



# The Western States Water Council

**Hon. Eric Wildman**  
**Idaho District Court**

**Steve Snyder**  
**Alf W. Brandt**

*Dividing the Waters*



# Who We Are

**Water Adjudication Education**

*By Judges, For Judges*

**What We Offer**

- **Education & Training**
- **Information Resources**
- **Knowledge Network**



# A Brief History

1993: Founded as Forum for Adjudication Judges

- Funded by Ford Foundation
- Operated Out of Arizona Supreme Court

2007: Affiliated with NJC . . . and FJC

2011: Transition: Hewlett > Bechtel

2012: Adopted New Strategic Plan

2016: Transition to Regional Funding

2017: Groundwater Conference & Book



# Supporting Networks

- Board of Advisors: Water Lawyers
- Law School Network: Water Law Professors
- Water Funders Initiative: Foundations
- Western States Water Council (California, Nevada)
- The National Judicial College
- American Bar Association



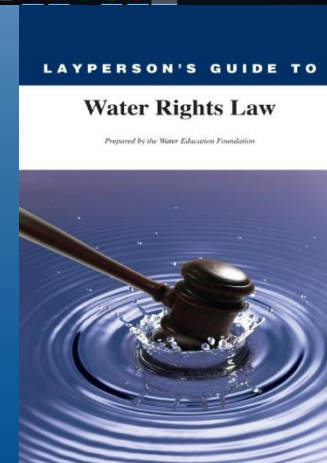
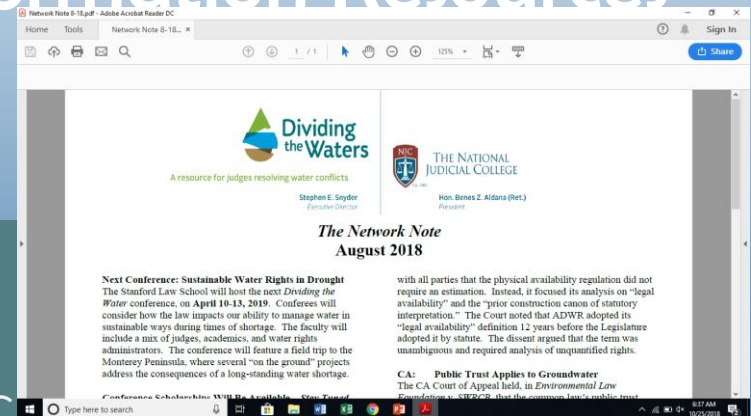
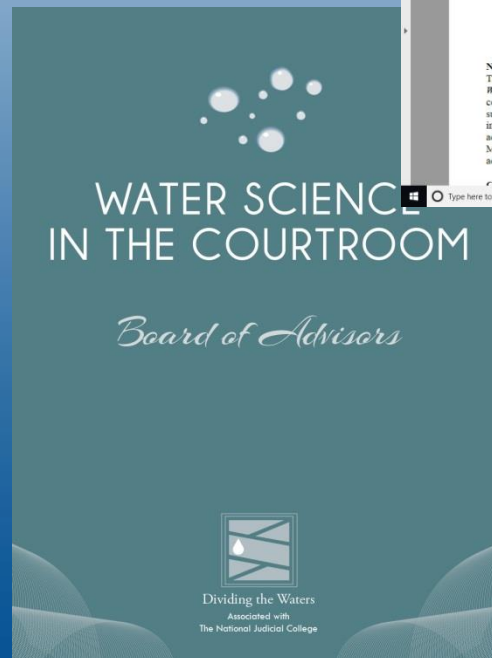
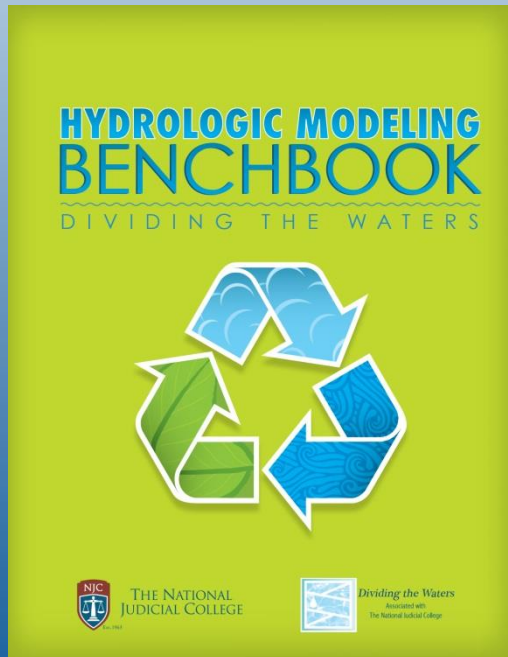
# *Dividing the Waters* Conferences





