


Editors' Note

Melanie Nakagawa

Kirk Herbertson

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/sdlp>

 Part of the [Environmental Law Commons](#), [Human Rights Law Commons](#), [International Law Commons](#), and the [Water Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nakagawa, Melanie and Kirk Herbertson. "Editors' Note." *Sustainable Development Law & Policy*, Winter 2005, 1.

This Editor's Note is brought to you for free and open access by the Washington College of Law Journals & Law Reviews at Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ American University Washington College of Law. For more information, please contact fbrown@wcl.american.edu.

EDITORS' NOTE

Many of us live in a society of water fountains and fifteen minute showers. However, not every region of the world has the luxury of using so much water in ways that are arguably wasteful. Even in Texas and the western United States, access to water is increasingly a concern as water is being shipped across states to those areas that are suffering from water shortages, in some cases left only with the dried up remnants of lakes and rivers. In other countries, limited access to water has aggravated health problems and exacerbated transboundary conflicts.

The United Nations recently declared 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life." This issue of *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* presents several of the most pressing issues surrounding access to water, including water privatization, public participation, the constitutional right to water, and transboundary water conflicts. Because water is a resource fundamental to the existence of human life, concern over access to water should not be a priority only for environmentalists, but also for private businesses, governments, international organizations, and local communities. Through this issue we hope to spread awareness of the immediacy of this issue.



Melanie Nakagawa



Kirk Herbertson

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

OPENING THE FLOODGATES ON A FINITE RESOURCE: THE IMPLICATIONS OF A HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

MARCH 18, 2005

SPONSORED BY *SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT LAW & POLICY*, THE
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE WASHINGTON COLLEGE
OF LAW AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

The United Nations recently declared 2005 to 2015 the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life." In honor of this new decade of water, *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* and the Center for Human Rights present a half-day conference focusing on the debate about whether there should be a Human Right to Water.

The first panel will present arguments about whether water should be a human right, what form this right should take, and who will have this right. This panel will also discuss what the implications are of creating a human right to water on the conservation of water resources and the economic sustainability of projects promoting the access to water.

The second panel will explore several former and current disputes over the access to water. This panel will focus its discussion on factors considered when resolving disputes over who has the right to water and how to resolve these conflicts. This panel will discuss how having a "human right to water" shaped past conflicts, and it will look at future sources of water conflicts and how such disputes may change if there is a recognized "human right to water."

For more information, please contact *Sustainable Development Law & Policy* at sdlp@wcl.american.edu or visit our website at <http://www.wcl.american.edu/org/sustainabledevelopment/>