



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF MINING: The Political and Technical Landscape

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Sponsored by The University of Arizona Global Mining Law Program, a collaboration of the James E. Rogers College of Law and the School of Mining Engineering and Mineral Resources

TENTH ANNUAL MINING LAW SUMMIT—2025

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF MINING: The Political and Technical Landscape

The mineral development in today's political and technical landscape can be daunting. New laws, executive orders and decisions of courts have made efforts to remove roadblocks while technology has generated the use of non-traditional minerals and artificial intelligence has altered the application of knowledge. The 2025 Mining Law Summit looks at these factors and offers some insights.

This free virtual conference, on **November 18, 2025**, will combine recorded presentations from internationally recognized authorities with live participation in answering questions and providing commentary.

REGISTRATION: bit.ly/mininglawsummit25

9 a.m. WELCOME

Jason Kreag, Interim Dean, James E. Rogers College of Law

INTRODUCTION

Kray Luxbacher, Executive Director and Head School of Mining Engineering and Mineral Resources, and John Lacy, the Director of the Global Mining Law Center, will introduce the program

FIRST TOPIC

The Legislative and Administrative Picture

Douglas B. Silver, internationally known explorationist, mineral economist and financier, as well as a frequent commentator, will discuss the contents of the "One Big Beautiful Bill," as it applies to mineral development, as well as the January 8, 2025, March 20, 2025, and April 2025, Executive Orders.

SECOND TOPIC

Mineral Investment Analysis

Ross Bhappu, president of Energy Fuels Corp., formerly president of Resource Capital Funds, will provide his perspective on the investment climate for the minerals industry related to nuclear fuels, rare earths and other minerals.

THIRD TOPIC

Watch This “Space”

Stephen Fleming, who describes himself as an “obsolete engineer and recovering venture capitalist,” the retired Vice President of Strategic Business Initiatives Research, Discovery and Innovation at the University of Arizona and organizer of the Arizona Space Business Roundtable, will discuss the advances in extraterrestrial mineral development and the potential role of the university.

FOURTH TOPIC

What’s the Issue in Greenland?

Greenland has been in the news recently based on President Trump’s suggestion that the United States might exercise some jurisdiction over the island’s mineral potential. This is against a background of an ongoing arbitration over the Kvanefjeld Rare Earth Element Project. **Anya Mallett**, an international mining lawyer, will offer her views on the island’s mining laws, the current dispute and the historic interest of the United States in Greenland.

FIFTH TOPIC

Artificial Intelligence & Critical Minerals

Michael Vandenberg, Vanderbilt Law School, will examine developments “beyond operations,” as the Artificial Intelligence boom intensifies demand for critical minerals—rare earths have been called the “feedstock for physical AI.” This session explores the legal and governance implications across supply-chain, national-security, and environmental-stewardship domains.

SIXTH TOPIC

The Role of Artificial Intelligence

Mary W. (Lia) Walker, the Innovation Lead, Freeport-McMoRan [FMI] and co-lead, Global Mining Guidelines [GMG] AI & Data Applications Group, will address the update to GMG’s AI in Mining white paper, joined by **Nathalie Risso**, UA Mining Engineering, developing FMI-supported curriculum in machine learning in mining.

DISCUSSION AND COMMENTARY

Melissa Sanderson, President, Mel Sanderson Consulting LLC, a frequent contributor to mineral resource issues and a member of several mining company boards looking specifically at rare earth deposits, will provide her perspective on the current landscape and the presentations made at the Summit.

Videos of last year’s Mining Law Summit can be found on:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNFHtoR_U1Gg-nyalEe_3ngVyVmy2p02v