

CALL FOR PAPERS

Les Cahiers de droit – Special issue to be published in 2010

Traditions and Transformations in Water Law

Water: nature's source of life and a vital element in human development; natural boundary and waterway. Since the beginning of time, its uses have been a subject of legal interest and debate. In 3100 B.C., the oldest treaty on record deals with sharing the waters of the Euphrates. Throughout history, water rights have been framed by customs, laws, regulations, international agreements, policies and declarations that bear witness to the changing uses and paradigms implicit in the legal treatment of water. Despite the significant development and mobilization of legal interventions with a view to managing, allocating or protecting aqueous resources, water remains one of the crucial issues of the 21st century, both nationally and internationally. Indeed water occupies the forefront of the debate over climate change, globalization and efforts for sustainable development. Scientific data and analysis are in rapid evolution, and they challenge time-worn legal classifications. The uses of water grow ever more intensive and raise new questions regarding its allocation, as well as the rights and obligations that accompany its usage.

This challenging context beckons all to pursue and renew the thinking of water law in light of other disciplines. Its transformation is inescapable and many questions must be addressed. What do contemporary social debates have to say about the legal status of water? How do they bear upon water governance and its qualitative and quantitative management? How do social and cultural representations influence water rights? Are legal developments mindful of the natural imperatives regarding water and its uses? To whom may water belong? To whom should it belong? Is ownership an appropriate legal response or is it a hindrance to the protection of water? Is water a good like any other? Is the recognition of an individual right to water a relevant legal avenue? Would such recognition offer tangible solutions to regulatory gaps at the regional, national or international level? Do legal frameworks at whatever level provide efficient results and do they secure sustainable usage and sharing of water? How does climate change challenge current means of water governance? Have the issues of food and water security, as well as national security, been properly addressed? What part may be played by governments, international organizations, community groups, private actors, corporations, associations? Are the principles of sustainable development observed?

Papers for this special issue must be received **no later than April 30, 2010**. Kindly advise us if you are considering the submission of a paper. This will greatly facilitate the planning of this special issue. We are expecting to receive papers of approximately 20 to 30 pages in length.

Please note that *Les Cahiers de droit* is primarily a French language publication, yet it also hosts English language contributions. The review style-sheet may be consulted on the *Cahiers de droit* Web site at www.fd.ulaval.ca/cahiers.

Important: All papers submitted for publication are evaluated by a panel of independent experts. For further information: Cahiers.de.droit@fd.ulaval.ca.