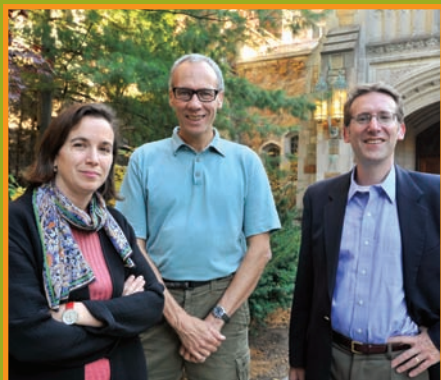


going green, going strong

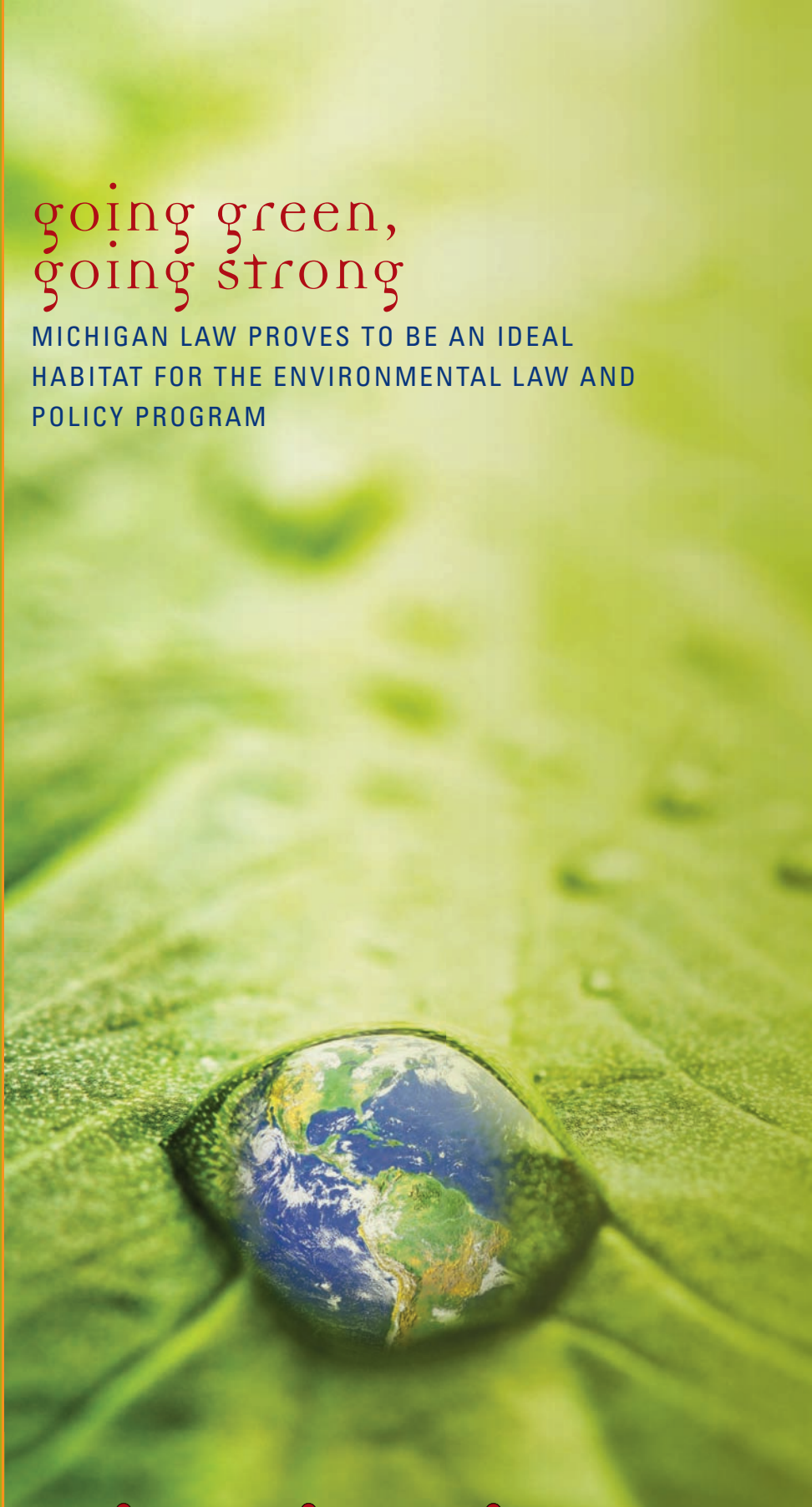
MICHIGAN LAW PROVES TO BE AN IDEAL
HABITAT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND
POLICY PROGRAM



From left to right: Nina Mendelson, Edward Parson, and David Uhlman

"In one year, we have developed a curriculum that rivals or even surpasses that of other leading law schools," says David Uhlmann, Jeffrey F. Liss Professor from Practice and director of the Environmental Law and Policy Program.

