

GEORGE W. PRING

Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law
Denver, Colorado, USA

George W. (“Rock”) Pring is a Professor of Law at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law in Denver, Colorado, USA, where he teaches International Environmental Law, International Water Law, Environmental Law, Public Land and Resources Law, Constitutional Law, and Administrative Law. His legal practice has included a national law firm; government service as Chief of Environmental Litigation for the State of Ohio Attorney General’s Office; and public-interest practice with the international NGO Environmental Defense Fund. In addition to teaching, he serves as a government advisor, lecturer, and principal in Global Environmental Outcomes LLC (GEO), an international consulting service.

Dr. Pring specializes in environmental and natural resources issues nationally and internationally, including sustainable development, access to justice, corporate social responsibility, human rights, resources development, environmental impact assessment and compliance, green building, land use planning, and nature preservation. A frequent presenter at universities, conferences, and training courses in the US and abroad, he is co-author of Greening Justice: Creating and Improving Environmental Courts and Tribunals; International Environmental Law & Policy for the 21st Century, Human Rights in Natural Resources Development (Oxford), contributor to the Mineral Law & Policy Compendium, the Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law (Oxford), and author of studies for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, and numerous other publications and government studies. He and his wife are the co-directors of the University of Denver’s Environmental Courts and Tribunals (ECT) Study (<http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/ect-study>).

He also specializes in constitutional and human rights issues. He co-authored the National Science Foundation-funded book SLAPPs: Getting Sued for Speaking Out – which first named and drew international attention to the problem of “Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation” in government or “SLAPPs” (lawsuits to chill citizens’ communications to their government officials) – and has written broadly on constitutional issues.

Dr. Pring has served as Chair of the State of Colorado Hazardous Waste Commission, Adjunct Professor in Environmental Science and Engineering at the Colorado School of Mines, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Galen University in Belize, C.A., and numerous government advisory boards. He is US representative on the International Bar Association’s Section on Energy, Environment, and Resources Law Academic Advisory Board; Advisor to the University of Denver Graduate Studies Program in International Natural Resources and Environmental Law; and Vice President for Land Conservation of the land trust Clear Creek Land Conservancy.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

B.A. (honors), Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA (1963)

J.D. (honors), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA (1968)

CONTACTS

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EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Law, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Denver, Colorado (1980-current)

Tenured Professor of International Environmental Law, International Water Law, Environmental Law, Public Land and Resources Law, Constitutional Law and Administrative Law; Faculty Advisor of The Water Law Review; Co-director of the University of Denver Environmental Courts and Tribunals Study; legal research, studies, and publications, expert witness, training conferences and workshops in environmental/natural resources, human rights, and government administration.

Global Environmental Outcomes LLC (GEO), Golden, Colorado (current)

Expert advising, program and systems evaluations, legal research and studies, reports, technical assistance and training, and speaking on international and domestic environmental, natural resources, constitutional, administrative, and human rights issues and programs for a variety of clients, including international, regional, and national governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and individuals.

Adjunct Professor, Colorado School of Mines, Environmental Science and Engineering Division, Golden, Colorado (1983-2004)

Courses for graduate students in the environmental engineering program (Masters and Doctoral candidates) in US Environmental Law, International Environmental Law, International Water Law, Public Land and Resources Law, and Hazardous Materials Training.

Regional Counsel, Environmental Defense Fund, Denver, Colorado (1973-80)

Managing attorney for western office of international public-interest NGO of scientists, economists, and lawyers working on environmental issues, including legislative, executive, and judicial advocacy on mining regulation and reclamation, government minerals programs, basinwide water planning, water quality, air pollution, and environmental impact assessment.

Chief of Environmental Litigation, Ohio Attorney General's Office, Columbus, Ohio (1972-73)

Head of state government division charged with environmental enforcement in court; advisor to state Environmental Protection Agency and Natural Resources Department; development of state air and water quality programs; first state lawsuits under the National Environmental Policy Act

Attorney, Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, Cleveland, Ohio (1968-72)

Attorney in national law firm, representing regional and local governments, industries, businesses, and individuals in planning, negotiation, and litigation of environmental, civil rights, constitutional, public finance, liability, and other issues.

