

December 20, 2024

Hon. Chief Justice Cory Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court  
c/o Robert Bird, Office of the Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
*Via e-mail only to:* [rbird@mt.gov](mailto:rbird@mt.gov)

Chief Justice Swanson,

It is my great honor to submit this letter in support of Bina Peters' appointment as Associate Water Judge at the Montana Water Court. While you have several qualified candidates to choose from, Bina's extensive experience and unparalleled dedication to water law make her a distinguished choice.

I first became acquainted with Bina in her capacity as a Water Master at the Court. When I was in private practice, she presided over a number of my cases, and I found her to be detail-oriented, practical, and consistent in her application of the law. Bina also served as a mediator on at least one of my cases at the Court, and I was impressed by her deft handling of the matter and her personable, but professional, approach to the parties involved.

When Bina made the decision to go into private practice, I had opportunity to know her in a collegial capacity, both through casework and through her participation in the Water Law Section of the Montana Bar Association, where she served in leadership. Bina is a thoughtful, deliberate, and conscientious advocate. She is also a kind, humble leader in this specialty, who earnestly works to leave this area of practice better than she came to it.

I firmly believe that the best candidate for this position is one who has experience on both sides of the gavel. Certainly, Bina's time at the Water Court has left her familiar with the associated judicial duties, and I have no doubt that she can easily pick up the mantle Judge Brown has left for the next associate. However, what makes Bina shine is her time in private practice, where she learned the value of efficient and honest representation. The Montana Water Rights Adjudication is nearing its fifth decade, and Montana's water users are weary. They appreciate the nuances, as well as the expense, associated with water rights adjudication and administration. Bina understands the need to accurately complete the adjudication and do so in a way that preserves the rule of law and the resources of Montanans. Bina is unique in that she understands the task at hand and has the drive and intellect to efficiently push adjudication across the finish line.

Bina will be a tremendous asset to the Montana Water Court and water users alike. I have complete faith in her ability to embrace this role for the betterment of all Montana, and I cannot recommend her more highly.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Kinkie Meredith