ERIN OKUNO

727-562-7190 (work) ♦ okuno@law.stetson.edu

**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

**Stetson University College of Law**, Gulfport, Florida

***Assistant Professor of Law***

08/2023–Present

***Visiting Professor of Law***

08/2020–06/2021

***Adjunct Professor of Law***

01/2018–06/2018, 01/2019–12/2019, and 08/2022

* Summer 2024
	+ Serving as Bar Coach for two students
* Fall 2023–Spring 2024
	+ Member of Competition Committee for Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition
	+ Faculty advisor for *Stetson Law Review*
	+ Faculty advisor for Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
	+ Member of Honors and Awards Committee
	+ Co-coached team of students for National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition; students advanced to quarterfinals
* Spring 2024 – Taught *Research and Writing II* to full-time students
* Fall 2023 – Taught *Research and Writing I* to full-time students
* Fall 2022 – Taught *United States Legal Systems* to LL.M., J.D./Grado, and J.D. Exchange students
* Spring 2021 – Taught *Research and Writing II* (synchronous online) to full-time students
* Fall 2020 – Taught *Research and Writing I* (synchronous online) to full-time students
* Fall 2019 – Taught *United States Legal Systems* to LL.M., J.D./Grado, and J.D. Exchange students
* Spring 2019 – Taught *Research and Writing I* to part-time students
* Spring 2019 – Co-taught *Topics in Biodiversity Law: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species* to second- and third-year students and helped organize a weeklong study abroad program in India as part of the course
* Spring 2018 – Co-taught *Research and Writing I* to part-time students

**University of Miami School of Law**, Miami, Florida

***Professor of Legal Writing and Lecturer in Law***

***Core Faculty for Environmental Law Program***

07/2021–05/2023

* Spring 2023
	+ Taught two sections of *Legal Communication and Research Skills II*
	+ Taught one section of *Animal Law* (overload)
	+ Writing advisor for students on multiple journals
	+ Faculty advisor for Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
	+ Faculty advisor for students in environmental law concentration/area of focus
	+ Co-coached team of students for Hunton Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship; students won best brief and advanced to quarterfinals
* Fall 2022
	+ Taught three sections of *Legal Communication and Research Skills I* (overload)
	+ Faculty advisor for Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
	+ Faculty advisor for students in environmental law concentration/area of focus
* Spring 2022
	+ Taught three sections of *Legal Communication and Research Skills II* (overload)
	+ Writing advisor for students on multiple journals
	+ Co-coached team of students for National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
* Fall 2021
	+ Taught two sections of *Legal Communication and Research Skills I*
	+ Faculty advisor for Asian Pacific American Law Students Association

**Mitchell Hamline School of Law**, St. Paul, Minnesota

***Adjunct Professor***

08/2020–05/2021

* Spring 2021 – Taught *Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication II* (synchronous online)
* Fall 2020 – Taught *Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication* (synchronous online)

**Stetson University College of Law**, Gulfport, Florida

***Advocacy Skills Trainer***

08/2014–02/2021

* Co-coached teams of law students to prepare them for moot court and negotiation competitions
* Recipient, Moot Court Board Cornerstone Award, 2015
* Students won first place in the 2015 Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship in Texas
* Students won first place in the 2017 Robert Orseck Memorial Competition in Florida
* Students were finalists in the 2017 Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition in New York

**Georgia State University, J. Mack Robinson College of Business**, Atlanta, Georgia

***Part-Time Instructor***

08/2018–12/2018

* Fall 2018 – Taught *The Legal and Ethical Environment of Business*

**University of South Florida, Honors College**, Tampa, Florida

***Adjunct Faculty Member***

12/2015–05/2016 and 08/2016–12/2016

* Fall 2016 – Taught *Animal Law, Policy, and Ethics*
* Spring 2016 – Co-taught *International Environmental Law, Policy, and Politics*

**EDUCATION**

**Stetson University College of Law**, Gulfport, Florida

Juris Doctor, *summa cum laude*, 2013

**Cumulative GPA:** 3.927

**Rank:** 1 out of 252

**Honors**:

* **Edward D. Foreman Most Distinguished Student Award**, Spring 2013
* ***Stetson Law Review* Leadership Award**, Spring 2012
* **Moot Court Board CourtCall Award**, Spring 2013
* **Honors Program**, Fall 2011–Spring 2012
* **William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award**, Spring 2013

