

December 13, 2024

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

Dear Chief Justice McGrath:

I am writing to express my support for Senior Water Master Madeleine Weisz's application for the position of Associate Water Judge. As a lifelong friend of Madeleine and an engaged citizen of Montana, I believe I have a unique perspective on her qualifications. Having known Madeleine from childhood through adulthood, I can attest to her character on a deeper level. In my view, the fundamental qualities of an exceptional judge include rationality, fairness, impartiality, independence, and a profound understanding and appreciation of the law. Madeleine exemplifies all these traits.

Madeleine's decade-long experience as Senior Water Master has equipped her with the knowledge and expertise needed for the position of Associate Water Judge. During her tenure she has worked across all water basins in Montana and led the water adjudication for the Jefferson River Basin. Her ability to work collaboratively with diverse parties, including the United States, Indian Tribes, the state of Montana, and private water users, demonstrates her versatility and skill. Her mediation skills have facilitated numerous settlements, helping parties reach agreements outside of the courtroom.

Madeleine's career accomplishments as Senior Water Master, combined with her array of interpersonal skills make her a standout candidate for this position. Please accept my endorsement of Madeleine Weisz for Associate Water Judge.

Respectfully,

Ashley Durham