

William & Mary Law School

## William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository

---

Virginia Coastal Policy Center

Law School Clinics and Centers

---

12-2020

### Newsletter (December 2020)

Virginia Coastal Policy Center, William & Mary Law School

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/vcpclinic>

---

Copyright c 2020 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.

<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/vcpclinic>



WILLIAM & MARY  
LAW SCHOOL

VIRGINIA COASTAL  
POLICY CENTER

## Announcements

### ***Happy Holidays***

We want to wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. We look forward to more classes full of inspiring students, more fascinating projects, and fewer stressful events in 2021! Many of us are happy to see 2020 behind us. **This odd year brought some significant changes to VCPC:**

### ***Our First All-Virtual Semester***

Fall Semester was VCPC's first semester with all classes taught completely online; the spring semester was converted to online mid-semester. It also was the first time that we conducted two sections of our Practicum I class, which included two students from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Although we missed being able to take students on field excursions, everyone was flexible and resilient and made the best of the situation. Spring 2021 classes will be virtual as well, and for the first time, the Practicum I class is being cross-listed at VIMS. VCPC is truly the intersection of law, science and policy!

### ***Online Webinars***

Instead of its annual in-person fall conference, VCPC held a series of online webinars on the third Wednesday of the month for September, October and November. The Fall Webinar Series concluded on November 18th with the webinar ***Liability in the Face of a Changing Climate***. This webinar, which VCPC co-hosted with the Virginia State Bar, addressed the potential liability issues state governments, local governments and the private sector face when adapting to climate change. The recording is available for watching online along with the two previous webinars [here](#).

### ***Online Meeting Facilitation***

In addition to classes and our annual conference, we needed to rethink how we conduct meetings and assure meaningful participant input in the middle of the pandemic. We were excited to facilitate online meetings of a regulatory stakeholders group, implementation teams from Northern Neck localities participating in the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) project, and the Virginia Tribes. This year proved to us once again how many people are truly committed to helping to advance Virginia's policies affecting its coastal communities—even when it means sitting through Zoom meetings, quieting the barking dogs and kids in the background, and having to remember to unmute our microphones! The year 2020 was very difficult in many ways, but it also reminded us of what is truly important and what is not.

### ***Farewell to Angela King***

It is with mixed feelings we announce that our Assistant Director, Angela King, is transitioning to an assistant attorney position with Hampton City Attorney's Office this month. It is an exciting new adventure for her, and we welcome

having such a wonderful partner in Hampton. She has been an essential part of our VCPC team for four and a half years and we will miss her greatly. We wish her all the best!

## We're Hiring!

### ***Assistant Director Position***

We are currently accepting applications for the position of Assistant Director with VCPC. The Assistant Director will work under the supervision of the Director and will have responsibilities in these core areas:

- Assist in developing a docket of legal and policy analysis projects;
- Assist with student supervision and with practicum teaching;
- Work on the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) and other grant projects;
- Help to plan the annual VCPC conference and other special events; and
- Assist with obtaining new funders, writing and tracking grants, and building relationships with partner organizations. For more information and to apply click [here](#).

## Fall Practicum Project Spotlight

### ***RAFT Project***

This Fall, two VCPC student teams focused on implementing the Resilience Adaptation Feasibility Tool (RAFT) efforts in Virginia. One team worked with a locality in the Northern Neck to develop zoning ordinance language for its downtown district to increase its resilience. The other team looked at current comprehensive plans to identify how a locality could incorporate resilience into their plan. For more information about the RAFT, visit the [RAFT website](#).



"It was great working closely with a small locality in its efforts to create a more resilient community. I learned so much about the work local governments do to protect their communities, how increases in population can strain local infrastructure, and how regional efforts can bring localities together to plan for the future by preparing for potential hazards like sea-level rise." - Mark Garrett, J.D. Candidate 2021

### ***Right-to-farm Project***

Additionally, a student team featuring a law student and a Virginia Institute of Marine Science doctoral student worked on a project that applied a right-to-farm framework to Virginia's aquaculture industry. This project culminated in a report posted on the VCPC Reports webpage, a link to which is provided below.

"It was interesting learning about Right-to-farm laws nationally and within Virginia. Speaking with various



stakeholders gave me an entirely new perspective on the challenges that face marine and terrestrial agricultural operations as the respective industries continue to grow.” - Andrew Corso, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, PhD Candidate

## Recently Posted VCPC Reports

### [Building Towards a Resilient Virginia: Using C-PACE Financing to Improve the Resiliency of Commercial Buildings](#)

by Jessica Kraus, William & Mary Law School, J.D. Candidate 2021; and Cesare Piermarini, William & Mary Law School, J.D. Candidate 2021

### [Law on the Half Shell: Applying a Right-to-Farm Framework to Virginia’s Aquaculture Industry](#)

by Matt Woodward, William & Mary Law School, J.D. Candidate, 2021; and Andrew Corso, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, PhD Candidate

