

Based in Montana, Abby Brown is a member of the firm's environmental and natural resources team and water law practice group. Abby draws on her extensive transactional and litigation experience in water rights and real property issues to provide comprehensive yet practical legal services that support clients' goals with a focus on sustainable results.



Abigail R. Brown

Shareholder | Helena | Missoula

Biography

Abby is a member of Parsons Behle & Latimer's environmental and natural resources team and the firm's water law and real estate practice groups. She has more than a decade of experience representing a diverse range of water users, from small individual family farms to large irrigation districts, in water law and real property matters. Abby holds an L.L.M. in Water and Environmental Law from McGeorge School of Law, where she focused on contemporary water law and environmental issues facing the greater Intermountain West region.

In her water law practice, Abby represents water users through all stages of water rights adjudication proceedings in the Montana Water Court, water rights distribution and enforcement conflicts in state district courts and administrative permitting in state agencies.

Abby also concentrates her practice on real estate transactions, including water rights and real property due diligence investigations. Abby has particular experience with large-scale ranch transactions.

Experience

Montana Water Adjudication Representation

Represents dozens of water rights owners located throughout Montana in most hydrological basins subject to ongoing adjudication by the Montana Water Court against claims of abandonment, non-perfection and challenges to every possible element of a water right. Clients include individual farmers, family ranches, corporations, irrigation districts and water supply companies.

Contact information

406.410.5022

abbybrown@parsonsbehle.com

Capabilities

Agriculture

Water Rights, Quality & Infrastructure

Real Estate

Environmental & Natural Resources

Licensed/Admitted

Montana

U.S. Dist. Court, Dist. of Montana

Wyoming

Utah

**EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS
EVERY DAY**

**PARSONS
BEHLE &
LATIMER**

Accomplishments

Professional

Member, Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation Comprehensive Water Review Stakeholder Working Group (2022 – 2025)

Voting Member, Water Adjudication Advisor Committee for the Montana Water Court (2021 – present)

Judicial Law Clerk, Retired Justice Patricia O. Cotter, Montana Supreme Court (2010 - 2011)

Academic

University of the Pacific—McGeorge Law School, L.L.M. in Water and Environmental Law (2021)

University of Montana Law School, J.D. with Honors (2010)

University of Montana, M.A., Intercultural Youth and Family Development (2006)

Northwestern University, B.S.Ed., in Education and Social Policy (2001)

Associations

Professional

State Bar of Montana, Water and Natural Resources Law Sections, Co-founder of Water Law Section

Wyoming State Bar, Energy & Natural Resources Section

Utah State Bar, Environmental and Women Lawyer Sections

American Bar Association, Environment, Energy & Resources Section (SEER)

The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law formerly known as Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation

Community

YWCA Helena

Trust Montana

U.S. Peace Corps (Malawi, 2001-2003)

Articles

“Water Justice Under the Big Sky: Locating a Human Right to Water in Montana Law,” *Vol. 45 Public Land & Natural Resources Law Review* 42, Spring 2022

“Water Law and Climate Change,” *The Water Report*, Sept. 2022

Presentations

“The Prior Appropriation Doctrine 101: Background, History, Overview,” United States Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters staff, Dec. 28, 2021

“Real Estate Perspectives on Water Law,” Annual Montana Water Law Seminar, The Seminar Group, Sept. 28-29, 2021

**EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS
EVERY DAY**

**PARSONS
BEHLE &
LATIMER**

“Water Law and Climate Change: How might water law respond to climate change?” 22nd Annual Montana Water Law Seminar, The Seminar Group, Helena, Montana, Oct. 5-6, 2022

**EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS
EVERY DAY**

**PARSONS
BEHLE &
LATIMER**