

## From the Editors . . .

This year *Environs* celebrates its twentieth year of publication. Anniversaries such as this present us with the opportunity to look back as well as forward . . . where we have been and where we are going. The question of where *Environs* is headed is frequently raised within the King Hall community. This year we are working to create a structure which will sustain *Environs* through the next twenty years.

There are certain aspects of *Environs*, however, which we hope will remain constant. *Environs* is a unique forum for interested persons to explore environmental issues, in a non-traditional legal arena. Such a forum encourages writers to move away from the bloodless language which typifies legal writing and legal expression. In the words of Charles Wilkinson, while the law is a combination of science, policy, management and business, "it ought to be good literature and even good poetry too: an eagle law ought to bring out the best in us, give us something to aspire to, and cause us to soar as high and gracefully as the subject for which it is written."

Looking back and looking ahead is an important intellectual exercise. **Paul Veravanich** examines the validity of the almost century old Antiquities Act of 1906, invoked just recently by President Clinton to create the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument. Paul's article explores the insufficiencies of traditional methods of compensation for existing mineral leases in the area and proposes the use of debt-for-nature swap as a new method of compensation. **Jeff Marks** discusses the problems with current federal environmental mandates to the states. Jeff suggests solutions to the existing problems presented by statutes such as the Endangered Species Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. **Russ Naymark** examines a recent development by federal and state governments, the environmental self audit, as a way to encourage accidental polluters to notify authorities of their releases. **Natasha Hyman** focuses on electric vehicles as a solution to the air pollution and non-renewable resources problems posed by conventional petroleum powered vehicles. Finally, **Conrad Huygen** explores what Luke Cole has called "the third wave" of the environmental movement: environmental justice. Conrad posits what factors should be used to determine whether an environmental injustice has occurred. This article revisits a community which Conrad first wrote about in his first year at King Hall, the Mescalero Apache.

These articles all look at existing environmental problems and suggest new solutions. In particular, three of the articles address issues relating specifically to the balance between the federal government and the states in environmental regulation. This theme is especially pertinent as citizens and local governments express dissatisfaction with the perceived centralized nature of environmental lawmaking and its local effects. It is a tension that lawmakers at all levels struggle with, and that informed citizens need to evaluate for themselves.