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EDITOR'S NOTE

In the *University of Denver Water Law Review's* inaugural Editor's Note twenty years ago, Editor-in-Chief Vicki Spencer declared that the *Review's* primary goal was to provide a unique, high-quality forum for sharing ideas, information, and legal and policy analyses on issues in water law. The *Water Law Review's* founders sought to make the *Review* an invaluable resource for practitioners, scholars, and policy-makers. Twenty years later, members of the *Water Law Review* remain steadfast in that mission, and it is my pleasure to bring you Volume 20, Issue 1 of the *Review*.

Our lead article is a collaborative piece entitled, *Fifty Years of Evolving Water Law and Management in the U.S.* The overall article is made up of four individual articles authored by four different authors. The four authors presented on the subject matter of this piece at the American Water Resources Association's annual conference in November of 2014. Only the first three individual articles appear in this issue. The fourth article will appear in Volume 20, Issue 2.

Professor James May, University of Delaware's Widener School of Law, authored the first article, *Evolving Water Law and Management in the U.S.: Delaware*. As an eastern state, Delaware faces unique challenges related to water law, particularly when compared with issues facing states in the West. Professor May provides an overview of some of the ways in which stakeholders in Delaware address those unique circumstances, including the application of regulated riparianism, management of Delaware's Atlantic coast, and the allocation of water resources in the Delaware River Basin.

As an alumnus of the University of Kansas, I enjoyed the opportunity to work with Professor John C. Peck in publishing the second article, *Evolving Water Law and Management in the U.S.: Kansas*. Mr. Peck is a professor at the University of Kansas School of Law. His article provides an overview and analysis of some of the most important developments, both judicial and legislative, in Kansas water law in recent decades.

Irma Russell, professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law and former Dean of the University of Montana School of Law, authored the article, *Evolving Water Law and Management in the U.S.: Montana*. Professor Russell's article covers topics from the Montana's application of the public trust doctrine to the implications of federal reserved rights on other Montana water rights.

We are also excited to publish *A Recipe for Breach: Kansas v. Nebraska's Unclear Standards Will Breed Interstate Water Litigation* written by Theodore E. Yale. Mr. Yale is student at Harvard Law School. In his article, Mr. Yale argues that despite some positive outcomes of the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Kansas v. Nebraska*, the Court's reliance on contract law rather than water-compact jurisprudence may create confusing standards for future interstate litigation.

Next, *Thirsty for a Solution: Promoting More Efficient Water Use in the West*, was authored by Casey Clowes, Tess Husted, and Daniel Kolomitz. All three authors are J.D. candidates at the Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Their article provides an overview of the current water scarcity and drought problems facing the southwestern United States and proposes several solutions. Some of their proposed solutions include reforming the application of the doctrine of prior appropriation, improvements in irrigation technology, and amendments to the federal Farm Bill, among others.

Our final featured article entitled, *A Lawyer's Guide to Ethical Issues in Enforcement Proceedings*, was authored by Heidi Ruckriegle and Mary Viviano. Ms. Viviano is the General Counsel of Vantage Energy LLC, and Ms. Ruckriegle is an Associate with the firm of Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. Their article explores many of the ethical implications associated with reporting, mitigating, and litigating flowback water spills in the context of oil and gas

operations. Ms. Ruckriegle served as sources editor of the *Water Law Review* while attending the Sturm College of Law.

We are excited to feature selections of poetry written by Retired Justice Gregory Hobbs, Jr. In addition to serving nineteen years on the Colorado Supreme Court, Justice Hobbs is a Co-Director of the Sturm College of Law's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program. The selections of poetry appearing in this issue represent additions to selections of poetry written and published by Justice Hobbs in previous issues of the *Review*.

This issue features several conference notes and court reports written by student members of the *Water Law Review*. The *Review* takes special pride in our student contributions, because they allow our members to become better acquainted with the ways in which practitioners, scholars, and lawmakers shape water law, while providing stakeholders with abbreviated analyses of the ever-changing field. We are excited to launch what we hope will be a long-running series of legislative reports that will serve to track and analyze important legislation from around the nation. We hope you find our student coverage of these recent water cases, conferences, and laws useful in your practice or research.

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Ruth Wright for their extremely generous contribution to the *Review*. Mr. and Mrs. Wright made their recent contribution to the *Review* in the name of Retired Justice Gregory Hobbs, Jr. We will further recognize Mr. and Mrs. Wright for their contribution at the Review's Tenth Annual Symposium on April 7, 2017. We hope you will join us for that event.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our readers for their continued support of the *Review*. The *Review* would not be able to pursue its mission of serving as a high-quality forum for sharing ideas, information, and legal and policy analyses on issues in water law without the support of the practitioners, scholars, lawmakers, and students who so readily engage in that mission. We hope that our twentieth volume represents the beginning of many milestones, as we strive to serve as an invaluable resource for many years to come.

Blaine Bengtson
Editor-in-Chief