Inaugurated on the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Loyola's Center for Environmental Law and Land Use (CELLU), seeks to become a leader in legal environmental education and service in the Gulf Region.

As part of this mission, the CELLU supports Loyola's Certificate in Environmental Law program. Under this program, law students concentrate their studies in the areas of natural resources, pollution control, and land use, and receive a certificate upon graduation along with their degree. CELLU also organizes and hosts a variety of conferences, workshops, and lectures designed to educate the public and to spark collaborative efforts in research and service among academics and students. CELLU-supported research has contributed to the environmental scholarship of the law faculty. Much of its activity now centers on environmental and land-use issues associated with Hurricane Katrina and the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast.

**Governance, Staffing, and Funding**

CELLU is directed by Professor Robert R.M. Verchick, who holds Loyola’s endowed Gauthier-St. Martin Chair in Environmental Law. Since its inception, CELLU has operated without staff and without dedicated funding or annual budget. The faculty directorship is unpaid. Rather, its initiatives have been staffed and funded as a series of “special projects” supported by the law school administration. The Director works with students and staff to organize and manage activities. Occasionally, other faculty members will help organize or manage individual events. In 2009 and 2010, the Director took an unpaid leave to serve as a political appointee in the Obama administration at the EPA. During that time, Samuel Steinmetz, a recent Loyola law school graduate, was hired as a part-time interim director of CELLU. CELLU’s most immediate goal is to strengthen its programs by securing dedicated funding and adequate staffing.

**Certificate in Environmental Law**

Students in their second and third year may elect to specialize in environmental law, earning a Certificate in Environmental Law. Students who have met the certificate requirements by the time of graduation will have this distinction noted on their transcripts and receive a certificate. Students must complete a set of courses, totaling 13 hours, complete an academic research paper of high professional quality concerning environmental law, and complete the certificate requirements with a
combined grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and with no individual grade counting toward the certificate below a C.

Since 2007 (the first year in which certificates were issued), 45 law students have graduated with the Environmental Certificate.

**Conferences, Lectures, and Workshops Sponsored and Supported by CELLU**

**2010-11**

“Environmental Protection in the Obama Administration.” Lecture by Robert R.M. Verchick (in capacity as former Deputy Associate Administrator of Policy at EPA).

“Climate Tort Litigation.” Lecture by Doug Kysar, Yale Law School

“The BP Oil Spill.” Half-day panel program.

Presentations and Canoe Trip: “Protecting Ecosystem Services on the Louisiana Coast” Location: Manchac Wetlands. Attendees: Loyola law students.

“Environmental Law and Human Rights.” Half-day panel program.

**2009-10**

National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS) Conference at Loyola University New Orleans. Title "Staying Afloat: Adapting to Climate Change in the Gulf and Beyond." Attendees: 250+ from more than 15 states.

Annual Meeting of the Environmental Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, Day-long Panels and Field Trip to Barataria wetlands and Lower Ninth Ward: “The Role of Eco-System Services in Coastal Recovery.” Attendees: 70+ environmental law professors from across the country.

**2008-09**

“Litigating Massachusetts v. EPA.” Lecture by Lisa Heinzerling, Georgetown University Law Center

Presentations and Field Trip: “Seeking Environmental Justice in Louisiana’s Cancer Alley.” Attendees: Loyola law students.

**2007-08**

“Addressing Blight in New Orleans after Katrina.” Half-day panel program.
“Natural Resource Conservation and the Hunting and Fishing Community.” Half-day panel program.

Presentations and Canoe Trip: “Protecting Ecosystem Services on the Louisiana Coast” Location: Cane Bayou. Attendees: Loyola law and Loyola undergraduate students.

2006-07

“Katrina One Year Later: What Have We Learned?” Half-day panel featuring local experts as well as law faculty from University of Texas, Wake Forest, and Duke.

Joint Course on Hurricane Katrina with students from Loyola Law and Georgetown University Law Center. Course took place during two intensive weekends in which all students and faculty from both programs were together in New Orleans the first weekend and together in Washington, D.C. the second weekend. Activities included lectures, discussions with expert panels, and field trips. Students produced joint research papers on legal issues important to the local recovering community.

“Hurricane Katrina: A Primer.” Day-long panel program with students from Berkeley Law attending.

“Regulating Toxic Substances in the United States and Europe.” Lecture by Noah Sachs, University of Richmond.

2005-06

“Regulating Mercury in Fish.” Lecture by Catherine O’Neill of Seattle University.

Presentations and Canoe Trip: “Protecting Ecosystem Services on the Louisiana Coast” Location: Manchac Wetlands. Attendees: Loyola law and Loyola undergraduate students.

Scholarship of the Environmental Chair

CELLU does not provide financial support for faculty or student research, but its development of public events and support and organization of student and faculty research energies do contribute to environmental scholarship, which at this point is mainly the product of the Environmental Chair. Below is a selected listing of the Environmental Chair’s environmental publications since CELLU’s founding.

