

Glenn A. Wood  
225 Eddy Avenue  
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June 3, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am most happy to recommend Larry D. Mansch for the position of District Judge for the Fourth Montana Judicial District.

I have been associated with Mr. Mansch for approximately 6 years during my volunteer service with the Montana Innocence Project (MTIP) located in the Law School at the University of Montana. As a co-worker, so to speak, I have worked on many cases with Mr. Mansch and I have come to appreciate his vast legal knowledge and his compassion for wrongfully convicted persons.

As a volunteer I have the luxury of being able to choose my endeavors and Mr. Mansch made my decision to work with the MTIP an easy one. Hardly a day would go by that he wouldn't thank me or compliment me for my efforts. Furthermore, Mr. Mansch at all times displays legal knowledge and attributes that would be transferable to that of a judges role. Although I am not a lawyer, he is always able to explain legal issues in layman terms.

One final thought, which I feel is most important, is that I have asked many of my friends and associates about Mr. Mansch serving as a judge and they have been unanimous in saying that he would be a great choice.

Feel free to contact me should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

*Glenn A. Wood*  
Glenn A. Wood



*"From the back of a horse, the world looks wider."*

— Joyce Gibson Roach

June 6, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620  
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Support for Larry Mensch for Missoula/Mineral County appointment to the vacancy in the 4th Judicial District

Dear Commissioners:

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the applicants for the vacancy in the 4 Judicial District (Missoula and Mineral Counties). We encourage you to forward the name of Larry Mansch to fill the position

Our keen interest in this appointment stem from our personal experience in going before now-retired 4<sup>th</sup> District Judge Ed McLean when Missoula County filed injunctions against us in a 4 year campaign to force our guest ranch to close. This misguided and unsuccessful effort made us especially appreciative and sensitive to the importance of having people of wisdom and common sense on that bench. Judge McLean ultimately and correctly called the County's case "unfair, nonsensical, and bizarre" and ordered them to pay our legal fees of \$57,000. A judge of lesser wisdom might not have done that.

Our support for Larry Mansch comes from our knowledge of him as him as a contributor to the community and social justice issues and a supporter of legal education for laypersons. Mr. Mansch has the temperament, commitment, intelligence, breadth of experience, and public service dedication qualities that will serve the community and the judicial system very well should he be appointed to this position. His stellar reputation, three decades of residency in Montana, diverse legal background in both criminal and civil litigation, teaching experiences, and study of history will serve the Court and the public very well.

Mr. Mansch's dedication to justice can be seen in his leadership of the Montana Innocence Project which we understand is considered one of the best in the U.S. This is important as this Project involves the components of judgement and commitment to justice that are essential qualities of a good and effective judicial temperament. This

experience also gives him technical knowledge of the strengths and limitations of DNA testing which has become an increasingly important component of many criminal trials.

He is a professor at the UM School of Law which demonstrates his commitment to educating the next generation of Montana lawyers. Mr. Mansch has also demonstrated a commitment to improving the general public's understanding of law and our legal system by teaching courses on great American criminal trials in the UM's Molli series for seniors. He has prepared and presented lectures for viewers of our community of web camera viewers at Dunrovin Ranch for which he has received no remuneration. His commitment to public knowledge is also demonstrated in the books he has authored several of which focus on the life of President Abraham Lincoln. You can tell much about a man by who he admires enough to study and focus on in his writings.

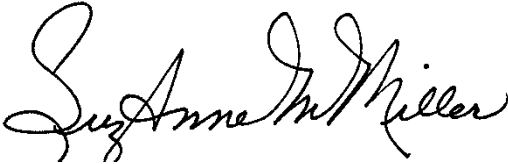
We believe that Larry Mansch has judgement, skills, personality, and commitment to public service to be an effective and respected judge for Missoula and Mineral Counties.

We thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sterling Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sterling Miller Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "SuzAnne M. Miller". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

SuzAnne M. Miller



**DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS - MONTANA NATIONAL GUARD  
1956 MT. MAJO STREET, P.O. BOX 4789  
FORT HARRISON, MONTANA 59636-4789**

June 4, 2019

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
Via e-mail only to [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Dear Commission Members:

We are pleased to submit this letter in support for Larry Mansch's application for the position of judge in the Montana Fourth Judicial District. Our personal and professional experience with Larry have proven to us that he has the appropriate temperament and experience to serve the people of Missoula and Mineral Counties fairly and impartially. Larry's broad experience imbue him with common sense and caring.

We have had the privilege of working with our fellow Judge Advocate Larry Mansch, since 2005 and 2008, respectively, until his retirement from military service in 2011 at the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army JAG Corps. Larry is an exceptionally talented attorney who will bring a long and broad experience to the bench. Larry dedicated his military service to advocating for Soldiers, many of them very young and inexperienced. His assistance enabled Soldiers to recover from, or avoid, many difficult situations in their lives.

In his twenty years of military service, Larry left a reputation for fairness, accountability, and justice in the Montana National Guard. When serving in the role of defense counsel, as he often did, Soldiers knew they would be treated fairly by their Commanders. Likewise Commanders knew they would be accountable for any failures of process when addressing the misconduct of their Soldiers. Larry earned and then maintained credibility with the Soldiers of the Montana Army National Guard

Larry is also an accomplished academic and author. He is as at home discussing the life of Abraham Lincoln or Martin Luther as he is discussing the merits of a legal matter. Larry also demonstrated his commitment to service by teaching, not just at the university level, but also at the Missoula Catholic Schools and Hellgate Middle School. This is in addition to his other community service activities. These experiences give Larry a broader perspective than you will find amongst the lawyers of the Fourth Judicial District.

We would be remiss if we did not mention Larry's dedication to his family. In the midst of all of his professional activities and military service, Larry always made time for

his family. He demonstrated the ability to balance his life in a way that so many lawyers only dream of. This balance gives him a better perspective on the challenges faced by the litigants of the Fourth Judicial District.

We hope that you will forward Larry Mansch's name to Governor Bullock for consideration. While you have several fine candidates before you, none of them have the experience, temperament, and grounding to serve as well as Larry Mansch.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL P. TALIA  
Major, MTARNG  
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate



BEVERLY G. SCHNEIDER  
Colonel, MTANG  
Staff Judge Advocate

Paul C. McLean  
2211 Green Valley Drive  
Billings, Montana

RE: Larry D. Mansch  
Public Comment/Letter of Recommendation for 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

I am deeply pleased and honored to submit this letter of support regarding the appointment of Larry D. Mansch to the fill the current term being vacated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Bench in Missoula, Montana. This is an important and critical position and therefore demands the brightest, most impartial, and highest legal mind possible. I strongly believe Larry is your person for the job, and the following narrative contains the reasons for my position:

I have known Larry for a very long time. Our relationship started in 1984 when I began my career as a Montana State Probation Officer and Juvenile Aftercare Counselor and Larry was working as Law Clerk for District Court Judge, Russel McDonough, who later served on the Montana Supreme Court. As a probation officer, I prepared reports and recommendations for Judge McDonough as well. During this time our close relationship was forged which has lasted to this day. Larry and I shared an apartment in those days to lighten the financial load of two young men with budding careers. Larry left in 1986 for Missoula to begin his legal career and in 1987 I left for Kalispell to expand my horizons. We have since been blessed with our wives and children, staying connected through the years despite the geographical gap between us. Notwithstanding the distance, each of our children knew each other well because of our continued friendship. I later joined the Federal Probation Office for the District of Montana in 1990, eventually becoming a supervisor in the Billings office in 2003, and retiring at the close of 2015 (mandatory retirement). I am now employed as a Paraprofessional for School District 2 School in Billings. Like Larry, I have enjoyed being a public servant at both the state, federal and local levels. I provide this background to dispense who I am and the depth of my relationship with Larry and his family.

Larry has always held a great zeal for expanding his experience and stretching himself to grasp other opportunities of service. For instance, he joined the Army National Guard, entered private practice managing five attorneys, obtained a Master's in Education degree from the University of Montana (my alma mater), taught Social Studies for the Missoula Catholic Schools and instructed as Adjunct Professor of Sociology/Crimlogy at UM, worked as attorney for the Montana Innocence Project (MIP) at the UM School of Law (I served on the MIP board), has written five quality books, primarily biographies, which have received national recognition and/or awards, and is currently working on his Phd in American History at UM. There is no end to his appetite for personal improvement, education and service. Larry has always striven to serve others, not unlike his late wife Kim, who was an amazingly humble and powerful public servant who passed away this past year. Larry and Kim's life together is a supreme example of matrimony to all of us. Their children have become mature fruit that such a relationship produces. They too are currently employed as high level professionals in service to others. Larry and his family's life is truly an American story about how familial love begets phenomenal success

and service. Larry's strength and perseverance since Kim's passing has been truly remarkable. Larry is certainly honoring Kim by gathering his strength and forging ahead as evidenced by his desire to serve as a District Judge. Larry lost a person that was more precious to him than words can convey, and despite this huge vacuum in his soul, he is persevering instead of hanging up his cleats and resigning his life and service.

I'm certain the committee has reviewed Larry's resume of education, work experience, and service. His history speaks volumes all by itself. I believe you would agree that his work history, service, education and personal success is monumental. I have worked with Judges at both the state and federal levels. I spent approximately 31 years with them processing facts and brainstorming conclusions. I learned a lot about judicial balance, wisdom and knowledge, perseverance, compassion, and integrity. The work of a Judge is a high calling that impacts the public trust beyond our comprehension at times. Its footprint is unfathomable. Good, fair, and intelligent jurisprudence is at the core and fabric of our society. In a sense, where our judicial integrity goes, so does our societal values. Larry's depth of legal knowledge and penchant for fairness is beyond exceptional. His success on the MIP exemplifies his uncommon legal prowess. Larry's compassion and love for his community is insurmountable. His integrity is at the highest level. His desire for hard work and perseverance is extraordinary. His personal strength is unsurpassed. His love for people and their well being is beyond measure. Rest assured, what Larry has done and is still doing will be fully delivered to the Bench.

Please know that I am certain about what I have imparted above because I know the fabric of the man, Larry D. Mansch. I know what he values and I know the honesty and depth of his experiences. I know that he will give all that he has to the Bench, and what he has is superior. He has led and impeccable legal career, as well as a life of community service. I also know that this is the kind of person you want to have on the Bench. You can be sure that every case that comes before him will be held in wise, intelligent, compassionate, and discerning hands. He believes that life is filled with challenges and opportunities. So do I. Larry Mansch is an impeccable man with an impeccable history. The 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court will continue a superior history with Larry residing on its Bench.

There is so much more I can convey and would like to communicate about Larry that reaches far above what this letter can muster. There is only so much time and so much space. What I have related herein is the truth as I know it. Larry is my friend, but I would not state what I have stated unless I truly believed it. I stand on that integrity and I hope you accept it as such. To this day, I am in awe of what Larry has accomplished, including his excellent acumen. The Bench desperately needs this kind of person and Larry will furnish this, and more. Please feel free to contact me for further comment at (406) 698-9361. I would be more than happy to discuss my thoughts regarding Larry's qualifications to serve on the District Court Bench in Missoula.

