

Iana Cohen

ilanacohen1017@gmail.com

Education

NYU SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctor, Human Rights and Global & International Law, LSAT: 177/180

Anticipated May 2027

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Arts, Social Studies and Philosophy, GPA: 3.98/4.0

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Completed May 2023

Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, John Harvard Scholar (ranked in top 5% of class year)

Harvard Social Studies Exchange at Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

January – June 2022

Awards & Honors

Research Grantee, The U.S. Fulbright Student Program (2023-2024)

Steve Reifenberg Travel Fellow, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard University (2023-2024)

Undergraduate Fellow, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University (2020-2023)

Winner, Brower Youth Award, New Leaders Initiative of Earth Island Institute (2022)

Max Thabiso Edkins Climate Ambassador, Global Youth Climate Network of World Bank Group Y2Y Community (2024)

Fellow, Spark EU Climate Action Youth Training Program by European Union and Oxfam EU (2024)

Advisory Board Member, Climate Protection and Restoration Initiative (2022-2023)

Director's Internship Program Awardee, Institute of Politics at Harvard University (2019)

Work Experience

SOCIEDAD PERUANA DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL

Lima, Peru

Fulbright Scholar, Researcher

August 2023 – Present

Produce a publicly accessible, bilingual report analyzing the challenges to implementing a unique Peruvian federal law that protects vital coastal-marine ecosystems by granting legal rights to surf breaks, based on an original grant proposal. Provide feedback on legislative advocacy efforts to replicate this law across Latin America and develop international case studies on further legal tools for surf break conservation. Help craft a legislative proposal to protect free-flowing rivers in the Amazon.

FREELANCE JOURNALISM

September 2018 – Present

Regularly contribute to *The Nation* around climate change and youth activism, including 22 reported and opinion pieces to date. Arranged a novel collaboration between *The Nation* and Peruvian outlet *OjoPúblico*, for which I reported on a climate legal development in English and Spanish. Previously contributed to *The Guardian*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Republic*, *Teen Vogue*, *The Progressive*, *Newsweek*, *New York Daily News*, *Common Dreams*, *New York Focus*, and *Columbia Insight*.

INSIDE CLIMATE NEWS

Brooklyn, New York

Reporter

June – November 2020

Authored 30 articles on energy policy, climate change impacts, and environmental justice, including an investigation of the international social and ecological impacts of two proposed hydropower transmission lines. Spearheaded coverage of youth climate activism and supported coverage of breaking news during the 2020 U.S. election cycle.

CLIMATE TRACKER

Brooklyn, New York

Fellow, Global Climate Journalism Mentorship for Young Media Professionals

January – April 2021

Selected as the North American representative. Produced three articles, guest-starred on the Climate Tracker podcast, and conducted a social media takeover, which involved organizing a live conversation with a prominent youth climate activist.

CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tucson, Arizona

Intern, Energy Justice Program

May – August 2021

Researched and analyzed data around climate policy issues, including the potential use of presidential emergency powers for climate action. Prepared public comments for two federal agencies around best practices for decarbonization and wrote op-eds for *The Hill* and *Utility Dive* based on my conclusions. Created explanatory graphics and videos for social media.

BRAD LANDER FOR NYC COMPTROLLER CAMPAIGN

Brooklyn, New York

Political Consultant

April – June 2020

Drafted the central policy platform on addressing climate change with a focus on city pension fund investment. Contributed to platforms on audits, transportation, and COVID-19 economic recovery. Solicited experts' and community leaders' input.

OFFICE OF SEEMA MALHOTRA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

London, United Kingdom

Parliamentary Intern

June – August 2019

Wrote briefings and resolutions on climate policy. Convened a meeting with industry stakeholders on incentivizing small-scale renewable electricity generation. Created a constituent’s guide to Brexit. Coordinated events and managed office diary.

Leadership**CAMPUS CLIMATE NETWORK**

Cambridge, United Kingdom; Cambridge, Massachusetts

Co-Founder, Former Steering Committee Chair, Advisor

January 2022 – Present

Co-founded a non-profit organization (formerly known as Fossil Free Research) dedicated to empowering a new generation of university climate activists to uncover and eliminate undue fossil fuel industry influence in academia. Regularly advise the Executive Director and Steering Committee on strategies for fundraising, media engagement, and partnership building.

FOSSIL FUEL DIVEST HARVARD

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Co-Lead Organizer

September 2018 – May 2023

Relaunched and co-led the successful effort to secure a pledge from Harvard to divest its \$51 billion endowment from the fossil fuel industry. Co-wrote a legal complaint against Harvard that inspired similar climate legal efforts nationwide and co-organized a protest with 500 participants at the 2019 Harvard-Yale football game. Obtained endorsements from high-profile alumni, including Al Gore; represented the campaign to university administrators; and coordinated press coverage.

THE HEY CAMPAIGN, ASHLEY LASHLEY FOUNDATION

Cambridge, Massachusetts

North American Regional Team Lead

March – May 2023

Coordinated, advised, and supported North American youth campaigners in developing and implementing original projects to address the intersections of planetary and human health. Produced social media content around regional climate action.

EDUMATE NYC

Brooklyn, New York

Founder, Team Organizer

April – September 2020

Founded a free, online tutoring platform focused on addressing the pandemic learning gap among under-resourced New York City public school students that has matched over 3,400 K-12 students with trained, volunteer college student tutors.

HARVARD POLITICAL REVIEW

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Associate Managing Editor; Associate U.S. Editor

January 2019 – May 2020

Directed the U.S., Interviews, and Columns sections. Organized the publication’s first Summer Journalism Fellowship for 20 undergraduates. Copy-edited print magazines and scheduled and managed online content.

Research Experience**ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC, PONTIFICAL CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF PERU**

Lima, Peru

Volunteer Researcher

September 2023 – Present

Contribute a U.S. focus to legal research and writing for an amicus brief supporting youth plaintiffs in Peru’s first climate change legal case. Further contribute to an academic article on the value of international collaboration in legal clinic work.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, Massachusetts

“Ethics of Climate Change” Course Assistant

June – August 2023

Researched developments in climate change science and politics, and formulated related lines of philosophical thinking and argumentation on topics including intergenerational justice and climate governance for Professor Lucas Stanczyk. Proposed new assignment and work structures to increase course accessibility for students satisfying general education requirements.

EARTH REFUGE

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Visiting Researcher

June 2022 – February 2024

Produced an open access report for the Earth Refuge website that proposes a rights-based approach to advance international legal protections for climate refugees, based on my analysis of human rights legal instruments and emerging climate change litigation. Received funding from the Harvard College Research Program and a Harvard Lester Kissel Grant in Practical Ethics to conduct a related normative inquiry into states’ climate change obligations, which also supported my senior thesis.

Language

Spanish (professional workplace proficiency)