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EDITORIAL COMMENT

As our AJELP team assembled this issue, one theme became increasingly clear: environmental law is shaped not only by our ecosystems, but by powerful institutions—universities, governments, and corporations. Each piece challenges that authority, asking us to confront how the law operates in practice and what it means to push back against long-standing systems of power.

Our first article examines how the University of Arizona, as a land-grant institution, directly benefits from Native land dispossession. By tracing financial and historical data, the authors inspire us to ask what the state of Arizona and its public universities might owe to Indigenous Peoples and what form redress might take.

Our second note turns to Hawai‘i and Guam, where the U.S. military has contaminated vital water sources by repeatedly sidestepping federal environmental laws related to its explosive ordnance and chemical storage operations. Framed in the broader context of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy, the author invites readers to imagine political futures that reflect a genuine federal commitment to affirming Pacific Island Countries' self-determination and environmental protection.

Our final note shifts to labor systems, exploring how the reconfiguration of power dynamics between federal agencies and courts after *Loper Bright* opens a legal path for courts to reconsider the inequities inherent to unpaid internships. By arguing for the creation of a new common law test rather than statutory change, the author challenges the institutional powers of employers and encourages us to ask where the authority to provide legal remedy should be vested.

We hope this issue sparks honest conversation about how environment law operates, whose interests are centered, and how we might reimagine legal systems that too often fall short of the justice they promise.

— Aouli Ross, *Editor-in-Chief*