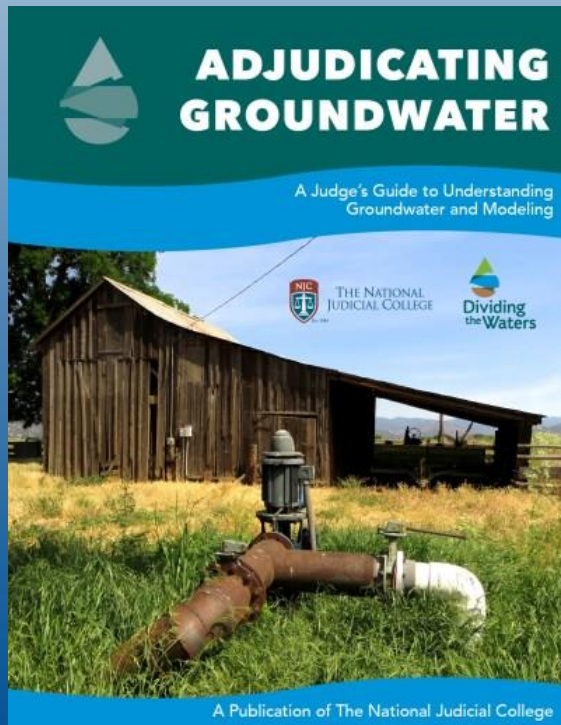
A resource for judges resolving water conflicts

# Dividing the Waters Information Resources





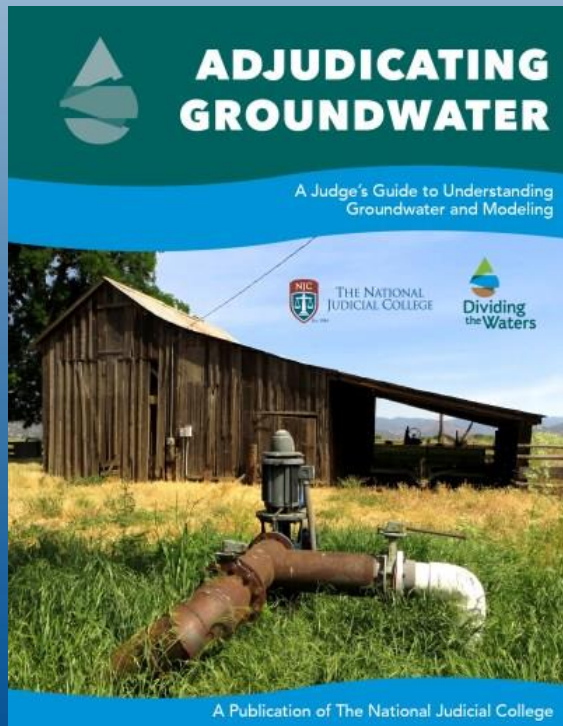
# NEW BENCH BOOK: *Adjudicating Groundwater*



Origin in 2017 Texas Conference  
Unique Scientist-Judge Collaboration

- Stanford/UC Davis
- Idaho/Snake River Judge
- USGS Editors/Peer Review
- Review by Judges

