

Betsy Story specializes in all aspects of water law, including water rights adjudication, permitting, and water and ditch distribution litigation. She also serves clients facing general land use and real property issues, including buy-sell due diligence, access easement and encroachment disputes and public lands issues.



Betsy Story

Associate | Helena

Biography

Ms. Story specializes in complex water disputes and related real property matters. She serves clients across the state of Montana in water court, administrative contested cases, State and Federal District Courts, and appeals before the Montana Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit. She also helps clients navigate water right adjudications, enforcement, transfers, changes and permit applications at all stages of the process.

Ms. Story attended law school at the University of Montana, where she was the recipient of Dean of Students Award for Highest Academic Achievement in Land Use & the Environment and served as president of the Federalist Society Student Chapter; law fellow for U.S. Senator Steve Daines; and summer law clerk for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Story often returns home to Emigrant, Montana, with her fiancé Aaron to help on her family's cattle ranch, and in her free time, enjoys downhill skiing, skate skiing and mountain lion hunting.

Accomplishments

Academic

University of Montana School of Law, J.D., 2019

University of Montana, Missoula, B.A., high honors, 2016

Major: Political Science

Associations

Professional

First Judicial District Bar Association

Contact information

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Capabilities

Environmental & Natural Resources

Environmental Litigation &
Administrative Appeals

Mining

Public Lands

Real Estate Litigation

Water Rights, Quality & Infrastructure

Licensed/Admitted

Montana

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

U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit

State Bar of Montana, Water Law Section, Natural Resources Section

Water Law Section Council, Member at Large (current)

Community

Helena City Zoning Commission, Member (current)

Presentations

“Water Issues in Real Estate Law: Water Rights Explained and Water Access and Easements”
November 14, 2024

“Understanding Montana’s Surface Water and Groundwater Rights,” HalfMoon Seminars, Jan. 24, 2024

“Environmental Considerations: “Navigable” Waters, Related Permitting, and the NHPA,” 8th Annual
Ranches, Farms & Agribusiness CLE, 2023

“Understanding Water Storage,” 23rd Annual Montana Water Law CLE, Oct. 17 and 18, 2023

“Environmental Considerations: NHPA, WOTUS, 310 Permitting; Stream Access and Navigable
Waters,” Ranches, Farms and Agribusiness in Montana and Beyond Conference, Sept. 13 and 14, 2023

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

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