

NATHAN BLOCK
SENIOR WATER MASTER
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Chief Justice
Montana Supreme Court
215 N. Sanders Street
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Application for Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice,

It is with great enthusiasm that I apply for the Associate Water Judge position.

My passion for water law began in law school, where I took every water law class offered and had the pleasure of being taught by Associate Water Judge Brown. That passion has grown by leaps and bounds since.

During law school, I interned with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, providing me with insight in and knowledge of a crucial partner to the Water Court. My time there served to increase my interest into natural resource law and the wide array of law that impacts the use of natural resources.

Following law school, I briefly worked at Oracle and for a civil litigation firm with a focus on property law. I have had the opportunity both to argue cases and hear them, giving me a unique outlook on the challenges facing litigants and the Water Court.

For the last seven years I have served as a Water Master, a Senior Water Master, and Mediator for the Water Court. I had the opportunity to learn from Chief Water Judge McElyea and Associate Water Judges Ritter and Brown and am grateful for their mentorship. Over that time I have developed strong working relationships with my colleagues and mentors. Those relationships that I have been able to foster will allow me to successfully transition to a leadership role at the Water Court.

During my time at the Court, I have presided over, and made rulings on, hundreds of cases. I have had the opportunity to work across the state, presiding over a broad spectrum of water issues, including numerous basins with Indian Reservations. I have served as a Water Mediator in both Water Court cases and on issues arising during water distribution projects. My experiences have provided me with unique qualifications for the Associate Water Judge position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Nathan Block