

Updated 2/15/2026

Noah D. Hall

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Academic Appointments

Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, MI

Professor of Law, 2017 – present

Associate Professor of Law (tenured), 2010 – 2017

Associate Dean for Student Affairs, 2014 – 2015

Assistant Professor of Law, 2005 – 2010

Teaching: Environmental Law, Water Law, Property, Administrative Law, International Environmental Law, Regulation of Vice, Animal Law, Law in Social Context (Minor-in-Law), Environmental Law Clinic

University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability and Program in the Environment, Ann Arbor, MI

Visiting Professor, 2018 – 2022

Teaching: Environmental Law, Environmental Rights, Justice and Law

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI

Visiting Professor, 2008 – 2014

Adjunct Clinical Professor, 2005

Teaching: Water Law, Administrative Law, U.S.-Canadian Transnational Environmental Law, Environmental Law Practicum

Legal Positions

Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Detroit, MI

Scholarship Director, 2015 – 2022

Executive Director, 2008 – 2010

Founded and led non-profit public interest environmental law firm, developed board of directors and strategic direction for organization, represent community groups and state lawmakers in litigation, continue to direct scholarship to support policy and law reform

State of Michigan Attorney General, Lansing/Flint/Detroit, MI

Special Assistant Attorney General, 2016 – 2019

Attorney with Office of Special Counsel for the Flint water crisis, lead attorney for civil litigation team

National Wildlife Federation, Ann Arbor, MI

Senior Manager, Water Resources Program, 2003 – 2005

Developed new water resource policies for the Great Lakes region, working directly with governors and state legislatures to draft legislation and a proposed interstate compact/binational water management agreement for the Great Lakes

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, St. Paul, MN

Assistant Director, 2001 – 2003

Successfully litigated numerous matters involving wetland protection, environmental review, energy policy, and administrative law in state and federal trial and appellate courts

Leonard, Street and Deinard, Minneapolis, MN

Associate Attorney, 1999 – 2001

Practice focused on environmental and energy litigation for both private and non-profit clients

Minnesota Supreme Court, St. Paul, MN

Judicial Clerk, 1998 – 1999

Served as judicial clerk for the Honorable Kathleen A. Blatz, Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court

Education

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, MI, J.D., 1998

University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment, Ann Arbor, MI, B.S., *with distinction* 1995 (graduated in three years with concentration in Environmental Policy and Behavior)

Publications – Books

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY: NATURE, LAW, AND SOCIETY (with Zygmunt J.B. Plater, Eric V. Hull, Robert H. Abrams, Robert L. Graham, Joseph M. Manning, Jennifer K. Rushlow, Steph Tai, David A. Wirth) (6th ed., Carolina Academic Press 2026)

MODERN WATER LAW: PRIVATE PROPERTY, PUBLIC RIGHTS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS (with Robert W. Adler and Robin Kundis Craig) (3rd ed., Foundation Press 2023) [also 2nd ed. (2018) and 1st ed. (2013)]

WATER LAW (with Robin Kundis Craig and Robert W. Adler) (2nd ed., Foundation Press 2023) [also 1st ed. (2017)]

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY: NATURE, LAW, AND SOCIETY (with Zygmunt J.B. Plater, Robert H. Abrams, Robert L. Graham, Lisa Heinzerling, and David A. Wirth) (5th ed., Aspen Publishers 2016) [also 4th ed. (2010)]

Publications - Book Chapters

“Public Trust Doctrine,” in EARTH LAW: EMERGING ECOCENTRIC LAW – A PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE, Anthony Zelle et al, Eds. (Wolters Kluwer 2021)

“The Boundary Waters Treaty, the International Joint Commission, and the Evolution of Transboundary Environmental Law and Governance” (with Dan Tarlock and Marcia Valiante), in THE FIRST CENTURY OF THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, Murray Clamen and Daniel Macfarlane, Eds. (University of Calgary Press 2020)

“Transboundary Water Management and Governance in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin” (with Daniel Macfarlane), in TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE ACROSS THE WORLD’S LONGEST BORDER, Stephen Brooks and Andrea Olive, Eds. (Michigan State University Press 2018)

“A Citizen’s Legal Primer on the Boundary Waters Treaty, International Joint Commission, and Great Lakes Water Management” (with Peter Starr), in BORDER FLOWS: A CENTURY OF THE CANADIAN-AMERICAN WATER RELATIONSHIP, Lynne Heasley and Daniel Macfarlane Eds. (University of Calgary Press 2016)

