Faculty Scholarship

Mary Jane Angelo  
Director, ELULP  
Alumni Research Scholar  

Research Handbook on Climate Change and Agricultural Law (co-editor with Anel Du Pleissis, Edward Elgar, forthcoming 2016).


Whole System Agricultural Certification: Building a Resilient Agricultural System to Adapt to Climate Change, 85 University of Colorado Law Review 689 (with Joanna Reilly Brown, 2014).


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Tom Ankersen
Legal Skills Professor
Director, Conservation Clinic


Amy L. Stein
Associate Professor


Alyson Flournoy
Professor
Alumni Research Scholar


Christine A. Klein
Chesterfield Smith Professor
University of Florida Research Foundation Professor
Director, LL.M. Program in Environmental & Land Use Law


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Climate Change and Water Transfers (with Jesse Reiblich), 41 PEPPERDINE L. REV. 405 (2014).


National Research Council, Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta (served as committee member and committee co-author), Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta (2012).

Michael Wolf
Professor
Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law


Powell on Real Property (general editor) (Matthew Bender/ Lexis/Nexis).

Climate, Takings, and the U.S. Supreme Court, PLANNING, Oct. 2014, at 50.


Read about ELULP students’ study abroad opportunities on pages 7 and 8.
Faculty Leadership in Federal, State and International Policy

Stein Meets with Top Energy Officials

Amy Stein, associate professor of law in the ELULP Program, met in Washington, D.C., with top federal energy officials from agencies such as FERC, DOE, EIA, DOI, and the State Department, and the state senators and representatives from the top eleven energy producing states. She was invited to present the University Advisory Board Seminar on Resiliency and the North American Grid at The Energy Council’s 2015 Energy and Environmental Matters Conference (Washington, D.C., March 5-7, 2015).

Angelo, Researchers Conclude Everglades Research

As part of a six-person interdisciplinary University of Florida team, ELULP Director Mary Jane Angelo evaluated options for reducing harmful discharges to the estuaries and restoring water flow to the Everglades. In a report commissioned by the Florida Senate, the team concluded that accomplishing these goals would require an extremely large amount of land for treatment and storage of the water.

Ankersen, Conservation Clinic Inform Public Policy

Tom Ankersen, director of UF Law’s Conservation Clinic, served as lead on an interdisciplinary project to develop a website entitled Accessing the Florida Coast, www.floridawateraccess.org.

The site collects work that the Clinic has done in the areas of beach access, boating access and working waterfronts. The site was promoted by Florida Sea Grant through an “infomercial” published in Florida Trend magazine.

A number of the clinic’s projects are directed toward law reform. The Clinic did the majority of the substantive work (feasibility study) that led to a successful bill in the 2015 legislative session creating the City of Panacea (that still requires a local referendum). Working with colleagues across campus, the Clinic drafted a science plan and a community development plan tailored to natural resource adaptation for the Town of Yankeetown (to be incorporated in the Local Government Comprehensive Plan). The Town adopted these by resolution pending a referendum on the comprehensive plan. The Clinic did substantial work on proposed legislation to create a regulatory structure for medical marijuana, focusing on local preemption and land use issues. The legislation ultimately failed to gain passage.

Ankersen also presented his work on “the human right to property” at a Conference at the Universidad de Norte en Barranquilla, Colombia, sponsored in part by the Center for Governmental Responsibility’s Law and Policy in the Americas Program.

ELULP Awards Degrees, Certificates

Jocelyn Croci received an LL.M. degree from the Environmental and Land Use Law Program in May.

Nine J.D. graduates received certificates in environmental and land use law. They are Melissa Fedenko, Dan Fontana, Bruce Groover, Chris Johns, Michael Lehnert, Gentry Mander, Michael Sylvester, Elizabeth Turner, and William White.

ELULP Fellowships Awarded

Four ELULP students received fellowships from the ELULP program to assist with their summer externships. The ELULP Conservation Law Fellowship was awarded to Anna Jimenez (1L); Rumberger Fellowships were awarded to Adrian Mahoney (2L) and Jen Lomberk (2L); and the ELULP Minority fellowship was awarded to Candace Spencer (1L).
Public Interest Environmental Conference: Powering the Planet

Changes in the energy sector in the United States provided the focus of the 21st annual Public Interest Environmental Conference in February at the University of Florida. Participants examined issues of solar power, sustainable energy sources, and natural gas production during the three-day event.

Keynote speakers for this year’s conference included Janice Schneider, assistant secretary for land and minerals management at the U.S. Department of Interior, and Jenna Nicholas, co-founder and CEO of Phoenix Global Impact, a consulting firm that specializes in impact investing, social enterprise, and strategic philanthropy that promotes a more sustainable and just society.

Panel discussions covered a wide range of energy issues. “Feed-In Tariffs: Why Can’t the U.S. Keep Up?” was about payments made to renewable energy generators – including homeowners. Other panels discussed fracking, green homebuilding, energy in transportation, nuclear power, solar power, coal ash problems, and hydrokinetic energy. UF Law Professor Wentong Zheng joined Theodore Kury, Director of Energy studies at the Public Utility Research Center, for a discussion called “The Role of International Trade in U.S. Energy Security.”

Cuba focus of CGR’s Annual Americas Conference

Cuba was the focus of the 16th annual Conference on Legal & Policy Issues in the Americas on May 11 at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Governmental Responsibility and UF’s Center for Latin American Studies.

Conference presenters include a variety of legal scholars, practitioners and government officials who concentrate their activities on Cuba. Several speakers are Floridians who were born in Cuba.

