

EDITOR'S NOTE

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

With tattered *Bluebook* in hand, I poured through a quite brilliant interpretation of the Clean Water Act by the faint glow of an old yellow lamp that must have illuminated long nights for many editors before me. The bulb flickered for a moment and went out. As my eyes adjusted to the darkness, strangely, some things became clear. Outside my window the moon cast its brilliant gaze upon Tryon Creek's forest. Even in the grip of the English Ivy that chokes many of these trees, the forest looked peaceful and beckoned me out, away from the rigors of comma placement and vague pronouns. Amongst the trees I began to view the forest in a different light. For the first time my gaze was drawn to the trees themselves. They are beautiful, and so too is this forest. Sometimes, to answer the great call of our time, we must simply change our perspective. Turn off the lights. *Remember* why we are here. After all, it's a living environment we are trying to understand, not simply a statute we are interpreting.

In keeping with Lewis & Clark Law School's great tradition of creative, avant-garde scholarship, *Environmental Law* seeks to broaden the discussion. *Environmental Law* began thirty-seven years ago with big ideas about how and why we should protect the environment. We published pieces of many varieties—from policy to philosophy, to science and law—and from a diverse group of authors—politicians, academics, scientists, and lawyers among them. While *Environmental Law* will continue to be the first place the legal community turns to monitor changes in environmental regulation, we hope to broaden our scope and our readership in the coming years by publishing authors with an eye toward the future of environmental law and the future of the human relationship with the natural world.

Issue 1 of Volume 37 is comprised of authors with unique ideas about how we can reshape environmental law. From tales of the waste of french fries and bottled water to the story of two women in a village in India who captured the rain and brought life to a dying river, this issue reminds us of the power, both for good and ill, of individual choices. It recounts the neglect of a neighborhood built over crude oil storage tanks, our purportedly rational and scientific decision making skewed by political posturing.

Lessons from primary research into New Zealand's use of highly trained environmental law judges to mediate environmental disputes tell of alternatives we might explore. These are a few of the tales told in the pages that follow, hopefully as reminders that we still have work to do, and that we are capable of the fantastic. *Environmental Law* is proud of the work of each of our authors, and I am proud to have played even a small role in bringing their hope for a better world to you.

Corey Tolliver
Editor in Chief