

September 30, 2015

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203006
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

I am writing in support of the nomination of Melissa Culpepper Broch to fill the vacancy created by the pending retirement of District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock.

I have known Melissa for over 15 years and consider myself a friend of both Melissa and her current employer, Lewis & Clark County Attorney Leo Gallagher. Most of our relationship is based upon our mutual love of whitewater rafting and U of M Grizzly Football. Each of these endeavors is an emotionally charged adventure where both mind and body are often taxed to the max (especially recent Grizzly games). In truth, Grizzly games are more of a watch, groan and (hopefully) cheer experience than is whitewater rafting.

I mention whitewater rafting because it involves more than just hopping in a boat and floating down a river. It is an activity that calls for careful planning, patience, decision making and precise execution, all qualities of which I have observed in Melissa Broch. In addition to the actual activity of floating down a whitewater river, multi-day trips also call upon participants to interact socially and work collectively, again qualities I find admirable in Melissa.

My interactions with Melissa and her employer often present me with the opportunity to listen and engage in post-resolution conversations about cases in which she has been involved. It has been clear from these conversations that Melissa is an extremely important component of the successful prosecution of dozens of individuals involved in violent or sexual crimes. Her ability to work with all participants in the criminal justice system is evident. Her compassion and respect for the victims of crime as well as her recognition of the ages and background of the perpetrators would allow her to prescribe the most appropriate consequences in each individual case.

I am aware of Melissa's political background, including her stint as Secretary of the Helena Democratic Central Committee and extensive work on a number of political campaigns in Montana. Her education in accounting has resulted in her serving as the financial advisor to treasurers of several campaigns, including state-wide races. I am convinced that Melissa would be well prepared and positioned to run for re-election should she receive appointment to the pending vacancy.

Last, but certainly not least, Melissa is clearly familiar with and experienced in the judicial court system in Helena. Her participation in over 70 jury trials and 500 non-jury trials brings a wealth of knowledge to the bench that eliminates any delay, hesitancy or misstep that might occur should someone less familiar with the process be appointed. Given Helena's status as the focus point for actions against the state, any delay in the system only serves to back up the judicial process for others.

For these reasons and others, I would encourage the Committee to forward the nomination of Melissa Culpepper Broch to the Governor for appointment as District Court Judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Judge
601 Peosta
Helena, MT 59601

Donjudge7@hotmail.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:35 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Broch

From: Dorothy McCarter [<mailto:dorothyinmt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2015 3:59 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public comment re judicial candidate for first judicial district

Re: Application of Melissa Broch for District Judge, First Judicial District

Dear Commission members:

I would like to recommend Melissa Broch for the judicial position being vacated by the Honorable Jeffrey Sherlock.

I have given much thought to the list of candidates for this position, and know that many of them are good lawyers with many of the skills to be good judges. As a sitting district judge in Helena for over 23 years, I have had most of the candidates in my court, some more often than others. Among the candidates, I believe that Melissa rises to the top of the list. In my opinion, the combination of her legal skills and other qualifications exceed those of the other candidates.

Melissa has served as a deputy county attorney attorney in Lewis and Clark County for many years. She appeared in my court countless times. In her duties as deputy county attorney, Melissa has proven her legal skills to be exceptional. Her research, writing, and trial practice are impeccable. She is articulate and logical in her approach to legal issues. Her manner of speaking in court and questioning witnesses is gentle and even tempered, and, importantly, she is reasonable. When presenting or arguing a legal issue, she is well prepared and considers opposing arguments with an open mind. One of the worst traits a judge can have is a closed mind. A judge should be able to change his/her mind after considering all of the arguments and legal theories. Melissa excels here.

When proposing a sentence in a criminal case, Melissa is realistic, practical, and flexible. Again, one of the worst traits a judge can have is lack of ability to rise above his/her initial belief as to the appropriate sentence, and to consider more appropriate dispositions. Melissa has proven herself here also.

In her legal arguments, both written and oral, Melissa is honest and intelligent. Her briefs are well written and accurately cited to authority. Who can trust a judge, who as a practicing attorney has been sloppy or disingenuous in his/her legal arguments and citations? I trusted Melissa's legal arguments and citations, having never found her accuracy and integrity to be lacking.

Melissa has a pleasant and even temperament, as well as a delightful sense of humor. I always enjoyed having her in my court. I know that she has a healthy and active lifestyle outside the courtroom, such as river rafting, that will help her retain an even emotional balance under the stressful environs of the judiciary.

