

THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

MIKE McGRATH  
CHIEF JUSTICE



JUSTICE BUILDING  
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June 7, 2016

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

Dear Judge Simonton:

The term of office for the Hon. Douglas Ritter, Associate Water Judge, expires June 30, 2016. 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 black ink, appearing to read "Mike McGrath".

Mike McGrath  
Chief Justice

c: Judicial Nomination Commission members  
Hon. Douglas Ritter  
Hon. Russell McElyea  
Beth McLaughlin

# JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION

## ASSOCIATE WATER JUDGE

### APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE

June – September 2016

Event	Date
Receipt of notice of vacancy from Chief Justice	Tuesday, June 7, 2016
Public notice of vacancy and solicitation of applications – (Within 10 days of receipt of notice of vacancy – 3-1-1007(1)(b), MCA)	Thursday, June 9, 2016
Deadline for receipt of applications (Application period must be at least 30 days – 3-1-1007(1)(c), MCA)	Monday, July 11, 2016
Notice to public and start of public comment period	Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Public comment period ends (Comment period must be at least 30 days – 3-1-1007(1)(d), MCA)	Thursday, August 11, 2016
JNC meets via conference call to review applications and public comment and to select interviewees if necessary	Friday, August 12, 2016
Interviewees notified of interview date (At least 10 days before interview date -- JNC Rule 5.2)	Friday, August 12, 2016
JNC conducts interviews in Bozeman	August 23 – 31, 2016 (one day)
Deadline for JNC to submit names to Chief Justice (Within 90 days from receipt of notice of vacancy – 3-1-1007(3), MCA)	Monday, September 5, 2016
Chief Justice makes appointment	No deadline