

SPECIALTIES HONOR ROLL:

Environmental Law

From climate change to clean energy to protecting wildlife, environmental law touches some of the most urgent challenges of our time. These five law schools stand out for their specialized programs, hands-on clinics, and global opportunities that prepare students to shape policy and practice in this critical field, earning an A+ in our annual honor roll.

A+
The George Washington University School of Law

For more than 50 years, George Washington University Law School's Environmental and Energy Law Program has been a leader in preparing lawyers to tackle the complex legal and policy challenges of the modern environmental era.

Students can pursue one of four specialized LL.M.s, including Environmental Law, Energy Law & Sustainability, Government Procurement and Environmental Law, and International Environmental Law. A LL.M. double-degree program in Energy & Climate Law and Energy & Environmental Law is also available. Students in these programs move through a strong curriculum in pollution control, hazardous waste, natural resources, and climate law while tailoring electives to their specific interests.

The program is also home to the Sustainable Energy Initiative, which advances legal and policy solutions for clean, reliable, and affordable energy. Through public forums, research, and nonpartisan education, it prepares students to confront global challenges such as climate change, air pollution, and resource scarcity.

For those drawn to practical training, Washington, D.C. itself becomes the classroom with the Field Placement



Program. Students regularly extern with agencies such as the EPA, nonprofits like the Environmental Defense Fund, and international institutions working on climate and natural resource management. Within the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics, students engage with environmental justice matters, such as drafting federal housing and health-related environmental comments.

GW students contribute to the George Washington Journal of Energy and Environmental Law (JEEL), a publication produced in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute. JEEL combines rigorous analysis with policy relevance, making it a touchstone for practitioners as well as scholars.

Students may also take part in national and regional competitions in energy, environmental, and sustainability law. These include moot court and writing competitions, such as those sponsored by

sections of the American Bar Association, where participants can often earn academic credit for their work.

The school also distinguishes itself through its Inns of Court program, which builds community and professional identity from the first week of law school. J.D. and LL.M. students are grouped into cohorts led by faculty and staff advisors, where they receive mentoring, skills training, and career development guidance. This award-winning model not only supplements doctrinal study but also creates a strong support system for students pursuing demanding fields like environmental and energy law.

A+
Georgetown University Law Center

Georgetown has built one of the most expansive environmental and energy law programs in the country, offer-



and analysis on domestic and international issues, while student groups like the Georgetown Environmental Law Society, Green Campus Alliance, and Energy Law Group connect students with peers, alumni, and practitioners.

A+ **Harvard Law School**

Harvard Law hosts the nation's first environmental law moot court institute, giving students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to hone appellate advocacy in environmental and energy cases. "It's imperative to provide an opportunity to moot cases early in the process, to be sure they are on the strongest possible footing as they make their way through the courts," says Jody Freeman, the Archibald Cox Professor of Law and founding director of the Environmental and Energy Law Program at Harvard.

This new institute is part of the broader Emmett Environmental Law Center, which serves as the school's hub for climate, energy, and natural resources law. The Center brings faculty expertise, policy engagement, and student opportunities together under one umbrella, positioning the school as a leader in advancing climate and energy solutions.

Hands-on training comes through the

ing an LL.M. in Environmental and Energy Law with more than 60 courses in Environmental and Energy Law. J.D. students may also pursue a joint J.D./LL.M. degree that integrates coursework in environmental, natural resources, and climate law.

The Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) sits at the heart of the program. Founded in 2009 at the request of state leaders, its mission is to strengthen collaboration among federal, state, and local governments in responding to the climate crisis. The Center provides legal, policy, and process support to help good ideas translate into practical, durable climate action.

Students gain hands-on training in the Environmental Law & Justice Clinic (ELJC), where they represent underserved clients on issues ranging from environmental justice to wildlife and climate. Casework combines litigation, regulatory advocacy, and advisory projects, all with an emphasis on developing advocacy skills, problem-solving habits, and professional responsibility.

Experiential learning extends through the Harrison Institute for Public Law's Policy Clinic, which places students on teams advancing client goals in areas like trade, climate, health, and equity. A recent initiative, Trade Tools for Climate Action, examines how international trade measures, such as carbon tariffs, green procurement, and revised subsidies, can

be utilized to support emissions reductions and promote sustainable economic growth. The project brings together experts from government, industry, and civil society to explore how trade policy can play a meaningful role in advancing climate goals.

Academic publishing and student life round out the experience. The Georgetown Environmental Law Review (GELR) provides a platform for articles





Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic, where students work with government agencies, nonprofits, and community organizations. Projects span climate adaptation, environmental justice, clean energy development, and public health protections. Students often partner with federal and state regulators or NGOs, gaining experience that prepares them for careers in both litigation and policymaking.

