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Introduction

Reed D. Benson
University of New Mexico - Main Campus

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INTRODUCTION

This issue of the *Natural Resources Journal (NRJ)* contains the papers written for the “*As If Equity Mattered*” in *Natural Resources* symposium that was held in the autumn of 2009 on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. The symposium was convened by Sally Fairfax and Helen Ingram, two eminent scholars in the field of natural resource management and governance, to cover issues relating to equity in natural resources law and policy.

“We fear that equity has fallen off the table as a focus in natural resource law and policy during the course of our careers, giving way to reliance on markets and an emphasis on profit and least cost. . . .” With these words, Sally and Helen introduced their charge to the symposium invitees and challenged them to consider equity as an important aspect of natural resource management and governance. The symposium invitees were then organized into one of three panels to discuss equity in some particular context; each panel began with an introduction from a moderator or presider, followed by presentations of each author’s article, remarks from two or three commentators, and then an open-forum discussion involving all the attendees.

While the symposium was an examination of equity, a principle that has long been important to Sally and Helen, it was also a celebration of these two outstanding women as scholars, as educators, and as friends. Those invitees comprised an incredibly impressive, multidisciplinary, multigenerational assemblage of people. Some were former students of Sally’s or Helen’s, while others were longtime colleagues or collaborators. Every one of them brought a lot to the table. A list limited to the legal scholars in attendance offers a glimpse at the gravitas of the group: Joseph Sax, a founder of modern environmental law and one of its most influential thinkers; Dan Tarlock, one of the most versatile and prolific authorities on environment and resources for 45 years; and, Holly Doremus, a law professor and Ph.D., who is one of the leading scholars of her generation.

In this brief introduction I will not address the substance of the symposium or the contents of this issue. Each of the articles speaks for itself, and this issue’s opening essay, by David Feldman and Michelle Whitman, synthesizes the material nicely. Instead, I offer only two observations from my experience of attending and participating in the symposium.

First, as an educator, I found the event profoundly inspiring. Several of Sally’s and Helen’s former students attended, each of whom is now making his or her mark in some aspect of natural resource management. Their gathering was not only a tribute to these women, but also a

reflection of the influence that a great professor can have over time by working with excellent students and sending them out into the world; appropriately, the disciples of Fairfax and Ingram will be advancing the cause of equity in natural resources far into the twenty-first century.

Second, as a scholar, I found the discussions interesting and valuable, largely because they brought people from different disciplines and perspectives together to focus on a particular theme. What made the conversation special was not just the individual quality or the collective diversity of the people involved, but the shared focus on an important topic on which everyone had something to contribute. It reminded me that the *Natural Resources Journal* could enhance its value as an interdisciplinary publication by devoting more issues to a selected topic and by soliciting articles from differing perspectives addressing that topic. The equity symposium not only produced a remarkable issue for Volume 50 of the *NRJ*, but it also provided direction that will guide the *Journal* as we begin our second half-century.

Many thanks to all of the authors for their work, their presentations, and for their excellent articles; to Tania Shahani, our symposium editor and liaison, who attended the symposium and worked with the authors on behalf of the *NRJ*; to the organizers, especially Sally Fairfax and Michelle Whitman, for being such wonderful hosts in the Bay Area; and, above all, to Sally and Helen for convening the symposium and for allowing the *NRJ* to play a small role in bringing equity issues to the forefront of natural resource law and policy discussion. These people—and many others—worked hard to bring you this special issue of the *Natural Resources Journal*. We hope that you enjoy it.

Reed D. Benson
Faculty Editor-in-Chief 2009–2010
Natural Resources Journal

EDITORS' NOTE: This issue includes a number of articles written by non-legal authors; the *NRJ* relied on authors to verify certain non-legal source materials.