“The Great Lakes: A Model of Transboundary Cooperation” (with Jamie Linton) in WATER WITHOUT BORDERS? CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND SHARED WATERS, Emma Norman, Alice Cohen, and Karen Bakker Eds. (University of Toronto Press 2013)

“Managing Demand for Water” (with Benjamin Houston) in THE LAW OF ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS, Michael Gerrard & Katrina F. Kuh Eds. (American Bar Association 2012)

“The North American Great Lakes” in THE EVOLUTION OF THE LAW AND POLITICS OF WATER, Joseph W. Dellapenna & Joyeeta Gupta Eds. (Springer 2009)

Publications - Articles

Flint’s Fight for Environmental Rights, 117 NW. U. L. REV. 123 (2022)

Waters of the State (with Joseph Regalia), 59 NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL 59 (2019)

Interstate Groundwater Law Revisited: Mississippi v. Tennessee (with Joseph Regalia), 34 VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL 152 (2016)

Lines in the Sand: Interstate Groundwater Disputes in the Supreme Court (with Joseph Regalia), 31 NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT 8 (Fall 2016)

Law and Governance of the Great Lakes (with Benjamin C. Houston), 63 DEPAUL L. REV. 723 (2014)

Interstate Groundwater Law in the Snake Valley: Equitable Apportionment and a New Model for Transboundary Aquifer Management (with Benjamin L. Cavataro), 2013 UTAH L. REV. 1553

Oil and Freshwater Don't Mix: Transnational Regulation of Drilling in the Great Lakes, 38 BOSTON COLLEGE ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS LAW REVIEW 303 (2011)

Interstate Water Compacts and Climate Change Adaptation, 5 ENVIRONMENTAL & ENERGY LAW & POLICY JOURNAL 237 (2010)

Framing Water Policy in a Carbon Affected and Carbon Constrained Environment (with Robert H. Abrams), 50 NATURAL RESOURCES JOURNAL 3 (2010)

Protecting Freshwater Resources in the Era of Global Water Markets: Lessons Learned from Bottled Water, 13 U. DENV. WATER LAW REVIEW 1 (2009)

Interstate Environmental Impact Assessment, 39 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REPORTER 10667 (2009)

Political Externalities, Federalism, and a Proposal for an Interstate Environmental Impact Assessment Policy, 32 HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW 49 (2008)

The Centennial of the Boundary Waters Treaty: A Century of United States–Canadian Transboundary Water Management, 54 WAYNE LAW REVIEW 1417 (2008) (symposium article)

Climate Change and Great Lakes Waters Resources: Avoiding Future Conflicts with Conservation (with Bret B. Stuntz), 31 HAMLINE LAW REVIEW 641 (2008) (symposium article)

Climate Change and Freshwater Resources (with Bret B. Stuntz and Robert H. Abrams), 22 NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT 30 (Winter 2008)

Transboundary Pollution: Harmonizing International and Domestic Law, 40 U. MICH. J.L. REFORM 681 (2007) (lead symposium article)

The Evolving Role of Citizens in United States-Canadian International Environmental Law Compliance, 24 PACE ENVTL. L. REV. 131 (2007) (symposium article based on previously published work, presented at the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law, 4th Worldwide Colloquium, will also be published in abbreviated form by Cambridge University Press)

Toward A New Horizontal Federalism: Interstate Water Management in the Great Lakes Region, 77 COLORADO LAW REVIEW 405 (2006)

Bilateral Breakdown: U.S.-Canada Pollution Disputes, 21 NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT 18 (Summer 2006)

Publications - Reports

The Safe Drinking Water Act at 50 Years, NATURE WATER (December 2, 2024)

“U.S. Water Stewardship: A Critical Assessment of Interstate Watershed Agreements” (with Bret B. Stuntz) prepared for the Watermark Initiative (2009)

“Climate Change and Great Lakes Water Resources” (with Bret B. Stuntz) prepared for the National Wildlife Federation (2007)

Publications – Congressional Testimony

“Interstate Water Management and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact,” Testimony Before the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary (July 30, 2008), available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1229243> and <http://works.bepress.com/noahhall/9/>.

