

Environmental Health Seminar: The Flint Water Crisis

ENV 5310

Vermont Law School Summer Session 2019

110 Oakes

Monday thru Thursday, 9 am to noon

Instructor: Professor Kathleen Falk, 2017 Doug Costle Chair in Environmental Law at VLS

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Office hours: Monday from 1 pm to 2 pm and Wednesday from noon to 1 pm or by appointment

Class 1 July 22: Introductions; overview of course; expectations; assignments; grading.

Historical background and setting-the-stage for the Flint water crisis.

Reading: Falk Bio.

Readings: Vermont Journal of Environmental Law Top 10 Environmental Watch List 2017 "Lead, Water and Injustice in Flint and Beyond" by Student Rachel Oest and Vice Dean David Mears.

Reading: <https://player.pbs.org/widget/partnerplayer/2365921290/?chapterbar=false>

Reading: June 14, 2017, Interim Report by the prosecutors in the Flint Water Crisis.
http://www.greatlakeslaw.org/Flint/Flint_Water_Crisis_Investigation_Interim_Report.pdf

Reading: <https://news.yahoo.com/flint-protesters-gather-mark-fifth-024622911.html>

Reading: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/25/us/flint-water-crisis.html>

Reading: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/health-news/five-years-on-the-flint-water-crisis-is-nowhere-near-over/ar-BBWh4Vb?ocid=spartandhp>

Reading: <https://www.wuwm.com/post/trusting-tap-how-perceptions-impact-whether-people-drink-tap-water#stream/0>

Reading: <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/lead-paint-hundred-years-ago-still-poisoning-kids-us>(NPR 4-22-2019)

Optional Viewing: Watch 1989 film Roger and Me by Michael Moore; Reading: Watch NOVA Flint Crisis video of May 31, 2017, on PBS

Primer on the Roles of the 4 "branches" of Government: Legislative, Executive, Judicial and the Press.

Reading: Agendas and Instability in American Politics(University of Chicago Press 1993) at pages 235 - 251.

Reading: The Freedom of Information Act -- see <https://www.foia.gov/about.html>

Role of the Media:

Reading: <https://www.mediamatters.org/research/2016/02/02/analysis-how-michigan-and-national-reporters-co/208290>

Reading: <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/michigan/flint-water-crisis/2019/04/19/michigan-complying-with-flint-document-request-congress/3520652002/>