

## DEAN'S WELCOME

Last fall, the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law co-hosted a major conference on an issue of enduring local, national, and international concern: water. Here in Arizona, we are acutely aware of two of its most salient features—water is essential and water is scarce. We also know firsthand that water triggers fundamental issues of law and policy. Specifically, it invites the question: “How does a humane and farsighted government allocate rights and responsibilities for a resource on which human lives, agriculture, industry, culture, and a sustainable environmental balance all depend?” World history is replete with examples of tragic results caused by legal and social institutions that confronted scarcity and responded foolishly, or worse. Inadequate resources often generate acquisitiveness and protectionism rather than wise stewardship that will serve the whole community, not just a particularly forceful or fortunate segment of the community. How should we respond to these abiding concerns in today’s complex environment? This Symposium addresses these timeless and urgent issues—issues that have profound consequences for us all.

Academic conferences like these are high points in the academic year at The University of Arizona. They demonstrate the promise and the power of professional–academy collaborations, and they help us fulfill our commitment to addressing the most serious problems facing our state, our region, and our world.

In the case of the Water Law Conference, our goal of joining forces across disciplines and professional boundaries was met in soaring fashion. But this Symposium is just one part of this important conversation. The University of Arizona is home to five leading water research centers, and has devoted massive intellectual and other resources to advancing the sciences of hydrology, environmental biology, and climate change, and to otherwise developing new insights on water and natural resource law, science, and policy. The College of Law is deeply involved in these initiatives across campus, and has assumed a new leadership role in developing pathways for the interdisciplinary study of environmental law and policy. Our faculty has created the Environmental Breakfast Club, which holds monthly seminars on natural resources and environmental law. The eighty members come from a wide range of colleges and departments including the medical school, the school of public health, and the colleges of agriculture and life sciences, engineering, humanities, science, business, as well as law. Law faculty also serve on various advisory committees to institutions and departments across campus, including the Water Resources Research Center and the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth. Individual faculty members have partnered with others to obtain prestigious National Science Foundation grants. In process are two IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship) proposals. These interdisciplinary teams would offer new opportunities for graduate students to engage in interdisciplinary scholarship. One of these involves “water supply portfolios: reuse and reallocation for a growing population.”

On another front, Professor Kirsten Engel was one of the lead attorneys in an amicus brief on behalf of scientists, including some from The University of Arizona and especially including Professor Scott Saleska, Kirsten's husband, that the U.S. Supreme Court relied on in April 2007 in *Massachusetts v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*. Professor Marc Miller offers a multidisciplinary course on sustainability, composed largely of students from other departments, that draws on faculty expertise from a number of different colleges. Law faculty also are involved in advising government agencies and nonprofit organizations about a variety of water-related problems. Professor Robert Glennon serves as the Water Policy Advisor to Pima County, Arizona. He also serves on American Rivers' Science and Technology Advisory Committee. Professors Carol Rose and David Adelman play crucial roles in our cross-disciplinary efforts, with emphases on law and science, and on law and economics. Led by Professors Kirsten Engel and Dean Lueck, we have created a new Environmental Law and Economics Program that is the only one of its kind in the nation. Professor Mona Hymel is engaged in work on tax policy and the environment, including the implications of a carbon tax. And Professor David Gantz, who heads our LL.M. Program on International Trade Law, specializes in international environmental law. All of these environmental and natural resources faculty give keynote addresses, seminar presentations, and faculty colloquia at major universities and to environmental organizations, civic groups, and government agencies across the country. Their work fulfills our overarching goal: to produce innovative research, teaching, and outreach in an area of exceptional University strength.

The College of Law thus is proud indeed to bring to you this record of the Water Law Symposium proceedings. As you will see, the leadership of Carla Consoli, Mark McGinnis, Ken Hodson, Mike Pearce, Professor Robert Glennon, and the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Arizona brought together an outstanding group of lawyers, academics, and policymakers to discuss water law and policy. The Arizona Law Review editors and writers worked closely with these authors to make this special issue of the *Review* possible. We thank all of these professionals for their commitment to water issues in particular, and to law's progress more generally.

I hope you enjoy this special issue and will look to the College of Law in the future on this and related themes of environmental law, science, and policy.

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