



THE POWER OF THE LAW



A Place for Change



“

IT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT THAT EVERY TOP REGULATOR IN THE ENERGY OR POLLUTION CONTROL FIELD IN CHINA, AND EVERY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROFESSOR IN BEIJING AND GUANGZHOU, COME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR GUIDANCE. AND WHEN THEY COME, THEY COME TO SAN FRANCISCO, WASHINGTON, D.C., AND SOUTH ROYALTON, VERMONT.”

– Marc Mihaly, Professor of Law, Environmental Law Center, Vermont Law School

| A small, committed law school in rural Vermont is changing the game. [Join us.](#)

NOTHING BUT THE

TRUTH

IT STARTS HERE—AND GOES GLOBAL

SOUTH ROYALTON, VERMONT, IS A SMALL NEW ENGLAND TOWN WITH A POWERFUL HEART. For more than 40 years, a singular, outward-looking law school here has been pumping lifeblood with a particular DNA into the wider world. Vermont Law School is nationally known for its [environmental](#) and social justice programs, but our students are diverse and resist narrow labels. They are scientists, hackers, hikers, and musicians; they are talented, sometimes quirky, restless, engaged, entrepreneurial self-starters who believe in community and the power of the law to do good; they are socially-conscious risk-takers with big ideas; they are idealists interested in practical training; they are friends and activists, and they become kick-ass lawyers.

While diverse, our students share this in common: They come to law school not to fit into the status quo, but to change it. They learn what it means to fight—often against powerful interests and powerful odds—on the sides of justice and truth.

Their [degrees](#) are only the start of diverse career paths that lead to high-level positions with influential agencies; they become organizers of grassroots movements, partners in top law firms, and leaders in organizations such as The World Bank, USAID, and Earthjustice; they become general-practice attorneys in rural areas that lack access to justice and criminal defenders in minority districts; they practice solo and in small firms, doing what they can to change their corners of the world.

**HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS**
No Wading/
Swimming
Under Pier
or Near Pilings

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and dark tie, is walking barefoot on a concrete pier. He is looking back over his shoulder towards the camera. The pier is supported by several wooden pilings. In the background, the ocean is visible with waves crashing against the pilings. A sign is attached to one of the pilings.

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**I COULD ALREADY SPEAK SPANISH
BEFORE I BECAME A STUDENT.
AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL
I LEARNED HOW TO SPEAK
THE LAW.”**

MIAMI VICE

Criminal defender Adolfo Gil **JD'09** brought his law degree home to Miami-Dade County, Florida, where many of his clients don't understand the language, let alone the laws.

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, green and yellow grasses. In the middle ground, a red barn with a corrugated metal roof is visible, along with a white silo. The background shows rolling green hills under a cloudy sky.

TRUTH


**GRADUATES OF VERMONT
LAW SCHOOL WALK THE TALK
THROUGHOUT VERMONT AND
ACROSS THE U.S. AND IN 20
COUNTRIES AROUND THE GLOBE.**

They take what they've learned in South Royalton, and speak truth to power. They are creative, disruptive change agents who go into public and nonprofit sectors at nearly twice the national law school average, who see a [law degree](#) as the start not only of constructive careers but of meaningful lives. They are committed, often altruistic, sometimes outraged, and resolute. They defend, litigate, and advocate on behalf of [battered women and neglected children](#); on behalf of [wetlands and clean air and threatened habitats](#); on behalf of new [immigrants](#) and low-wage workers; on behalf of policies that are just. At rallies and protests, public hearings, information sessions, organizational meetings, school board meetings, food banks, in front of lawmakers and judges and behind the scenes: they show up. In matters of truth and principle: they stand up. As a grateful client of one VLS-trained attorney said, "You think one person can't make a difference? One person made all the difference."



UNAFRAID

Wynona Ward JD'98 turned her firsthand experience of domestic violence into a tough, compassionate organization that provides free legal and social services to abused women and children throughout rural Vermont. She modeled her mobile practice—[Have Justice Will Travel](#)—on Vermont Law School's [South Royalton Legal Clinic](#), and now routinely hires VLS graduates and students to help her in her work. I tell the students, "You want to see the real Vermont? Come with me. I'll show you the back roads and the broken-down trailers and broken-down farmhouses. I'll show you where traumatic and frightening secrets hide."



AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL, STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS ARE DEEPLY ENGAGED WITH THE ISSUES OF OUR TIME. Reminders are everywhere. Our power comes from renewable sources. In Vermont there are no billboards, because our faculty helped create the laws 40 years ago that prohibit them. The “environment” here is not an abstraction: it’s the point, and students are immersed in it every day in every season. There are more Community-Supported Agriculture farms per capita in Vermont than in any other state—22 small farms and orchards operate within a 10-mile radius of the law school’s central building, Debevoise Hall. Students interested in agriculture systems can get their hands dirty here. Vermont Law School was one of only two law schools in the country that stood against the military’s discriminatory Don’t Ask Don’t Tell policy, and it wasn’t a passive stance. Faculty presented white papers on the policy’s legal issues. Students traveled each year to Washington to lobby Congress. They held bake sales to fund their trips. On campus, the administration used its military recruiting policy as an ongoing opportunity to articulate and defend the school’s position—and to keep the conversation alive in a community that is unusually engaged in matters of fairness and matters of principle.

