MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE

Maritime Law, Law of the Sea, Environmental Law, Ocean & Coastal Governance, Climate Law, Indigenous Rights

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 50th anniversary in 2024. 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 18 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, maritime (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 Law** and/or **Environmental Law** while completing the three-year JD degree. The MELP specializations are managed by the MELP Director, Associate Professor Sara Ross, Yogis & Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law.

The Schulich School of Law is also home to the Dalhousie Health Justice Institute and the Law & Technology Institute. Concentrations are offered in the fields of aboriginal and Indigenous law, business law, criminal justice law, health law and policy, law & technology, international 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, food law, 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 celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024. The Institute, which is housed in the Schulich School of Law, carries out research capacity-building and consultancy activities and also directs the MELP academic specialization in marine and/or environmental law for JD students. The current Director is Professor Sara L Seck, she is a co-editor of *Ocean Yearbook*. 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 internationally. Our many research fellows conduct research as graduate students completing an LLM, PhD or the IDPhD under the supervision and guidance of MELAW faculty.

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) in Malta. MELP law students have the chance to gain experience working as research assistants on the Institute's research projects, workshops, conferences and assisting editing the Ocean Yearbook.

Collaboration & Community

MELAW supports student collaboration in addressing environmental issues through the Environmental Law Students' Society (ELSS) and the East Coast Environmental Law (ECEL), a nongovernmental organization dedicated to environmental law education, law reform, and community support. 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 (CoS), the International Development Studies Program (IDS), the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI), 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.



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Faculty Associates

Olabisi D Akinkugbe, LLB, LLM, PhD, Purdy Crawford Chair in Business Law – international trade & investment law, international law and development, international human rights law and international courts

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

Camille Cameron, KC, JD, LLM – climate litigation

Aldo Chircop, NP, LLD, LLM, JSD – coastal and ocean law & policy, maritime law, law of the sea, int'l environmental law, coastal management, marine protected areas, Arctic law & policy

Violet Ford, LLB, BA, PhD Candidate – circumpolar Indigenous marine governance, circumpolar Indigenous legal traditions pertaining to marine governance, interaction of international and domestic laws

Patrícia Galvão Ferreira, JD, LLM, SJD, co-editor *OYB* – transnational climate law & policy, international environmental law, environmental law, food law & policy, global governance

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 – human migration and displacement, Indigenous and Aboriginal rights, health law

Naiomi Metallic, BA, LLB, LLL, LLM, PhD (in progress), KC, Chancellor's Chair in Aboriginal Law and Policy – Aboriginal law, Indigenous law, constitutional law, administrative law, human rights, international human rights

Sherry Pictou, BA, Bed, MA, PhD, CRC 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, **MELAW Associate Director** & **MELP Director,** Yogis & Keddy Chair in Human Rights Law – maritime law, cultural property law, international law, international dispute resolution, legal anthropology, urban law

Phillip Saunders, BA, MA, LLB, Adjunct Professor – law of the sea, maritime boundaries, fisheries, high seas natural resources

Sara L Seck, Bmus, Mmus, LLB, PhD, **MELAW Director**, co-editor *OYB* – international environmental and human rights law, business and human rights, gender, international sustainable development law, natural resource law, private international law, climate change

Cheryl Simon, BA, LLB, LLM - Mi'gmawe'l tplu'taqnn, Indigenous harvesting and land use, Aboriginal law

David L VanderZwaag, BA, Mdiv, JD, LLM, PhD, Professor Emeritus – Arctic governance, aquaculture law & policy, int'l environmental law, law of the sea, international fisheries law

Research Associates

Kolawole Abiri, LLB, BL, MLS, MICL, LLM, PhD candidate - climate change law and policy, climate litigation, energy, environmental law, impact assessment, and international water law

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

Neil Craik, BA (hons), LLB, LLM, SJD – marine environmental protection, climate law (including geoengineering), deep seabed mining, environmental impact assessment, international organizations

Cecilia Engler, Lawyer (Chile), LLM, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow – 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, Postdoctoral Fellow – conservation law, fisheries law, law of the sea

Gustavo Leite Neves da Luz, LLB, LLM, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow – law of the sea, international environmental law, international dispute settlement, international procedural law, history of international law

Adebayo Majekolagbe, LLB, LLM, PhD – climate change law, just transition, business & human rights, impact assessment, environmental law

Akinwumi Ogunranti, LLB, BL, LLM – private international law, international law, business & 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, polar law, maritime transportation

Research Fellows

Bolaji Qudus Adeoye, LLB, BL, LLM - International Environmental Law, climate change litigation, arbitration, business and human rights

Catherine Belbin, JD, LLM, PhD - international law, the law of the sea, Arctic Sovereignty

Kevin Berk, BA, JD, LLM, PhD Candidate – environmental, property, treaty rights

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

Laura Bullock, BA (Hons), JD, LLM Candidate - environmental law, business & human rights law, textile and fashion waste

W. Connor Cepella, BA (Hons), MREM, JD/JID, LLM Candidate – private international law & Indigenous legal orders

Shabih Fatima, BA (Hons), LLB (Hons), LLM Candidate – climate change laws and environmental laws

Dalerys Feliciano Acevedo, BA, JD Candidate, LLM Candidate – international law, maritime law, international environmental law, international trade law, climate change law, and international law and non-sovereign territories

Melika Habibi, BA, MA, PhD Candidate – international environmental & human rights law, Indigenous law, Aboriginal law, climate change law, Impact assessment, Indigenous-led conservation, Policy Analyst

Alexander Harris, LLM Candidate – aquaculture Law and policy

Quan Jin, BSc, LLM, JSD Candidate, visiting PhD Candidate - environmental and natural resources law, ESG governance greenwashing governance, business and environmental law, environmental administrative law, sustainable investment law, climate change law, marine and shipping law

Kartik Mann, BA, LLB (Hons), LLM Candidate – Environmental Law, Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture, Alternative Land Tenure, Agricultural Data Governance, Data Justice, Sustainable Food Law & Policy

Devdatta Mukherjee, BA, LLB (Hons), LLM, Mphil, PhD Candidate – public international law, law of the sea, international environmental law, international trade law

Yirabari Israel Nulog, PhD Candidate – environmental justice and human rights

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Sixiang Peng, LLB, LLM, PhD Candidate – public envt'l law, law of the sea, envt'l fisheries law

Iain Thomas, BA, JD - Aboriginal Law, Indigenous Law, Constitutional Law

Ash N. Wilkie, BA, MHRM, JD, LLM Candidate – transboundary water law, maritime law, international envt'l law, shipping, and trade

Jinho Yoo, JD, PhD Candidate – ship safety, safety regulation, maritime autonomous ships, regulatory strategy, risk governance

Xinyue (Sylvia) Zhang, BA, MA, PhD Candidate – Law of the Sea, Maritime Law, Arctic Shipping, China's Maritime Policy

Honorary Fellows

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

Edgar Gold, CM, AM, KC, BA, LLB, PhD, DSc, FNI, MM– law of the sea, maritime law

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

Hugh Kindred, LLB, LLM, Professor Emeritus – maritime law, carriage of goods, int'l law

Moira 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

Part-time Faculty

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

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

Tina Northrup, BA, MA, PhD, JD – public interest environmental law, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental impact assessment, renewable energies

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