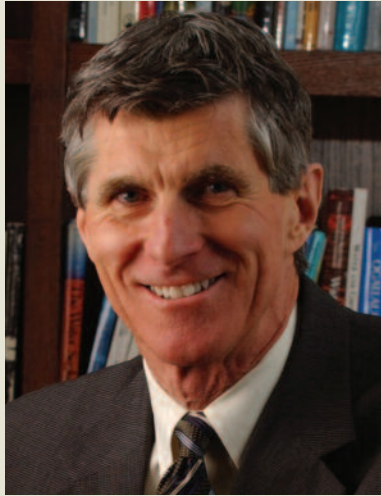


“A time more for laughs than tears.”

—DAVID H. GETCHES



David Harding Getches

August 17, 1942 – July 5, 2011

Memorial Service

Thursday, August 11

5 p.m.

Wolf Law Building Courtyard

Speakers

Drums and Opening Prayer

Phil Weiser, Dean,
University of Colorado Law School

Phil DiStefano, Chancellor,
University of Colorado Boulder

Charles Wilkinson,
Distinguished Professor, Moses Lasky Professor of Law,
University of Colorado Law School

John EchoHawk, (Pawnee)
Executive Director, Native American Rights Fund

Ken Salazar,
United States Secretary of the Interior

Mark Udall,
United States Senator

William Meadows, President,
The Wilderness Society

Richard Trudell, Director, (Santee Sioux),
American Indian Resources Institute

Dayna Bowen Matthew, Professor,
University of Colorado Law School

Sarah Krakoff, Professor,
University of Colorado Law School

Anne Mariah Tapp,
Student and Research Assistant to David Getches

Matthew Getches, son

Catherine Getches, daughter

Elizabeth Getches, daughter

Bill Frank Jr. (Nisqually),
Board Chair, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Closing Prayer and Drums

David Harding Getches, a scholar and authority on natural resources, water law, and Indian law, and former Dean of the University of Colorado Law School, died of pancreatic cancer on July 5, at the age of 68. He was born in Abington, Pennsylvania on August 17, 1942, the son of Ruth and George Getches. He had one sister, Meredith, who passed away in 2008. He received his B.A from Occidental College and his J.D. degree from the University of Southern California Law School.

In 1970, Getches served as Founding Executive Director of the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), a public-interest law firm in Boulder, Colorado. Getches joined the University of Colorado Law School faculty in 1978, where he held the Raphael J. Moses Professorship in Natural Resources Law, and taught environmental law, water law, public land law, and Indian law. He took a leave of absence from 1983 to 1987 to serve as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources in the administration of Governor Richard Lamm.

As a professor, Getches authored many influential law review articles, several casebooks, as well as books intended for a more general audience—such as *Water Law in a Nutshell* (2009) and *Searching out the Headwaters* (1993). Getches was appointed Dean of the Law School in 2003. As Dean, Getches increased the academic offerings at the law school, raised over \$33.1 million in donations, and increased the law school's endowment 110 percent from 2003, achieving his goal to greatly expand law student scholarship offerings. He oversaw the construction of the new \$46 million, LEED certified, Wolf Law Building completed in 2006. In May 2011, Getches was awarded the Robert L. Stearns Award from the University of Colorado.

Getches served on numerous non-profit boards, including the Board of Trustees of the Grand Canyon Trust, the Governing Council of The Wilderness Society, the Board of Directors of Defenders of Wildlife, and the Board of Trustees of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, as well as the boards of the Natural Resources Law Center at Colorado Law, American Rivers, the Trust for Public Land, the Colorado Water Trust, and the Western Resources Advocates, among others.

David Getches is survived by his wife Ann, his son Matthew, daughters Catherine and Elizabeth, and grandchildren Harrison, Benjamin Owen and David.

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203 - 1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

August 11, 2011

Greetings:

On behalf of the people of Colorado, I want to extend my sincere sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of David Getches during this difficult time.

David was a valued member of our Colorado community, always striving to make a difference for future generations. The many friends, colleagues, peers, and students he touched will miss him greatly. A member of the Colorado legal community, David provided services to many people in Colorado throughout his careers at the University of Colorado Law School, the Native American Rights Fund, and the Department of Natural Resources. David's leadership will be fondly remembered, and he will remain in the hearts of many for years to come.

I hope that the love and support of those who surround you will provide comfort and solace as you grieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hickenlooper".

John Hickenlooper
Governor



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 19 2011

Mr. Douglas Enzor
Office of David Getches
University of Colorado Law School
401 UCB
Boulder, Colorado 80309

Dear Mr. Enzor:

On behalf of the employees of the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Bureau of Indian Education, I want to express our deepest condolences to all of you and his loved ones on the passing of David Getches.