That engagement is in the air and in the water. It animates our classrooms and our mealtimes. It brings students of all backgrounds together in common cause. It is a big part of the beating heart.



TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

NOURISHMENT

Carla Santos [LLM'15](#), second from left, a [Global Energy Fellow](#) at the [Institute for Energy and the Environment](#) at Vermont Law School, talks with fellow classmates on a fall afternoon in South Royalton. From Brazil, Santos represents a growing number of [international](#) students who look to Vermont Law School for cutting-edge research and best-practice education—with an eye toward making a difference back at home.

ENGAGEMENT

AMONG THE FACULTY AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL ARE FORMER EPA REGULATORS, former members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a co-founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, attorneys who served as general counsel for Amnesty International and the National Audubon Society and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and attorneys currently in private practice. **Faculty** members include nationally known scholars in the fields of **water law** and **energy law** and neurolaw, professors with dual appointments at Harvard and visiting fellowships at Oxford, and instructors of writing whose students have won the top legal writing prize in the nation three times in the past five years. They author books and journal articles and op-ed pieces for The New York Times and The Washington Post. They march on Washington and show up on Town Meeting Day.

They know what it takes to make a difference in the broader world, because they have been there. They are the opposite of provincial and retiring. They teach a brand of activist law, on their terms, because they know that the most effective attorneys and advocates are those who are actively engaged.



CONNECTED

Professor Pam Stephens, center, of the International and Comparative Law Program meets with four students in the Class of '15 from the [University of Cergy-Pontoise](#), France. Vermont Law School's [dual international degree](#) program with a French university is one of the few of its kind among American law schools.





FOR THE COMMUNITY

IN THEIR CHOICE OF CAREERS AND IN HOW THEY PROVIDE SERVICE, VERMONT LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS AND GRADUATES EXPAND THE MEANING OF PRO BONO PUBLICO, FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD. There is a community ethic to our shared enterprise here, a sense that we have an obligation to each other. It is embodied in Professor Susan Apel volunteering her time with fellow breast cancer survivors, in current students mentoring South Royalton schoolchildren, in our Veteran Law Students Association offering programs for the community, in the thousands of pro bono cases worked in our [clinics](#) and by our [alumni](#), and in the seemingly innumerable personal accounts of our students' and graduates' experiences in the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America,

and other service organizations. In the days following Hurricane Irene's flash flooding, classes here were canceled so that students and faculty members could pitch in with the community's clean-up.

A recent example of the ethic is the creation of the [Vermont Lawyer Incubator](#) program. Aimed at addressing the declining number of attorneys practicing in small towns across rural Vermont, the law school is piloting a mentoring and support partnership with the [Vermont Bar Association](#) that places young lawyers in underserved areas. The concept is a natural fit at a law school that has historically seen its graduates forgo the salaries of corporate firms and the lure of Wall Street in favor of serving in communities where their services are needed most.



ONE OF US

Attorney **Alma Walls JD'01** located her solo practice in the Mississippi Delta, in her hometown of Clarksdale. She now fields calls from the entire region, sometimes working with clients from as far as 75 miles away, many of them uneducated or unable to read. She's not sure where they would turn without her. "I'll do whatever I can for them," she says. "There really is so much need."





COMMUNITY

THE EXPENSE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING LAW SCHOOL, HAS BECOME A NATIONAL CHALLENGE, AND THE ISSUE OF COST HERE IS ESPECIALLY ACUTE.

A still-young institution with no historical endowment, Vermont Law School relies heavily on tuition while remaining committed to providing the most expensive kind of law education: one that offers small class sizes, [clinical settings](#), and on-the-ground training. As more students face or take on higher loan debt, the law school is also committed to enabling its graduates to continue to go into lower-paying public service careers. Our [merit scholarships](#) make it possible for the best and brightest to come to Vermont Law School and, afterward, go where they can do the most good. Our [Loan Repayment Assistance Program](#) offers help to graduates who work in legal services and advocacy groups, who work as public defenders or prosecutors, in nonprofits, in the nonlucrative but crucial work of serving underserved communities and saving the earth.

The pro bono publico ethic is reinforced by teaching and by example, by the special character of the students who choose to study at Vermont Law School, and by the many ways the law school practices what it preaches by serving the legal needs of a region and a state.

HOUSE CALL

Working out of the [South Royalton Legal Clinic](#), Vermont Poverty Law Fellow Katelyn Atwood JD'11 sits down with veteran Brian Barbour and his wife Amy at their home in the Champlain Islands, assisting with Brian's social security claim for injuries incurred while he was deployed. Atwood's high-touch outreach brings access to legal resources to [Vermont veterans](#) living at all income levels.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a black and white plaid button-down shirt and dark trousers, stands on a wooden dock. He has his hands on his hips and is smiling at the camera. In the background, several white boats are docked, and a multi-story building is visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

IN THE REAL WORLD

“PEOPLE SOMETIMES THINK, ‘OH, IT’S IN LITTLE SOUTH ROYALTON, VERMONT,’” says Professor Stephanie Farrior, an international expert on [human rights](#). “But from its founding, there’s been a strong consciousness at Vermont Law School about the world and the role we play in it. There’s a shared sense among students, faculty, and staff that we are part of something larger than ourselves.”