Sincerely,

Paul C. McLean  
Federal Probation Officer (retired)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 8:01 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Bill Baldassin <baldassin1234@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Application of Larry D. Mansch for the position of District Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator

Dear Sirs:

It is both my pleasure and my privilege to recommend Larry D. Mansch for the position of District Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District to fill the seat being vacated by the Honorable Karen S.Townsend.

I have known Larry for a number of years both within and outside of the practice of law. I became reacquainted with him through our work together with the Montana Innocence Project. My familiarity with Larry convinces me that he would be an outstanding addition to the bench.

He is knowledgeable about the law, willing and able to undertake in-depth research, and able to write decisions that are clear and cogent. His judgment is sound and he is capable of making difficult and informed decisions that will bear close scrutiny. My dealings with him have shown him to be fair and open-minded. He is a good listener and is able, as the situation requires, to ask questions that get to the heart of the matter. He is then able to listen to, understand and accept the answer.

His work with the Innocence Project has proven his commitment to justice. His experience with the Innocence Project has revealed the willingness and ability to look beyond current practices to the potential for improvement, so that the ends of justice are better served. Through his experience in the U.S. Army, he has been previously placed in positions of authority. He has proven himself to be comfortable with that authority and to recognize its limitations. He has, likewise been proven to be an efficient manager of both his time and the people and resources he works with.

His extensive practice experience reveals an ability to reach concise decisions promptly, respond to issues in a clear manner and grasp, quickly, the real meaning of questions presented. He is even-tempered yet firm when the situation demands, He is open-minded yet willing and able to reach decisions. He is confident yet not self-centered.

For lack of a better term, Larry is "people centered". He understands how the decisions we make at the Innocence Project affect the human beings we are working with and for. Having said that, he still maintains the courage to do what the facts and the law require even though that course is not the popular one.



Larry fully understands that he is not the servant of the State which will employ him but, rather, of the law which will govern him.

I, again, sincerely recommend the appointment of Larry D. Mansch to fill the position being vacated by Judge Townsend.

Sincerely:

William R. Baldassin

June 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for Larry Mansch for the position of District Court Judge. I have known Larry since 2003 when we became colleagues at Missoula Catholic Schools where we both taught at St. Joseph School. I have also been a student in a couple of the UM Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (MOLLI) classes that Larry taught.

In the time that Larry taught school at St. Joseph he demonstrated an outstanding ability to walk into the classroom, staff meetings, or a meeting with parents, access the needs and go to work. Larry was always willing to listen and give advice when needed.

I found Larry accessible and easy to talk to as a colleague. He is motivated, enthusiastic, upbeat and professional. Larry has a wealth of knowledge, always courteous, and willing to look at all sides before making a decision. I recommend Larry without reservation for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Marlene R. Naylor  
406-360-3198  
marbar@bresnan.net

Kimberly R. Roth  
10350 El Toro Lane  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-546-3369  
Kimberly\_Roth@ml.com

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to add my name to those who will recommend Larry Dean Mansch for the position of District Judge for the Fourth Montana Judicial District. I have known Mr Mansch for ten years. As the director of a wealth management firm, I work with attorneys from all over the country and I have specific opinions about what makes a good legal representative. While my association with Larry Mansch is personal, not professional, I found he exhibits the best traits that I look for in the legal profession.

The qualities that Larry has exhibited in his career as law clerk, teacher, public defender, lawyer in general private practice, judge advocate general and legal director are many, but especially diligence, patience, work ethic and an abiding love of the law. He has written extensively, argued before the highest court in Montana and worked to expand the scope of justice to those who have been unjustly convicted.

His demeanor is always respectful and he truly listens to those around him. He is thoughtful about the issues that come before him and he treats challenges with enthusiasm and integrity. Most people never stand before a judge at the District Court level. Those who do, on either side of the courtroom, would be well-served by someone with Larry's intelligence, wisdom and fairness.

District Judges carry a large caseload and must manage their time and their cases with both patience and impartiality. In his work with the Montana Innocence project Larry has shown what a leader can do when the resources available are limited.

His professional and legal experience have given him the broad perspective that will best serve western Montana in the Fourth Judicial District.

I welcome your call, if you wish to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Kimberly R. Roth

Dear Governor Bullock and Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am honored to write this letter on behalf of Larry D. Mansch and his desire to serve as a Fourth Judicial District Court Judge. I have known Mr. Mansch as a colleague and friend for the past 15 years and have found him to be one of the most trustworthy, compassionate, accomplished individuals I have ever met. He lives every aspect of his life with the utmost integrity. He is well-versed in the law, military, education, history, and living a life of faith. His impressive expertise spans a wide variety of subjects, yet he remains humble and eager to learn and grow, both personally and professionally. Mr. Mansch exhibits a unique combination of honorable experiences, character traits, and abilities that would make him an excellent Judge for the Fourth Judicial District in Montana.

I had the privilege of working with Mr. Mansch at Missoula Catholic Schools for six years and we have since developed a wonderful friendship. I was able to hire Mr. Mansch as an assistant coach in my Girls' Basketball program and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I have ever made in my 20-year coaching career. Not only was he an ideal team member, he was also an engaged, positive, and dedicated father. Mr. Mansch served as a role model for the students and athletes with whom he worked as well as for his colleagues. He consistently demonstrated an admirable work ethic and commitment to excellence while fostering strong, positive relationships. Mr. Mansch was and still is very well-respected throughout the community. He is a model employee and leader. He brought his absolute best to our program every day and his actions inspired me and our colleagues to do the same. If given the opportunity again, I would jump at the chance to coach and teach with Mr. Mansch.

Mr. Mansch's education, work history, and community involvement speak for themselves. His professional experiences have allowed him to develop a unique and well-rounded skill set. From serving as the Director for the Montana Innocence Project to a Judge Advocate General in the Montana Army National Guard to his work in private practice, Mr. Mansch has built an impressive judicial resume. He has worked diligently for the people of Montana to do his part in ensuring justice for all. If given the opportunity to serve as a District Judge, I have no doubt that he would continue to serve impartially and solely for the good of our society.

Mr. Mansch is truly committed to the critical examination and implementation of justice. He holds the utmost respect for the position he is seeking. He is humble and well-poised to serve the state of Montana from the bench. As a native Montanan, I would be incredibly proud to recognize Mr. Mansch as a District Court Judge. I am confident in his abilities and expertise and even more so in the personal qualities he exhibits. I have absolutely no reservations in recommending Mr. Larry Mansch for appointment as a Fourth Judicial District Court Judge. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cara Cocchiarella, Ed. D.

[Cara.cocchiarella@gmail.com](mailto:Cara.cocchiarella@gmail.com)

406.360.9720

**INNOCENCE  
PROJECT**

**Executive Director**  
Maddy deLone, Esq.

**Deputy Executive Director**  
Meryl Schwartz, Esq.

**Co-Founders & Special Counsel**  
Barry C. Scheck, Esq.  
Peter J. Neufeld, Esq.

June 17, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I write to support the application of Larry D. Mansch for the district court judge position in Montana's Fourth Judicial District.

As the Co-Founder of the Innocence Project in New York and as an original board member of the Montana Innocence Project, I have come to know Larry well over the past ten years. I first interacted with Larry when he was a part time lawyer for the Montana project, and communicated with him more frequently once he became the project's full time Legal and Clinical Director. He is a dedicated and hard-working professional, a strong advocate for the wrongfully convicted, and a tireless litigator who never gives up in his search for the truth. Above all, Larry is committed to the administration of justice.

Because the Montana Innocence Project is not a defender organization but rather represents only those it believes are actually innocent, Larry embodies many of the qualities that a good judge must have. He applies the facts, without sympathy or bias, to the law, making his best effort, to arrive at the truth. The memos he prepares for the board and the pleadings he files with the courts demonstrate a keen awareness of the complexities of the legal system and the crucial importance of applying often competing legal doctrines to facts made all the more complicated by multiple re-investigations pursued, often, over many years. He writes clearly and thinks comprehensively. He has great respect for our system of justice and for all those who work in it, and with the inquisitive mind of a historian, he has a special admiration for the nobility of the law. Finally, his broad background of public service, including public defense, military service, educator and popular historian enhance his compassion and empathy.

He has earned the respect of attorneys across the country. He will serve the Fourth Judicial District with honor.

Sincerely,



Peter Neufeld  
Co-Founder & Special Counsel

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2019 5:52 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Mark & Kathy Braddock <mandkbraddock@blackfoot.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 16, 2019 11:45 AM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Public comment on 4th Judicial District Judge applicants

Of the candidates listed, I am familiar with three of them, all of whom I believe would be excellent choices for this position.

They are:

- Larry Dean Mansch
- Tracy Labin Rhodes
- Leta Jean Womack

I consider all three to be very good friends and wonderful neighbors for many years.

I have had no legal dealings with any of them, but consider all to be above reproach.

June 18, 2019

Sharon & Mick Hanson  
806 Janis Drive  
Missoula, MT 59804

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

Recommendation: LARRY MANSCH – 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court Judge

We appreciate the process offered in our legal system to be able to respond on the appointment of the next 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court Judge. After reading the applications of many qualified candidates, it appears to us that one stands above all. We hereby offer our total support and recommendation for the appointment of Larry Mansch to this honored position. Our reason follows based on our personal relationship over more than 35 years that we have known him and his family. His application is superb and speaks for itself, but we will address some personal observations that bear highlighting.

Personal connection -- Our first, and continuing relationship with Larry, is through our Christian fellowship at Immanuel Lutheran Church going far beyond the walls of a building. Although we have separation of church and state that Larry will honor and apply, it is without doubt that his Christian background is the embodiment of his character. He is "Christ like" and non-judgmental in the treatment of individuals whether in the court system or life in general. His ability to listen, digest, compromise and deliver solutions are remarkable. We have seen this trait demonstrated consistently over the years. He is the man he appears to be. His faith has helped him through the devastating illness and eventual loss of his wife. After several months of introspective meditation and contemplation, Larry has emerged, once again, with a passion to serve others and make a difference in the world in a role that suits him and the legacy of his wife perfectly. We strongly believe he will make one of the finest judges this country has ever known.

Diversity in law – He has nearly 40 years of practice with breadth and depth. How many others can claim practice as a public defender, a military Judge Advocate General (JAG), private practice, civil and criminal law, and as Director of the Montana Innocence Project? He has accomplished all of this in a relatively short period of time with many years of service remaining in his career.

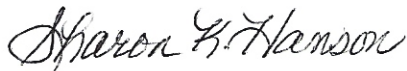
Written word – Larry is one of the most productive, energetic people we know. He has authored five books on a variety of platforms including political figures (Lincoln), religion (Martin Luther), baseball (Marquard), to law textbooks. Having read most of his non-law writings, it is obvious that Larry's ability to do research, compile and make for interesting content is a real talent. He has accomplished these additional tasks after long workdays. This ability to write and his strong work ethic will translate to better communication as a judge.

Spoken word – As a judge, it is critical to relate to all humanity. His experience as a teacher in the elementary, high school, collegiate, and mature adult education (MOLLIE) environments are examples of his ability to communicate to the masses. His MOLLIE classes are some of the most popular in the program. His numerous law presentations also reflect his ability to relate to his peers. His own athletic career and coaching are also exemplary of his relationship building and success of those programs.


