

SO YOU WANT TO BE AN ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYER? ADVICE FOR WAYNE STATE LAW STUDENTS

Wayne State University Law School offers a solid curriculum complemented by extra-curricular opportunities for students interested in becoming an environmental lawyer. All students will take Property and Torts course as part of the first-year curriculum. Those interested in pursuing careers in environmental law should take as many of the courses listed below as possible in their upperclass years:

Environmental Law
Administrative Law
International Environmental Law
Water Law
Land Use
Local Government

With a few exceptions, these courses can be taken in any order. As with any public law subject, the study and practice of environmental law relies heavily on administrative law, so this course should be taken as early in your law school career as possible. Much of the practice of environmental law involves administrative agencies, so it is important to understand how agencies operate and are constrained by administrative procedure.

Many environmental issues are global in nature, and international environmental law is a rapidly developing field. Students interested in international environmental law should also explore the many international law offerings at Wayne State University Law School ([***link to international law page***](#)). Wayne State University Law School's location – just a few miles from one of the busiest international border crossings in the world – presents several unique opportunities for students interested in international environmental law, including a special course on U.S.-Canadian environmental law that meets jointly with faculty and students from the University of Windsor in Ontario. Closer to home, many environmental lawyers also practice extensively in land use law which is primarily administered by local governments, making these two courses another important component of the environmental law curriculum.

Students interested in environmental should also take advantage of several valuable extra-curricular activities. The Wayne State University Law School's Environmental Law Society is student organization that presents guest speakers, career forums, opportunities to network with practicing environmental attorneys, and fun recreational events in the Detroit area. Wayne State University Law School also sends a team of law students to the National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition in New York, allowing students to gain valuable experience in environmental law advocacy. Students are also encouraged to become involved in the American Bar Association's Environment, Energy, and Resources Section and the Michigan State Bar's Environmental Law Section. There are also numerous public interest environmental organizations that provide opportunities for students to build their legal and policy skills while improving their community.