From the beginning, the desire to make a difference—locally, globally—has driven us. [LAW FOR THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD](#) is not a mere motto to market our school. It is our modus operandi. We are on the ground, around the globe, effecting change where it matters most: in human rights, [animal rights](#), [environmental law](#) and policy, [energy](#) regulation, [criminal justice](#), government, economics, and more.



LOCAL

Born in the Bahamas, Randolph “Chris” Knowles **JD’15** grew up surrounded by extreme wealth and extreme poverty. As founder and director of the Caribbean Sustainable Development Organization, he works with island governments to bring back once-thriving industries—fishing, pineapples, salt, straw-weaving—that have been displaced in recent decades by low-wage tourism. “The economics of tourism,” he says, “continues the exploitation that’s so much a part of the history here.”





**REAL
WORLD**

FAST-DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCLUDING [CHINA AND MYANMAR](#) LOOK TO US FOR CASE STUDIES AND SOUND POLICY IDEAS. Around the globe, nations grapple with a widening gap between rich and poor, conflicts intensify as growing populations compete for ever-more-constrained resources, and over everyone hangs the specter of a warming planet. Vermont Law School feels compelled to respond. As Marc Mihaly, former president and dean, has said, “Climate change models now predict catastrophic impacts by the year 2050. That span between now and 2050 represents the span of careers of the people sitting in our classrooms right now. That’s their shot, and they know it.”

“

OUR TARGET IS TO DESIGN A BLUEPRINT FOR CARBON NEUTRAL GROWTH STARTING IN 2020.”

THE SKY, THE LIMIT

An inbound jet descends into Washington’s Reagan National Airport, contributing to the aviation industry’s estimated 2 percent of total global greenhouse gas emissions. As the Federal Aviation Administration’s lead advisor on a market-based plan to reduce emissions from international aviation, Dan Williams [JD’10](#) works with experts to design recommendations related to aircraft technology, operational improvements, and alternative fuels—which he then communicates and negotiates with industry players, NGOs, and governments around the world.

WHAT SUSTAINS US

FROM THE BEGINNING, VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HAS BEEN MARKED BY A CERTAIN GO-FOR-IT OPTIMISM. That is a bright line here. Our students are taught by leading thinkers and doers who have fought on the front lines of environmental battles and won. Who have been architects of patient progress and voices for the not yet heard. The law school's [campus](#) sits in central Vermont's White River valley, but the vantage here has always held the long view, on the distant horizon of what's possible and what's sustainable. By the time our students earn their [degrees](#), they have not only gained expertise but absorbed a powerful, life-affirming message: If you want to make change that is lasting, the law is where the power is.

In our communities and our world, law is how we divide our rights and responsibilities. It's how we organize our corporations and co-ops, how we structure markets, how we create policies and regulations, how we agree

and how we resolve disagreement. Students truly interested in making an impact on the world—in the private, public, or social sector—need the tools of the law in order to know how to get things done.

Vermont Law School is nimble and perhaps uniquely positioned to train the leaders who will shape our changing world. In some cases that might be reflected in the lawyers and advocates who are crafting the new standards and systems and innovations driving a more diverse, local, sustainable food system. (VLS has one of the few [food and agriculture law and policy](#) centers and [clinics](#) in the nation.) Or in the entrepreneurs behind socially-responsible business. (VLS offers an innovative [joint-degree](#) program with the University of Vermont accelerated [Sustainable Entrepreneurship MBA](#).) Or in the local heroes fighting for affordable housing and living wages and strengthening the fabric that supports and protects us all.



FRESH

Locally crafted microbrew from Zero Gravity Craft Brewery is poured at American Flatbread in Burlington, Vermont. Both the brewery and restaurant are part of the localvore/small [food](#) movement. “This business is loaded with partnerships, each one different, and all contract-based,” says Rob Downey [JD](#)’93, a partner in both enterprises. “My legal background allows me to think on my feet. I can negotiate my own deals.”

A person wearing a teal long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans stands on the right side of the frame, partially visible. They are positioned next to a large, rectangular solar panel array that is tilted upwards. The solar panels are mounted on a metal frame and are set in a field of dry, brown leaves and mulch. In the background, there are green bushes and a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene suggests a focus on renewable energy in a natural setting.

SUSTAINS

WE HAVE REACHED A HISTORIC MOMENT. The environment has moved from an issue in society to the issue. The urgency and interest in our rapidly changing climate have created an area of the law that is so complex that it's no longer a single field: It's land use. It's pollution control. It's fisheries. It's carbon sequestration. It's energy.

If you care about the environment, energy policy is the single most important influence. In America, where 40 percent of all [carbon emissions](#) come from power plants making electricity, the disputes about these issues are settled through the legal system. Vermont Law School—with the nation's largest [environmental law](#) program, with its law-firm-within-a law-school Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic, with its extraordinarily well-connected network of alumni—has gone toe-to-toe with state and federal agencies and multinational corporations, and has shaped environmental law and policy at the highest level.

And always with the future in mind.



