



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

School of Law

Land Conservation Clinic

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025

<https://landconservation.law.uga.edu/>

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

This semester, the Land Conservation Clinic completed:

Landowner's Guide to Conservation Easements

An introductory overview of conservation easements for landowners, this guide covers the basics of what a conservation easement is and why they are needed; the process and practicalities of easement donation, including how such easements are valued; and the costs and benefits to landowners.

Publication will be available via our website.



The Land Conservation Clinic visited Woodlawn Gardens Farm to learn about the process of permanently protecting farms with conservation easements under The Conservation Fund's Working Farms Program.

SEMESTER IN REVIEW

The UGA Land Conservation Clinic assists conservation efforts in the Southeast

The UGA School of Law Land Conservation Clinic covered a lot of ground during the Fall 2025 semester. Eight law students served eight nonprofit and government clients, extending across Georgia and South Carolina. Clinic students' work included drafting the Clinic's largest and smallest conservation easements, exploring the use of zoning conservation tools, and wading through complicated easement interpretation questions. This semester's work required students to think deeply about the implications of drafting decisions, and the various goals of conservation partners. Students also learned about the realities of conservation projects from the land trust, state, and landowner perspectives from guest speakers, and we are grateful to them for sharing their time and expertise.



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During the Fall 2025 semester, Land Conservation Clinic students:

- Drafted five conservation easements protecting land across the Georgia, from Madison to Grady counties, including:
 - The clinic's largest (650+ acres) and smallest (.5 acre) conservation easement to date.
 - The clinic's first historic preservation easement.
- Created a conservation easement drafting reference and template for a land trust.
- Developed a guide to conservation easement subdivisions for a Georgia county.
- Provided an overview of a transferrable development rights program focused on land trust and county goals.
- Researched conservation status and possible future protections required for a conserved property.
- Prepared a Landowner's Guide to Conservation Easements (coming soon to the Clinic's website).
- Prepared a summary of stewardship status and requirements for a land trust.

SPECIAL THANKS

Clinic students also benefited from the expertise of the following conservation professionals, who graciously shared their knowledge with the class this semester:

Christine Watts
Madison Morgan
Conservancy

Steve Friedman
Open Space Institute

Jennifer Grayson
Attorney

John Cooper
Woodlawn Gardens
Farm

Joe Barberee
Athens Land Trust

Emmanuel Stone
Athens Land Trust

Justin Long
The Conservation
Fund



Students in the UGA Land Conservation Clinic, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the university's School of Law and Odum School of Ecology, support land conservation efforts in Georgia and the Southeast. The Clinic offers nonlitigation services to nonprofits, government agencies, and researchers. Student-led projects include drafting conservation easements, legal research, policy review, and creation of education material.