

BREWING BEER AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN CONTEXT

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an environmental lawyer's perspective of the legal framework within which beer brewers must operate. South Africa's highly developed statutory law will be outlined, particularly where it has incorporated principles of environmental management that were developed in international law. A critical and at times caustic view will be expressed about environmental rhetoric (into which Al Gore's 'An inconvenient truth' falls), the role of NGO's in pollution debates and the failure of most governments to effectively apply the law at their disposal. South Africa will be used as an example of a country with first world and first class legislation that enjoys third world and fourth class application in key areas that affect industry.

It is hoped that the brewing industry will better understand the legal environment within which they operate, understand the impacts of environmental malpractice and its economic and social consequences, all in the interests of 'sustainable brewing'.