

MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE

Ocean & Coastal Governance, Climate Change, Maritime Law, Law of the Sea, Environmental Assessment

The Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University, with its location in the vibrant port city of Halifax, is internationally recognized for excellence in marine and environmental law teaching and research.

Teaching

Our flagship program, the **Marine & Environmental Law Program (MELP)** celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014. It has provided JD and post-graduate students (LLM and PhD) with one of the most extensive academic course offerings in these two fields in the world since 1974. With 16 full and part-time faculty members currently teaching in the Program, students have a unique opportunity to learn about public and private law practice in marine (including shipping) and environmental law taught from domestic and international perspectives. JD students wishing to specialize in these fields have the option of obtaining a **certificate of specialization** in either **Marine** or **Environmental Law** (or both) while completing the three-year JD degree. The MELP specializations are managed by the Associate Director, Professor Phillip Saunders.

The Schulich School of Law also hosts two other research institutes, the Health Law Institute, and the Law & Technology Institute. Concentrations are also offered in the fields of international law, business law, and public law. In addition to the required courses in the MELP specialization, students are also encouraged to undertake research/courses in these and other fields in the JD curriculum. This allows students to engage with emerging and cross-cutting topics such as biotechnology, environment and health, ethics, indigenous rights, animal rights, international trade law, and human rights.

Research

The long history of **research excellence** at the Schulich School of Law from the MELAW faculty was formally recognized by the Dalhousie Board of Governors in 2004 with the creation of the **Marine & Environmental Law Institute (MELAW)**. The Institute, which is housed in the Law School, carries out research capacity-building and consultancy activities and also directs the MELP academic specialization. The current Director is Professor David VanderZwaag. In addition to their scholarly research and publication activities, MELAW faculty and associates carry out research projects and provide advisory services to agencies of the United Nations, international non-governmental organizations, and regional organizations as well as assisting government departments, private sector institutions, and non-governmental organizations in Canada and overseas.

MELAW is home to the editorial office of the **Ocean Yearbook (OYB)**. The OYB is a major international interdisciplinary annual, devoted to ocean affairs published in collaboration with the International Ocean Institute (IOI). MELP law students have the chance to gain experience working as research assistants on the Institute's research projects and workshops and assisting with editing the OYB.

Collaboration & Community

MELAW supports student collaboration in addressing environmental issues through the Environmental Law Students' Society (ELSS) and the East Coast Environmental Law Association (ECELAW), a non-governmental organization dedicated to environmental law education and law reform. MELAW encourages interdisciplinary collaborations within the Dalhousie University community including the School for Resource and Environmental Studies (SRES), the Marine Affairs Program (MAP), the College of Sustainability, the International Development Studies Program (IDS), the Ocean Frontier Institute, the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) led by the Department of Oceanography and the Institute for Ocean Research Enterprise (IORE). MELAW also participates in national collaborations such as, the *OceanCanada* Partnership. International linkages include: the Global Forum on Oceans, the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, the Australia Canada Ocean Research Network (ACORN) as well as numerous other partner institutions in Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, South America, Africa, and the United States.



Photo Credit: Mahima from Pexels

Faculty Associates

Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, LLB, LLM, PhD, Viscount Bennett Professor of Law – international trade & investment law, international law and development, international human rights law; and international courts

Jamie Baxter, BA, MA, JD, LLM, JSD – property, land use, Aboriginal law, law and society, professional responsibility

Aldo Chircop, NP, LLD, LLM, JSD, Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Maritime Law and Policy, co-editor *OYB* – coastal and ocean law & policy, maritime law, law of the sea, international environmental law, coastal management, marine protected areas, Arctic law & policy

Jodi Lazare, BA, LLL, JD, LLM, DCL – animal law, industrial agriculture, animal rights activism, civil liberties, constitutional law, family law

Constance MacIntosh, BA, MA, LLB, Viscount Bennett Professor of Law - human migration and displacement, Indigenous and Aboriginal rights, health law

Naiomi Metallic, BA, LLB, LLL, LLM and PhD (in progress), James S. Palmer Chair in Public Policy and Law – Aboriginal law, Indigenous law, constitutional law, administrative law, human rights, international human rights law

Sherry Pictou, BA, BEd, MA, PhD, Canada Research Chair: Indigenous Governance (Tier 2) – Treaty Rights, international Indigenous and human rights (gender), Indigenous land and water governance, environmental law, sustainable development goals (Indigenous and gender), decolonization and resurgence, Indigenous and small-scale fisheries

Sara Ross, BA, BA Hons, BCL, LLB, LLM, PhD – maritime law, cultural property law, international law, international dispute resolution, legal anthropology, urban law.

