SANTA CLARA JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

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The Center for Global Law and Policy provides opportunities for faculty and students to examine, experience, and contribute to international law, establishing a platform for scholarly exchange. The Center hosts international scholars and speakers throughout the year, increases awareness and knowledge of international and comparative law, provides opportunities for faculty and students to examine, experience, and contribute to international law on a first-hand basis, and develops leaders in the international community.

SANTA CLARA LAW
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March 14, 2008
California Mission Room
Santa Clara University
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, California
Common Ground, Common Waters: Toward a Water Ethics

March 14, 2008 8:00 am – 5:30 pm

Panel 1: Water Ethics and Commodification of Freshwater Resources

While water ethics may come in a variety of forms, none would be more controversial than those related to the commodification of fresh water resources. The commodification of water entails conceptualizing water as a commodity—an article of trade—and allowing the market to manage the resource in accordance with market principles. Those in favor of water commodification tout the market's ability to more efficiently manage and allocate scarce resources to where they are needed, while those opposing it contend that a market-driven management scheme will exacerbate scarcity and deprive the poor and the environment without adequate fresh water. This panel brings together experts to address ethical issues related to water-commodification and the consequences that may result from such action. Topics of discussion may include the availability, consumption, conservation, cost, distribution, and ownership of fresh water resources on the local to the global level.

Panel 2: Ethics-Based Decision-Making in Societal Water Management

Fresh water resources are managed, allocated, and perceived, in a variety of ways, from one of the leading global issues of concern. More- than ever, with 1.2 billion people around the world lacking access to clean water for basic needs and 2.4 billion lacking access to proper sanitation, water today is one of the leading global issues of concern. Moreover, according to numerous reports, increases in population growth and pollution, coupled with climate change, will likely further exacerbate water stress around the world. This panel will explore how water ethics, factors, interests and consider whether common grounds can be found to establish a basis of cooperation. Topics of discussion may include the prioritization processes, responsibilities, decision-making, planning, and cooperation over transboundary fresh water resources, a human right to water, water trade, and other issues.

Panel 3: Water Ethics in a Globalized World

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