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L. Ward Bannister

1877-1958

IN TRIBUTE

This first issue of the *Water Law Review* is respectfully dedicated to Lucius Ward Bannister, one of the West's foremost authorities on water law. Born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1877, Mr. Bannister attended Drake University, Iowa University, Stanford and Harvard before coming to the University of Denver.

Mr. Bannister taught at the University of Denver College of Law from 1899 to 1904. Following a brief leave of absence, he returned to the University in 1905. He was appointed full professor in 1922 and continued to teach until 1951. While teaching at the University of Denver, Mr. Bannister was active in Republican politics and national government. In 1929, he acted as legal adviser to the Oil Conservation Conference under an appointment by the Secretary of Interior and was a member of the Hoover Commission from 1947 to 1949.

In addition to his national activities, Mr. Bannister was renowned for his contributions to state and local government. In 1907 and 1908, he served as a member of the Colorado Board of Pardons, and he was counsel for the state's first Industrial Commission. Most notably, Mr. Bannister acted as special counsel for Colorado in a number of water compact matters.

While engaged as a special lecturer at Harvard and Columbia Universities, Mr. Bannister issued an outline of a course on water rights. It is a systematic and comprehensive outline, covering different systems of water rights, appropriation of water for beneficial use, priorities, physical means of use, transfer and extinction of water rights, agencies of acquisition, and distribution. This publication was utilized extensively in teaching water law to students at the University of Denver and elsewhere.

By integrating his intellectual pursuits with his prominent position in the public arena, Mr. Bannister helped lay the foundation for the practice of water law today.

