

Laurie A. Ristino

Vermont Law School
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Academic Appointments

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT January 2013 – Present
Director and Associate Professor of Law, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
Inaugural director responsible for the development and leadership of the Center in support of sustainable agriculture and food systems, including strategy, media, curriculum and degree development, teaching, fund development, legal products, training, convening, and outreach to collaborators, clients, and other stakeholders.

Report detailing our first three years:

http://www-assets.vermontlaw.edu/Assets/cafs/CAFS_First3Years_rev.pdf

George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC January 2012 – December 2012
Professorial Lecturer of Law
Developed and taught *Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Law*

Law and Policy Experience

United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC September 2012 – December 2012
*Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief,
Natural Resources Conservation Service (Detail)*
Advised leadership on the initial stages of the BP Oil Spill clean-up in the Gulf of Mexico.

Department of Interior, Washington, DC July 2012 – September 2012
Senior Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Interior (Detail)

United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC June 2010 – November 2011
*Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel,
Conservation and Environment Division*
Lead attorney advising on farm bill conservation programs, conservation land acquisitions, climate change initiatives and ecosystem services.
March 2012 – July 2012

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington DC November 2011 – March 2012
Acting Director, Easement Programs Division

Led a transdisciplinary team to protect and restore privately owned wetlands, forests, and farmland, including managing millions of dollars in federal appropriations.

Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC January 2005 – December 2012
Lead Mediator

Mediated personnel disputes arising in various federal departments and agencies.

United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC May 2003 – June 2010
Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Conservation and Environment Division

Advised the Department and the Natural Resources Conservation Service on a host of natural resource and environmental matters, including soil health, wetlands restoration and protection, farmland protection, carbon soil sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and farm bill conservation title implementation.

United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC September 1991 – May 2003
Attorney, Office of the General Counsel, Natural Resource Division

Advised the Forest Service on threatened, endangered and sensitive species protection, including the modification and termination of timber sales and litigation strategy related to the Northwest Forest Plan.

Education

American University, Key Executive Leadership Program, Washington, DC Certificate June 2012
USDA Senior Executive Service (SES) Candidate Development Program

George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia May 1997
M.P.A., Public Management

University of Iowa, College of Law, Iowa City, Iowa May 1991
J.D., with Distinction

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan April 1988
B.A., Political Science

Social Products and Tools

Farmland Access Toolkit (<https://farmlandaccess.org/>)

Lowering the barriers to farmland access for small and new farmers while helping retiring farmers transfer their farmland through a free, innovative web-based legal resource.

Farmers Market Legal Toolkit (<https://farmersmarketlegaltoolkit.org/>)

Legal resources for building resilient and accessible markets. A partnership with Northeast Organic Farming Organization-Vermont and the Farmers Market Coalition.

Healthy Food Policy Project (<http://healthyfoodpolicyproject.org/>)

Improving health, local economies and the environment by reducing access barriers to local food policies and laws. A collaboration with the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at University of Connecticut and Mitchell Hamline Public Health Law Center.

Blueprint for a National Food Strategy (<http://foodstrategyblueprint.org/>)

A framework to empower citizens to create a national food strategy in the United States using legal and policy mechanisms. A collaboration with Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic.

National Gleaning Project (<http://forms.vermontlaw.edu/farmgleaning/index.cfm>)

Supporting food waste reduction at the source of production while addressing hunger.

National Farm to School Legislative Survey (<http://www.farmtoschool.org/Resources/F2S-Survey-2014.pdf>)

Increasing state farm to school legislation to improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables while supporting farmers and local economies. A partnership with the National Farm to School Network.

Farm Animal Welfare Certification Guide (<https://www.asPCA.org/sites/default/files/frm-wlfr-cert-guide-feb2017.pdf>)

Improving farmed animal welfare while increasing producer profit margins through third party certification regimes. A collaboration with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Publications

Book and Book Chapters

Laurie Ristino & Jessica Jay, *A Changing Landscape: The Conservation Easement Reader*, Environmental Law Institute, October 2016.

