



VERMONT
LAW SCHOOL

A solid pink vertical bar is positioned to the left of the main title text.

LAW FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

LAW DEGREE PROGRAMS

A man and a woman are walking on a paved path in a park during autumn. The man, on the left, is wearing a white button-down shirt and grey trousers, looking down. The woman, on the right, is wearing a floral dress and a brown cardigan, smiling. The path is covered with fallen yellow and orange leaves. In the background, there are trees with vibrant autumn foliage and a black lamppost on the left.

OUR MISSION

To educate students in a diverse community that fosters personal growth and that enables them to attain outstanding professional skills and high ethical values with which to serve as lawyers and environmental and other professionals in an increasingly technological and interdependent global society.

A Message from President Rod Smolla



The mission of the Law School here at Vermont Law and Graduate School is captured elegantly by the School's motto: Law for the Community and the World. That motto says it all—we are on a mission to advance the progress of society for reasons larger than ourselves.

Vermont Law and Graduate School has a proud legacy of top-ranked quality and leadership in matters relating to environmental and restorative justice. Never in history have these issues mattered more. We are challenged by a climate change crisis that threatens our well-being. We are challenged, within the United States and across the globe, with threats to the most fundamental values of a decent society: respect for human dignity, autonomy, and the rule of law.

Vermont Law occupies a unique place in the panoply of American law schools. There simply is no higher education institution anywhere in the

nation or world that has so ardently dedicated itself to the study and advancement of progress at the intersection of environmental and social justice.

Yet while environmental and restorative justice are at the core of Vermont Law's identity, our mission and reach stretch beyond those arenas. Some of you will graduate from law school and become public interest lawyers. But many of you will practice in other arenas, working for law firms, businesses, government agencies, or nongovernmental organizations in an almost infinite variety of legal fields. Yet while not all of you will enter careers as public interest lawyers, I hope that all of you will practice in the public interest.

Whether you join us in the lovely Green Mountain State or through our Online Hybrid JD program, we would be thrilled to welcome you to our special community, and our noble quest.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rod Smolla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rod" and last name "Smolla" clearly legible.

RODNEY A. SMOLLA,

President, Vermont Law and Graduate School

A JD Program at your pace

3-YEAR JD

The traditional law school track. Students take courses in the fall and spring, putting what they have learned to work during the summer. This is the best option for those looking for the full on-campus experience. Students can also take master's courses in the summer and earn a joint JD/master's in the same amount of time.

ACCELERATED 2-YEAR JD

The Summer Start AJD program and the Fall Start AJD program provide two accelerated options: Students who start in the summer take full course-loads for six consecutive semesters, allowing them to sit for the bar in July and start their career a year ahead of their traditional JD-track peers. Those starting in the fall complete their coursework in August of the second year and can sit for the bar the following winter. AJD students have full access to the law school's curriculum, clinical programs, and experiential opportunities.

ONLINE HYBRID JD

Meeting you where you're at. Delivered through a mixture of online classes and three brief, in-person residential sessions, the Online Hybrid JD offers the same rigorous legal education as the school's residential JD—with flexibility that allows working professionals to earn a law degree without sacrificing their income or having to relocate. This ABA-approved program is 10 semesters long and can be completed in 3.5 years.

REDUCED RESIDENCY JD

RRJD students spend 18 months on campus before completing the remainder of their degree requirements with a combination of a Semester-in-Practice (SiP) externship and upper-level, online JD courses.

MASTER'S AND LLM PROGRAMS

- Master of Climate and Environmental Policy (MCEP)
- Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL)
- Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)
- Master of Arts in Restorative Justice (MARJ)
- LLM in Energy Law
- LLM in Environmental Law
- LLM in Food and Agriculture Law
- LLM in American Legal Studies





Hands-on Experience

Law clinic and externship participants have the unique opportunity to help people while studying law—from women who are incarcerated in Vermont to miners in Southwestern Montana. They may help set national governance standards for farmers' markets or work at NGOs in Washington, D.C.

Questioning witnesses on the stand, conferring with state Supreme Court judges in chambers; it's all in a day's work and VLGS encourages students to be creative, take risks, and work on real cases—with real consequences.

