

John Leshy

Emeritus Harry D. Sunderland Distinguished Professor of Real Property Law at UC Hastings College of the Law

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Biography

Professor John Leshy came to UC Hastings in the fall of 2001, after serving as Solicitor (General Counsel) of the U.S. Department of the Interior throughout the Clinton Administration. Previously he taught at Arizona State University College of Law (1980-1992), and served in the Interior Department in the Carter Administration, as special counsel to the Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, and with the Natural Resources Defense Council in California. He started his legal career as a litigator with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 2008-2009 Leshy co-chaired the Obama Administration transition team for the Interior Department, after heading the Interior transition team for Clinton-Gore in 1992-93. In 2013 he received the Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award for lifetime contributions to wildlife conservation.

In 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2011 Leshy was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, from which he graduated in 1969, after earning an A.B. at Harvard College. His publications include books on the Mining Law of 1872 (1987) and the Arizona Constitution (2d edition published in 2013), and a co-author of textbooks on water law (6th edition published in 2018) and federal land and resources law (7th edition published in 2014).

Expertise

Education/Learning, Legal Services

Areas of Expertise

Real Property Law, State and Federal Constitutional Law, Natural Resources Law, Public Land Law, Water Law, Federal Indian Law

Affiliations

Grand Canyon Trust : Member, Board of Directors, The Wyss Foundation : Member and Vice-Chair of the Board

Education

Harvard Law School

J.D. magna cum laude Law

Harvard College

A.B. cum laude Undergraduate Studies

Accomplishments

Defenders of Wildlife Legacy Award

Awarded to recognize lifetime achievement in wildlife conservation.

Best Environmental Stewards

Recognized as one of the nations best environmental stewards by Vanity Fair magazine.

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