

University of Colorado Law School
The Wyss Scholars Program for the Conservation of the American West
Cohort #1 – 2018-2019

The **Wyss Foundation** is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the American West. The **Wyss Scholars Program** seeks to identify and nurture a new generation of leaders on western land conservation issues by providing financial support to students who are committed to careers focused on western conservation. For the purposes of the program, the American West includes the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It is expected that students will be seeking careers in these states or in Washington, D.C., dealing with policy affecting these states. Qualifying employment includes federal or state agencies or a nonprofit organization with a mission to further land conservation in the states listed above.

One Wyss Scholar will be selected each year on the basis of leadership potential, commitment to furthering land conservation in the American West, commitment to pursuing a career in nonprofit or public-sector conservation, financial need, and academic strength. *While experience living or working in the West is preferred, all students interested in western lands and sustainability issues are encouraged to apply.*

ELIGIBILITY:

All current 2L J.D. candidates at the University of Colorado Law School with no grade lower than a B during Law School are eligible to apply. One Law School student will be selected each year to the Wyss Scholars program.

PROGRAM BENEFITS:

Awards will include the following:

- After graduation, for Wyss Scholars who work for a nonprofit organization or governmental agency devoted to furthering land conservation in the American West, a post-graduation award, payable in two installments over 24 months, and intended for use by the student to repay federal student loans incurred while obtaining their degree.
- Stipend (\$5,000) for a summer internship with a nonprofit or public-sector conservation organization dedicated to the American West;
- Membership in the Wyss Scholars network (students and alumni from University of Michigan, Yale University, University of Montana, Northern Arizona University, and Lewis and Clark College).

For further information, please feel free to contact Professor Mark Squillace (Mark.Squillace@colorado.edu).

Colorado Law will hold an information session to provide an overview of the program and answer questions about the application process and expectations post-graduation. This year, **Professor Mark Squillace will lead an information session on November 29 at 3:00 pm in room 300.**

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Application Due Date: Friday, January 5, 2018

Step 1: The following items must be completed and submitted as separate PDF e-mail attachments to Assistant Dean Jackson, kristine.jackson@colorado.edu, **by Friday, January 5, 2018.**

- An **essay** (750-word limit) detailing your past, present, and future commitment to the field of U.S. American Western Conservation and how becoming a Wyss Scholar will enhance your career development in the conservation field.
- A **résumé** (2 pages maximum).
- An outline of your **remaining course of study and summer 2018 internship possibilities** you are exploring (maximum of 1 page).
- A **letter of recommendation** addressing your future as a conservation leader. Students should submit a recommendation letter directly to Dean Jackson at kristine.jackson@colorado.edu.
- Colorado Law will add a copy of your University of Colorado Law transcript to your application packet.

Step 2: Semi-finalist applicants will be scheduled for a half-hour interview in mid-February. The interviews will be conducted by a committee, including the Wyss Scholars Program faculty coordinator (Professor Mark Squillace), a representative from the Wyss Foundation, and one outside nonprofit leader from the Boulder area.

Step 3: The interview committee will consider the students' applications and interview results, and recommend finalists to the Foundation. Award decisions will be made by late February 2018. Students and advisors will be notified via e-mail shortly thereafter.

The Wyss Scholars Program for the Conservation of the American West is open to individuals regardless of race, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or gender. We encourage individuals from groups historically underrepresented in environmental conservation to apply.