

AMBER POLK

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| University of Alabama School of Law Assistant Professor of Law (tenure-track) | 2024–present |
| Florida International University College of Law Assistant Professor of Law (tenure-track) | 2022–2024 |
| Stanford Law School Teaching Fellow Program in Environmental Law & Policy and Lecturer in Law | 2019–2022 |
| University of Illinois College of Law Adjunct Professor & Fellow Program in Law and Philosophy | 2019 |

EDUCATION

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| University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Ph.D., Philosophy Dissertation: <i>Towards a Theory of Animal Rights: Adventures in Metaphysics and Morals</i> | 2020 |
| M.A., Philosophy | 2017 |
| University of Illinois College of Law J.D., <i>summa cum laude</i> , Order of the Coif | 2016 |
| University of Pittsburgh B.S., Mathematics, <i>summa cum laude</i> | 2011 |
| B.A., Philosophy and Classics, <i>summa cum laude</i> | 2011 |

CLERKSHIPS

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| U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia Law Clerk to The Honorable Robert W. Trumble | 2018–2019 |
| U.S. District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia Law Clerk to The Honorable Joseph R. Goodwin | 2017–2018 |

PUBLICATIONS

In Defense of (Some) Plant Rights, in THE VEGETAL TURN, ed. Marcello di Paola (2024),
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-68671-9>, [available upon request].

Toxic Battery: Pollution as a Dignitary Tort, 65(8) B.C. L. REV. 2801 (2024),
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4541438.

The Unfulfilled Promise of Environmental Constitutionalism, 74 HASTINGS L.J. 123 (2022),
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3925251.

President Biden's Executive Orders on the Environment: Praiseworthy Policy, Political Red Herring, or... Both?, 2021 U. ILL. L. REV. ONLINE: BIDEN 100 DAYS 152 (Apr. 30, 2021), <https://www.illinoislawreview.org/symposium/first-100-days-biden/president-bidens-executive-orders-on-the-environment>.

TOWARDS A THEORY OF ANIMAL RIGHTS: ADVENTURES IN METAPHYSICS AND MORALS, (July 14, 2020) (Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) (available at <http://hdl.handle.net/2142/108472>).

Polk A., Litwin-Kumar A., Doiron B. “Correlated Neural Variability in Persistent State Networks.” PNAS, doi:10.1073/pnas.1121274109, 2012.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Form over Function: Building a Theory of Rights from the Ground Up [full draft]

The Phenomenon of Rights-Based Environmentalism [partial draft]

Backsliding [early stages]

The Generation Who Must Say No [early stages]

COMMENTARIES, BLOGS, AND MEDIA

“What Do Rights Have to Do with It?” *commentary on* Ra, K. & Cooper, J. “The Bioethics of Environmental Injustice: Ethical, Legal, and Clinical Implications of Unhealthy Environments,” 2024 AMERICAN JOURNAL OF BIOETHICS 24, no. 3, 31–33 (*with* Eric Scarffe), <https://doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2024.2303111>.

“The Tragedy of Living in the Anthropocene,” ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROF BLOG, Oct. 21, 2023, https://lawprofessors.typepad.com/environmental_law/2023/10/the-tragedy-of-living-in-the-anthropocene.html.

Interview on Background Briefing with Ian Masters, speaking *on* Rights-Based Environmentalism as a Legal, Political and Moral Movement and Montana youth climate victory (Aug. 17, 2023), <https://www.backgroundbriefing.org/> (sound file available at <https://soundcloud.com/user-830442635/rights-based-environmentalism-as-a-legal-political-and-moral-movement>).

Radio appearance, KBCS Radio SF (Aug. 16, 2023, 9:20 AM), speaking *on* *Held v. State*, Montana youth climate victory.

“Montana kids win historic climate lawsuit – here’s why it could set a powerful precedent,” THE CONVERSATION (Aug. 15, 2023), <https://theconversation.com/montana-kids-win-historic-climate-lawsuit-heres-why-it-could-set-a-powerful-precedent-207907> (re-published in The Conversation España and [The Conversation France](#)).

“Perspectives from Amber Polk,” *in* ClimaJo Sustainability Outlook Report 2023. <https://www.climajo.com/outlookReport> (available upon request).

PRESENTATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

September 19-20, 2024. Panelist (accepted), presented on *Backsliding* at 15th Annual Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship at Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

September 6-7, 2024. Future Environmental Law Professors Workshop and Early Environmental Law Scholars Workshop, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, White Plains, NY

August 29-30, 2024. Presenter (invited), present on *Backsliding* at 6th Annual EnviroSchmooze at Texas A&M Law School, Fort Worth, TX

May 29, 2024. Presenter (accepted), Lightning Rounds at the 2024 Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute, presented on *Canary in the Coal Mine: Environmental(ist) Constitutionalism as Environmental Governance*, Estes Park, CO

March 29, 2024. Panelist (invited), Conference on Climate Constitutionalism, sponsored by Widener University Delaware Law School and Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, New York, NY

February 29-March 3, 2024. Participant (invited), Roundtable on *Justice for Animals*, sponsored by the Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy, Chicago, IL

February 22, 2024. Moderator for Green Amendments Panel at 3rd Annual FIU Environment Forum, Miami, FL

January 5, 2024. Natural Resources and Energy Law, Co-Sponsored by Agricultural and Food Law, Animal Law, and Environmental Law: Works-in-Progress (accepted), presented on *Canary in the Coal Mine: Environmental(ist) Constitutionalism as Environmental Governance*, at AALS Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

October 31, 2023. Guest lecturer: Environmental Law, University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, MD (*by Zoom*)

September 28, 2023. Panelist (invited), on Constitution Day Panel at FIU College of Law, Miami, FL

September 25, 2023. Faculty workshop, presented on *Toxic Battery: Pollution as a Dignitary Tort*, Environmental Law Online Workshop (organized by Mike Pappas at Colorado), Zoom

September 23, 2023. Panelist (accepted), presented on *Toxic Battery: Pollution as a Dignitary Tort* at 14th Annual Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship at Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

July 18, 2023. Faculty workshop, presented on *Toxic Battery: Pollution as a Dignitary Tort*, FIU-U. Miami brown bag, summer workshops, Miami, FL

July 11-13, 2023. Participant (invited), Environmental Law Collaborative 2023, on Consumption and the Good Life in the Anthropocene, Hood River, OR

March 31, 2023. Guest lecturer: Climate Change Law & Policy, FIU College of Law, Miami, FL

March 1, 2023. Faculty workshop, presented on *The Phenomenon of Rights-Based Environmentalism* at Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR

February 4, 2023. Presenter (accepted), presented on *Form over Function: Building a Theory of Rights from the Ground Up* at Florida Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Sarasota, FL

February 3, 2023. Panelist (invited), on *The Future Moral and Legal Status of Florida's Wildlife and Natural Resources* (focused on animal legal personhood) at University of Florida Levin College of Law 29th Annual Public Interest Environmental Conference, Gainesville, FL

September 30, 2022. Panelist (invited), on Constitution Day Panel at FIU College of Law, Miami, FL

September 24, 2022. Panelist (accepted), presented on *The Phenomenon of Rights-Based Environmentalism* at 13th Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship at Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT

September 13, 2022. Panelist (invited), on *Headlines and Headnotes: Clean Energy 2035: In Reach or A Bridge Too Far?* at FIU College of Law, Miami, FL

April 20, 2022. Panelist (accepted), presented on *Human Rights Council Resolution on the Right to a Healthy Environment: A Critical tool for Victims of Environmental Injustice and Social Movements?* at The City College of New York's Second Critical Perspectives on Human Rights Conference, New York, NY

March 4, 2022. Panelist (accepted), presented on *The Interpersonal Dimension of Individual Freedom: Why Vaccines Are Not Entirely a Matter of Individual Choice* at 2022 Detroit Mercy Law Review Symposium: Governing Bodies: Bodily Autonomy and the Law

February 25, 2022. Commentator (invited), on "The Kinda Hard Problem for Animal Consciousness Research," by Aida Roige (UMD College Park), American Philosophical Association Central Division Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

January 5-9, 2022. Participant (accepted), Workshop for Law Professors on Energy & Environment, sponsored by the Law and Economic Center, George Mason University Antonin Scalia School of Law, Olympic Valley, CA (cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

October 6, 2021. Guest lecturer: International Economic Law, Business, & Policy Colloquium, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA

Summer 2021. Mentor for The Global Policy, Diplomacy, and Sustainability (GPODS) Fellowship (invited). <https://www.gpods.org/mentors-summer-2021>. Gave two lectures on environmental constitutionalism.

