Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth
Georgia State University College of Law’s Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth offers programs for students and professionals to deepen their understanding of the challenges facing growing metropolitan regions, and provides opportunities across the globe to work collaboratively towards solutions. Through research, scholarly publications, policy conferences, academic exchanges and interdisciplinary dialogue, the center helps to shape sustainable, equitable and resilient communities.

Our Programs

Urban Fellows Program and Working Paper Series

The Urban Fellows Program, an interdisciplinary program, is designed to expose students to critical issues facing Atlanta and other metropolitan regions and to provide opportunities for career development. Drawing applicants from across Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology’s School of City and Regional Planning, students are selected through a competitive process based on academic success, volunteerism and work and life experience. In addition to the lecture series, Urban Fellows participate in community outreach and write a research paper. Select Urban Fellows papers are posted as a resource for practitioners and policy-makers.

“The ability to practice as a planner who can think like a lawyer or as a lawyer who can think like a planner is a remarkable asset.”
— Gordon Glass (J.D./M.C.R.P. ’17)

“The Urban Fellows program gave me a well-rounded understanding of land use law and growth management studies. I was exposed to an interdisciplinary view of a wide variety of topics and I was introduced to lawyers, engineers, city planners and other land use and development professionals. It greatly enhanced my law school experience, expanded my network and enriched my legal education.”
— Anamaria Hazard (J.D. ’15), associate city attorney, city of Atlanta
Course Offerings with a Global View

International Perspectives on Urban Law and Policy
Each spring semester, International Perspectives on Urban Law and Policy brings distinguished international scholars to lead small, focused seminars about land-use planning and environmental law topics in their respective countries. Students critically compare U.S. land-use law and policy with other countries’ approaches to the same issues. An optional study abroad component is offered, enabling students to experience firsthand the challenges facing global cities.

Opportunities for Specialization

Certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law
The Certificate in Environmental and Land Use Law gives students the knowledge and skills needed to work in this interdisciplinary field through a tailored mix of courses in administrative law, environmental law, land-use law and related electives. Participation in the Urban Fellows Program teaches students how to analyze and solve pressing law and policy issues, and how to work on cross functional teams while learning about key issues facing metropolitan regions.

Dual-Degree Program – J.D./Masters in City and Regional Planning
Students interested in law as well as city and regional planning can study both with a carefully crafted, streamlined dual degree. In just four years, students can earn a J.D. from Georgia State Law and a master’s in city and regional planning from Georgia Tech. Through collaborative research and instruction, the dual degree provides an educational background that reflects the interdisciplinary nature of land use planning and development regulation law.

Working Collaboratively Across the Globe To Solve Urban Issues

The center’s faculty works across the globe, conducting research and teaching courses. Its conferences and workshops are designed to bring together scholars and practitioners from around the world to solve critical issues facing metropolitan regions.

Study Space Program – An International Workshop
Study Space, a weeklong, intensive workshop, brings together scholars, government representatives and private sector professionals to delve into legal, social and policy challenges facing the host city. Limited to a small, select group of scholars and professionals representing a variety of disciplines, the program is designed to promote active learning and problem-solving through research, site visits and discussions with local academics, nongovernment organizations and government officials. Each year, participants contribute scholarly articles for publication in a journal that is distributed to an international audience.

Study Abroad Opportunities
Study abroad programs provide students with an unparalleled opportunity to develop a global view. The Center regularly sponsors study abroad opportunities for students. Our recent programs include:

- Weeklong spring break programs in Barcelona, Spain; Rio de Janeiro and Curitiba, Brazil; and Istanbul, are offered with the International Perspectives on Urban Law and Policy course
- Weeklong summer independent study courses with the Study Space Program to Cape Town, South Africa; Barcelona, Spain; and Istanbul.
- A monthlong program in Rio de Janeiro offered with Tulan University Law School and its Payson Center for International Development

Recent Study Space Programs

- Revaluing the City: Land, Infrastructure, and the Environment as a Catalyst for Change (Cape Town, South Africa 2016)
- Phoenix Cities: Urban Recovery and Resilience in the Wake of Conflict, Crisis and Disaster (Warsaw, Poland 2015)
- Beyond Affordable Housing: An Interdisciplinary Multinational Approach to Adequate Housing Options (Barcelona, Spain 2014)
- Planning for Disaster: Place, Population, Culture and the Environment (Istanbul, Turkey 2013)

“As a land use and zoning attorney in Atlanta, I work with property owners, developers, consultants, builders, planners, and local elected officials on a daily basis. The dual J.D./M.C.R.P. has allowed me to better serve my clients by equipping me with the substantive and practical knowledge necessary to successfully obtain land use entitlements from local governments and agencies.”

—Jill Arnold (J.D./M.C.R.P. ’14), attorney at Pursley Friese Torgrimson
Conferences and Workshops

The center provides valuable opportunities for the local legal and policy community to convene and discuss critical environmental and growth management issues facing the metropolitan region through its conference and workshops. Upcoming events can be found on our website and are advertised through our newsletter.

Our recent conferences and workshops include:
- *Katrina’s Legacy: Creating Robust Metropolitan Regions through Law, Planning and Leadership*, October 2015
- *An Information Exchange and Dialogue about Inclusionary Housing*, November 2014
- *Not a Drop to Drink: Water Rights in America*, February 2013

Partnerships

The center partners with many groups across campus and metro Atlanta, including Georgia State’s Council for the Progress of Cities, Georgia State’s Office of International Initiatives, Georgia State Law’s Center for Law, Health & Society, Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta Bar Association’s Environmental and Toxic Tort Section, Troutman Sanders LLP and King & Spalding LLP.

Our Team

**Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer** specializes in land use planning law, property law, and comparative land use and environmental law. A pioneer in the development of infrastructure finance oriented regulations such as impact fees, he also focuses on smart growth regulations designed to encourage the use of renewable energy and resource conservation. He is a strong believer in the globalization of law and the legal profession, and has taught and lectured throughout Europe, North and South America and Africa.

**Ryan Rowberry** specializes in cultural heritage, historic preservation and natural resources law. He also examines issues related to the medieval Common Law judiciary. He co-wrote *Historic Preservation Law in a Nutshell*, a groundbreaking book that provides the first in-depth summary of historic preservation law within local, state, tribal, federal and international contexts.

**John Travis Marshall** specializes in land use, zoning and private, nonprofit and government interventions to promote urban recovery from crisis and disasters. Marshall was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority from 2007–2011, during which time he helped implement the authority’s post-Hurricane Katrina long-term recovery strategy. He was a partner with Holland & Knight LLP with a practice focusing on land use and zoning matters as well as real estate litigation. He recently co-edited a book, *How Cities Will Save the World*.

**Karen Johnston (J.D. ’08)** is responsible for planning and managing the center’s programming including the Urban Fellows Program and international programs. Prior to joining Georgia State University, Johnston worked for The Home Depot in a variety of environmental, health and safety compliance and training roles. She also worked for Camp Dresser & McKee (now CDM Smith) as an environmental engineer for nearly four years. She is a graduate of the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Regional Leadership Institute (2014) and the Georgia State’s Executive Leadership Academy for Women (2014).
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To sign up for our newsletter, contact Karen Johnston (J.D. ’08) at kjohnston3@gsu.edu, or complete this form, law.gsu.edu/metrogrowthnews.

Like us on Facebook (Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth) and Follow Us on Twitter (GSUMetroGrowth).

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