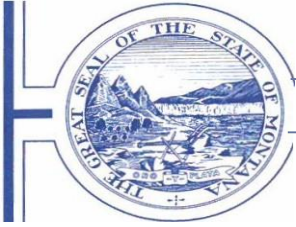


# MONTANA WATER COURT



(406) 586-4364  
1-800-624-3270

## STATE OF MONTANA

PO BOX 1389  
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389

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 Madeleine Weisz as Associate Water Judge**

Dear Chief Justice Swanson,

It is with great respect that I write in support of Senior Water Master Madeleine (“Maddy”) Weisz for the Associate Water Court Judge position. I have worked as Maddy’s judicial assistant for five years. Over the course of that time, I have seen firsthand how Maddy’s dedication to the judicial process, and the citizens of Montana, has remained at the forefront of why she has been employed with the Montana Water Court for a decade. Maddy understands the intricacies that make the subject of water law as complex as it is, while also being able to see the big picture. The process of adjudicating water rights accurately, timely, and fairly is paramount to Montana citizens, state departments, and the federal government. As a lifelong Montana resident, from a ranching family, and as someone who has worked closely with Maddy, I have full confidence that her qualifications suit the position of Associate Water Court Judge most aptly.

Additionally, Maddy was selected for the considerable task of conducting mediations with all objectors in the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Compact case (WC-0001-C-2021). This was an enormous undertaking given the abbreviated timeframe of a few months to complete. During those mediations, as Maddy and I traveled hundreds of miles across Northwest Montana together, I saw Maddy’s full skill set. She organized in person sessions with nearly 1,000 objectors, displayed the upmost professionalism, and was not only helpful to pro se parties involved but also made herself available to every person, which meant dedicating time well outside the typical 8am-5pm scope. She shares her knowledge without patronizing, is always willing to learn, and is naturally gifted with interpersonal skills. I believe her transition to Associate Water Court Judge, if given the opportunity, would be seamless and supported by water court personnel.

In closing, I believe Maddy’s judicial philosophy is “to correctly apply law to best serve the citizens of Montana.” This mindset will benefit the broad spectrum of water users in Montana and is why I believe Maddy is an excellent applicant for the position of Associate Water Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Rodgers  
Judicial Assistant, Montana Water Court