“

**WE'RE CONSTANTLY IMPRESSING
OUR COLLEAGUES WITH THE
AMOUNT OF ENERGY KNOWLEDGE
WE HAVE AT SUCH AN EARLY
POINT IN OUR CAREERS.”**

CLEAN PIPELINE

Recent master's graduates Heather Calderwood [MERL'14](#), Autumn Proudlove [MERL'13](#) (quoted above), and Achyut Shrestha [MERL'14](#) bring their expertise to the [North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center](#).



THE NATION'S PREMIER

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAM

FOUNDED IN 1978, THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL HOUSES THE LARGEST GRADUATE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY, and is consistently ranked among the nation's best by U.S. News & World Report. The multidisciplinary program positions graduates to take lead roles in solving the world's most complex and significant environmental problems, from land use to water law to the interconnected problems of climate change. We have planted a flag here for a simple reason: Because you can't solve the world's problems without educating the world's problem-solvers.

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Established in 2012, CAFS provides support, research, and leadership for community-based agricultural systems, sustainable agriculture advocates, agencies, food hubs, incubators, and farmers. The center has become a national resource for the tools and policies that will create a just food system that is good for people and good for the planet.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW CLINIC

The Food and Agriculture Clinic equips students with practical skills to be sustainable food and agriculture advocates and entrepreneurs. Only a handful of law clinics nation-wide are exclusively dedicated to food and agriculture. Vermont Law School's is the only law clinic in the country to practice and teach food systems advocacy and social entrepreneurship as combined disciplines.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CLINIC

Since 2003, the ENRLC has provided a hands-on, structured, supportive learning experience in which students develop real-world skills in environmental litigation, administrative processes, and client counseling. From dirty coal to nuclear safety, some of our victories have been game-changing.

ENVIRONMENTAL TAX POLICY INSTITUTE

By analyzing the ways in which taxation can be used to address environmental problems, the institute seeks to better inform the public policy debate about the role of environmental taxes at the local, state, and federal levels.

INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The IEE has become a national and world resource on energy law and policy with an advanced curriculum in energy and regulatory law. Students learn how to use the law to shape policies that encourage energy efficiency, advance renewable energy, and promote energy security and justice.

ENERGY CLINIC

The first full academic year energy clinic in the U.S., the VLS Energy Clinic focuses on solar power development in the context of justice and the environment. With particular emphasis on the legal models that advance community solar ownership, the clinic provides opportunities for JD, LLM, and Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) students to progressively develop the knowledge, skills, and values integral to the practice of energy law and policy, while helping our clients meet local energy needs with reliable, clean and affordable resources.

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

Environmental issues are global issues, and Vermont Law School offers a curriculum of more than a dozen international environmental courses, enhanced by study opportunities through partnerships with leading foreign universities.

U.S.-ASIA PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Founded in 2006, U.S.-Asia PEL seeks to strengthen environmental laws in China and Southeast Asia by building capacity among individuals and academic, government, and private-sector institutions to solve pollution and energy problems.

WATER AND JUSTICE PROGRAM

This program seeks to advance the idea that water is a public, common-pool resource, and uses water law, environmental justice, and policy initiatives to further this aim. Student research associates contribute to reports, conference presentations, legal analyses, and articles.

SUMMER SESSION

The Environmental Law Center brings together teachers, students, and distinguished thought leaders in a world-renowned, intensive summer study of environmental law and policy.

VERMONT JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

In addition to publishing quarterly issues, student-run VJEL hosts an annual symposium, reaches national audiences through its Top 10 Environmental Watch List, and brings commentary on environmental legal issues to non-lawyers via its colloquial EcoPerspectives Blog.

DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES

CENTER FOR JUSTICE REFORM

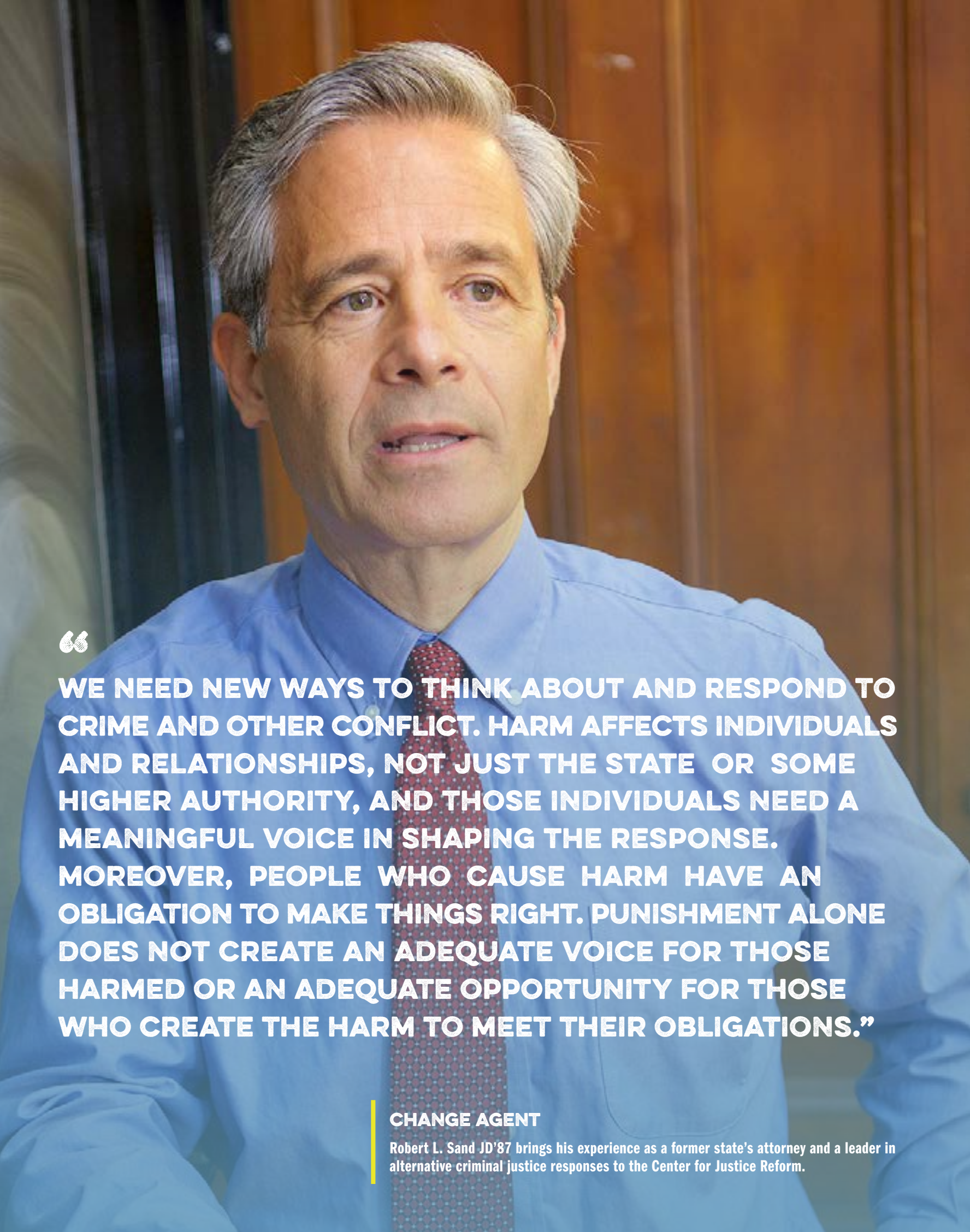
ESTABLISHED IN 2017, THE [CENTER FOR JUSTICE REFORM](#) AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL ADDRESSES DEFICIENCIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM and other responses to conflict by providing a statewide, regional, national, and international educational and training platform for justice reform efforts including restorative justice. The center trains law and graduate students, community members, criminal justice professionals, educators, child protection workers, and policymakers in the value of restorative and innovative criminal justice programs.

WHY REFORM?

The current criminal justice system is financially and ethically untenable. Plagued by the unsustainable cost of incarceration, high recidivism rates, the devastating impact on children of incarcerated parents, the burden and collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, a “school to prison” pipeline borne of excessively harsh academic disciplinary measures, and racial, economic, and geographic inequalities, our communities need alternatives to traditional punitive models.

The Center for Justice Reform is uniquely positioned to address deficiencies in our justice systems and to train the next generation of justice leaders. With residential and online education programs including a Master of Arts in Restorative Justice ([MARJ](#)), joint [JD/MARJ](#), a [Professional Certification in Restorative Justice](#), and experiential learning opportunities, students gain the skills necessary to become agents for change within the justice system.





“
WE NEED NEW WAYS TO THINK ABOUT AND RESPOND TO CRIME AND OTHER CONFLICT. HARM AFFECTS INDIVIDUALS AND RELATIONSHIPS, NOT JUST THE STATE OR SOME HIGHER AUTHORITY, AND THOSE INDIVIDUALS NEED A MEANINGFUL VOICE IN SHAPING THE RESPONSE. MOREOVER, PEOPLE WHO CAUSE HARM HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT. PUNISHMENT ALONE DOES NOT CREATE AN ADEQUATE VOICE FOR THOSE HARMED OR AN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO CREATE THE HARM TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS.”

CHANGE AGENT

Robert L. Sand JD'87 brings his experience as a former state's attorney and a leader in alternative criminal justice responses to the Center for Justice Reform.



CLINICS AND EXTERNSHIPS

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

In our law [clinics and externships](#), you may have the chance to work with incarcerated women in Vermont or help block construction of a low-sulphur, high-sodium [coal mine](#) in southwestern Montana. You may help set national governance standards for farmers' markets or spend a semester working at an NGO in Washington, D.C., or question a witness on the stand or confer with a state Supreme Court judge in chambers. Students in our [Energy Clinic](#)—to pick just one example—may learn in the classroom the theory behind community solar projects, then have the opportunity to develop the legal structures for an actual project, then help install the solar array on the ground.

The clinical and externship setting, unlike anything else, gives students a chance to be creative, to take risks, to work on real cases with real consequences. That changes the way they think. It changes their skill set. It changes what they want to do with their lives. It teaches fundamental legal skills. It shows how lawyers, judges, and mediators integrate theory and skill, in real time, in the presence of the pressures and sometimes the chaos that they encounter in everyday practice.

Even while you're a student: You can make a difference in the lives of real people.



