

**From:** [Ashley Tamez Trautman](#)  
**To:** [Bird, Rob](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Julie Nordlund  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 6:06:25 AM

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January 6, 2025

Chief Justice  
Montana Supreme Court  
215 N. Sanders Street  
Helena, MT 59601

Honorable Chief Justice McGrath of the Montana Supreme Court:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Julie Nordlund's application for the position of Associate Water Judge. I have known Julie professionally since 2011 as a colleague in law school. Since that time I have observed Julie's commitment to the field of water law and the integrity she brings to her work.

Julie's personal and professional experience make her uniquely qualified for this position. Growing up in rural Montana in a ranching community gives her first-hand experience into both the legal landscape and real human impact that water management entails. Further, as someone who has experience in both private practice and as a Water Master, Julie understands the various interests and factors that must be weighed in adjudicating disputes.

In my own capacity as someone who has worked alongside Tribal communities for the past several years, I have appreciated Julie's dedication to learning about Indian law and the care she has taken to adjudicate these cases.

Julie is a thoughtful leader who is dedicated to bringing her legal expertise and care for Montana to each case. Julie's deep understanding of the complexities that must be considered when evaluating cases make her well qualified to serve in the role of Associate Water Judge.

Thank you for considering Julie's application. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Ashley Trautman, JD, MSW