

Chevron Retirees Association - Southern Arizona Chapter  
September 19, 2017 – 11:30am Lunch, Meeting and Lecture  
Mimi's Café - 4420 Oracle Rd. Tucson, AZ 85705

**Distinguished Speaker:** Michael M. Brescia, Ph.D., Professor of History, University of Arizona; Curator of Ethnohistory, Arizona State Museum

**Subject:** The Living Legacies of Spanish Water Law and Mineral Rights in the American Southwest



With a Ph.D. in history from the University of Arizona, Michael Brescia has conducted research in Mexico, Spain, Arizona, California, and New Mexico for a variety of projects. His first book, *North America: An Introduction*, co-authored with John Super (University of Toronto Press,) compares and contrasts the historical experiences of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. A second book, the fourth edition of *Mexico and the United States: Ambivalent Vistas*, with Dirk Raat as co-author (University of Georgia Press,) examines the history of Mexico through its relationship with the United States and the global economy. Since 2006, Brescia has been a consultant in several water rights cases in New Mexico and Arizona where he evaluates the living legacies of Spanish water law in the American Southwest. His research on Spanish water law has attracted international and national support and recognition, including a Fulbright Scholar Award and the Braun Prize in Western Legal History. In addition to the Fulbright, Michael was awarded the 2018 Wayne Aspinall Chair in History at Colorado Mesa University. He also has served as lead curator of three exhibits at the Arizona State Museum: *Many Mexicos: Vistas de la Frontera*, *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*, and *Intimacy of Faith: Devotional Retablos and Ex-Votos from Mexico*.

Old Spanish property law continues to fashion the rhythms of daily life in places like Arizona and New Mexico despite the nearly 170 years that have passed since the United States assumed control of what we call today the Southwest. American Indians and the Hispanic descendants of the first Spanish conquistadors invoke the principles of Spanish property law to defend their historical rights to natural resources. Dr. Brescia examines how the Spanish empire defined property during the colonial period, the reasons why Spanish water and mineral rights are taken (and not taken) into consideration by the U.S. judicial system today, and the inevitable clash that has taken place between two legal systems -- American common law and Hispanic civil law -- in the adjudication of natural resources in the Southwest.

**RSVP by September 12, 2017 requested – seating is limited!**

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**All Chevron and legacy company retirees, survivors, spouses, partners and guests welcome!**