

FROM THE EDITORS

The sine qua non of a life in the law is a willingness to devote a great deal of thought to issues which seldom concern nonlawyers.

Justice Bedworth
Tily B. v. City of Newport Beach

Perhaps the most daunting thing for any person first studying the law is its overwhelming complexity. This is especially true for the field of environmental law, which is filled with leviathan statutes and seemingly endless regulations. The intricacies are only increased when one considers the overall legal structure that governs our society. Because environmental law does not exist in a vacuum, it is necessary to also consider other areas of law. Standing, takings, and federalism are some of the hot issues that affect what occurs in environmental law, but are by no means the only legal concepts that must be considered. Faced with all this complexity, it is easy to forget the lofty goal that gave rise to the field to begin with. At its heart, all environmental law is an attempt to balance human needs and desires without destroying the ecosystems that sustain us and enrich our lives. As society struggles to limit its impact on the biosphere, it is critical that we do not forget the basic respect and awe of the natural world that originally led us to create environmental laws.

This issue of *Environs* examines both the future direction of environmental law and the current complexity that exists in it. First, **Holly Doremus** points out the danger of focusing solely on special places and explains the importance of ordinary places in rekindling society's love of nature. Next, **Camas J. Hubenthal** provides an example of how environmental laws must integrate with the overall legal structure. Her article reviews a recent D.C. Circuit case reincarnating the Nondelegation Doctrine as it pertains to the Clean Air Act and argues that the decision reached was both bad law and bad policy. Finally, **David L. Herman** details the current California ban on ferrets and argues that it should be lifted.

Environs will continue to deliver insights on how to improve the chaotic field of environmental law. It has been a joy bringing you these last two issues of *Environs*, and we thank all those who have made it possible.

Chad Firetag
Managing Editor



David W. Burnett
Jane Crue
Editors in Chief

SPRING 2000