SELECT HONORS

Excellence in Teaching Award (2004)
Listed in Who's Who in American Law
National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant, Co-Principal Investigator, Study of Strategic
Lawsuits Against Public Participation in Government ("SLAPPs") (1987-90)
Hughes Research Professorship (1985-86)
U.S. Fulbright Fellowship – M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda (Vadodara), India (1963-64)
Michigan Law Review
Order of the Coif
International Law class award
Michigan Law honors degree
Harvard University honors degree

PUBLICATIONS

International / Environmental / Natural Resources

GREENING JUSTICE: CREATING AND IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS (The Access Initiative 2009), copy at <http://www.accessinitiative.org/blog/2010/01/greening-justice-creating-and-improving-environmental-courts-and-tribunals>.

Specialized Environmental Courts & Tribunals at the Confluence of Human Rights and the Environment, 11 OREGON REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL LAW No. 2 (forthcoming 2010) (with C. Pring), copy at <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/ect-study>.

Specialized Environmental Courts & Tribunals: Improved Access to Justice for Those Living in Poverty, in International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Academy of Environmental Law (IUCN-AEL), 6TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM: POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (Edward Elgar Press, forthcoming 2010) (with C. Pring), copy at <http://www.law.du.edu/index.php/ect-study>.

International Environmental and Human Rights Law Affecting Mining Law Reform, in REFORMING MINING LAW IN A CHANGING WORLD, 34 JURIDICA LAPPONICA 10 (University of Lapland, Rovaniemi, Finland 2008), copy at http://arcticcentre.ulapland.fi/docs/NIEM_mining_Pring_paper.pdf.

The Impact of Energy on Health, Environment, and Sustainable Development: The TANSTAAFL Problem, in BEYOND THE CARBON ECONOMY (Oxford University Press 2008) (with A. Haas & B. Drinkwine).

14 invited chapters in the MAX PLANCK ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW (Oxford University Press 2008, at <http://www.mpepil.com>) (with others) on the following international rivers: Amazon, Amu & Syr Darya, Brahmaputra, Colorado, Columbia, Congo, Jordan, Okavango, Orange, Parana, Rio Grande, Tigris & Euphrates, Volga, and Zambezi.

A Decade of Emissions Trading in the USA: Experiences and Observations for the EU, in EU CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY: THE CHALLENGE OF NEW REGULATORY INITIATIVES (Elgar Press 2006).

Alternatives to Conventional Regulation in United States Environmental Law, in REGULATING ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES (Oxford University Press 2006) (with R. Feger).

The “Fear Factor”: Why We Should Not Allow Energy Security Rhetoric to Trump Sustainable Development, in ENERGY SECURITY – MANAGING RISK IN A DYNAMIC LEGAL AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT (Oxford University Press 2004) (with S. Noé).

Chapter 1.3 on *International Law and Mineral Resources Development*; chapter 4.6 on *Mineral Development and the Impact of the Climate Change Convention*; and chapter 4.7 on *The Law of Public Participation in Global Mining*, in INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE MINERAL LAW AND POLICY (University of Dundee/Kluwer International 2004) (with L. Siegele).

Abandoned Mine Lands: How Best to Allocate Financial and Regulatory Responsibility? (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, 2003) (with C. Romaña, D. Arguello, & M. Shea).

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (Transnational Publishers Inc., 2003) (with V. Nanda).

The 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development: International Environmental Law Collides with Reality, Turning Jo’burg into “Joke’Burg,” 32 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY 101 (2003).

Environmental Regulatory Systems for Surface Mining of Nonfuel Minerals (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, 2003) (with L. Siegele).

The Emerging International Law of Public Participation Affecting Global Mining, Energy, and Resources Development (with S. Noé), in HUMAN RIGHTS IN NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MINING AND ENERGY RESOURCES (ed. D. Zillman, A. Lucas & G. Pring, Oxford University Press 2002).

Law of Public Participation in Global Energy and Resources Development: A New IBA Book, 20 JOURNAL OF ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW 79 (2002) (with D. Zillman & A. Lucas).

The United States Perspective, in KYOTO: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE (Kluwer Press 2001).