For these reasons, I give Melissa my unqualified recommendation for the position, and encourage you to present her name to the governor.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dorothy McCarter

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:34 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Broch

From: Michael Swingley [<mailto:MSwingley@lccountymt.gov>]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 9:12 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Melissa Broch

I submit this email in support of Melissa Broch, who has applied for the vacancy left by the retirement of Judge Jeffrey Sherlock, First Judicial District Court.

I have known and worked with Melissa Broch for more than fifteen years, both as a Montana Highway Patrol Trooper, and as a judge. Ms. Broch is one of the more brilliant of attorneys I have worked with and she carries herself with a kind confidence that I think is vital in a judge. Ms. Broch has the experience and education necessary to serve the remaining term for Judge Sherlock and is one of the only candidates to have actually litigated in Judge Sherlock's court. Ms. Broch is well respected by the other judges in this county and all of the people who come in contact with her. One of Melissa's best characteristics is her personality. She is approachable and doesn't ever portray an arrogant attitude or demeanor. She is calm, direct and organized.

As a Highway Patrol Trooper, I served 22 years and worked in 29 counties. I worked with the county attorney's offices in each and also have worked extensively with the US Attorney's Office and prosecutors in other states, namely Wyoming and Idaho. In all of my experiences I have rarely encountered a prosecutor that is as capable as Ms. Broch. I believe the move to District Judge would be a natural fit for her.

Respectfully,
Mike Swingley

**LEO J. GALLAGHER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1222 Hauser Boulevard
HELENA, MT 59601-2133
leogallagher5@gmail.com**

Phone (406) 443-1291

October 7, 2015

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

RE: *Application of Melissa Culpepper Broch for appointment as Judge for the First^{Judicial} District*

Dear Commission Members:

I write this letter to support the candidacy of my co-worker and friend, Melissa Culpepper Broch. I realize you are considering many fine candidates to become the next First Judicial District Court Judge, most of whom I know and respect. Although I don't want my endorsement of Melissa to disparage the qualities of the other candidates, I can say I know Melissa the best and because I knew she would make a fine judge, I asked her to consider applying for the position almost immediately after I learned of Judge Sherlock's planned retirement. I thought then, as I do now, there is no one who would bring to the bench more intelligence, trial experience, common sense, and compassion than Melissa, nor can I imagine anyone who would work harder.

I first met Melissa sometime in 2001 through a mutual friend who was running for office. In 2003 she befriended my family and me during a rafting vacation on Utah's *San Juan River* and since then she has joined my family and friends on many, many more river trips. In 2005 Lewis and Clark County needed an experienced drug prosecutor, so I stole her from the Attorney General's Office. Since then she has handled virtually every sort of case my office encounters other than land-use.

The attorneys in my office prosecute a few high-profile cases each year, but mostly we deal with the grind of hundreds of routine cases, any one of which can go to trial with just a few weeks warning. Because of the overwhelming amount of work associated with both sorts of cases, my staff works work hard, perhaps too hard, to get the job done. Since joining my office, no one has sought out more work, volunteered for more tasks or mentored more young attorneys and staff than Melissa. She has done the same for her community and profession by volunteering her spare time to serve on various community boards and professional committees. She is presently the lead attorney handling crimes involving the sexual or physical abuse of children of which we filed 38 cases in 2014 alone and reviewed 131 more. These sorts of cases are among the most difficult to prosecute and only a dedicated, skilled, compassionate attorney can handle them. Melissa handles them well.

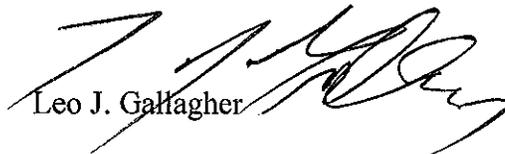
**JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
PAGE TWO**

Additionally, she has become my chief support for my case load so I can perform other non-prosecutorial duties. Although we work with others or independently, there are certain cases destined for trial because settlement is not possible. Over the past few years especially, Melissa and I have partnered to prosecute the most horrible sorts of crimes and some routine ones as well. To do so, we have spent many of our holidays and weekends preparing for trials. Almost as the natural aftermath of spending so many long days, weekends and holidays in the office, Melissa has become practically another member of my family and joins us in many of our activities.

