

Fall 2016 Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar – GRAD 592

Topics in Western Water Law

Mondays 4:00-4:50 PM, Behavioral Sciences Building Room 103



COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the 2016 Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar (GRAD592) is to expose students to the various topics of western water law. Specifically, the seminar will:

- discuss topics including: history and evolution of western water law, state compacts, federal water law, hybrid water law systems, water quality law, groundwater law, and environmental law
- provide in-depth discussion about water-related court cases
- provide students with the opportunity to interact with prominent water professionals

GRADING POLICY/ATTENDANCE

The student's grade will be based on a semester assignment and student participation in at least 9 of 13 sessions (9 required to get an A). The last session on December 5, 2016 is mandatory and attendance at all classes is strongly encouraged, thus semester grades will be based upon 60% attendance and 40% the semester assignment. Make sure you sign the roster sheet at each class to get credit for attendance – it is your responsibility to do this before leaving the class! PowerPoints and readings will be posted at:

<http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/grad592.asp>

Ask questions, get to know the speakers, and use this class as a networking experience.

SEMESTER ASSIGNMENT

- Choose a topic in Western water law that interests you
- Identify a seminal court case or legislative statute and the most recent case or statute and prepare a 3-4-page brief explaining how the law and/or administration for that topic area has evolved over time

WATER LAW RESOURCES

- Colorado Foundation for Water Education Citizen's Guide to Water Law
<https://www.yourwatercolorado.org/cfwe-education/water-is/water-law>
- Colorado Foundation for Water Education *Headwaters* issue on Supreme Court Water Decisions
https://www.yourwatercolorado.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=85
- *Colorado Water Law for Non-Lawyers*, Jones and Cech (2009)
- *Water Law in a Nut Shell*, Getches, Zellmer, & Amos (2015)

INSTRUCTORS

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SCHEDULE

August 22 – *Introductions and course overview*

August 29 - *History and evolution of western water law*

Justice Gregory Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court

September 5 - *No class, Labor Day*

September 12 - *How water law is made today: statutes, case law, rule making, and the constitution*

Douglas Sinor, Attorney, Trout, Raley, Montañño, Witwer & Freeman, P.C.

September 19 - *Key Colorado court cases and statutes*

Justice Gregory Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court

September 26 - *Compacts and federal law*

David Robbins, President and Co-founder, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

October 3 - *Law of the River*

Anne Castle, Senior Fellow, Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment at UC Boulder

October 10 - *Groundwater law*

Andy Jones, Attorney, Lawrence Jones Custer Grasmick LLP

Semester assignment topics due to instructor

October 17 - *Water quality law*

Trisha Oeth, Commission Administrator, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment

October 24 - *Instream flow law*

Linda Bassi, Section Chief, Colorado Water Conservation Board

October 31 - *Water courts and the court process*

Dan Brown, Attorney, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett & Gunn, P.C.

November 7 - *Water transactions*

Amy Beatie, Executive Director, Colorado Water Trust

November 14 - *Hybrid water law systems & evolving models of surface and ground water administration*

Larry MacDonnell, Professor, University of Colorado Law School

November 21 - *No class, Fall Break*

November 28 – *Water law administration and management*

Dick Wolfe, State Engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

December 5 – Class discussion, semester assignment due (attendance required)