Books

FACING CATASTROPHE: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION FOR A POST-KATRINA WORLD (Harvard University Press 2010)
• listed as a CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title of 2010 (American Library Association)


**FEMINIST LEGAL THEORY** (NYU Press, 2006) (with Nancy Levit) (with significant section on eco-feminism)

**Book Chapters**

*Coastal Protection, in THE LAW OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE* (ABA Publishing) (Michael B. Gerard and Katrina Kuh, eds., 2011) (with Joel Scheraga, EPA) (forthcoming)


**Law Review Publications**

*Climate Change Adaptation and Geographic Scale, -- B.Y.U. LAW REVIEW --- (2011) (with Abby Hall, EPA) (forthcoming)*

*Climate Change and the Puget Sound: Building the Legal Framework for Adaptation, 2(3) CLIMATE LAW --- (IOS Press, 2011) (with co-authors) (forthcoming)*

*Katrina, Feminism, and Environmental Justice, 13 CARDOZO JOURNAL OF LAW AND GENDER 791 (2007)*

*Afterword: The Economics of Infrastructure, 52 LOYOLA LAW REVIEW 933 (2007)*

The Case Against Cost-Benefit Analysis, 32 Ecology Law Quarterly 101 (University of California at Berkeley 2005)

Loving Las Vegas, 37 Urban Lawyer 619 (2005)

Same-Sex and the City, 37 Urban Lawyer 191 (2005) (emphasizing sustainability and land-use issues)

Policy Papers

Climate Change and the Puget Sound: Building the Legal Framework for Adaptation, June 2011 (with co-authors). Prepared for the Center for Progressive Reform.

By the Stroke of a Pen: Seven Crucial Protections for Public Health and the Environment the President Can Accomplish in the First 100 Days of His Administration, Oct. 2008 (with co-authors). Prepared for the Center for Progressive Reform.


Opinion

In Making Disaster Plans, We Have to Imagine the Worst Case, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Apr. 28, 2011


A Federal Responsibility, Baltimore Sun, Feb. 7, 2006

Presentations by the Environmental Chair

CELLU offers occasional financial support for travel and presentations by the Environmental Chair. Below is a selected listing of the Chair’s presentations since CELLU’s founding, some of which were supported by CELLU funds.

Academic Presentations

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, panel and workshop, “Closing the Environmental Justice Gap: A Workshop on Advancing Evaluation Methods” (Sept. 2011) (forthcoming)

Yale Law School and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, panel and workshop, Scenario Analysis of Solar Radiation Management: Imagining Possible Futures (September 2011) (forthcoming)

Yale Law School, panel, "Cleaning the Air," New Ideas and New Directions in Environmental Law and Scholarship (April 2011)


Yale Law School, lecture, “Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World” (Dec. 2010)

UCLA School of Law, panel, “Oil and Water: The Gulf Coast Five Years after Katrina” (October 2010)

University of Florida, Environmental Capstone Colloquium (Feb. 2009)

University of Arizona, panel, Adaptation to Climate Change Conference (Jan. 2009)

University of North Carolina, panel, Adaptation of Legal Regimes in the Face of Climate Change (Oct. 2008)

University of Copenhagen, keynote address, “Adaptation and Disaster Justice,” Symposium on Disaster and Sustainability (Nov. 2008)


University of Kansas, workshop, Climate Change and the Neoliberal Model (Oct. 2007)


Cardozo Law School, panel, “Lessons Learned from Katrina,” Symposium on Poverty and Family Health: Environmental Dangers and Progressive Solutions (Feb. 2007)


Tel Aviv University, Buchmann Faculty of Law, lecture, “Risk, Fairness, and the Geography of Disaster” (Nov. 2006)

Hebrew University (Jerusalem), lecture, “Risk, Fairness, and the Geography of Disaster” (Nov. 2006)

Georgia State University School of Law, faculty workshop (Oct. 2006)


University of Colorado School of Law, faculty workshop (Oct. 2006)

University of Georgia, keynote address, “Unnatural Disasters,” Red Clay Conference (Mar. 2006)

University of Oregon, keynote address, “Katrina: Six Months After,” Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (March 2006)

Harvard Law School, panel, “The Roberts Court, the Commerce Clause, and Environmental Federalism” (Mar. 2006)

University of Oregon, panel, “Environmental Degradation after Katrina” and “Toxic Contamination after Katrina,” Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (March 2006)


University of Houston Law Center, lecture, “Unnatural Disaster: Katrina and Beyond” (Nov. 2005)

University of Washington School of Law, lecture, “Was Katrina Racist? Hurricanes and Environmental Justice” (Sept. 2005)

Georgetown University Law Center, “Was Katrina Racist? Hurricanes and Environmental Justice” (Sept. 2005)

Other Presentations
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Second World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change, “Asking the Climate Question: How National Action Helps Local Action,” Bonn, Germany (July 2011)


Building Resilience Workshop II, keynote address, “Retooling Resilience” New Orleans, LA (March 2011)

Bullitt Foundation and the Center for Progressive Reform, Toward a Well Adapted Future in the Puget Sound: A Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation and the Law, Seattle University, Seattle, WA (Jan. 2011)


Rising Tide V Conference, panelist, New Orleans, LA (August 2010)


Stanford Alumni Center, Stanford University, “Katrina and Beyond” (Oct. 2006)

Restoration 2006, speaker, Community and Economic Recovery after a Disaster, New Orleans, LA (May 2006)


Presenter, “Unnatural Disaster: Katrina and Beyond,” Goosefoot Community Fund, Langley, WA (Sept. 2005)

Lakeside School, lecture, “Unnatural Disaster: Katrina and Beyond,” Seattle, WA (Sept. 2005)