“Federal and State Laws Regarding Bottled Water,” Testimony Before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Domestic Policy Subcommittee (December 12, 2007), available at <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1072887> and <http://works.bepress.com/noahhall/8/>

Author of “Great Lakes Law” blog: <http://www.greatlakeslaw.org>

Selected Litigation Accomplishments and Published Decisions

Fednav, Ltd. v. Chester, 547 F.3d 607 (6th Cir. 2008) – successfully represented *amici* bipartisan group of state lawmakers in a Constitutional challenge to a state law intended to prevent biological pollution in the Great Lakes (also successfully represented same clients in district court, 505 F.Supp.2d 381 (E.D.Mich. 2007))

Glass v. Goeckel, 703 N.W.2d 58 (Mich. 2005) – successfully represented *amici* conservation organizations in nationally-recognized decision holding that the Great Lakes shorelines and beaches are protected by the public trust doctrine and open to recreational access

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation v. Nestlé Waters North America Inc., 709 N.W.2d 174 (Mich.App. 2005) – successfully represented *amici* conservation organizations in precedent-setting decision unifying legal rules and protections between groundwater and surface water users

Mid States Coalition for Progress v. Surface Transp. Bd., 345 F.3d 520 (8th Cir. 2003) – successfully represented environmental organization in NEPA challenge to proposed coal train based on expected increases in national carbon dioxide (CO²) emissions

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy v. Big Stone County Bd. of Com'rs, 638 N.W.2d 198 (Minn. Ct. App. 2002) – successfully represented environmental organizations in challenge to drainage practices, setting new precedent for applicability of environmental review and wetland protection laws to agricultural drainage activities

Associated Contract Loggers, Inc. v. U.S. Forest Service, 84 F.Supp.2d 1029 (D.Minn. 2000) – successfully defended environmental organization in SLAPP suit alleging interference with logging contracts and alleged establishment of religion of “deep ecology” in the United States Forest Service practices

Selected Invited Presentations

International Water History Association
Grand Rapids, MI, June 16, 2017
The Flint Water Crisis and Failure of Environmental Law

University of Virginia Law School – Water Rights in the Eastern United States
Charlottesville, VA, October 30, 2015
Mississippi v. Tennessee: Interstate Groundwater Law Revisited

University of Detroit Mercy Law Review symposium - The Public Trust Doctrine
(Detroit, MI, October 16, 2015)
The Public Trust Doctrine and Administrative Law

World Water Congress XV
(Edinburgh, Scotland, May 25, 2015)
Law and Governance of the North American Great Lakes

DePaul Law Review Great Lakes Symposium
(Chicago, IL, March 1, 2013)
Keynote: The Great Lakes Legal Regime

University of Utah Wallace Stegner Center Young Scholar Lectures
(Salt Lake City, UT, October 31 – November 1, 2012)
The Law of the Great Lakes - Ninety Percent of North America's Available Freshwater and Not a Drop for Utah; Interstate Groundwater Law: Equitable Apportionment of Transboundary Resources and Implications for the Snake Valley Aquifer Dispute

National Association of Environmental Law Societies - 25th Annual Conference
(University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 23, 2012)
Blue Gold: The Future of Great Lakes Water

Seventh Circuit Bar Association Foundation - Protecting the Great Lakes
(Chicago, IL, February 24, 2012)
The Great Lakes Legal Regime

American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting – Changing Conceptions of
Water in the Law
(San Francisco, CA, January 5, 2011)
An Expansive View of Modern Water Law

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Institute of Developing
Economies / Japan External Trade Organization – Lake Basin Governance
(Suwa City, Japan, December 12, 2010)
Great Lakes Policy and Parallels with Lake Suwa

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Institute of Developing
Economies / Japan External Trade Organization – New Clean Water Networks in China
(Tokyo, Japan, December 10, 2010)
The Great Lakes Compact and Lessons for China

Boston College Law School – Learning from Disaster: Lessons for the Future from the
Gulf of Mexico Symposium
(Boston, MA, November 12, 2010)
A Comparative Analysis of Oil Drilling Regulation in the Great Lakes

University of Toledo College of Law – Great Lakes Water Conference
(Toledo, OH, November 5, 2010)
Oil Drilling in the Great Lakes under U.S. and Canadian Law

International Bar Association Biennial Conference of the Section on Energy,
Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure Law
(Toronto, ON, April 27, 2010)
Interstate Water Compacts – A Comparative Assessment

Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal and the University of Houston Law
Center – Climate Change, Water, and Adaptive Law Symposium
(Houston, TX, February 26, 2010)
Interstate Water Compacts and Climate Change Adaptation

Michigan Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and Senate
Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Recreation Committee
(Lansing, MI, February 24, 2010)
Asian Carp and Supreme Court Litigation

Canada-United States Law Institute Annual Conference, Case Western Reserve
University School of Law
(Cleveland, OH, April 4, 2009)

Emerging Great Lakes international legal issues

The Environmental Law Institute, George Washington University Law School, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality: NEPA at 40 – How a Visionary Statute Confronts 21st Century Environmental Impacts

(Washington, DC, March 24, 2009)

NEPA's International Dimension

American Bar Association 2009 Water Law Conference: Change in the Midst of Constants: Adapting Water Law to Meet New Demands

