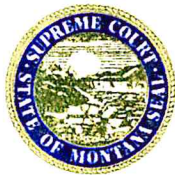


THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

MIKE McGRATH
CHIEF JUSTICE



JUSTICE BUILDING
215 NORTH SANDERS
PO BOX 203001
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-3001
TELEPHONE (406) 444-5490
FAX (406) 444-3274

April 3, 2017

Hon. Richard Simonton, Chairman
Judicial Nomination Commission
P.O. Box 1249
Glendive, MT 59330

Dear Judge Simonton:

The term of office for the Hon. Russell McElyea, Chief Water Judge, expires July 31, 2017. Pursuant to Montana law, the Judicial Nomination Commission is required to solicit applications to fill the vacancy and submit a list of nominees to the Chief Justice. I am asking that you initiate the process as soon as possible. Attached is an appointment schedule for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike McGrath", is written over a white background.

Mike McGrath
Chief Justice

C: Judicial Nomination Commission members
Hon. Russell McElyea
Beth McLaughlin