WASSERMAN SPEAKS AT VLS

Kim Wasserman received an honorary degree at VLS’s 2015 Commencement and delivered the honorary degree lecture. Wasserman grew up in the Chicago neighborhood of Little Village, the same community where she currently lives and works. As a grassroots activist and coordinator for the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, she led local residents in a successful campaign to shut down two of the country’s oldest and dirtiest coal plants, and is now transforming Chicago’s old industrial sites into parks and multi-use spaces. Empowering Little Village community members has been the highlight of her career. “They have been able to realize they do not need politicians, that they have the skills and talents to take action on their own. One person says, we can fix it and they do it.” Building a sound organization of people that work well together towards the same goal has been her most significant achievement to date.

Students in the New Frontiers program on a hike in South Royalton
EIGHT SEASONS IN THE WILDERNESS FOR MONTANA FIELD COURSE

The Montana Field Seminar, taught by Professor Jack Tuholske, completed its eighth successful season this summer, with students from the JD, master’s, residential, and online programs enjoying two fabulous weeks in the wilds of Montana and Idaho. This course, unique among American law courses, immerses students in a hands-on field experience in public land management. “We don’t just read cases about logging and law reviews about Wilderness management issues,” said Tuholske. “We hike, camp, and ponder amidst 600-acre clearcuts and backpack into the heart of the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness.” This year’s class featured two lectures by the USFS Northern Region’s chief ecologist, natural history lectures from a Yale PhD candidate in geology, and a presentation by a homeowner who lives in the urban-wildland interface and experienced one of Montana’s largest wildfires first-hand. VLS MELP graduate and current Yale Law School student Chelsea Auerbach assisted with the class and lectured about her ongoing research into Gifford Pinchot and public lands. In addition to 3–4 hours of lectures and discussion each day, the class summited peaks, hiked to an alpine lake, and devoured large quantities of wild huckleberries!

“We DON’T JUST READ CASES ABOUT LOGGING AND LAW REVIEWS ABOUT WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT ISSUES. WE HIKE, CAMP, AND PONDER AMIDST 600-ACRE CLEARCUTS AND BACKPACK INTO THE HEART OF THE SELWAY BITTERROOT WILDERNESS.”

—JACK TUHOLSKE

SUMMER SESSION: BY THE NUMBERS

33 classes on topics ranging from Ocean and Coastal Law to Food System Justice to Environmental Litigation

Over 200 students taking classes, including JD, master’s, and LLM candidates at VLS; JD students from other law schools; and visitors from around the world

2 field study classes: the perennial favorite Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study and the new Comparative U.S.-France Land Use Field Study

4 Welcome Receptions—a chance for students, faculty, and special guests to mingle on the porch overlooking the White River

40 summer faculty from organizations including U.S. EPA, The Nature Conservancy, and the University of Cambridge

5 Distinguished Summer Scholars: James Salzman of Duke University; Steven Ferrey of Suffolk University; Janelle Orsi of the Sustainable Economics Law Center; Philippe Cullet of the University of London; and George Hamilton of the Institute for Sustainable Communities

17 lectures in the Hot Topics in Environmental Law brown bag series, covering CAFO litigation, sanitation law in India, wind turbine siting, and legal regimes to protect Antarctica’s environment

3 Environmental Law Media Fellows: Natalie Allen of CNN International, Tim McDonnell of Mother Jones, and Zoë Schlanger of Newsweek

Only 67 days from the start of Summer Session to the end, and they always fly by much too quickly
ENVIRONMENTAL MEDIA FELLOWS

VLS selected three journalists for its 2015 Summer Media Fellowships. Each fellow, chosen from a pool of several dozen highly qualified applicants, attended a Summer Session course at VLS and delivered a lecture as part of the ‘Hot Topics’ summer lecture series. The 2015 Summer Media Fellows were:

Natalie Allen, an anchor and correspondent with CNN International. Allen currently anchors “CNN Newsroom.” She has more than 25 years of experience as a broadcast journalist, including at NBC News, MSNBC and The Weather Channel, where she was the network’s first full-time environment correspondent for its flagship program on climate and adaptation, “Forecast Earth.”