Larry's qualifications are impressive overall reflecting compassion, intelligence, integrity, a rare sense of humor and humbleness. All will help him meet and exceed the expectations of the role of judge. Our words pale to emphasize the stellar experiences and attributes that qualify Larry Mansch to be the superior choice for this prestigious position. The Commission has difficult decisions to make but the inclusion of Larry Mansch should be one of them as his depth, breath, and contributions to our society are impeccable and we as citizens need someone of his stature to make this a better place in which to live.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely:



Sharon K. Hanson



Myron "Mick" Hanson



Ken C. Crippen, Esq.  
4115 Rainbow Drive  
Missoula, MT 59803

June 21, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Written Comments in Support of Larry D. Mansch  
Applicant for the Pending Vacant 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Position

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Larry D. Mansch's application for the pending vacant 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position. I have known Larry for over twelve years principally through our children's attendance at Loyola Sacred Heart High School in Missoula. Larry was a teacher at LSH. My two oldest daughters played basketball for and had classes taught by Larry. In a lot of ways, how coaches handle themselves is a direct reflection of the type of person they are. Larry was a calm and supportive mentor of everyone kid he coached. I never heard a negative word uttered about Larry.

Larry is a man of the utmost integrity and compassion. He has spent most of his professional career in the service of others, including most recently working with the Montana Innocence Project. There is no greater service than service to others, particularly those who do not have the means or position to support themselves. What better testament is there to a person's quality than to give to others of one's time and talent.

I have no doubt that Larry would live up to his Statement of Judicial Philosophy if selected to replace retiring Judge Karen Townsend. Larry would serve the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District with honor, integrity, passion, and impartiality in all matters civil, criminal or otherwise.

I urge the Commission to send Larry's application to the Governor.

Sincerely,



Ken C. Crippen, Esq.

June 7, 2019

Jason and Katie Tirrell  
2410 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Missoula, MT 59803

Dear Members of the Commission,

It is our pleasure to write in support of Larry Mansch on his nomination to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position. We offer our highest of recommendations on behalf of Larry who is a hardworking and dedicated professional.

We have known Larry for over a decade in both a professional and a personal level. We know he will be an asset to the Fourth Judicial District. He will be eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that he encounters, striving to establish the best District Court possible.

Working with Larry as an educator we were extremely impressed with his insight and knowledge. He was tremendously engaging and inspirational to the students, and had a compassionate and considerate nature toward all. He did an outstanding job of leading, organizing, communicating, and handling challenging situations.

An accomplished attorney and author, Larry's expertise and vast legal experience will give him an outstanding foundation for understanding the demands of this job. We have observed Larry handling issues with utmost respect and confidence.

His family is a true reflection on Larry, as all 4 of his children have gone on to post graduate studies, are stellar members of their communities, and have excelled in their professions. We know Larry will treat this position as he has all of his past professions - - with honesty, fairness, intelligence and humility. Never have we known anyone with more integrity. He is a stand-up citizen.

Larry is an exceptional educator, scholar, and person who will positively influence the lives of many people throughout his career as a judge. Larry has a strong work ethic and understands the importance of good values. He will conduct court with honor, dignity, and respect. We are pleased to give Larry Mansch our highest of recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jason and Katie Tirrell

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2019 1:43 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Brock Flynn <brockflynn155@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 20, 2019 12:24 AM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment-Application of Larry Mansch for 4th District Judge

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator

Dear Judicial Nominating Committee,

I am a concerned citizen who takes my civic duty very seriously. I have reviewed all applications to fill the 4th District vacancy and have concluded Mr. Larry Mansch is the highest qualified applicant. Mr. Mansch has practiced law for decades and his experience as a Judge Advocate General, public defender, law professor, and work with the Innocence Project makes him the most well-rounded and qualified applicant. Given that many state judges are selected from a county attorney's office, the Judicial Nominating Committee should strongly consider a defense attorney with a wealth of diverse legal experience such as Mr. Larry Mansch.

Thank You,  
Brock Flynn

June 18, 2019

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I would like to, at this time, enter my endorsement of Larry Mansch for the position of district court judge for the Fourth Judicial District.

This is a personal endorsement of the man, Larry. Our children went to High School together (Loyola Sacred Heart, Missoula) so on that level, we spent much time together in gyms and softball fields. I found Larry to be an observer, supportive, interested in people and someone you knew would give sound advice when asked.

Our relationship continued as I was employed at the grade school as the school secretary, nurse and all around employee!! At the same time, Larry completed his teaching degree and joined our staff as our middle school history teacher. Larry amazed me with his knowledge of our country's story (being a published author and devoted Abraham Lincoln fan!). I would often drop in to his class just to listen. Again, he was supportive, knowledgeable and experienced. Being a JAG officer, I saw, first hand, his support of our service men. He is just someone who is strong in his beliefs, handles situations with much knowledge, experience and authority (in life and professionally).

I have watched him lead the Innocence Project at the University of Montana (through the media). His dedication and success in this project does not surprise me at all. Larry is dedicated, hard working and fair.

Being part of the Missoula Community for 36 years, raising my 5 girls here and now watching my children raise their children here, I am honored to support this amazing candidate for Judge for Missoula County. My husband, Mike Priddy, and I completely endorse Larry for this position.

Thank you for your time.

Sue Priddy

103 Oakhurst Court

Missoula, Montana 59803

June 20, 2019

Judicial Nominating Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of the Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Commissioners:

I urge your support of Larry Mansch's application for appointment to replace Judge Karen Townsend in Missoula County's Fourth Judicial District. Given his legal skill and diverse background, Larry would be an inspired choice.

I've known Larry since the founding of the Montana Innocence Project, on whose board of directors I have served alongside former judges, legislators, prosecutors, defense attorneys and professors. Larry joined the organization as a part-time attorney and I watched his value to the project grow due to his incisive analysis, thoughtful advice and keen litigation skill until he eventually became the project's full-time legal director and director of its Innocence Clinic at the University of Montana's law school.

During his tenure, the organization reviewed nearly 800 requests for help and secured exonerations for six people wrongfully convicted of serious crimes. Moreover, the group has shaped policy in areas including evidence preservation, DNA testing and best practices education for Montana's law enforcement officers.

That success stemmed largely from Larry's deep knowledge of both civil and criminal law and his broad experience that includes teaching, judicial clerkships, military service, and work in both public and private legal practice. He has been a wonderful husband and father, a scholar, and the author of five books on subjects ranging from the law to history and sports.

I doubt you'll find a similar breadth of knowledge and experience among most applicants for this position. The depth of his legal understanding and experience, taken together with the variety of his community service and other endeavors, marks Larry as a man of wide-ranging intellect, constant curiosity and a deep commitment to the well-being of his community. I know him as a man of great integrity and level temperament who is articulate in both the courts of law and public opinion. He has a remarkable work ethic and has been an excellent mentor to the Innocence Project's law students, its volunteer attorneys and its staff. He would make a great district judge who would dignify the office and earn the confidence of his community and peers.

Sincerely,



Dennis Swibold, professor  
School of Journalism, University of Montana

NINETEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
STATE OF MONTANA  
LINCOLN COUNTY  
512 CALIFORNIA AVENUE  
LIBBY, MONTANA 59923  
PHONE: (406) 293-8120 | FAX: (406) 283-2350



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MATTHEW J. CUFFE  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

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DEBBIE KAMBEL  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
BARBARA J. BENSON  
SENIOR LAW CLERK  
(406) 283-2349

June 20, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
[mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Re: Larry Mansch

Dear Commission:

I am writing this letter to outline my strong support for Larry Mansch in his application for district court judge. I have known Larry for over twenty (20) years. I have interacted with Larry in almost every facet of life. We have tried cases against each other. We have sat on non-profit boards together. Our children went to school together. I feel lucky to consider him my friend.

A review of his professional career shows Larry has a strong legal mind, a willingness to work, and a strong sense of justice. He has practiced criminal law and he has had a private practice. However, Larry is more than an attorney. His varied interests and activities outside the law only add to his qualifications. He treats everyone with respect.

There is no doubt Larry is committed to the concepts of justice and fair play. He applies these not only in his professional life, but in his everyday life. I have seen Larry set aside his personal agenda and address very difficult issues, with large groups of individuals. He was respectful, patient, and thoughtful. He always ensured that everyone felt heard, and the right decision made. Finally, Larry never shied away from making the hard decisions.

As a sitting Montana district court judge, I can confidently say Larry Mansch has the experience, intelligence, work ethic, and personality to be an excellent district court judge. My support for him is unconditional.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Cuffe".

Matthew J. Cuffe  
Montana District Court Judge  
19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

June 23, 2019

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
Email: [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov).

Re: Larry Mansch Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Larry Mansch to fill the pending 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court judge vacancy.

I am a partner in a general practice firm in Bozeman, MT, as well as a judge advocate in the Army Reserves. I first became acquainted with then Lieutenant Colonel Larry Mansch in 2008 as a law student. Without having met previously, Larry generously volunteered hours of his time to help me prepare for an oral argument before the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. I have had multiple encounters with Larry since as a fellow judge advocate, a colleague, and a friend.

The entire time I have known Larry, he has always been unafraid to take on challenging cases, assignments, and projects. Whether it's helping form – and be an effective advocate in – one of the most highly regarded Innocence Projects in the country or serving contemporaneously as a judge advocate and law professor, Larry's work and contributions to the legal profession have been felt throughout Missoula County and the State of Montana. And yet, despite the daunting pressure and complexity that comes with these endeavors, Larry's objectivity and professional demeanor have not only garnered immense successes, he has also gained the respect and admiration of colleagues, adversaries, clients, and stakeholders.

In addition to working with Larry as a colleague, I came to know him as an active community member and as a beloved husband and father. Larry has a history of success in whatever endeavor he undertakes, and I believe he is the perfect candidate for nomination to the district court judge vacancy.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions: (406) 570-7652 or [contact@cromwellpllc.com](mailto:contact@cromwellpllc.com).

Respectfully,



Charlie Cromwell





Betty Wing

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64 Brookside Way  
Missoula MT 59802  
[Redpandafan@yahoo.com](mailto:Redpandafan@yahoo.com)  
406-241-9170

June 25, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Nomination of Larry Mansch to Fourth Judicial District Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in strong support of Larry Mansch to be nominated to fill the position of District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

I was a Deputy County Attorney in Missoula for some thirty years. I worked with Larry Mansch when he was a public defender for fourteen years, from 1985 to 1999. We handled many criminal cases on opposite sides. We also taught a class together in the U of M Law School's public education program.

There was no other defense attorney I admired more. Larry was always the epitome of a professional, intelligent, dedicated, fair, honorable and personable attorney. He is one of the most decent and caring human beings I have ever known.

We have had little contact after he left the Public Defender's Office so I cannot speak to his career since. He has held many responsible positions and published several books. I admired his work with the Innocence Project. I do believe there is not much worse than convicting an innocent person, although I don't agree one of his success stories was innocent. The position certainly fit Larry's dedication to fairness and justice.

