

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026
Professors Wyatt Sassman & Asha Brundage-Moore

Since 1984, the Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law has provided real world experience for students interested in both developing practical legal skills and exploring the practice of environmental law. Under the supervision of Professors Wyatt Sassman and Asha Brundage-Moore, students represent community groups and environmental advocacy organizations before courts and administrative agencies in a broad range of environmental matters.

Are there any prerequisites?

No. Administrative Law, Evidence, and Legal Profession are helpful but not required.

Are classes required?

Yes. Classes will meet twice weekly. In addition, students will be required to attend orientation the week before fall classes begin. **Attendance at orientation is mandatory.** The purpose of the orientation is to familiarize students with SLO procedures and the Clinic's case management system, and to teach some basic substance, skills, and ethics.

How many credits will I receive?

The Environmental Law Clinic is a year-long clinic. Students will enroll for 18 total credits over the course of two semesters. Twelve of the credits count as out-of-class credits; and the other six count as in-class credits.

What do we do?

The Environmental Law Clinic offers students a wide range of projects and cases in the field of public interest environmental law. Although the particular cases and projects in a given year may not cover every aspect below, the faculty seeks to maintain a balanced and varied docket.

The Clinic represents clients in litigation in both state and federal court, at both the trial court and appellate court level. The Clinic represents clients in a variety of administrative proceedings including hearings before federal and state administrative agencies, commenting on proposed rulemakings at the state or federal level, commenting on and administrative appeals of permits or changes in management plans, and involvement in the development of environmental impact statements. The Clinic represents community-based clients to address local environmental burdens.

Substantively, the Clinic deals with cutting-edge issues across the field of environmental law. These involve actions to address current hot topics such as water rights and management, animal rights, public health, and environmental justice. Because we are located in the West, the Clinic also handles many matters dealing with public lands management, the protection of wildlife and endangered species, and the management of cultural resources. Clinic students have worked under many environmental statutes, including but not limited to the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, Clinic students are encouraged to practice creative out-of-the-box thinking and bring their experience from other substantive areas of law to address important, complex environmental problems like climate change.

What kind of time commitment is involved?

The Environmental Law Clinic requires a substantial time commitment, though the time required may vary somewhat with the ebb and flow of litigation. The clinic is very time intensive and students can expect to spend at least 20 hours per week working on client-related matters, including time spent preparing for and attending class. To prevent potential conflicts of interest, students are not allowed to participate in other experiential courses, such as externships, internships, or labs. Students who plan to work while enrolled in the clinic must first obtain approval from the clinic faculty.

What are the benefits of taking this clinic?

Through the Environmental Law Clinic, students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience by litigating matters in federal and state court, as well as engaging in administrative appeals and non-litigation advocacy projects. Typically, student projects include drafting legal documents (60-day notice letters, complaints, discovery documents, briefs, and administrative comments), oral advocacy, legal research and writing, interviewing and working with clients, engaging community leaders and decision-makers, and advocating at the policy level. The clinic faculty also make an effort to expose students to a wide variety of career opportunities in environmental law.

Where can I get more information?

- Online at law.du.edu/student-law-office and on our Instagram **@denver_law_clinical_programs**.
- At our spring recruitment events in person at Sturm College of Law the week of March 3rd, 2025.
- At the Student Law Office located on the third floor of the Ricketson Law Building, open Monday - Thursday from 9am to 5pm.

How and when do I apply or register?

Applications can be found on the Clinical Programs website at law.du.edu/student-law-office.

- Online applications for the fall 2025 semester open **Mon March 3rd, 2025, at 9:00am**
- Online applications for the fall 2025 semester close **Sun March 10th, 2025, at 11:59pm**
Late Applications will not be considered.