CHIARA PAPPALARDO

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW
CO-DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & SUSTAINABILITY
Widener University Commonwealth Law School
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Widener University Commonwealth Law School
Assistant Professor of Law 2025-present
Co-Director, Center for Environmental Law and Sustainability 2025-present

Georgetown University Law Center
Investigator, State and Local Government Law and Policy Program (SALPAL) 2022-2023
Research project: "Modeling Energy Democracy in a Federal and Localist System," funded by Georgetown University's Institute for Environment and Sustainability–The Earth Commons
Doctoral Fellow, Institute of International Economic Law 2021-2022
Doctoral Research Assistant, Georgetown Climate Center Mitigation Program 2020- 2021

American University Washington College of Law
Visiting Research Scholar & Professional Lecturer in Law 2015-2019
Academic Coordinator, Program on International Organizations, Law & Diplomacy 2015-2016

The George Washington University Law School
Research Assistant & Contributing Scholar, Sustainable Energy Initiative 2013-2014

EDUCATION

Georgetown University Law Center
Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) 2024
Scholarship: Georgetown Law (merit-based)
Dissertation: "Environmental Governance in the Age of Climate Change: Approaches from the United States and the European Union"
Committee: Sheila R. Foster (Chair), Franz Werro, Emily Hammond
Leadership: Georgetown Energy Law Group Co-Founder & Board Member; SJD Association Co-Chair

The George Washington University Law School
Master of Laws (LLM) General 2019
Thesis: "Innovation Through Traditional Knowledge: An Approach to the Water Crisis"
Advisor: Lee Leroy Paddock

Master of Laws (LLM) in Energy and Environmental Law 2011

Awards: Outstanding Pro Bono Service Student Award (Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill)

Activities: GW Gulf Recovery Network Volunteer (Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans)

University of Rome Tor Vergata (CEIS) 2007

Postgraduate Master's in Economics of Culture: Policy, Governance, and Management

Final Project: "La Fruizione del Patrimonio Culturale nell' Era Digitale" [Access to Cultural Heritage in the Digital Age]

University of Rome La Sapienza 2004

Laurea in Giurisprudenza (First Degree in Law/LLB equivalent)

Thesis: "Profili Civilistici dei Beni Culturali" [Private Property in Cultural Goods]

Committee: Natalino Irti (Chair); Antonio Masi (Co-Chair)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Property Law
- Energy Law and Policy
- Environmental Law and Policy
- Climate Change and the Law
- Administrative Law
- State and Local Government Law
- International and Comparative Law
- Global Governance

My research explores the intersection of energy law, environmental law, and climate change, with a particular focus on the legal and institutional challenges of the energy transition. Drawing on comparative and multilevel governance perspectives, it examines how bottom-up, culturally grounded, and equitable approaches can advance more democratic and sustainable pathways for the energy transition.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

What a Difference a State Makes: California's Authority to Regulate Motor Vehicles Emissions Under the Clean Air Act and the Future of State Autonomy, 10 MICH. J. ENVTL. & ADMIN. L. 169 (2020)

Innovation Through Traditional Water Knowledge: An Approach to the Water Crisis, 34 GEO. ENVTL. L. REV. 627 (2019)

- Lead Article in Volume 34

Book Chapters

Financing Europe's Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy: The Role of Sustainable Finance, *in* THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIENCE IN EU ECONOMICS: FINANCE,

INNOVATIONS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS (Christoph Weber and Marjorie Tendero eds., Routledge, 2025)

Local Initiatives, *in* GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND US LAW 361 (Michael B. Gerrard et al. eds., ABA, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, 3rd edition, 2023) (with Sheila R. Foster)

Scaling Up Local Solutions: Creating an Enabling Legal Environment for the Deployment of Community-Based Renewable Microgrids, *in* ENERGY, GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY 99 (Jordi J. i Manzano et al. eds., Edward Elgar, 2016) (with Jessica Wentz)

Essays and Commentaries (Online)

COP30, Trade, and a New Mechanism to Manage Trade Tensions, ABCI NOTE (Spring 2026)