Tim McDonnell, a reporter with Mother Jones and associate producer of Climate Desk, an international collaboration that includes Mother Jones, The Atlantic, The Guardian, Huffington Post, Slate, Wired, Grist, and the Center for Investigative Reporting, that produces original multimedia journalism on climate change. McDonnell covers many angles of climate change, from science to environmental politics to business.

Zoë Schlanger, a reporter with Newsweek, where she covers all aspects of environmental health and climate change. She previously worked at The Nation, InsideClimate News, Gothamist, and “The Rachel Maddow Show.” She often writes about environmental justice—and whether health is regarded as a human right under the law.

Fellows were selected based on work history and samples, commitment to covering environmental issues, and their potential for increasing understanding of environmental law and policy issues. The Summer Media Fellowship program has been made possible since 2002 by a generous grant from the Johnson Family Foundation and private donors.

SAVING ROOM FOR WILDLIFE: STACY SHELTON JD’16

In her career as a journalist, Stacy Shelton learned to explain complicated environmental issues in a way that the public could understand. Before coming to VLS, she spent seven years as the environment reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, where she researched, investigated, and wrote on topics ranging from the tri-state water wars to metro Atlanta’s struggle to meet smog standards. She then spent five years as a public affairs specialist for the Southeast Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At FWS, she developed and implemented communication strategies for endangered species listings, the impacts of climate change on wildlife, and a new national wildlife refuge in Florida.

“I want to help ensure we save room for wildlife as the global population continues to grow and expand developed areas,” Stacy says. “When I graduate next August, I hope to move into a clerkship position to better hone my legal skills and then work in environmental policy for a non-profit or government agency.”

Stacy is earning her JD degree through VLS’s accelerated JD program. She is on the editorial staff of the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law and she is an Environmental Mission Scholar, part of a program designed to encourage students to pursue careers in public service and environmental stewardship. She received her BA degree in Political Science from Georgetown University and her MS in Journalism from Columbia University.

“Stacy is incredibly intelligent with a passion for the law that started with her career as a journalist,” says Vice Dean Jackie Gardina, who had her as a student in Civil Procedure. “As a journalist and then at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Stacy successfully explained complex legal issues in a way that could reach the general public.”

“Stacy wrote a fantastic paper on how to minimize deadline litigation under the Endangered Species Act,” says Professor Beth McCormack, who taught her in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Writing Seminar. “She performed considerable original research to defend her thesis, tracking down several FWS officials to interview. She also gave a dynamic presentation on her research, making the class fall in love with the red knot bird! Her enthusiasm for the project was contagious.”

The LLM entering class of 2015 includes students from China, India, Nigeria, Romania, Thailand, and the U.S.
ENVIRONMENTAL FACULTY NEWS

TRACY BACH

PUBLICATIONS:
“‘Turning the Corner in Lima: The Language of Differentiation and the ‘Democratization’ of Climate Change Negotiations,” Ethics, Policy, Environment Special Issue, Fall 2015.

PRESENTATIONS: “What Does Climate Change Mean for Qatar?” at the U.S. Embassy in Qatar’s 2015 Earth Day program, Qatar University, April, 2015. NEWS: Bach spent the Spring 2015 semester as a visiting professor at Qatar University College of Law and a research fellow at QU’s Center for Energy and Sustainability Law. She will lead the law school’s observer delegation of 10 students to COP21 in Paris in December.

HILLARY HOFFMANN

PUBLICATIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:


KEVIN JONES


JANET MILNE


SEAN NOLON


PUBLICATIONS:

PUBLICATIONS:
PARENTEAU ELECTED TO AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS

Professor Patrick Parenteau recently was elected to the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL). Parenteau is among 22 lawyers who will be inducted into ACOEL at its annual meeting in October. The 2015 ACOEL Fellows were selected by their peers in recognition of their achievements in environmental law and policy over a minimum 15-year period. Parenteau’s achievements span five decades.

“We are proud of Pat’s accomplishments in the field of environmental law and policy and congratulate him on this honor,” said Professor Melissa Scanlan. “He is a skilled lawyer and passionate advocate for the environment, a mentor to VLS students, and a respected legal scholar among his peers.”

