



A resource for judges resolving water conflicts

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THE NATIONAL  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

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## *The Network Note* September 2017

### Conference Edition

### Conference Confirmed – Plan Now

#### **NJC Confirms Conference for November 1-4 in Texas**

Now that the NJC Water Justice Fund has sufficient funding to pay the costs of a full-size *Dividing the Waters* conference, NJC has confirmed the *Groundwater Law in Transition* conference and started informing registrants too book their travel. NJC is also responding to scholarship requests. No reimbursement is available for your airline ticket this year unless you have requested and received a scholarship from NJC.

#### **Conference Agenda – Starts at 5 pm, November 1**

At the opening reception, Baylor hydrogeology Professor Joe Yelderman will kick off this year's conference with an engaging presentation on Texas hydrology. Next morning, the presentations start with the science of groundwater. The afternoon will address transitions in groundwater law and the water-land development nexus. The Friday field day will include visits to farms, facilities and habitat that rely on groundwater. Saturday includes sessions with U.S. Supreme Court special masters and on water takings.

The public agenda is available on the conference webpage. Registrants will receive the full agenda identifying speakers and learning objectives. The [Executive Director](#) also can provide the full agenda via e-mail.

#### **Flights: Dallas, Austin or Waco?**

Although Waco has an airport, it may be more convenient and less expensive to fly to Dallas/DFW or Austin, which have more airlines and flights. Courtyard Waco, however, offers a shuttle from the Waco airport. Your registration for the conference will provide for reservations at the hotel.

#### **First Truckee River Hearing Officer: Sarah Klahn**

Parties to the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) have announced the appointment of Sarah A. Klahn, Esq., to an initial four-year term as the *first* Truckee River Special Hearing Officer under TROA. Ms. Klahn is presently the managing partner at White & Jankowski, LLP, in Denver and co-chairs the *Dividing the Waters* Board of Advisors.

#### **Pre-Conference Groundwater Webinar on October 27**

DTW Convener John Thorson will convene a webinar offering a comparison of how groundwater rights laws differ among states, starting at 11:00 am PDT/1:00 CDT on October 20. University of Montana Professor Michelle Bryan will serve as faculty and some judges will share their experience. Save the date now and obtain the call-in information by registering for the webinar on the [conference webpage](#) starting on October 1. This webinar is **open to all judges**, regardless whether you can come to our Texas conference

#### **Register [Here](#) NOW; Space May Be Limited**

Final preparations for this year's conference at the Baylor law school have begun. The Conveners completed the agenda, and the speakers are preparing for leading discussions among *Dividing the Waters* members. Registration does NOT require immediate payment, allowing for applications for travel-cost scholarships. Sign up today!

#### **Optional Conference Preparation – Bench Book Review**

Regardless whether you have experience in groundwater, you have an opportunity to prepare for this conference. *Dividing the Waters*, in collaboration with USGS, Stanford and UC Davis, is drafting a bench book on *Adjudicating Groundwater Models*. This new publication will provide the fundamentals of both groundwater science and modeling. The "conference draft" will be available for your review about a week before the conference. We will ask conference participants to review the book for its usefulness to their work, but we would **welcome any judge's review and comment.**

#### **Texas Chief Justice Nathan Hecht Will Keynote**

After authoring the Texas Supreme Court's recent decisions on groundwater, Chief Justice Nathan Hecht can offer insight and perspective on the challenges of balancing the public interest and private rights to use water. He will offer the keynote address at Thursday's dinner across the Brazos River at the Baylor Club (in McLane Stadium).

**Recent court decision? Something to share? [ALFIII@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ALFIII@sbcglobal.net)**

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