August 2021. Participant (invited), Roundtable on *A Consequentialist Defense of Libertarianism*, sponsored by the Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy, Idyllwild, CA

February 2021. Presenter, *Constitutional Environmental Rights: Lessons from the States*. Legal Research in Progress Workshop, Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA

November 2017. Session Leader (invited), Roundtable on Rights, sponsored by the Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy & Churchill College-Cambridge University, Cambridge UK

April 2017. Commentator on “An Application of Risk Analysis to the Self-Defense Doctrine,” by Kirsten Welch (WMU), UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, Champaign, IL

June 2016. Participant (invited), The Value of Wilderness Roundtable, sponsored by the Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy, Sequoia High Sierra Camp, CA

February 2014. Panelist, Envisioning the BRAIN Initiative: A Multidisciplinary Response. INTERSECT: Network for Neuro-Cultures Conference, Champaign, IL

June 2012. Participant (invited), Roundtable on Puzzles in the Law: An Exploration of Leo Katz, *Why the Law Is So Perverse*, sponsored by the Illinois Program in Law and Philosophy, Galena, IL

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

University of Illinois College of Law

Rickert Award for Academic Excellence, 2016

CALI Awards (best grade in class):

Environmental Law, Spring 2015

Products Liability, Spring 2015

Introduction to Advocacy, Spring 2012

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Fellow, INTERSECT: Network for Neuro-Cultures

UIUC Graduate College, 2013–2014

Departmental Fellowship,

UIUC Department of Philosophy, Fall 2012

University of Pittsburgh

University Scholar

Teplitz Scholar, 2010–2011 (scholarship for excellence in mathematics)

Lee Noble Scholar, 2009–2010 (scholarship for excellence in the sciences)

Fellow, Undergraduate Program in Neural Computation

Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, 2010–2011

Fellow, Complex Biological Systems Group

Department of Mathematics, 2009–2010

Brackenridge Fellow

University Honors College, Summer 2009

Souderton Area High School

Valedictorian (out of 512), 2007

COURSES TAUGHT

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Alabama Law

Environmental Law (fall 2024)

Property (spring 2025)

FIU Law

Torts (fall 2022, fall 2023)

Property (spring 2023, spring 2024)
Environmental Justice (fall 2023)

Stanford Law School

Environmental Law and Policy Colloquium (twice per year)
Environmental Justice Workshop (Fall 2021) (co-taught)
Climate and Energy Workshop (Winter 2020) (co-taught)

University of Illinois College of Law

The Philosophical Foundations of Environmental Law (Spring 2019) (short course)

TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of Illinois College of Law

Introduction to Advocacy (Spring 2015)
Introduction to Legal Writing (Fall 2014)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Biomedical Ethics (Spring 2017): *TA Ranked as Excellent*
Ancient Philosophy (Fall 2016) (grader)
Logic and Reasoning QR II (Spring 2016): *TA Ranked as Excellent*
Logic and Reasoning (Fall 2015)
Logic and Reasoning (Spring 2015): *TA Ranked as Excellent*
Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2014)
Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2013)

SERVICE

Alabama Law

Committees

Hiring committee (2024-25, 5 lines)

Advising

Faculty advisor to Martin Slag on Alabama Law Rev. Student Note (2024-25)
Independent Study: Zach Stanton (Spring 2025)

Research Assistants

Grace Turner

FIU Law

Committees

Academic culture committee (2023-24, 2022-23)
Marketing and reputation committee (2022-23)
Judicial clerkship committee (2023-24, 2022-23)
Annual FIU Environment Forum committee (2023-24)

Advising

Faculty advisor to FIU Law's American Constitution Society (2023-24)
Faculty advisor to FIU Law's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (2023-24)

Helped secure funding for J.D. students to attend ALDF's Annual Animal Law Conference
Faculty advisor to Abigail Hunt on FIU Law Rev. Student Note (2023-24)

Administration

Environmental Law Certificate Program

Research Assistants

Noah Netko

UIUC

UIUC: Graduate Philosophy Conference: 2017 (chair), 2016 (committee), 2014 (committee),
2013 (committee)

INTERSECT: Network for Neuro-Cultures Graduate Conference: 2014 (chair)

External

Committees

American Society of Comparative Law: Younger Comparativists Conference, 2023

Graduate Student Committees

Ethan Prall, U. Miami, comp. reviewer (2023)

Reviewer

LEGAL THEORY

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation, Champaign, IL
Summer Associate/Law Clerk

May 2012–August 2013
May 2015–April 2017

BAR ADMISSIONS

West Virginia (inactive); Southern District of West Virginia (inactive)