If I were still practicing law, I cannot imagine anyone I would rather practice in front of as a District Court Judge. I believe his decisions would be fair, intelligent, and based upon fact and law. He would carefully consider all sides of any issue, and his demeanor would earn respect from all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Wing

**Fran M. Albrecht**  
5047 Roy Court  
Missoula, Montana 59803  
406.239.4582

June 25, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Recommendation for Larry D. Mansch for 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am deeply pleased to learn of Larry Mansch's desire to serve as the next Fourth Judicial District Court judge. As a highly engaged member of the Missoula community and Montana, I recognize the critical importance to our community and citizenry of identifying the candidate who brings integrity, impartiality, experience, humility, wisdom and commitment to this honorable position. Larry Mansch fulfills these qualifications and I am honored to submit this letter of support, urging your consideration of moving him forward to Governor Bullock.

I have known Larry for approximately 15 years, initially through my work with his late wife Kim, a respected colleague in the non-profit sector. I was delighted when my daughter was fortunate to have Larry as her middle school social studies teacher, exposing her and a multitude of other fortunate students to Larry's extraordinary legal mind with a distinct passion for historical reflection and understanding. During this time, Larry also worked for the Montana Innocence Project and ultimately became the Project's Legal and Clinic Director, elevating the organization to a nationally recognized level of excellence. Throughout this time, I had the opportunity to become better acquainted with Larry and his family, observing Larry's innate and authentic desire to serve, utilizing and expanding upon his gifts and talents for the betterment of others. This intention has been exemplified as an active and engaged father and husband, service on a multitude of boards, community volunteerism and ongoing pursuit of his gift of writing and teaching.

Larry's resume speaks volumes to the breadth and depth of experience and commitment he would bring to the Bench. I must add that Larry's well-known affinity for Abraham Lincoln speaks beautifully to Larry's character, as President Lincoln was known as a model of virtue, remembered as a person of honesty, fairness, compassion, respect, courage for what is right, and hard work. It is no coincidence that Larry Mansch reveres and models these traits. This is exactly the kind of person we would be fortunate to have in a place of justice, and the Fourth Judicial District and our Missoula community will benefit with his appointment as our next Judge.

My sincere gratitude for your consideration of Larry Mansch for your nomination.

Sincerely,

Fran Maronick Albrecht, M.Ed.

franmalbrecht@gmail.com  
Chief Philanthropy Officer, Providence Montana Health Foundation  
Former Chair of the Montana University Board of Regents  
Trustee for Carroll College  
Mother, wife, friend, daughter, sister and public servant

**WENDY HOLTON**  
**Attorney at Law**  
**7 West Sixth Avenue, Suite 4-N**  
**Helena, MT 59601**

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**Telephone: (406) 442-9349**  
**Facsimile: (406) 443-4829 (call first)**

**Direct line (406) 443-4829**  
**E-mail: [wholton@mt.net](mailto:wholton@mt.net)**

June 25, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to support Larry Mansch's application for District Court Judge. I have known Larry for years – most recently in his role as the Legal Director of the Montana Innocence Project. As a volunteer lawyer for the Project, I have watched him oversee the operation of that organization. Hundred of applications for representation must be evaluated and investigated. Only a few can be chosen. Desperate people must be told “no” so that the organization's limited resources can be most effectively utilized. After that the cases must be assigned and “worked” – a laborious, expensive, and intense process involving exhaustive investigation, knowledge of the law, and knowledge of complicated science. Larry has overseen this process calmly, with integrity and dedication. In the past few years an impressive six actual innocence exonerations have been achieved. This is a testament to Larry's skill in evaluating and managing cases. Both are critical skills for a district court judge.

Larry is a well-rounded person who is a dedicated husband and father, has served in the Montana National Guard, as an athletic coach, on boards and commissions, and as a teacher at both the high school and law school level. He is also an accomplished writer having authored several books. He is dedicated to the fair administration of the law. I know that he would treat everyone who appeared in his court with respect and would conscientiously apply controlling law to the facts presented. He is used to a heavy workload and would deliver timely and well-reasoned decisions.

I am happy to recommend Larry Mansch for the District Court Judge position.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy Holton

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 3:16 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Mike Crockett <[mcrockett@mcsmt.org](mailto:mcrockett@mcsmt.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019 11:50 AM  
**To:** [mtsupremecourt@gmail.com](mailto:mtsupremecourt@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Larry Mansch

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Larry Mansch. For six years, I had the pleasure of teaching alongside Larry at St. Joseph School. In that time, I was able to gather many things about the man that is Larry Mansch. Quickly, I learned his passion for civic duty. This was most evident with the way he brought his classes into his world of expertise. The mock trials he ran with the 7th grade students clearly exemplified his enthusiasm for finding justice. Daily interactions with the students provided even more examples. Teaching middle school students comes with an almost endless stream of conflict. Larry routinely demonstrated the best practice for discipline and conflict resolution: gather as much information as possible, then make a fair and just decision. I try to emulate this method as much as possible, as I continue to hone my own skills within the school setting.

I am confident that the vigor Larry put into his classroom experience, translates into his world within the court system. I am happy to give my nod of support for Larry Mansch, as district court judge.

Mike Crockett  
7th/8th Science  
SJS Athletics  
[mcrockett@mcsmt.org](mailto:mcrockett@mcsmt.org)

Rec'd 6.25.19

June 20, 2019

Dear Ms. Halvorsen,

Please consider this letter of support for Larry Mansch who is seeking the District Court Judge position in the Fourth Judicial District in Missoula County that will be vacated by Karen Townsend.

I met Larry when he taught at St. Joseph Middle School. My husband and I have four children, all of whom would undoubtedly cite Larry as one of their most beloved teachers. Why? Perhaps the first thing Emily, Meagan, Finn and Bridget would say is that they looked forward to the homemade cookies and treats Larry's wife Kim sent to class on a regular basis. That being said, each of them would also rave about his sense of humor, innate goodness and encyclopedic knowledge of American History, Civics, World History and American Law. My favorite memory of Larry was a road trip we shared to the Little Bighorn Battlefield with a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Larry created a trivia game for the kids to play while passing the time on the trip from Missoula to Crow Agency. The questions were about teachers and staff at St. Joseph and the students had a ball trying to figure out which teacher "was on a State Champion Soccer Team" or "played the cello in a professional orchestra" or "had an extreme phobia of butterflies." Imagine my surprise when another chaperone on the trip asked Larry why he hadn't included a trivia question about the books he had written on Abraham Lincoln. Up until that moment, I had no idea Larry was a published author. I peppered him with questions, and he reluctantly indulged my interrogation. I was astounded as he revealed his work history prior to coming to St. Joseph. Not only had he published several books, he was a Public Defender, partner in a robust law firm, Adjunct Professor at the University of Montana, Legal and Clinical Director of the Montana Innocence Project, and oh by the way, a top-notch coach for Missoula Catholic Schools. You have a copy of his resume, so I won't recite chapter and verse here, but for me, his background was a revelation. What stands out to me even more than his highly accomplished career is the fact that Larry was never one to toot his own horn. On the contrary, Larry is humble about his accomplishments and a person of unquestionable character. The State of Montana would be incredibly fortunate to have Larry Mansch as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely yours,



Michelle McCue



# Smith & Stephens

-P.C. Law Offices -

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June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of the Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Appointment of Larry Mansch to 4th Judicial Dist. Ct.

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter on behalf of my friend Larry Mansch to fill the shoes of Judge Karen Townsend. Due to the number of qualified candidates, I have written other letters on behalf of candidates in my capacity as a lawyer.

This letter is different because I am writing it as Larry's friend.

I first met Larry in 2004 when I was in law school. Larry came in to replace Prof. Jeff Renz in the Criminal Defense Clinic. At the time, Larry was also attending classes in education. Larry was, and is, a student of the world. He is intellectually curious, open minded, and smart. Because I am lazy and didn't want to fight for parking, I arrived at the Criminal Defense Clinic early in the morning – so I could get a good parking space. Larry would already be there or would arrived

shortly after I did. While it was just he and I, we bonded over music, movies, and sports.

During this time, Larry also taught me about the practical practice of law. Because Larry is such a truly nice person and because he is so intellectually curious, he taught me that I should not dismiss a prosecutor's theory of the case out of hand just because I thought it was crazy. Larry taught me to be collegial in the law rather than the bombastic little twerp I was being as a smug 3L. Many many many more lawyers and law students need to learn that lesson.

It is difficult to capture what makes my friend Larry so unique. The most artful word I can think of to describe him is "guileless," the least artful phrase (but also accurate) is that he's a Boy Scout. He is honest, trustworthy, and kind. He has served his country with distinction in military. Servicemen like Larry are the reason Montanans included the language in Article II, section 35 of the Montana Constitution.

If appointed Judge, Larry will easily be reelected to the position as he is such a well-known figure in the county of Missoula. When Larry's wife, Kim, died recently, attendance overflowed into the parking lot. Both Larry and Kim are well loved by an incredible cross-section of Missoula County.

Because of his nature, Larry will be good at any new task he tackles. He became a great and loved high school teacher when he took a break from the law. He became a great and loved mentor and advocate to all the folks he helped at the Montana Innocence Project. I have no doubt that he will be a great and loved district court judge.

Sincerely,

/s/ Colin M. Stephens  
Colin M. Stephens  
SMITH & STEPHENS, P.C.  
Honored Friend of Larry Mansch



P.O. Box 3425  
Missoula, Montana 59806  
[jwheelis@frontier.com](mailto:jwheelis@frontier.com)  
(406) 422-8709 iPhone  
(406) 543-2363

June 26, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of the Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, Montana 59620-3005  
[mtsupremecourt@gmail.com](mailto:mtsupremecourt@gmail.com)

Re: Recommendation for Larry D. Mansch

To the Commission:

I recommend that the Commission select Larry Mansch for the Governor's consideration to fill the seat now held by the Hon. Karen Townsend, district judge, Fourth Judicial District, Missoula, Montana.

I met Mr. Mansch when he served as a public defender in Missoula. Although I was unaware when he appeared before me of the various accomplishments he relates in his application for this position, my memory of him shows those qualities were very much present. He was a person of obvious compassion, but never a fool about what people, including those he represented, were capable of. Having served myself briefly as a public defender at trial level and for three years at the appellate level, I very much respect someone who can represent those charged with crimes with the equanimity and persistence Mr. Mansch always demonstrated. He was their able champion, but never demonized the opposition. He understood what was possible, never wasted the court's time, and always directed his efforts at furthering his clients' interests.

It's evident from Mr. Mansch's application that his legal practice covered many of the matters that come before a district judge. I have no doubt he could take up the reins very quickly. In my dealings with Mr. Mansch, he was obviously honest. The Commission can trust what he says.

Sincerely,

James Wheelis



June 25, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Larry Mansch for District Court Judge.

I have known Larry for eight years. I believe that Larry's unique resume as an attorney and middle school civics teacher will serve him well as a judge. Larry is calm, fair and takes the time to listen to everyone.

I know him best in his roll as a middle school civics teacher, both as a parent and as a colleague within the school system. Larry was a very popular teacher amongst the students. One project that Larry did annually was a mock trial. The students were assigned parts in a case and prepared their roles. They then visited the University of Montana Law School mock court room to hold their trial. This was a highlight of my child's year and something she still talks about.

