THE VERMONT LAW REVIEW AT VLS PRESENTS ITS 20TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

BALANCING CORPORATE & ACTIVIST INTERESTS:
CLEAN ENERGY, WILDLIFE PROTECTION, AND LAND USE REFORM

Friday, November 5
9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. EDT

WATCH VIA LIVESTREAM
vermontlaw.edu/live
Environmental activists and corporations often find themselves at odds. This is especially true within the context of clean energy, wildlife protection, and land use. This symposium will explore challenges and commonalities between these often diverging groups, ultimately forecasting how environmental and business interests might be balanced and mutually supportive.
9:30 TO 10 A.M.

WELCOMING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

BETH Mccormack, Interim President and Dean, Vermont Law School
DIARRA RAYMOND JD/MARI’22, Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review
MARIAH HARROD JD’22, Symposium Editor, Vermont Law Review

10 TO 10:15 A.M.
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BRUCE KAHN, Columbia University Lecturer and Investment Analyst, Strategist and Portfolio Manager

10:15 TO 10:40 A.M.
Q&A WITH BRUCE KAHN

10:45 TO 11:45 A.M.

PANEL 1: INCORPORATING MAJOR BUSINESS ENTITIES INTO CLEAN ENERGY

MODERATOR: AMY LAURA CAHN, Visiting Professor of Law, Director, Environmental Justice Clinic, Vermont Law School

PANELISTS:
JESSICA OLSON JD’07, Director of Environmental Policy, Honeywell
HANNAH WISEMAN, Professor of Law and Wilson Faculty Fellow, Penn State University
JUSTIN KOLBER LLM’07, Assistant Attorney General, Environmental and Consumer Protection Division, Vermont Attorney General’s Office
ELIZABETH MCDONALD, Attorney, Chalk & Behrendt, Australia

11:45 A.M TO 12:10 P.M.

PANEL 1 Q&A

12:15 TO 1:15 P.M.

LUNCH BREAK

1:15 TO 2:30 P.M.

PANEL 2: CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY IN WILDLIFE PROTECTION

MODERATOR: PAMELA VESILIND JD’08, Assistant Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

PANELISTS:
DELCIANNA WINDERS, Visiting Associate Professor of Law, Director, Animal Law Program, Vermont Law School
CYDNEE BENCE JD’20/LLM’22, LLM Fellow, Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, Vermont Law School
KARRIGAN BORK, Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law
ERICA LYMAN, Director, Global Law Alliance
JOAN SCHAFFNER (ZE, ZIR), Associate Professor of Law, The George Washington University Law School

2:30 TO 2:55 P.M.

PANEL 2 Q&A

3 TO 4 P.M.

PANEL 3: ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY: REFORMING LAND USE LAW

MODERATOR: HILLARY HOFFMANN, Professor of Law, Vermont Law School

PANELISTS:
JOHN R. NOLAN, Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus, Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University
STEPHEN R. MILLER, Professor of Law, University of Idaho College of Law
JESSICA JAY JD’97 Founder and Principal Attorney, Conservation Law, P.C.
ROBERT “BOB” PERSCHEL, Executive Director, New England Forestry Foundation (NEEF)

4 TO 4:25 P.M.

PANEL 3 Q&A

4:30 TO 4:45 P.M.

CLOSING REMARKS
Bruce Kahn is a seasoned investment analyst, strategist and portfolio manager. Currently, Kahn is responsible for delivering technical advice to investors on MSCI’s Climate Solutions tools and data sets for investment decision making, risk management, reporting, and engagement. His previous work experience includes climate change investment research, institutional portfolio management and wealth management, as well as E&S risk assessments at firms such as Citibank, Deutsche Bank, Macquarie, and SICM. He also serves as chair of the finance committee of the Robert and Patricia Switzer Foundation.

Kahn earned a PhD in Land Resources from University of Wisconsin, Madison, an MS in Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures from Auburn University, and a BA in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Connecticut. Kahn served as an agriculture extension agent in the United States Peace Corps in the Republic of Cameroon. (1989-1993), as a Fulbright Scholar in Israel from 1999-2001, and has been teaching courses in Sustainable Finance, Statistics and Agriculture as an adjunct professor at Columbia University’s Earth Institute since 2012.

