



Professor Cliff Villa teaches and writes in the fields of environmental law and constitutional law at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he also supervises student attorneys in the Natural Resources and Environmental Law clinic. Prior to joining the UNM law faculty in 2015, Cliff served for 22 years as legal counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, first with EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and later with EPA Regional offices in Denver, Colorado, and Seattle, Washington. As an EPA attorney, much of his practice focused on CERCLA cleanups of federal facilities and mining sites. While engaged in full-time practice, Cliff began teaching on the adjunct faculty of Seattle University School of Law in 2006. Drawing on both his practical experience and academic interests, Cliff is the author of scholarly works including a published textbook, *A Practical Introduction to Environmental Law* (with Mintz., *et al.* 2017),

and a forthcoming textbook, *Environmental Justice: Law, Policy, and Regulation* (3rd ed. 2019).

Several articles specifically concern CERCLA cleanups in mining country: *Gold King Mine Spill:*

Environmental Law and Legal Protections for Environmental Responders, [2019 Utah L. Rev. 263](#)

[\(2019\)](#); *Superfund vs. Mega-Sites: The Coeur d'Alene River Basin Story*, [28 Columbia J. Envtl. L. 255](#)

[\(2003\)](#); *Cleaning Up at the Tracks: Superfund Meets Rails-To-Trails*, [25 Harvard Envtl. L. Rev. 481](#)

[\(2001\)](#). Cliff was born and raised in Albuquerque, graduated from the University of New Mexico *summa cum laude*, and received his J.D. from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.