Environmental Capstone Colloquium Discusses Sustainable Energy

“Sustainable Energy and Land Use” was the theme for the 2015 Spring Environmental Capstone Colloquium, as announced by Christine Klein, Chesterfield Smith Professor and Director of the LL.M. Program in Environmental and Land Use Law. Colloquium sessions were held January 15-March 12, 2015, at the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Speakers, topics and schedule included:

- Amy Stein, Associate Professor of Law, University of Florida Levin College of Law, “Sustainable Energy 101, January 15;
- Bruce Huber, Associate Professor of Law, Notre Dame Law School, “Nuclear Property, Jan. 22;
- Sara Schindler, Associate Professor of Law, University of Maine School of Law, “Emerging Issues of Sustainability in Land Use Law,” Jan. 29;

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Environmental Law and Land Use Law Society Hosts Panel on Mountaintop Mining

UF Law’s Environmental and Land Use Law Society and Conservation Clinic hosted a panel on “Mountaintop mining” in Appalachia and on local efforts to enhance energy efficiency in Gainesville.

The panel featured Jason Fults, founder of Gainesville Loves Mountains; Dr. Matt Wasson, Director of Programs for Appalachian Voices; and Ann League, Tennessee Campaign Coordinator for Appalachian Voices. UF Law Professor Amy Stein moderated.
• Uma Outka, Associate Professor of Law, University of Kansas School of Law, “The Energy-Land Use News,” Feb. 5;
• Ashira Ostrow, Associate Professor of Law, Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, “Capturing the Wind: Overcoming Barriers to Siting Wind Energy Facilities,” Feb. 19; and

The Capstone Colloquium is funded by contributions from Alfred J. Malefatto, Shareholder, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A., West Palm Beach, and Hopping Green & Sams, Tallahassee.

Wolf Family Lecture Examines Open Space
“Open Space in Urban Areas: Might There Be Too Much of a Good Thing?” was the topic of the annual Wolf Family Lecture, also held in February. Guest speaker was Robert C. Ellickson, the Walter E. Meyer Professor of Property and Urban Law at Yale Law School. The Wolf Family Lecture Series was endowed by a gift from UF Law Professor Michael Allan Wolf, who holds the Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law, and his wife, Betty.

Eminent Domain Topic of Nelson Symposium
The topic of this year’s Richard E. Nelson Symposium was the first decade of eminent domain reform after the U.S. Supreme Court’s controversial decision in Kelo v. City of New London (2005), a controversial 5-4 ruling that considered economic redevelopment a valid “public use” under the Fifth Amendment.

An outstanding group of national and state experts considered the changing landscape of public and eminent domain ten years after the jurisprudential tremors first registered by the Kelo court. Florida is the perfect setting for this program, as the changes to statutory and constitutional law in the wake of Kelo have perhaps been the most extensive among the more than 40 states to modify their laws since 2005.

Symposium topics included the legal responses to Kelo, the perspective from Susette Kelo’s counsel, and the use of eminent domain to take sports stadiums and arenas, underwater mortgages, and energy transmission lines.

This was the 14th symposium honoring Richard E. Nelson (who served with distinction as Sarasota County attorney for 30 years) and Jane Nelson, two loyal UF alumni who gave more than $1 million to establish the Richard E. Nelson Chair in Local Government Law, which sponsors the annual event.

UF Law’s Environmental and Land Use Law Program has one of the largest full-time environmental faculties, including a clinical skills professor and five legal experts from the Center for Governmental Responsibility, all in a partnership with a team of talented adjuncts. The faculty takes pride in its accessibility to students, and faculty members routinely sponsor environmental receptions and dinners at their homes and accompany students on kayaking, backpacking, and other expeditions and field trips.
Environmental Law Study Abroad in Costa Rica

The UF Law Costa Rica Program partners with the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) and the UF Center for Latin American Studies Tropical Conservation and Development Program, building interdisciplinary bridges between law, policy and the social and natural science of conservation and sustainable development. Students develop their knowledge and skills through an integrated, suite of courses that coalesce around efforts to find practical, policy-relevant solutions to issues of immediate importance to the conservation and sustainable development community. Each week the program embarks on extended visits to OTS field stations and their Neotropical context – rivers, wetlands, forests (wet, dry and cloud), beaches and mountains. Students also visit indigenous communities, meet with farmers and land owners, and encounter unique sustainable development projects.
Study Abroad

Spring Break Field Course Focuses on South Florida and Bahamas

UF Law offered a Sustainable Development Field Course during spring break, focusing on South Florida and the Bahamas Ecoregion. The course focused on efforts on both sides of the Gulf Stream to grapple with development pressures and climate impacts to fisheries and coral reef management, among other issues. The course featured attorney-guided issue-based trips of Biscayne Bay and the Miami River, and a series of lectures at the University of Miami School Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. The course then moved to Nassau, Bahamas, for lectures and meetings with Bahamian environmental professionals and College of the Bahamas faculty. The course included a trip to Andros Island to the field station of Bahamas National Trust to experience first-hand the marine and coastal issues facing the Bahamas. Andros Island is the largest of the Bahamian Islands and boasts its largest reef. It is the largest collection of blue holes in the world.

In addition to U.S. and Bahamian domestic law and international development policy, students were exposed to the unique legal framework of the commonwealth Caribbean and role of small island developing nations in international treaty negotiations. UF Law’s Conservation Clinic has been working closely with the Bahamas National Trust, which manages the national parks and marine protected areas of the Bahamas, and the Biscayne Baykeeper, which works to protect Biscayne Bay.