

Environmental Law Practicum

Solving Environmental Problems and Fighting for Environmental Justice

The Environmental Law Practicum gives students the opportunity to work on legal projects covering a wide range of timely and pressing environmental law and public policy topics such as clean energy, water regulation, and environmental justice. The Practicum partners with environmental organizations that seek to protect and restore the environment and public health in and around Boston, other parts of New England, and nationally.



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This one-semester, variable-credit practicum is offered in the fall and spring semesters. Students work with a Boston based or national environmental law organization, such as the Conservation Law Foundation, Alternatives for Community and Environment, or the Natural Resources Defense Council, on legal and policy oriented projects that are supervised by an attorney at the partnering organization. Students may also have the opportunity to work on environmental litigation. Students can earn one, two, or three credits, as determined by the student. The nature of the project and the anticipated work required will be aligned with the credits earned. Students can also opt to enroll for more than one semester, as many Practicum students have done in the past.

Projects are designed based on student interest and the needs of the host organizations. Students are in regular contact with their attorney supervisor and participate in classroom discussions about their projects throughout the semester. Their projects culminate with a written report and an oral presentation to the host organization, other Practicum students, and interested members

of the BU Law community. Through participation in the Practicum, students learn substantive environmental law while honing their legal research and writing, oral and written communication, problem-solving, client counseling, and presentation skills.

We warmly welcome all applicants and remind students that Boston University policy prohibits discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military service, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, or because of marital, parental, or veteran status, and acts in conformity with all applicable state and federal laws. This policy extends to all BU Law academic programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Practicum offers students a unique opportunity to work toward solving critical environmental issues that are meaningful to them and to provide societal value, while developing essential lawyering competencies through real-world experience under the supervision of skilled practitioners. Recent projects include:

- developing recommendations for legal strategies to reduce blood lead levels in children;
- developing zero waste strategies in New England;
- researching best practices for siting solar projects on agricultural land;
- preparing proposals for enforcement of Boston's Diesel Emissions Reduction Ordinance;
- identifying legal mechanisms to support sustainable and resilient transportation systems in Massachusetts;
- supporting litigation concerning the drinking water supply in Newark, New Jersey; and
- developing recommendations for the next generation of state and federal environmental justice protections.

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