Larry's work with the Montana Innocence Project is of the highest quality. He works tirelessly to ensure that everyone has a fair and equal chance for justice.

I highly recommend Larry Mansch for the position of District Court Judge. There is no better person to serve in this position.

Thank you,

Tammy Bodlovic  
The Roxy Theater  
6125 Hobson Lane  
Missoula, MT 59803

June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
%Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
Helena MT 59620-3005

Dear Commissioners:

I am very pleased to recommend Larry Mansch for appointment as district court judge for the Fourth Judicial District (Missoula County). Larry's extensive experience, deep knowledge, rigorous scholarship and personal qualities of patience, fortitude and honesty more than qualify him for this important post.

With more than 35 years of legal experience, Larry has carved a deep furrow in the fields of criminal defense and innocence work and is much respected by his peers. As a board member of the Montana Innocence Project since its inception in 2008, I can speak directly to Larry's superb legal work in a very difficult area, where the pathway to exoneration takes guts and determination, a long-range vision combined with practicality, a litigator's eye for a winning argument, and a great deal of patience and just plain hard work. With these qualities and others, Larry, aided by his staff, worked through about 800 cases and won freedom for half a dozen unjustly convicted individuals, gaining not only their respect but the respect of many of his peers who did not think such a result possible. The exonerations are not only a victory for the former prisoners but also a victory for justice and a strengthening of the legal system in this state, especially important as criminal justice reform has become a top priority. Although Larry had the help of other capable lawyers, law students and researchers, it's fair to say that without his leadership, these exonerations (and others perhaps in the near future) would not have happened. The Montana Innocence Project has become a national leader. Just as important, the legal skills and personal qualities that Larry has exhibited in this decade-long endeavor are the same kind of skills that would serve him--and the people of Missoula County and the state of Montana--very well with him on the bench.

Larry is a lifelong learner and teacher, never satisfied with the level of knowledge he has achieved (and currently a PhD candidate in American history). His scholarship is impressive, as the author or co-author of five books in the last twenty years--two on Abraham Lincoln and the most recent a superb biography of Martin Luther. As an author myself and emeritus UM faculty member, I have an understanding of the intensity of research, commitment, follow-through, self-editing and ability to see the forest for the trees that each book entails. And to have undertaken each book project on the side, while working full-time, says a great deal about Larry's curiosity and his determination, and the wider result has been not only fine books but a man of depth and breadth, again qualities that would make him a fine judge.

Larry and his wife, Kim, raised four strong, independent and dynamic children in a household committed to faith in God, honesty and dedication to the greater community. As a citizen and

father, Larry has undertaken his responsibilities seriously and soberly, but also with joy. In his family and in his communities, Larry is a leader, a moral force and a source of inspiration. The Nomination Commission could do no better service to us citizens than to forward Larry Mansch's name to the Governor for appointment to district court judge.

Sincerely,

Clemens P. Work  
5055 Huckleberry Road  
Missoula, MT 69803

June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for district court judge for the Fourth Judicial District on behalf of one of the most quality human beings I have ever had the pleasure to know, Mr. Larry D. Mansch. It has been my honor to know Larry for nearly 15 years, as a colleague and a friend. One small letter will never do justice to the level of regard that I have for this man and all that he stands for, but I will do my best.

When Larry asked me to write this letter, he attached his resume, in case I needed a few talking points. To be honest, I never even opened the attachment. Although his education, employment and accolades are far beyond most, they are not the main reasons I respect him. Instead, it is knowing Larry as a colleague and friend, watching him as a teacher and coach, and observing him with his family that has taught me everything I will ever need to know about Larry Mansch. To begin, I can say that I have never met someone more knowledgeable about this that world we live in (and how we got here) as Larry. I have shared many bus trips and long conversations with him, and I am convinced that there is not a topic that he isn't an expert on. His knowledge of history, current events, and everyday life is second to none. He has a passion for studying, learning and educating that is beautiful to witness. I have also always admired Larry's patience - as an educator, a coach, and a father. He does things with the utmost thought and care, while somehow being able to get the best out of everyone he teaches and encounters. His former students and athletes speak so highly of their time spent with Mr. (Coach) Mansch and love to tell of the lessons he taught them in the classroom, on the court, and out in the "real world". Finally, Larry is the ultimate family man. He is a pillar of love, leadership and wisdom for his four amazing children. He and his late wife, Kim, put incredible care and love into raising respectful and respectable children who are paying forward the lessons taught to them by their parents. Larry was an amazing husband and caregiver to Kim, the true love of his life. If I can be half the parent and spouse that I have watched Larry be over the years, I will consider myself to be a success.

There is a special category in my heart that is reserved for people like my father and my grandfathers, men that have taught me about life and what it means to be a good person. Men that have shaped me and made me want to be a good daughter, sister, mother, wife and friend. These are the men that have led by example, but never once had to tell me they were doing so. They have taught me the important lessons in life that are key to building a life of love and value, one that I can be proud of. This category has always been reserved strictly for those family members, but I would make one exception to that rule - and that is for Larry Mansch. Not only has he taught me an abundance of knowledge about our town, our state, our history, politics, and so many other topics, but more importantly he has taught me about honesty, truth, integrity, respect, and how to be a quality human being. I can think of no better candidate for a position that requires all of the above virtues to be applied on a daily basis than Mr. Larry Mansch. Please strongly consider him for this most honorable role.

Sincerely,

Lisa Anderson  
Missoula, MT



**Maylinn Smith**  
Co-Director  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812-6552  
(406) 243-5351  
(406) 243-4349 FAX  
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Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic

June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
[mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

RE: Letter Supporting Larry Mansch

Dear Commissioners,

Occasionally an opportunity presents itself that can put in motion a circumstance capable of truly changing the world. Appointing Larry Mansch to fill the Fourth Judicial District Court judge position would be such an opportunity. The depth, breadth and knowledge that Larry Mansch brings to this position are phenomenal. He embodies the traits and temperament that make someone more than a good judge. These factors make supporting him for this position easy. Larry Mansch is someone that exceeds the usual qualifications for a district court judge. He is capable not only of appropriately handling legal matters before the court, but also can positively contribute to current justice reform efforts at the district court level.

Larry did not take the more traditional prosecutor to judge path prior to applying for this appointment. The variety and richness of his experiences make him an exceptional choice to fill Judge Townsend's position. A judicial appointment that focuses on the right criteria can significantly improve outcomes, reduce delays and create systemic, positive changes in the judicial process. This in turn can have momentous impacts on creating safer and healthier communities. Appropriately addressing societal problems requires someone with sufficient experience to handle the full spectrum of legal matters that arise in the court system in a fair, impartial manner. Results significantly improve when a judge appreciates the factors and circumstances that contribute to an individual being involved in the justice system. Larry Mansch has seen the justice system from a variety of points. His work as a public defender, doing post-conviction work and having directly experienced the impacts of what can happen when an attorney does not adhere to professional standards, gives him a viewpoint that would benefit the bench.

I have had the opportunity to interact with Larry Mansch in connection with the Montana Innocence Project's work. Third-year clinical law students are routinely placed in this program.



**Maylinn Smith**  
Co-Director  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812-6552  
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Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic

Larry has been an excellent supervisor in large part due by guiding student to meticulously go through the record; to carefully analysis the legal and factual bases for the conviction; and then to identify and reach out to a variety of resources to determine the significance of scientific, cultural and competency issues regarding a client's situation. One of my earliest interactions with Larry Mansch involved him asking for assistance from the Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic to evaluate a case involving a tribal member. Recognizing that his biases might be influencing the way he was viewing information in the record, Larry asked if the Clinic could give feedback so he could fairly and accurately assessed the situation from a culturally appropriate viewpoint. The very fact he recognized this need and asked for assistance, spoke volumes to me about his commitment to his clients and justice.

Larry Mansch supplement his legal experience by becoming engaged in both K-12 and higher educational learning systems. Through these activities, Larry has thought about how the justice system can be used to advanced societal changes. Whether it was creating a non-profit organization to teach social studies students how change can be facilitate on a small level or teaching college students about various societal factors impacting justice, Larry Mansch has thought about what achieving justice means on a multitude of levels. Due to these experiences, Larry recognizes there are many innovative options for resolving legal matters, in addition to traditional dispute resolution models associated with the adversarial system. He understands the importance of recognizing and reducing implicit biases within the justice system to achieve better long-term results. He is an active listener, does not taking shortcuts when considering evidentiary issues and makes decision with empathy and compassion.

Larry Mansch's work in the Innocence Project gives him a strong foundation for being a dedicated and diligent district court judge. He has seen the devastating impacts of bad trial work. This work impressed upon him the need to insure policies and procedures are carefully followed in all legal matters. His understanding of due process is deep, as is his desire to achieve justice in all situation. Larry Mansch has the capacity, compassion, common sense, temperament, demeanor, experience, knowledge, and humility to be a highly competent and well-respected district court judge. If the commission is looking for a workhorse, and not a show-horse, then it should select Larry Mansch as the best candidate for this position.

Thank you for your serious consideration of Larry Mansch for this appointment.

Best regards,

  
Maylinn Smith



June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am quite sure the Judicial Nomination Commission (JNC) will have a difficult task choosing one applicant to fill the position vacated by Judge Karen S. Townsend and, to that end, good luck. That said, please accept this letter as my endorsement of Larry D. Mansch for District Court Judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District (Missoula County).

Certainly you have read Larry's Statement of Judicial Philosophy, Background, Education, and Experience, as well as his Curriculum Vitae so I will not reiterate his qualifications; they certainly speak for themselves.

I have known Larry and his late wife, Kim, personally and professionally for the past 15 years and it is difficult to convey in the written word the respect I have for Larry. Our paths first crossed when my wife and I met Larry and Kim through Missoula Catholic Schools (MCS) while raising our children. Make no mistake about it, I consider Larry a friend so this letter of support will, and should, come across as biased. During the years of our friendship Larry's career has taken him from law to teaching and coaching and back to the legal community. Larry's return to the legal profession was a loss to the teaching and coaching staff of MCS. While firm in his convictions, I have never witnessed Larry raise his voice or "lose is cool", which is saying something when you consider he coached high school girls' basketball - have you ever watched a high school girls' basketball game?

In summary, if the JNC is looking for a highly intelligent, fair, honest, and contemplative candidate to fill this position, you will have a hard time finding a better candidate than Larry D. Mansch.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my letter.

Respectfully submitted,



Kraig P. Kosena  
[kraigk@kkmontana.com](mailto:kraigk@kkmontana.com)  
406.240.6151



# THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

## TRIBAL DEFENDERS OFFICE Holistic Representation for Native People

**Managing Attorney**  
Ann M. Miller

**Clinical Psychology Trainee**  
Matthew Croxton, M.A.

**Case Manager, MMHT**  
Jessica Dorrance

**Flathead Reservation Reentry Program**  
Susette Billedeaux, Holistic Programing Director  
Beverly Swaney, Case Manager  
Martin Charlo, Case Manager  
Victoria Hammer, Apprentice Case Manager  
Adeleene Rockwell, Reentry Attorney

**Civil Division**

Rachel Wanderscheid, Attorney  
Claire Charlo, Advocate

**Legal Secretary**

Marcella Mahseelah

**Criminal Division**

James G. Gabriels, Senior Attorney  
Michael Wheeler, Attorney  
George Madman, Advocate

June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Larry D. Mansch

Commission Members:

I have known Larry D. Mansch for more than thirty years and I think I can speak to his intellect, character, and fitness to perform as a District Court Judge. Larry exemplifies integrity and fairness in the way he interacts with colleagues, his clients, opposing parties, and the court. Years ago, Larry inspired me to become a public defender. Watching the way he practiced endorsed public defense as an honorable career choice. I have seen him in the most stressful and combative situations and he is always calm, discerning, and thorough.