Parenteau is nationally recognized for his expertise on climate change, environmental policy and litigation, endangered species and biological diversity, and water quality and wetlands. He frequently is asked to testify before Congress, and the press regularly seeks his comment on national issues, including the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan and carbon rules. At VLS, he teaches Climate Change and the Law, Extinction and Climate Change, Water Quality, and Environmental Litigation.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Parenteau held various positions with the National Wildlife Federation, including vice president for conservation, and served as regional counsel for the EPA in Boston and commissioner of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. In the 1990s, he served as special counsel to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the spotted owl exemption proceedings under the Endangered Species Act. In 1993, he returned to Vermont to assume the directorship of the Environmental Law Center, a position he held through 1998. In 2003, he helped found and directed the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, where he now serves as senior counsel.
**FACULTY NEWS**

The American Bar Association awarded its 2015 Environment, Energy, and Resources Dedication to Diversity and Justice Award to Professor Benjamin Sovacool, a senior fellow at the Institute for Energy and the Environment (IEE) at VLS, during its annual meeting in Chicago in August.

The ABA recognized Sovacool for his commitment to environmental and energy justice, specifically in the areas of energy poverty, the theory and practice of energy justice, and the promotion of diversity and social science in energy research.

“Benjamin's scholarship is exceptional, and his influence in the field of environmental and energy justice is far-reaching,” said Professor Michael Dworkin, who accepted the award on Sovacool’s behalf. “He has expanded our students’—and our profession's—awareness of the need and tools for rigorous analysis of the meaning of justice as we struggle to find environmentally sustainable ways of meeting energy needs in a world where billions go unserved or underserved. Current paths of service impose unjust and unsustainable burdens on those with the fewest of choices.”

**BENJAMIN SOVACOOL RECEIVES 2015 ABA DEDICATION TO DIVERSITY AND JUSTICE AWARD**

In 2011 Sovacool founded the IEE’s Energy Justice and Security Program, which investigates how to provide ethical access to energy services and minimize the injustice of current patterns of energy production and use. Sovacool and participating students explore how to equitably provide affordable, reliable, efficient, environmentally benign, proactively governed and socially responsible energy services to households and consumers.

In his classes and research, Sovacool opens up questions of justice across a broad range of energy issues. His books are often cited and positively reviewed. His most recent book, Global Energy Justice (Cambridge University Press, 2014), co-authored with Dworkin, asks how philosophers of justice would approach eight real-world decisions about energy needs, a topical question for judges and regulators applying statutes that call for just and reasonable results.

“**BENJAMIN’S SCHOLARSHIP IS EXCEPTIONAL, AND HIS INFLUENCE IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY JUSTICE IS FAR-REACHING.**”

—MICHAEL DWORGIN, Professor of Law

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**SUMMER SESSION FACULTY NEWS**

Many members of the VLS family, including regular faculty, summer faculty, students, and alumni, were involved in producing the second edition of Ocean & Coastal Law and Policy, recently published by ABA. The book was co-edited by Don Baur, Tim Eichenberg, and Michael Sutton, who co-teach Ocean and Coastal Law at VLS.

Don Baur was co-chair of the Environmental Law Institute’s Endangered Species Act Conference in Washington, DC, in May. He spoke to the real estate development and water resources communities on the new Clean Water Act Rule defining the scope of jurisdiction over waters of the United States at a conference in Phoenix in June. He filed an amicus brief on behalf of renowned ocean conservationists and movie producers and stars in a case supporting the NMFS denial of a permit to the Georgia Aquarium to remove 18 beluga whales from the wild for import to the U.S. for captive maintenance for public display. Baur is a partner at Perkins Coie.


David Cassuto spoke at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium in Jakarta, Indonesia, in September. His article, “Don’t Be Cruel (anymore): A Look at the Cruelty Regimes of the United States & Brazil with a Call for a New Regulatory Agency” is forthcoming. Again this fall, he is the Class of 1946 Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies at Williams College, and he will likely be a visiting professor at PUC-Parana in Curitiba, Brazil, next May. Cassuto is a Professor of Law at Pace Law School. He teaches Animal Rights Jurisprudence at VLS.