Beth McCormack is the interim president and dean of Vermont Law School. She was named to the position on January 23, 2021 by the school’s board of trustees, and she is the first woman in VLS’ history to serve in this role. McCormack joined the Vermont Law School faculty in 2011 and prior to her current position, she served as the vice dean for students. Currently, she also teaches Civil Procedure to first-year law students.

Before arriving at VLS, McCormack practiced in the litigation section of the Boston law firm Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky & Popeo, P.C. from 2001 to 2011. She has extensive experience in commercial litigation with a focus in construction law. Her practice included all aspects of state and federal litigation as well as alternative dispute resolution. McCormack is experienced in arbitration practice and procedure and has represented clients before arbitration panels and in pre-arbitration and post-arbitration proceedings.

In addition, from 2003 to 2011, she was an adjunct professor at Boston University School of Law, where she taught Legal Research and Writing to first-year law students. In 2007, McCormack served as a special assistant district attorney at the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office for a six-month term, where she took more than 20 criminal cases to trial. She is admitted to practice in Massachusetts, before the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and the First Circuit Court of Appeals.

McCormack received her AB from the University of Chicago and her JD, cum laude, from Boston University School of Law.
Justin Kolber LLM’07 is an assistant attorney general in the Environmental and Consumer Protection Division of the Vermont Attorney General’s Office (AGO) and is an experienced litigator and trial attorney.

Before joining the AGO in 2011, Kolber worked for three years as the senior associate attorney at Shlansky Law Group, LLP, directing the commercial litigation practice. Before that, he worked as a staff attorney at the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, managing complex, multi-district litigation against U.S. Forest Service on federal lands. Kolber started his career in 2005 as a fellow at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic at Vermont Law School.

He received his LLM at VLS, his JD at Fordham University School of Law, and his undergraduate degree at Rutgers University.

Jessica Olson JD’07 is director of environmental policy at Honeywell, where she engages in policymaking at all levels of government related to advanced energy and environmental solutions.

Previously, she was a partner at the Ayres Law Group. Olson has co-chaired the Air Quality Committee of the District of Columbia Bar Association’s Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section and was a 2017 finalist for the MIT C3E Women in Clean Energy Award in the Law and Finance category.

Olson currently serves on the VLS Board of Trustees. She holds a BA from Vassar College and a JD from VLS. Olson is from Arlington, Virginia, where she lives with her husband and two children.

Amy Laura Cahn is a visiting professor and director of the Environmental Justice Clinic at VLS. Through movement lawyering practice and scholarship, Cahn collaborates with organizers and communities to confront the cumulative effects of racial segregation, neighborhood disinvestment, and environmental and climate risk and support self-determination.

Prior to joining VLS, Kahn served as senior attorney and interim director of the Healthy Communities & Environmental Justice Program at the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), launching CLF’s community lawyering efforts. Cahn joined CLF from the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia, where she was a Skadden Fellow and director of the Garden Justice Legal Initiative—the nation’s first urban agriculture law clinic. For five years, she served as legal counsel to residents in the frontline floodplain community of Eastwick in addressing the legacy injustices of this country’s largest urban renewal project. Cahn has clerked for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division.

Cahn sits on the Penn Law Alumni Advisory Board for Inclusion & Engagement and the Legal Advisory Board for Alternatives for Community and Environment. She is a longtime community organizer and co-founder of Lower Manhattan’s Bluestockings Bookstore. She has a BA, summa cum laude, from Hunter College and a JD, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.
Hannah Wiseman is a professor of law; Professor and Wilson Faculty Fellow in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences; and Institutes of Energy and the Environment Co-funded faculty member at Penn State—University Park. Wiseman received her AB from Dartmouth College, summa cum laude, and her JD from Yale Law School.

