



A resource for judges resolving water conflicts



For 20 years, *Dividing the Waters* has prepared judges to resolve and adjudicate some of the nation's most complex conflicts — over water. The Program connects judges, special masters and referees who preside over complex water litigation to the information and training resources they need to resolve some of the most difficult disputes about how to allocate and share this most precious and communal resource. Just as importantly, *Dividing the Waters* connects judges to each other as they work through the complexities inherent to water conflicts. The Program succeeds because it offers education, information and a network.

For judges. By judges. *Dividing the Waters* believes that judges can best make these important public resource decisions with the support of other judges who know how to navigate water conflicts. Always adhering to the Canons of Judicial Conduct, the program offers education and information resources to judicial officers responsible for adjudicating water conflicts.

The judges in the DTW network:

- **Share** information about how the different states and courts have structured and conducted stream adjudications and other complex water law litigation.
- **Discuss** problems in conducting these adjudications and cases, from legal and logistical to intellectual and political.
- **Learn** what works and what does not work, so other judges do not have to make the same mistakes.
- **Benefit** from expertise of technical and scientific-resource people who are involved in the many subject areas pertinent to water cases.
- **Build** a water-knowledge network where judges, masters and referees develop lasting personal and professional relationships.

State and federal judges benefit. Over the years, state judges have gained the most from *Dividing the Waters*. The Program's 2007 affiliation with The National Judicial College and work with the Federal Judicial Center, however, has expanded the DTW network to include federal judges, who now regularly participate in the Program's conferences.

Evolving to serve new water judges and new issues. When *Dividing the Waters* began in 1993, it offered a discussion forum for the experienced judges responsible for the large water-right adjudications in the West. The Program has evolved to address the most critical water issues facing judges today — growing cities, endangered species, and climate change. While continuing to support experienced water judges, *Dividing the Waters* now offers its resources to judges who are new to water conflicts. *Dividing the Waters* also is expanding across the nation, to regions where water conflicts are relatively new.

Resources for water judges. *Dividing the Waters* offers a wide range of resources for judges with water cases — from the fundamentals of water law to the science of climate change. Through conferences, workshops, publications and mentoring, judicial officers can learn the latest developments in water law, the nuts and bolts of crafting an enduring decree that provides for variable hydrology, or techniques for using water experts effectively. They can pursue broad interests in water law or obtain personal assistance from other judges on a specific water-related issue.



You can help.

The Water Justice Fund. As water conflicts expand and more judges call on *Dividing the Waters* for assistance, the need for your financial support has grown. The National Judicial College has created the Water Justice Fund to support the work of *Dividing the Waters*. A brief call to the NJC can make it easy to donate to *Dividing the Waters*.

More on *Dividing the Waters*

Who. Participants in the *Dividing the Waters* network include both specialized water judges and judges who may have only one complex water case. These judges may have years of experience in water or are encountering water law for the first time in their professional career. The Program's leadership includes Justice Allison Eid (CO), Deputy Administrator Susan Joseph-Taylor (NV Division Water Resources), Justice Ronald Robie (CA), Justice Debra Stephens (WA), and Judge Eric Wildman (ID). Justice Greg Hobbs (CO) and Special Master John Thorson (MT/WA, Co-Founder) continue as "Conveners Emeritus."

Resources. *Dividing the Waters* offers a range of published information resources, from its monthly *Network Note* update to summaries of key judicial decisions on water. Many resources, including the premier publication **Hydrologic Modeling Benchbook** (2011), can be found on the Program's website: www.judges.org/dtw/resources.

Joining the network. Judges wishing to be a part of the *Dividing the Waters* network may visit the website at www.judges.org/dtw, or contact **Rebecca Bluemer** at (775) 327-8269 or bluemer@judges.org.

Programs. In recent years, *Dividing the Waters* has expanded its range of programs, which now include conferences, workshops, and webinars. Recent programs have included:

October 14-17, 2015	Established Water Rights, Changing Conditions	Spokane, Washington
January 9 & 23, 2015	DTW 2-part Drought Webinar Series	The NJC, Reno, Nevada
May 14-18, 2014	Changing Land, Changing Water	University of Oregon School of Law
October 17-18, 2013	Judges and the Science of Instream Flow	The NJC, Reno, Nevada
November 8-9, 2012	Workshop: Fracking and Water Resources	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 17-20, 2012	Making the Connection: Surface and Groundwater	UC Davis, California

For additional information, please contact:

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