Laurie Ristino, *Legal Democracy: Using Legal Design, Technology and Communications to Reform Food and Agriculture Systems*, in *Law for the New Economy*, Edward Elgar, May 2017.

Laurie Ristino & Katherine Hannon Michel, *Carbon Trading in the United States*, in *Research Handbook on Climate Change Mitigation Law*, Edward Elgar, 2015.

Articles

Nicolette Lustig, Laurie Ristino, Emily Spiegel, *Creating a Systemic Solution for Food Waste through the Farm Bill*, American Bar Association Natural Resources & Environment magazine, Summer 2018 (forthcoming).

Laurie Ristino and Jamie Konopacky, *The Healthy Watershed Framework: A Blueprint for Restoring Nutrient-impaired Waterbodies*, Environmental Law (Lewis and Clark), September 2017.

Laurie Ristino (with Gabriela Steier), *Losing Ground: A Clarion Call for Farm Bill Reform to Ensure a Food Secure Future*, 42 Colum. J. of Envtl. L., December 2016.

Laurie Ristino, *Food Security: Concept, Challenges, and the Role of Attorneys*, 45 Envtl. L. Rep. (Envtl. Law Inst.) 10659, July 2015.

Laurie Ristino, *Back to the New: Millennials and the Sustainable Food Movement*, Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, Vol. 15, No. 1, Fall 2013.

Laurie Ristino, Baylen Linnekin, Susan Schneider, Emily Broad Leib, Margaret McCabe & Michael Roberts, *The Future of Food Law & Policy: The Responsibility of Lawyers in the Academy and Beyond*, October 2013.

Laurie Ristino, *Introduction*, Vermont Law Review, Vol. 37, No. 4, Summer 2013, Vermont Law School.

Laurie Ristino & Sam Kalen, *Is Environmental Law Serving Society?* Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 26, No. 4, Spring 2012, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *Resource Property Rights*, Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 25, No. 4, Spring 2011, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino & Nathaniel Giddings, *Proposal: A Uniform Act for Wind Rights*, Renewable and Distributed Energy Resources Committee Newsletter, Winter 2011, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *Conservation Easements in an Ecosystem Services Age*, Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 24, No.3, Winter 2010, American Bar Association.

Laurie A. Ristino, *It's Not Easy Being Green: Reflections on the American Offset Market*, Journal of Sustainable Development Law & Policy, Winter 2008, Washington College of Law.

Laurie A. Ristino, *Carbon Offset Projects on Public Lands and the Role of Federal Resources in Climate Change Mitigation*, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Ecosystems Committee Newsletter, December 2007, American Bar Association.

Laurie A. Ristino, *Climate Change Mitigation: Using Ecosystem Services to Pay for Conservation on Private Lands*, Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Ecosystems Committee Newsletter, August 2007, American Bar Association.

Columns, Commentary and Blogs

Laurie Ristino, *Recipe: Turning the House's Lemon of a Farm Bill into Lemonade*, Center for Progressive Reform, April 2018.

Laurie Ristino, *Congress just gave Big Agriculture the pollution greenlight*, The Hill, March 2018.

Laurie Ristino, *Kneecapping CERCLA won't get rid Air Pollution from Ag*, Center for Progressive Reform Blog, March 2018.

Laurie Ristino, *Is the Farm "Safety Net" Safe?* Center for Progressive Reform Blog, February 2018.

Laurie Ristino, *Farm Bill 2018: Down Payment on an Effective Conservation Title*, Center for Progressive Reform Blog, January 2018.

Laurie Ristino, *Data Matters in the Next Farm Bill*, Morning Consult, April 2017.

Laurie Ristino and Joseph Simpson, *All Dried Up: Tensions Rise over Water Shortage in California*, Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, January 2015.

Laurie Ristino, *This Could Kill You*. Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 28, No. 4, Spring 2014, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *Changing Coalitions and the 2014 Farm Bill*, Jurist, February 27, 2014.

