



# LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL

## ENVIRONMENTAL, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENERGY LAW

---

Fall 2021 Newsletter

### **Prof. Dan Rohlf's Musings from Croatia: THE ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL IMPACTS OF TOURISM**

I'm on sabbatical for the 2021-22 school year (delayed a year by covid), and my wife and I are spending quite a bit of time abroad, both traveling as well as staying in one place while I'm either working on scholarship or teaching in Italy as part of my Fulbright grant at the University of Trento. I find that travel always provides me with valuable new perspectives – I guess that's part of the theory behind sabbaticals – and this summer and fall I've been thinking a lot about the environmental and social impacts of tourism.



Prof. Rohlf in Dubrovnik

Outdoor recreation and domestic tourism in general have exploded in the United States. While getaways relieve covid-induced isolation and jumpstart tourist-dependent economies, this surge of tourists has a variety of consequences including unprecedented crowds on trails and in parks; trampling, trash, and other waste in all corners of public lands; and housing converted to more lucrative short-term rentals. International travel is beginning to rebound as well, focusing acute impacts on particularly renowned sites. Cruise ships send thousands of people at a time through places like Venice and Santorini, while local residents increasingly abandon these areas as prices soar and housing is converted to accommodate visitors. Tour guides in both Split and Dubrovnik told me that average Croatians simply can no longer afford to live in the central parts of those cities. Indeed, while I found the physical setting and architecture of Dubrovnik simply stunning, the entire walled city had the feel of a museum with upscale restaurants and gift shops. Continue reading Prof. Rohlf's message on p. 4 below. [Watch this video for more musings from Croatia.](#)

In this issue: [Prince Harry & GLA](#), [Lisa Benjamin; Huffman Recipient](#), [Outcomes for Climate Justice](#), & more.

## **PROTECTING THE OKAVANGO RIVER BASIN: An update from Professor Erica Lyman**

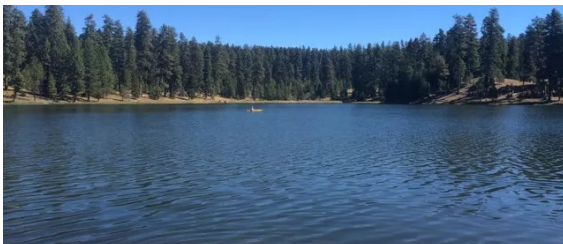
Lewis & Clark Law's Global Law Alliance for Animals and the Environment (GLA) has expanded its climate change work to fight for climate justice on behalf of people, wildlife, and the environment generally. GLA's latest work supports the efforts to put an end to the



oil and gas exploration threatening the Okavango Delta. The Okavango Delta is among the world's crown jewels, a World Heritage site, an Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, and an ecological wonder, home to indigenous peoples sustaining their way of life and some of the most important populations of wild animals, including African elephants. Oil and gas development in the region puts this all at risk.

GLA and our tireless law student advocates have been working directly with local stakeholders and other international organizations to ensure justice for the people and wildlife of the Delta region using creative legal strategies that push the boundaries of what it means to practice international environmental law but that recognize that creative, strategic, impact lawyering is necessary in the face of a highly capitalized, well-connected, and entrenched fossil fuel industry.

[This op-ed](#) from Prince Harry and Reinhold Mangundu highlights what is at stake and why GLA's work to stop corporate drilling in the Okavango River basin is so important. To see GLA's concerns about fracking in the region [see here](#), and see a filing submitted by GLA, Above Ground, and Center for International Environmental Law to the Toronto Venture Stock Exchange noting similar concerns [here](#).



### **EARTHRISE LAW CENTER PREVAILS IN RECEIVING PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION TO PROTECT OLD GROWTH FORESTS**

Professor Tom Buchele and co-counsel (Earthrise alum) Jesse Buss '12 obtained a preliminary injunction against the commercial logging of hundreds of large and old-growth trees in the Ochoco National Forest's Walton Lake Recreation Area. Buchele is a Clinical Professor of Law and the Co-Director of Earthrise Law Center. [Read more here](#)



### **PROFESSOR LISA BENJAMIN: RECIPIENT OF THE HUFFMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Professor Lisa Benjamin is the second recipient of the Huffman Scholarship Award, which recognizes outstanding faculty scholarship. Emeritus Dean and Professor James Huffman endowed the award to be given annually to a faculty member based on scholarship written the year prior. The recipient is chosen by a three-member faculty committee. [Read more here](#)



### **MASTER OF STUDIES IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (MSL) VIA DISTANCE LEARNING**

The Master of Studies in Environmental Law is now offered 100% online (in addition to the on campus program), and taught in an interactive and flexible format. MSL graduates move on to a wide variety of jobs, including with legislatures, corporate leadership, the nonprofit sector, federal agency administration, teaching, and journalism.

[Read more here](#)



### **COP26: OUTCOMES FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE, VIRTUAL WEBINAR, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

Global emissions must be cut in half by 2030 to protect human rights, and avoid the worst effects of climate change. On **November 18th**, our expert panel will discuss the goals set for the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the outcomes. In this webinar hear from Professor Melissa Powers, Professor Lisa Benjamin, and Nikki Reisch from CIEL about temperature goals, the international carbon market, and whether the outcome in Glasgow really delivers. [Read more here](#)



### **8TH ANNUAL JAMES L. HUFFMAN LECTURE, FEATURING CHRISTOPHER DEMUTH**

[Christopher DeMuth](#) gave the 2021 James L. Huffman Lecture In Honor of the Western Resources Legal Center on Monday November 8, 2021. The lecture, titled “Executive Government and Its Reform”, addressed how national lawmaking has shifted from Congress to agencies of the executive branch, as well as how the rise of executive government has altered the nature of American politics.



### **WHEN OFFSHORE WIND COMES ON SHORE: VIRTUAL WEBINAR DECEMBER 2, 2021**

U.S. offshore wind energy project installations are headed for the West Coast. Join our Green Energy Institute’s panel of experts on **December 2, 2021** to learn about the regulatory landscape facing offshore wind, including the interface between state and federal regulations. Learn about the available regulatory systems in place, and those that were created or should have been created, in offshore wind development on the East Coast.

[Read more here](#)

## CONT. FROM PAGE 1

The law is increasingly starting to grapple with these issues. Local governments are exploring ways to moderate its impacts with regulations such as limits on short term rentals, while land managers try tools such as permit-based access restrictions. Such efforts are both challenging and controversial, and require balancing between property rights and community benefits, resource protection and visitor access. Easy answers are few and far between, requiring leaders and attorneys with creativity and analytical skills. Those are of course exactly the sorts of graduates our program produces, and I'm looking forward to soon putting together a module on tourism and its impacts for our online LLM Emerging Topics class.



The Walls of Dubrovnik



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

#### CLEAN WATER ACT SYMPOSIUM APRIL 8, 2022

The 2022 Lewis & Clark Environmental Law Symposium will discuss the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act on **April 8, 2022**. The symposium will be an in person event as well as live streamed for viewers around the world. More information, including speakers and topics, will be available soon.

**Lewis & Clark's Environmental Law program ranked #1 (tied) in the country by U.S. News & World Report for the 3rd year in a row.**



[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM](#)

