

December 16, 2024

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

**Re: Madeleine Weisz, Application for Associate Water Judge**

Dear Chief Justice:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Madeleine Weisz for the position of Associate Water Court Judge. I have had the privilege of knowing Madeleine for well over a decade, and I can say with certainty that she is an exemplary candidate for this important role. I first met Madeleine in 2011 when we were both law students at UC Davis School of Law. We became roommates and bonded quickly over our Montana roots — she came from Bozeman, while I'm from Missoula. Despite being far from home in California, Madeleine's deep commitment to Montana and its unique water issues was evident from the start. While many students spent their law school tenure exploring different career paths, Madeleine set her sights on a career in water law early. Her passion for the subject was clear as she took on leadership roles, including organizing the California Water Law Symposium hosted by UC Davis in 2013.

Madeleine's academic excellence is also worth noting. She earned the Witkin Award for Legal Writing, an achievement reserved for the student earning the highest grade in that class. This is a testament to her sharp intellect, diligence, and attention to detail—qualities that would serve her well as an Associate Water Court Judge.

What stands out most about Madeleine, however, is her pragmatism and her unwavering commitment to fairness. She has a rare ability to balance complex legal issues with a deep sense of practical understanding. Madeleine is a natural leader, known for her fair, balanced, and precise legal reasoning. She approaches every situation with a level-headed and thoughtful demeanor, never losing sight of the people and communities she is serving. This combination of intellectual rigor and personal dedication would make her an outstanding representative for the people of Montana in the critical role of Water Court Judge.

I am a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Montanan, was raised in Montana and graduated from the University of Montana. After a decade living out of state, I returned to Montana to raise my family, purchased a home and have had to navigate my own water rights. I know firsthand the importance of water issues to our state. Madeleine's passion for Montana's people, its resources, and its future is unmatched. I have no doubt that she would approach her role as a Water Court Judge with the highest level of integrity, fairness, and dedication, just as she has done in her role as Senior Water Master for over a decade. I strongly recommend

Madeleine Weisz for the position of Associate Water Court Judge and am confident that she would serve the people of our state with distinction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katherine Fowler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Katherine Fowler