Environmental Law Clinic

Western Environmental Law Center (WELC)

Clinic Leadership	Pete Frost and Sangye Ince-Johannsen
Credits	3
Grading	Pass/No Pass
Terms	Fall, Spring
Eligible students	Fall: 3Ls are given preference; 2Ls may enroll if there is space. Spring: Open to all law students. You may not have previously participated in the Environmental Law Clinic.
Required previous or concurrent coursework	None
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Students enrolled in the Environmental Law Clinic will work with attorneys from the Western Environmental Law Center, a non-profit public interest law firm with offices in Eugene, Oregon; Taos, New Mexico; Helena, Montana; and Seattle, Washington. WELC represents conservation groups, individuals, and sometimes local governments in state and federal courts and other fora. WELC has four program areas: Public Lands, Western Wildlife, Fossil Fuels/Clean Energy, and Western Communities.

Clinic students generally will work on emerging or ongoing court cases with WELC attorneys. Students will help develop case strategies, pursue discovery or Freedom of Information Act requests, develop legal theories, and draft or write components of legal motions or memoranda. Depending on each attorney's schedule and docket, students may also be able to participate in client meetings, conferences with opposing counsel, and other case management activities associated with the student's clinical work. The clinic demands care in research and written work.

Clinic projects vary. Students have assisted on successful federal appellate and district court briefs on issues ranging from the National Forest Management Act regulations to Wilderness Act compliance to suits against private dischargers under the Clean Water Act. Students have also assisted in state court and administrative proceedings challenging permitting for coal-fired power plants and suction dredge placer mining. There is a variety of work, but immediate needs are based on court dockets and other external schedules. Because a majority of WELC attorney work involves federal litigation, and federal civil cases often take years to resolve, students should not expect to work on a case from inception to final resolution. However, students will have the opportunity to work closely with WELC attorneys on all matters related to a particular case for the duration of the semester and may also be exposed to other cases in different phases of litigation to get a broader feel for federal environmental law practice. Among other things,

clinic instructors seek to provide meaningful and personal feedback on student memoranda, so students learn to write clearly and persuasively.

Further, concurrent employment with a government agency may raise a conflict of interest that may preclude a student from participating in the Environmental Law Clinic. Past employment with a government agency may or may not raise a conflict of interest and will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. Students should contact Pete Frost if they have any concerns about a potential conflict of interest.

Class Component
Students must attend and actively participate in a weekly one-hour class session held on Wednesdays at 8:45 am.

Clinic Registration
Once you are registered for the Environmental Law Clinic, please submit a resume to Pete Frost at frost@westernlaw.org.

Questions?
Contact Pete Frost at frost@westernlaw.org or Laurie Hauber at lhauber@uoregon.edu.

Advanced Environmental Law Clinic
A student is eligible to enroll in the Advanced Environmental Law Clinic if he or she is a 3L and previously successfully participated in the Environmental Law Clinic. Approval from one of the Clinic Instructors is required and must be obtained at least three weeks prior to the start of the semester of desired enrollment. Selection in the Advanced Environmental Law Clinic depends on availability, as well as a student's performance and demonstrated commitment in the Environmental Law Clinic.