

Androlewicz, Kathleen

To: McLaughlin, Beth
Subject: RE: Public Comment in Support of Judge Stephen R. Brown

From: Bina Peters <bina@riverandrangelaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:26 AM
To: McLaughlin, Beth <bmclaughlin@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment in Support of Judge Stephen R. Brown

Hon. Chief Justice Mike McGrath
Montana Supreme Court
c/o Beth McLaughlin, Office of the Court Administrator

Re: Nomination of Stephen R. Brown as Chief Water Judge

Your Honor:

Please accept this letter in support of Judge Stephen R. Brown's appointment as Chief Water Judge of the Montana Water Court.

Judge Brown is the ideal person to lead the Water Court as Chief Water Judge. Judge Brown comes from an accomplished, distinguished career as a private attorney practicing water law. Judge Brown understands not only the complex, procedural aspects of Water Court proceedings, but also the more practical constraints on water users. There are many practical and procedural hurdles in water law, such as trying to procure often century-old evidence, navigating a maze of venues and rules, and absorbing the costs associated with necessary participation in proceedings. Judge Brown's depth of knowledge and understanding of these complexities has been evident in his management of cases, decisions, and communications with the Water Bar.

Judge Brown is extremely well respected within the Water Bar. He shows respect and fairness to the attorneys and parties who appear in front of him. His quiet, calm demeanor is accompanied by mental toughness, self-efficacy, and quick intellect that many of us aspire to.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bina R. Peters