

From: [Andrew Field](#)
To: [Bird, Rob](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Water Court
Date: Sunday, January 5, 2025 7:22:50 PM

I am writing in support of William Fanning for the position of associate water judge of the Montana Water Court.

I became a client of Mr. Fanning in the fall of 2022, when it became apparent that a subdivision application I was pursuing was running into trouble. On short notice he agreed to appear at a meeting of the Livingston City Commission.

Over the course of the next 20 months Mr. Fanning represented me in pursuing a second subdivision application and then an appeal in the 6th judicial district. His analysis of our two rejected applications led him to recommend the long shot of an application for a writ of mandamus from the court.

This case was complex, in part because of the voluminous factual record, including hours of transcripts from City Commission meetings. Mr. Fanning was able to present the issues in his filings and oral arguments in a way that made it highly consumable.

Last summer, the judge not only ruled in our favor but granted the writ of mandamus including recovery of attorney fees and costs.

My experience with Mr. Fanning has been that he is highly responsive, analytical, and an excellent listener. In addition to having practiced in the water rights field for more than a decade, he is also a patient and thorough explainer, which would seem to be an important attribute at the Water Court.

Sincerely,

Andrew Field

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