

# SEAN LYNESS

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## EDUCATION

**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**, J.D., *cum laude* 2015  
Harvard Environmental Law Review, Technical Editor

**BROWN UNIVERSITY**, A.B., Political Science 2012  
*Pi Sigma Alpha*, Political Science Honors Society

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### NEW ENGLAND LAW | BOSTON

*Assistant Professor of Law* 2023–Present  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Law* 2022–23  
*Faculty Fellow* 2020–22

Courses: Property I, II; Civil Procedure; Administrative Law  
Environmental Litigation; Water Law; Constitutional Law

Service: Rules and Admissions Committees  
Curriculum Committee (2020–21)  
Co-coach, Environmental Moot Court Team

*Instructor of Legal Writing* 2019–20  
Legal Research & Writing I, II

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## PUBLICATIONS

*Localizing the Public Trust*, 49 COLUM. J. ENVTL. L. (forthcoming 2024).

*The Constitutional Public Trust in a Warming World*, PACE ENVTL. L. REV. (symposium) (forthcoming 2023).

*Revitalizing the State Environmental Responsible Corporate Officer Doctrine*, 64 B.C. LAW REV. 253 (2023).

*The Local Public Trust Doctrine*, 34 GEO. ENVTL. L. REV. 1 (2021).

- Case note in Blumm & Wood, THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE IN ENVTL. AND NATURAL RES. LAW 221 (Supp. 2021)).

*Tangled Up in Procedure: The State and Local Climate Cases After Baltimore and Ford*, HARV. ENVTL. L. REV. ONLINE (Oct. 2021).

*A Doctrine Untethered: "Passage Along the Shore" Under the Rhode Island Public Trust Doctrine*, 26 ROGER WILLIAMS U. L. REV. 102 (2021).

- Case note in Blumm & Wood, THE PUBLIC TRUST DOCTRINE IN ENVTL. AND NATURAL RES. LAW 139 (3d ed. 2021)).

#### SHORTER WORKS

“A Primer on Rhode Island’s Shoreline Access Rights,” *R.I. Bar Journal*, September/October 2023.

“*Biden v. Nebraska* and Growing Judicial Conversationalism,” *New England Law Review Faculty Blog*, July 31, 2023.

“Oil Giants Inch Closer to Discovery in State Climate Cases,” *Bloomberg Law Insights*, April 26, 2023.

“State and Local Climate Lawsuits are 4-1 at the Federal Circuit Courts,” *Northwestern University Law Review Of Note*, June 9, 2022.

“No, Really, Civil Procedure Matters: The State and Local Climate Cases,” *New England Law Review Faculty Blog*, June 5, 2022.

“Rhode Island Senate Must Act to Preserve the Shoreline,” *THE BOSTON GLOBE RHODE ISLAND*, June 3, 2022.

“The Public Trust Doctrine and *Mississippi v. Tennessee*,” *University of Cincinnati Law Review Blog*, April 19, 2022.

“2021 Public Trust Doctrine Update,” *Water Law Institute* 5-1, ROCKY MT. MIN. L. FDN. 2021.

“The Rhode Island Public Trust Doctrine: 1663–1982” Written testimony before the Rhode Island Special Legislative Commission on Lateral Shoreline Access, September 23, 2021.

“Good Lawyering: Oral Arguments in *Baltimore*,” *New England Law Review Faculty Blog*, July 13, 2021.

“Climate Cruelty and Local Governments,” *The Environmental Blog*, June 5, 2021.

“Justice Kagan and Judicial Conversationalism,” *New England Law Review Faculty Blog*, April 6, 2021.

“Preserve Access to Rhode Island Shore,” *THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL*, June 23, 2018.

## PRESENTATIONS

### *Entrusting Groundwater*

- Online Workshop for Environmental Scholarship, March 13, 2023.
- Vermont Law School Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship, September 23, 2023 (selected).

Expert Witness Testimony before the Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee on S0417, a Shoreline Access Protection Bill, May 4, 2023 (invited testimony).

