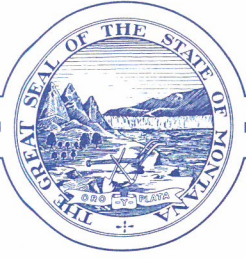


# MONTANA WATER COURT



STATE OF MONTANA

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PO BOX 1389  
Bozeman, MT 59771-1389

October 10, 2024

Dear Justice McGrath:

My purpose in writing is to recommend Judge Stephen Brown for the position of Chief Water Judge.

I've had the privilege of working with Judge Brown at the Montana Water Court for several years. Prior to that, we often worked together in the private sector. Judge Brown is perfectly qualified to lead the water court. In addition to his mastery of water law, he understands the adjudication process and how to manage it effectively. Judge Brown has testified often before the legislature and worked extensively with the DNRC.

Judge Brown possesses fine judicial temperament, humility, and an ongoing curiosity about the law. He is thoughtful, fair, and impartial and has a strong work ethic. He treats everyone with courtesy and is well respected inside and outside the court. Appointing Judge Brown to serve as the Chief Water Judge will ensure the ongoing success of the adjudication.

I recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russ McElyea".

Russ McElyea