

Androlewicz, Kathleen

To: McLaughlin, Beth
Subject: RE: Judge Brown Public Comment

From: Weisz, Madeleine <MWeisz@mt.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 7, 2024 8:16 AM
To: McLaughlin, Beth <bmclaughlin@mt.gov>
Subject: Judge Brown Public Comment

Dear Beth,

I am writing to recommend Judge Stephen R. Brown for the position of Chief Water Judge. I have worked with Judge Brown at the Water Court since 2019, when he was first appointed Associate Water Judge. Having had the opportunity to witness his leadership style, his legal expertise, and his approach to managing a challenging caseload, I am confident that he will make an excellent Chief Water Judge.

Judge Brown exemplifies the qualities of a distinguished leader. His ability to remain impartial and fair, while also demonstrating compassion and understanding, has earned him the respect of colleagues, staff, and those who appear before the court. In the Courtroom, Judge Brown ensures all parties are heard, all perspectives are considered, and everyone receives their day in court, which can be uniquely challenging at the Water Court where many of the litigants are self-represented. He consistently delivers well-reasoned opinions that are clear, practical, and grounded in the law.

In addition to his legal expertise, Judge Brown is a welcome and active member of the larger Water Court team. He regularly participates in Water Court team building activities such as our lunchtime potlucks and the Water Masters' monthly check-ins. His commitment to the Court as an institution is evident and he fosters a culture of continuous learning and open communication.

I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Judge Brown and look forward to his continuing leadership at the Water Court.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Weisz
Montana Water Court
Senior Water Master