**Activities**:

* ***Stetson Law Review***, 2011–2013
	+ Editor in Chief, 2012–2013
	+ Managing Editor, 2011–2012
* ***Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy***, 2011–2013
	+ Student Editor
* **Moot Court Board**, 2011–2013
	+ National Professional Responsibility Moot Court Competition, 2013
		- Best Team Overall, Best Oralist in Preliminary Rounds, Best Oralist in Final Round, and Best Respondent’s Brief
	+ Andrews Kurth Moot Court National Championship, 2013
		- Finalists and Best Brief
	+ Robert Orseck Memorial Moot Court Competition, 2012
		- Semifinalists and Best Brief
* **Biodiversity Fellow**, Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, 2012–2013
* **Environmental Law Society**, 2011–2013
	+ President, 2012–2013
	+ Vice President, 2011–2012
* **Ecosystem Banking Workshop**, 2010–2011
* **Student Animal Legal Defense Fund**, 2011–2013
* **Maritime Law Society**, 2010–2013
* **Stetson Ambassador**, 2011–2013
* **Ferguson-White Inn of Court**, Student Pupil Member, 2012–2013
* **Tampa Bay Watch**, Volunteer, 2013
* **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program**, Volunteer, 2012

**Highest Grade**: Contracts (Section 3), Civil Procedure (Section 3), Constitutional Law I (Section 3), Real Property (Section 3), Administrative Law (Section 1), International Environmental Law, Professional Responsibility (Section 3), Constitutional Law II, Evidence (Section 3), Environmental Law, Federal Income Taxation I, Interviewing and Counseling (Environmental Law Section)

**Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, Georgia

 Bachelor of Science, Psychology, *summa cum laude*, 2008

 **Cumulative GPA: 3.96**

 **Honors**:

* **President’s Undergraduate Research Award**, Fall 2007
* **Faculty Honors**, Spring 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008; Fall 2006, 2007
* **Dean’s List**, Fall 2004, 2005

 **Activities**:

* **Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *Attention and Working Memory Lab*, Fall 2005, 2007; Spring 2006, 2007, 2008
* **Psychology Club**, Vice President, 2005–2006
* **Chemistry Department Teaching Assistant**, Fall 2005

**PUBLICATIONS**

Erin Okuno, *Rights of Wetlands and the Ramsar Convention*, *in* Wetlands and International Environmental Law: The Evolution and Impact of the Ramsar Convention (Royal C. Gardner, Richard Caddell, & Erin Okuno eds.) (forthcoming 2024/2025)

Royal C. Gardner, Richard Caddell, and Erin Okuno, *Introduction: Wetlands and International Law*, *in* Wetlands and International Environmental Law: The Evolution and Impact of the Ramsar Convention (Royal C. Gardner, Richard Caddell, & Erin Okuno eds.) (forthcoming 2024/2025)

Royal C. Gardner, Erin Okuno, & Dave Pritchard, *Ramsar Governance and Processes at the International Level*, *in* Ramsar Wetlands: Values, Assessment, Management (Peter Gell, Nick Davidson, & Max Finlayson eds.) (Elsevier 2023)

Royal C. Gardner, Tom Ankersen, Max Finlayson, Erin Okuno, & Dave Pritchard, *Ramsar at the National Level: Application and Incorporation into Domestic Law*, *in* Ramsar Wetlands: Values, Assessment, Management (Peter Gell, Nick Davidson, & Max Finlayson eds.) (Elsevier 2023)

G.T. Davies, C.M. Finlayson, E. Okuno, N.C. Davidson, R.C. Gardner, W.R. Moomaw, & D.E. Pritchard, *Reply to Bridgewater (2021), “Response to Davies et al., ‘Towards a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Wetlands,’”* 72 Marine and Freshwater Research 1401 (September 2021), <https://www.publish.csiro.au/mf/MF21132>

R.C. Gardner, E. Okuno, & R. Kihslinger, *Improving In-Lieu Fee Program Implementation: Long-Term Management of Mitigation Sites* (August 2021), <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/eli-pubs/ilf-long-term-management.pdf>

R. Kihslinger, A. Hu, E. Okuno, & R.C. Gardner, *Improving In-Lieu Fee Program Implementation: Full Cost Accounting* (August 2021), <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/eli-pubs/ilf-full-cost-accounting.pdf>

