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## Prefatory Matter

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# HELJ

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On behalf of *Hastings Environmental Law Journal* (“HELJ”), we proudly present our Winter 2021 Issue. For the last twenty-seven years, HELJ has diligently pursued environmental scholarship. In the past year, HELJ saw over 25,000 downloads of our scholarly work. We hope to continue this modern trend with the Winter 2021 issue, both in our scholarship and in the way we build community as a journal.

We continue our modern growth trend in our twenty-seventh year with the Winter 2021 Issue. The Issue touches upon a wide range of environmental topics from across the globe and beyond. Some examples include, Michael R. Harris’ fascinating article, which covers the shifting perspectives, current status, and progress in developing legal rights for non-human animals. Riccardo Vecellio Segate’s article discusses the interaction between States, cultural heritage, and environmental degradation. And we are proud to publish notes from fellow students, such as an article from our Executive Production Editor, Nikki Marangoni-Simonsen.

Lastly, we would like to thank our brilliant staff for assisting with this Issue. As the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, swept the globe, our journal banded together over email, virtual meetings, and online collaboration platforms to continue our mission of publishing environmental scholarship. It was not easy, but we are proud of our entire team for the tremendous effort each member made on behalf of the Journal in the face of adversity. From our production editors and staff editors assisting with footnotes and technical editing, to our development team growing alumni engagement, to our acquisitions team working hard to procure articles; everyone played an integral part in the Winter 2021 Issue’s success. Further, we would like to thank our National Advisors and Faculty Advisors for assisting with journal needs and peer review and Tom McCarthy for his expertise in publishing. Thank you all for your hard work and diligence.

These times are unlike any that we have previously faced in modern history—not only as a journal—but as citizens of an increasingly globalized world, connected through a common human experience. The virus may have a tremendous impact on the environment, whether good or bad, or both, is presently unknown. However, of one thing we are certain: the sun will rise again tomorrow, and may the sky be that much clearer as to give perspective and inspiration.

We hope you enjoy the Winter 2021 issue as much as we do. Thank you.

Michael Gasbarro & Abby Gasser  
Editors-in-Chief  
Volume 27

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