Laurie Ristino, *Second Thoughts*, Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 28, No. 3, Winter 2014, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino & Allison Gabala, *Growing Climate Change: The Farm Bill as Comprehensive Climate Change Policy*, Vermont Law Top 10 Environmental Watch List 2014, No. 7, December 2013.

Laurie Ristino, *Chez Pére Lachaise*, Natural Resources & Environment, Vol. 28, No. 2, Fall 2013, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *The Age of Disruption*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 28, No. 1, Summer 2013, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *In Support of Practical Legal Scholarship*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 27, No. 4, Spring 2013, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, "*Lean in*" *Real-Time*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 27, No. 4, Spring 2013, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *My Generation, Baby*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 27, No. 3, Winter 2013, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *The New Environmental Lawyer*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 27, No. 2, Fall 2012, American Bar Association.

Laurie Ristino, *Steve Jobs*, Natural Resources & Environment Vol. 27, No. 1, Summer 2012, American Bar Association.

Presentations and Conferences

Lecturer, *Hacking the Food System by Design*, McGill University Law, Montreal, Canada, April 2018.

Panelist, *Legal and Policy Tools for Dairy in a Changing Climate*, American Association Law Schools, Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, January 2018.

Discussant, *Citizen Engagement through Design*, Food Citizenship Workshop, University of Wellington School of Law, Wellington, NZ, December 2017.

Presenter, *Beautiful Law: Using Design Thinking to Change Food Systems*, University California Los Angeles School of Law, Food Law Student Leadership Summit, Los Angeles, CA, November 2017.

Presenter, *The EPA: Why Governance Matters to American Democracy*, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH, November 2017.

Panelist, *Nutrient Loss and Farm Policy*, American Agriculture Law Association, Louisville, KY, October 2017.

Presenter, *A Place at the Table*, Food Ethics Conference, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, May 2017.

Moderator, *Conservation Easements in a Time of Climate Change*, Webinar, Environmental Law Institute, Washington, DC, May 2017.

Presenter, *The Healthy Watershed Framework*, 21st Century Food Law Conference, Lewis and Clark Law School, Portland, OR, April 2017.

Panelist, *Leveraging the Farm Bill to Address Critical Environmental Problems*, Environmental Grant Makers Association, Annual Policy Briefing, Washington, DC, February 2017.

Panelist, *Plate of the Union*, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, October 2016.

Moderator, *Biting the Hand that Feeds Us*, Sustainability and Security Forum Webinar, September 2016.

Moderator, *Connecting Education to Practice and the Workforce at the Nexus, The Food-Energy-Water-Nexus*, National Center for Science Education, Washington, DC, January 2016.

Presenter, *On Legal Design*, Natural Resources and Energy Law Joint Program, Association of American Law Schools, New York, NY, Annual Meeting, January 2016.

Moderator, *The Lake Champlain TMDL*, TMDLs 2.0 Conference, Vermont Journal of Environmental Law, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, October 2015.

Presenter, *No Food without Nature*, Food Law Topical Seminar, Food Law Student Leadership Summit, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 2015.

Presenter, *Food, Agriculture, and Drought: Implications of water supply scarcity on food production and policy solutions at the federal, state and local levels*, Drought in the American West Symposium, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, September 2015.

Panelist, *Help Wanted: Growing Leaders for the Food Movement*, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders Forum, Chicago, IL, June 2015.

Moderator and Opening Remarks, *Biophysical Constraints Panel*, University of Vermont and Vermont Law School: Right to Food Summit, Burlington, VT, June 2015.

Panelist, *Carrots & Sticks: Moving the U.S. National Food System Toward a Sustainable Future*, Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum's 25th Anniversary Symposium, Durham, NC, January 2015.

Panelist, *Climate Change and Food Security*, Agriculture and Food Law Section, Association of American Law Schools, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2015.