The Role of Government and the Private Sector in Reclaiming Abandoned Mines: Lessons from the U.S. Experience (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan, 2001)

End-Use Restrictions on Selected Base-Metals: A 21st Century Concern (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan 2000) (with J. Otto).

Trends in International Environmental Law Affecting the Minerals Industry, 17 JOURNAL OF ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW 39 & 151 (1999) (with J. Otto & K. Naito).

Trends in Restricted Usage of Metals: Increasing International Environmental Law Limitations on Trade in Secondary Metals for Recycling (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan 1999).

Sustainable Development: Historical Perspectives and Challenges for the 21st Century, in U.N.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME & U.N. REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY (1999).

Environmental Regulation of Exploration and Mining Operations in Selected Asian Countries: A Survey of Senior Government Officials, 23 UNITED NATIONS NATURAL RESOURCES FORUM 323 (1999) (with J. Otto & K. Naito).

International Law and Mineral Resources, in UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD), MINING, ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (1999), available at <http://www.natural-resources.org/minerals/generalforum/docs.htm#UNCTAD>.

Increasing International Environmental Law Limitations on Trade in Secondary Metals for Recycling (study for the Metal Mining Agency of Japan 1999).

National Environmental Law Study: A Methodology for Determining and Analyzing National Environmental Law Regimes Applicable to Mineral Development, with a Survey of the National Environment-Mining Laws of Select Asian Countries (report to the Government of Japan Metal Mining Agency 1998) (with J. Otto & J. Cordes).

Trends in International Environmental Law Affecting the Mining Industry, in PROCEEDINGS: ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION-EXPERTS GROUP ON MINERALS AND ENERGY EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (APEC-GEMEED), SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON MINING ACTIVITIES (Sept. 28-30, 1998).

The U.S. Constitution and Environmental Law, 7 JURISCONSULTUS 9 (Kanto Gakuin University, Japan, 1998).

Book Review: Environmental Law Handbook, 1 WATER LAW REVIEW 133 (1998).

International Legal, Financial, and Institutional Aspects of Environmental Issues for Sustainable Mining and Exploration Activities, in PROCEEDINGS: ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION-EXPERTS GROUP ON MINERALS AND ENERGY EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (APEC-GEMEED), ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION WORKSHOP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON MINING ACTIVITIES (Oct. 27-31, 1997).

Book Review: International Environmental Law & Policy, 24 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY (1996).

Book Review: International Environmental Law and World Order, 23 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY 599 (1995) (with B. Tobias).

THE COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN - CENTRAL MOUNTAINS AREA, JEFFERSON COUNTY, COLORADO (1994) (with others).

Book Review: Freer Trade, Protected Environment: Balancing Trade Liberalization and Environmental Interests, 23 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLICY 227 (1994) (with G. Sweitzer).

"Bug and Bunny Barristers": A Field Guide to Environmental Advocacy in Your Spare Time in PROTECTING OUR BACKYARD: LEGAL STRATEGIES FOR PRESERVING OPEN SPACE (CLE in Colorado Inc. 1994).

"Risk Management and Insurance," in THE STANDARDS AND PRACTICES GUIDEBOOK: AN OPERATING MANUAL FOR LAND TRUSTS at 6-37 (Land Trust Alliance 1993).

Book Review: Four International Environmental Law Collections, 4 COLORADO JOURNAL OF INT'L ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY 422 (1993) (with D. Joeris).

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND LEGAL AUTHORITIES GOVERNING THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S ROCKY FLATS NUCLEAR WEAPONS PLANT (1992).

An Introduction to "Toxic Torts": How Lawyers Are Teaching the Old Common Law New Tricks, 40 TRIAL TALK 231 (Colorado Trial Lawyers Ass'n 1991).

Land Trust Liability and Risk Management, 10 LAND TRUST EXCHANGE 1 (Winter 1991).

An Overview of Environmental/Toxic Tort Practice in ENVIRONMENTAL AND TOXIC TORTS SEMINAR (Colorado Trial Lawyers Ass'n 1991).