CLINICS

SOUTH ROYALTON LEGAL CLINIC
ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CLINIC
ENERGY CLINIC
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE CLINIC
LEGISLATIVE CLINIC

GENERAL PRACTICE PROGRAM

Second- and third-year JD students can learn by solving problems—just as practicing lawyers do on a daily basis. Meshing substantive law with professional training, the hands-on General Practice Program encourages creativity, collaboration, and self-reliance while providing a setting for participants to experiment with legal solutions. Through small classes taught by real-world practitioners, students learn to frame and address problems from different perspectives and design and implement a wide range of strategies.

EXTERNSHIPS

FULL-TIME JD EXTERNSHIPS (SEMESTER-IN-PRACTICE)
JUDICIAL EXTERNSHIPS
PART-TIME JD EXTERNSHIPS
MASTER'S EXTERNSHIPS

Vermont Law School offers externships for [JD](#), [master's](#), [LLM](#) and [joint-degree](#) students. Students can enroll in either full- or part-time programs that place them in a variety of legal and judicial settings. In recent years, our students have received placements in private firms; corporate legal departments; criminal law offices; city and state governments; in international law, immigration law, and energy law; in courts of appeals, U.S. District Courts, and state Supreme Courts; in local, state, and federal agencies; and in nonprofits of all sizes. Our placement process is student-driven and geographically unrestricted. On a daily basis, our office explores new and exciting opportunities for students—in interesting places, with mentors who use the power of the law to make a difference.

DEGREES AND PROGRAMS

The nation's premier environmental law school, VLS offers a juris doctor (JD), three master's degrees, and four master of laws (LLM) degrees—all created to produce leaders who want to change the world. We also offer flexible, online options for students.

JURIS DOCTOR (JD)

JURIS DOCTOR (3 YEARS)

The core JD curriculum focuses on legal doctrine and analysis, emphasizes the broader social context of the law, and provides education in the skills and values needed for effective law practice. Our flexible JD program offers an opportunity both for concentration in a particular area of the law and for a broad preparation suited to general practice in all 50 states.

JD students can participate in a wide range of clinics and externships, along with additional experiential and specialized learning opportunities that include the following:

- Environmental Law Center
- Center for Agriculture and Food Systems
- Center for Applied Human Rights
- Center for Justice Reform
- Center for Legal Innovation
- International and Comparative Law Program
- Environmental Tax Policy Institute
- Institute for Energy and the Environment
- Sports Law Institute
- Legal Writing Program
- U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law
- Dispute Resolution Program
- General Practice Program
- Water and Justice Program

ACCELERATED JURIS DOCTOR (2 YEARS)

The Accelerated Juris Doctor program at Vermont Law School enables highly motivated students to earn a JD degree in less time and to reduce costs associated with living expenses while enrolled. VLS offers two accelerated start options, the Summer Start AJD Honors program and the Fall Start AJD program.

The Summer Start AJD Honors program guarantees admitted students a one-year tuition scholarship plus eligibility for additional merit- and need-based funding. Summer Start offers the opportunity to study and experience Vermont in a small group before joining first-year JD students in the fall and taking upper-level classes. Further, AJD students who begin in the summer are prepared to sit for the bar in July and return to work a full year ahead of their traditional JD-track peers.

AJD students who start in the fall complete their coursework in August of the second year and can sit for the bar the following winter. Students admitted into the Fall Start AJD program must meet a GPA requirement to continue in the AJD program. Students who do not meet the GPA requirement will continue with the traditional program.

As an AJD student, whether Summer Start AJD Honors or Fall Start AJD, you'll have full access to Vermont Law School's curriculum, clinical programs, and experiential opportunities while completing your law degree in two years. Even within the condensed schedule, you'll have time to participate in all student groups and be eligible to work on the Vermont Law Review or the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law.

REDUCED-RESIDENCY JURIS DOCTOR

Committed to providing students with flexible options, Vermont Law School offers a Reduced-Residency Juris Doctor (RRJD) program that enables students to earn a portion of credits toward their JD online. Qualified RRJD students spend 18 months on campus before completing the remainder of their degree requirements off campus through a combination of a Semester-in-Practice (SiP) externship and upper-level, online JD courses.



CAMPUS PLAYGROUND: OUR 4,100-SQUARE-FOOT FITNESS CENTER INCLUDES A DANCE AND YOGA STUDIO, AS WELL AS A FULLY EQUIPPED EXERCISE ROOM INCLUDING NEW TREADMILLS, ELLIPTICALS, AND BIKES FOR SPINNING.

MASTER'S DEGREES

A master's degree from Vermont Law School is different. Instead of studying theories about how to change policy, our master's candidates learn the law and how to use it to effect change. By studying advocacy, regulations, legislation, and markets, they acquire the tools to create a more sustainable world. All of our master's degrees can be pursued jointly with our JD program and online.

MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY (MELP)

Our MELP program is focused on the policy, scientific, and communications aspects of environmental law, with an added emphasis on economics and advocacy. Our innovative curriculum is comprised of traditional law offerings and MELP-specific courses in writing and advocacy designed to benefit graduates in the public and private sectors. Flexible options allow candidates to complete the program in as little as 12 months. Experiential learning opportunities with state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and advocacy groups ensure that MELP graduates are prepared for real-world situations the first day on the job.

