Mason, Pamela

From: envlawprofessors-bounces@lists.uoregon.edu on behalf of Rachel Rothschild [redacted]
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2026 10:48 AM
To: Claudia Polsky
Cc: envlawprofessors@lists.uoregon.edu; Camille Pannu; Daniel Farber
Subject: Re: [Envlawprofessors - UOregon] [EXT] -Re: Environmental Law Faculty Survey - FOIA Requests
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Hi Claudia - yes, your article has been enormously helpful to me (I've read it many times in the last couple years!).

Camille: At the moment, I'm focused on gathering quantitative data about open records requests rather than situations where information is shared with the federal government because of agreements with universities (like what has occurred at Columbia). So what you're describing is not covered by the survey, but I appreciate you flagging this issue for me.

Many thanks again, I really appreciate being able to use this group listserv to circulate the survey.
All the best,
Rachel

Rachel Rothschild, JD, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan Law School
[redacted]

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 9:01 PM Claudia Polsky [redacted] > wrote:

> Thanks for the nod, Camille.
> Rachel: if you are not familiar with it, my 2019 UCLA L. Rev. piece on this topic (*Open Records, Shuttered Labs*) will lead you to many specific enviro profs who have been public records law targets, each of whom is also sure to know of others. On this theme, you may in future want to add a question to your survey asking folks to ID other enviro profs whom they believe have ben similarly targeted. I did not see a place to add that info.
>
> Looking forward to seeing your product!
>
> Best,
> Claudia
>
> Claudia Polsky
>
> Director, Environmental Law Clinic
> & Clinical Professor of Law

UC Berkeley School of Law
434 North Addition
Office: [redacted]
Book appointment

From: envlawprofessors-bounces@lists.uoregon.edu <envlawprofessors-bounces@lists.uoregon.edu> on behalf of Camille Pannu [redacted]>
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 5:52 PM
To: Rachel Rothschild [redacted]>
Cc: envlawprofessors@lists.uoregon.edu <envlawprofessors@lists.uoregon.edu>; Daniel Farber [redacted]>
Subject: Re: [Envlawprofessors - UOregon] [EXT] -Re: Environmental Law Faculty Survey - FOIA Requests

Rachel, I truly hope I'm not throwing another wrench in your model, but some of the private school folks are also under agreements with the Trump Admin that require us to disclose our emails and other communications and information, even if those "records" are not tied to federally funded research (or federally funded anything, really). Is that also within the scope of your survey?

I'm looking forward to seeing the end result of this project! It reminds me of Claudia's 2019 UCLA piece, and it will be interesting to see how much has shifted between terms.

All best,
Camille

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 5:28 PM Rachel Rothschild [redacted]> wrote:

This Message Is From an External Sender
This message came from outside your organization.

I'm interested in survey participants regardless of whether they are employed at a public or private university.

Some private university professors may have worked with federal agencies on research projects and/or received grants from the federal government; those private university professors could receive federal freedom of information act requests regarding their work on such projects (see, e.g., https://ari.hms.harvard.edu/research-compliance/foia-other-regulatory-requests-research-information; https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/library/national/science/073199sci-foia-law.html).

Thanks so much for reaching out! I'm grateful to anyone on the list who is able to participate.

Rachel Rothschild, JD, PhD
Assistant Professor
University of Michigan Law School
[redacted]

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 5:10 PM Michael Herz [redacted]> wrote:

Sorry, another clarifying question: are you interested in responses from professors at private universities, or just public ones?

Michael Herz

Arthur Kaplan Professor of Law

Cardozo School of Law

55 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10003

From: envlawprofessors-bounces@lists.uoregon.edu <envlawprofessors-bounces@lists.uoregon.edu> **On Behalf Of** Rachel Rothschild
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2026 3:55 PM
To: Daniel Farber [redacted]>
Cc: envlawprofessors@lists.uoregon.edu
Subject: [EXT] -Re: [Envlawprofessors - UOregon] Environmental Law Faculty Survey - FOIA Requests

External Email

Hi Dan,

Happy to clarify! I meant the term FOIA to include any kind of open records law - whether federal or state - not just the federal law. Apologies for any confusion!

Thanks for reaching out, I really appreciate it.

All the best,

Rachel

Rachel Rothschild, JD, PhD

Assistant Professor

University of Michigan Law School

[redacted]

On Thu, Jan 15, 2026 at 3:47 PM Daniel Farber [redacted] > wrote:

Hi Rachel - To clarify, do you mean FOIA to refer to the federal statute or to include state laws that provide access to public records?

Dan

On 1/15/26 10:35 AM, Rachel Rothschild wrote:

Dear colleagues,

I'm writing to ask for your help with a research project that seeks to examine FOIA requests made to environmental law professors as part of their university employment. The project also intends to evaluate the prevalence of these requests among other types of university faculty.

If you have five minutes, I would be enormously grateful if you could fill out the survey linked below. For those who have never received a FOIA request, the survey should take just one minute.

A large sample size will be extremely helpful to the project, so I hope you will participate even if you've never received such a request.

The survey is here: [redacted]

Thanks so much for considering.

Warmly,

Rachel

Rachel Rothschild, JD, PhD

Assistant Professor

University of Michigan Law School

[redacted]

--
Dan Farber
Sho Sato Professor of Law

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Camille Pannu *(she / her / hers)*
Associate Clinical Professor of Law
Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Clinic
Columbia Law School
435 W. 116th Street, New York, NY 10027
ph[redacted]
[redacted]