(San Diego, CA, February 19, 2009)

The Great Lakes Compact

Wayne Law Review – The Boundary Waters Treaty Centennial Symposium

(Detroit, February 5, 2009)

The Boundary Waters Treaty and Protecting Freshwater Resources in North America

Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Annual Meeting

(Chicago, June 13, 2008)

Federal and State Opportunities for Great Lakes Protection

American Bar Association 2008 Eastern Water Resources Conference: Eastern Water Law – A Climate of Change

(Charlotte, NC, May 2, 2008)

Interstate Water Management

United States House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Domestic Policy Subcommittee – hearing on “Assessing the Environmental Risks of the Water Bottling Industry’s Extraction of Groundwater”

(Washington, D.C., December 12, 2007)

Federal and State Laws Regarding Bottled Water – An Overview and Recommendations for Reform

The Property and Environment Research Center 2007 Conference – Fresh Water

(Big Sky, Montana, September 29, 2007)

Protecting Regional Water Resources

Harvard Law School, Environmental Law Faculty Workshop

(Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 13, 2007)

Political Externalities, Federalism, and a Proposal for an Interstate Environmental Impact Assessment Policy

University of Windsor (Canada) Faculty of Law – 2007 Wayne/Windsor Forum Lecture

(Windsor, Ontario, January 15, 2007)

Bilateral Breakdown: Going to Court Over U.S.-Canada Pollution Disputes

Council of Great Lakes Industries – Building a Sustainable Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Ann Arbor, MI, November 16, 2006)

Elements of Sustainable Development and the Role of Government

International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Academy of Environmental Law – 4th Worldwide Colloquium (New York, October 18, 2006)

The Evolving Role of Citizens in United States-Canadian International Environmental Law Compliance

University of Michigan Law School – The Great Lakes: Reflecting the Landscape of Environmental Law Symposium (Ann Arbor, MI, September 29, 2006)

Transboundary Pollution: Harmonizing International and Domestic Law

Government of Canada Policy Research Initiative – Freshwater for the Future (Ottawa, Ontario/Gatineau, Quebec, May 8-9, 2006)

Boundary Waters: Implementing an Ecosystem Approach / Managing Conflicting Interests

Canadian Bar Association – Annual National Environmental, Energy and Resources Law Summit: Canada-U.S. Cross-Border Issues (Toronto, Ontario, April 28, 2006)

Waterways, Waterwars: The Protection, Taking and Use of Water

University of Michigan Law School – The World Today: Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives on Climate Change (Ann Arbor, MI, March 15, 2005)

Climate Change Litigation Strategies

Society of Environmental Journalists – 14th Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA, October 22, 2004)

Great Lakes Water Law and Policy

Media Appearances (complete list available on request)

Television appearances on PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and FOX Business Network

Featured guest on PBS Film Series - Constitution USA with Peter Sagal

Live radio appearances on National Public Radio, CBS radio, Michigan Public Radio, and over a dozen other programs

Quoted in over fifty media publications including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and Cleveland Plain Dealer

Awards and Recognition for Scholarship

University of Utah Wallace Stegner Center Young Scholar (2012)

Wayne State University Academy of Scholars Junior Faculty Award and Honorarium (2009)

Harvard Law School Environmental Law Junior Faculty Forum selection for article *Political Externalities, Federalism, and a Proposal for an Interstate Environmental Impact Assessment Policy*

Awards and Recognition for Teaching

Professor of the Year (Upperclass) award from the Student Board of Governors (2022, 2021, 2014, 2010)

Donald Gordon Award and Honorarium for Teaching Excellence (2007)

Izumi Family Fund/Pedagogical Innovations Grant Award (2006)

Academic Service

Wayne State University Law School

Law School Dean Search Committee

University Promotion and Tenure Committee

Career Services Committee (chair, 2015-16)

Academic Affairs and Curriculum Committee (chair, 2010-11)

Scholarships Committee

Clinical Programs Committee

Faculty Appointments Committee

Public Interest Law Fellowship Committee (chair, 2009-10)

Student Affairs Committee (chair, 2013-14, 2006-08)

Institute for Continuing Legal Education Executive Committee

Faculty advisor, National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition

Faculty advisor, Moot Court Program

Faculty Advisor, Wayne Law Review

Professional Memberships

American Bar Association (Section of Environment, Energy and Resources)

Michigan Bar Association (Environmental Section)

Association of American Law Schools (Section on Environmental Law)

Bar Admissions

Michigan, 2003

Minnesota, 1998 (inactive)

Also admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and District of Minnesota