

6-1-1998

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Melody Divine

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### Custom Citation

Melody Divine, Book Note, Edward H. P. Brans, Esther J. DeHaan, Andre Nollkaemper, and Jan Rinzema, The Scarcity of Water: Emerging Legal and Policy Responses, 1 U. Denv. Water L. Rev. 320 (1998).

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Edward H. P. Brans, Esther J. DeHaan, Andre Nollkaemper, and Jan Rinzema, *The Scarcity of Water: Emerging Legal and Policy Responses*

## BOOK NOTES

EDWARD H.P. BRANS, ESTHER J. DEHAAN, ANDRÉ NOLLKAEMPER, AND JAN RINZEMA, **THE SCARCITY OF WATER: EMERGING LEGAL AND POLICY RESPONSES**, Kluwer Law International Ltd., London, United Kingdom (1997); 299pp; \$124.00; ISBN 90-411-0657-X, hardcover.

*The Scarcity of Water* is a thorough look at the problem of water scarcity on both the national and international levels. A collection of papers presented in The Netherlands at a 1995 conference entitled "Scarcity of Water: International, European and National Legal Aspects," the various essays focus on creative legal solutions that have been used to respond to the water scarcity crisis.

Chapters One and Two analyze the current state of the water problem. They focus mainly on the global water crisis in the twenty-first century and water scarcity challenges for the future. The conclusion is that fresh water will rapidly become more scarce in the face of tremendous population growth, that the need for fresh water will be felt first in developing countries where most of the population growth will take place, and that nations must work in cooperation to implement water conservation programs.

Chapters Three through Six look at international water law. Chapter Three examines institutional and legal responses to water supply, urbanization, and water quality. Chapter Four discusses legal procedures applicable to interstate conflicts on water scarcity and specifically looks at the *Gabcikovo* case. Chapter Five then deals with the protection of watercourses as sources of fresh water for future generations. Finally, Chapter Six assesses the possibility of securing access to safe drinking water through trade and international migration.

Chapters Seven through Ten detail specific water scarcity problems in selected river basins. Included within these chapters are discussions on the Nile, the conflicts between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians, the Jordan River and Middle East water problems, and law and water scarcity in Africa. There is also a detailed discussion of specific treaties.

Similarly, Chapters Eleven through Fourteen discuss water scarcity issues in selected regions. Chapter Eleven focuses on current trends in United States' water law and policy, details the characteristics of riparian rights, notes the special case of Indian Tribes, and discusses future allocation issues. Chapter Twelve focuses on tort liability associated

with the detrimental use of fresh water resources under Dutch law in both domestic and international cases. Chapter Thirteen focuses on liability for damage to riverbeds in The Netherlands, and Chapter Fourteen discusses water right disputes and water scarcity in Nepal Hill irrigation.

The final chapters, Chapters Fifteen through Seventeen, examine the relationship between water scarcity and economic law. Chapter Fifteen specifically discusses balancing free trade in water and the protection of water resources in GATT, Chapter Sixteen focuses on the actual water conflicts between Mexico and the United States, and Chapter Seventeen deals with the privatization of drinking water in Europe.

The purpose of this book is best described by the editors as “an attempt to provide an overview of the various legal responses to conflicts of water uses and to show how water law is continuously developing in reaction to new threats of water scarcity.”

*Melody Divine*

**JOHN CRONIN AND ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR., RIVERKEEPERS, 1ST ED.,** Scribner, New York, New York (1997); 302pp; \$25.00; ISBN 0-684-83908-3; hardcover.

In *Riverkeepers*, John Cronin and Robert F. Kennedy have joined forces to chronicle the events surrounding the efforts to clean up the polluted Hudson River so as to make it possible for “a child to cast a line into the river and catch a fish for the family table.” A powerful story, it reveals that which lays at the heart of environmental activism, delineates the need for grassroots’ efforts, and illustrates how the fight to combat environmental degradation at the local level can positively affect a nation’s efforts to attack widespread environmental quality issues.

The book begins by setting the stage for the river as a battleground. From the power plants to the local fisherman, Cronin and Kennedy introduce the various actors that have been involved in the conflict over the last century.

In Chapter Two, John Cronin tells of his own connection with the Hudson River — from his humble upbringing in the riverside town of Yonkers, New York, to his eventual involvement in the fight to clean up the river. In his youth, Cronin looked at the Hudson and saw only three things: a river that, at least from where he lived, lay beneath cliffs known as the Palisades, a river that separated New York from New Jersey, and a river that was too polluted for swimming. As an adult, a chance meeting with the founder of Clearwater encouraged Cronin to become an environmental activist. He was later offered a job with the Hudson River Fishermen’s Association (“HRFA”), a group which used lab analysis to confront river polluters. This work eventually led to the founding of Riverkeepers — John Cronin was one of the first members. This job entailed cruising the river in a boat looking for illegal