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Welcoming Remarks

*Dean Kevin R. Johnson**

Good morning, I'm Kevin Johnson, I am the Dean of the UC Davis School of Law. Welcome to the Law School and the UC Davis Law Review Symposium entitled "The Public Trust Doctrine: 30 Years Later." We are honored to have you here today. We are particularly honored to have you in the Kalmanovitz Appellate Courtroom of the new wing of Martin Luther King Jr. Hall where last fall we had the debate between California Attorney General candidates Kamala Harris and Steve Cooley and in a couple weeks we will have oral arguments of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

UC Davis School of Law is proud of its environmental law traditions, which began in earnest with Professor Hap Dunning's cutting edge water law scholarship. Thirty years ago, UC Davis Law Review held its first symposium exploring the public trust doctrine and released an issue of the *Law Review* that had a significant impact on the development of a critically important body of environmental law.¹ Several UC Davis Law Review articles have been cited in key

* Copyright © 2012 Kevin R. Johnson. Dean and Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law. These are lightly edited welcoming remarks delivered at the UC Davis Law Review Symposium, "The Public Trust Doctrine: 30 Years Later" on March 4, 2011.

¹ *The Public Trust Doctrine in Natural Resources Law and Management: A*

public trust decisions. Today's symposium and scholarship, I bet, will have a ripple effect on environmental decisions for years to come.

We are particularly honored that Professor Joe Sax of UC Berkeley School of Law, the leading authority on the public trust doctrine, will give the concluding remarks at the end of the day. He set the public trust doctrine in motion nearly thirty years ago.

This symposium of the UC Davis Law Review will focus on the public trust doctrine. I want to thank our faculty advisor for this symposium, Professor Rick Frank. Professor Frank has written extensively on the public trust doctrine and environmental law in California and is the director of our new Environmental Law and Policy Center at UC Davis School of Law. I want to thank the members of the advisory board for that center who are here today. I also want to thank all the participants in this UC Davis Law Review symposium and I want to thank our Law Review Editor in Chief, Errol Daus, and Symposium Editor Barbara Borkowski. Last but not least, I want to thank our sponsors for this event, the Resource Legacy Fund, California Law and Policy Center, and UC Davis.

Again, welcome to UC Davis School of Law and enjoy the intellectual feast that is before you today.