Panelist, *Sustainability and Health*, Association of American Law Schools, New York, NY, January 2014.

Presenter, *A Legal Framework for the New Food Movement*, Frontiers in Food and Agriculture Webinar Series, Yale University, New Haven, CT, November 2013.

Moderator, *Food Security as National Security: The Future of Food in the Face of Climate Change*, Vermont Journal of Environmental Law Symposium, October 2013.

Keynote, *Future of Food Law and Policy*, Yale Food Systems Symposium, New Haven, CT, October 2013.

Moderator, *Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship*, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, October 2013.

Presenter, *The Method(s) Behind Our Madness*, Faculty Speaker Series, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, September 2013.

Selected Media Appearances

The Christian Science Monitor, May 2018, quoted in “U.S. Farm Bill: food stamp showdown,” by Kendra Nordin Beato

Mother Jones, March 2018, cited in “Life for residents near hog farms just got much, much worse” by Tom Philpott

DC Lawyer, October 2017, quoted in “Food Law”

E&E News, November 22, 2016, quoted in “Trump’s USDA likely to reverse course on climate programs”

Law360, September 18, 2015, quoted in “9th Circ. Pesticide Ruling Holds EPA to High Standards”

Civil Eats, May 12, 2015, quoted in “Vermont: America’s Food Relocalization Laboratory”

Huffington Post, March 16, 2015, featured in “Do We Need More Food Transparency?” live webcam discussion.

Huffington Post, February 17, 2014, featured in “How Your Food May Be Causing Climate Change” live webcam discussion

Seven Days, February 6, 2014, quoted in “Pushing ‘Good Food’ at Vermont Law School”

VT Digger, February 4, 2014, commentary titled “The Business of Climate Change”

JURIST, January 27, 2014, op-ed titled “Changing Coalitions and the 2014 Farm Bill”

Allegheny Front Environmental Radio, January 22, 2014, interviewed on the farm bill

WAMC Northeast Public Radio, December 26, 2013, interviewed on Vermont Law Top 10 Environmental Watch List story called “Environmental Watch List Focuses on Climate Change Issues”

Yale Forum on Climate Change and the Media, November 5, 2013, quoted in “Feeding 9 Billion on a Hot and Hungry Planet”

Development (partial list)

\$749,000 from National Agriculture Library partnership to establish the Agriculture and Energy Initiative, a joint project of the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems and the Institute for Energy and the Environment, September 2017

\$1.2 million supporting grant for the Center, private foundation, Winter 2016

\$730,000 from the National Agriculture Library to fund the Healthy Food Policy Project with William Mitchell Healthy Public Health Law Center and Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, August 2015

\$261,965 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the creation of a National Food Policy with Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic, July 2015

\$759,000 from the National Agriculture Library to create toolkits for Land Tenure and Gleaning, August 2014

\$500,000 from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for a Farmer's Market Governance Toolkit, April 2014

\$12,000 from the Vermont Community Foundation for the creation of LabelsUnwrapped.org, 2013-2014

Other Leadership Experience

Member Scholar, Center for Progressive Reform, 2017-present

Senior Fellow, New Economy Law Center, Vermont law School, 2016

Founding member, Cuba-US Agroecology Network, 2016

Editor and Columnist, Natural Resources and Environment magazine, American Bar Association, 2011-2014

Section Leader, Association of American Law Schools, Section of Food and Agriculture Law, 2015

Member, University of Vermont Food Systems Steering Committee, September 2013 – 2017

Faculty Advisor, Food and Agriculture Law Society, Vermont Law School, January 2013 – present

Coach, Georgetown Law's National Black Law Student International Negotiations Competition Team, Winter 2011

Carbon Roundtable Member, The Nature Conservancy (San Francisco), 2010 – 2011

Memberships and Affiliations

Member, Federal Senior Executive Service

Member, Pennsylvania Bar

Member, American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy, & Resources

Associate Member, Environmental Law Institute
Member, American Agriculture Law Association