9-1-2011

Vol. 15, no. 1: Editor's Note

Matt Brodahl

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Custom Citation

Matt Brodahl, Editor's Note, 15 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. [xii] (2011).

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EDITOR'S NOTE

There is a postcard tacked to a bulletin board in the Water Law Review's offices at the University of Denver. It depicts two ranchers holding shovels and engaged in mock battle with one another and into the distance runs an irrigation ditch. The caption under the photo says, "Discussing Water Rights, A Western Pastime". When I first started working at the Review I noticed the postcard and thought to myself that this must be a depiction of a time long since past. Of course, through my time in law school I've learned that this may not be such an inaccurate depiction for present day disputes over water holdings. I've heard several stories from practitioners of town meetings turned suddenly heated when the topic of water comes up, and of ranchers and farmers who awake in the morning to find their headgates mysteriously dislodged from irrigation ditches and settled directly in their driveway.

As the Water Law Review enters its 15th year of publication, we hope to be a conduit of useful information to students, academics, and practitioners who have decided to pursue an interest in the sometimes contentious world of water law. At the Review, we believe that it is the professionals who choose to work in this area that keeps the light-hearted postcard from becoming modern-day reality. It is with that in mind that we would like to present you with a practitioner-oriented issue of the Water Law Review for your enjoyment and hopefully, use.

First, we have a trio of articles written by Johanna Hamburger, Dean Waters Price, and Suzanne Lieberman on Colorado River water transfers in three different Colorado River Basin states – Utah, Colorado, and Arizona. As Jennifer Pitt of the Environmental Defense Fund points out in her introduction to the articles, each of the articles strives to answer two questions: who can transfer Colorado River water and who can block a transfer? This information should prove invaluable to any individual involved with or interested in the Colorado River as the available supply of water throughout the Colorado River Basin continues to be stretched to its maximum possible allocation.

Next, Luke Harris and Christopher Sanchez, Colorado water engineers, provide an in-depth look at groundwater modeling for courtroom settings from the perspective of the engineer. The article details the process undertaken by water engineers in completing a technical analysis and then responding to questioning of the analysis during a court proceeding.

Finally, we are proud to publish *Postjudgment "Water Interest": Lifting the Headgate to Let Appropriate Compensation Flow for Unlawful Diversions*, by Jeffrey Matson. The article details the United States District Court for the District of Nevada's decision in United States v. Bell where the court awarded postjudgment "water interest" on the outstanding balance of water due to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District's diversions in excess of federal law. The article explores historical principles controlling an award of interest,

the water recoupment scheme, and United States Supreme Court precedent in analyzing the District Court's decision.

In addition to these wonderful articles we have, as always, an array of court reports, case notes, book reviews and conference notes written by the *Water Law Review* Staff. Thank you for your continued patronage of the Review and happy reading!

Matt Brodahl