CLINICS

Energy Clinic
Environmental Advocacy Clinic
Environmental Justice Clinic
Farmed Animal Advocacy Clinic
Food and Agriculture Clinic
Legislative Clinic
South Royalton Legal Clinic
 Family Law Project
 Vermont Immigrant Assistance
 Veterans Legal Assistance Project of Vermont
Transnational Environmental Practicum
Vermont Law School Entrepreneurship and Legal Lab Practicum

CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

Animal Law and Policy Institute
Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
Center for Justice Reform
Center for Legal Innovation
Environmental and Climate Justice Center
Environmental Law Center
Environmental Tax Policy Institute
General Practice Program
Institute for Energy and the Environment
International and Comparative Law Program
National Center on Restorative Justice
U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law

An Education Put to Work

VLGS graduates are advocates, changemakers, and leaders. While on campus and after they leave it, they are doing the work that will make the world a better place.

Career Services staff help students organize an effective overall career plan, integrating passions and aspirations with coursework and experiences to lay the groundwork from day one.

Upon graduation, students spread out across the country, putting their education to work in criminal justice, at government agencies and nongovernmental organizations. From the courtroom to the field, they take with them the Vermont Law and Graduate School spirit and activism.

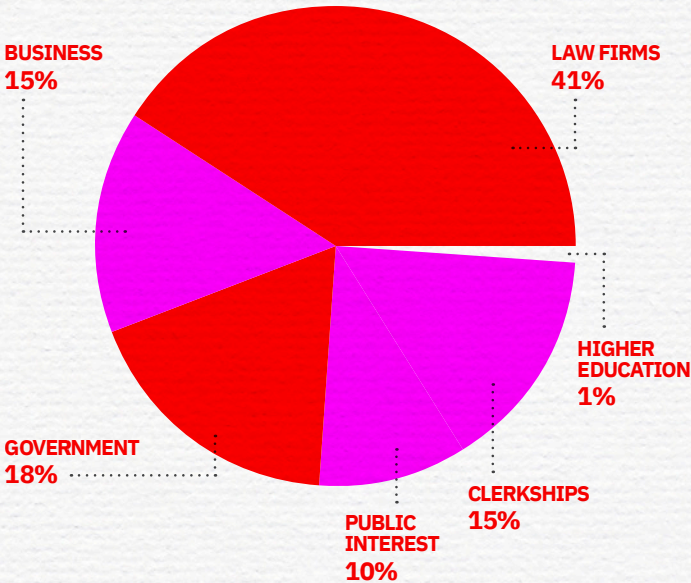
2021 GRADUATES AT-A-GLANCE

81%
EMPLOYMENT

Percent of 2021 graduates employed or in a full-time degree-seeking program 10 months after spring graduation (includes all bar required, JD advantage, and professional jobs)

33
STATES

Represented by graduates



CLERKSHIPS

NJ: 5 MT: 2 CT: 2 CO: 2 WA: 2
VT: 2 AK: 1 ME: 1 MN: 1

(majority with the trial court; 5 with Supreme and mid-level courts)

CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOBS

• 9 as prosecutors and 3 as public defenders across the U.S.

