

# **WESTERN JUSTICE ASSOCIATES, PLLC**

**TRIAL LAWYERS FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**303 W. MENDENHALL, SUITE 1 BOZEMAN, MT 59715**

**PH: 406.587.1900 FAX: 406.587.1901**

**WWW.WESTERNJUSTICELAW.COM**

**JORY C. RUGGIERO, ESQ.**

**DOMENIC A. COSSI, ESQ.**

**MAXWELL E. KIRCHHOFF, ESQ.**

**ADAM M. SHAW, ESQ.**

December 19, 2024

Chief Justice Cory Swanson  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Sent via Email: [rbird@mt.gov](mailto:rbird@mt.gov)

Re: Appointment of Nathan Block as Associate Water Judge

Dear Chief Justice Swanson:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Nathan “Nate” Block’s application for the position of Associate Water Judge. I have known Nate for 12 years and can attest he would make an excellent judge. Nate has a deep commitment to the rule of law, an exceptional work ethic, and is a remarkably motivated person in general.

I first met Nate back in law school, where he quickly developed a reputation for curiosity and creative thinking. As we were forming our subjective legal philosophies, I was struck by Nate’s exceptional ability to accept and promote existing laws, regardless of whether he agreed with their maxims. This willingness to support and further established law has translated to his work as a Senior Water Master, where Nate’s dedication to upholding Montana law is unwavering.

Next, as you well know, Montana’s legal community is small. I have the good fortune of maintaining relationships with lawyers and judges of all stripes, and I can honestly attest that Nate is one of the few people in my social circle that never complains about his workload or feels overwhelmed by the demands of modern litigation. Thus, it can be said that Nate possesses a notable ability to handle large workloads. This quality will surely serve all of Montana well if Nate is appointed the next Associate Water Judge.

Finally, in my personal life, I have endured many days of difficult high altitude mule deer and elk hunting with Nate. I note these experiences because I have witnessed the profound and positive changes Nate's passion for hunting has had on his life. In order to more successfully spot and stalk high elevation ungulates, Nate has permanently changed his diet, maintained a consistent and healthy exercise regimen, and frequently practiced his shooting. If Nate approaches the bench in a similar fashion to how he approaches his passion for hunting, you can expect he will constantly seek ways to operate more efficiently and effectively until he exceeds all expectations.

I am confident that Nate will bring a wealth of knowledge, integrity and energy to the bench. I wholeheartedly endorse his candidacy and urge you to consider his qualifications.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Maxwell E. Kirchhoff