

Current and Former Students in Support of Anthony Johnstone

October 12, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Nomination of Anthony Johnstone as Circuit Judge,
United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are over 100 current and former students who have had the good fortune to study constitutional law with Professor Anthony Johnstone at the University of Montana.¹ We are diverse in background and ideology—we include leaders in the Federalist Society, the American Constitution Society, the Native American Law Students Association, the Student Bar Association, and both of the University’s law journals. But we share a common view of Professor Johnstone’s temperament, intellect, and commitment to the rule of law. Because we know Professor Johnstone, and we know him to be eminently qualified, capable, and fair-minded, we write to express our strong support for Professor Johnstone’s confirmation to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Professor Johnstone is as even-handed as he is knowledgeable. Indeed, Professor Johnstone served as advisor to both the Federalist Society and the American Constitution Society. In class, he encouraged and challenged student perspectives, pushing us to understand and apply the law, especially when students were inclined to rest on personal or political assumptions. Through his mentorship, we learned to read carefully, to understand and respect opposing points of view, and to present our own thoughtfully and with textual support. The parties who appear before him will benefit, just as we have, from Professor Johnstone’s impartiality.

Professor Johnstone’s background demonstrates his unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the integrity of public institutions. He is a public servant first. As a professor, he earned many professional acclamations, all of which flowed directly from his dedication to his students and to scholarship. We know that, as a jurist, he will apply the same diligence and sense of purpose to every case that comes before him, promoting respect for the rule of law through principled reasoning. And he will

¹ This letter is signed by students from each class taught by Professor Johnstone.

do so with deep intellectual focus, reverence for the legal process, and kindness to clerks, practitioners, and colleagues.

Professor Johnstone has been and remains our teacher, advisor, and mentor. As much as we would like future students to benefit directly from his leadership as we have, we know that his elevation to the bench will serve the best interests of the judiciary and the American people. We respectfully ask you to support Professor Anthony Johnstone's confirmation to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Boland Aarab, 2015
Montana Law Review

Samir Aarab, 2015
Student Bar Association
Montana Law Review

Benjamin Almy, 2018
International Law Student Association
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Brianna Anderson, 2024

Valan Anthos, 2023
Environmental Law Group
Native American Law Students
Association

OUTLaws
Public Land & Resources Law Review

John C. Bacino, 2013

Allison Barnwell, 2021
Native American Law Students
Association
Women's Law Caucus
Public Land & Resources Law Review

Sarah S Barry, 2023
Parents, Allies & Caregivers

Jeffrey Bass, 2019

Natalie Bergen-Henengouwen, 2023
Chelsea Bissell, 2018
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus
Veteran Law Group

Amanda Blair, 2024

Thomas J. Bourguignon, 2015
Montana Law Review

Brian Brammer, 2024
Public Land & Resources Law Review

Daniel Brister, 2020
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group
American Constitution Society

Luc Brodhead, 2017
Montana Law Review

Nick K. Brooke, 2013

Jonah Brown, 2018
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Sarah Brown, 2018
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Chance W. Carter, 2022

Emily Gutierrez Caton, 2018
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus
Native American Law Students
Association

Monte Cole, 2024
Native American Law Students
Association
Montana Law Review

Jason M. Collins, 2016
Montana Law Review
Student Bar Association

Erika Colstad, 2020
Women's Law Caucus
Native American Law Students
Association
American Constitution Society
Criminal Law Group

Sawyer Connelly, 2024
Environmental Law Group
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Native American Law Students
Association
Consumer Law Group

Jacob Coolidge, 2016

Morgan Cuttlers, 2024

Molly Davis, 2022
Women's Law Caucus

Donald Robert Dees, 2024
Federalist Society

Michael P. Dougherty, 2015
Montana Law Review

Paul Dougherty, 2024
American Constitution Society
National Lawyers Guild
Montana Law Review

Zachary Duhon, 2023

Mason DuMars, 2024
Environmental Law Group

Jessy Fabbri, 2024

Brock Flynn, 2024
Native American Law Students
Association
American Constitution Society

Hallee Frandsen, 2020
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

Ryan Frank, 2022
Public Land & Resources Law Review

Britton J. Fraser, 2020
Montana Law Review

McKenna Ford, 2022
Research Assistant, Professor Johnstone
Montana Law Review

Trevor Funseth 2023
Federalist Society

Brian T. Geer, 2017
Montana Law Review

Kirsten Gerbatsch, 2022
Native American Law Students
Association
Student Bar Association
Public Land & Resources Law Review

Carolyn Gibadlo, 2016
Montana Law Review

Malcolm Gilbert, 2023
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Angelica M. Gonzalez, 2018
Women's Law Caucus