R. Kihslinger, A. Hu, E. Okuno, & R.C. Gardner, *Improving In-Lieu Fee Program Implementation: Programmatic Audits* (August 2021), <https://www.eli.org/sites/default/files/eli-pubs/ilf-programmatic-audits.pdf>

G.T. Davies, C.M. Finlayson, D.E. Pritchard, N.C. Davidson, R.C. Gardner, W.R. Moomaw, E. Okuno, & J.C. Whitacre, *Towards a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Wetlands*, 72 Marine and Freshwater Research 593 (November 2020), <http://www.publish.csiro.au/MF/MF20219>

Erin Okuno, *Live Critique of Oral Arguments: Response to Amanda L. Sholtis,* Say What?: A How-To Guide on Providing Formative Assessment to Law Students Through Live Critique, Stetson Law Review Forum (Spring 2020), <https://www2.stetson.edu/law-review/article/live-critique-of-oral-arguments-response-to-amanda-l-sholtis-say-what-a-how-to-guide-on-providing-formative-assessment-to-law-students-through-live-critique/>

Royal C. Gardner, Erin Okuno, Rebecca Kihslinger, & Christina Libre, *CWA In-Lieu Fee Mitigation: Project and Programmatic Risks*, 49 Environmental Law Reporter 10538 (2019)

Erin Okuno, *A Look Back at* Sierra Club v. Costle*: Balancing Legal, Political, and Ethical Interests in Informal Rulemaking*, 44 Administrative & Regulatory Law News 18 (American Bar Association 2019)

Royal C. Gardner, Erin Okuno, Steph Tai, M. Siobhan Fennessy, Carol A. Johnston, Marinus L. Otte, James E. Perry, Charles Simenstad, Benjamin R. Tanner, Dan Tufford, R. Eugene Turner, Kirsten Work, Scott C. Yaich, & Joy B. Zedler, *Advocating for Science: Amici Curiae Brief of Wetland and Water Scientists in Support of the Clean Water Rule*, 39 Wetlands 403 (peer reviewed; 2019), <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13157-019-01160-z> (over 2,700 accesses)

R. Kihslinger, C. Libre, K.R. Ma, E. Okuno, & R.C. Gardner, *In-Lieu Fee Mitigation: Review of Program Instruments and Implementation Across the Country* (July 2019), <https://www.eli.org/research-report/lieu-fee-mitigation-review-program-instruments-and-implementation-across-country>

Erin Okuno, *Book Review:* Elder Law: A Guide to Working with Older Australians (Sue Field, Karen Williams & Carolyn Sappideen eds., 2018), 10 Journal of Comparative and International Law & Policy 205 (2019)

Royal C. Gardner & C. Max Finlayson, *Global Wetland Outlook: State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to People* (Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2018) (contributing author to section 4), <https://www.global-wetland-outlook.ramsar.org/outlook>

Royal C. Gardner & Erin Okuno, *The Shifting Boundaries of Clean Water Act Jurisdiction*, 35 Wetland Science & Practice 317 (2018)

Royal C. Gardner, C. Max Finlayson, & Erin Okuno, *Global Wetland Outlook: Technical Note to Introduction* (Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2018)

Royal C. Gardner, C. Max Finlayson, Ritesh Kumar, Erin Okuno, & David Stroud, *Global Wetland Outlook: Technical Note on Responses* (Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2018)

R.C. Gardner, T.A. Jones, D.E. Pritchard, E. Okuno, D.A. Stroud, D. Landenbergue, C.M. Finlayson, L. Dinesen, L. Martinez Rios del Rio, & D. Infante Mata, *Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Briefing Note Number 8: Ramsar Advisory Missions: Technical Advice on Ramsar Sites* (Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2018), <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/the-briefing-notes>

Erin Okuno, *Frankenstein’s Mammoth: Anticipating the Global Legal Framework for De-Extinction*, 43 Ecology Law Quarterly 581 (2017),<https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/elq/vol43/iss3/2/> (downloaded over 400 times)

Erin Okuno, Royal C. Gardner, Miles Archabal, Kaitlyn Murphy, & Jackson Willis, *Bibliography of 2016 Scientific Publications on the Ramsar Convention or Ramsar Sites* (working paper, Nov. 1, 2017)

