

**University of Florida/ University of Costa Rica Joint Program in
Environmental Law**

2007 Costa Rica Conservation Clinic Syllabus

LAW 6930 Section 8849

Thomas T. Ankersen, Director

Thomas Ruppert, Assistant in Environmental Law

The Conservation Clinic will meet each Tuesday at 3:30 pm and each Thursday at 11:30 am

Tuesday classes will be devoted to lecture/presentation/discussion of assigned readings on the topics listed below. On Thursdays project groups will meet as a group to work on their respective projects. Attendance at these sessions is a required part of the Conservation Clinic.

We will make every effort to hold the lecture/presentation/discussion classes at the regularly-scheduled time of 3:30 on Tuesday afternoons. However, due to the difficulty of scheduling guest speakers, we may reschedule class for another day or time to accommodate guest speakers. Readings and guest lectures that inform the work of the Clinic will be provided; however, the emphasis remains on the design development and execution of the Clinic projects.

Students will be expected to work in small cross cultural groups on projects designed to further the development of environmental law in Costa Rica. A list of projects and small group identification will be provided at the initial orientation. Each project will have at least one U.S. faculty supervisor and one or more Costa Rican project advisors based upon interest and expertise. Each project should result in a written policy product and include a formal presentation to the clinic's client or other appropriate stakeholder group.

The Clinic recognizes that time, language, and cultural differences present a special challenge to the development and execution of Clinic projects. We believe that confronting these challenges is an essential part of the clinic experience in Costa Rica and give this due consideration in the management of our expectations. Nonetheless, we have had some significant domestic and international successes in the execution of these projects will make every effort to assure that each project offers this possibility.

Clinic projects may entail project group meetings and other activities outside of regular class sessions for Clinic participants. Such meetings and activities will occur as required by each project.

1 – Introduction to clinic (June 19; 3:30 pm):

The UF/UCR Conservation Clinic: Past, Present and Future

Discussion: Opportunities and Obstacles in Cross Cultural Clinical Collaboration

Project Assignments & Discussion

Readings:

Ballar, Rafael Gonzalez, A Brief History of Clinical Environmental Law Education in Costa Rica (unpublished paper presented at the Globalizing Clinical Education to Protect the World's Health and Environment, April 27, 2007)

Ankersen, Thomas T. Applying Clinical Legal Education to Community Smart Growth: the University of Florida Conservation Clinic, in Knaap & Wiewel, eds., University Efforts to Encourage Smart Growth (Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, 2005)(with N. Kibert).

Review Selected Products from Past Clinics in Costa Rica

2 - Land use Planning in Costa Rica. Part I (Ordenamiento Territorial y Corredores).

Presenter: Jim Barborak, Conservation International (June 26; 3:30 pm)

Readings:

Wallace, George N., James R. Barborak, and Craig MacFarland. 2003. **Land use planning and regulation in and around protected areas: A study of best practices and capacity building needs in Mexico and Central America.** Vth Work Parks Congress. Durban South Africa.

Optional Reading: Ankersen, Thomas T. **The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor: The legal framework for an integrated, regional system of protected areas.**

3- Payments for Environmental Services (27 de junio en OET)

Presenter: Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Director, Mesoamerica Program and former Costa Rica Minister of the Environment

Readings:

To be provided

4 – Low Impact Development and Land Use Planning in U.S. (July 3)

Presenter: Thomas Ruppert, Conservation Clinic Assistant in Environmental Law, University of Florida

Readings: Nolon, John R. **Historical Overview of the American Land Use System: A Diagnostic Approach to Evaluating Governmental Land Use Control**, 23 PACE ENV'T L.L.J. 821 (2006).

5 – Private land conservation. (July 10)

Presenter: Carlos Chacon, private lands conservation specialist, The Nature Conservancy-Costa Rica

Readings:

Swift, Byron et al. 2004. **Private lands conservation in Latin America: The need for enhanced legal tools and incentives.** Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation.

6 – Compensated Carbon Credits in a Worldwide Trading System: Designing a Program for On-the-Ground (and In-the-Forest) Implementation of Payment Systems to Landowners for Forest Carbon Credits (July 17)

Presenter: Dan Nepstadt, Senior Research Scientist, Woods Hole Research Center

Readings:

To be Provided

7 – Clinic project wrap up (meet in project groups to complete work on projects) (July 24)