MASTER OF ENERGY REGULATION AND LAW (MERL)

The MERL degree provides students with practical training in public advocacy and writing for a legal and policy audience, opportunities for independent research with support from faculty, and externships at organizations around the country and the world. Designed to be completed in as little as 12 months, the MERL provides students with a broad-based understanding of the intersection of energy and law, regulation, policy, and economic analysis.

MASTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW AND POLICY (MFALP)

With an array of residential and online courses, and clinical training in one of the nation's first food and agriculture clinics, the Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) offerings reflect a powerful marriage of agriculture policy, food safety, and environmental law. Most students complete the 30-credit MFALP in 12 months.

MASTER OF ARTS IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (MARJ)

The 30-credit MARJ degree program is for students who want to address deficiencies in our justice system. Designed by the faculty of the Center for Justice Reform, the unique curriculum combines traditional law school courses with restorative justice courses created specifically for the MARJ degree. Graduates will be prepared to become leaders and advocates in the field of restorative justice at a regional, national, and international level. Experiential learning opportunities, including simulations and field placements, expose students to actual cases and controversies handled through a restorative response. Students may complete the MARJ program in as little as 12 months.

LLM DEGREES

Like the master's degrees, the LLMs require one year of study and can be pursued part-time. These programs require applicants to have a JD degree, and are geared toward students interested in pursuing specialized careers in environmental and energy law or higher education. All of the LLM degrees can be taken online, except for the LLM in American Legal Studies.

LLM IN AMERICAN LEGAL STUDIES

The Master of Laws in American Legal Studies is designed for students who hold a law degree from an institution outside the United States. As one of the few American Legal Studies degree programs that includes all of the course requirements to be eligible for the New York and Washington, D.C., bar exams, the LLM prepares foreign-trained lawyers to practice in important cities in the United States.

LLM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The LLM in Environmental Law is a 30-credit degree program whose cornerstone course is the Graduate Seminar, in which guest speakers lead discussions on a variety of current environmental issues. Many LLM students will choose to complete an externship, research project, a teaching practicum, or a thesis based upon their professional goals. The curriculum also offers a number of experiential learning opportunities with state and federal agencies, advocacy groups, and international organizations.

LLM IN ENERGY LAW

The LLM in Energy Law degree program is designed for students who wish to pursue intensive study and training in the field of energy law and policy. New demands for energy conservation and the rise of alternative energy technologies, along with the serious environmental problems associated with traditional power generation, are creating a host of new law and policy challenges for energy companies, private law firms, regulators, and legislators. Students graduating with the LLM in Energy Law from Vermont Law School will have the expertise to perform the sophisticated legal work needed to address these challenges.

LLM IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE LAW

Our LLM degree in Food and Agriculture Law—for students with their JD training already behind them—promises to provide training that will lead to creative new policies and legal tools, new standards and regulations, new markets, and new innovations that will allow a more diverse, local, and sustainable food system to take root and flourish.

#VLS100

THINGS TO DO IN VERMONT BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

1. Tube the White River.
2. Hike Kent's Ledge.
3. Cheer on the rugby- and hockey-playing #FightingSwans.
4. Play rugby or hockey with the #FightingSwans.
5. Share a beer at Brocklebank Craft Brewery.
6. Laze away the afternoon (or study) in a hammock on the library quad.
7. Experience mud-season spring in Vermont.
8. Cross-country ski to class.
9. Bake with King Arthur Flour in Norwich.
10. Fish the White River.
11. Study while sunning on a rock in the White River.
12. Consume Cockadoodle Pizza (gluten-free is delicious, too) in Bethel.
13. Bike country roads to campus.
14. Share a big breakfast at Chelsea Station.
15. Perform in **GAYLA!**
16. Watch your professors perform in **GAYLA!**
17. Contra dance with Dean Jefferson during Orientation.
18. Head to Montreal for a weekend.
19. Watch pigs race at the Tunbridge World's Fair.
20. Catch a show at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington.
21. Listen to live music at Skunk Hollow in Hartland.
22. Pay your respects at the Flavor Graveyard (and eat some cream) at Ben & Jerry's HQ in Waterbury.
23. Climb Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak.
24. Kayak, canoe, or sail on Lake Champlain.
25. Visit the grave of Robert Frost in Bennington.
26. Cheer on the Lake Monsters, Vermont's minor league baseball team.
27. Share a beer flight at Zero Gravity in Burlington.
28. Lose yourself in the Great Vermont Corn Maze in Danville.
29. Hike Camel's Hump.
30. Eat Cabot Cheese.
31. Eat Grafton Village Cheese.
32. Eat all the cheese.
33. Ski the Beast of the East (Killington).
34. Snowboard the Beast of the East.
35. Mountain-bike the Beast of the East.
36. Camp on Burton Island in St. Albans Bay.
37. Take in the art at St. Johnsbury Athenaeum.
38. Tube the Mad River.
39. Have a pint and some pork at Prohibition Pig in Waterbury.
40. Enjoy a meal at James Beard Award-winning Hen of the Wood in Waterbury.
41. Make ice cream and take a stroll at Billings Farm & Museum in Woodstock.
42. Find hard-to-find Heady Topper at The Alchemist in Waterbury.
43. Explore the von Trapp family's Green Mountain home in Stowe. The hills are alive ...
44. Family and friends visiting? Take them to Cold Hollow Cider Mill in Waterbury for—you guessed it—cider. And donuts.
45. Run, or walk, in the Veterans Law Student Association Sept. 11 Memorial 5K.
46. Partake of Piecemeal Pies in White River Junction. Because, pie.
47. Hike Quechee Gorge.
48. Celebrate food, farming, and community at Feast & Field in Barnard.
49. Shop the Church Street Marketplace in Burlington.
50. Cycle the Burlington Bike Path.



