



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

Highlighted Project: Ensuring Green Means Green

During fall 2017, clinic students will assist a national non-governmental organization in its fight against a proposed renewable energy project on the edge of pristine public lands, including a newly-designated national monument near the California-Nevada border. While most people may assume all renewable energy projects are “green,” the clinic will help ensure this project complies with existing environmental laws and does not threaten other protected areas, species, and natural resources.

In another matter, students are assisting two grassroots organizations in an all too common fight against the proposed expansion of a hazardous waste facility in a low-income, predominately Spanish-speaking, Latino community that is already disproportionately impacted by pollution.

In both cases, the clinic will help to serve clients’ efforts to protect and enhance public health and the environment for today, and for generations who do not yet have a voice.

Environmental Law Clinic

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The Environmental Law Clinic provides students with the opportunity to work on important and challenging matters involving the protection and enhancement of the environment and human health. Clinic students take an early and active role representing clients in litigation and policy matters. Students advocate on behalf of clients in courts and before administrative tribunals, while also providing advice and counsel to clients regarding legislative, policy, and strategic matters.

In its first six years, clinic students have worked on a diverse range of matters, including:

- Initiating actions to protect water quality and enforce the Clean Water Act
- Assisting coastal communities to plan for climate change adaptation
- Advising a coastal community in its fight against on-shore oil drilling
- Protecting important desert lands against development and exploitation
- Encouraging and requiring compliance with the California Environmental Policy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Taking advantage of its placement within a premier law school and research university, the clinic maintains relationships with other parts of the law school and UC Irvine campus, including the Center for Land, Environment, and Natural Resources, the School of Social Ecology, and the Program in Public Health.