

NOTE ON INAUGURAL EDITION

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One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives along in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise. Aldo Leopold (1949).¹

Nearly 60 years ago, the multitude of environmental problems that plague the world today were invisible to those who were not trained to identify them. Presently, pollution, resource mismanagement and social injustice created by environmental problems have made them all too visible. Some claim that maps will have to be redrawn because of the widespread impacts of global climate change.² Statistics now prove that certain low income and minority populations have been forced to bear the health consequences of pollution. These maps, pictures and numbers make the problem visible to the layperson in 2007. Aldo Leopold's 1949 quote represents the past: an inability to recognize what was being done to the environment. The maps, pictures and undeniable statistics, numbers and figures of the environmental ills of 2007 represent the present: a world inundated with doomsday images and calls to action.

The new Environmental Law Journal of Golden Gate University (GGU) School of Law is part of the future. It is designed to bring greater visibility and new perspectives to these immensely challenging environmental problems, and their solutions. It reflects GGU School of Law's strong commitment to training the next generation of environmental attorneys, and to giving a voice to some of the most

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¹ ALDO LEOPOLD, A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC 197 (1949).

² Al Gore, An Inconvenient Truth (Lawrence Bender Productions 2006).

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innovative and creative thinkers about environmental law and policy. We hope, moreover, to carve out a niche in the environmental law journal market. All of the outside articles we publish will be partially peer reviewed, reflecting the emerging trend to bring legal scholarship more in line with other academic disciplines. And the journal's issues will be thematically organized. One issue will focus on the Pacific Rim, highlighting a geographic area that has become a dynamic economic force and a crucial player in the future of environmental law. The second issue will be devoted to an annual symposium on current topics of interest and concern. The inaugural symposium issue examines the impacts of the seminal Warren County protests on the environmental justice movement, 25 years later.

As recent events make all too clear, environmental issues cross borders, party lines, race and class. Although our environmental problems cannot be solved by the law alone, environmental law students, scholars, and practitioners will play an enormously important role in helping to fashion and implement solutions to the current crises that we face. We launch this journal with the hope that it will help ensure that environmental issues will never again be invisible to the layperson.