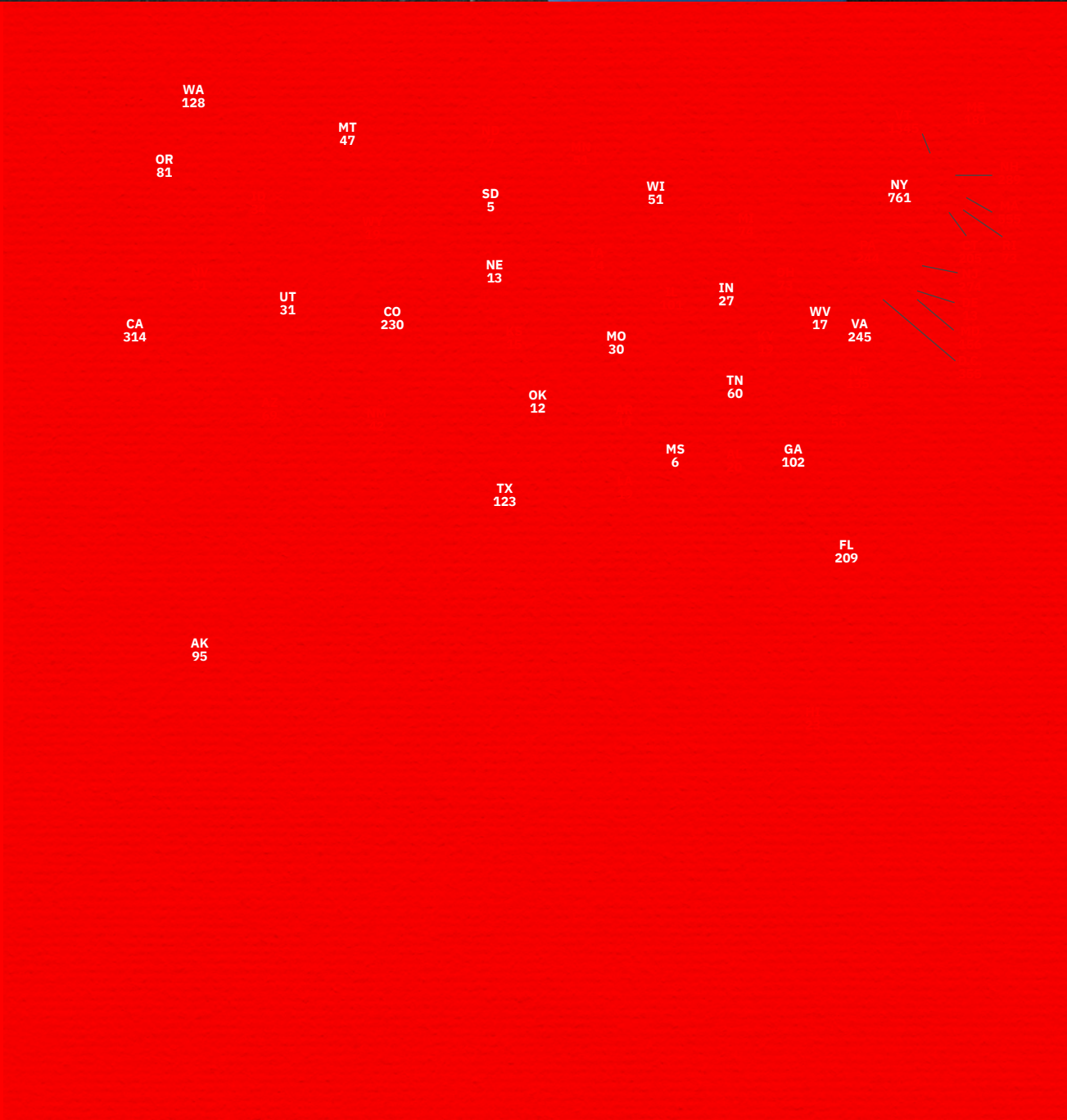
NATIONAL JOBS

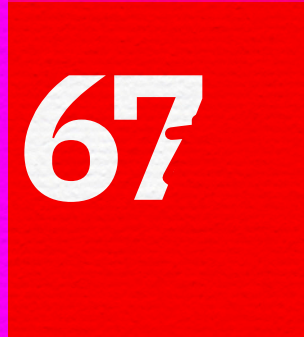
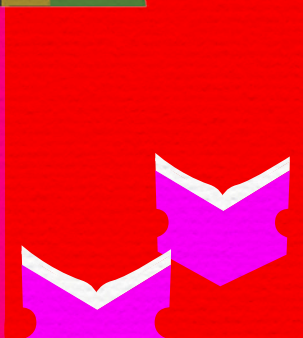
- 4 grads hired into federal honors programs
- EPA in D.C.
- DOJ—Exec Office of Immigration Review
- FERC Office of Administrative Law Judges
- Morgan & Lewis (Philadelphia) and Beveridge & Diamond (Austin)
- Troutman Pepper in D.C.
- Eastern Environmental Law Center
- Georgetown University Climate Center
- Knauss Fellowship with NOAA





Tamara Toles O'Laughlin JD/MELP'09,
President and CEO, Environmental Grantmakers Association





"VLGS' School for the Environment is the runway for tomorrow's environmental leaders to launch their careers. We equip our students with a full toolbox of knowledge and skills for making change. In this time of climate crisis and its disproportionate impacts around the world, training leaders in environmental protection is critical to the future of our planet and communities."