"Much of the credit goes to our students, who have made clear their interest in the environment."



1987-1994 LEE C. BOLLINGER JR., DEAN

1989
Tiananmen Square
protests in China

Fall of the Berlin Wall

Michigan has a rich tradition in environmental law dating back to the 1960s. Indeed, the Michigan Law roster reads like a *Who's Who Among Environmental Activists*.

Heading up the list are former faculty member and 2007 Blue Planet Prize winner Joseph L. Sax, who spawned an entire generation of environmental lawyers and policy makers, and Professor James Krier, who wrote early and important articles on air pollution policy.

Notable alumni include Fred Krupp, '78, longtime head of the Environmental Defense Fund, and Mark van Putten, '82, past president of the National Wildlife Federation and currently a Public Interest/Public Service Faculty Fellow at Michigan Law.

A solid foundation

Nina Mendelson joined the faculty to teach environmental and administrative law in 1999 after several years of working on environmental policy initiatives, legislation, and appellate litigation for the U.S. Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. Prior to that, she practiced environmental law with a private firm and worked for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

"I've had a longtime interest in scholarship and teaching and had always hoped to one day return to academia," she says. For Mendelson, who earned her law degree at Yale, teaching offers an opportunity "to train students thoroughly in the way we regulate the environment. That also means analyzing the kinds of policies we might consider to solve pressing new problems such as global warming."

Her survey course in environmental law, which she continues to teach, attracted ever-increasing numbers of students and coincided with a significant growth of interest among faculty campus-wide. She also has been instrumental in the enrichment of environmental program offerings with visiting faculty from academia and private practice.

An interdisciplinary approach

In 2003, Michigan Law both deepened and broadened its environmental law curriculum when it welcomed Edward Parson to its faculty through a joint appointment with the U-M's School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). A specialist in international environmental law who holds degrees in physics and management science in addition to a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard, Parson came to Michigan following 12 years on the faculty of the Kennedy School of Government.

His courses—which tend to highlight synergies between law and the environment—typically attract equal numbers of students from law, public policy, and SNRE. Among his many current scholarly projects are a revised second edition of *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), co-authored with Andrew Dessler of Texas A&M University, and a new book on the relationship between environmental change and technological innovation, written in collaboration with Jennifer Stevens of Clark University.

"The environment is a hard issue for most law schools, largely because normal practice tends to be procedure-heavy and backward looking," Parson notes. "But here at Michigan, I've seen a huge surge of interest in and concern for environmental problems among law students and faculty in recent years."

A strong programmatic commitment

In 2007, that surge of interest led the Law School to recruit David Uhlmann, then chief of the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, to develop and lead an Environmental Law and Policy Program (ELPP). For Uhlmann, the move to academia represented an irresistible challenge and a welcome continuation of his 17 years in public service.

"Our profession has a responsibility to serve the greater good, which includes environmental protection," he says. "The University of Michigan made significant contributions to the development of our nation's environmental law system. Now we have the opportunity to encourage a new generation of students to become better stewards of the environment that sustains us all."

Promoting an interdisciplinary approach continues to be a central goal of the program. ELPP fosters relationships with faculty from across the campus because, as Uhlmann points out, "We want our students to be able to think expansively and to develop an understanding of how environmental issues play out in a real-world context. To solve environmental problems, we must collaborate with professionals in public health, public policy, engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental studies, and other fields."

Student and faculty response has been so enthusiastic that, in just one year, the program has grown to include 17 courses and a guest lecture series. In September of 2008, the program hosted "An Environmental Agenda for the Next Administration," its first annual conference on environmental law and policy. (See Briefs for highlights from that event.) [Q1](#)

1992
Michigan Journal of
Gender and Law begins

1994
Michigan Technology
and Telecommunications
Law Review begins

1995
Michigan Journal of
Race and Law begins

1996
Legal Practice Program
established

1994-2003 JEFFREY S. LEHMAN, DEAN