Apply Now for Midwest Environmental Advocates'
Semester Law Clerk and Seminar Program – Spring 2027

Midwest Environmental Advocates—a nonprofit, public-interest environmental law firm—offers a unique experience for law students to get an in-depth look at many aspects of environmental law practice and nonprofit legal work. Founded in 1999, MEA is a nonprofit law center that combines the power of law with the resolve of communities facing environmental injustice to secure and protect the rights of all people to healthy water, land, and air.

MEA's clerkship provides students with the opportunities to gain practical working knowledge of environmental, open government, and administrative law, advocate on issues of environmental justice, and hone their skills on real issues and cases. Students are involved in our legal work at all levels, from researching emerging environmental issues, to case investigation, to supporting ongoing litigation. MEA also strives to provide students with the opportunity to observe and participate in environmental law in legal proceedings, public hearings, and our communications work.

MEA also hosts seminars to provide students with a varied and in-depth look at different aspects of environmental and public interest law. Past topics addressed environmental justice, local government, navigating administrative law in Wisconsin, the inner workings of the Department of Natural Resources, open government, working effectively with grassroots groups, and more. Seminars are taught by a combination of MEA's staff and outside experts, including some non-lawyers, who provide unique perspectives on environmental issues.

REQUIREMENTS:
Applicants must have completed their first year of law school (at the time the position begins, not necessarily at the time of application). Commitment to protecting the environment, demonstrated ability to communicate clearly, and a basic level of research and writing are preferred. Completion of environmental and administrative law courses is preferred but not required. Candidates should demonstrate an awareness of the needs and concerns of individuals from diverse cultures, backgrounds, and orientations. We prioritize applicants with knowledge of and connection to communities that have historically been denied meaningful input into environmental decision-making.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
Please review all instructions prior to application submission. Interested students are encouraged to submit their application materials as soon as possible. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, with a final deadline of **Friday, November 13, 2026**. Those applications received before **Friday, October 30, 2026**, will receive priority consideration. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and short writing sample (<10 pp.) in ***one PDF file*** via email to Administrative Manager, Ry Carpenter (he/him/his) at rcarpenter@midwestadvocates.org.

JUST THE FACTS:

- Students may earn law school credits for their work at MEA. All questions regarding the availability of credits and corresponding requirements should be directed to your law school's career services office, externship program staff, or academic advisor to determine the number of hours needed for credit.
- Typically, law clerks are expected to work a minimum of 10 to 12 hours per week.
- For University of Wisconsin law students, the externship contact is the Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD). OCPD can be reached at career@law.wisc.edu. For all other applicants, please contact your Career Services or Externship Coordinator at your institution with questions.
- MEA is willing to work with students who want to earn pro bono credits outside of the traditional externship program.
- For more information, please visit Clerkship Program | Midwest Environmental Advocates (midwestadvocates.org), or contact Ry Carpenter, at rcarpenter@midwestadvocates.org