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Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Topic:

“Irrigation Districts 101”

Farmers settling in the Salt River Valley had a vision of a large irrigation and drainage system that would promote large scale agriculture. They made that vision a reality, however, today their “visions” can often seem like urban obstacles when trying to plan and acquire rights to build over, under, around, (but rarely through!) canals and artificial channels. As in every discussion of water in the West, this presentation will start with a little history, and then discuss the systems today and some of the case law that has evolved. It will identify some common problems encountered with canals when project planning and doing land acquisition, and offer some suggestions for working with the various entities and governments that own and/or control these water delivery systems.

Bio:

Ms. Lemmon has been practicing law in Arizona since 1983, and has served as General Counsel for the FCDMC for 15 years. Julie continues to work with Maricopa County, Pinal County, and other Arizona counties on flood control and stormwater quality issues. Her practice focuses on flood control, storm drainage, water and environmental issues, and related real estate acquisitions, contracts, agreements, regulations and legislation.

She has recently made presentations to the Arizona Floodplain Managers Association on liability for flood control projects, State Land, Endangered Species Act, and legislative issues and to California Floodplain Managers on multi-use environmental and flood control projects.

Julie received her B.S. from Northern Arizona University and her J.D. from Arizona State University. She is licensed to practice in Arizona, the District of Columbia, and in front of the Ninth Circuit.

- Member and past board member of Environmental & Natural Resources Section, State Bar of Arizona
- Member, Natural Resources Section of American Bar Association
- Member, Natural Resources Section of District of Columbia Bar