Hannah Good, 2024
Rural Advocacy League

Paige Griffith, 2016
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Rebekah Gryder 2020
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Brian Hagan, 2023
Montana Law Review
OUTlaws
Federalist Society
Rural Advocacy League

Slade Heggen, 2023
Student Bar Association

Lucas Hamilton, 2016
Montana Law Review

Morgan Chandler Handy, 2017
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus
Montana Public Interest Law Coalition

Courtney Harrold, 2023
Student Bar Association
Women's Law Caucus
Criminal Law Group
Montana Public Interest Law Coalition

Shelley Hendricksen-Scott, 2023
Environmental Law Group

Victoria Hill, 2023
Montana Law Review
American Constitution Society

Laine Hochhalter, 2023

Paul Hutton, 2023
Student Bar Association
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Federalist Society

Elijah Inabnit, 2017
Montana Law Review

Peter Ivins, 2013
Montana Law Review

Mats Jonsson, 2024

Grant R. Kelly, 2019
Federalist Society
OUTLaws

Elise Keenum, 2024
OUTLaws

Marin Keyes, 2017
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Jessica Koch, 2023
Montana Public Interest Law Coalition
Women's Law Caucus
Criminal Law Group

Blake Koemans, 2023
Montana Law Review

Joel G. Krautter, 2014
American Constitution Society
Federalist Society
American Association for Justice

Denise LaFontaine, 2023
Montana Law Review
Criminal Law Group

Nicholas LeTang, 2017
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Ryan Lorenz, 2015
Montana Law Review

Cori Losing, 2018
Montana Law Review

Kirsi Luther, 2019
Montana Law Review

Brianne McClafferty, 2015
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Keeley McKay, 2014
Women's Law Caucus

Ben McKee, 2023
Montana Law Review

Matthew McKeon, 2014

Amy McNulty, 2013
Montana Law Review

Kristen Meredith, 2017
Montana Law Review

Angie Miller, 2020
Student Bar Association
Rural Advocacy League

Ellen Boland Monroe, 2024
Montana Law Review

Eric Monroe, 2023
Montana Law Review

James Murnion, 2016
Montana Law Review

Matthew J. Murphy, 2012

Victoria Nickol, 2019
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus

Lauren M. O'Neill, 2023
Montana Law Review
American Constitution Society
National Lawyers Guild

Kathryn Sears Ore, 2017
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Native American Law Students
Association

Marisa Owens, 2023
Montana Law Review

Rachel Parker, 2024
Montana Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Victoria Parker, 2020
Native American Law Students
Association
Criminal Law Group
Women's' Law Caucus

Rachel Hendershot Parkin, 2013
Student Animal Legal Defense Fund
Women's Law Caucus

Ryan Alexander Payne, 2016

Danielle Pease, 2023

Spencer Pedemonte, 2023
Montana Law Review

Matthew C. Peterson, 2017

Colin Phelps, 2015
Montana Law Review

E. Lars Phillips, 2016
Montana Law Review
American Constitution Society

Hamilton Platt, 2023

Erik P. Rathie, 2015
Montana Law Review

Ally Seneczko, 2020
Montana Law Review

Holly Seymour, 2022

Kurt W. Shanahan, 2022

Brandon Shannon, 2017
Federalist Society
Montana Law Review

Jennifer Pepprock Shannon, 2019
Montana Law Review

Abby Shea, 2024
ACLU Student Chapter
Women's Law Caucus
Environmental Law Group

Keegan Shea, 2022
Native American Law Students
Association
Environmental Law Group

Alec Skuntz, 2023
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Environmental Law Group

Emily Slike, 2018
Public Land & Resources Law Review
Animal Law Society

Amanda Spear, 2024
Women's Law Caucus
Public Land & Resources Law Review

Emily Steinberg, 2023
Montana Law Review

Parker Streets, 2024
Montana Law Review

Holly Suek, 2020
Women's Law Caucus
Montana Law Review

Mikayla Stone, 2024
Women's Law Caucus

Keif Storrar, 2013
Environmental Law Group

Hannah Tokerud, 2013
Women's Law Caucus
Montana Law Review

Samantha Veneski, 2024

Constance Van Kley, 2017
Montana Law Review
Research Assistant, Professor Johnstone

Daniel Webster, 2022
Native American Law Students
Association

Michelle Tafoya Weinberg, 2016
Montana Law Review

Tyler L. West, 2014

Caitlin Williams, 2017
Montana Law Review

Moriah Williams, 2024
Montana Law Review

Hannah Wilson, 2017
Montana Law Review
International Law Student Association

Mike Wilson, 2016
Montana Law Review

John Wolff, 2015
Montana Law Review

Callie Woody, 2023
Montana Law Review
Women's Law Caucus
Environmental Law Group