Erin Okuno, *No “Fowl” Play: Fifth Circuit Overturns Migratory Bird Treaty Act Convictions*, Guest Blog Post on White Collar Crime Prof Blog (Sept. 20, 2015), <http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/whitecollarcrime_blog/2015/09/no-fowl-play-fifth-circuit-overturns-migratory-bird-treaty-act-convictions.html>

Royal C. Gardner, Marcela Bonells, Erin Okuno, & Juan Manuel Zarama, *Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Briefing Note Number 3: Avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies* (Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2012), <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/the-briefing-notes>

**PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, AND GUEST LECTURES**

**Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference**, Los Angeles, California

03/08/2024

* Presentation, “Exploring the Possibilities of Generative AI for Student-Edited Journals”

**Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop**, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport Florida

12/02/2023

* Co-chaired and moderated online workshop with Em Wright

**Association of Legal Writing Directors Biennial Conference**, Irvine, California

07/14/2023

* Panelist with Elizabeth Berenguer, Kirsten Davis, and Lance Long, “The Unending Conversation Live: Debating the Hard Issues of Teaching and Studying Legal Communication”

**Florida Association of Mitigation Bankers Mitigation Banking Workshop**

11/09/2022

* Online Presentation with Royal Gardner and Katherine Pratt, “Long-Term Protection of Compensatory Mitigation Sites: Equivalency Across Mitigation Providers?”

**National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference**, Boise, Idaho

05/04/2022

* Presentation with Royal Gardner, “Long-Term Protection of Compensatory Mitigation Sites: Equivalency Across Mitigation Providers?”

**EPA Mitigation Workgroup Meeting**

01/28/2022

* Online Presentation with Royal Gardner and Katherine Pratt, “Improving Long-Term Protection of Aquatic Resource Compensatory Mitigation Sites: Permittee-Responsible Mitigation”

**EPA Mitigation Workgroup Meeting**

11/16/2021

* Online Presentation with Rebecca Kihslinger and Royal Gardner, “In-Lieu Fee Implementation Guides”

**2nd Southeast Asian Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy Forum**, Metro Manila, Philippines

01/11/2021

* Online Presentation, “Protecting the Coasts Using Nature-Based Solutions: The Role of Reefs”

**William & Mary Law School’s Conference for Excellence in Online Teaching Legal Research & Writing**

06/18/2020

* Online Presentation with Jennifer Franklin and Stephanie Rae Williams, “Hosting Online Moot Court Competitions”

**Mercer University School of Law’s Environmental Law Virtual Guest Speakers Program**

04/13/2020

* Online Presentation, “Frankenstein’s Mammoth: Anticipating the Global Legal Framework for
De-Extinction”

**Research and Writing II**, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida

09/2013, 02/2014, 02/2015, 02/2016, 02/2017, 04/2019, and 04/2020

* Guest Lectures, “Introduction to Oral Advocacy”

**Association of State Wetland Managers Members’ Webinar**

01/29/2020

* Presentation, “In-Lieu Fee Mitigation in the United States: Program Instrument Review”

**1st Southeast Asian Biodiversity and Climate Change Policy Forum**, Metro Manila, Philippines

01/07/2020

* Presentation, “Saving Coral Reefs During the Climate Crisis: Time for a Sea Change”

**19th International Wildlife Law Conference**, Barcelona, Spain

06/04/2019

* Presentation, “Extinct Species and CITES: Listing the Woolly Mammoth to Protect Elephants”

**Ashok Kumar Wildlife Law and Enforcement Conference**, Pune, India

03/11/2019

* Presentation, “Extinct Species and CITES: Listing the Woolly Mammoth to Protect Elephants”

**Sixth Annual ELI-Stetson Wetlands Workshop**, Gulfport, Florida

11/08/2018

* Presentation, “One Size Does Not Fit All: Trends and Variations Across In-Lieu Fee Programs”

**Wetlands Seminar**, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida

10/04/2018

* Guest Lecture, “In-Lieu Fee Programs (An Overview)”

**Fifth Annual ELI-Stetson Wetlands Workshop**, Gulfport, Florida

11/09/2017

* Presentation, “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea: How In-Lieu Fee Programs Compensate for Impacts to Coastal Ecosystems”

**United States Legal Systems**, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida

08/09/2017

* Guest Lecture, “Environmental (and Administrative) Law in the United States”

**National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference**, Sacramento, California

05/10/2017

* Presentation, “Planning for Perpetuity: Long-Term Stewardship for In-Lieu Fee Programs”

**National In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Training Workshop**, St. Paul, Minnesota

07/13/2016

* Presentation, “ILF Program Instrument Review”

**National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference**, Fort Worth, Texas

05/12/2016

* Presentation, “In-Lieu Free-for-All: Do ILF Program Instruments Follow the Mitigation Rule?”

