

Diana J. Abbott is a member of the firm's environmental & natural resources and water law practice groups. Her practice specializes in helping clients navigate complex water rights and related real property issues throughout Montana.



Diana J. Abbott

Associate | Helena | Missoula

Biography

Ms. Abbott's practice specializes in helping clients navigate complex water rights and related real property issues throughout Montana. This includes assisting clients at all stages of the water rights adjudication process in Montana Water Court, water rights distribution and enforcement matters in state district courts, and water rights transfers, changes, and permitting processes with the Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) and local governments.

Ms. Abbott received her B.S. in Business Administration, summa cum laude, from Colby-Sawyer College in 2018. She received her J.D., cum laude, from Vermont Law School in 2022. Ms. Abbott interned for the Montana Trout Unlimited legal team during the summers of her first and second years of law school. During her final year of law school, Ms. Abbott worked as a judicial extern/intern for Chief Water Judge Russell McElyea, Associate Water Judge Stephen Brown and various Water Masters at the Montana Water Court.

Outside of her legal career, Ms. Abbott enjoys skiing, fly fishing, camping, and hiking with her husband Alex and dogs.

Contact information

406.410.5024

dabbott@parsonsbehle.com

Capabilities

Environmental & Natural Resources
Water Rights, Quality & Infrastructure
Agriculture
Real Estate

Licensed/Admitted

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

Accomplishments

Academic

Vermont Law School, J.D., cum laude, 2022

- Environmental Advocacy Clinic, Fall 2020
- Intensive Trial Practice, Spring 2021
- Academic Excellence Award in Environmental Dispute Resolution, Spring 2022

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Colby-Sawyer College, B.S., Business Administration, summa cum laude, 2018

- Wesson Honors Program
- Alpine Skiing, NCAA Division I

Associations

Professional

State Bar of Montana

State Bar of Montana, Water Law Section, Chair Elect (present)

Articles

Welcome to 2026: Montana Legislative Updates that Impact Existing Water Rights and Applications for Formerly “Exempt” Groundwater Rights in the New Year, Feb. 2, 2026

Presentations

Water 201: Deeper Dive into the Role of the Judiciary in Montana Water Management Presentation to the Montana Legislature (Water Policy Interim Committee)

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