Prior to law school she served as a research assistant and then associate in the Climate and Air Group at ICF Consulting in Washington, D.C., and after law school she clerked for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Wiseman has taught at the University of Texas School of Law, University of Tulsa College of Law, and Florida State University College of Law in addition to Penn State. She has co-authored three books on energy law and has published articles in the Stanford Law Review (co-authored), NYU Law Review, Georgetown Law Journal, Duke Law Journal (co-authored), and Environmental Science & Technology, among other publications.

Elizabeth McDonald is an Australian lawyer with over 15 years of experience in native title, clean energy, and all areas of property law. She works at Chalk & Behrendt, a majority Aboriginal-owned law firm based in Sydney that is recognized as one of Australia’s leading native title law firms.

She has represented First Nations communities in the negotiation of native title agreements and Aboriginal cultural heritage management plans for a range of major projects across Australia. She has also advised on tenure, governance, and policy issues arising under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NSW) 1983 and the Aboriginal Land Act (Qld) 1991.

Passionate about clean energy law, McDonald has advised wind and solar farm proponents on leases, licenses, easements, Crown tenure, native title, power purchase agreements, native title, and electricity law. In 2019, McDonald received an Australian Government Executive Leadership Award for clean energy law. As part of this award, she completed a global mobility experience at the Institute for Energy and Environment at VLS.

McDonald is known for bringing a unique skillset to legal engagements between large organizations and the broader community. She is a sessional academic in property law at the University of Newcastle Law School and has developed a renewable energy law clinic which will be offered to students in 2022.
Delcianna J. Winders is a visiting associate professor of law and Animal Law Program director at VLS. Professor Winders joins VLS from Lewis & Clark Law School, where she directed the world’s first law school clinic dedicated to farmed animal advocacy.

She previously served as vice president and deputy general counsel at the PETA Foundation, the first Academic Fellow of the Harvard Animal Law & Policy Program, and a visiting scholar at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University.

Her primary interests are in animal law and administrative law. Her work has appeared in the Denver Law Review, Florida State Law Review, Ohio State Law Journal, NYU Law Review, and the Animal Law Review; and she has a forthcoming book chapter on the Endangered Species Act and captive wildlife. Winders has also published extensively in the popular press, including The Hill, National Geographic, Newsweek, New York Daily News, Salon, U.S.A. Today, and numerous other outlets. Winders received her BA in Legal Studies with highest honors from the University California at Santa Cruz, where she was named a Regents’ Scholar and received the Dean’s Award for outstanding achievement in Social Sciences, and her JD from NYU School of Law, where she was awarded the Vanderbilt Medal for outstanding contributions to the law school, named as a Robert McKay Scholar, and served as the senior notes editor of the NYU Law Review.

Following law school, Winders clerked for the Hon. Martha Craig Daughtrey on the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and practiced animal law in a variety of settings. She has also taught animal law at Tulane University School of Law and Loyola University New Orleans College of Law.

Cydnee Bence JD’20/LLM’22 is a fellow at the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. Bence works on diverse topics such as farmed animal welfare, consumer protection, and the regulation of bioengineered and novel foods.

She graduated cum laude with a BS in Environmental, Geographical, and Geological Sciences and a BA in Philosophy from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania; a Master’s of Environmental Law and Policy, and a JD from Vermont Law School. During law school, she was an articles editor for the Vermont Law Review.

She spends her free time painting, cooking adventurous new recipes, and playing with her two cats, Marty and Ruthie.
Karrigan Bork graduated with Distinction and Pro Bono Distinction from Stanford Law School in 2009, and completed his PhD dissertation in Ecology at UC Davis in September 2011. He received the Shapiro Family Award in 2011 as the Outstanding PhD Graduate in Ecology at UC Davis. He clerked for Tenth Circuit Chief Judge Mary Beck Briscoe, U.S. District Court Judge Julie Robinson, and Judge Janice Karlin on the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Kansas.