Lots of attorneys have experience, but most do not understand the workings of a trial. Because of her experience and empathy, Melissa knows what to do in a court and how a courtroom should run. I know, first hand, the frustration a trial attorney experiences when encountering a judge who is unfamiliar with the *Rules of Evidence*, precedent, or the processes associated with conducting a fair trial that will survive appellate review. I have also encountered judges who lack the ability or the work ethic to do or comprehend the research necessary to understand the issues. I know Melissa has the qualities necessary to meet the public's expectation of having a judge who will deal with witnesses, litigants and attorneys judiciously, courteously, competently and compassionately.

Lastly, I know Melissa's commitment to our profession and her drive to do the best she can, will lead her to act independently. Over the years we have fought, argued, debated and flatly disagreed about how a case should proceed. Should she become judge, I expect nothing less from her than her promise to give every party in her court a fair shake.

Sincerely,


Leo J. Gallagher

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

October 6, 2015

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I would like to take this opportunity to express why Melissa Culpepper Broch should be appointed the next District Court judge for the 1st Judicial District.

From 2006 until 2011, I had the distinct honor to work in the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office with Melissa Broch as her legal assistant. During those years, she demonstrated a calm, professional demeanor. Ms. Broch treated all those around her with the utmost respect and consideration, whether that person was a judge, support staff, the opposing counsel, the defendant, the court staff or a member of the public. It is my experience in working with Ms. Broch that she demonstrates an amazing work ethic, often being the first one in the office and the last one to leave. Always working hard to make sure justice was served. Ms. Broch was always willing to help me expand my knowledge of the law and judicial system – in any way she could. There was never a question I couldn't ask. She was always prepared, always professional, always even tempered and always ready for whatever may come her way. Along with the all the qualities I mention above, Ms. Broch was and continues to be an incredible mentor. Through her example, I have learned to respect the law and the judicial system and those involved, from the investigation through the verdict.

For these reasons, I encourage you to appoint Melissa Broch as the next 1st Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Darby Thomas



October 1, 2015

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

Re: Melissa Broch

Dear Commission members,

I am writing to support the application for District Court Judge submitted by Melissa Broch. I have had the opportunity to work with Melissa through the Lewis and Clark County Child Advocacy Center for the last three years. She has been a wonderful addition to our Multidisciplinary Team due to her legal expertise and her calm demeanor.

Melissa is patient with the other team members as they try to understand the complexities of the legal process. She has been available to families and victims when they reach out to her. She treats them in a kind and respectful manner even during highly emotional situations.

Melissa's ability to analyze complex legal issues has been reassuring while working very complicated cases. She does not shy away from difficult cases but is also realistic about possible outcomes. She has an open mind and is willing to consider situations from different perspectives. Melissa has a strong work ethic. She is committed to doing all she can in each and every case and that may mean getting to work early and staying late.

Melissa Broch possesses the skill and qualities of character that would make her an excellent District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Paula Samms LCPC'.

Paula Samms, LCPC
Director, Lewis and Clark County Child Advocacy Center

October 13, 2015

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

Re: Judge Nominations for Montana 1st Judicial District Court

Commission Members,

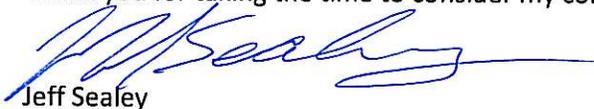
I write to you in support of appointing Melissa Broch to fill the judicial position being vacated by the Honorable Jeffrey Sherlock. I have worked with Ms. Broch at the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office for approximately nine years. I consider her a valued colleague and a mentor. Ms. Broch is the person I go to first to discuss issues that arise in my cases, including trial strategy, legal arguments, and practical decisions. I do so, because she is intelligent and fair, two qualities I think will serve her well on the bench.

Ms. Broch has also proven her ability to handle a large volume of work. The caseload in our office can be overwhelming. Like many offices, we have too many cases for the number of attorneys on staff. However, Ms. Broch is organized and able to effectively work her cases to conclusion. Of particular note, she does so without losing her sense of humor. I can only assume that is how she has managed to work in a high-stress area of law for many years.

I have had the opportunity to observe Ms. Broch in trial on a number of occasions, both as co-counsel and as an interested co-worker. She has successfully prosecuted every kind of case from speeding tickets to homicides. In all cases I have seen, Ms. Broch has shown respect for the process and the parties involved. I do not know many other attorneys who seem to genuinely respect the courtroom and what it stands for as much as Ms. Broch. She approaches her work in a straightforward manner. She is not afraid to forcefully argue when necessary, but I have also watched her concede issues when doing so is the just result.

