

ELC Associates Program Fact Sheet

What is the Environmental Law Centre Associates Program?

The Environmental Law Centre (ELC) Associates Program commenced in the Fall of 2007 at the University of Victoria with funding from the Law Foundation of BC. The purpose of the Program is to enhance the capacity of the public interest environmental law Bar in BC, while enriching learning opportunities for ELC students, through a unique collaboration between the Bar and the ELC Clinic. Since 2007, the ELC has coordinated Program activities for four cohorts of ELC Associates. We are currently recruiting Associates for Cohort 5.

Who can be an Environmental Law Centre Associate?

Any lawyer practicing in BC with an interest in public interest environmental law. Each cohort of ELC Associates will be selected based on a variety of factors including demonstrated interest and/or expertise in public interest environmental law; mentor role potential; geographic distribution; and diversity/length of experience.

ELC Associates – Cohort 1 (2007-2009)

- Bill Andrews (North Vancouver)
- Alyssa Bradley (Young Anderson, Vancouver)
- Wally Braul (Gowling Lafleur Henderson, formerly Fraser Milner Casgrain, Vancouver)
- Jo-Anna Cowan (Winlaw)
- Stacey Edzerza Fox (Morgan & Associates, West Vancouver)
- Mark Haddock (Langley)
- Jennifer Millbank (Ramsay Lampman Rhodes, Nanaimo)
- Richard Overstall (Buri Overstall, Smithers)
- John Rich (Ratcliff & Company, North Vancouver)
- Krista Robertson (JFK Law, Victoria)
- Stuart Rush, Q.C. (Rush Crane Guenther, Vancouver)

ELC Associates – Cohort 2 (2009-2011)

- Mitchell Couling (Woodward & Company, Victoria)
- Michelle Ellison (Ratcliff & Company, Vancouver)
- Robin Gage (Underhill Gage, Victoria)
- Judah Harrison (Ecojustice, Vancouver)
- Sean Nixon (Ecojustice, Victoria)
- Linda Nowlan (West Coast Environmental Law, formerly World Wildlife Fund Canada)
- Jennifer Griffith (Donovan & Company, Vancouver)

ELC Associates – Cohort 3 (2011-2013)

- Scott Bernstein (formerly Red Cedar Law, Vancouver)
- Susan Blanchet (Ministry of Attorney General, Victoria)

- Oliver Brandes (POLIS Project, Victoria)
- Karen Campbell (Ecojustice, Vancouver)
- Jason Gratl (Gratl Purtzki, Vancouver)
- Patricia Lane (Victoria)
- Drew Mildon (Woodward & Company, Victoria)
- Josh Paterson (BC Civil Liberties Association, formerly of West Coast Environmental Law)
- John Pennington (Forest Practices Board, Victoria)
- Melinda Skeels (Ratliff & Company, Vancouver)
- Tim Theilmann (Devlin Gailus Westaway, Victoria)
- Amber van Drielen (Golden)

ELC Associates – Cohort 4 (2013-2015)

- Lani Gibson (Kitimat)
- Patrick Canning (Victoria, formerly Tofino)
- Brenda Gaertner (Mandell Pinder, Vancouver)
- Reidar Mogerman (Camp Fiorante Matthews Mogerman, Vancouver)
- Anna Johnston (West Coast Environmental Law, Victoria)
- Ethan Krindle (Victoria)
- Marie Potvin (Kamloops)
- Barry Robinson (Ecojustice, Calgary)
- Eric Regehr (Hart Legal, Victoria)
- James Tate (Ratcliff & Company, Vancouver)
- Maya Stano (Gowling Lafleur Henderson, Vancouver)

These lawyers have been called to the Bar from three to 45 years. Many of the lawyers from previous cohorts have chosen to remain involved with the Associates Program and still participate in the continuing legal education (CLE)-type activities that the Program offers.

What are the expectations of Environmental Law Centre Associates?

ELC Associates may provide mentoring and advice, as appropriate, to Clinic students working on cases or projects within their area of expertise and/or in their geographic region. With approval of the ELC Board, Associates may also be able to secure student assistance for public interest environmental cases. Associates will stay abreast of developments in public interest environmental law through teleconferences hosted by the ELC and through networking with other Associates. These teleconferences are approved Continuing Professional Development Credits by The Law Society of BC. Some of the topics covered in teleconferences include:

- Climate change litigation;
- Community enforcement of environmental laws;
- Deregulation and environmental professionals;
- Environmental class actions;
- Green development;
- International law, the Pacific Salmon Treaty and aboriginal rights;
- Review of *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*;
- Water sustainability;
- Judicial review;
- New developments in protecting species at risk;
- Precautionary Principle in Canada;
- Reliance on Registered Professionals; and
- Charter challenge for environmental health.

Associates usually participate in an initial meeting in order to meet one another and have the opportunity to exchange information in person. This meeting will occur in January 2016.

Associates may also participate in at a continuing legal education (CLE)-style conference open to the Bar at large. Cohort 1 participated in the first public interest environmental law CLE, hosted by The CLE Society of BC on September 19, 2008. In February 2011, Cohort 2 met as a group for an informal dinner and then participated in the first ever National CLE on public interest environmental law, which was funded by the Law Foundation of BC and organized in partnership with Ecojustice, West Coast Environmental Law and the ELC. The two-day Renewing Environmental Law conference was well attended, and organizers increased the venue capacity several times before having to turn away interested lawyers. Cohort 3 met in-person in Vancouver for an informal dinner on October 21, 2011. In March 2013, Associates attended a two-day workshop/conference hosted by the ELC at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops. The conference included a field-based component to heighten participant understanding of “on-the-ground” issues, such as brownfields remediation and a mine proposal.

What are the benefits of participating in the Program?

- Staying current with emerging environmental law practice issues;
- Networking with other lawyers engaged in public interest environmental law;
- Receiving advice from knowledgeable colleagues;
- Obtaining student assistance on ongoing public interest environmental cases or files;
- Working with highly motivated students that share similar practice-area interests; and
- Building the capacity of the public interest environmental bar in BC.

What do former Associates say about the Program?

- *I have gone back to the CLE materials and teleconference backgrounders for information when faced with a client issue. They are a helpful starting point in my practice.*
- *The background materials for the teleconferences were concise, to the point, and directed the discussion very well. Even for areas in which I have no knowledge, the teleconferences were excellent. It was really helpful to hear from the other lawyers because they are leaders in their fields.*
- *A huge benefit of the Program is becoming acquainted with lawyers who have addressed similar issues and who are willing to have me call them for moral support and legal assistance. They often suggest alternative strategies and novel legal arguments.*
- *The networking opportunities were my favourite part. It was very valuable to have an opportunity to talk with like-minded people. It makes the possibility of doing environment work when it comes up in my work more likely because I have other lawyers I can consult with and bounce ideas off of.*
- *I was able to get outside of my usual files and get a better appreciation for these other intellectually fascinating issues that I have no acquaintance with. I found it useful as a professional to observe and take mental notes on the issues presented.*
- *I write to thank you for one of the best conferences I have attended in my 35 years of practice.*

- *The ELC Associates Program has been an invaluable resource to my professional development and private practice. The teleconferences have been opportunities to hear a variety of legal perspectives on current issues in environmental law. As an aboriginal law practitioner, my practice intersects regularly with environmental law issues, and hearing from the program staff at the ELC as well as other Associates on these issues has allowed me to bring a more broadly informed approach to advising my clients.*
- *As a solo, I am appreciative of every opportunity to network and discuss ideas with colleagues, and particularly since I have not yet been able to incorporate environmental law into my practice to any significant extent.*

How do I apply?

Submit the following information to Holly Pattison at elc@uvic.ca:

- Name and contact information, including email, phone number and firm address
- Call year
- Areas of practice
- Scope of public interest environmental law to date or an expression of your interest in the Associates Program
- References
- Bio

If you have any questions, contact Holly Pattison at elc@uvic.ca or 250-721-8188.