Bork graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kansas in 2002, and was named a Truman Scholar in 2001 and a Switzer Fellow in 2010. Bork’s publications run the gamut from the definitive text on the history and application of California Fish and Game Code Section 5937, to a hatchery and genetic management plan for spring-run Chinook salmon. Professor Bork is currently examining legal and ethical issues in ecological restoration. His past work has focused on the management of guest species, those invasive species that managers invite in and make comfortable, and on the evolution of law via administrative actions. He is currently working on local governance issues in ecosystem management.

Erica Lyman boasts over fifteen years of experience in international environmental law, with a strong focus on wildlife protection issues. She is the director of the Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment (the Global Law Alliance)—a collaboration launched in the fall of 2020 between the Center for Animal Law Studies and the Environmental Law Program at Lewis & Clark Law School. The Global Law Alliance is a champion for wild animals and wild spaces across the globe, working to protect animals and the environment through the development, implementation, and enforcement of international law. Law students (JD and LLM) actively participate in the work through two clinics within the Alliance.

Lyman has a rich history of practicing and teaching international environmental law, with a focus on international wildlife issues. In 2005, she joined the International Environmental Law Project at Lewis & Clark Law School as its first staff attorney. She has gained a reputation for identifying creative strategies that also promote the integrity of treaty regimes. Lyman’s international wildlife law practice focuses on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling, and other international institutions that impact wildlife conservation. In recent years, she has expanded her work to include a focus on implementation of international commitments, supporting the revision and development of national legislation and addressing enforcement challenges. In this capacity, Lyman works directly with governments and other stakeholders to strengthen national frameworks for combating wildlife trafficking.

Lyman has worked in Malawi, Angola, Kenya, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Togo, Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Gambia, and Guinea. Although a significant focus of her work is in the field of international wildlife law, she also works on broader issues, such as habitat conservation, climate change, human rights, and trade and the environment. Lyman’s work on climate change included legal support to the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in the lead-up to the Paris Agreement.

Joan E. Schaffner is an associate professor of law at The George Washington University Law School. Ze received a BS in mechanical engineering (magna cum laude) and JD (Order of the Coif) from the University of Southern California and a MS in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Schaffner teaches Civil Procedure, Sexuality and the Law, Remedies, and Legislation and Regulation. Ze is the editor-in-chief of the American Intellectual Property Law Association Quarterly Journal and is the faculty advisor to Lambda Law and the GW Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Schaffner’s scholarship focuses on animal protection law.

John R. Nolon is distinguished professor of law emeritus at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University where he supervises student research and publications regarding land use, sustainable development, climate change, housing insecurity, racial inequity, and the COVID-19 viral pandemic. He has also lectured and published extensively on the topics of energy development, mining, livestock grazing, and other extractive uses of public lands and tribal lands.

Nolon was named one of two distinguished professors in 2014 by Pace University. Previously, he served as the James D. Hopkins Professor from 2009 to 2011, and the Charles A. Frueauff Research Professor of Law during the 1991-92, 1997-98, 1999-2000, and 2000-01 academic years. He received the Richard L. Ottinger Faculty Achievement Award in 1999, won the Goettel Prize for faculty scholarship in 2006, and was named Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2016-2017. In 2009, he was awarded the National Leadership Award for a Planning Advocate by the American Planning Association. The International City/County Management Association presented its Honorary Membership Award to Nolon in 2014 for exemplary service to local government, its highest award to a person outside the city management profession. The N.Y. Planning Federation presented him its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018. Nolon received his JD degree from the University of Michigan Law School where he was a member of the Barrister’s Academic Honor Society. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Nebraska, where he was president of the Senior Honor Society. He has served as a consultant to President Carter’s Council on Development Choices for the 1980’s, President Clinton’s Council on Sustainable Development, New York Governor George Pataki’s Transition Team, and Governor Elliot Spitzer’s Transition Team. He is a member of the Editorial Board of The Land Use and Environmental Law Review, published by Thomson-West and of the State and Local Government eJournal of the American Bar Association. In 1994-1995, Nolon received a Fulbright Scholarship to study sustainable development law in Argentina.

