

Legal Significance of Meander Lines

Biography

George M. Cole is a professional engineer and surveyor whose assignments have ranged from hydrographic surveys in remote areas of the Arctic to participating in the first world-wide satellite geodesy program. Currently, he serves as Vice-President of Applied Geodetic Services, Inc, a Florida-based engineering, surveying and mapping firm. In addition to experience in private practice, his professional background includes service with the commissioned corps of the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (now NOAA), as the State Cadastral Surveyor for Florida, and as coordinator of professional services contracting for the Florida Department of Transportation. His educational background includes a BS degree from Tulane University and a MS degree from Florida State University. He is currently a doctoral candidate in geography at Florida State University. He has made numerous contributions to professional literature with publication of law review articles, papers in professional journals, and several books including *Water Boundaries* (John Wiley & Sons, 1996).

Abstract

This report examines the legal significance of the meandering of water bodies by public land surveyors and of the meander lines resulting from these surveys. Included is an examination of the chronology of instructions to public land surveyors and of judicial recognition of the decision of whether to meander and of the meander lines themselves.