Fall 2016 Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar – GRAD 592
Topics in Western Water Law
Mondays 4:00-4:50 PM, Natural Resources Bldg. Room 109

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of the 2016 Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar (GRAD592) is to expose students to the various topics of western water law. Specifically, the seminar will:

- discuss topics including: history and evolution of western water law, state compacts and federal water law, hybrid water law systems, water quality law, groundwater law, and environmental law
- provide in-depth discussion about water-related court cases
- provide students with the opportunity to interact with prominent water professionals

GRADING POLICY/ATTENDANCE
The student’s grade will be based on a semester assignment and student participation in at least 9 of 13 sessions (9 required to get an A). The last session on December 5, 2016 is mandatory and attendance at all classes is strongly encouraged, thus semester grades will be based upon 60% attendance and 40% the semester assignment.

Make sure you sign the roster sheet that will be passed around at each class to get credit for attendance – it is your responsibility to do this before leaving the class!

Ask questions and get to know the speakers – these are potential future employers and colleagues.

SEMESTER ASSIGNMENT
- Choose one topic in Western water law that interests you
- Identify the seminal court case or legislative statute and the most recent case or statute
- Prepare a 2-page brief explaining how the law and/or administration for that topic area has evolved over time
- Provide a 4-5 minute oral summary to the class on December 5

PowerPoints and handouts from the weekly presenters will be posted at: http://www.cwi.colostate.edu/grad592.asp

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SCHEDULE
August 22 – *Introductions and course overview*

August 29 - *History and evolution of western water law*
Justice Gregory Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court

September 5 - *No class, Labor Day*

September 12 - *How water law is made today: statutes, case law, rule making, and the constitution*
Douglas Sinor, attorney, Trout, Raley, Montaño, Witwer & Freeman, P.C.

September 19 - *Key Colorado court cases and statutes*
Justice Gregory Hobbs, Colorado Supreme Court

September 26 - *Compacts and federal law*
David Robbins, president and co-founder, Hill & Robbins, P.C.

October 3 - *Law of the River*
Anne Castle, senior fellow, Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment at UC Boulder

October 10 - *Groundwater law*
Andy Jones, attorney, Lawrence Jones Custer Grasmick LLP

October 17 - *Water quality law*
Trisha Oeth, commission administrator, Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment

October 24 - *Instream flow law*
Linda Bassi, section chief, Colorado Water Conservation Board

October 31 - *Water courts and the court process*
Dan Brown, attorney, Fischer, Brown, Bartlett & Gunn, P.C.

November 7 - *Water transactions*
Amy Beatie, Executive Director, Colorado Water Trust

November 14 - *Hybrid water law systems & evolving models of surface and ground water administration*
Larry MacDonnell, professor, University of Colorado Law School

November 21 - *No class, Fall Break*

November 28 – *Water law administration and management*
Dick Wolfe, state engineer, Colorado Division of Water Resources

December 5 – *Student presentations (required)*

December 12 – *Final Exam*