Ms. Broch's legal experience extends back some years before I had the good fortune to meet her, but her reputation among other attorneys that I have talked to seems to be in line with what I have seen. Although I consider her leaving our office a significant loss, I think she would make a fantastic judge. I believe she would positively impact the lives of many people in our community if appointed to the bench.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my comments.



Jeff Sealey
Deputy County Attorney
Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office

October 10, 2015

Judicial Nomination Committee
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203006
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Commission:

I support Melissa Broch for appointment to the First Judicial District Judge seat being vacated by Judge Sherlock. I have known and worked with Melissa for nearly a decade both professionally and personally. I have high regard for her and an individual and as a dedicated attorney who understands and honors the law.

My perspective of Melissa's work is from that of child welfare and family law, some of the most complex, challenging and simply human legal work. Melissa is calm, thoughtful and methodical in her work on crimes against children and cases which will determine much about a child's future. Melissa has worked hard to maintain her education in prosecution of crimes against children, and to stay current with best practice and research in both prosecution and victim response and support in these difficult situations.

Melissa also has the personal qualities important for a commitment to serve as a judge. She is calm, appropriate with friends and co-workers, and independent. Personal independence is important in a position that can impact other relationships as cases are decided. I have no doubt that Melissa will maintain her independence in thought and decisions.

I have over 20 years of work with cases in the First Judicial District. I have learned there are qualities critically important on the bench and Melissa has them all. First, she is astute at assessing facts and how those facts relate to law; second and perhaps most important, Melissa maintains an open mind as information is collected and rather than taking a position she is able to change her mind as cases develop; and finally, Melissa values the courtroom processes and understands the role of the judge in both moving the case through the process and in maintaining a respectful and civil decorum in court.

I encourage the commission to recommend Melissa Broch for this appointment.

Respectfully,
Dana Toole
Dana Toole, LCSW
1604 Harris Court
Helena, MT 59601

October 8, 2015

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

RE: Application of Melissa Broch for District Court Judge, First Judicial District

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to express my wholehearted support for the appointment of Melissa C. Broch as a District Court Judge for the First Judicial District. She is ethical and fair with a solid knowledge of the law and a tireless work ethic. The First Judicial District would greatly benefit from her presence on the bench.

I met Melissa in June of 2008. She was the primary prosecuting attorney in the Lewis and Clark County Justice Court. I was a brand new public defender, had been practicing law for less than a year, and was very inexperienced in both criminal defense and trial procedure. Where attorneys of lower ethical standards might have used my obvious inexperience as a way to gain an advantage over the situation, Melissa did not. She was patient with me as I learned the ropes and graciously allowed me additional time to work my cases when needed. In cases that we couldn't resolve, Melissa and I proceeded to misdemeanor and felony trials, both bench and jury, no less than one hundred times during my four and a half years at the Public Defender's Office. Not once did I ever feel Melissa was vindictive or resorted to unethical tactics in order to "win" her case. Regardless of the outcome, I always left trial believing Melissa had presented her case fairly and ethically while treating my client with respect. As a District Court judge, I expect that Melissa would hold all parties appearing before her to the same high ethical standards she sets for herself, which could only serve to make our courts better.

Not only is Melissa ethical and fair, she is always willing to listen to both sides of the story. Melissa does not go into situations with a predetermined mindset. This was evident during the time I worked as a public defender. Even though she did not always reach the conclusion I wanted, I always believed Melissa would take the time to consider my client's perspective on the matter. Given that the chief complaint I heard from clients was that they felt their side of the story was not considered by the court, Melissa's willingness to listen to everyone will benefit not only the courts, but also how the judicial process is perceived by the public. I feel confident that when people leave her court, they may not agree with her ultimate decision, but they will feel as if their position has been considered.

Commission Members

October 8, 2015

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Since I began employment with the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office in 2013, my admiration of Melissa as a person and an attorney has only grown. While I had suspected she was a hard worker when I was a public defender, this was confirmed as I observed first-hand the amount of effort and preparation she puts into all her cases. Melissa is an incredibly hard worker, handling many high profile cases in our office. I have known Melissa to sacrifice her nights, weekends, and holidays in order to ensure a case has been properly prepared for trial. Despite her hectic schedule, Melissa is a valued mentor in our office. No matter how busy she may be with her own cases, she is always available to assist whenever one of us needs help, be it with a research question or for court coverage. I have called Melissa with legal questions in the middle of the night as the on-call attorney who needed to bounce an idea off of someone before giving instruction to law enforcement. Melissa possesses a vast knowledge of the law and I have come to greatly value her legal opinion.

