 

*Presents:*

A BROWN BAG SEMINAR IN THE

WATER RESOURCES SEMINAR SERIES

**“Transboundary Waters Shared by Israel and the West Bank:**

**The Yarkon-Tananim Aquifer and the Alexander River ”**

*by*

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Consultant, Israel

&

Visiting Professor, NMSU

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Thursday, February 27

Rm 123, Geological Sciences

UTEP Campus

ABSTRACT

My presentation will deal with the geography, geology, historical usage and a smattering of law of the Yarkon-Tananim or “Mountain” Aquifer, which underlies Jerusalem and the West Bank, or as Israelis refer to it, Judea and Samaria. Plus, I will discuss the reclamation and rejuvenation of the Alexander River, whose headwaters are in the West Bank. The Alexander flows into the Mediterranean Sea. Until quite recently, the Alexander was a cesspool filled with sewage and agricultural runoff. Today, it is home to the endangered Nile Soft Shell Turtle and a series of parks. I will provide a geographic portrait and describe the efforts to reclaim the Alexander.

**Brief Bio of Itzchak Kornfeld, Ph.D.**

Itzchak Kornfeld, an Israeli native, advises governments and non-governmental organizations on the legal and geological aspects of water development, water sustainability and sustainable development of land. He has also taught water law and international law courses, at a number of law schools.

After earning an B.Sc. in geology Itzchak began his career as a geologist for the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, he then earned an M.A. in geology and worked as a geohydrologist for the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He then moved to the oil patch as an environmental and petroleum geologist for Texaco/Chevron and then as a consulting hydrologist.

Subsequently, he earned three law degrees, a J.D. from the Tulane Law School, where he was a member of the founding body of the Tulane Environmental Law Journal and its second articles editor. An LL.M. from the Georgetown Law Center and a Ph.D. in law from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he was a senior articles editor at the Israel Law Review.

Following law school, he focused on litigating environmental and water law, class actions, insurance coverage for environmental harms, water contamination cases, as well as water allocation issues. He has authored 4 books including one on transboundary water disputes, which was published by Cambridge University Press, in March 2019, and one book in press on mega- dams and human rights, which was published in January of 2020. He also published 7 book chapters and approximately 40 articles on water issues, oil & gas and environmental subjects, and has presented talks in a number of countries.