Academic publishing and media provide another dimension. The Harvard Environmental Law Review is among the top journals in the field, publishing articles on environmental justice, climate regulation, and sustainable infrastructure. Complementing the journal, the CleanLaw podcast features conversations with faculty and staff, as well as leading experts on environmental law, energy markets, and public health, providing students with direct access to contemporary debates that shape practice.

Student life rounds out the program. The Harvard Environmental Law Society organizes events, pro bono opportunities, and networking with alumni, while also fostering advocacy initiatives on campus.

A+ **Lewis & Clark Law School**

Environmental law has been part of Lewis & Clark Law School for decades, and its location in Portland, Oregon, pro-

vides a living classroom for issues involving forests, rivers, energy, and climate. The school consistently ranks among the nation's best and offers both J.D. and graduate-level pathways into the field. Its LL.M. in Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law attracts students from across the globe who plan to practice, teach, or influence policy in these areas. J.D. students may pursue a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law or a Certificate in Energy, Innovation, and Sustainability Law, combining doctrinal study with practical training.

Experiential learning is the hallmark of the program. The Earthrise Law Center operates as a domestic litigation clinic, where students handle real cases on endangered species, forests, and clean water. The Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment expands that scope internationally, training both J.D. and LL.M. students to work with clients, governments, and international institutions on the protection of wild animals and wild spaces. Its work ranges from shaping international treaties and compliance strategies to training prosecutors and judges on stopping wildlife trafficking. Students gain direct experience advancing protections for species as varied as elephants, lions, pangolins, and amphibians, while contributing to the development of international animal and

environmental law.

The Green Energy Institute adds another dimension to the program by focusing on climate and energy policy. Its mission is to accelerate the transition to a carbon-free energy grid through research, advocacy, and collaboration with policy-makers. Students working with the institute contribute to strategies that strengthen existing energy laws, remove barriers to renewable development, and design innovative approaches to achieve a just and sustainable transition.

Students can also pursue practicums and externships, working with agencies, nonprofits, and law firms throughout the Pacific Northwest or in national placements. These positions provide academic credit while placing students directly in the environmental and natural resources community.

On the academic side, the school publishes *Environmental Law*, the nation's oldest law review dedicated solely to environmental issues. Students not only edit articles but also compete in the annual National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, sharpening advocacy skills against teams from across the country.

A+ **Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University**

Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University has long been recognized as a global leader in environmental law, offering one of the broadest ranges of





degrees and specializations in the field. J.D. students may pursue an Advanced Certificate in Environmental Law, while graduate students choose from an LL.M. in Environmental Law with optional tracks in Global Environmental Law, Land Use and Sustainable Development Law, or Energy and Climate Change Law. For those seeking advanced research opportunities, Pace also offers an S.J.D. in Environmental Law, one of the few of its kind worldwide.

The school is home to a network of research and advocacy hubs that span the full spectrum of environmental and energy issues. The Pace Energy and Climate Center advances sustainable energy policy, the Land Use Law Center develops innovative approaches to zoning and development, and the Food Law Center explores the intersection of agriculture, sustainability, and public health. These initiatives are connected through the Global Center for Environmental Legal Studies (GCELS), which coordinates the law school's international impact, including partnerships through the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law.

Experiential learning is central to Haub's approach. The Environmental Litigation Clinic places students on the front lines of citizen enforcement actions, while the Food and Farm Business Law Clinic supports sustainable farmers and food entrepreneurs. The Sustainable Business Law Hub provides additional practice opportunities focused on green entrepreneurship and ESG strategy.

Externship options expand training beyond the New York region. Students may participate in the Environmental

Law Externship in Washington, D.C., or the United Nations Environmental Diplomacy Practicum, where they contribute directly to international negotiations.

Students also find community through the Environmental Law Society, which hosts events and connects students with practitioners, and by contributing to the Pace Environmental Law Review, a student-edited journal that publishes work on pressing environmental, energy, and land use issues.



MORE INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL

Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University offers both JD and Masters of Law (LLM) degrees in Environmental Law and Comparative Legal Studies, as well as a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) in Environmental Law. Housed on the University's campus in White Plains, N.Y., the Law School opened its doors in 1976 and has more than 10,000 alumni around the world. Its unique philosophy and approach to legal education strikes an important balance between practice and theory. Pace Haub Law launched its Environmental Law Program in 1978, and it has long been ranked among the world's lead-

ing university programs, with a current #1 ranking by U.S. News & World Report. Today, it offers more than 40 environmental law courses, 7 renowned centers and clinics, as well as dozens of internship and externship opportunities. Pace Haub Law's JD alumni are prominent in environmental law firms, agencies and non-profit organizations across the U.S. and abroad, and doctoral graduates teach environmental law at universities around the world. With a legacy of innovation in environmental law and a deep commitment to experiential learning, Pace Haub Law turns expertise into impact for communities, clients, and the planet.