

Starting Your Career in....

Environmental Law

Tailor your academic work: take courses in Environmental Law, Land Use Law, Conveyancing and Mortgage Law, Real Estate Mortgages and Conveyancing, Real Estate Litigation, Administrative Law, Property, Massachusetts Practice, Construction Law, Bankruptcy, Technology, Energy and the Environment. List your environmental law electives on your resume.

Work Experience:

Private Sector: work for a firm with an environmental law specialization or a company that does environmental work in their legal department.

Public Sector: intern for a federal agency (such as the EPA, U.S. Department of the Interior) or state agency (such as the DEP, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, MA Division of Energy Resources), or use www.pslawnet.org to search for internships at a non profits or public interest organizations devoted to environmental matters.

Be a Research Assistant for a professor who teaches a course in environmental law or a related area.

Internship Program: Meet with Internship Program Director Bernadette Feeley to discuss the possibility of a for-credit internship through SULS.

Professional Associations: Join the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association (Environmental Law Section – there are several committees within this section), or other professional organizations that focus on environmental issues. Joining a professional association is a great way to network and learn about career opportunities.

Participate in Continuing Legal Education: Take environmental law-related classes through Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education MCLE (www.mcle.org) or through Advanced Legal Studies at SULS (www.law.suffolk.edu/academic/als) to demonstrate to employers your commitment to environmental law. ALS programs are free for students. Add a CLE section to your resume.

Network! Network! Network! Speak to alumni and others to learn more about environmental law careers. Go to our website www.law.suffolk.edu/career and click on the Alumni Career Network.

Visit websites that post environmental law jobs. Go to www.ejobs.org, www.ecojobs.com, www.environmentalcareer.com, and www.wef.org for more information.

Read publications with a focus on environmental law. American Rivers, Mass Audubon publications, the ABA and BBA Environmental Law Section newsletters are some of the many publications available.

Join local boards and commissions that will expand your involvement in and knowledge of environmental matters in your town or community. Consider becoming active in your Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and/or Board of Health to gain further experience and expand your know-how.

Consider alternate fields of law as a pathway into the environmental field. Real Estate Law, Energy Law and some areas of Construction Law may provide relevant experience.