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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Everyone is abuzz with Millennium Fever, but here at the *Water Law Review* we are looking head-on at 1999, as it represents the 30th Anniversary of Colorado's Water Right Determination and Administration Act of 1969. This issue of the *Water Law Review* offers differing perspectives on the statutory scheme that governs the allocation of Colorado's arguably most precious resource: "white gold," "nectar of the gods," water. We are pleased to present the *1969 Water Right Determination and Administration Act Symposium*.

A particular statement remains one of the West's most oft-cited mantras, that "whisky is for drinking and water is for fighting over," and we hope that this issue of the *Water Law Review* remains true to that mantra, at least intellectually. The Symposium articles predict, review, disagree, agree, critique, and praise. They present the opportunity to explore in-depth, after its first thirty years, our water rights allocation system, the only system in the country that allocates water rights by adjudication. The lead article, a history of the 1969 Act, provides the landscape upon which this exploration necessarily must occur. The subsequent articles provide an overview of many of Colorado's water allocation issues: the right to water as a public resource, the need for healthy aquatic ecosystems, the struggle between water for the Western Slope and the Eastern Slope, and the establishment of water supplies for our ever-growing state population.

When reading the Symposium articles, notice that the whole is far more than the sum of its parts; the parts, when assembled, exhibit emergent properties. See if they lead you to question your paradigmatic impression of water allocation in Colorado. Perhaps intersecting water quality and water quantity issues makes sense. Perhaps exempt wells pose a problem for water right administration. Perhaps it is time to buck the traditional adjudication system. Perhaps basin-of-origin protections are logical and fair. Regardless of how you feel about these possibilities, we hope this issue provides food for thought.

The *Water Law Review* staff hopes you enjoy this issue, which, along with all of our previous issues, would not be possible without the kindness and generosity of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. The *Water Law Review* would like to thank the Foundation for its generous support of our journal, both financial and advisory. The Foundation has been one of our greatest advocates since we commenced publication in the Fall of 1997. We would not be where we are today without its help and without the advice and guidance of its members.

Amy W. Beatie  
*Editor-in-Chief*