



EMORY  

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LAW

TURNER  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW CLINIC

*20 Years of Impact*

# CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE OF THE FIELD

The field of environmental law is intellectually stimulating and professionally rewarding—and at the Turner Environmental Law Clinic, students learn what it is like to *practice* it, not just study it.

Up to 20 second- and third-year Emory Law students receive an exceptional hands-on education at the Clinic each year. Working closely with the Clinic's Director and full-time post-graduate Fellow, students take part in all aspects of complex civil litigation, present arguments at administrative hearings, draft and negotiate transactional documents, and work on legislative and policy issues at the local, state, and national levels. Students bring creative energy and fresh thinking to the development of case strategy, and they learn to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts, with clients, scientists, other members of the Clinic's legal team, and opposing parties.

The Clinic is committed to providing a training ground for experienced, well-rounded, ethical practitioners who will contribute in meaningful ways to the future of the profession.

Since the Clinic was established two decades ago, it has more than tripled its annual student enrollment and has trained hundreds of environmental attorneys. Alumni have pursued careers at law firms, corporations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations across the United States, and they regularly cite the Clinic as a key to their success.



When the Turner Environmental Law Clinic was launched 20 years ago, the public interest law community in Georgia was quite small. The Clinic's dual mission—to assist environmental nonprofits with their visions and to create top-tier public interest attorneys—has proven to be very successful, for the Clinic and for the community. Today the Clinic has an outsized impact, leveraging its resources wisely to ensure that environmental groups work together, that all voices are heard, and that natural resources are protected.

**BILL BUZBEE**  
Professor of Law,  
Georgetown University  
Founder and Board Member,  
Turner Environmental Law Clinic



During my second year of law school, while serving as a student-attorney at the Turner Environmental Law Clinic, I had the opportunity to argue in front of federal administrative law judges at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Upon graduation, I secured a clerkship with the same group of judges, in part due to the impression I had made on them and the skills I had gained while I was in law school. Now, at the U.S. Department of Justice, I am actively litigating and routinely drawing on the strong foundation I received at the Clinic. It was pivotal to my career. I greatly value the practical education and believe there is no better way to educate future attorneys.

**CARTER THURMAN 12L**  
Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice,  
Environment & Natural Resources Division



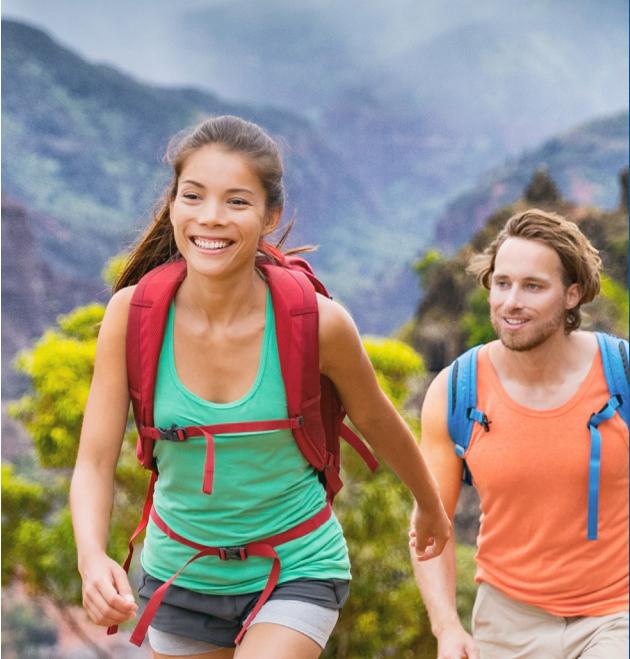
**1998** | Turner Environmental Law Clinic started at Emory Law.

**2003** | Issued an influential legal analysis on Cumberland Island, which ultimately led to important environmental protections.

**2007** | Published *Putting the Law to Work in Our Communities: A Citizen's Guide to Environmental Protection and Justice in Georgia*.

