

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 5:24 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- McElyea

From: Tucker [<mailto:tucker@3rivers.net>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 8:30 AM
To: Menzies, Lois <LMenzies@mt.gov>
Subject: judicial nominations/water court

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Chief Judge McElyea should be reappointed.

Judge McElyea has vast experience and expertise which require no further comment.

His guidance and conduct of the water court are equally important. He has initiated innovative and efficient methods to improve speed and convenience for water right holders. The court operates with precision in a timely manner. He has provided assistance to the district courts with speed and alacrity. A judge with a water problem is buoyed by consultation with Judge McElyea. Judge McElyea serves with diligence and recognition of the importance of the issues before the water court. He does not confuse the importance of the issues with self importance.

It would be difficult to find a better candidate.

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 7:13 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- McElyea

From: Ritter, Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Menzies, Lois <LMenzies@mt.gov>
Subject: Judge Russ McElyea

Judicial Nomination Commission

Re; Chief Water Judge Russ McElyea reappointment.

Since its inception, the Montana Water Court has had only three Chief Water Judges. Each brought skill and a distinct management style to the position. The current Chief Water Judge, Russ McElyea, has been an exceptional leader for this Court. He is a skilled jurist who's decisions are timely, sound, and well written. He sets high expectations for himself and everyone at the Court. Under his direction, the Water Court has moved the adjudication process towards completion. He initiated the critical discussion about future water management in this State.

The Water Court holds a unique place in the Montana judicial system. Judge McElyea is the leader this Court requires. It has been a distinct pleasure to work with Russ. There is no better choice for Chief Water Judge.

Douglas Ritter
Associate Water Judge
Montana Water Court

Judicial Nomination Commission:

As a Water Master at the Montana Water Court, I have had the distinct pleasure of working under Chief Water Judge McElyea. He sets very high standards for each employee at the Water Court. There is no doubt that we employees, and the State of Montana as a whole, benefit from that high bar.

Judge McElyea is intent on completing the adjudication process. There is little question that the work that we do on a daily basis moves the State closer to that ultimate goal. Judge McElyea constantly seeks to streamline the process while ensuring that the Water Court provides all the process necessary to resolve issues and objections to claims.

The completion of the adjudication is within sight, and Judge McElyea is a significant reason why. McElyea should be reappointed as the Chief Water Judge for the State of Montana.

Benjamin S. Sudduth
Water Master
Montana Water Court