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Introduction

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A TRIBUTE TO
PROFESSOR DAN TARLOCK

INTRODUCTION

HAROLD J. KRENT*

This Festschrift in honor of Dan Tarlock vividly illustrates what an incredible career he continues to enjoy. Indeed, he rightfully has been termed the lion of water law rights scholarship in the country. His writing on environmental law is not only prolific but, as the following pages make clear, pathbreaking in anticipating climate change, reimagining land use law, and charting a path for environmental justice.

At the same time, Dan's fingerprints can be found all over Chicago-Kent. His contributions are many. For a generation, he worked to build the intellectual profile of the school. Chicago-Kent's engagement of outside scholars in legal and related fields, its impressive outpouring of scholarship, and its record of hiring talented and driven scholars all can be traced to Dan's influence. He served as academic dean, crafted speaker series, headed the premier Environmental Law Program in the Midwest, founded an environmental journal, and mentored junior faculty members both here and elsewhere. His comments on colleagues' drafts are legendary, and it was largely due to his efforts that the law school has been able to recruit such talented young faculty. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to summarize that his presence at the school was transformational in building the intellectual drive and profile of the faculty. Thus, even as Dan forged a well-earned international reputation in water rights law in particular, he worked by example and design to imbue this faculty with a legacy of ambition and creativity. The school is far better for his efforts.

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