



DR. RILEY ‘CODY’ DENOON

Barrister and Solicitor

ORCID: 0000-0002-3019-2184

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Legal Consultant, Lawyer/Consultant, March 2017 – Current

- Consulting and Legal Services regarding International Law, Transboundary/International Environmental and Watercourse Law, Environmental and Water Resources Governance and Policy.
- Providing Services in: Legal Counsel and Advocacy; Legal Drafting; Legal and Policy Analysis; Conflict Prevention and Resolution; Negotiation; Stakeholder Engagement; and Capacity Building and Training.

Legal Advisor, International Waters Governance, Jul 2022 – Current

- Legal advisor dealing with international public and private clients with a team of seasoned multi-disciplinary experts who help research, design, and negotiate governance arrangements for shared international water, climate change, and peace processes.
- International Waters Governance provides expertise including in cross cultural communication, experiential learning, negotiation simulation exercises, international water and energy law, international environmental law, international ocean law and environmental impact assessment. They also provide training and capacity building, and conduct evaluations, in these specific areas. Clients include a wide range of international institutions, governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, Indigenous groups, and the private sector.

Legal Advisor to the Republic of Chile, *Dispute over the Status and Use of the Waters of the Silala (Chile v. Bolivia)*, International Court of Justice, August 2018 – December 2022

Consultant, UNESCO, Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (DRR) September 2022 – November 2022

- Development for UNESCO of a series of national policy briefs and a global policy brief on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) for disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation. Many of these NBS projects have strong focuses on water resources and water related hazards.
- OPERANDUM is a 4-year EU-funded project on Nature-based Solutions (NBS) for hydro-meteorological hazards launched on July 1, 2018. The project intends to provide science-based evidence for the usability of NBS locally and at global scale, and to propose best practices for their design, upscaling and replication in Europe and other territories; identify strategic pathways for their acceptance and promotion in a multi-stakeholder environment. The general objective of OPERANDUM is to develop a set of co-designed, co-developed, deployed, tested and demonstrated innovative green and blue/grey/hybrid NBS for the mitigation of the impact of natural hazards, promoting their acceptance and facilitating the adoption of new policies for the reduction of multi-hazard risks in rural and natural territories.

Adjunct Professor, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, August 2018 – December 2021

- Designed and taught classes for graduate and international students in both the in-person and on-line programs. Courses developed and taught ranged from legal research and writing to international water resources law and governance.

UNESCO (Paris), International Hydrological Programme (IHP), Water Sciences Division, Section on Groundwater Systems and Settlements SC/HYD/GSS, UN Volunteer Contract, September 2017 – March 2018

- Contributed in the implementation of regular programme and extrabudgetary project activities with a focus on capacity building modules related to transboundary aquifers and international water law including:
 - o Worked on the SDG indicator 6.5.2 part of the global 2030 sustainable development agenda; and
 - o Co-developed training materials for Water Diplomacy and Negotiations training for SDC GGRETA Ocotepeque-Citalá case study (El Salvador-Honduras) for local authorities and stakeholders.

Consultant, International Waters Governance, July 2015 – August 2017

- Dealt with individual clients, stakeholder groups, Indigenous groups, governments and academics. Regularly utilized my skills in legal research and writing as well as client and project management to provide practical and rigorous client centered consulting services. Regularly published in peer reviewed academic journals and monographs.
- International Waters Governance is “a team of seasoned multi-disciplinary experts who help research, design, and negotiate governance arrangements for shared international water, climate change, and peace processes. [...] Our areas of expertise include cross cultural communication, experiential learning, negotiation simulation exercises, international water and energy law, international environmental law, international ocean law and environmental impact assessment. We also provide training and capacity building, and conduct evaluations, in these specific areas. Our clients include a wide range of international institutions, governments, non-governmental organizations, academia, Indigenous groups, and the private sector.”

Legal Consultant, British Columbia, Columbia River Treaty Local Governments’ Committee, March 2017

- Researched and prepared a report on the role of local stakeholders and Indigenous peoples in the negotiation and implementation of international watercourse agreements between Canada and the United States, *The Columbia River Treaty and Local Interests: A Shared Responsibility*.
- Advised local governments and local stakeholders about engagement with Provincial governments, Federal governments, First Nations governments, and US governments and stakeholders.

Crown Counsel, Trial Crown, Alberta Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General, Crown Prosecution Service, Medicine Hat, December 2014 – May 2015

- Had conduct of a diverse case load including criminal, regulatory and environmental prosecutions.

Crown Counsel, British Columbia Ministry of The Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch, Smithers, August 2013 – August 2014

- Had conduct of a diverse case load including criminal prosecutions, as well as regulatory and environmental prosecutions.

