

CURRICULUM VITAE

(8/1/2024)

Maria Savasta-Kennedy
George R. Ward Term Professor
Clinical Professor of Law
Director, UNC Law Externship Program
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EDUCATION

J.D., UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor

B.A., English Literature, UCLA

Cum Laude

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, SCHOOL OF LAW 1999 - Present

George R. Ward Term Professor 2024 - Present

Clinical Professor of Law 2004 – present

Clinical Associate Professor of Law 1999 - 2004

Teach Environmental Justice, Environmental Law, and Environmental Practice & Policy

Director, Externship Program 2005 – Present

Oversee and direct program, supervise and counsel students, and provide support for site supervisors. Teach externship companion classes focusing on experiential learning process, lawyering skills and ethical issues. Serve as faculty liaison to legal community.

Co-Director, Externship Program 1999 - 2005

Designed and administered program; designed and taught companion courses.

Author, LexisNexis Practice Guide: North Carolina Environmental Law 2018 - Present

Author of practice guide for students and practitioners of environmental law in North Carolina.

Fulbright Lecturer 2012

Taught Lawyering Techniques at Northwest University in Xi'an China to Chinese graduate students. Co-taught extra-curricular seminar on Michael Sandel's Justice writings; lectured on climate justice issues; served as faculty advisor for moot court team.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF LAW 1995 - 1997

Instructor of Law, Lawyering Program

Taught intensive year-long course for 1L students using simulated case problems in brief and memo writing, interviewing, counseling, negotiating and advocacy to develop a systematic and reflective approach to lawyering tasks. Extensive use of video-taping and small group critiques.

ROSEN, BIEN & ASARO, San Francisco, CA

1993 - 1994

Senior Litigation Associate

Litigated federal and state environmental, civil rights and commercial matters at trial and appellate levels. Researched and drafted successful appellate brief to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Published opinions include *Association of National Advertisers, Inc. v. Lungren*, 44 F.3d 726 (9th Cir. 1994); and *Committee to Save the Mokelumne River v. East Bay Municipal Utility District*, 13 F.3d 305 (9th Cir. 1993).

SIERRA CLUB LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, San Francisco, CA 1991- 1993

Associate Attorney

Litigated federal environmental cases at trial and appellate levels. Prepared experts for testimony. Researched, wrote and successfully argued three motions for summary judgment. Researched, wrote and argued appellate brief before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Published opinions include *Association of National Advertisers, Inc. v. Lungren*, 809 F.Supp. 747 (N.D. Cal. 1992).

PETTIT & MARTIN, San Francisco, CA 1988 - 1991

Litigation Associate

Litigated federal and state environmental and commercial cases. Researched and drafted pleadings and motions. Argued motions, negotiated settlements and conducted depositions.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, PROBAR Project, Harlingen, TX 1989

Founding Trial Attorney

Helped establish ABA program creating volunteer opportunities for attorneys across the country to represent political asylum applicants at the Mexico - U.S. border. Program is ongoing.

BAR MEMBERSHIPS

North Carolina (admitted 2011); District of Columbia (admitted 1995); California (admitted 1988).

HONORS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, NATIONAL ADVISORY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL 2023-2026

Nominated to 3-year term on NAEHS Council. Perform secondary review of research grant applications to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and advise the Director of NIEHS on matters re: the direction of research across the NIEHS, including research support, training, and career development in the extramural community supported by the NIEHS.

DUKE UNIVERSITY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ADVOCATE 2023

Recognized and video-recorded as an environmental justice advocate in Duke University Environmental Justice Oral History Project.

PRO BONO FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR 2020

Lead numerous student pro bono environmental projects over the years. Current project address well contamination in rural North Carolina. Voted Pro Bono Faculty of the Year by students in 2020.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AWARD 2012

Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), Institute of International Education Lecturer, Xi'an China

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

PUBLICATIONS:

North Carolina Environmental Law Practice Guide, Lexis-Nexis (2024). I am the original author of the Practice Guide, which currently in its sixth edition.

The Newest Hybrid; Notes Toward Standardized Certification of Carbon Offsets,
34 N.C. J. Int'l L. & Com. Reg. 851 (2009).

PRESENTATIONS:

Environmental Justice Update

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2020, 2021

Environmental Justice; Old Stories and New Challenges

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2019

National v. Supra-National Climate Litigation: A Comparison of The Children's Trust Cases and the EU People's Climate Case, Presentation at Legal Italy, June 2018

JOLT Symposium, February 2017

Moderated panel discussing the Benefits and Impacts of Demand Response Technology

Environmental Justice Update

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2017

Ethics and Supervision

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, February 2017

Presentation on legal and ethical response to sea level rise

Parr Center Workshop on Climate Change Ethics, October 2016

Environmental Justice Update

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2016

Ethical Supervision: Working with Beginners

Presenter for UNC Festival of Legal Learning, February 2015

CLE Presentation: Ethical Supervision, Working with Beginners

Co-Presenter, UNC School of Law, May 2014

Energy Injustice

Presenter for North Carolina Environmental Justice Network Summit: "Dismantling Environmental Racism in a "Color Blind" Society, October 2013

Addressing the Needs of the Energy Poor

Presenter for University of Minnesota Law School Consortium on Legal & Policy Pathways for Energy Innovation, April 2013

The Clean Water Act at 40

Presenter for UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2013

Legalizing China; What Lawyers Need to Know About the New China

Co-Presenter, UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2013

Carbon Reduction Tunnel Vision

UNC/Duke Junior Faculty Workshop, Chapel Hill, October 2012

Carbon Reduction Tunnel Vision

Presenter at Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship, Vermont School of Law, October 2012

The Evolution of Environmental Justice in the United States

Fulbright Lecture, Sichuan University, China, April 2012

Private Market v. Government Regulation of Pollution; Can the Market Regulate Itself?