David was well known and respected by all who knew him inside the University and throughout the nation and Indian Country. He was pivotal in the development of American Indian law as a discipline. In 1970 he moved to Colorado and was the founding director for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and remained in that capacity until 1976.

David's most renowned litigation involving American Indians occurred in 1974, frequently known as *the Boldt Decision*. It was a case which affirmed the right of most Indian tribes in Washington State to harvest salmon. He dedicated his life to proudly upholding the values of justice with respect to indigenous people. We honor David for his commitment and service to furthering the foundations of our trust relationship here at the Department of the Interior with the nation's first Americans, and know that he will be greatly missed.

We join with you in sorrow over his passing. Please accept our sympathy and prayers for your comfort and peace at this time.

Sincerely,

Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

QUOTATIONS DAVID H. GETCHES

- “A commitment to service is the ethos of every good lawyer.”—Calhoun Award Presentation, 2011.

- “As I look back over 8 years of deaning – not to mention decades of teaching – our students, now alumni, stand out as the deepest source of pride.”
—Acceptance of Stearns Award, May 2011

- “If you like a life of service, of leadership, and understand what it takes to earn the respect of others around you – by impeccable, unwavering ethical behavior – this can be the ideal career.”—Address to admitted students, April 2011.

- “The field of water law is implicitly a study of the legal process. In many areas, the law is well-developed and it changes only slowly and at the periphery, but water law is a comparatively young and dynamic field. It illustrates how courts and legislatures create and alter law according to societal stimuli: one set of historical conditions drove the initial development of water law but different modern circumstances provoke changes.”
—Water Law in a Nutshell, 2009.

- “Consider the diversity of your class to be a cardinal strength. Your legal education will be better for it.”—Welcome to Diversity Students, August 17, 2009.

- “I will teach you now the most fundamental rule you need to know about the Honor Code and about professional responsibility: If you have any doubt about an act, don’t do it. Don’t skate near the thin ice.”—Address to incoming 1L students, August 2007.

- “It is no disgrace not to be a lawyer, but it is a disgrace to be a lawyer and not live up to the higher standards we impose on ourselves and that society and the legal system impose on us.”—Introduction to 1L class, August 2007

- “Indians survived on the American continents for thousands of years based on a pervasive set of cultural values integrating human life with other forms of life. Today these same values guide tribes in the United States as they move into an era of unprecedented sophistication in managing reservation environments.*** Acceptance of the Indian philosophy of permanence means understanding how all human activity relates to the natural world. It requires us to recognize that survival, cultural and physical, demands that we modify and limit human activity

when it is not in harmony with the natural world. *** It is a philosophy that commits the people to a permanent existence in harmony with everything around them that explains the success of these people in surviving in America for thousands of years.”—A Philosophy of Permanence: The Indians’ Legacy for the West

•“Now, we claim this building as a place to do our work. But more, it is a statement of what our work is about. In its solidarity and mass and dignity, the building says we are about serious stuff here. The rule of law is the lawyer’s responsibility, and the lawyer’s gift to society.”—Wolf Law Building Dedication, September 8, 2006.

•“While technology giants have eclipsed many of the industrial giants as the engines of our economy, the new entrants, the start-ups, provide the fuel. They have added excitement to markets once ruled by a dismal science. To be sure there has been irrational exuberance in this sector. But this only heightens the significance of the lawyer’s role.”—Introduction to Silicon Flatirons Program, March 30, 2004.

•“Indian Law is, indeed, a field that excites the highest calling of the legal profession: using the rule of law in our majority-ruled democracy to protect minority rights.”—Washington Law Review. Dedication to Professor Ralph W. Johnson. October 1997.

•“How curious is it that the ‘public interest’ affected by a dam in the mountains outside of Denver must be determined by the wisdom of a bureaucrat in Washington. Right or wrong in the outcome, how did the Federal Government end up deciding an issue so intimate to Colorado, so far from the facts?”—Western Water Law and Policy: Implications for Wetland Riparian and Ecosystems. February 24-26, 1993.

•“Think about the decision that our government allowed the timber companies to make to clear all the yew trees out of old growth forests because they are considered a ‘weed species.’ Now we find out they are needed for treatment for cancer, and there are none left.”—Statement to Oversight Committee before the Committee on Natural Resources of the U.S. House of Representatives. Hearing held in Salt Lake City April 7, 1984.

Before David Getches passed away, he established the David H. Getches Scholarship Fund. For those wishing to make a financial contribution in David's honor and memory, donations for this scholarship can be made payable to the CU Foundation and sent to:
CU Foundation Processing, 4740 Walnut Street,
Boulder, CO 80301.

For other opportunities to honor David's legacy and memory, please contact Marcia Allen at 303-492-3093 or **marcia.allen@cufund.org**.

Colorado Law would like to thank the Native American Rights Fund for their underwriting support for today's memorial.