Expert Witness Testimony before the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee on H5174, a Shoreline Access Protection Bill, March 28, 2023 (invited testimony).

### *The Rhode Island Public Trust Doctrine*

- Save the Bay Workshop on Shoreline Access, January 9, 2023 (invited).
- Testimony before the Rhode Island Special Legislative Commission on Lateral Shoreline Access, September 23, 2021 (invited testimony).

### *Localizing the Public Trust*

- Vermont Law School Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship, September 24, 2022 (selected).
- Columbia Law School Sabin Colloquium on Innovative Environmental Law Scholarship, May 26, 2022 (selected).
- Online Workshop for Environmental Scholarship, March 10, 2022.

“The Constitutional Public Trust in a Warming World,” Pace Environmental Law Review Symposium on Environmental Constitutionalism, October 28, 2022.

Expert Witness Testimony before the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee on H8055, a Shoreline Access Protection Bill, April 5, 2022 (invited testimony).

“The Reshaping of the Roberts Court,” New England Law Boston, March 15, 2022 (invited panelist).

“Using Non-Environmental Law to Combat Climate Change,” George Washington University Law School, February 21, 2022 (invited panelist).

*Revitalizing the State Environmental Responsible Corporate Officer Doctrine*

- AALS Works-In-Progress, January 5, 2022.
- Vermont Law School Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship, September 25, 2021 (selected).
- Natural Resources Law Teachers Institute, June 4, 2021 (selected).

“2021 Public Trust Doctrine Update,” The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law, Water Law Institute, November 4, 2021 (invited speaker).

*The Local Public Trust Doctrine*

- New England Law Boston Faculty Workshop, March 18, 2021.
- Online Workshop for Environmental Scholarship, February 4, 2021.

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**PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

**RHODE ISLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE** 2016–20

*Special Assistant Attorney General*

Environmental, Open Government, & Government Litigation Units

**RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT** 2015–16

*Law Clerk, Honorable Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney*

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**COMMUNITY WORK**

Save the Bay, Legal Committee 2023–Present

*In re: RI Coastal Resources Management Counsel, 2020-11-84* 2023–Present  
Pro bono counsel in support of public right of way designation

AALS Section for New Law Professors, Outreach Committee 2023–Present

Co-Supervisor, UN Fund for Coral Reefs Research Summer 2022

## MEDIA

Brian Amaral, “Property Owner’s Suit Seeks to Block New R.I. Shore Access Law” THE BOSTON GLOBE, July 7, 2023.

Alex Nunes, “Private Property Owners File Lawsuit Against Rhode Island’s New Shoreline Access Law,” THE PUBLIC’S RADIO, July 7, 2023.

Nancy Lavin, “New Shoreline Access Law Faces First Legal Challenge,” RHODE ISLAND CURRENT, July 7, 2023.

Brian Amaral, “R.I.’s Shore Access Bill is Now Law. Will it Survive Court Challenges?” THE BOSTON GLOBE, June 28, 2023.

Ryan Blessing, “Spring Ave. Fight Aided by Online Appeals,” THE WESTERLY SUN, May 27, 2023.

Ellen Liberman, “A Shore Thing,” RHODE ISLAND MONTHLY, April 2022.

Antonia Noori Farzan, “Shoreline Access Bill Met with Both Public Support and Talk of Lawsuits in First Hearing,” THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, April 6, 2022.

Brian Amaral, “The Right to Exclude: R.I. Study Panel on Shoreline Rights Hears Property Owner’s Side,” THE BOSTON GLOBE, Nov. 4, 2021.

Brian Amaral, “Expert Suggests Rhode Islanders Might Need to Rethink the Law on Shoreline Rights,” THE BOSTON GLOBE, Sept. 23, 2021.

Antonia Noori Farzan, “The Little-Known Story of Why Narragansett Can Charge You Admission at Town Beach,” THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Sept. 2, 2021.

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## BAR

Rhode Island and Massachusetts State Bars  
United States Federal District Court for the District of Rhode Island  
The First Circuit Court of Appeals.