

**DTW Conveners' Meeting**  
**July 18, 2025**

**Minutes**

**Participants:** Kate Appleby, Debra Stephens, Steve Brown, Sherri Zendri, Eric Wildman;  
NJC Staff: Alf Brandt, Sheena Britschgi, Tahnee Ramirez

**Executive Chair's Welcome**

Kate Appleby

Kate Appleby discussed the changes she is making to the DTW webpages:

- *Academic Freedom Statement.* Kate Appleby proposed to delete the first sentence of the *DTW* academic freedom statement shown below while proposing to keep the rest, except for the link to the NJC Academic Freedom Statement. Some affirmed the importance of stating our confidentiality policy.
  - ~~*Dividing the Waters* provides a forum for judges to discuss issues in a manner that allows them to best serve the public and the judicial system.~~ In order to encourage open discussion and debate among judges, *Dividing the Waters* maintains the confidentiality of such discussions, consistent with the Canons of Judicial Ethics, while adhering to The National Judicial College's Academic Freedom Statement.
- *Profiles of NJC-DTW Staff.* Kate Appleby proposed adding brief NJC staff profiles, which Conveners supported. Tahnee Ramirez declined to add her profile. Alf Brandt will send drafts for himself and Sheena Britschgi.
- *Deleted Segments* include Water Justice Fund, Law School Network and Board of Advisors.

**NJC Staff Report**

Alf Brandt

- *Conference Update.*
  - 38 Registered (Faculty & Participants)
  - Visit to Dam Remediation Site limited to 20 participants
  - Alf Brandt asked about tuition scholarships for CA & OR. Conveners may discuss this issue further before any action is taken.
- *Webinar-Tribal History.* Set for late August. Sheena Britschgi is producing the webinar with John Thorson and John Shurts. If John Thorson becomes unavailable, Kate Appleby will lead the webinar discussion with John Shurts.
- *AJA Conference Presentation.* Debra Stephens and Alf Brandt will present a discussion on "Judging in the Watershed" about adjudicating water conflicts that affect areas outside your court's jurisdiction.
- *Colorado Water Judges Program.* Colorado is organizing an internal program for new water judges on water case management and adjudication. They have asked Alf to help organize a webinar with their water bar.