Larry has extensive experience in the many years of his practice in both civil and criminal law. He is a diligent researcher, excellent writer, and he is intellectually honest. Larry understands the justice system and he understands the litigants that come before it.

I read Larry's list of qualities he would bring to the bench and I am impressed with his thoughtful consideration of the position. I am confident he would follow through with his promises, because I have seen how he conducts himself in work and in his private life. I know no one with more integrity. If he is appointed to the bench, he will serve the people of Missoula with great compassion, fairness, and hard work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ann Miller", written over a horizontal line.

Ann Miller

June 25, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
% Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
[mtsupremecourt@gmail.com](mailto:mtsupremecourt@gmail.com)

Re: Nomination of Larry Mansch for Fourth Judicial District Judge, Missoula County

Dear Members of the Commission,

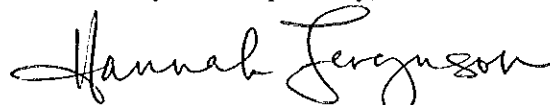
My name is Hannah Ferguson, I am a Doctor of Physical Therapy, currently practicing in Missouri, who has known Larry Mansch and his family since 2011. My introduction to Larry and Kim Mansch came through their daughter, Bethany, with whom I was in graduate school with at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

My endorsement of Larry Mansch for Fourth Judicial District Judge for Missoula County is a personal one. Larry's experience and expertise as a Lawyer, Professor, Author, Leader, Clinic Director, and Community Servant outshines his fellow applicants and is apparent in his Curriculum Vitae and Personal Philosophy Statement. What I would like to do is shed a little more light into Larry's integrity, personal conduct, relationships, and growth that demonstrates that he is uniquely and univocally qualified to become Judge Karen S. Townsend's successor as Fourth Judicial District Judge.

Who we are within our workplace may be disconnected from who we are in our personal lives; however I bear witness that for Larry Mansch, his integrity, authenticity, compassion, honesty and impartiality transcends all aspects of his professional and personal life. I have had the humbling honor of walking with the Mansch Family through both triumphs and heartache over the past 8 years and the way Larry lives and serves his family and community was and continues to be steadfast, considerate, thoughtful, and with lasting impact. Personally, when my own father was not able to step up for me, Larry Mansch took my arm and not only walked me down the aisle at my wedding but performed the ceremony as a father, a sincere and kind hearted man, and as a true friend. Larry unwaveringly embodies Martin Luther's counsel of "The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God; love brings the person to people." Larry is wholeheartedly committed to the life and growth of all people that he serves.

In light of the above, and collectively with the numerous endorsements and recommendations for Larry's Professional Conduct and expertise, I am confident that Larry Mansch would make an outstanding Judge for Missoula County's Fourth District. I therefore urge you to submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Sincerely and Respectfully,



Hannah L Ferguson, PT, DPT

Kai Nielsen Puhmann, Esq.  
2850 Big Flat Rd, Missoula MT 59804  
umontlaw@gmail.com

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, Montana 59620-3005  
mtsupremecourt@gmail.com, mtsupremecourt@mt.gov  
Via email only

June 27, 2019

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am pleased to be able to recommend Larry D. Mansch for the position of District Judge for the 4th Montana Judicial District.

I have known Mr. Mansch for several years through my association with the Montana Innocence Project (“MTIP”). I was fortunate enough to be chosen as an intern for MTIP while attending the University of Montana School of Law.

Mr. Mansch was my supervisor at MTIP and I was honored to be able to work for him and learn from him. Mr. Mansch exhibited the best qualities a lawyer could have in his capacity as Legal Director, and he led by example.

He is patient, fair, persistent, ethical beyond measure, and loves the practice of law. He has worked tirelessly to investigate the claims of those wrongly convicted in Montana, and advocates for his clients with an unmatched passion.

Mr. Mansch’s intelligence, extensive legal knowledge and decades of legal experience, as well as his service to our country as a JAG officer and time as an adjunct law professor make him uniquely suited for this position.

I believe that his appointment to the bench will elevate the practice of law in Montana, and I cannot imagine a better candidate for this position. I am certain that he will make an excellent judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Kai N. Puhmann

Diana Koch  
615 Blossom Hill Rd #8  
Los Gatos, CA 95032  
406-431-7374  
kochdiana@gmail.com

Letter of Endorsement for the Judicial Nomination Commission

It is with great pleasure that I write to endorse my friend and former colleague Larry Mansch for district court judge of the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. I worked with Larry for 7 years in the Public Defender office of Missoula County. During that time Larry demonstrated the highest quality work and a sharp legal mind. I came to know him as a good attorney, and also as a man who possesses the characteristics that would make a good district court judge.

I believe he would be able to treat all litigants with fairness, compassion, and respect as he demonstrated those qualities while representing clients in the public defender office. The office's clients were not the best of people, but he was able to look beyond their lifestyles and histories and the crimes they were accused of committing and treat each one of them with dignity and honor and mount the best defense he could for each of them. I'm sure he can do that for every litigant who comes before the court.

I also observed Larry's integrity and acute sense of ethics including his work ethic. He will put in the necessary hours to move cases along and not let them languish. He won't allow the district court to accumulate a backlog.

I believe Larry is the best person for the district court judgeship.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diana L Koch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Diana L Koch

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Friday, June 28, 2019 11:26 AM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Liz Manley <liz@missoulaphoto.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 10:20 PM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support of Larry Mansch

**CAUTION: This email message may contain an unsafe attachment.**

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June 27, 2019

Judicial Nomination Committee  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena MT 59620-3005  
[mtsupremecourt@gmail.com](mailto:mtsupremecourt@gmail.com)

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

This letter is a declaration of strong support of district court judge applicant Larry Mansch.

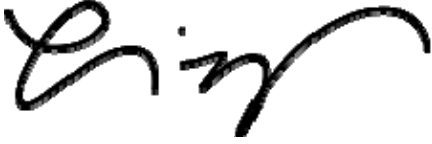
I met Larry over 15 years ago when he was teaching and coaching at Missoula Catholic Schools and have had the great pleasure of getting to know him and his family over the years. Larry's impressive resume illustrates years of solid education and work experience and is evidence that he would be an ideal candidate for this position.

My experiences with Larry speak to his character—how he interfaces with family, friends, students, team members, parents, and community members. Larry is, without doubt, a man who regularly practices kindness, compassion, patience, fairness and honesty. I trust Larry Mansch. My family and other community members trust Larry Mansch.

It is my opinion that the expectations that people have of their children and how they treat young people is a good indicator of how they treat others outside their family. Larry's children are fine examples of people who have learned from their father's impressive example. Their son worked at our local business for a period of time while in high school. Lincoln was without question one of our best employees. He was kind and honest, he showed up on time and had a strong work ethic, while treating customers with respect. When my oldest daughter was a freshman in high school, Larry's daughter was a senior. Abby's respect of humans, regardless of their age or talents, along with her compassion and kindness, laid the framework for my daughter having a very positive high school experience. She still speaks of it today.

Larry Mansch's character, how he moves through the world with honesty, integrity, and fairness has already had a ripple effect in our Montana communities and beyond. These very favorable traits, combined with his advanced education and work experience, make Larry a strong, suitable and very capable candidate for the district court judge position.

With sincerity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Liz Manley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Liz Manley  
(406)239-2269

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am proud to offer my highest personal recommendation for Larry Mansch as he seeks appointment to the Fourth Judicial District Court Judge position in Department Two. I have known very few lawyers, in my 11 years working in the field of criminal justice across the State of Montana, who possess the unique capacities which make Mr. Mansch so suited to the position of District Court Judge. Mr. Mansch is the quintessential gentleman and scholar. I worked for four years intimately with Mr. Mansch while investigating and litigating wrongful convictions for the Montana Innocence Project.

Besides being an extremely capable legal writer, historical scholar, and advocate within the justice system, he is above all else kind and conscientious in his actions. He has the calm confidence and deliberate manner essential to fulfilling the judicial role. While Mr. Mansch's resume and professional accomplishments speak for themselves, Mr. Mansch is simultaneously without ego, pretension or condescension. Instead he is a patient leader always willing to support his students and professional peers. I have no doubt, if Mr. Mansch is selected to take the bench he will treat all parties, attorneys and court staff with respect and equanimity. I was raised and have lived more than 33 of my 38 years on this earth in Missoula County and Mr. Mansch truly embraces the ethos of this community and is in tune with the dynamics and circumstances special to the jurisdiction.

Mr. Mansch has devoted his life to building respect for our system of justice, the lawyers within it, and the courts. I can think of no other person who I would trust more than Larry Mansch to preserve the integrity, dignity and stare decisis of our Honorable Montana Courts. Thank you for your serious consideration of Mr. Mansch's application for appointment.

Best Regards,

---

Brendan McQuillan – Attorney  
34392 Rocky Point Road  
Polson, MT 59860  
(406)544-6573



Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing this letter in support of Larry Mansch for the Fourth Judicial District Court Judge position in Department Four. I have known Larry for approximately six years, and he has been a mentor, supervising attorney, and close friend for most of that time. In that time, Larry oversaw the Montana Innocence Project's (MTIP) legal clinic program, he became Legal Director, and he supervised the exonerations of six innocent Montanans who wrongfully served decades in prison for crimes they did not commit. In that time, Larry has also taught civics/government courses at St. Joseph's middle school, several criminal justice courses at the University of Montana's Sociology College, and legal, historical, and other courses in the University of Montana's MOLLI program. Larry has been a mentor to dozens of attorneys currently practicing in Montana; he has a firm grasp of criminal and civil procedure; he is patient, level-headed, fair, thorough, and has a strong sense of justice. These are precisely the qualities that a good judge should possess.

Since 2008, Larry has served as MTIP's Clinical Director, and he has overseen University of Montana students in all three years of law school, as well as undergraduate students in various disciplines. Larry teaches the interns to work collaboratively with each other, volunteers, and staff to overturn and prevent wrongful convictions in Montana. He also teaches them that professionalism and courtesy toward opposing counsel, court staff, and others who work in the criminal justice system are necessary parts of effective advocacy.

In 2014, Larry became MTIP's Legal Director while maintaining his role as Clinical Director. During Larry's tenure at MTIP, he oversaw the exonerations of six innocent Montanans who spent decades in prison for crimes they did not commit; he helped create new law at both the state and federal levels, through legislation and judicial precedent, that helps prevent and overturn wrongful convictions; he mentored scores of students who became attorneys, law enforcement officers, journalists, paralegals, lab technicians, or went on to other well-respected professions; he worked with both criminal and civil procedure; and he has presented at numerous CLE's, including a Judges Convention, and community outreach events. These accomplishments are a testament to Larry's impressive legal acumen, his patience and even-keel personality, and his willingness to hold himself to the same high standard of professionalism that he expects from others.

