

**Mining Law Summit, 2016**  
**Exploring Collaborative Solutions to Mined Land Remediation**  
**The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law**  
**September 16, 2016**

**Introduction and Welcoming Remarks**

**By John C. Lacy<sup>1</sup>**

The future of domestic mining will be substantially impacted by technical and legal issues associated with existing mined lands because the most promising mineral prospects are likely those that have been the subject of prior mining activities. Existing environmental laws place significant liability upon “owners, operators and arrangers” of mineral properties and redevelopment, reuse and scientific planning related to mined land is generally considered to be discouraged by possible environmental liability. Also, no one can help but be horrified by the images of the discolored Animas River as a result of the discharge from the Gold King Mine. The parallel issues of cleanup of mined land and redevelopment provided a portion of the incentive for the issues to be examined at the first Mining Law Summit of the James E. Rogers College of Law at The University of Arizona.

These are the proceedings of the first Mining Law Summit which brought together speakers from a variety of disciplines to examine the range of scientific and policy issues related to mined land remediation and offered participants at the conference an opportunity to discuss legal and technical solutions.

The Global Mining Law program at The University of Arizona has combined the academic distinction and practical experience of the James E. Rogers College of Law with the Lowell Institute for Mineral Resources at the university. Through this process, it is important to acknowledge that the Lowell Institute, together with its collaborative relationship with other programs at the university, is critical to the mining law program’s efficacy. It may be appropriate to also note that this summit was held 50 years after a collaborative program between the College of Law and the College of Mines of The University where it was noted that “[t]hrough open and free discussion in meetings such as this, there is the hope that wisdom and understanding will come to those who are to set the course and that the course taken truly will be ‘for the most good for the most people for all time.’”

To this end, it is the hope of the Global Mining Law program, through this summit and the 55 participants (including 15 students), will make a significant contribution to the discussion of mined land remediation issues.

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