JENNIFER ROSEMOND | Dean, Vermont School for the Environment;
Faculty Director, Environmental Law Center; Professor of Law



Home of the National Center on Restorative Justice

With the current criminal justice system ethically and financially untenable, we need a new way to think about and respond to harm, conflict, and crime. By bringing together students committed to developing new ways of thinking with national and international restorative justice leaders, VLGS educates justice reformers.

Students specializing in restorative justice will combine traditional law courses with restorative justice courses, simulations, and experiential learning opportunities.

Graduates are ready to act as forceful, articulate agents for change in law and restorative justice. As criminal justice evolves, using more restorative practices, all lawyers should understand that there are many ways to view conflict and conflict avoidance.

Restorative justice courses may include:

Restorative Justice Theory and Practice

Origins, Evolution, and Critical Issues in Restorative Justice

Adversity, Trauma, and Victimization

Criminal Law

New Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence

Restorative Justice in Educational Institutions

Ethics and Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice in Indigenous Communities

Clemency, Pardon, and Expungement

Global Restorative Justice

Juvenile Justice

Peacemaking Courts

Race, Crimes, and Restorative Justice

Police Use of Force



EMPLOYERS OF FORMER STUDENTS INCLUDE:

- Restorative Justice Centers
- Attorney General Offices
- Sentencing Mitigation Specialists
- Youth/Adult Diversion Programs
- California Certified Organic Farmers
- Police Reform
- Prison Reform and Education
- K–12 Education
- Higher Education
- Research Coordinators
- State Legislature
- Department of Corrections
- Innocence Project
- Social Work
- Domestic/Sexual Violence Agencies
- Community Development/Organizing

“When you are invested in the people you live and work with, you treat them differently and value their opinions and wisdom. If we want to make changes in society, and fix mechanisms that we know are broken—especially in our delivery of “justice”—we need to value all people and offer those who have been harmed or marginalized by our current systems true support and opportunity. We work to create positive change for everyone’s tomorrow.”

—STEPHANIE CLARK, Director, Center for Justice Reform





Our Campus

Nestled next to the White River in South Royalton, our 13-acre campus facilities prioritize sustainable practices. From composting toilets to minimize water usage, super windows to maximize insulation, enthalpic energy wheels to control humidity and recycle exhaust heat, and lighting solutions that use natural and energy efficient lighting for interior and exterior spaces—we practice what we teach.

Our Community

STUDENT-RUN ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- Alliance
- American Constitution Society
- Animal Law Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Association
- Environmental Law Society
- Environmental Justice Society
- Equal Justice Foundation
- Food and Agricultural Law Society
- International Law Society
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Native American Law Students Association
- Outdoors Club
- Women's Law Society

We are scientists, hackers, hikers, and musicians; talented, quirky, restless, engaged, entrepreneurial self-starters who believe in community and the power of the law to do good. We are socially conscious risk-takers with big ideas; we are idealists interested in practical training; we are friends and activists—true catalysts for change

VLGS is known nationally as an environmental and social justice revolutionary. We are committed to equity and inclusion. As an institution of higher education, we recognize that the law has too often neglected Black, Brown and Indigenous people, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community, that it has been used to legitimize the inhumane treatment of marginalized groups within these communities.

We commit to fight against inherent ignorance, intolerance, and racial and social injustice through teaching and scholarship, research and practice, open discussion, and public events. We believe in providing a learning environment that is inclusive of all people, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, nationality, ethnicity, ability, age, or socioeconomic class.

