

October 11, 2022

The Honorable Dick Durbin, Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We, the undersigned faith leaders from the State of Montana, write to support the confirmation of Professor Anthony Johnstone to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

As faith leaders, we are drawn to Professor Johnstone's deep commitment to teaching and mentorship. For the last decade, he has served as a professor at the University of Montana School of Law. There, he has provided important public service as our state's foremost expert on the United States and Montana Constitutions. When the Montana media must explain something about our courts or constitution, for example, Professor Johnstone is the go-to source for educating the public in an even-handed, non-partisan manner.

In addition to serving the public, he is also widely known for his dedication to his students and classroom teaching. Professor Johnstone has helped shape a generation of young leaders in Montana. His personal integrity, work ethic, and commitment to collegiality and mentorship set high standards for new attorneys in our state.

As an advocate, Professor Johnstone was deeply respectful of faith communities when they were impacted by litigation. He served the people of the State of Montana in important roles working for Attorneys General of both political parties. His collegial and professional style represented the people well. He is well-suited for service on the bench.

We were delighted to learn of Professor Johnstone's nomination, and we urge you to support his speedy confirmation.

Sincerely,

The Reverend George Goodrich
Co-General Presbyter, Yellowstone Presbytery
Bozeman, Montana

The Reverend Karen Oliveto
Bishop, Mountain Sky Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
Montana

The Reverend Marc Stewart
Conference Minister, Montana-Northern Wyoming Conference, United Church of Christ
Billings, Montana

The Reverend Mark Ramseth
Retired Bishop, Montana Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Bozeman, Montana

The Reverend Jessica Crist
Retired Bishop, Montana Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Former President, Montana Association of Churches
Great Falls, Montana

Rabbi Laurie Franklin
Rabbi Emerita, Congregation Har-Shalom
Missoula Montana

Rabbi Ed Stafman
Bozeman, Montana

The Reverend Gene Harbaugh
Retired Presbyterian Minister
Delegate to Montana's 1972 Constitutional Convention