

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

Fall 2026 – Spring 2027
Professor Wyatt Sassman

Since 1984, the Environmental Law Clinic (ELC) 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 Professor Wyatt Sassman, students in this year-long clinic represent community groups and environmental advocacy organizations before courts and administrative agencies in a broad range of environmental matters.

The ELC 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.

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.

Prerequisites

Although they are not required, it is highly recommended to take **Administrative Law**, **Evidence**, and **Legal Profession** before or concurrently with the clinic. A demonstrated commitment to public interest law is preferred. To participate in a Student Law Office Clinic, students must complete 30 credit hours by the start of the clinic and have a GPA of 2.3 or higher.

Class Requirements

Class attendance is required. Classes are expected to meet **Tuesdays from 10:30 – 11:45**, location TBD. In addition, students will be required to attend orientation for the full week before the fall semester begins. **Attendance of 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.

Credits

Students enroll for the full academic year earning a **total of 18 credits** (9 credits per semester). 12 credits are earned through participation in the clinic seminar, and the remaining 6 credits come from clinic-related work outside of class. Students are expected to participate in both classroom instruction and client work throughout both fall and spring semesters.

Time Commitment

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 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. Given the intensive time commitment of clinic courses as well as the potential for ethical conflicts of interest, **students are not allowed to simultaneously participate in a clinic in the Student Law Office and an externship through the Legal Externship Program or any other experiential course in the law school that involves client work.** Please consult our website [FAQs](#) to review the SLO policy on paid and volunteer work.

Apply

Applications open **Monday, March 3rd, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. and close Sunday, March 8th, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.** on the [Clinical Programs Webpage](#). Applications submissions for the **Environmental Law Clinic** must include the following:

- *An updated law school resume (pdf)*
- *A law school writing sample of 5 - 10 pages (pdf)*

Students may apply up to two clinics. Late applications will not be accepted.

Learn More

- [Clinical Programs Webpage FAQs](#) (QR code)
- Instagram [@denver_law_clinical_programs](#)
- LinkedIn [@student-law-office-at-du](#)

