



**Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals**

**"The Public Trust Doctrine, Private Water Allocation, and Mono Lake: The Historic Saga of *National Audubon Society v. Superior Court*"**

Ryan, Erin

Ryan, Erin. "The Public Trust Doctrine, Private Water Allocation, and Mono Lake: The Historic Saga of *National Audubon Society v. Superior Court*." *Environmental Law* 45, no. 2 (2015): 561-640.

This article tells the epic tale of the fall and rise of Mono Lake— the strange and beautiful Dead Sea of California—which fostered some of the most important environmental law developments of the last century, and which has become a platform for some of the most potentially important developments in the new century. It shares the backstory and legacy of the California Supreme Court's famous decision in *National Audubon Society v. Superior Court*, 658 P.2d 709 (Cal. 1983), known more widely as "the Mono Lake case." Inspired by innovative legal scholarship and advocacy, the decision spawned a quiet legal revolution in public trust ideals, which has redounded to other states and even nations.

© Erin Ryan. This article was first published in *Environmental Law* 45, no. 2 (2015).

**Download:**

PDF:

[https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key\\_docs/the\\_ptd\\_private\\_water\\_allocation\\_and\\_mono\\_lake\\_final.pdf](https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/the_ptd_private_water_allocation_and_mono_lake_final.pdf)

**Related links:**

- Mono Lake Committee  
<https://www.monolake.org/mlc/protection>
- Ryan, Erin, "Breathing Air with Heft: An Experiential Report on Environmental Law and Public Health in China." (2018)

<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/breathing-air-heft-experiential-report-environmental-law-and-public-health-china>

- Ryan, Erin. "Environmental Federalism's Tug of War Within." Edward Elgar Publishing Limited (2015)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/environmental-federalisms-tug-war-within>
- Ryan, Erin. "Multilevel Environmental Governance in the United States." *environmental Scientist* 25.3 (2016)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/multilevel-environmental-governance-united-states>
- Ryan, Erin. "Negotiating Environmental Federalism: Dynamic Federalism as a Strategy for Good Governance." (2017)  
<https://www.environmentandsociety.org/mml/negotiating-environmental-deferalism-dynamic-federalism-strategy-good-governance>
- Ryan, Erin. "The Public Trust Doctrine, Private Water Allocation, and Mono Lake." (2015)  
<https://elawreview.org/articles/the-public-trust-doctrine-private-water-allocation-and-mono-lake-the-historic-saga-of-national-audubon-society-v-superior-court-2/>