

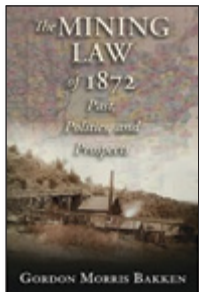
*The Mining Law of 1872  
Past, Politics, and Prospects*

BY GORDON MORRIS BAKKEN

History has left us a classic image of western mining in the grizzly forty-niner squatting by a clear stream sifting through gravel to reveal gold. What this slice of Western Americana does not reveal, however, is thousands of miners doing the same, their gravel washing downstream, causing the water to grow dark with debris while trout choke to death and wash ashore. Instead of the havoc wreaked upon the western landscape, we are told stories of American enterprise, ingenuity, and fortune.

The General Mining Act of 1872, which declared all valuable mineral deposits on public lands to be free and open to exploration and purchase, has had a controversial impact on the western environment as, under the protection of federal law, various twentieth-century entrepreneurs have manipulated it in order to dump waste, cut timber, create resorts, and engage in a host of other activities damaging to the environment. In this in-depth analysis, legal historian Gordon Morris Bakken traces the roots of the mining law and details the way its unintended consequences have shaped western legal thought from Nome to Tombstone and how it has informed much of the lore of the settlement of the West.

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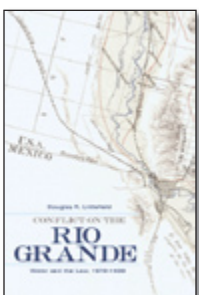


*Conflict on the Rio Grande  
Water and the Law, 1879-1939*

BY DOUGLAS R. LITTLEFIELD

The history of the Rio Grande since the late 19th century reflects the evolution of water-resource management in the West. It was here that the earliest interstate and international water-allocation problems pitted irrigators in southern New Mexico against farmers downstream in El Paso and Juarez, with the voluntary resolution of that conflict setting important precedents for national and international water law.

In this first scholarly treatment of the politics of water law along the Rio Grande, Douglas R. Littlefield describes those early interstate and international water-apportionment conflicts and explains how they relate to the development of western water law and policy and to



international relations with Mexico. Littlefield embraces environmental, legal, and social history to offer clear analyses of appropriation and riparian water rights doctrines, along with lucid accounts of court cases and laws. Examining events that led up to the 1904 settlement among U.S. and Mexican communities and the formation of the Rio Grande Compact in 1938, Littlefield describes how communities grappled over water issues as much with one another as with governmental authorities. This work traces changing attitudes about the role of government, and examines the ways these changes affected the use and eventual protection of natural resources.

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*Courthouses of California  
An Illustrated History*

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
BY RAY MCDEVITT. FOREWORD  
BY RONALD M. GEORGE, CHIEF  
JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA

*Courthouses of California* is a carefully researched and superbly designed photo-documentary book chronicling 150 years of judicial architecture in California. The book commences with a Foreword by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, an introductory essay by attorney Ray McDevitt, and “Perspectives” by Judge Victor Miceli, historian John Burns, and architect Michael Corbett. At the heart of the book are hundreds of magnificent photographs by such renowned masters as Dorothea Lange, Carleton Watkins, and Eadweard Muybridge, and talented contemporary photographers. *Courthouses of California* honors and preserves the rich history of these public buildings and offers a unique window into the civic aspirations of California.

From the Foreword by Chief Justice Ronald M. George: “This welcome volume contributes a missing chapter in the extraordinary story of the Golden State and gives us a comprehensive survey of what are quite likely our most significant public buildings – the courthouses of California. In this rich and unprecedented collection, the story of the state unfolds in its architecture – from Spanish colonialism to statehood to postwar internationalism. The wedding of architecture and justice has resulted in buildings that have much to say about the values and aspirations of our citizens over the years.”

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