Professor Lesley K. McAllister taught and wrote in the areas of environmental, natural resources, and energy law; comparative and international law; administrative law; and property law.

Professor McAllister clerked for the Honorable Fern M. Smith of the Northern District of California from 2004 to 2005. She worked as an attorney for Earthjustice and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Before law school, she was an environmental consultant for ENVIRON in New Jersey and the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona, and an environmental education volunteer for the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Before coming to USD, she was a recipient of the Environmental Protection Agency Graduate Star Fellowship, the National Science Foundation Law and Social Science Dissertation Grant, the Stanford Law School Public Service Fellowship, and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Fellowship.

Professor Lesley McAllister was a part of the USD School of Law faculty from 2005 until 2013, when she moved to UC Davis. During her tenure at USD, among many other things, Professor McAllister helped to create the Annual Climate and Energy Law Symposium and the San Diego Journal of Climate and Energy Law. She also pioneered the Climate and Energy Law Course at USD School of Law and co-authored a book on the subject.

To honor Professor McAllister, USD School of Law changed the name of this event to the Lesley K. McAllister Symposium on Climate and Energy Law.