**2000** | In partnership with GreenLaw, co-founded the Georgia Public Interest Environmental Law Coalition.

**2005** | In partnership with the Southern Environmental Law Center, successfully challenged the permit for a harmful development project, Cumberland Harbor, to protect St. Mary's and Cumberland Island.



The Clinic was instrumental in developing the City of Atlanta’s urban agriculture ordinance, increasing access to fresh food for Atlanta residents, creating income-generating potential for local farmers—and setting a new nationwide standard for urban ag. To promote an even stronger local food system, the Clinic is now working with the Conservation Fund to protect farmland within a 100-mile radius of Atlanta and to connect next generation and minority farmers with lease-to-own opportunities. The Clinic’s student-attorneys are nimble, efficient, caring, and smart... they talked to farmers, researched best practices and existing models... and they are now helping us to launch the first program of its kind—creating a “green belt” of sustainable agriculture around our city. The Clinic has been with us every step of the way, a true partner in this project’s success.

**STACY FUNDERBURKE**

Assistant Regional Counsel & Conservation Acquisition Associate,  
The Conservation Fund

## CULTIVATING COMMUNITY

Every year, the Clinic provides more than 4,000 hours of legal services free of charge to clients in need.

The Clinic takes the lead on many representations, and works behind the scenes on other cases, facilitating positive change on behalf of vulnerable and low-income populations. With a genuine commitment to making sure that all voices are heard, the Clinic is building bridges, helping communities to address environmental harms, and significantly improving the quality of life in underserved rural, suburban, and urban areas.

**SELECT CLIENTS AND PARTNERS INCLUDE:**

*American Rivers*  
*Alabama Rivers Alliance*  
*Atlanta Local Food Initiative*  
*Atlanta Public Schools*  
*Beyond Nuclear*  
*Center for a Sustainable Coast*  
*Chattahoochee Riverkeeper*  
*Citizens Allied for Safe Energy*  
*City of Atlanta*  
*Common Market Georgia*  
*Everglades Law Center*  
*Food Well Alliance*  
*Friends of the Earth*  
*Georgia Conservancy*  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*  
*Georgia Large-Scale Solar*  
*Georgia Organics*  
*Global Growers*  
*GreenLaw*

*National Parks Conservation Association*  
*National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition*  
*Natural Resources Defense Council*  
*Partnership for Southern Equity*  
*Physicians for Social Responsibility*  
*Sierra Club*  
*Southern Environmental Law Center*

*Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance*  
*Southern Alliance for Clean Energy*  
*Southface*  
*Taxpayers for Common Sense*  
*The Nature Conservancy*  
*Union of Concerned Scientists*  
*University of Georgia*



For years the Turner Environmental Law Clinic has been an invaluable resource not only to our organization but to concerned citizens and organizations across the Southeast. The Clinic’s passion for this challenging work is unparalleled, bringing professionalism, expertise, and commitment to protect our environment and the public health and safety of communities. It’s hard to imagine being able to take on these important issues without them.

**SARA BARCZAK**

Program Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

2013

On behalf of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, filed comments regarding the Food and Drug Administration’s Produce Rule regulation, prompting the agency to withdraw and reissue the law to better protect small and midsize farmers and encourage sustainable agriculture practices.

2012

In partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council and others, successfully litigated the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s Waste Confidence Decision, forcing the agency to halt nuclear power licensing for two years and rethink a law that ignored the environmental impacts of nuclear waste.

# WORKING TOWARD SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

The Turner Environmental Law Clinic engages in vitally important work to ensure that we all have clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, healthy food to eat, cost-effective and nonhazardous sources of energy, and viable plans to safeguard Earth's natural resources for future generations.