The National Environmental Policy Act: No Longer a Teenager, But Not Yet a Grownup (paper presented to the Second Sino-American Conference on Environmental Law, University of Colorado, 1989).

Wilderness and Natural Area Preservation in the United States: A Survey of National Laws, in PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1987 CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, UNIVERSITY OF PEKING, BEIJING, CHINA (University of Colorado 1989) (with S. Miller).

Book Review: Water Resources for Asia, 17 DENVER JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY 235 (1988).

Resource Protection and the National Parks: Meeting the Challenge of the Future, in PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE IN THE NATIONAL PARKS (National Park Service 1987).

SURVEY AND ANALYSIS: NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS, REGULATIONS AND POLICIES AFFECTING WILDLIFE IN NORTHWEST COLORADO (study for Northwest Colorado Wildlife Consortium 1983) (with J. Laitos, et al.).

The FY 1983 EPA Budget - "Prescription for Poison," in HEARINGS ON FY 1983 BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL, & NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS, Task Force on Energy and Environment, House Comm. on the Budget, 97th Cong., 2d Sess. 34-78 (1982).

"Power to Spare": Conditioning Federal Resource Leases to Protect Social, Economic, and Environmental Values, 14 NATURAL RESOURCES LAWYER 305 (American Bar Ass'n 1981); republished in U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR, REFERENCE GUIDE TO SOCIOECONOMIC MITIGATION (1986).

Public Involvement at the Enforcement Level: Environmental Agency Interventions, in NATURAL RESOURCES ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCEDURE (Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation 1981) (with B. Bransky).

THE LAND USE PLAN: MOUNT VERNON, COLORADO (1980) (with others).

License to Waste: Legal Barriers to Conservation and Efficient Use of Water in the West, 25 ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINERAL LAW INSTITUTE 25-1 (1979) (with K. Tomb).

NEPA, FWCA, and ESA: Environmental Dr. Jekylls or Mr. Hydes?, in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IV (Colorado Bar Ass'n 1979).

A Litigator's Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act, in NATIONAL PRACTICE INSTITUTE UPDATE (1978) (with P. Phillips).

Environmental Cases and the Trial Bar, 21 TRIAL TALK 3 (Colo. Trial Lawyers Ass'n 1976).

The National Environmental Policy Act - A Litigator's Guide, in ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SEMINAR (University of Iowa Law School 1976).

Energy Development in the West, SIERRA MAGAZINE (1975).

Reclamation Law Constraints on Energy/Industrial Uses of Western Water, 8 NATURAL RESOURCES LAWYER 297 (American Bar Ass'n 1975) (with L. Edelman).

Constitutional / Other

"Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" in Government, in 5 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION 2557 (eds L. Levy & K. Karst, 2000) (with P. Canan).

IAP3 - Guardians of Our Oldest Political Tradition, THE PRACTITIONER (International Association of Public Participation Practitioners Jan. 1997).

SLAPPS: GETTING SUED FOR SPEAKING OUT (Temple University Press 1996) (with P. Canan).

Op-ed, *SLAPP-Happy Companies*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Mar. 29, 1996).

Op-ed, *World Is Getting SLAPP-Happy*, NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL (May 20, 1996).

SLAPPs: An Overview of the Practice, SLAPPS: STRATEGIC LAWSUITS AGAINST PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT (ALI-ABA Course of Study, Aug. 19-20, 1994)(with P. Canan).

"SLAPPs": A New Crisis and Opportunity for the Government Attorney, 9 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT JOURNAL 3 (Apr., May 1994)(with P. Canan, V. Thomas-McGuirk).

"SLAPPs" - "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" in Government - Diagnosis and Treatment of the Newest Civil Rights Abuse," 9 CIVIL RIGHTS LITIGATION AND ATTORNEY FEES ANNUAL HANDBOOK 359 (1993) (with P. Canan).

The Chilling Effect of SLAPPs: Legal Risk and Attitudes Toward Political Involvement, 6 RESEARCH IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY 347 (1993) (with P. Canan, et al.).

Striking Back at the Dreaded SLAPP, 14 NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 13 (Oct. 12, 1992) (with P. Canan).

"Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" ("SLAPPs"): An Introduction for Bench, Bar, and Bystanders, 12 U. BRIDGEPORT LAW REVIEW 937 (1992) (with P. Canan).

Using Law Ideologically: The Conflict Between Economic and Political Liberty, 8 JOURNAL OF LAW & POLITICS (1992) (with P. Canan, et al.)

"SLAPPs": Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, 7 PACE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 1 (1989).

Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, 35 SOCIAL PROBLEMS 506 (1988) (with P. Canan).

Studying Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation: Mixing Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches, 22 LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW 385 (1988) (with P. Canan).

Uncloaking Law School Hiring: A Recruit's Guide to the AALS Faculty Recruitment Conference, 38 JOURNAL OF LEGAL EDUCATION 345 (1988) (with D. Zillman, et al.).

Intimidation Suits Against Citizens: A Risk for Public Policy Advocates, 7 NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL 16 (July 22, 1985).

Retaliation Lawsuits Against Citizen-Group Opponents: "Risky Business" for the Real Estate Developer, in THIRD ANNUAL REAL ESTATE SYMPOSIUM 71 (Colorado Bar Ass'n 1985).

"Intimidation Lawsuits" Against Citizen Advocates: New Colorado Supreme Court Decision Strengthens Public's First Amendment Protections, 33 TRIAL TALK 3 (Colorado Trial Lawyers Ass'n, April 1984) (with N. Cohen).

PROFESSIONAL

College of Law – Select Activities

Environmental/Natural Resources Law Program, Faculty (1980-current)

International Law Program, Faculty (1980-current)

Environmental/Natural Resources Law Internship Program, Faculty Supervisor (1980-2008)

The Water Law Review, Faculty Advisor (1993-current)

International Natural Resources & Environmental Law Graduate Studies Program, Advisor (1996-current)

Committees (present and past): Dean Search Committees, Faculty Building Committee, Strategic Planning, Policy, Planning, Appointments, Accreditation, Examinations & Standing, Curriculum, Tenure Review Committees

University – Select Activities

The Political Litigation Project (SLAPPs Resource Center), Co-Director (1984-2009)
University of Denver International Institute for Environment and Enterprise, Fellow (1996-2003)
University College Environmental Policy and Management Program, Advisory Board
(1985-2000)

Other Teaching

Adjunct Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering, Colorado School of Mines –
Environmental Law, International Environmental Law, International Water Law, and related
courses (1983-2004)

Consultant/Trainer – Environmental and Natural Resources Law and Policy (1980-current)
Faculty, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Western Management Development
Center – Environmental Law and Policy, Natural Resources Law and Policy, The
Government Manager in a Litigious Society (1983-2001)

Faculty, Rockwell/EG&G Rocky Flats School – Environmental Law, Natural Resources Law
(1989-92)

Adjunct Professor, University of Denver Executive Masters Degree Program in Public
Administration – Administrative Law (1981-83)

Adjunct Professor, Political Science Department, University of Colorado at Denver – Environmental
Politics and Law (1977)

Bar Admissions

States of Colorado and Ohio
United States Supreme Court; U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 6th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and D.C. Circuits;
U.S. District Courts for the District of Colorado and the Northern District of Ohio

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Clear Creek Land Conservancy – co-founder, past-President, Vice President for Land Conservation
(1986-current)

State of Colorado Hazardous Waste Commission (Governor's appointment) – Commissioner
(1992-1998), Chair (1995-96)

State of Colorado Environmental Multi-Media Advisory Committee (1993-96)

Canyon Defense Coalition - Board of Directors (1988-92)

Metro-Mountain Parks Intergovernmental Coordinating Committee (1988-98)

Central Mountains Land Use Plan Committee, Jefferson County, Colorado (1989-94)

Denver Audubon Society - Board of Directors (1985-86)

Mount Vernon Community - President (1980-82), Board of Directors (1979-82), Chair Land Use
Committee (1978-79)

Plan Metro Denver - Board of Directors (1975-77)

The Sierra Club - National Board of Directors (1973-76), Chair Midwest Regional Conservation
Committee, Chair National Energy Policy Task Force, Chair National Agriculture Policy
Committee, Co-founder Northeast Ohio Group.