Phillip Saunders, BA, MA, LLB, **MELAW Associate Director** – law of the sea, maritime boundaries, fisheries, high seas natural resources

Sara L. Seck, BMus, MMus, LLB, PhD, Yogis and Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law, Associate Dean, Research – international environmental and human rights law, international sustainable development law, business and human rights, natural resource law, private international law, gender, climate change

David L. VanderZwaag, BA, MDiv, JD, LLM, PhD, Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Ocean Law & Governance, **MELAW Director** – Arctic governance, aquaculture law & policy, international environmental law, law of the sea, international fisheries law

Research Associates

Kevin Berk, BA, JD, LLM – environmental, property, and Treaty Rights

Scott Coffen-Smout, BSc, DMA, MSc, Co-editor *OYB* - marine affairs

Veronica Dossah, BSc, LLB, LLM – environmental law

Cecilia Engler, Lawyer (Chile), LLM, PhD Candidate – law of the sea, international fisheries law, aquaculture law, climate change and oceans, ecosystem -based management and the law

Olga Koubrak, BPHE/BA, JD, LLM, PhD Candidate – conservation law, fisheries law, law of the sea

Ted McDorman, BA, LLB, LLM – law of the sea, Arctic and Southeast Asia

Akinwumi Ogunranti, LLB, BL, LLM – private international law, international law, business and human rights, climate, and the environment

Tahnee Prior, BA, MA, PhD – Arctic & Oceans governance, international law, complex systems theory, gender, Indigenous rights, human rights, climate change, global governance, global environmental governance

Susan Rolston, BA (Hons.), MA, Seawinds Consulting Services – marine and coastal law, policy and management; maritime transportation; polar law

Unwana Udo, LLB, LLM – climate law, human rights, oceans law and governance, sustainable development, business and environment, climate finance, maritime law and international law of the sea.

Research Fellows

Philip Buhler, BA, JD, LLM - admiralty and maritime law, Polar shipping regulation, regulatory theory, environmental law

Keith MacMaster, BSc, LLB, MBA, LLM, PFP, PhD Candidate – seabed mining, law of the sea, environmental liability, securities disclosure, materiality, climate finance, ESG data, natural capital

Adebayo Majekolagbe, LLB, LLM, Doctoral Candidate – climate change law, just transition, impact assessment, environmental law, business and human rights

Sixiang Peng, LLB, LLM, PhD student – public international law, law of the sea, international fisheries law

Jinho Yo, JD, PhD – ship safety, safety regulation, unmanned ships, remotely controlled ships, autonomous navigation in the Arctic, novel technology and risk governance, regulatory strategies, international maritime law, IMO conventions, ship survey and recognized organizations, goal-based standards

Honorary Fellows

Bill Charles, QC, BA, LLB, LLM, Professor Emeritus – environmental area

Brian Flemming, CM, QC, DCL, BSc, LLB, LLM, Dip. Intl Law – public international law of the sea, fisheries law and policy

Edgar Gold, CM, AM, QC, BA, LLB, PhD, FNI, Master Mariner – law of the sea, maritime law

Arthur J. Hanson, OC, BSc, MSc, PhD – fisheries, oceans and sustainable dev.

Hugh Kindred, LLB, LLM, Professor Emeritus – maritime law, carriage of goods, international law

Moirá L. McConnell, BA, LLB, PhD, Professor Emerita, Co-editor *OYB*, Associate Editor *YIEL* – law of the sea, maritime labour law, environmental law, maritime law and international law

Dawn Russell, BA, LLB, LLM – law of the sea, maritime boundaries, high seas fishing, international fisheries law and policy, international law, corporate law

Wendell Sanford, BA, BEd, LLB, MPP – oceans law, maritime boundaries, Arctic

Christian Wiktor, LLM, MSLS, Professor Emeritus – Editor *Marine Affairs Bibliography*

Part-time Faculty

Ella Dodson, BA, JD, LLM – transportation law and policy, corporate/ commercial law, international business transactions

Ramón Filgueira, BSc, PhD – coastal zone management, marine spatial planning, aquaculture management

Sadira Jan, LLB, BSc – marine law, business transactions, corporate/ commercial law

Lisa Mitchell, BA, LLB, MES, Executive Director ECELAW – public interest environmental law

Daniel Watt, BA (Hons.), LLB – maritime law, energy and natural resources, and commercial litigation

MELP Specialization Certificates

To earn a certificate in either environmental or marine law, or both, students must take two mandatory plus two elective courses. For more information contact MELP@dal.ca

Contact us

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