

Interdisciplinary Water Resources Seminar GRAD592

Fall 2018 Theme:

Topics in Colorado Water Law

Monday, October 8, 2018 4:00 – 5:30 PM,
Wagar Room 132

Interstate Compacts

Karen Kwon, Colorado Department of Law

Biography:

Karen Kwon is the First Assistant Attorney General for the Federal and Interstate Water Unit within the Colorado Attorney General's Office. Over the past twelve years, Ms. Kwon has specialized in providing legal counsel to the Upper Colorado River Commission, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and the Division of Water Resources concerning Colorado River issues, including reservoir operations, compact compliance, NEPA and ESA projects, and inter-basin and binational collaboration. She also manages a legal team specializing in interstate water compact matters and water issues that implicate the nexus between federal and state authorities. Ms. Kwon is a fourth generation Coloradan with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and International Studies from the University of Denver and a Law Degree from the University of Colorado School of Law. Prior to law school, Ms. Kwon got her first real taste for natural resource matters as a coordinator for environmental permitting and international finance corporation funding of large mining operations in the United States and South America.



Abstract:

Water has always been a precious resource. We are also learning that it can be a finite resource. In the day and age of increasing populations and greater uncertainty in available water supplies, the potential for interstate water conflicts is intensifying. This lecture examines the current mechanisms available and motivations for apportioning water among states, noting advantages and complexities associated with each. It further highlights application of these mechanisms as part of Colorado water administration and law. The reality is that conflicts will always exist over how administration and operation of the river systems should be accomplished to best maximize this resource. The goal thus far has been to search for the flexibility in the system while protecting/preserving rights to the resource. It remains, however, to be seen whether certainty in the 21st Century will trend toward collaboration or litigation.



Colorado State University



All interested faculty, students, and off-campus guests are encouraged to attend.
For more information, contact Reagan Waskom at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu or visit watercenter.colostate.edu.