The Clinic has gained national recognition for its expertise in three focus areas:

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND URBAN FARMING**

**CLEAN AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

**NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

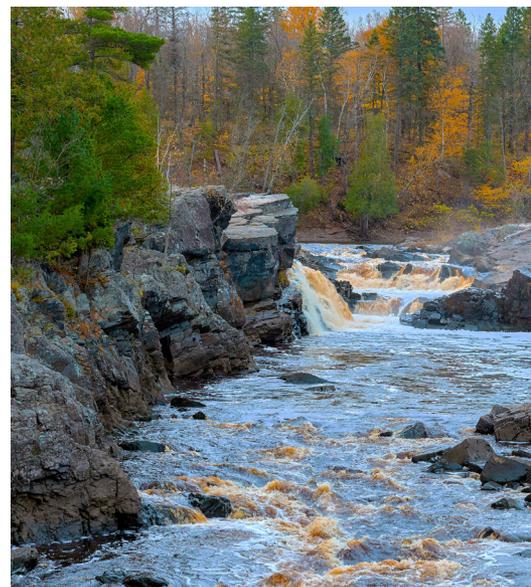
From protecting the ecology of Cumberland Island and the Georgia Coast to challenging national nuclear waste storage and disposal procedures and changing the way food is grown across the country, the Clinic is working on multiple levels to enhance environmental sustainability, improve public health, and address a host of other issues.

Lawyers are problem solvers by trade, and the Turner Environmental Law Clinic is all about creating solutions that benefit people and places, today and tomorrow.

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Our family is dedicated to environmental stewardship, education, and outreach, and it has been extremely rewarding to see the investment we have made in the Clinic be leveraged in so many ways for the betterment of the planet. The Clinic is a key player in protecting and restoring the natural systems—air, land, and water—on which all life depends. Together we can support a more sustainable, resilient future for our children and grandchildren.

**LAURA AND RUTHERFORD SEYDEL**  
The Turner Foundation



2014

Together with Georgia Organics, worked with the City of Atlanta to adopt one of the most comprehensive urban agriculture zoning ordinances in the country.

2016

On behalf of three Riverkeeper organizations, filed an *amicus brief* with the U.S. Supreme Court in the tri-state water wars case, *Florida v. Georgia*.

2018

In partnership with experts from Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia, published the Georgia Model Solar Ordinance, a comprehensive land use ordinance to ensure smart development of solar power.

# PLANTING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

When the Turner Environmental Law Clinic was established at Emory University School of Law in 1998, it brought environmental legal education out of the classroom and into the field.

Moving beyond textbooks and lecture notes, the Clinic pioneered an effective model for training students in the real-world practice of environmental law, providing pro bono representation to clients in need, and conducting important legal work on a wide range of issues affecting the health of our environment and the future of our planet.

Over time, the Clinic has grown in size, sophistication, and impact while staying true to its original goals of protecting the natural world and educating the next generation of environmental attorneys.

With a reputation for innovative outcomes—locally, regionally, and nationally—and a strong desire to pitch in wherever help is needed most, the Clinic is taking actions today that will lead to a brighter tomorrow.



The Turner Environmental Law Clinic is a champion of practical solutions that support environmental justice and promote sustainability. The Native American saying—*‘We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children’*—is at the heart of the Clinic’s pay-it-forward approach. And the quality of the work produced by the Clinic is jaw-dropping—it’s truly exceptional.

**JEWELL HARPER**

Retired, Environmental Protection Agency  
Visiting Professor, Spelman College  
Board Member, Turner Environmental Law Clinic

# INVESTING IN IMPACT

For the past 20 years, the Turner Environmental Law Clinic has taken its role of educating environmental thought leaders very seriously, preparing students to tackle the critical issues of our time.

While training the next generation of environmental attorneys, the Clinic is also making a difference in the sustainability of the planet and the well-being of local communities.

Like no other investment, your support of the Clinic will build a strong pipeline of experienced environmental advocates and a greener, healthier future for all of us. Please consider giving generously, to invest in the next 20 years of impact.

## TURNER ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC ADVISORY BOARD

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