

## FROM THE EDITORS

The world of environmental law, like law in general, is an interesting mixture of the old and the new, the basic and the complex. It encompasses great issues in procedure and substance, and ranges from the local to the global in scope. The articles in this issue of *Environs* explore all of these levels.

One of the requirements for bringing a suit – any suit – into federal court is whether the plaintiff has standing to sue. This basic requirement has been strictly enforced by the Supreme Court in recent years, often to the detriment of environmentalists. However, the Court has taken a step away from the strict approach in its recent decision, *Friends of the Earth v. Laidlaw Environmental Services*. **Emily Longfellow** analyzes the impact of this surprising decision in her article, which also analyzes the Supreme Court's position of standing from the early 1970s through the present day. Longfellow's analysis of *Laidlaw* provides environmentalists with a clear understanding of how to satisfy an objection to standing.

Lawyers do not always seek to litigate an issue, of course; mediation is usually the best means of resolving disputes. However, an issue to be mediated may feature the participation of many different groups, whose opinions vary wildly. Such is the case with the disputes over allocation of water from the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada, where a decades-long struggle has raged between the city of Los Angeles, local residents of the eastern Sierra, and environmentalists. **Samantha K. Olson** examines differing approaches to encouraging mediation and dispute resolution among these groups and others in similar situations, while providing judges and lawyers with a thoughtful analysis of mediating our planet's scarce resources.

As technology continues to develop previously untouched natural resources, the environmental questions become significant. When the resources in question are located in the unbounded stretches of the ocean, however, the influence of international law also contributes a complicating factor. In his article, **Christopher Calfee** examines how seabed mining of valuable minerals is increasingly subject to international environmental regulation intended to protect the newly discovered biological diversity of the deep ocean.

We hope you enjoy this, the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of *Environs*.

Dan Kelly  
Managing Editor



Chad Firetag  
David L. Herman  
Co-Editors in Chief

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