

William C. Fanning

Fanning Law PLLC
14 N. Idaho St. #4 Dillon, MT | 104 E. Broadway, Ste. G Helena, MT
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fanning Law PLLC, Offices in Helena & Dillon, MT

- Owner and Manager 2018 to present
- Active civil litigation practice representing a wide range of parties in Water and District Courts dealing in water, land use, subdivision, and natural resource issues
- Corporate counsel for several water supply companies and one irrigation district
- Leveraged significant Water Court experience to found successful regional water rights focused law firm that delivers targeted results for clients

Coyle & Fanning PLLC, Bozeman, MT

- Partner 2017
- Represented water users and property owners in Montana's Water and District Courts on a range of issues related to adjudication and water use

Montana Water Court, Bozeman, MT

- Clerk and Water Master 2014-2016
- Responsible for the day to day legal and technical work of Montana's statewide water right adjudication

Montana Water Court, Bozeman, MT

- Legal Intern Summer 2013
- Worked with Judges Loble and McElyea researching legal questions, drafting orders and opinions, and participating in conferences

Trout Unlimited, Bozeman, MT

- Legal Intern Summer 2012
- Provided legal research and writing assistance for four attorneys on a variety of water and property related topics

EDUCATION

University of Montana School of Law, Missoula, MT

- Juris Doctorate 2014
- Public Lands and Resources Law Review, Publications Editor
- Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic
- Torts Teaching Assistant

Graduate Institute, St. Johns College Santa Fe, NM

- Master of Liberal Arts 1996
- Great Books Program

University of New Hampshire Durham, NH

- Bachelor of Arts English Literature and Philosophy, Honors Program *cum laude* 1993

Gonzaga High School Washington, DC 1989

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Montana State Bar 2015
- United States District Court, Montana 2015
- Montana Water Resources Association, Board of Directors
- Beaverhead County Deputy Election Clerk
- Montana Medical Legal Panel
- Community Land Trust Volunteer Attorney

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Water Court Adjudication Cases

- *Parrot Ditch Co. v. Ashcraft*, 2024 MT 272 (service area, decreed rights, perfection)
- *In re State Bd. of Land Comm'rs*, 2023 MT 222 (settlement agreement, point of diversion, *Pettibone*)
- *Jefferson Island Ranch v. Turner*, 2022 Mont. Water LEXIS 332 (point of diversion, objection amendment)
- *In re E. Bench Irrigation Dist.*, 2021 MT 319 (place of use, service area, diligence, storage water)
- *Open A Ranch Inc. v. Clark Canyon Water Supply Co.* 2020 Mont. Water LEXIS 356 (marshaling, priority dates, perfection)

Water Court Certification Cases

- *Pappert v. Zimmerman*, 2023 Mont. Water LEXIS 802 (abandonment), certified from Sixth Judicial District Court. Cause No. DV-2020-43, (ditch easement dispute)
- *In re Distrib. of Water in Basin 410*, 2024 Mont. Water LEXIS 62, certified from Ninth and Twelfth Judicial District Court, Teton and Chouteau Counties. Cause No. DV-16-410. (administration of water, source, intent)
- *In re Marriage of Corey* 2021 Mont. Water LEXIS 1253, certified from First Judicial District Court. Cause No. DDR-2020-141, (marshaling, abandonment, place of use)

District Court Cases

- *Pat Carney et. al., v. Parrot Ditch Co.*, DV-29-19262271, (ongoing objection to water commissioner and billing)
- *Livingston West LLC v. City of Livingston*, DV-34-2023-145, (writ of mandamus, arbitrary and capricious denial of preliminary plat application)

- *Norman Ashcraft et. al. v. Brittany Roberts, PDC Ditch Walker*, DV-29-19262271 (2022) (temporary restraining order, water commissioner)
- *DNRC v. 18th Judicial Dist.* OP 17-0719 (2018) (supervisory control, mediation)
- *McComas v. Bertolino*, DV-45 (2017) (appointed to represent water commissioner regarding complaint filed by water user)
- *Ridgway v. Gasparro*, DV-17-77 (2017) (temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction)

LEGAL PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- The Seminar Group Montana Water Law CLE presentation: *Montana Law on Stored, Developed, and Imported Water* September 2019
- The Seminar Group Montana Water Law CLE presentations: *Water Rights Service Areas* October 2024.
- University of Montana Law School 2014 Study. *Water Rights in Montana How Our Legal System Works Today, How Montana Compares to Other States, and Ideas for Montana's Future*. 2014. Report for the Montana Supreme Court Prepared by the Land Use & Natural Resources Clinic, University of Montana School of Law. <https://courts.mt.gov/Courts/Water/LegalResources>
- Presentation of paper *Is the Use of Municipal Water Right for Fracking?* American Water Works Association Conference & Joint Engineers Convention, Great Falls May 2013

PRE-LAW EMPLOYMENT

- Before law school, my work experiences were varied and included stints as a high school and college teacher, firefighter, contractor, stay at home parent, and journalist

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

- Our family of five explores Montana's outdoors by foot, two wheeled machines, and horseback whenever possible
- Bridger Ski Foundation
- Bozeman Lacrosse Youth Coach, U13 and U15; 2015 U15 State Champions