As I believe she explained in her application, Melissa strongly values justice. I don't believe she measures this in her win-loss record, nor would it be proper for her to do so. For Melissa, it is more important to be just than it is to "win." Melissa understands that sometimes the most just decision is not necessarily the popular decision. I believe this is a key quality every effective judge must possess, as they will be tasked with making decisions that will not satisfy everyone. As I witness Melissa make decisions of this nature daily, I have no doubt she would bring this quality to the bench as well.

For all the reasons listed above, I believe Melissa would be an excellent District Court Judge and I urge you to send her name to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely,



Ann B. Penner
Deputy County Attorney
Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office

Luke M. Berger
2217 5th Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
luke.berger@gmail.com

October 13, 2015

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

RE: Public Comment for Melissa Broch

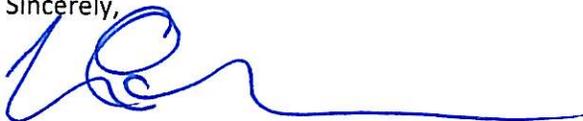
I write in support of Melissa Broch for appointment to the First Judicial District Court. I have known Melissa since the summer of 2005 when I began an internship with the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office. I have had the opportunity to work with and learn from her since 2012 when I began working with her as a Deputy County Attorney.

Melissa takes great pride in her work and the process of the law. Melissa is the definition of attention to detail and thorough preparation. In both of these she also strives to keep an open mind. This approach to the law is perfectly suited for a District Court Judge. In working with Melissa I have seen her ability to understand both sides and to take emotion out of the situation when coming to an ultimate conclusion. These are also needed qualities for a District Court Judge.

The position of District Court Judge is a demanding job. I have seen Melissa dedicate more time than I thought possible to cases and tasks around the office and know she will continue this on as District Court Judge. Melissa strives for perfection and is willing to make the necessary sacrifices to get the job done correctly. The First Judicial District handles a wide array of cases and I know Melissa will dedicate herself to familiarizing herself with areas of law new to her as I have seen it countless times when new issues arise.

I consider myself extremely lucky to learn from Melissa and feel privileged to call her a friend as well. I strongly encourage you to forward her name to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,



Luke M. Berger

To: Montana Judicial Nominating Commission

From: Carolyn A. Clemens

Date: October 11, 2015

Re: Public Comment for First Judicial District Court Candidate Melissa Broch

Dear Commission Members:

During my 28 years of employment at the Lewis and Clark County Attorney's Office, I was lucky to have several years with Melissa Broch as a co-worker. In the time that we worked together, we became very good friends and very close work partners. I have the greatest respect for Melissa and her abilities. I highly recommend her for the vacant judicial position in Lewis and Clark County.

From the first time that I met Melissa, I was impressed with her amazing organizational skills. Her cases were always in impeccable order; pleadings, documents and exhibits were always prepared well-ahead of a deadline; her workload was so well-organized that she was ready for a plea or a trial without any last minute scramble. She and I tried several felony cases together as co-counsel, and I always appreciated her ability to organize a case and to distill it to the very basics. I am aware that the County Attorney, Leo Gallagher, similarly relies on Melissa's ability to help prepare complex cases for trial, and he counts on her to assist with the most serious and important cases. She has an impressive trial record, both in terms of numbers and successes.

Melissa is undaunted by any task, and cheerfully undertakes whatever comes her way. When no one else in the County Attorney's Office would volunteer for a difficult or distasteful case, Melissa would always step up. She approaches all of her work with a keen mind, good common sense and a great sense of humor. Melissa is an incredibly hard worker and stays with a task until it is finished, no matter what that entails. She is fair and even-handed, treating everyone - no matter who they are or what position they hold - with respect and kindness. Also, of great importance is Melissa's even temperament. She is able to maintain a calm, pleasant demeanor, no matter what the situation. I have no doubt that she would bring these same qualities to the bench.

A number of the attorneys applying for this judgeship have extensive courtroom experience, although I doubt that anyone has more than Melissa. I have observed Melissa on many occasions in trial or during routine court appearances. She is always prepared; she is respectful and considerate; she knows the law; she can think on her feet and she retains her composure. It was always a pleasure for me to work with Melissa.

I have no doubt that Melissa would make a fine judge. Please present her name to the Governor.

Sincerely,

Carolyn A. Clemens

K. Paul Stahl

ATTORNEY AT LAW

415 Hayes Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

(406) 443-7360
stahlkp@msn.com

October 13, 2015

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

Re Melissa Broch – 1st Judicial District

Dear Commissioners,

I know all of the applicants for this position and have practiced with or against most. I have practiced with Melissa Broch for more than 10 years. Of the applicants for the job of Judge of the First Judicial District, she is one of two or three superior candidates and should receive your recommendation.