Hillary Hoffmann’s areas of expertise include environmental law, federal Indian law, and natural resources law. Her recent scholarship analyzes the systems governing natural resource uses on federal and tribal lands and explores the conflicts that arise from Constitutional and other legal challenges facing indigenous nations and indigenous peoples in the United States. She has also lectured and published extensively on the topics of energy development, mining, livestock grazing, and other extractive uses of public lands and tribal lands.

Her recent book—“A Third Way: Decolonizing the Laws of Indigenous Cultural Protection” (Cambridge U. Press 2020)—examines the federal and state legal structures inhibiting the protection of indigenous cultural values and resources, including modern environmental laws, and explores the various legal mechanisms that tribes and other indigenous communities are using, challenging and changing to better protect their lands, cultures, and citizens. Prior to joining the faculty at Vermont Law School, Hoffmann was in private practice at a large law firm in Salt Lake City, Utah. Her work included general commercial litigation, administrative appeals, and state and federal natural resource cases. She has lectured and published extensively on the topics of energy development, mining, livestock grazing, and other extractive uses of public lands and tribal lands.

Hoffmann received her BA in Spanish literature with high honors from Middlebury College and her JD from the S. J. Quinney College of Law at the University of Utah. In law school, she was a William H. Leary Scholar, the Richard L. Dewsnup Fellow in Natural Resource Law, and a member of the Utah Law Review. Hoffmann is licensed in Utah and Vermont and is admitted to the Vermont Supreme Court, the Utah Supreme Court, the federal district courts for the districts of Utah and Vermont, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs and the American Law Institute.

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PANELISTS

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY:
REFORMING LAND USE LAW

PANEL 3
Stephen R. Miller is professor of law at the University of Idaho College of Law in Boise. He teaches and researches at the intersection of property, real estate, land use, and local government law. He is the co-author of a leading casebook, “Land Use and Sustainable Development Law,” and co-editor of a collection of essays on climate change. Miller is currently the senior editor, and past editor-in-chief, of the ABA Journal of Affordable Housing & Community Development Law. He is the incoming editor of Thomson Reuters Federal Land Use Law & Litigation.

He maintains a wide scope of community involvement. Miller has served as a consultant on United States’ land use governance for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris and advised on local land use governance in Cambodia. Closer to home, he has served as a commissioner on the Boise Planning & Zoning Commission and helped launch a Citizens Planning Academy. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and serves on the American Planning Association’s Amicus Curiae Committee. Miller has also received research grants from the U.S. Forest Service, the Idaho Department of Lands, the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, and a sub-grant from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. He has also served as an expert witness in U.S. district and bankruptcy courts.

Miller holds an undergraduate degree from Brown University, a master’s in city and regional planning from University of California, Berkeley, a master’s of fine arts from Boise State University, and a JD from University of California, Hastings College of Law.

Miller can be found at Land Use Prof Blog and @LandUseProf.

Jessica Jay JD’97 is the founder and principal attorney at Conservation Law, P.C., a law firm devoted to ensuring the permanence of land conservation through sound transactions. Jay represents easement holders and landowners conserving working landscapes and environmentally significant land across the country. She guides easement holders, professionals, and landowners in educational workshops, and the next generation of land conservationists in her Land Conservation Law courses at Vermont Law School and Denver University Law School. Jay collaborates with the conservation community to defend easements and incentives, shape emerging law and policy, and inspire new endeavors in land conservation including redevelopment, un-development, and community conservation projects.

Jay received her bachelor of arts degree from Bowdoin College (with honors in Government and Environmental Studies, magna cum laude) and her JD and master’s in Environmental Law degrees from Vermont Law School (both magna cum laude).

Bob Perschel joined New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) in April 2012. Previously he was the Eastern region director for the Forest Stewards Guild. In his 35 years as an environmental professional he has worked on forestry, large landscape conservation, and wilderness issues.

Perschel worked for the forest industry before establishing his own forestry consulting business and founding the Land Ethic Institute. He is an original co-founder of the Forest Stewards Guild.

Perschel has a master’s degree in forestry from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a psychology degree from Yale College.