

LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL

FLOOD CONTROL LAW AND REGULATION



July 11th - July 24th, 2023

Lewis and Clark Law School will offer Flood Control Law and Regulation as a summer intensive class in July of this year. The class, the first of its kind, will be a 2 credit, seminar-style course offered via zoom, with a mixture of lecture, Socratic-style learning, and student-led discussion.

Key topics that will be discussed include:

- A guest lecture on basics of hydrology and hydraulics
- Flood damage reduction initiatives
- Mechanisms of levee failure
- Multi-benefit projects and environmental justice
- The National Flood Insurance Act
- FEMA's Individual Assistance Program

- Federal sovereign immunity for damage by flood
- Truths and myths on climate change and flood risk with special attention on disadvantaged communities
- Flood protection and the homeless
- How does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assess flood risk

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON PAGE TWO

The class may be taken for credit or may be audited.

For questions about the material that will be covered, contact Scott Shapiro at sshapiro@downeybrand.com.

For questions about registering, contact stockdale@lclark.edu.

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Additional Course Information

While water law coursework is common in law-schools, flood law coursework is not, despite the significant flood risk that exists in almost every state. Thus, a public agency lawyer representing cities, counties, or flood control districts will have to learn this unique area of law on the job. Further, the regulatory limitations on land development is key on the private side, and the interplay between Federal flood programs (such as the National Flood Insurance Program) and the Endangered Species Act, is the subject of myriad lawsuits. The issues of flood control are far ranging and important and include impacts to natural resources, ecosystems, issues of equity, etc.

The class will be presented by alumnus Scott Shapiro ('94) a practitioner representing public and private entities navigating the world of flood protection. In addition to his facilitation, there will be a number of guest lectures from experts in the field. The classes will be offered weekdays starting on July 11 and ending on July 24, from 9:00 am to noon Pacific.