

From: [Doug Ritter](#)
To: [Bird, Rob](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Associate Water Judge
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Sirs, All six of the candidates for the Associate Water Judge position are either current or former Water Masters with the Montana Water Court. As a former Associate Water Judge, I worked with all six candidates. All of them are outstanding individuals who are very qualified for this position. Anna Stradley has been with the Court as a Water Master and Senior Water Master for many years. Over that time, I saw her grow from a new law school graduate to an experienced and talented jurist. Anna has maintained her own case load from a variety of basins throughout the state. She has presided over countless settlements. She also held trials in contested cases and issued Master's Reports that were adopted by a Water Judge. She has also assisted Water Judges on cases of statewide importance. Through this process, she has achieved the level of wisdom necessary for a quality judge. I believe she is the best candidate for the Associate Water Judge position.

Douglas Ritter
Associate Water Judge Ret.