

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
January 17, 2019

We're hiring!

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy is in the market for our next postgraduate research fellow to start up in August! If you're graduating from law school (JD or LLM) in Spring 2019 or already graduated in 2018, and you're interested in joining us here at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, then check out [this job posting](#) and send your resume on in!

Desalination – [that's good AND that's bad?](#)

It's like [turning rebellion into money!](#) Desalination can often feel like [the prince that was promised](#), making something valueless into something valuable and [providing salvation](#) from a future wracked by drinking [water shortages](#). While, yes, it does take salty water (usually from the ocean) and make it drinkable, that's not all it makes. It also makes brine, and what to do with that brine is desalination's next big challenge.

A new [study](#) by UN scientists looks at the amount of brine generated by the world's 16,000 desalination plants (yeah, there's 16,000 of those suckers!). It turns out that for every gallon of freshwater these plants produce, they produce one and a half gallons of brine. It amounts to enough brine to cover Florida a foot deep. We are used to hearing about brine produced in oil and gas operations whenever it [gets spilled](#), but this new source of brine is often pumped right back into the environment, usually the ocean. It's super salty, heated, and containing compounds used to improve the desalination process.

As more and more desalination plants come online (the most are currently in the Middle East and North Africa), disposal of this waste is something that will need to be addressed. The use of [solar energy](#) to [power desalination](#) (it takes a lot of energy) could double as a potential use of that brine, but we appear to be a long way off from [finding other uses for the stuff](#).

Ultra-rich and powerful going to solve climate change at Davos next week, right?

Davos, Switzerland. It's home to the [World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#), "the only yearly gathering that brings together leaders of global society." In anticipation of next week's gathering, the WEF has released its Global Risks Report, a survey of "nearly 1,000 decision-makers from the public sector, private sector, academia and civil society" where they are asked to assess the risks facing the world. This year, [concern about climate change and the environment](#) is as necessary as [haute couture](#). Surely, with [the crème de la crème of the human race](#) descending on Davos and companies ponying up

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[Gulf Hypoxia Task Force Meeting](#)

January 29, 2019

Baton Rouge, LA

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14-15, 2019

New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental Law Summit

March 22 & 23, 2019

New Orleans, LA

Water jobs:

[Senior Research Fellow](#)

Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy

New Orleans, LA

[Gulf Program Manager](#)

SouthWings

New Orleans, LA

Tulane Institute
on Water Resources Law & Policy

6325 Freret Street, 1st Floor

New Orleans, LA 70118

504-865-5982

tulanewater.org

TWITTER: [@TulaneWaterLaw](https://twitter.com/TulaneWaterLaw)

[hundreds of thousands of dollars](#) just to be affiliated with the gathering, the world economy will be giving climate change and environmental degradation all the attention it deserves after next week. Somehow, no matter how many glasses of poop water [Bill Gates](#) drinks nor how many digits [David Blaine](#) loses to frostbite, climate change and extreme weather will still be [number one with a bullet](#) on that world risks list long after Davos returns to a less super-rich population.

We should all probably learn more about coastal law

Because the coasts are [where it's at](#), man! Which is why on March 14 and 15, 2019, this Institute, the Tulane ByWater Institute, and the Seminar Group are hosting exactly the [Coastal Law program](#) you have been dreaming about. It's got all the best stuff: great speakers, continuing education credits for lawyers, engineers and planners, coffee breaks, chairs and tables. It's even now got a special \$100 discount for readers of TUWaterWays! Just use offer code SPP100B at check out. (It suddenly feels like we're hosting every podcast ever). Seating is limited, [so act now](#).