



Yale Law School Climate Change and Animal Agriculture Litigation Initiative

Seeking Summer 2025 Legal Research Assistants

The [Climate Change & Animal Agriculture Litigation Initiative](#) (CCAALI) – a project of the [Law, Environment, and Animals Program \(LEAP\) at Yale Law School](#) – invites applications for full-time summer 2025 research assistant positions. CCAALI is focused on exploring the potential for litigation to help address the climate harms of animal agriculture. See more detail on the initiative below.

The summer research assistants will work on a range of legal issues at the intersection of climate change and industrial animal agriculture. These are full-time positions with a salary of \$7,000 for 10 weeks of full-time work (\$17.50/hour). These positions are open to students at U.S. law schools who will have completed at least one year of law school. Students graduating from law school prior to the summer of 2025 are also eligible to apply, as are LLM students. This position could be remote or in New Haven.

Interested applicants should email a cover letter, resume, writing sample, unofficial transcript, and contact information for two references to daina.bray@yale.edu, with a cc to caroline.zhang.cz443@yale.edu. (Transcripts, if not immediately available, can be sent after the initial application.) The priority deadline is **December 23, 2024**. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

General Information

The research assistants can expect to have a range of challenging and rewarding experiences. Projects may include legal and factual research relating to:

- Novel uses of state environmental statutes and constitutional amendments in response to the climate harms of animal agriculture;
- Potential administrative law and consumer protection claims to address climate-washing relating to animal products;
- Potential claims grounded in the vulnerability of animal agriculture industry infrastructure and profit streams to climate-related natural disasters.

Research assistant work will be overseen by [Daina Bray](#), LEAP Legal Director, and [Laura Fox](#) and [Caroline Zhang](#), Litigation Fellows. [Doug Kysar](#) and [Viveca Morris](#) of LEAP also advise on the Initiative.

Background on the Climate Change & Animal Agriculture Litigation Initiative:

Even if emissions from electricity production and transportation ended immediately, global emissions related to food production alone could preclude limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less above pre-industrial levels, a goal of the Paris Climate Agreement. The vast majority of U.S. agriculture emissions – almost 80% – are related to the production of livestock animals and their feed. The livestock industry’s emissions are particularly concerning because livestock and manure are among the top sources of the climate super-pollutants methane and nitrous oxide, and because of animal agriculture’s significant land-use impacts.

Yet, agribusinesses have received little legal or political scrutiny for their climate pollution, and the industry’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions remain effectively unregulated in the United States. Given the urgency of the climate crisis and the current lack of political will to address GHG pollution from the livestock industry, climate advocates may turn to litigation as a potential leverage point for holding livestock corporations responsible for their climate harms. CCAALI seeks to understand the nature, likelihood, and potential impacts of such strategies.

The CCAALI team includes LEAP Legal Director Daina Bray, LEAP Faculty Director Doug Kysar, LEAP Executive Director Viveca Morris, Litigation Fellow Laura Fox, Litigation Fellow Caroline Zhang, and LEAP Postgraduate Fellow Laurie Sellars.

Yale University considers applicants for employment without regard to, and does not discriminate on the basis of, an individual’s sex, race, color, religion, age, disability, status as a veteran, or national or ethnic origin; nor does Yale discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 protects people from sex discrimination in educational programs and activities at institutions that receive federal financial assistance. Questions regarding Title IX may be referred to the University’s Title IX Coordinator, at TitleIX@yale.edu, or to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 8th Floor, Five Post Office Square, Boston MA 02109-3921. Telephone: 617.289.0111, Fax: 617.289.0150, TDD: 800.877.8339, or Email: ocr.boston@ed.gov.