# *Adjudicating Groundwater*



Chapter 1: Historical Perspective

Chapter 2: Groundwater Hydrogeology

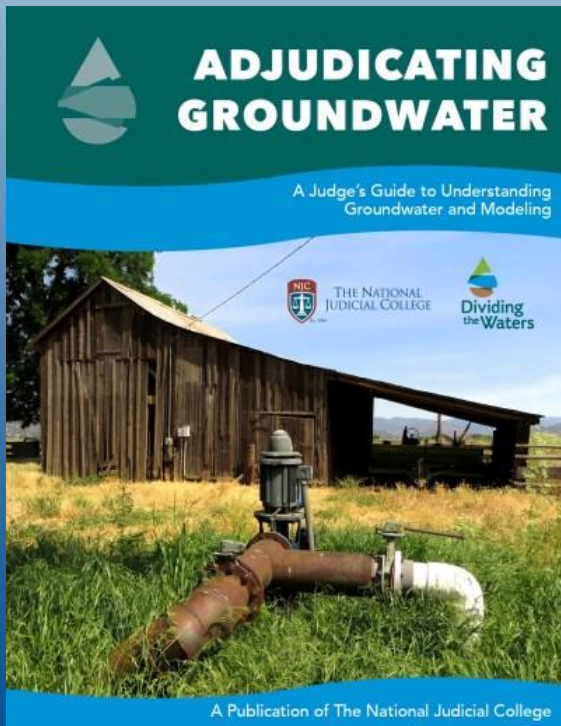
Chapter 3: Groundwater Modeling

Chapter 4: A Judge's Perspective

Appendices: Judicial Checklist; Glossary



# *Adjudicating Groundwater*



## Value for Judges

- Scientific Terms & Concepts
- Judicial Checklists

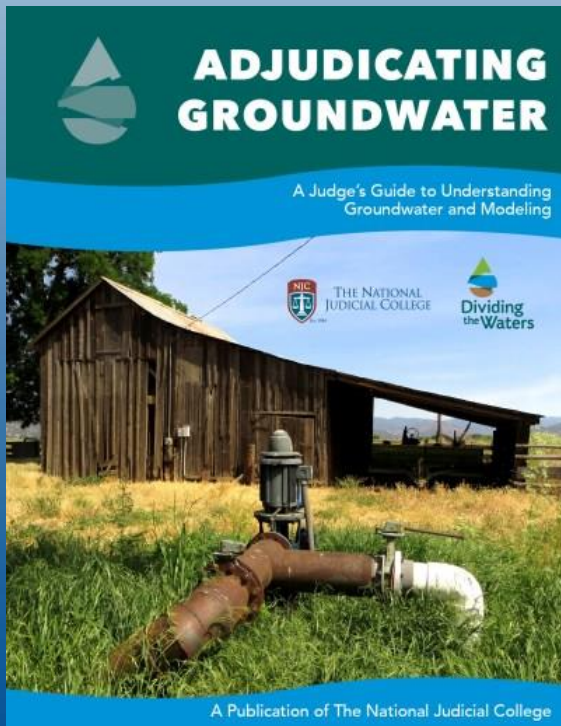
## Value for Other Decisionmakers

- Groundwater/Modeling
- Understanding Consultants/Judges

## Value for Advocates

- Education Tool

# *Adjudicating Groundwater*



## Growing Use of Bench Book

- Judges/Lawyers in *DTW* Networks
- ABA Water Law Conference
- CA Water Agencies

## Toward Widely Accepted Resource

- WSWC Adoption for State Staffs
- Support for Judges



# **Current Funding Strategy: Regional Approach/Tuition**

**Texas: 2 TX Foundations, Baylor Law School**

**Fundamentals: Nevada, California**

**Water Justice Fund: Law Firms, Others**

**Bench Book: Water Foundation (CA)**



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  - [www.judges.org/dtw](http://www.judges.org/dtw)
  - [www.judges.org/dtw/adjudicating-groundwater/](http://www.judges.org/dtw/adjudicating-groundwater/)



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