Fulbright Lecture, Sichuan University, China, April 2012

Climate Change and Fairness

Fulbright Lecture, Wuhan University, Research Institute of Environmental Law, China, May 2012

Market Solutions to Climate Change; Do they Work and are They Fair?

Fulbright Lecture, Northwest University, School of Politics and Law, China, June 2012

Creating a Just Economy: Strategies Moving Forward

Presenter at Duke Forum for Law and Social Change, Fourth Annual Symposium:
A Just Transition to a Green Economy, Duke School of Law January 2012

Air Pollution and the Surprising Role of the States

Presenter for UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2011

Climate Change and Fairness

Presenter at AALS Mid-Year Property Meeting, NYC, June 2010

Geoengineering and Ethical Challenges of Technology

Presenter Washington and Lee University School of Law, March 2010

Progressivism and Environmental Justice

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2010

The Newest Hybrid; Notes Toward Standardized Certification of Carbon Offsets

University of Houston Law School, February 2009

Organics as a Model for Standardizing Carbon Offsets

UNC Journal of International and Commercial Regulation, November 2008

State and Regional Climate Change Measures

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2008

Solid & Hazardous Waste: Mega-Landfills

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2007

The Red Wolf in North Carolina

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, Environmental Law Symposium, February 2007

Preparing Witnesses for Deposition

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, February 2006

Legal Ethics and Professionalism: Listening Skills for Lawyers

UNC Festival of Legal Learning, February 1999

Freedom Speaks: Advertising and the First Amendment.

Served as environmental advertising expert on public television program

produced by The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, Nashville TN, 1995

Commercial Speech: Public Interest v. Private Gain.

Presenter at The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center, Arlington VA, 1992

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH, NATIONAL ADVISORY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL.

2023-2026

Voting Council Member, three-year term. Perform secondary review of research grant applications to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and advise the Director of NIEHS on matters re: the direction of research across the NIEHS, including research support, training, and career development in the extramural community supported by the NIEHS.

NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COUNCIL

Council Member

2010 - Present

Sustainability Chair

2016 - Present

Draft and administer a sustainability essay contest for high school students throughout North Carolina each year.

NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE ON EQUITY & INCLUSION Task

Force Member

2020 - 2023

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Current Service: Task Force on Professional Standards for Students

2023 - 2024

Past Service includes Elected Law School Representative to UNC Faculty Council, 2014 - 2018; and University Teaching Awards Committee, 2021. Law school service includes: Chair, International Committee; Chair, Judicial Clerkship Committee; and service on various faculty committees including: Admissions Committee; Building Task Force Member; Environmental Chair Search Committee; Chair, International Committee; Judicial Clerkship Committee; Skills Committee; Readmission Committee.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

Summit on Race, Climate and the Law

November 2023 Co-hosted summit in coordination with UNC Law Center for Civil Rights, Taproot Earth, Duke School of Law and North Carolina Central University School of Law

Carolina Public Humanities in Action Flyleaf Book Speaker Series

November 2023

The Rights of Nature: An Eco-Centric Vision for Saving the Planet.

Pro Bono: I have led and co-sponsored a number of pro bono projects over the years. I was voted Pro-Bono Faculty Member of the Year in 2020.

Recognition of Engagement in Environmental Justice: In Spring 2023 I was recognized and video-recorded as an environmental justice advocate in Duke University Environmental Justice Oral History Project.

High school guest teaching

Spring 2023

Guest-taught an environmental law/environmental justice class

TEACHING STATEMENT

I direct and teach in the Externship Program, as well as teach environmental courses such as Environmental Justice, Environmental Law, and Environmental Law Practice. Serving as Director of the Externship Program and teaching in the program comprises $\frac{3}{4}$ of my teaching load, with the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ spent teaching an environmental course each year. I strive to meet each student where they are and work with them to apply legal principles, reasoning, analysis and critical thinking to real life (or simulated real life) matters. I came to teaching through the model of “experiential learning” and that is the method I employ in my courses. My goal is to facilitate the students’ exploration of their professional identity and their professional development as skilled, ethical, self-aware and engaged practitioners, law clerks or whatever their next step may be when they graduate from UNC School of Law.

RESEARCH STATEMENT

My scholarship focuses on examining and explaining the practice of environmental law and environmental justice. I am the author of North Carolina’s Environmental Law Practice Guide, now in its 6th edition. The Guide is over 500 pages long and in eleven chapters covers a wide range of topics including air quality; water quality; wetlands; coastal management; hazardous waste; mineral, land and natural resources; energy; environmental justice; and climate change. Because environmental law is based on both federal and state statutes and regulation, the Guide covers a considerable amount of material and requires extensive updates each summer. My work on the Guide dovetails well with my teaching environmental courses such as Environmental Law, Environmental Justice and Environmental Law Practice. I also continue to explore policy, regulatory and market responses to pollution control, climate change and climate justice through pro bono projects and presentations.

Outside of the environmental arena, I am interested in exploring the development of practical lawyering skills both in the traditional “research, analysis and writing” sense, but also in the realm of professional development through exploration of professional identity, client centered-lawyering, self-assessment, diversity, equity and inclusion, and movement lawyering. My research in these areas of

professional development directly impacts my roles as Director of the Externship Program and as a faculty supervisor teaching students in the program.