

Grant Competition

Due to a significant increase in funding (only in 2007), the Law Center was able to run a competitive grant program to increase the legal capacity of the Sea Grant network and its constituents. Letters of intent and proposals came from a wide variety of researchers, academic programs, institutions, and universities throughout the United States and abroad. The response to our small grant competition was overwhelming. The Law Center received 65 letters of intent requesting over \$4 million in funding. Unfortunately, only \$550,000 in funding was available. Projects were selected based on feedback received from peer reviewers and a Technical Review Panel, which met January 4 - 5, 2007 in Oxford, Mississippi.

Eleven projects were selected to receive funding in March 2007.

Northeast

1. Woods Hole Sea Grant Program, *Development of a Course to Enhance Understanding of Wetlands Protection Laws and Legal Authority of Coastal Conservation Commission in Massachusetts*, \$40,000
2. Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program, *Fisheries for the Bench*, \$50,000
3. University of Maine School of Law, *Cooperative Harvesting Agreements Workshop for New England Groundfish Fisheries*, \$38,082
4. Woods Hole Sea Grant Program, *Effectively Managing Coastal Floodplain Development: Using Case Studies on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to Develop a National Model Floodplain Bylaw*, \$20,000
5. Maine Sea Grant, *Legal and Policy Tools for the Protection of Coastal Access in Maine and the Nation*, \$54,531

Southeast/Gulf of Mexico

6. South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, *Examining the Evolving Public Trust in South Carolina*, \$26,545
7. Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, *Legal, Policy, and Management Strategies for Effective Stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico: Developing a Consortium for an Adaptive Management Strategy*, \$75,000

Great Lakes

8. Great Lakes Water Studies Institute, *Legal Tools to Protect Coastal Environments*, \$51,850
9. University of Wisconsin, *Model Coastal Management Ordinances for Great Lakes Coastal Communities*, \$58,483

West Coast

10. MRAG Americas, *Review and Development of Near-shore Legal and Policy Framework for Community-based Management Opportunities in Oregon*, \$50,000
11. University of Hawaii at Manoa, *Monumental Questions: Governing the Northwestern Hawaii Islands*. \$75,000

Already our grantees have made a significant impact. On November 1 - 2, 2007, the Marine Law Institute at the University of Maine hosted a workshop on New England groundfish sector agreements. The workshop brought together fishermen, lawyers, economists, and regulators to discuss the legal and regulatory issues surrounding New England harvesting cooperative agreements. An archive of the proceedings and workshop documents is available at <http://www.mli.usm.maine.edu/sectorWorkshop/index.html>. The Woods Hole Sea Grant Program partnered with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to create the training module, *Coastal Conservation Commission Training: Making Decisions Based on Law and Science*. The one-day intensive training sessions were first offered in December 2007 and January 2008. The training module is also available at http://www.maccweb.org/coastal_08/coastal_intro/coastal_08-intro.html.

Future

The Law Center's future is bright. In 2008, the Law Center will launch a scholarly publication, the Sea Grant Law and Policy Journal. The spring issue will feature papers presented by scholars and practitioners at a symposium hosted by the Law Center at the University of Mississippi. The fall issue will publish high-quality law student articles. Look for our first issue in June 2008! The Law Center is also using new technology to increase our outreach efforts. Our blog, *Salt and Grit*, was launched in May 2008. Please visit us at <http://seagrantlawcenter.blogspot.com/>.



