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- J.D. Yale Law School, 1979
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Jim McElfish directs the Sustainable Use of Land Program and the Water Resources area for the Environmental Law Institute, a public policy research and education institution. His research focuses on land use and development and links to water resources, biological diversity, mineral resources, and infrastructure policy. McElfish served as representative of the natural environment on the American Planning Association's multi-year "Growing Smarter Legislative Guidebook" Directorate, has published books on mining law, nature-friendly land use ordinances, and research studies on forestry law, hazardous substances, environmental indicators, and other subjects. . He is a nationally recognized authority on the National Environmental Policy Act. A former litigator in private practice and with the U.S. Department of the Interior, McElfish has been an ELI Senior Attorney since 1986.