Articled Student at Law, British Columbia Ministry of The Attorney General, Criminal Justice Branch, Prince George, August 2012 – August 2013

- Had conduct of a diverse case load before all levels of trial court in the Province of British Columbia.

Researcher, Global Transboundary International Waters Initiative, January 2012 – April 2012

- Performed legal research and writing on a variety of topics related to international watercourse law. Including in depth work on resiliency in international watercourse law, and run of the river hydro-power projects. Conducted substantive research, produced legal memorandums and briefs, updated case studies, and prepared legal articles for publication.

Environmental Law Clinician, West Coast Environmental Law, January 2011 – April 2011

- Conducted legal research and writing under the supervision of staff lawyers at West Coast Environmental Law. The work focused on domestic environmental law and legal reform. West Coast Environmental law worked with communities, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all levels of government, including First Nations governments, to develop proactive legal solutions to protect and sustain the environment.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Litigation Committee Member, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) / Société pour la nature et les parcs du Canada (SNAP), CANADA, January 2024 – Current

- Reviewed and advised on potential litigation proposed by the various offices and affiliates of the CPAWS / SNAP.
- CPAWS is dedicated to the protection of public land, freshwater and ocean with a strong national and regional presence across the country. Working in a way that respects the sovereignty and leadership of Indigenous nations, they are focused on conserving nature to respond to the dual crises of accelerated biodiversity loss and climate change.

Board Member, Untitled Art Society, Calgary Alberta, January 2015 – December 2017

Vice-President and Founding Board Member, The Class Afloat Foundation, September 2011 – December 31, 2013

CONFERENCES, TRAININGS, LECTURES AND MEDIA FEATURES

Featured in *Roll on Columbia roll on? What would happen if Canada tried to turn off the Columbia River in a trade war?*, CBC Radio, Daybreak South with Chris Walker, 7 February 2025.

Presenter/Tutor, International Boundary Research Unit (IBRU) Durham University professional training workshop *Defining and Managing River Boundaries & International Rivers*, Bangkok, Thailand 8-10 May 2024.

- Presented on the utilization of boundary rivers and international rivers, as well as resolving disputes related to river boundaries.

Speaker, Experts' workshop on International Law and Transboundary Hydropower Projects on 9th and 10th of March 2023 at the University of Bologna, Italy, 9-10 March 2023

- Presented on 'Lessons learned from the Law Applicable to Hydropower Developments Along the Columbia River between Canada and the US'.

Guest Lecturer, University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, International Water Resources Law, 29 March 2022

- Lectured on the Columbia River Treaty and on the Aral Sea for a class of law students in an upper year seminar class.

Presenter, Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Workshop *Water is for Fighting (and Creative Compromises): International and Interstate Water Issues in North America*, 8 May 2018

- Presented as part of workshop hosted by the Rocky Mineral Law Foundation, on the law of international watercourses focusing on some of the most important legal instruments and institutions existing between Canada and the U.S. regarding shared international freshwater resources, such as the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, the International Joint Commission, and the Columbia River Treaty.

Co-developer, SDC GGRETA Ocotepeque-Citalá case study (El Salvador-Honduras), 2017.

- Co-developed training materials for Water Diplomacy training for SDC GGRETA Ocotepeque-Citalá case study (El Salvador-Honduras) for local authorities and stakeholders.

Organizer, *Third Annual Symposium on Transboundary River Governance in the Face of Uncertainty: The Columbia River Treaty, 2014* in Kimberly, BC, hosted by the Universities Consortium on Columbia Basin Governance, September 2011 – October 2011

- This conference provided a unique opportunity to explore alternative interests and scenarios regarding the future governance in the Columbia River basin on both sides of the border, from the perspective of diverse stakeholders and experts.

Moderator, Round Table Discussion Group, *Third Annual Symposium on Transboundary River Governance in the Face of Uncertainty: The Columbia River Treaty, 2014* in Kimberly, BC, hosted by the Universities Consortium on Columbia Basin Governance, 5 October 2011

- These round table discussion groups were comprised of members of academia, civil society, local stakeholders, government, and Indigenous leaders. These groups were tasked with developing and discussing proposals for the future governance of the international Columbia River Basin. These discussions dealt with law and policy, ecosystem health and services, adaptive management and the use of Nature Based Solutions in the governance of the international Columbia River Basin. Their proposals were ultimately integrated into the final report and policy recommendations of the Symposium.