As a professor, Larry taught several courses, including Wrongful Convictions, Criminal Adjudication, and Great Criminal Trials in U.S. History. It was clear from the syllabi and from having the privilege of co-teaching a couple of courses with him that he understood and considered the law from the defense and state's side. He also made it clear in his courses that everybody in the criminal justice system has a role to play in preventing wrongful convictions, in

addition to pursuing rightful convictions and seeking just sentences for those who commit crimes. He highlighted that even those who commit crimes should receive a fair processes. Larry also expressed his willingness to hold those who committed crimes and were fairly convicted accountable, while at the same time emphasizing rehabilitation.

Larry possesses a sense of justice that is unparalleled. Since I've known him, Larry has been eager to defend the rights of those who may not have received a fair shake. However, it is clear that he believes in holding those who are truly guilty and fairly convicted accountable, while also considering the unique circumstances of each case and defendant. For these reasons, I would like to humbly offer my highest recommendation for Larry Mansch as District Court Judge.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

*/s/ Toby Cook*

Toby Cook  
Attorney  
Cell: 206-313-6873

Jacob D. Coolidge, Esq.  
606 North Ave. W  
Missoula, MT 59801

June 28, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Written Comments in Support of Larry Mansch  
Applicant for Pending 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Position

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to enthusiastically and whole-heartedly endorse Larry Mansch for the pending 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position. I have known Larry for three years and worked with him in several different overlapping capacities. I currently am a Public Defender practicing in Missoula and Mineral Counties, where I have routinely discussed the justice system in depth with Larry and benefited from his guidance. Prior to my current position, I also worked as an Adjunct Professor in the Sociology and Criminology department at the University of Montana, where Larry was a fellow Adjunct Professor. I also served as the Project Manager for the Montana Justice Initiative at the Alexander Blewitt III School of Law and worked closely with Larry in both his capacity as the director of the Montana Innocence Project and just a general source of information. In my positions, I have been fortunate enough to get to know Larry and utilize his expansive experience and knowledge about the Montana legal system. I have the utmost confidence that Larry Mansch would be a boon to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and would be a valued member of the bench because of his diverse background, innate sense of justice, and steadfast commitment and dedication to those around him.

Larry's diverse background makes him an ideal candidate that would diversify the bench in a way that would benefit all who come before him. Whereas many judicial nominees arise from prosecutorial or private practice backgrounds, Larry's unique blend of varying public service positions and the accompanied perspective would be an asset to the Montana legal community. Although my input is limited to criminal law, I am confident that Larry's experience would manifest itself in a balanced, fair, and reasonable judge that I would be honored to practice in front of. Larry's years of experience from different roles in the legal system provide him with a holistic understanding that certainly impress upon him the gravity of the role in which he is applying for and how much his decisions will impact those that come before him. I trust that Larry would wield that power responsibly.

Larry also possesses an innate sense of justice that would guide his decisions and be valued by practitioners and defendants alike. Larry has spent years fighting to overturn wrongful convictions and is fully aware of the inherent contradiction when our justice system produces injustice. I believe that Larry would be compassionate to defendants but would fairly balance defendant's constitutional rights and dignity with the need to hold offenders accountable. I am certain that Larry's decisions on the bench would be guided by his strong sense of justice and respect for all who come before him.

Finally, Larry's commitment and dedication to the betterment of everyone is solidified in the core of his personality and serve as the linchpin in why I think Larry is the best candidate for the position. I have seen Larry fight tirelessly to serve justice to individuals who are wrongfully convicted, but Larry's commitment never ended when the exonerated walked out of custody. Rather, Larry worked tirelessly to ensure that the newly freed clients had housing, employment, basic necessities, and a sense of support. Larry was never satisfied with merely overturning convictions; he was committed to helping the individual. Larry's commitment to people is evident in everything he has done with his life, from leading church trips to Germany to share his knowledge about Martin Luther, to the often-thankless task of being an adjunct professor on a myriad of topics, simply because he loves to teach and help students grow. I am confident that Larry would treat my clients, and all other whom he presides over, with the utmost respect and dignity, with both the individual's and society's long-term wellbeing as a primary consideration.

In sum, I urge the committee to strongly consider Larry Mansch's application for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position. Larry's unique and impressive background, paired with his innate sense of justice and commitment to people, make him an ideal candidate for the position and are the tools necessary to be a respected, admired, and valued judge for years to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Coolidge', written in a cursive style.

Jake Coolidge

June 20, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

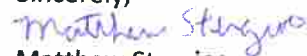
It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in behalf of Larry Mansch to be appointed to fill the vacancy of the 4<sup>th</sup> District Federal Judicial position. He will make a fine judge and will serve his constituents with distinction. There are a number of reasons that I make this claim with full confidence.

I recently concluded a rewarding teaching and coaching career at Loyola Sacred Heart High School I got to know Larry well since he was a teacher at St. Joseph Elementary School as a Social Studies teacher. I also had the pleasure of teaching all four of his children who were in my classes. I encountered a professional educator who had high standards regarding his teaching. He took his obligations seriously and was a respected member of the Missoula Catholic Schools community. He also helped coach the high school Girl's Basketball team to a state title in 2006. He was regarded as ethical and nurturing as an assistant coach. In his spare time, Larry wrote a fantastic book on the transition period between the Lincoln presidential election of 1860 until the inauguration. He also taught a course on law to high school students while working in the school system.

As a parent, Larry was highly supportive of his children's efforts. He set strong guidelines as a parent, and is well loved by his children. It has been interesting to see Larry and his children bond even closer after the unfortunate death of his wife Kim several months ago. It isn't hard to tell, that Larry did a lot of things right in raising his kids! His children are all grown and doing great things in their own right!

Of course, Larry made even greater contributions while working with the Montana Innocence Project. He has a strong sense of justice and fairness that are so vital to the position for which he applies. His important work in this effort has paid off in a large way. I can only imagine what more he can do if he receives this appointment. It goes without saying that he possesses the temperament and integrity that are so important as a judge. I believe that his appointment will go a long way in restoring faith in our judicial system. You would be hard pressed to find a more qualified and solid individual to fill this important post. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,



Matthew Stergios

Retired History Teacher and Coach  
Loyola Sacred Heart High School

Judicial Nomination Commission  
C/O Lois Menzie  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

June 22, 2019

Dear Commission Members,

It is a great honor to be able to write this letter of recommendation in support of Larry Mansch for selection as judge for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. I have known Larry as an educator, author, advocate, and friend since moving to Montana in 2009. Larry is one of those rare individuals whose breadth of experience is only matched by the depth of his humility. He is certainly one of the most accomplished individuals I have ever had the pleasure of calling my friend and in all the time I have known him, he has never uttered a boastful word, made a disrespectful remark, or disparaged anyone. Larry is a quality individual, not because of his accomplishments, but because his authentic concern for others coupled with his sense of justice, has allowed him to become successful in all his endeavors.

I first met Larry as he taught my oldest child, Rosie, Social Studies and Civics at St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School. His love of country and his desire to have his students appreciate and participate in good government became rapidly apparent to me. My daughter, then in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, loved participating in Larry's classes and especially enjoyed the mock trial program that Larry organized at the University of Montana. He encouraged and motivated her to participate in the National Geography Bee at the state level in Billings. Rosie won the state-wide competition and represented the State of Montana at the National Geography Bee in Washington, D.C.

Larry accompanied our family on a week long trip to the nation's capital for the national competition. While there, Larry and I had a few hours together to walk to the National Mall and visit the Lincoln Memorial. We sat on the steps of the famed monument discussing his interest in Lincoln and a few of the books he had authored on our 16<sup>th</sup> President. Later, we went into the book store just inside the memorial. A few moments later I was holding "Abraham Lincoln, President Elect" written by Larry Mansch. Larry shrugged it off with his usual humility but I was deeply impressed. My daughter's 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher was a Lincoln author and his books were on the shelves within the Lincoln Memorial! I became fully aware of how fortunate Missoula Catholic Schools was to have an educator like Larry Mansch on staff.

Not long after, Larry left Missoula Catholic Schools to work with the Innocence Project. His deep sense of justice and advocacy combined to bring about extraordinary results. Larry was keenly interested in helping the falsely accused regain their rightful place in society and deeply committed to making sure that our legal system worked – despite its failings, its miscarriages of justice. Now in college, my daughter once again crossed paths with Larry while working as an intern with the Innocence Project. She came away from that experience inspired by the tedious nature of the legal work required in the task of exonerating those unjustly imprisoned. It requires a high level of commitment to justice and a firm belief that our judicial system must work for all.

Educator, author, and advocate- Larry Mansch is all of these things and more. His broad experience makes him an excellent judicial candidate. Justice is served for all people when those serving it are "of the people". Larry is "of the people". I suspect that there will be many fine and qualified candidates to serve as judge in Missoula. I humbly suggest that you chose someone who comes from a broad background of education and service in addition to legal expertise. Larry Mansch is that candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Colin McCormack".

Colin McCormack  
5038 Jaiden Lane  
Missoula, MT 59803



DEBORAH KIM CHRISTOPHER  
DISTRICT JUDGE



TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF MONTANA

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
POLSON, MONTANA 59860  
(406) 883-7360

SANDERS COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
THOMPSON FALLS, MONTANA 59873  
(406) 827-6962

June 24, 2019

Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing to register my respect for Larry D. Mansch. I met him through his military service when we were both serving in the National Guard. Having returned to Montana after active duty, I dealt with Larry as a defense attorney when I was a prosecutor and district judge. I have seen him in his educational presentations and his involvement and passion about the Innocence Project. Finally, I have had a number of contacts through the students who have taken his classes at the University of Montana. My contact as district judge has given me insight into his extensive and valuable professional educational capacities which are much better displayed in his impressive curriculum vitae and "Background, Education and Experience" document and so will not be specifically addressed in this letter but incorporated by reference.

Given the caliber of his broad extensive experience in the law and his proven writing ability, he has been uniquely educated and seasoned by his life experiences to be a highly qualified candidate for the position on the Fourth Judicial District Court bench. In my current job as district judge I appreciate having experienced attorneys ascend to the District Court because they bring the experience and knowledge of the trial court process to the important decisions made by the Court. While, Larry and I have never worked directly together his diversity in life experience has a great value and Larry's stellar background as a respected academic and practitioner would be of amazing assistance in the research and writing critical at the District Court level of practice. His ability to synthesize a lot of information into an understandable product for consumption by the general undergraduate student or law student or judge is necessary analytical skill in the work done by the Court.

Larry is a practical, smart, compassionate, capable lawyer, soldier, teacher and professional. He understands his audience and has the intelligence necessary to understand the world of which the law attempts to make sense. His passion for the constitutional rights of people charged or wrongly convicted, his independency, experience base, common sense, and practicality make an awesome combination. His availability is apparent upon meeting him. Never once in the time I have known him has he been unwilling to do a presentation to a group regardless of the size or importance of the attendees. And given the tragedy of the loss of his wife, his professionalism and commitment to his clients, students and job may have been made harder but his obligations to his clients and students were never lost.



