

Preface and Acknowledgments

“What’s past is prologue.”

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, 1611

Environmental law is everywhere and influences every type of law. This book will help you decipher and understand the complex multitude of issues, statutes, agency regulations, and court decisions that make up environmental law. It breaks down the primary topics of environmental, land use, climate change, and energy law into key concepts and rules, and then it reassembles them in a format that makes them easier to work with.

There is an emphasis herein on providing you with the scientific background to understand each area of environmental, land use, climate change, and energy law. Each chapter is intended to ground you in the technical, legal, scientific, and policy aspects of real-world environmental law practice. In addition, each chapter provides questions with answers, or Examples and Explanations, that place you in the position of counsel to corporations, environmental groups, the government, or lenders, and in the position of prosecutor or environmental policymaker, to help you see how the law applies in real situations. This information is detailed enough to provide a complete foundation even for advanced-level environmental, land use, climate change, and energy law courses.

The sequence of chapters follows the order of topics as they appear in many environmental law casebooks. Specific topics may be located easily, either in the Table of Contents, or in the Index or the Table of Cases at the end of the book. There also is a detailed glossary of key terms and a list of abbreviations at the back of the book.

Environmental, land use, climate change, and energy law are new, exciting, and growing areas of the law. And there is no end in sight to their growth. There is no Restatement of Environmental Law. We are still just beginning the “statement”—the Restatement is something you may author during your career.

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