**Ecosystem Banking Workshop**, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida

02/19/2015

* Guest Lecture, “Water Quality Trading in Florida”

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Stetson University College of Law**, Gulfport, Florida

***Assistant Director,* *Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy***

05/2020–07/2021

***Foreman Biodiversity Fellow***

01/2015–05/2020

* Supported the environmental law and policy programs and initiatives at Stetson’s Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy, which received the 2016 Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law and Policy Award from the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources
* Performed research, writing, and editing tasks on environmental law, science, and policy issues, focusing on wetlands, biodiversity, endangered species, and international environmental law
* Organized and promoted local, national, and international environmental conferences, events, activities, and student opportunities
* Presented at national and international conferences and gave guest lectures
* Assisted with fundraising and grant writing efforts to support the Institute, which completed a two-year Wetland Program Development Grant (in collaboration with the Environmental Law Institute) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is finishing a multi-year project on aquatic resource compensatory mitigation funded by a grant from the Joy McCann Foundation
* Provided research and other support to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
* Co-authored amici curiae briefs on behalf of scientists and scientific societies regarding the Clean Water Act, 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, and 2015 Clean Water Rule; briefs were filed in the Supreme Court of the United States (brief was cited in majority opinion in *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*), U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of New York, District of North Dakota, Northern District of California, and District of Massachusetts
* Served as a member of the Competition Committee for the Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition, the world’s largest moot court competition devoted exclusively to global environmental issues

**Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A.**, Tampa, Florida

***Associate***

09/2013–01/2015

***Summer Associate***

05/2012–07/2012

* Researched and evaluated commercial litigation and transactional matters, such as foreclosure and landlord-tenant issues; laws regarding federal, state, and local environmental and development permits; and zoning, land use, and takings laws
* Drafted pleadings, motions, commercial loan documents, correspondence, and other documents
* Assisted with due diligence review for commercial loan transactions on behalf of lenders

**Stetson University College of Law**, Gulfport, Florida

***Research Assistant to Professor Royal Gardner***

05/2011–05/2013

* Researched and analyzed legal and scientific environmental issues, including international, federal, and state wetlands protection; mitigation banking, conservation banking, and other credit-trading systems; and endangered species

**United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida**, Tampa, Florida

***Judicial Intern to the Honorable Elizabeth Kovachevich***

01/2013–04/2013

* Conducted research, reviewed federal pleadings and motions, and prepared draft opinions

**Florida Sixth Judicial Circuit Court, Appellate Division**, St. Petersburg, Florida

***Judicial Intern to the Honorable Amy Williams***

05/2011–07/2011

* Researched and analyzed circuit court appellate legal matters and prepared draft opinions

**BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

* ALWD 2025 Biennial Conference Site Committee
	+ 12/2023–Present
* ALWD Distinguished Speakers Committee
	+ 11/2023–Present
* Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy*
	+ 08/2015–Present
* Deputy Editor, American Bar Association Section of International Law, *The Year in Review*
	+ 11/2015, 03/2017, 12/2017, 12/2019, and 12/2020
* Environmental Working Group, Stetson University
	+ 01/2016–07/2021
* Stetson Law Alumni Mentoring Program
	+ 08/2019–05/2021
* Hall of Fame Induction Selection Committee, Stetson University College of Law
	+ 10/2020
* Conference Working Group, “Sea Level Rise: What’s Our Next Move?”
	+ 04/2015–10/2015
* Search Committee for Director of Stetson’s Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience
	+ 05/2015–07/2015

**BAR ADMISSIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

* The Florida Bar, Admitted to Practice, *Member in Good Standing*
* Supreme Court of the United States, *Admitted to Practice*
* U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, *Admitted to Practice*
* Animal Law Section of The Florida Bar, *Member*
* Environmental and Land Use Law Section of The Florida Bar, *Member*
* Legal Writing Institute, *Member*
* Scribes – The American Society of Legal Writers, *Member*