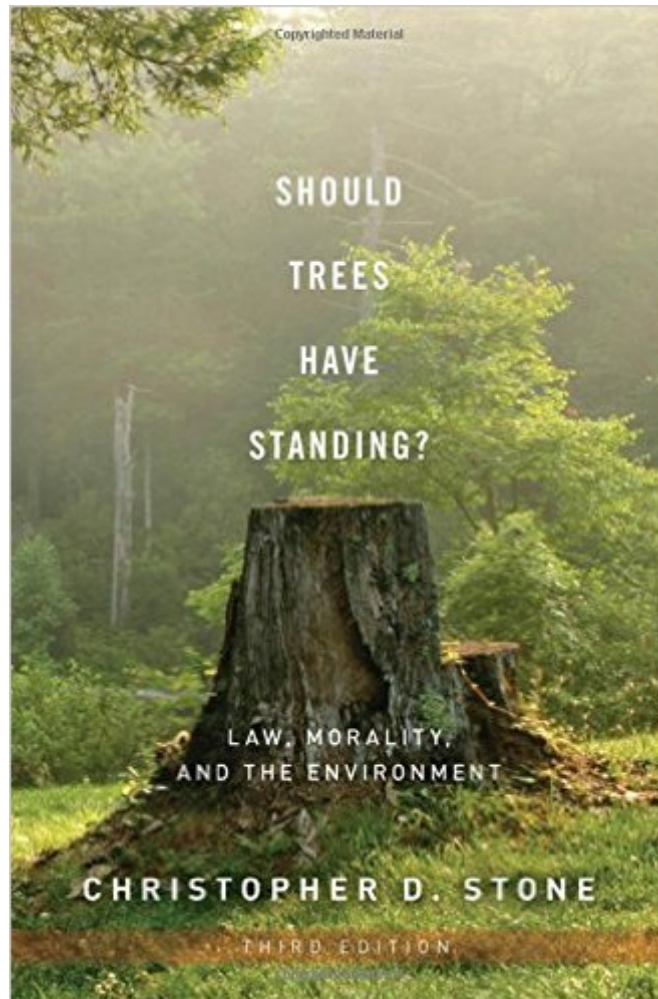


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Should Trees Have Standing?: Law, Morality, And The Environment



Synopsis

Originally published in 1972, *Should Trees Have Standing?* was a rallying point for the then burgeoning environmental movement, launching a worldwide debate on the basic nature of legal rights that reached the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, in the 35th anniversary edition of this remarkably influential book, Christopher D. Stone updates his original thesis and explores the impact his ideas have had on the courts, the academy, and society as a whole. At the heart of the book is an eminently sensible, legally sound, and compelling argument that the environment should be granted legal rights. For the new edition, Stone explores a variety of recent cases and current events--and related topics such as climate change and protecting the oceans--providing a thoughtful survey of the past and an insightful glimpse at the future of the environmental movement. This enduring work continues to serve as the definitive statement as to why trees, oceans, animals, and the environment as a whole should be bestowed with legal rights, so that the voiceless elements in nature are protected for future generations.

Book Information

Paperback: 264 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 3 edition (April 7, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199736073

ISBN-13: 978-0199736072

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.6 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #176,793 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#10 in Books > Law > Business > Entertainment](#) [#35 in Books > Law > Environmental & Natural Resources Law](#) [#38 in Books > Law > Ethics & Professional Responsibility](#)

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Introduction- *Should Trees Have Standing* Legal standing is a term which applies to the ability of a person, or parties to demonstrate their position before a court. In the context of environmental law, there has been great discourse regarding the nature of legal standing and its applicability to natural objects. This includes forests, oceans, rivers, and other objects which ought to have some degree of recognized rights but do not have the faculties to independently obtain them. Christopher D. Stone has become a forerunner in the environmental movement by writing his seminal book, "Should

Trees Have Standing?", amongst his other literature, which proposes the idea of bestowing rights into non human parties. Stone's central thesis is that natural objects should be granted legal rights and or standing to ensure a greater recognition of their rights. Stone ultimately reflects the success of the environmental movement and provides insightful forethought as to where the movement is going. Notwithstanding some contradictory arguments, and even sometimes fallacious statements; Stone's position is generally concise, valid, and comprehensive. Throughout this text Stone articulates a rather esoteric idea in a very apprehensive manner. Therefore, "Should Trees Have Standing" is a book that can be grasped not only by those who are experts in the study of environmental law, but also by those who simply wish to supplement their environmental literacy. Nonetheless, this work will continue to serve as foundation for advocates and many others who concern themselves with the study of environmental law. Summary of Literature-Stone begins the novel with the proposition that society ought to do the "unthinkable" by investing legal rights into the authority of natural objects.

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