

John Thorson

Biography

John Thorson serves as the Federal Water Master for the Lummi Decree (W.D. Wash.) and recently completed three years of service as Chair of the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC), a 70-member sovereign-stakeholder Congressionally authorized committee advising federal agencies on restoration of the Nation's longest river. Now living in western Montana, Thorson retired in 2008 as Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in San Francisco where he concentrated on water cases, adjudicatory matters, and alternative dispute resolution.

For a decade, Thorson was Special Master, appointed by the Arizona Supreme Court to preside over that state's general stream adjudications. Thorson also served as counsel for the Western Governors' Conference and Executive Director, Conference of Western Attorneys General.

From New Mexico, Thorson received his law degree from Boalt Hall, University of California at Berkeley, where he was an editor of the *California Law Review*, and his doctorate in public administration from the University of Southern California (USC). He is a member of the bars of four states and the U.S. Supreme Court bar.

Thorson has served as Chair of the Water Resources Committee and Publications Officer of the ABA Section of Environment, Energy and Resources. For four years, he served as Section Coordinator for *Year in Review*, an annual presentation of legal developments in environment, energy and resources law. He has taught water law, environmental law, and conflict resolution at several universities in the United States and Mexico. He is also co-founder/co-convenor of *Dividing the Waters*, a National Judicial College program for state and federal judges involved in complex water litigation.

Judge (ret.) John E. Thorson

376 River Road West
Plains MT 59859

H: (406) 826-0500

C: (510) 710-9733

johnethorson@mac.com