

# Fort Belknap Indian Community



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Fort Belknap Indian Community  
(Tribal Govt.)  
Fort Belknap Indian Community  
(Elected to administer the affairs of the community and  
to represent the Assiniboine and the Gros Ventre Tribes  
of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation)

September 20, 2022

Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Anthony Johnstone 9<sup>TH</sup> Circuit Judicial Nomination

Chairman Durbin & Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Community, I am writing to express our support of Anthony Johnstone's nomination as a federal judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Johnstone will bring a much-needed Montana voice to the Court, in addition to bringing valuable experience in Federal Law and Indian Law. The Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes strongly support Mr. Johnstone's appointment.

While serving as the Helen and David Mason Professor of Law at the University of Montana, Professor Johnstone has shown his expertise in Federal and State Constitutional Law, Legislation, Election Law, and Jurisprudence. Mr. Johnstone's roots in Montana and his devotion to public service are admirable. Mr. Johnstone served as the Montana Solicitor General under Governor Bullock, where he represented the State in major Constitutional Law cases. Further, he has worked on multiple cases before the Ninth Circuit and clerked for the Honorable Sidney R. Thomas. Mr. Johnstone will bring valuable experience in Indian Law as well as fairness and an unbiased perspective to the Ninth Circuit, as he has demonstrated thus far. Overall, Mr. Johnstone's ties to Montana and his experience within the State illustrate that he is well suited and qualified for the position.

Additionally, Mr. Johnstone has also taught a course on Indian Voting Rights, signaling that he understands the importance of issues affecting Indian Country and the complexities of Voting Rights and Indian Law. Due to the high volume of Indian Law cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, it is important to have a member who has immense experience in the field of Indian Law.

Anthony Johnstone shows a commitment to the State of Montana and to Indian Country. Mr. Johnstone is qualified to be a fair judge that will understand the complexities of cases involving Indian Law and also the vast array of topics that will arise in the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Johnstone would make an excellent addition to the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals. Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of the recommendation of the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY STIFFARM  
FBIC President