

NATURAL RESOURCES LAW CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO SCHOOL OF LAW

Mission Statement: Promoting sustainability in the rapidly changing American West by informing and influencing natural resources policies, and decisions.

Program Activities and Goals

Through a comprehensive program of research, education, and advice, the Natural Resources Law Center (NRLC) seeks to inform and influence legal and policy decisions regarding a variety of western natural resources. Drawing upon a network of leading legal and policy decision-makers, natural resources administrators, researchers, stakeholders, and concerned citizens, and in conjunction with the School of Law and the broader University of Colorado community and regional and national natural resources institutions, the NRLC focuses substantial intellectual and practical expertise on natural resources issues of importance in the American West. NRLC activities are aimed at promoting real and immediate policy innovation in natural resources decision-making, and also addressing the long-term and incremental nature of more fundamental reform.

NRLC research activities have been funded by, and targeted to, a wide variety of clients, including federal and state governments/agencies, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and other academic institutions. The form, content and distribution of NRLC activities and products mirror the diversity of public and private decision-makers associated with natural resources. Recent publications include:

- *In Search of Sustainable Water Management: International Lessons for the American West and Beyond*; 2005 (Kenney, editor).
- *Groundwater Law Sourcebook of the Western United States*; 2003 (Bryner and Purcell).
- *Coalbed Methane Development in the Intermountain West: A Primer*; 2002 (Bryner et al.).
- *Justice and Natural Resources: Concepts, Strategies, and Applications*; 2002 (Mutz et al., editors).
- *Water and Growth in Colorado: A Review of Legal and Policy Issues*; 2001 (Nichols et al.)
- *The New Watershed Source Book*; 2000 (Kenney et al.)
- *Seeing the Forest Service for the Trees: A Survey of Proposals for Changing National Forest Policy*; 2000 (Beaver et al.)

The NRLC is perhaps best known for its 3-day natural resource conferences held every June. Recent topics have included climate change (2006), the Colorado River (2005), and groundwater (2004). Past topics have covered many additional aspects of western water law and policy (e.g., water transfers, role of dams, environmental protection, dispute resolution), as well as topics including energy development, Native American rights, forest management, the Endangered Species Act, and other topical natural resource issues.

Professional Staff

Professor **Mark Squillace** is the Director of the Natural Resources Law Center. Before coming to Colorado, Professor Squillace taught at the University of Toledo College of Law where he was the Charles Fornoff Professor of Law and Values. Prior to Toledo, Professor Squillace taught at the University of Wyoming College of Law where he served a three-year term as the Winston S. Howard Professor of Law. He is a former Fulbright scholar, and the author or co-author of numerous articles and books on natural resources and environmental law. In 2000, Professor Squillace took a leave from law teaching to serve as Special Assistant to the Solicitor at the U.S. Department of the Interior. In that capacity he worked directly with the Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, on variety of legal and policy issues. (303-492-1287; mark.squillace@colorado.edu)

Doug Kenney is a Senior Research Associate with the Natural Resources Law Center, a member of the Core Faculty of CU's Environmental Studies program, and Deputy Director of the CU-CIRES/NOAA Western Water Assessment, a consortium of researchers assisting water managers and other stakeholders address the challenges associated with climate change and variability. His research and publications are highly interdisciplinary, focused primarily on issues of western water, public lands, and natural resources governance. He has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Colorado, a Master's degree in Natural Resources Policy and Administration from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in Renewable Natural Resource Studies from the University of Arizona. (303-492-1296; douglas.kenney@colorado.edu).

Additional professional staff are employed, as needed, on a project-by-project basis. Chief among this talent pool are **Kathryn Mutz**, NRLC Staff Attorney, who specializes in a variety of natural resource subjects, including mineral development, habitat protection, forestry, and environmental justice, and **Gary Bryner**, former NRLC Director and current Professor at Brigham Young University, specializing in issues including international environmental law and policy, air pollution law, and public lands and wilderness policy and law. Key NRLC collaborators on the CU Law Faculty include Jim Corbridge, David Getches (Dean), Lakshman Guruswamy, Sarah Krakoff and Charles Wilkinson. Several law students are employed at any given time as research assistants.

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