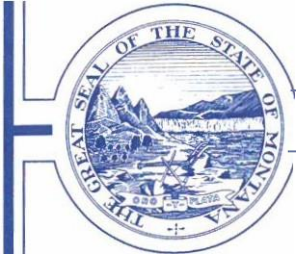


# MONTANA WATER COURT



## STATE OF MONTANA

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January 10, 2025

Hon. Chief Justice Cory Swanson  
Montana Supreme Court  
% Robert Bird, Office of the Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620

Via email only to: [rbird@mt.gov](mailto:rbird@mt.gov)

### **Re: Appointment of Senior Water Master Nathaniel Block as Associate Water Judge**

Dear Chief Justice Swanson,

I am writing to express my support for Nathaniel (“Nate”) Block for the Associate Water Court Judge position. I have worked as Nate’s judicial assistant for five years. Over that time, I have gotten to know Nate’s professional qualities well. Nate is steady natured, collaborative when it comes to problem solving, and dedicated to following the letter of the law. Not only does Nate have private practice and many years of experience as a Senior Water Master, but he has also honed skills in specific areas of water law which make him even more well-rounded for this role. Nate has earnestly helped Bitterroot water users navigate enforcement and diligently worked to understand the complexities of tribal water law on the Crow and Blackfeet Indian reservations.

Nate has a natural interest in learning and asks pertinent questions about anything he is learning more about. I think his level of genuine curiosity is a beneficial characteristic when making decisions as a Judge, but also when helping manage office personnel, and suggesting ways for the Water Court to continue improving its processes while efficiently producing high quality work product. As a Montana resident with a family history intertwined with ranching and the vital use of water rights, I understand how crucial it is to appoint the correct person for this honorable role.

In closing, I believe that Nate views the judicial process with the utmost respect. Each water user, case, and all decisions would be treated equally and the outcomes would be just. For the forgoing reasons, I believe Nate is an outstanding applicant for the position of Associate Water Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rodgers  
Judicial Assistant, Montana Water Court