



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW

The *Catholic University Law Review*, in partnership with the Pacific Legal Foundation, is seeking papers for our Spring 2026 Law Review Symposium, “Searching for Constitutional Limits on Environmental & Natural Resource Law.”

The symposium will explore the extent of Congress’ authority to regulate environmental and natural resources through such acts as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. We are soliciting papers from all perspectives, exploring topics in environmental and natural resource regulation, such as:

- Whether the Commerce Clause or any other constitutional principle limits the application of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, or any other environmental statute
- To what extent federal environmental regimes may reach non-commercial and intra-state activity
- If the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Gonzales v. Raich* can be read to place conditions on the holdings of *United States v. Lopez* and *United States v. Morrison* with respect to environmental law
- To what degree the Necessary and Proper Clause extends Congress’s ability to regulate environmental law under the Commerce Clause
- What alternative constitutional bases to the “dormant Commerce Clause” exist (e.g., the Privileges & Immunities Clause, the Import-Export Clause, etc.)
- What relationship exists between Article IV, the Commerce Clause, nondelegation doctrine, and environmental policies, and whether the structure of Article IV has any bearing on the foregoing
- Whether and to what extent the public trust doctrine applies to federal lands and federal land management practices vis-à-vis conservation or natural resource extraction
- The role of the Ninth or Tenth Amendments in environmental and natural resources law
- Whether environmental regulatory regimes—such as those of the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act—that exhibit ‘cooperative federalism’ unconstitutionally assign federal permitting authority to state actors
- To what extent the government may (or may not) justify environmental regimes under constitutional authorities other than the Commerce Clause (e.g, the Taxing and Spending Clause)

Selected authors will present their papers at a symposium in Washington, D.C., in Spring 2026, and papers will be published as part of Volume 76 of the *Catholic University Law Review*. Please submit a brief research proposal that describes your thesis and how your research will contribute to the legal issues described above by August 1, 2025. Further details for submission and other background information can be found here: <https://pacificlegal.org/call-for-papers/constitutional-limits-on-environmental-natural-resources-law/>