COP30 in Brazil: The "People's COP"?, ABCI NOTE (Spring 2025)

Boycotting the Boycotters: How ESG Investing Became a Battle, Pitting Red States Against Blue, STATE & LOCAL GOV. L. BLOG (Oct. 3, 2022)

Legal Opinion on the Regulation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Italy, Série de Publications Électroniques d'Avis de Droit de l'Institut Suisse de Droit Comparé (July 22, 2022)

The Energy Transition Calls on All of Us: Overcoming Education Silos at Georgetown and Beyond, COMMON HOME, Summer 2022, at 50-51

Scaling Up State and Local Government Efforts to Ensure a Just Transition, STATE & LOCAL GOV. L. BLOG (Oct. 29, 2021) (with Sheila R. Foster)

A Vision for the Decade (2014-2024) of Sustainable Energy for All: An Effective Global Governance. Recommendations to UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon for the Implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All Agenda, 2013 Global Energy Essay Contest, Global Energy Initiative

- Top 15 finalist among 400+ entries worldwide by doctoral and master's degree students

Works in Progress

The Unfulfilled Promise of Energy Democracy (for submission in law review)
Green Taxonomies and Global Regulatory Fragmentation (early stage)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

- Property I and II (Fall 2025-2026; Spring 2026-2027)

- Climate Change and the Law (Spring 2026)
- Energy Law (Fall 2026)

American University Washington College of Law

- International Energy Law (Spring 2016, 2017 and 2018; Summer 2018)
- Introduction to Trade Policy (Summer 2016 and 2017)
- International Trade Law; Business & Humans Rights (teaching assistant) (Summer 2015)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"Sustainable Finance in the European Environmental Conscience"

- Presenter (in Spanish), Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros (CUNEF), Faculty Workshop, Madrid, Spain, March 10, 2026

"Trade Tools and Sustainability"

- Moderator, American University Washington College of Law, XXI Annual ABCI Institute Symposium, November 18, 2025 (virtual)

"Grassroots Claims, Electric Utilities, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Energy Democracy"

- Presenter, Coleman P. Burke Center for Environmental Law, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Junior Faculty Workshop, May 21, 2024

"The U.S. Inflation Reduction Act, Electric Vehicles, and International Trade"

- Panelist, American University Washington College of Law, ABCI Institute Seminar, April 12, 2024 (virtual)

"Energy Democracy: An Emerging Legal Construct in US Scholarship"

- Presenter, Elisabeth Haub School of Law, Pace University, Future Environmental Law Professors Workshop, September 8, 2023
- Presenter, Georgetown University Law Center, State and Local Government Law and Policy Program, Roundtable on Energy Democracy, May 18, 2023

"Financing Europe's Transition to a Low-Carbon Economy: The Role of Sustainable Finance"

- Presenter, École Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales d'Angers (ESSCA), EU*Asia Institute, Academic Workshop, July 3, 2023 (virtual)

"Codifying Environmental, Social, and Governance Corporate Practices: A Critical Look at Sustainable Finance Reform in the European Union and the United States"

- Presenter, Association of American Law School's Annual Meeting, January 7, 2022 (virtual)

"The EU Non-Financial Disclosure Directive and the Energy Transition"

- Presenter, École Supérieure des Sciences Commerciales d'Angers (ESSCA), School of Management, Academic Workshop, May 28, 2020 (virtual)

"Covid-19 and Ecology: Do We Need a New Legal Framework to Manage Global Risks?"

- Presenter, Georgetown University Law Center, Summer Faculty Workshop, June 9, 2020 (virtual)

"What is 2019 Bringing in the Land of Energy and Climate?"

- Co-Discussant, American University Washington College of Law, The Hot Air Show Episode 22, January 23, 2019

"Gender and the Practice of Environmental Law"

- Co-Panelist, American University Washington College of Law, Women & The Law Program, October 23, 2018

"A Brown-Bag Lunch to Discuss the Energy-Water Nexus"

- Co-Panelist, American University Washington College of Law, Program on Environmental and Energy Law, April 19, 2017

"Regulatory Barriers for Community-Based Renewable Energy Microgrids: What Can be Done to Accelerate the Energy Transition?"