As a legal colleague, I have valued the information and presentations he has made. I respect his brains, common sense and intelligence and more importantly his students do. If he can corral those minds, I suspect he would make a serious contribution to the Court.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah Kim Christopher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah Kim Christopher  
District Judge

June 7, 2019

Jason and Katie Tirrell  
2410 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Missoula, MT 59803

Dear Members of the Commission,

It is our pleasure to write in support of Larry Mansch on his nomination to the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position. We offer our highest of recommendations on behalf of Larry who is a hardworking and dedicated professional.

We have known Larry for over a decade in both a professional and a personal level. We know he will be an asset to the Fourth Judicial District. He will be eager to embrace the challenges and opportunities that he encounters, striving to establish the best District Court possible.

Working with Larry as an educator we were extremely impressed with his insight and knowledge. He was tremendously engaging and inspirational to the students, and had a compassionate and considerate nature toward all. He did an outstanding job of leading, organizing, communicating, and handling challenging situations.

An accomplished attorney and author, Larry's expertise and vast legal experience will give him an outstanding foundation for understanding the demands of this job. We have observed Larry handling issues with utmost respect and confidence.

His family is a true reflection on Larry, as all 4 of his children have gone on to post graduate studies, are stellar members of their communities, and have excelled in their professions. We know Larry will treat this position as he has all of his past professions - - with honesty, fairness, intelligence and humility. Never have we known anyone with more integrity. He is a stand-up citizen.

Larry is an exceptional educator, scholar, and person who will positively influence the lives of many people throughout his career as a judge. Larry has a strong work ethic and understands the importance of good values. He will conduct court with honor, dignity, and respect. We are pleased to give Larry Mansch our highest of recommendations.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Jason and Katie Tirrell. The signature for Jason is written in a cursive style, and the signature for Katie is written in a similar cursive style with a small 'K' at the beginning.

Jason and Katie Tirrell

Judicial Nomination Commission  
% Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Mr. Lois Menzies:

This letter calls for the Judicial Nomination Commission to nominate Larry Mansch as a District Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District of Montana.

I have worked with Larry as a colleague for years and as a co-worker every day over the past few months, and it is my pleasure to share the qualities that make him an ideal candidate for District Judge.

When entering Larry's office, the first thing I noted was a framed quote from Abraham Lincoln stating, "A lawyer's time and advice are his stock in trade." Startlingly simple, yet prophetic, this statement encompasses what I know about Larry. It attests to his commitment to respect witnesses, clients, volunteers/interns, attorneys, and judges alike while maintaining dignity in his practice. As a co-worker, I have seen firsthand, his innate ability to provide in-depth explanations of a case, the issues, and potential next steps, along with his concise evaluation of those steps to a variety of audiences. As a colleague in private practice, I knew I could call Larry for advice and counsel, and, most importantly, I knew he would consider the dilemma thoroughly rather than rubber stamping my approach. Throughout my time working with Larry, he has been direct in providing me well-reasoned feedback.

While his capacity to advise is paramount to a position as a judge, so too is Larry's intense curiosity. This is aptly reflected in Larry's resume, published works, and his academic pursuits. Informed by precedent and statutory law, rather than a jaded sense of reality, Larry's curiosity has guided his successful representation of clients in post-conviction, criminal, and civil matters by articulating the binding authority with analysis to the distinct facts of his clients. In his most recent pursuits, Larry has dared to inquire, resulting in achieving liberty for six individuals incarcerated for crimes they did not commit.

I am confident based on my experience working with Larry he will be a judge with **patience**, providing respect to all those who enter his courtroom, **courage**, considering precedent and statutory law as applied to each individual case to arrive at a fair and just outcome, and **honor**, maintaining the dignity of the judiciary in his conduct both on and off the bench.

For these reasons I maintain my firm call for this Commission to nominate Larry Mansch as District Court Judge for the Fourth Judicial District of Montana.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Carpenter, Attorney at Law

# MARK MCLAVERTY

3235 Paul Lane

Missoula, MT 59803

[markmacy4@aol.com](mailto:markmacy4@aol.com) • 406-830-1758

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of the Court Administrator  
P.O. 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

It is my privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Larry Mansch to the Commission for appointment to the judgeship of the Fourth Judicial District Court of the State of Montana.

I have known Larry for almost thirty-five years and am proud to be his friend and colleague. We first competed against each other on the softball fields of Missoula, and I got to know Larry better when I took a position with the public defender office in Missoula. Larry quickly became my friend and mentor, and we worked several cases together, including two homicide trials. I learned to follow Larry's courtroom decorum, his respect for others, and the dignity and professionalism he displayed towards his clients, judges, and opposing counsel. I was so impressed by Larry's beliefs in the law and the betterment of society, that I was glad and proud when we formed our law partnership on July 1, 1999.

Larry and I were law partners for five years until he decided to go into teaching in 2004. He was the backbone of our firm as managing partner, and professionally and diligently managed our firm as we gained a great reputation as a top notch criminal and civil firm in many areas of the law.

Larry's resume speaks for itself. His commitment to our nation, our state, and the law in society knows no bounds. Personally, he is a great father to his four children and husband to his late wife Kim, and his countless friends locally and around the state. He is personal, compatible, and highly professional and will make a great District Court Judge for the County of Missoula.

In short, I can think of no better person than Larry Mansch to serve as a Fourth Judicial District Court Judge for Missoula County and the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

Mark McLaverty

# HUNT LAW FIRM

*Attorneys at Law*

James G. Hunt

310 East Broadway St.  
Helena, MT 59601  
Telephone: (406) 442-8552  
Facsimile: (406) 495-1660  
[jhunt@huntlaw.net](mailto:jhunt@huntlaw.net)  
[www.huntlaw.net](http://www.huntlaw.net)

William E. Hunt, Sr.  
(1923-2016)

June 30, 2019

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Letter in support of Larry Mansch

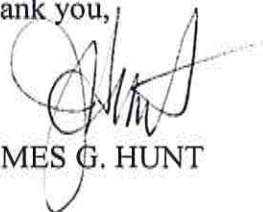
Dear Commission:

I wrote this unsolicited letter in support of Larry Mansch's nomination to the Fourth Judicial District Judgeship. Larry's application first came to my attention yesterday when meeting with other lawyers and a client. I am now representing one of the individuals Larry represented as Director of the Montana Innocence Project. I have had a chance to review first hand Larry's work in this case. It was superb. No stone was left unturned. Larry's commitment to his clients is obvious as is his intelligence and great legal mind.

As was I, Larry was an officer in the Montana Army National Guard while practicing law. It is difficult to describe the juggling acts necessary to be a lawyer and an officer in the Guard because both can be full time commitments. Given his awards, his assigned duties, and his rank of Lieutenant Colonel when he retired after 20 years, he was obviously successful in the Guard. It is rare that an officer attains this rank with only 20 years of service in the Guard.

Given his background and his commitment to his clients and the law, I strongly recommend you send Larry's name to the Governor as one of the nominees for the district court judgeship.

Thank you,

  
JAMES G. HUNT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Melinda Driscoll <melinda@russplathlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 30, 2019 9:52 PM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Judicial Nominee Larry Mansch

Greetings:

I am writing to express support for the appointment of Larry Mansch for district court judge in Montana's Fourth Judicial District. While I was in law school, I interned for the Montana Innocence Project under Larry's supervision. The mentoring I received in that capacity deeply enriched my law school experience and legal career. While my law classes taught me about the mechanics of legal writing and analysis, Larry taught me about their effect on real cases and real people. Indeed, I consider my work product under Larry's supervision to be the most valuable and important work of my life.

In no area of law are the stakes higher than in postconviction relief. Thoughtfulness, patience, and good humor are among the qualities that Larry regularly demonstrated when faced with the overwhelming challenges and uphill battles inherent in this work. I have no doubt that those qualities will be harnessed to great effect on the bench, and that the Fourth District will benefit mightily from Larry's commitment to public service — particularly those in underserved demographics.

Thanks to the Commission for your consideration, and for your dedication to this unenviable task!

Best regards,

Mindi Driscoll

RUSSPLATHLAW.COM



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## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 12:49 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** Jerry Marble <jerrymarble@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2019 1:28 AM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 4th Judicial District Judge Appointment

I apologize for the late hour of this letter.  
I've had some family issues recently.

Over the years I have come to know district court judges, both State and Federal, as friends, clients (real estate), acquaintances, impartial judges and several adversaries.

I used to drive a very high profile Missoula attorney to his appearances in different cities in the state for primarily criminal cases while he reviewed his cases during the trip. I had the opportunity to sit in many courtrooms and observe numerous proceedings. I also was able to observe numerous judges, some impressive and several afflicted with "Black Robe Disease".

I have attended many complete trials.

I have also experienced judges in a different capacity---the wrongful conviction resulting in the wrongful imprisonment and eventual exoneration of my son after a 15 year period.

I believe that, as a layperson, I am uniquely qualified to comment on this subject.

Also, uniquely qualified as the appointee to this very important position is Larry Mansch. Larry was very instrumental in my son's exoneration.

I believe Larry Mansch is a man of extreme integrity. He understands both sides of the law and will apply the law fairly. He has no adendas that I know of.

This is the right time for Larry Mansch, Missoula County and the State of Montana to come together.

Thank you.

Jerry Marble



## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2019 3:57 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Mansch

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**From:** justiceforbug@gmail.com <justiceforbug@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 2, 2019 11:36 PM  
**To:** mtsupremecourt@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Larry Mansch

Cheryl E. Goodman

1650 Shindig Drive  
Missoula, MT 59808

July 1, 2019

Lois Menzies, Executive Director  
Montana Legislative Services Division

Dear Ms. Menzies;

I am sorry I sent the rough draft on the first email

I'm writing in support of Larry D. Mansch regarding his application for the position of District Court judge. I know Larry to be an exceptional citizen, and I fully support his nomination. Larry and I have been friends for about 15 years. Larry is well known, both locally and throughout Montana, for his efforts to assist others and I can attest to his strength of character and devotion to his beliefs of fair and equal treatment.

I first met Larry at a school function around 2004. We quickly found our paths crossing not only through the schools our children attended but in sports as fellow parents involved in community activities. Larry has always been available to lend an ear, give advice and simply remind me: "Life is not always fair, but be a good person, and good things will happen." Larry and I also regularly assist others, and I have witnessed his skills in thoughtful, fairly-applied decision-making. I have always been impressed by how dedicated Larry is to be an outstanding public servant.

Larry encourages others to pursue greatness. He goes above and beyond by regularly providing conscientious care listening carefully to his fellow citizens and making us feel that our concerns were heard and our opinions valued.

In addition to his legal work, Larry served as an athletic coach for many years. He made sure every athlete had a fair chance to play, no matter what the child's ability was. Larry taught these athletes that winning is important but teamwork is what makes champions. Larry is passionate about academics and learning and served as a great role model for student-athletes.

I feel incredibly lucky to know Larry as both a friend and as an inspiration for what skills a great leader should demonstrate. I know that Larry's wisdom and openness will be great assets in the District Court and that he will provide honest evaluation and guidance to members of society who he interacts with.

I offer my full support for Larry's nomination for the district judge position. Please feel free to contact me for any further information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Goodman *my LG K20, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone*