

Margot Julia Pollans

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Gilbert & Sarah Kerlin Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law, 2025 – Present

Joseph P. D'Alessandro Faculty Scholar, 2024 – Present

James Hopkins Professor of Law, 2023 – 2025

Shamik and Adrienne Trivedi Faculty Scholar, 2021 – 2023

Professor of Law, 2020 – Present

Associate Professor of Law, 2018 – 2020

Faculty Director, Pace Food Law Center, 2016 – Present

Assistant Professor of Law, 2015 – 2018

Courses: Administrative Law, Property Law, Environmental Law Survey, Food Systems Law, Agriculture Law & the Environment

Law School Service:

Faculty Center Fellow (2023-Present) (Running bi-weekly Junior Faculty Workshop);
Lambda, Faculty Advisor (2023-Present);

Ad Hoc Constitutional Amendment Committee (Chair, Spring 2023);

Faculty Development Committee (Chair: 2021-22, Member: 2015-2016, 2017-2018, 2023-2024);

Appointments (Chair, 2024-25, 2020-21, 2019-20; Member, 2016-17);

Curriculum Committee (2018-2019);

Haub Environmental Scholars Program, Faculty Advisor (2016-2019).

University Service: Anti-Racist Education Task Force (2021-22); Campus Reopening Working Group (2020-22).

New York University School of Law

Adjunct Professor, Food Law & Policy Seminar, 2020 – Present

St. John's University School of Law

Adjunct Professor, Environmental Law, Fall 2019 & Fall 2020

UCLA School of Law

Teaching Fellow, Resnick Program for Food Law & Policy, 2013 – 2015

Georgetown University Law Center

Teaching Fellow & Staff Attorney, Institute for Public Representation, 2011 – 2013

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Abundance and Other Food Fixations, 96 U. COLO. L. REV. 209 (2025).

Gender Regrets: Banning Abortion and Gender-Affirming Care, 2024 UTAH L. REV. 763 (with Noa Ben-Asher) (winner of the 2025 Dukeminier Awards Michael Cunningham Prize and reprinted at 24 DUKIMINIER AWARDS J. 1 (2025)).

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Eaters, Powerless by Design, 120 MICH. L. REV. 643 (2022) (winner of 2022 Goettel Prize for Faculty Scholarship).

FDa as Food System Steward, 46 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 1 (2022) (with Matthew Watson).

The Right Family, 39 COLUM. J. GENDER & L. 1 (2020) (with Noa Ben-Asher).

The New Food Safety, 107 CALIF. L. REV. 1173 (2019) (with Emily Broad Leib).

Drinking Water Protection and Agricultural Exceptionalism, 77 OHIO ST. L.J. 1195 (2016).

Regulating Farming: Balancing Food Safety and Environmental Protection in a Cooperative Governance Regime, 50 WAKE FOREST L. REV. 399 (2015).

A “Blunt Withdrawal”? Bars on Citizen Suits for Toxic Site Cleanup, 37 HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. 441 (2013).

Note, *Bundling Public and Private Goods: The Market for Sustainable Organics*, 85 N.Y.U. L. REV. 621 (2010).

Books, Book Chapters, and Symposium Pieces

Bodies as Food System Sacrifice Zones, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON INTERNATIONAL FOOD LAW (Michael Roberts ed. 2023).

Ecolabeling, in OXFORD HANDBOOK OF COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (Emma Lees & Jorge E. Viñuales eds., 2019) (with Jason Czarnecki & Sarah Main).

Food Systems, in CLIMATE CHANGE, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND THE LAW (Michael Berger & Justin Gundlach, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2018).

FOOD LAW AND POLICY: CASES AND MATERIALS (Wolters Kluwer 2018) (with Jacob Gersen & Michael Roberts).

Farming and Eating, 13 J. OF FOOD LAW & POL’Y 99 (2017) (invited contribution to special issue on Food Policy in the Trump Era).

The Safe Drinking Water Act/ Food Law Nexus, 32 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 501 (2015) (invited contribution to symposium issue).

Setting the Table for Urban Agriculture, 46 URB. LAW. 199 (2014) (with Michael Roberts), also published in URBAN AGRICULTURE: POLICY, LAW, STRATEGY, AND IMPLEMENTATION (Martha H. Chumblor, Lawrence Bechler, & Sorell Negro, eds. 2015).

Popular Press

Oped, “Everything Wrong With Our Food System Has Been Made Worse by Coronavirus,” *Los Angeles Times*, May 4, 2020, <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2020-05-04/meat-processing-plants-coronavirus-executive-order>.

Letter to the Editor, “A Farming Revolution, Minus Factories,” *New York Times*, Oct. 3, 2016, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/03/opinion/a-farming-revolution-minus-factories.html>.

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Oped, “The Labeling Shortcut,” *Slate*, May 5, 2016,

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center, L.L.M., *with distinction*, 2013

New York University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2010

Honors: Law Review Alumni Association Prize (2nd highest GPA after 5 semesters)
Maurice Goodman Memorial Prize (outstanding scholarship and character)
Order of the Coif
Furman Scholar (scholarship program for future academics)
Lederman/Milbank Fellow in Law and Economics (grant for research)
Center for Environmental and Land Use Law Fellow

Journal: *New York University Law Review*, Articles Editor

Activities: Research Assistant for Professor Vicki Been, Professor Oren Bar-Gill,
and Professor Richard Revesz
Teaching Assistant, Civil Procedure, Professor Helen Hershkoff
Natural Resources Defense Council Environmental Law Clinic

Columbia University, B.A., History, Environmental Science, Creative Writing, 2004

CLERKSHIP

Hon. David S. Tatel, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit, 2010 – 2011

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Inundations: Permeable Bodies and the Law

University of Alabama School of Law, Faculty Workshop (Nov. 2025).

Inundations: Permeable Bodies and the Law

Environmental & Energy Law Program Lecture Series, University of Michigan School of Law (Sept. 2025).

Inundations: Bodies, Pain, and the Law

Hopkins Distinguished Lecture, Elisabeth Haub School of Law (April 2025).

The Farm Bill and Tribal Lands: Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Food Production, and Climate

Panelist, Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute (May 2024).

A Reflective Look at the Intersections of Ownership, Control, and Environmental Protection in Rural Environments Resnick Program 10th Anniversary Conference

Moderator and Panelist (April 2024).

Abundance and Other Food Fixations: EnviroSchmoozeFest

Presenter, Texas A&M (August 2023).

Governing Nutrient Pollution Beyond Farmers: Workshop

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Participant, interdisciplinary collaborative to develop nutrient pollution management strategies, Sponsored by the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (Jan. 2021 & Mar. 2022).

Free the Land: Land Tenure & Stewardship Reimagined

Moderator, New York University School of Law, Jan. 28, 2022.

Meatless Cities: A Workshop on How Cities Can Help Lead the Transition to a Plant-Forward Food System.

Invited Participant, Guarani Center on Environmental, Energy, and Land Use Law, New York University School of Law (June 2021).

Food Safety Law and the Treatment of Food Consumers

Panelist, *Food for Thought: The Impact of Food Choices in a Changing Climate*, Lewis & Clark Environmental Law Symposium (March 2021).

Farm Bill & Conservation Programs

Guest Speaker, Food Law and Policy Seminar, New York University School of Law, Sept. 17, 2019.

Agricultural Exceptionalism: History & Lessons

Guest Speaker, Animal Agriculture Reform Collaborative Legal Table Meeting, Sept. 17, 2019.

Food Law as Environmental Law

Emerging Environmental Law Conference, Vermont Law School, June 21, 2019

Modern Food Fascism

Law & Society Association Annual Conference, June 1, 2019

Food Sovereignty as a Reparations for Urban Renewal

Fifth Annual Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, May 10, 2019

Farm Bill 101

Guest Speaker, Food Law and Policy Seminar, New York University School of Law, Jan. 29, 2019.

Modern Food Fascism

Georgetown University Law Center, Environmental Law Speakers Series, Nov. 1, 2018

Roundtable on Agriculture As/In Environment

Discussion Participant and Organizer in collaboration with the University of Illinois Program in Law & Philosophy (Sept. 28-30, 2018).

Food Policy Advocacy in New York City

New York City Food Policy Center, Hunter College, Mar. 20, 2018.

The Farm Bill as a Tool for Social Change

North Country Food Justice Summit, March 1, 2018

The Farm Bill as a Tool for Social Change

Yale Food System Symposium, Feb. 23, 2018

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Mapping the New Food Safety

University of Arkansas School of Law, Faculty Workshop, Feb. 20, 2018.

Legal and Policy Tools for Dairy in a Changing Climate

Panelist, AALS Annual Conference, San Diego, Jan. 3, 2018.

Legal Barriers to Food Impact Valuation

IC Foods, U.C. Davis, Nov. 6, 2017.

Understanding the Farm Bill

Presenter, Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture, Sept. 28, 2017.

The Future of Food Law

Panelist, Cardozo School of Law, Apr. 20, 2017.

Legal Applications and Challenges

Panelist and Conference Organizer, Oxford Meeting on Impact Valuation, Oxford
Environmental Change Institute, Environmental Research Workshop, Apr. 11, 2017.

Environmentalism at the FDA: Food and Beverage Packaging and the Law

Paper Workshop, Georgetown University Law Center, Environmental Research
Workshop, Mar. 23, 2017.

Agriculture, Climate Change, and the USDA

Panelist and Panel Organizer, Good Food Festival, Climate Change and Agriculture: The
Forgotten Industry, Mar. 17, 2017.

Farm Bill 101 and More: an Agricultural Conversation with U.S. Representative Sean Patrick Maloney

Interviewer, Bedford 2020 Food Forum, Mar. 4, 2017.

Annual Food Almanac

Panelist, SlowFood NYC, Feb. 28, 2017

The Future of Food Law: A Conversation with Kathleen Merrigan

Interviewer, Pace-NRDC Food Law Initiative Annual Event, Feb. 13, 2017.

New Voices in Administrative Law

Paper Workshop, AALS Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 2017

A Non-Perishable Food Movement

Guest Speaker, Food Law and Policy Seminar, New York University School of Law, Dec.
1, 2016.

Environmental Decisionmaking at the FDA

Invited Panelist, Law and Food Systems: Institutional Pathways Toward a New Paradigm,
Food and Drug Law Institute & Georgetown Food and Drug Law Journal Symposium,
Nov. 4, 2016.

Agricultural Exceptionalism and Environmental Law

Invited Presenter, Food Law Student Leadership Summit, Oct. 1, 2016.

Agriculture, Climate Change, and the USDA

Panelist and Panel Organizer, Yale Food Systems Symposium, Climate Change and
Agriculture: The Forgotten Industry, Sept. 30, 2016.

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Rethinking Lead in Drinking Water

Invited Panelist, Troubled Waters, New York State Bar Association, May 23, 2016.

Drinking Water Protection and Agricultural Exceptionalism

Guest Speaker, Current Challenges in Environmental Law Seminar, New York University School of Law, Apr. 26, 2016.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern: Law and Policy

Invited Panelist, Texas Environmental Law Journal Symposium, Contaminants of Emerging Concern and Water on Earth, University of Texas School of Law, Apr. 15, 2016.

A Farm Bill Primer: Myth and Reality

Guest Speaker, Food Systems & the Environment Seminar, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Jan. 26, 2016.

Food Rights in an Uncertain World

Panelist and Panel Organizer, Yale Food Systems Symposium, Yale Law School & Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Oct. 30, 2015.

Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship

Paper Workshop, "Cities, Farms, and Drinking Water," Vermont Law School, Oct. 3, 2015.

University of Washington Junior Environmental Scholars Workshop

Paper Workshop, "Cities, Farms, and Drinking Water," UW School of Law, July 9, 2015.

Food Rights in an Uncertain World

Panelist and Panel Organizer, International Society of Public Law Annual Conference, Public Law in an Uncertain World, NYU School of Law, July 2, 2015.

US Environmental Regulation of Food Production & FSMA Basics

Guest Lecturer, Food Law Masters Program, University of Tuscia, Viterbo, Italy June 5-6, 2015.

Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship

Paper Workshop, "Cities, Farms, and Drinking Water," Columbia Law School, May 22, 2015.

Reconceptualizing the Future of Environmental Law

Roundtable Participant, Pace Environmental Law Review Symposium, Pace Law School, Mar. 20, 2015.

Environmental Threats to the Right to Food and International Legal Responses

Moderator, Journal of International Law and Foreign Affairs Symposium, Realizing the Right to Food, UCLA School of Law, Mar. 6, 2015.

Information to What End: The Role of the Consumer in Driving System Change

Organizer & Moderator, inaugural UCLA-Harvard Food Law and Policy Annual Conference, Transparency in the Global Food System, UCLA School of Law, Oct. 24, 2014.

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Food, Health, and Whiteness as Property

Moderator, UCLA Critical Race Studies Annual Symposium, Whiteness as Property: A Twenty Year Appraisal, UCLA School of Law, Oct. 2, 2014.

Regulating Farming

Presenter, Faculty Colloquium, UCLA School of Law, Sept. 29, 2014.

Genetically Engineered Crops: A Panel Discussion

Moderator, UCLA School of Law, Apr. 17, 2014.

Regulatory and Legislative Landscape: A Look Ahead

Organizer & Moderator, Resnick Program for Food Law & Policy Conference, Food Fight: An Examination of Recent Trends in Food Litigation, UCLA School of Law, Apr. 11, 2014.

The Food Safety Modernization Act and Sustainability

Invited Panelist, Petrie-Flom Center Conference, New Directions for Food Safety: The Food Safety Modernization Act and Beyond, Harvard Law School, Feb. 21, 2014.

Farm Bill 101

Invited Panelist, Stanford Law School, Feb. 5, 2014.

Toward a Food Secure Future: Bridging the Gap Between Sustainable Agriculture and Hunger Elimination

Panelist, Yale Food Systems Symposium, Oct. 18, 2013.

Toward a Food Secure Future

Presenter, Georgetown University Law Center, Faculty Summer Workshop Series, June 20, 2013.

Rulemaking, Public Commenting, and Working with Agencies

Presenter, Environmental Law Institute Skills Workshop in Public Interest Environmental Law, Apr. 21, 2012.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, LLP, NY, NY, Summers 2009 & 2010

Summer Associate (offer extended): Researched and drafted memos to support civil litigation on a range of issues such as tax foreclosure, fraud, and habeas.

New York City Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development, Summer 2008

Summer Intern: Assisted with program development related to the mortgage foreclosure crisis in New York City.

Springside School, Philadelphia, PA, 2004 – 2007

Upper School History Teacher: Taught modern world history, ancient world history, United States history, Middle Eastern history, and AP American Government and Politics. Coached varsity track and cross-country. Served as lead ninth-grade class advisor.

BAR ADMISSIONS, MEMBERSHIPS, & BOARDS

State Bar Admissions: Mass. (inactive), D.C. (inactive), NY (2013)

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Federal Bar Membership: U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (2011)

Professional Associations: American Association of Law Schools, Food Law Section Chair (2018), Environmental Law Section Officer; American Agricultural Law Association

Advisory Board Member: Resnick Program for Food Law & Policy at UCLA School of Law (2015 – 2018); Essex Farm Institute/Adirondack Council (2019-2022); Academy of Food Law and Policy (2019-2021).