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Natural Resources Law Center Press Releases

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Environmental Protection Agency Honors Kathryn Mutz NRLC Staffer Recognized for Environmental Justice Efforts

Kathryn Mutz, a senior research associate, lawyer, and fulltime staff member at the Natural Resources Law Center, was presented the Environmental Protection Agency's "Environmental Achievement Award" by Michael Gaydosh, deputy to the assistant regional administrator of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice. She received the award at a ceremony during NRLC's summer conference on June 12, 2002. Said Gaydosh, "EPA, as part of its mission, works to ensure that all communities, regardless of race or income level, benefit from environmental laws, a goal that we refer to as 'environmental justice.' As such, we are pleased to recognize Kathryn for outstanding leadership." Mutz was recognized in particular for her work in the "Justice in Natural Resources" project. "Kathryn reframed the national debate about environmental justice to include issues of water development, timber harvesting, endangered species programs, wilderness and parks protection, and energy development activities," he explained. Mutz organized the various phases of the project, which included sponsoring a two-day forum in Denver on environmental justice and natural resources; sponsoring and hosting a two-day Native American Sacred Lands Forum in Boulder and Denver; sponsoring a Chancellor's Community Lecture Series on environmental justice issues; and commissioning, contributing to and editing *Justice and Natural Resources: Concepts, Strategies and Applications*, a set of essays on a variety of natural resource and environmental justice issues from academics, practitioners and government representatives. Gaydosh concluded by noting, "In her partnership with us on some of these activates and with other diverse partners, Kathryn has been an effective leader and a role model for problem-solving and collaboration." The Natural Resources Law Center is a research and educational program at the University of Colorado Law School. The mission of the Center is to promote sustainability in the rapidly changing American West by informing and influencing natural resource laws, policies, and decisions. Through a comprehensive program of research, education, and advice, the Center seeks to inform and influence legal and policy decisions on western natural resources.

The Center marks its 20th anniversary this year.