



# WESTERN ROOTS LAW PLLC

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January 4, 2025

*Via Email*

Chief Justice Corey Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court  
215 N. Sanders St.  
Helena, MT 59601  
[rbird@mt.gov](mailto:rbird@mt.gov)

**RE:** Support and Recommendation of Bina R. Peters for Associate Water Judge

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Dear Chief Justice Swanson:

I write to strongly recommend Ms. Bina R. Peters for the position of Associate Water Judge at the Montana Water Court. I have practiced water law in Montana for over a decade and have had the privilege of working with Ms. Peters as a Water Master and as a private practitioner. I can confidently say that Ms. Peters is an exceptionally qualified candidate whose extensive experience, deep legal knowledge, and impeccable character would make her a tremendous asset to the court.

Ms. Peters brings a unique and valuable dual perspective to the complex world of water law. She has served as a Water Master at the Montana Water Court, where she gained firsthand insight into the judicial process, and she also has considerable experience in private practice, representing a diverse range of clients—from individual water users to municipalities. This combination of roles has given her a rare and comprehensive understanding of Montana's water rights system, particularly the nuanced challenges of proving historical beneficial use and marshalling a diverse and complex body of case law.

What truly sets Ms. Peters apart is her mastery of Montana water law, combined with a practical, solution-oriented approach to her work. She has a remarkable ability to explain complex legal issues clearly and succinctly, making the law accessible to those who rely on her guidance. Her work is consistently thorough and well-reasoned, and she brings a careful, measured approach to every case she handles. She applies the law objectively and fairly, while never losing sight of the human impact of her decisions.

In addition to her legal acumen, Ms. Peters is known for her strong work ethic and exceptional organizational skills. She is methodical and efficient. Even as opposing counsel,

she is a pleasure to work with and I am always happy to see her appear in one of my cases. Her experience managing a law firm alongside her legal practice speaks to her ability to balance competing priorities while remaining focused and client-oriented. These qualities would serve her well in a judicial role that demands careful legal analysis, timely decision-making, and consideration of the impact her decisions will have on those involved.

Equally important is Ms. Peters's character and temperament, which are well-suited for the bench. She is known among her peers for her humility, fairness, and respect for others. In all her interactions, she demonstrates patience and thoughtfulness, ensuring that those who come before her feel heard and understood. She holds herself to the highest ethical standards, and her integrity is beyond question.

Ms. Peters is also a leader in the legal community. She has served as a past chairperson and remains an active member of the governing council for the Montana Water Law Section of the State Bar of Montana. Additionally, she is a voting member of the Montana Water Adjudication Advisory Committee and a regular presenter at continuing education seminars on water law. Her contributions to these organizations highlight her dedication to the legal profession and her commitment to improving the practice of water law in our state.

It is rare to find a candidate who possesses both the technical expertise and the judicial temperament required for a role of this magnitude, but Ms. Peters exemplifies both. Her unique blend of experience as a Water Master and private practitioner, coupled with her leadership in the legal community and unwavering commitment to fairness, make her the ideal candidate for Associate Water Judge. I have no doubt that she will serve the Montana Water Court and the people of Montana with distinction.

For all of these reasons, I recommend Ms. Peters without reservation. It would be a privilege to practice before her and see someone of her caliber take on this important role in the Water Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Breeann M. Johnson". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Breeann M. Johnson