

2015

Virginia Coastal Policy Center Brochure

William & Mary Law School

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"The region and entire Commonwealth is fortunate to have such a renowned resource as William and Mary Law School's Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic. Through our work with the Secure Commonwealth Panel, it has been my pleasure to experience firsthand the professional, beneficial and timely products they are able to provide. I look forward to continuing a fruitful partnership with Clinic well into the future."

-Jim Redick, Norfolk Emergency Preparedness and Response, Director

"Nansemond River Preservation Alliance's members are active in the community educating citizens to be environmental stewards. Members access the internet for information and guidance and discovered that most of the available information is very basic, lacks an in-depth critical analysis and seldom includes a legal perspective. VCPC Fellows conduct extensive research on issues and topics that are very important to the preservation of our waterways. The Clinic's research and findings contribute to the environmental discussion and fill a void."

-Elizabeth Taraski, Nansemond River Preservation Alliance, Executive Director

"VCPC was really a capstone for my whole - not just legal - education. The clinic was a chance to learn about the latest science, the policy process, media relations, and more, and then apply these lessons in a local legal context. With the very issues we worked on appearing in the news frequently, I expect my time at the clinic to continue opening interesting doors throughout my career."

-Alex Horning '13

"Working at the grassroots, local government level, we value the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic's work. It moves Virginia's adaptation efforts ahead by providing high quality, Virginia-specific legal analysis needed to solve the challenges Virginia's communities face in the coming years and decades as we deal with the impacts of sea level rise."

-Skip Stiles, Wetlands Watch, Executive Director

CONTACT US

We look forward to continuing to work with diverse partners and audiences across the Commonwealth. We are the nation's oldest law school working on the most contemporary of issues. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you.

CLINIC DESCRIPTION

The Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic (VCPC) at the College of William & Mary Law School provides science-based legal and policy analysis of ecological issues affecting the state's coastal resources, providing education and advice to a host of Virginia's decision-makers, from government officials and legal scholars to non-profit and business leaders.

With two nationally prominent science partners - the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, one of the largest marine research and education centers in the United States, and Virginia Sea Grant, a nationally recognized broker of scientific information - VCPC works with scientists, local and state political figures, community leaders, the military, and others to integrate the latest science with legal and policy analysis to solve coastal resource management issues. VCPC activities are inherently interdisciplinary, drawing on scientific, economic, public policy, sociological, and other expertise from within the College and across the country. With access to internationally recognized scientists at VIMS, to Sea Grant's national network of legal and science scholars, and to elected and appointed officials across the nation, VCPC engages in a host of information exchanges and collaborative partnerships.

VCPC grounds its pedagogical goals in the law school's philosophy of the citizen lawyer. VCPC students' highly diverse interactions beyond the borders of the legal community provide the framework for their efforts in solving the complex coastal resource management issues that currently face Virginia and the nation. Whether it is working to understand the underlying realities of local zoning policies or attempting to identify and reconcile the concerns of multiple stakeholders, VCPC students experience the breadth of environmental lawyering while gaining skills that will serve them well regardless of the legal career they pursue upon graduation.

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VIRGINIA COASTAL POLICY CLINIC



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2015 INFORMATION

A (SHORT) HISTORY OF SUCCESS

Through its short but dynamic history - William and Mary created the clinic in 2012 - the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic has placed itself at the center of the struggles and challenges facing Virginia and its coastal communities. And in so doing, it has established itself as a legitimate and respected resource for researching and solving these complex problems.

"The Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission (MPPDC) exists to serve the needs of the 9 member localities forming the Commission and as such is often asked to study and research complicated public policy problems and emerging coastal zone management issues. MPPDC staff relies on VCPC to help analyze complex environmental policy and land use issues. VCPC has provided the MPPDC with new opportunities to collaborate and as a result has helped to guide and improve decision making at the local and regional level."

-Lewis Lawrence, Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission, Executive Director

VCPC WHITE PAPERS

To date, VCPC has published a number of papers focusing on the problems and solutions challenging local government efforts to adapt to sea level rise. The number of VCPC papers continues to grow as the clinic continues to provide integrated policy analysis and legal advice. Among the published papers to date are those focusing on topics such as the use of zoning tools to respond to sea level rise, takings debates surrounding recurrent flooding, and the implementation of Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. Go to "VCPC Reports" at law.wm.edu/vacoastal to read more.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

VCPC is committed to sharing its experience, its knowledge, and its findings with not only decision makers, lawyers, and scientists, but also with the public-at-large. With a primary focus on climate change, its impacts, and the need for adaptation now, VCPC reaches out to all who will listen. Outreach efforts have included interviews and op eds in Hampton Roads media outlets and partnering efforts with organizations like Old Dominion University and the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission on issues regarding flood insurance and Chesapeake Bay restoration. Contact us at PO Box 8795, Williamsburg VA 23187 or at 757-221-7444 for any assistance we may be able to provide you.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND GATHERINGS

VCPC serves as a center for dialogue and deliberation on Virginia's attempt to respond to the inevitable impacts of climate change and sea level rise. VCPC hosts an annual conference in the fall and co-hosts an annual conference in the winter/spring with William & Mary Law School's Environmental Law and Policy Review Journal. The 2014 annual conference included hosting the Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission established by Governor Terry McAuliffe with the Honorable US Senator Tim Kaine participating as the keynote speaker. Visit VCPC's website (law.wm.edu/vacoastal) or Facebook page (facebook.com/VirginiaCoastalPolicyClinic) for dates and details of upcoming events.

PARTNERS

From academia to nonprofit and community groups, to local government agencies to prominent funders, VCPC links leaders and organizations in efforts to effect positive change in the Hampton Roads community, across coastal Virginia, and beyond.

- Blue Moon Fund
- Center for Coastal Resources Management
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Elizabeth River Crossings
- Greehan, Taves, Pandak & Stoner
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission
- Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment Inc.
- Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
- Nansemond River Preservation Alliance
- National Science Foundation
- North Carolina Sea Grant
- Old Dominion University Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute (MARI)
- The Commonwealth of Virginia
- University of North Carolina
- Virginia Coastal Coalition
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Virginia Environmental Endowment
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- Virginia Joint Legislative Study on Recurrent Flooding
- Virginia Planning Association
- Virginia Sea Grant
- Virginia Secure Commonwealth Panel's Sub-Panel on Recurrent Flooding
- W&M Center for Energy and the Environment
- W&M Environmental Law & Policy Review Journal
- W&M Public Policy School
- W&M Student Environmental & Animal Law Society
- Wetlands Watch
- World Resources Institute