- Panelist, American University Washington College of Law, Annual Environmental Law Symposium, April 3, 2017

"U.S. Climate Politics, Markets, and the Law since the Paris Agreement was signed in December 2015 at COP21"

- Co-Discussant, American University Washington College of Law, The Hot Air Show Episode 20, February 22, 2016

"The Green Giant: Europe's Different Strategies of External Environmental Governance: Does the EU Risk being Perceived as an Anti-Hero?"

- Presenter, American University, School of International Service, Transworld Young Researchers Workshop, June 12, 2015

"Scaling Up Local Solutions, Creating an Enabling Legal Environment for the Deployment of Community-Based Renewable Microgrids"

- Co-Presenter, 12th IUCN Academy of Environmental Law Annual Colloquium, Tarragona, Spain, July 3, 2014

"Water Affordability: Best Practices in Comparative Law"

- Panelist (in Spanish), Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA) in partnership with Environmental Law Institute, Workshop, Xalapa, Mexico, May 9, 2014

"UN SE4ALL: A Preliminary Assessment of the Goal of Universal Access to Energy by 2030"

- Presenter, Law, Justice and Development Week, World Bank Group, Washington DC, November 22, 2013

PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Environmental Law Institute, Washington D.C. 2013-2014
Of Counsel, International Programs

The World Bank Group, Washington D.C. Fall 2013
Legal Extern, Legal Vice-Presidency
Thematic Working Group on Environment and Natural Resources Law

Maccaferri, Inc., Williamsport, MD 2012-2013
Legal Intern

Green Utility S.P.A., Rome, Italy Apr-July 2010
In-House Counsel

Fulbright & Jaworski LLP, Washington D.C. Mar-July 2009
Foreign Associate, Corporate and Securities Law Practice

Dalla Vedova Studio Legale, Rome, Italy 2008-2010
Legal Associate

Italian Ministry of Culture, Rome, Italy 2007-2008
Legal Assistant, Office of the Legal Counsel

Trainee Lawyer, Rome, Italy 2004-2006

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Widener University Commonwealth Law School

- Academic Advisor to 1L students (2026-2027)
- Faculty Advisor to Environmental Law and Policy Society (2025-present)
- Curriculum Committee Member (2025-2026)
  - Revised and co-drafted academic requirements for the environmental law certificate

- Belonging Committee Member (2025-2026)
  - Conceptualized and developed student-led activities centered on inclusion

Georgetown University Law Center

- Ad Hoc Reviewer
  - Robert Stumberg, Transparency: See and Be Seen, *in* 275 BUSINESS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan & Mohammad Rafiqul Islam eds., Brill, 2025)

American University Washington College of Law

- Moot Court Coach
  - The Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (2019)
  - European Law Moot Court Competition (2015-2016)
- Moot Court Judge
  - Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition, qualifying rounds (2016-2017)
- Student Advisor
  - Energy Law and Policy Society (2019)
  - Italian American Law Student Association (2015-2019)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Board Member and Deputy Director of Legal Affairs, ABCI Institute (2024-2026)
  - ABCI Note co-editor and contributor
- Vice-Chair, American Bar Association, Section of Environment, Energy and Resources, International Environmental and Resources Law Committee (2013-2016)
  - Best 2014-2015 ABA SEER Committee Award
  - 2015 ABA SEER Member Spotlight
  - 2013-2014 ABA SEER Membership Diversity Enhancement Program Selectee
- Featured Alumna in GW Law Magazine (Spring 2014)
- Sustainability Fellow, National Housing Trust (Summer 2013)

CERTIFICATES

Certificate in International Institutions and Environmental Protection, American University Washington College of Law, 2015

AWARDS

Outstanding Service Award [Encomium], Italian Ministry of Culture, 2008

BAR ADMISSIONS

Rome Bar, Italy (inactive)

LANGUAGES

Italian (native)
Spanish (native)
French (native)