William S. Eubanks II LLM ’08 recently became a name partner in the public interest environmental law firm Meyer Glitzenstein & Eubanks LLP. He moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, where he now serves as the managing partner of the firm’s western office, which will focus primarily on public lands preservation, biodiversity conservation, and natural resource protection. He recently published a law review article examining the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s misapplication of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act in 45 Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review (2015). Eubanks teaches Public Health Implications of U.S. Agriculture and Food Policy.

Michael Sutton’s opinion piece, “What’s wrong with trophy hunting,” was published in the San Francisco Chronicle in July. Sutton is Vice President of the Pacific Flyway for the National Audubon Society.

Steve Weissman became the Principal Investigator and Director of the American Jobs Project in September. This is a research-driven examination of the potential of various states to create renewable energy and “clean tech” jobs. The project is run through the UC Berkeley School of Public Policy and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He will serve as a Lecturer in the School of Public Policy. He teaches Renewable Energy Law and Policy at VLS.

Huiyu Zhao spoke at China’s annual Energy Law conference in August on “The Development of the U.S.’s New Clean Power Plan.” She hosted a conference on chemical regulation and legislation between China and the U.S. at China Shanghai Jiaotong University Law School in August. Robert Percival was one of the speakers. More than 20 international companies, including Dow Chemical, BASF, and Syngenta, took part in the conference. Zhao is an Associate Professor of Law at Shanghai Jiaotong University. Percival is the Robert F. Stanton Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental Law Program at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. They co-teach Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law at VLS.

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Sutton’s article looks at the issue of trophy hunting.
SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING 2015–16 EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 15**  **FACULTY SPEAKER SERIES**  
“The Clean Power Plan: Burning the Constitution or Putting Out the Fire?”  with Patrick Parenteau, Senior Counsel, Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic; Professor of Law, VLS.

**SEPTEMBER 25**  **LITIGATING TAKINGS CHALLENGES TO LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS**  
The 18th annual *Litigating Takings Challenges to Land Use and Environmental Regulations* conference will take place at the University of Maryland’s Francis King Carey School of Law. Conference sponsors include Georgetown University, University of Maryland, and VLS. This conference explores the regulatory takings issue as it relates to land use and environmental regulation.

**SEPTEMBER 24-26**  **GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL TAXATION**  
The 16th *Global Conference on Environmental Taxation* will be held in Sydney, Australia. This year’s conference theme is “Green Fiscal Reform: Protecting our Natural Resources for a Sustainable Future.” The conference is co-sponsored by VLS’s Environmental Tax Policy Institute.

**SEPTEMBER 23-26**  **POLAR LAW SYMPOSIUM**  
The 8th Polar Law Symposium will be held in Fairbanks and Anchorage, Alaska. The event is co-sponsored by Vermont Law School and will focus on “The Science, Scholarship, and Practice of Polar Law: Strengthening Arctic Peoples and Places.”

**OCTOBER 2-3**  **COLLOQUIUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
The sixth annual *Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship* at VLS will offer the opportunity for environmental law scholars to present their works-in-progress and recent scholarship, to get feedback from their colleagues, and to meet and interact with those who are also teaching and researching in the environmental and natural resources law area.

**OCTOBER 5**  **FACULTY SPEAKER SERIES**  
“Horizontal Equity and the Takings Clause” with David Dana, Professor of Law, Northwestern University School of Law.

**OCTOBER 23**  **VERMONT JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SYMPOSIUM**  
The Vermont Journal of Environmental Law’s annual symposium at VLS will focus on “TMDLs 2.0;” panelists will explore current issues regarding Total Maximum Daily Loads under the Clean Water Act.

**OCTOBER 26**  **FACULTY SPEAKER SERIES**  
“California Drought: Lessons Learned and Not” with Antonio “Tony” Rossman, Lecturer, University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

**APRIL 14, 2016**  **NORMAN WILLIAMS LECTURE**  
The 11th annual Norman Williams Distinguished Lecture in Land Use and Planning Law will be delivered by Patricia Salkin, Dean and Professor of Law at Touro Law Center.