1

Tube the White River.



97 Become a regular at Worthy Burger, Crossroads Bar & Grill, or 5 Olde.



62 Kayak the Connecticut River with guides from Great River Outfitters in Windsor.



33 Ski the Beast of the East (Killington).

- 51. See a performance at the Paramount Theater in Rutland.
- 52. Hear the call of the wild at VINS Nature Center in Quechee.
- 53. Ski and board at Okemo.
- 54. Cruise the alpine slides at Bromley.
- 55. Need nightlife? Check out Nectar's/Club Metronome in Burlington, Higher Ground in South Burlington, and The Monkey House in Winooski.
- 56. Hike, snowshoe, bike, or picnic along the Stowe Recreation Path.
- 57. Spend a day at Waterfront Park in Burlington.
- 58. Visit Hildene, the historic Lincoln family home, in Manchester.
- 59. Explore Montpecculiar Montpelier, the smallest state capital in the U.S.
- 60. Visit a maple sugar house to see how the good stuff is made.
- 61. Tour the Vermont State House.
- 62. Kayak the Connecticut River with guides from Great River Outfitters in Windsor.
- 63. Break out your lederhosen for Harpoon Oktoberfest in Windsor.
- 64. Load up your Instagram feed with historic covered bridge pics (there are more than 100 covered bridges in Vermont).
- 65. Mad about science? Visit the Montshire Museum in Norwich.
- 66. Host a potluck, farm-to-table cookout at your house.
- 67. Frolic at a festival—Vermont communities celebrate everything from bacon to boats to hot air balloons.
- 68. Visit the Calvin Coolidge Homestead in Plymouth, and don't forget to pop in to Plymouth Artisan Cheese.
- 69. Go fat-tire biking in the snow.
- 70. Catch a performance at Northern Stage in White River Junction.
- 71. Experience 18th Century frontier life at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington.
- 72. Need a weekend away? Take affordable Dartmouth Coach to Boston or New York City.
- 73. Join a student group. There are many community service, governance, affinity, special interest and advocacy, extra- and co-curricular, and sports and recreation organizations on campus.
- 74. Start a new student group at VLS.
- 75. Meet Vermont artists at The Front, a cooperative gallery in Montpelier.
- 76. Take a class at Studio Place Arts in Barre.
- 77. Join the community arts scene at Artistree in South Pomfret.
- 78. Swim, paddleboat, kayak, picnic and camp at nearby Silver Lake.
- 79. Practice yoga on the banks of the White River.
- 80. Go on a dogsledding adventure with Braeburn Siberians in Windsor.
- 81. Join a local softball team.
- 82. Visit all 255 communities in Vermont—that's 237 towns, nine cities, five unincorporated towns, and four gores.
- 83. Love to dance? Join the Vermont Dance Alliance.
- 84. Experience a downhome Fourth of July in downtown Randolph.
- 85. Have a pooch? Take him or her to Dog Mountain in Saint Johnsbury.
- 86. Take a (short) hike up to Moss Glen Falls in Stowe.
- 87. Find your new favorite swimming hole.
- 88. Prefer doing your swimming indoors? Join the Upper Valley Aquatic Center.
- 89. Throw some clay on the wheel at Tip Top Pottery in White River Junction.
- 90. Hike/climb the trails of Smugglers' Notch State Park in Stowe.
- 91. Hungry for dinner and craft cocktails? Try Elixir in downtown White River Junction.
- 92. Check out the scene in nearby Hanover, N.H., home to Dartmouth.
- 93. See a glassblowing demonstration at Simon Pearce in Quechee.
- 94. Snowshoe in the moonlight.
- 95. Shop vintage finds at Revolution in White River Junction, then grab a Turkish lunch, or tasty coffee, at Tuckerbox.
- 96. Take a yoga or spinning class in the fitness center at VLS.
- 97. Become a regular at Worthy Burger, Crossroads Bar & Grill, or 5 Olde.
- 98. Give back to the community. Volunteer. Mentor a local child, clean up during Green Up Days, organize a benefit.
- 99. Get to know your neighbors at a community chicken dinner or spaghetti supper.
- 100. Attend Town Meeting Day, a Vermont tradition.



13 Bicycle country roads to campus.



17 Contra dance with Dean Jefferson during Orientation.



45 Run, or walk, in the Veterans Law Student Association Sept. 11 Memorial 5K.



**WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING
A GENERATION OF LEADERS WHO USE
THE POWER OF THE LAW TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES
AND THE WORLD.**

**BECAUSE THE STATUS QUO IS
NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE.**



WE ARE COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING A GENERATION OF WHO USE THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD. CAUSE THE



THE POWER OF THE LAW



TAKE OUR VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR



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