

Environmental and Natural Resources Law

What would I do? Environmental law concerns a multitude of statutes, treaties, regulations, and conventions based in state, federal, or transnational law. Legal professionals practicing in this field may represent government agencies, advocacy organizations, or individuals. Environmental lawyers often focus on cases involving natural resource management, the curbing of pollution, or disputes about land and littoral use. Public health components are increasingly common in the practice of environmental law.

(<https://www.brown.edu/academics/college/advising/law-school/fields-law/fields-law>)

Where would I practice? The practice often requires extensive knowledge of administrative law and aspects of tort law, property, legislation, and land use law. Lawyers perform a wide variety of functions, including negotiation, litigation, administrative practice, lobbying, and advising. Practice settings include federal, state and local **government agencies, non-profit organizations, academic research institutes** and **private law firms**.

(<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/careers/career-planning/practice-areas/environmental.cfm>)

What types of cases would I handle? (<http://www.lsac.org/jd/thinking-about-law-school/fields-of-law>)

- Air and Water Quality
- Natural Gas Transportation
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Development
- Toxic Torts
- Marine Resources
- Hazardous Waste Practice
- Electric Power Licensing
- Water Rights
- Public Land Use
- Energy Trade Regulation

What schools in Florida specialize in this field of law?¹

School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law (Orlando)	- Environmental and Earth Law Clinic - Center for Earth Jurisprudence - Honors Certificate in Environmental and Earth Law
Florida Coastal School of Law (Jacksonville)	- Real Estate and Environmental Sustainability Certificate - Environmental Law Externship
Florida International University College of Law (Miami)	- Environmental and Natural Resources Law Certificate - Environmental/Land Use Externship
Florida State University College of Law (Tallahassee)	- Environmental Law Certificate
Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center (Davie)	- Environment and Land Use Law Clinic

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School Name	Specialty Program(s) ²
St. Thomas University School of Law (Miami)	- Environmental Sustainability Certificate
Stetson University College of Law (Gulfport)	- Environmental Law Certificate of Concentration - Environmental Law Externship
University of Florida, Frederic G. Levin College of Law (Gainesville)	- Environmental and Land Use Law Concentration and Certificate - Conservation Clinic - Environmental and Land Use Law Externship
University of Miami School of Law (Miami)	- Environmental Justice Clinic
Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School (Tampa)	- Environmental Law Concentration ³

¹This is not an exhaustive list of Florida schools specializing in this field. **Although these schools offer specialty programs in this field, this does not mean you are unable to gain exposure to this field at another law school not listed above.**

²Information obtained through school website and officialguide.lisac.org

³This program is offered across WMU's regional campuses, contact the Tampa Bay, FL location to confirm its offering.

What are these “specialty programs?”

Specialty Program	Definition
Certificates	Specialization certificates allow JD students to focus their elective courses, build substantive knowledge and relevant skills, and enhance their resumes. Though specializations are not required for graduation, they can provide a guiding structure for exploration of various fields of law. With a variety of courses to choose from within each field, students can customize their specialization to their particular area of interest. (http://law.ggu.edu/academics/specialization-certificates/)
Clinics	At many law schools, clinical pedagogy is well established and robust. Typically clinics are focused in areas of law – civil or criminal litigation, civil rights litigation, or representation of community organizations. These clinics involve “live” clients with active legal matters. They include a classroom component and close supervision by a clinical faculty member. (http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel)
Concentrations	"While it is not the best comparison to make, a Concentration is similar to a major in undergraduate studies, in that a student with a specific interest in a field can do focused study in that field. A major difference though, is that students who graduate law school with a Concentration will have the same degree as those without a Concentration, a juris doctor, that will be viable in any area of law in which they wish to practice." (http://www.lis.edu/academics/concentrations/)

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Specialty Program	Definition
Externships	<p>Today, accepted externship pedagogy involves faculty instruction in a classroom component to every externship opportunity, and some training for the practitioner supervising attorneys. Further, while externships used to include the equivalent of 3-5 credit hours of work outside the law school, an emerging form of externship involves the student spending the entire semester, and 15 credits, working onsite on an externship assignment.</p> <p>(http://digitalcommons.tourolaw.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1002&context=jel)</p>
Practicum	<p>In practicum classes law students get hands-on learning working under the supervision of attorneys and professors in a non-lawyering role as they work on cases and practica give students insight into a specific area of legal interest and a window into what it is like to practice in that area. (http://www.law.miami.edu/academics/externships-fellowships)</p>