Tradition, Innovation and Conflict: Perspectives on Colorado Water Law

Lawrence J. MacDonnell

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Tradition, Innovation and Conflict: Perspectives on Colorado Water Law


A rich history of conflict and innovation pervades all matters of water use and policy in Colorado. This legacy was reviewed in a two-day conference in October of 1985 conducted jointly by the Colorado Water Resources Research Institute and the Natural Resources Law Center. This book is based on presentations from that event.

The materials in this book are divided into six parts. Part One frames the discussion with an analysis of the supply of, and demand for, Colorado’s water resources. It identifies several areas where changes must occur to assure that Colorado’s water needs are met. In Part Two, the authors take a critical look at aspects of the present Colorado system for allocating water resources, calling for a thorough analysis comparing the Colorado system with those in other states. Following in Part Three, they examine issues of water use efficiency and the current and potential role of the market in achieving potential efficiency gains, a discussion that continues in Part Four with an examination of several aspects related to water transfers and water management. Part Five examines a traditionally overlooked component of water issues in Colorado: ground water. And, finally, Part Six looks at interstate issues, and the controversial issue of interstate water transfers.
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