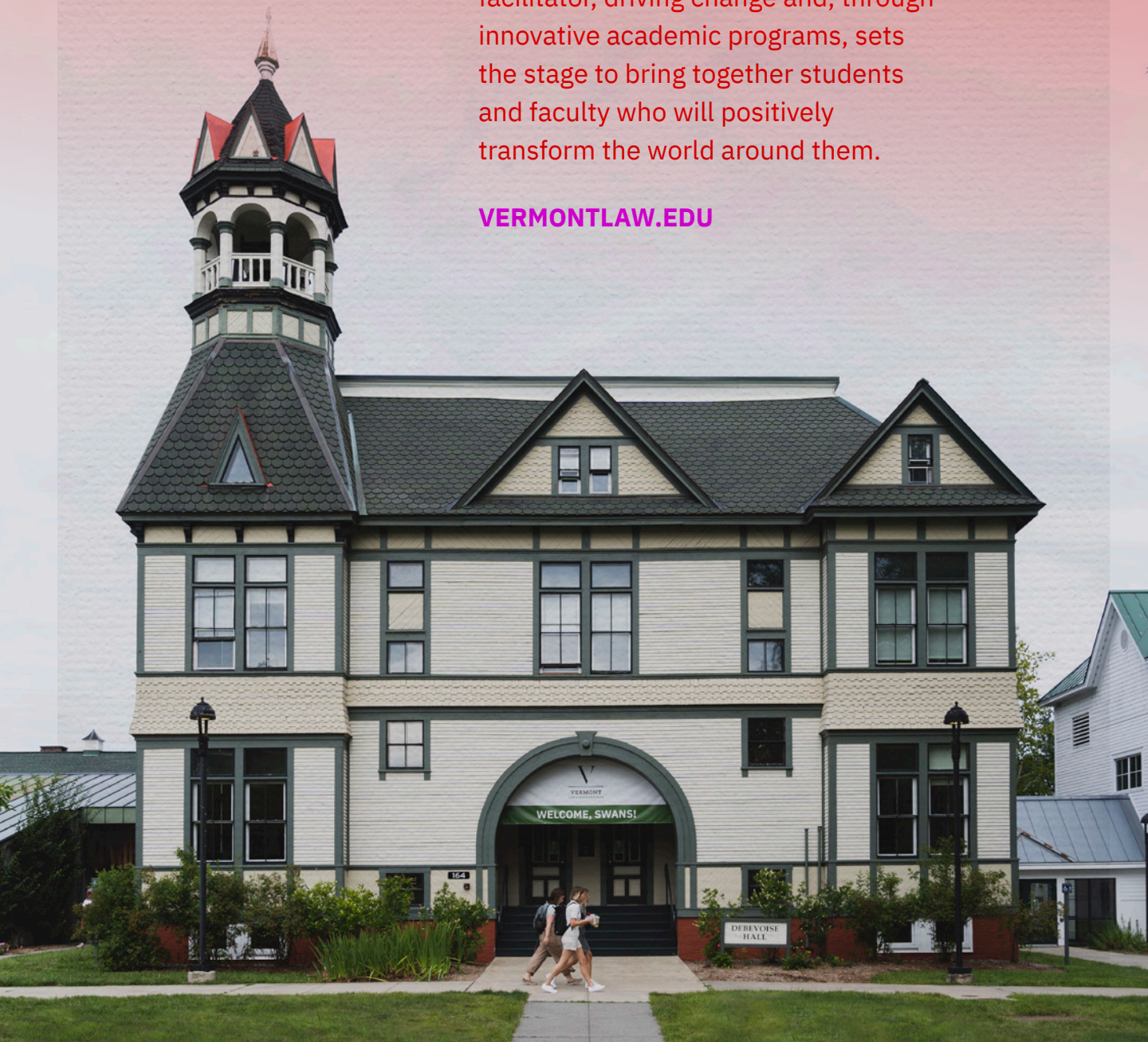
Catalysts for change

Vermont Law and Graduate School encourages—and empowers—students to dream big. It welcomes and shares passions for social justice, the environment, food equity, criminal justice reform, the fair treatment of animals, and so much more.

At VLGS, realism and idealism collide through data and humanity.

The school community is the facilitator, driving change and, through innovative academic programs, sets the stage to bring together students and faculty who will positively transform the world around them.

[VERMONTLAW.EDU](https://vermontlaw.edu)





IDEALISTS.
REALISTS.
**CATALYSTS
FOR CHANGE.**



Vermont Law and Graduate School

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