EDUCATION

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Doctor of Juridical Science (J.S.D.) (Doctorate) May 2022

- Completed research doctorate in international law specializing in international water resources law under the supervision of Carol Olson Endowed Professor of International Law Stephen C. McCaffrey, former special Rapporteur to the International Law Commission on the subject of “The Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses” (1985-1991).
- Thesis: *A ‘Stepped Approach’ to the Resolution of Disputes on International Watercourses*

University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, Master of Laws (LL.M.) December 2016

- Studied law of Transboundary Watercourses under Professor Stephen C. McCaffrey

- Thesis: *The AIIB, Normative Power and the Law of International Watercourses* (safeguard policies of the AIIB covering the banks global infrastructure projects on transboundary watercourses including RBEC countries).

University of British Columbia, Juris Doctor (J.D.), May 2012.

- Research Assistant for Professor Richard K. Paisley Director, Global Transboundary International Waters Initiative and Senior Research Associate, Institute of Asian Research (IAR), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Assisted with the *Third Annual Symposium on Transboundary River Governance in the Face of Uncertainty: The Columbia River Treaty, 2014* in Kimberly, BC, hosted by the Universities Consortium on Columbia Basin Governance.
- Environmental Law Clinician with West Coast Environmental Law

University of Calgary, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), With Distinction, May 2007.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member of the Law Society of British Columbia

- As of August 2013

Member of the Law Society of Alberta (Non-Practising)

- As of November 2014

Member of the International Association for Water Law (AIDA)

- As of June 2017

Member of the American Society of International Law (ASIL)

- As of June 2020

Member of the International Law Association (ILA-Canada)

- As of 2021

Member of the European Society of International Law (ESIL)

- As of 2023

LANGUAGES

English (Native Speaker)

French (Working Proficiency) – DELF B1 Level Certification

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs:

Brill International Water Law Series, 2025.

- Riley T. Denoon, *A 'Stepped Approach' to Disputes on International Watercourses* (Brill International Water Law Series, 2025).

Edward Elgar Publishing, Research Handbook on International Water Law, Co-Editor, 2019.

- S. McCaffrey, C. Leb & R. Denoon eds, *Research Handbook on International Water Law* (Edward Elgar Pub, 2019).
- Covering global and regional perspectives of international watercourse law.

Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law: Editor in Chief Salman M.A. Salman, September, 2017

- Richard Kyle Paisley, Riley T. Denoon, Theressa Etmanski and Patrick Weiler, *Transboundary Waters, Infrastructure Development and Public Private Partnership: A Case Study of Nam Theun 2 and Xayaburi Hydropower Projects* (Brill Research Perspectives in International Water Law, 2017).

Chapters and Articles:

Elsevier: Science Direct, Nature Based Solutions, 2023

- Zahra Amirzada, Marguerite de Chaisemartin, Riley T. Denoon et al, “Reducing hydro-meteorological risks through Nature-based Solutions: A comprehensive review of enabling policy frameworks in the European Union” (2023) 4 Nature Based Solutions, DOI: <<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbsj.2023.100097>>.

Taylor & Francis, Water International, Power in water diplomacy, 2020

- Riley T.P. Denoon, Richard K. Paisley, Marguerite de Chaisemartin & Taylor Henshaw, “Engaging non-state actors in the negotiation and implementation of international watercourse agreements: experiences and lessons learned from Canada” (2020) 45:4 Water International 311.

Routledge, River Basin Organizations in Water Diplomacy, 2020

- Richard Kyle Paisley, Riley T. Denoon & Marguerite de Chaisemartin, “International river basin organizations and benefit-sharing arrangements in the Columbia and Senegal international river basins: Past, present, and future” in Anoulak Kittikhoun & Susanne Schmeier eds, *River Basin Organizations in Water Diplomacy* (Routledge, 2020) 108.

Other Publications and Reviews:

Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 2018

- ‘Cody’ Riley Denoon, “Water is for Cooperation: An Introduction to International Watercourses, a Legal Perspective on Canada and the US” (Paper delivered the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Workshop, Water is for Fighting (and Creative Compromises): International and Interstate Water Issues in North America, 8 May 2018), (2018) 2018 Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation: Mineral Law Series 1-i.

Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee, 2017

- Denoon, R.T., Paisley, R.K. & Pearce, C. (2017). *The Columbia River Treaty and Local Interests: A Shared Responsibility*. Prepared for the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments Committee.

West Coast Environmental Law, 2011

- Andrew Gage & Riley Denoon, “Bargain basement prices on BC public lands?” The West Coast Environmental Law Environmental Law Alert Blog (25 June 2011), online: West Coast Environmental Law <<https://www.wcel.org/blog/bargain-basement-prices-bc-public-lands>>.

Peer Reviewer, Taylor & Francis, Water International, 2021

- A multidisciplinary journal founded in 1972. Water International is the official journal of the International Water Resources Association (IWRA).