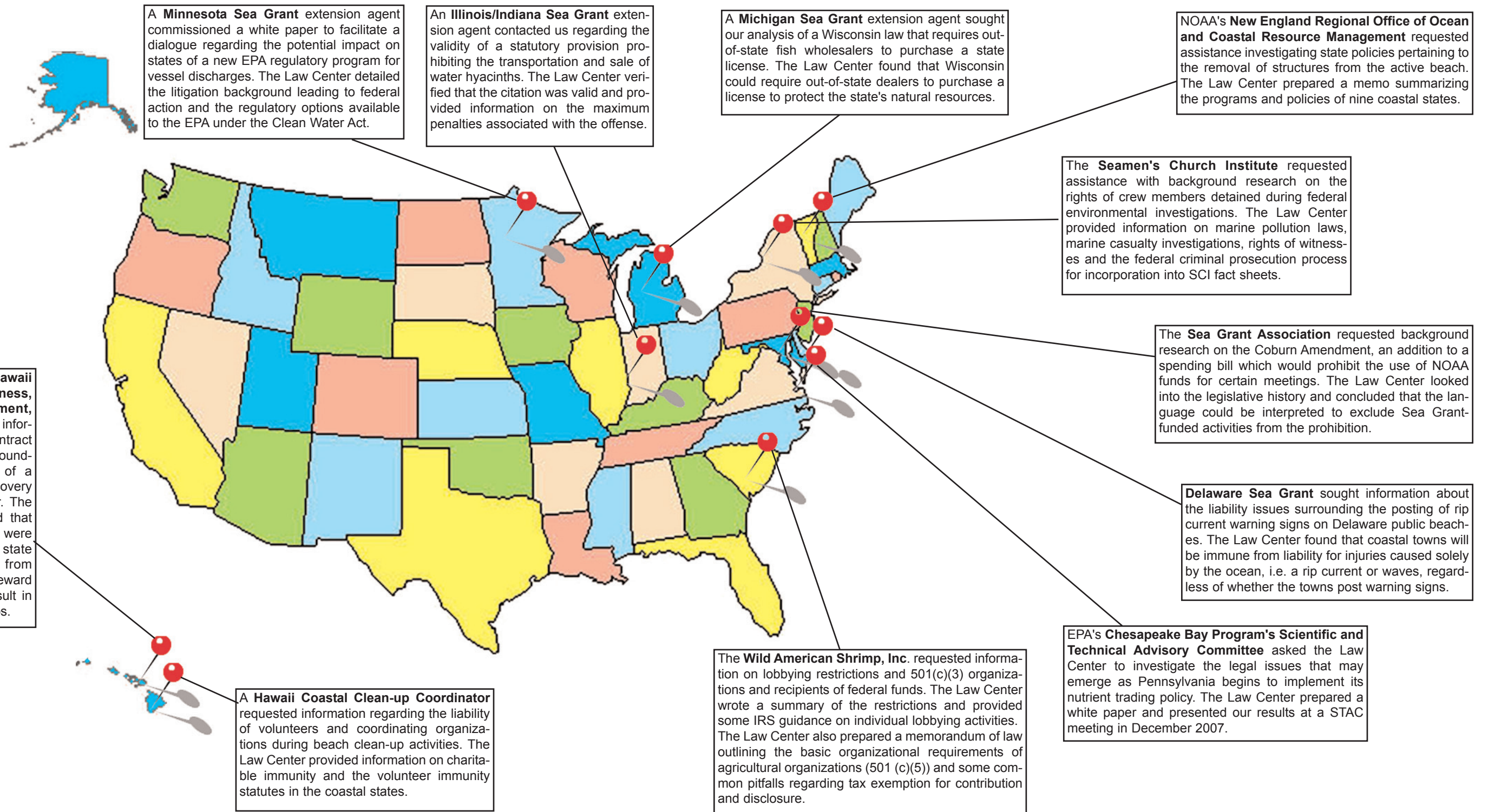
2007 was an exciting year for the National Sea Grant Law Center. In February, we celebrated our five-year anniversary. The Law Center has come a long way in five short years. Our publications are larger, our research service more sought after, and our reputation is growing. Our first grant competition was a great success. The Law Center has hit its stride. Thanks to the support of the National Sea Grant Office and the wider Sea Grant network, our attorneys and staff continue working to increase Sea Grant's legal capacity. The Law Center exists to serve the needs of Sea Grant and we take great pride in helping the extension agents, programs, and the network achieve their goals. Because we often work in a supporting role, the full range of our products and services is not well known. This report highlights just a few of the ways the Law Center contributed to Sea Grant's mission in 2007.

Publications

The subscriber list for our quarterly newsletter, THE SANDBAR, topped 1,200 in 2007. Most of our subscribers are non-lawyers working in a variety of fields. Given the diversity of our audience, the editorial staff of THE SANDBAR strives to provide a wide range of content. Both state and federal cases from around the country are covered, as well as developing legal issues. Periodic special issues focus attention on one important issue. In 2007, the special issue topic was the public trust doctrine. The SANDBAR can be viewed in PDF format at <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC/National/reporter.html>

Since the Law Center launched the OCEAN AND COASTAL CASE ALERT in December 2005, our subscriber list has steadily increased. The Alert is a monthly e-mail based publication that notifies recipients about recent ocean and coastal law cases in federal and state courts. Each citation is followed by a short summary and, when available, a link to the court's opinion. As of December 2007, the Case Alert had 138 subscribers up from 100 in January 2007. To subscribe, send an email to waurene@olemiss.edu with "Subscribe Alert" in the subject line





Advisory Service

The Sea Grant Law Center Advisory Service is a legal research service provided free of charge to the Sea Grant College Program and its constituents. The advisory request process involves four main steps. First, a constituent (federal or state management agency, Sea Grant extension agent, private citizen, etc.) contacts the Law Center. The Law Center attorneys then work with the constituent to identify the discrete legal question and the type of final product needed. Legal research and analysis is then conducted by the assigned attorney and law

students. Finally, a final product is prepared. Advisory requests result in a variety of products including memoranda of law, white papers, joint publications with extension agents, and conference presentations.

Copies of Law Center Advisory Service memorandums & publications, as well as guidelines for the submission of requests, are available at <http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC/National/advisory.htm>.