Her District Court experience is second to none. She has appeared daily for more than 10 years in one of four courtrooms in the 1st Judicial District. The other candidates, or at least most other them, have very limited in-court experience. She is a very effective and knowledgeable lawyer regarding courtroom procedure and etiquette. The learning curve for that kind of experience is quite steep and taking at least a year to learn how to operate in the courtroom is a detriment to justice and unfair to lawyers.

There are some who would dismiss the experience of a county attorney. I think that is unfortunate. I was in civil practice for a number of years before becoming a deputy county attorney and would suggest that county attorney experience is no less and probably better than private practice experience, especially for a district court candidate.

I know that Melissa intends to run for the office even if not recommended to or selected by the Governor. She has already filed the necessary papers with the Commissioner of Political Practice and has begun to raise money for her campaign. That commitment and forethought are her trademarks.

Finally, as a lawyer, I would like to appear before Melissa. She has a presence of confidence and competence. Some people have it, others do not. She will control the courtroom by respecting the participants, not by exerting at every instance her judicial power. She may be the only applicant with that presence.

I have never seen her treat others rudely. She has the patience of Job. She is an excellent writer.

It would be a mistake to leave her off the list of your recommendations to the Governor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Paul Stahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K" and a trailing flourish.

K Paul Stahl

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Broch

From: Patti Meyer [<mailto:gracentered@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 10:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Melissa Broch
Subject: Public Comment for Melissa Culpepper Broch

To the Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies,

Hello, my name is Patti Meyer and I am writing to express my support for the application of my friend Melissa Culpepper Broch to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Jeffrey Sherlock as 1st Judicial District Judge.

Melissa and I have been friends for close to a decade. We spend most of our time together white-water rafting various rivers throughout the United States. Since that sport can be both contemplative and challenging, I feel as though river running is a good analogy to life and work.

We can spend up to 20 days on a single river trip with the same people 24/7. This can create a number of group dynamics that can lead to both positive and negative interactions. In all my experiences, I have only seen Melissa be positive, proactive, compassionate, honest, and well-organized. She brings to each rafting trip sound wisdom and a respectful attitude towards all parties. She has the ability to analyze complex issues and bring a strong sense of fairness, good judgement and integrity to any situation. With her even temperament, she has a strong desire to have a valuable impact on each person. Melissa is a team player in all situations and offers intelligent solutions in even the most delicate environment.

In stressful circumstances, such as scouting and running rapids with a high degree of difficulty and risk of injury, tempers can flare due to nervousness and fear. Some people are not always at their best in these events. Not Melissa, she has the ability to analyze and identify compounded concerns with the impressive ability to think swiftly on her feet. Through her experiences, she has shown a calm demeanor in these demanding moments and makes solid, quick decisions with complete competency. She communicates effectively and listens to all sides in conflict. She is courteous and respectful towards others even in the most trying situation. Melissa always encourages an outcome that is best to keep the group cohesive and not divided. She has always maintained very good relationships and is well-respected in the rafting community. I am certain that all these skills are extremely valuable in the practice of law and justice.

Melissa is the least selfish person I know. She carefully considers each commitment before she makes a decision in taking on additional responsibilities or activities. I also know she has a strong, commendable work ethic that is a example to others. She often works relentlessly on weekends to prepare for cases on behalf of the victims she represents. Melissa is an experienced, hard-working attorney who is also well respected in her professional community.

Melissa would be an outstanding district judge because of her high degree of ethics. I have no reservations in recommending Melissa Culpepper Broch for the position and I encourage you to consider her application to the Governor for appointment to the 1st Judicial District Court.

It has been a privilege to know Melissa. I have the utmost respect for her as a woman and as a person. I am proud to call Melissa Culpepper Broch my friend.

with all sincerity,
Patti Meyer



McDONALD LAW OFFICE PLLC

Jonathan McDonald
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1570
Helena, MT 59624
406.442.1493

October 14, 2015

via e-mail only: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

RE: Melissa Broch/First Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Commission:

I am writing to urge you to forward Melissa Broch's name to Gov. Bullock for appointment as a district court judge in the First Judicial District.

Melissa is smart, hard working and a dedicated public servant. I first met Melissa in 2005 while serving as the summer intern at the Lewis & Clark County Attorney's Office. She was one of the experienced attorneys who directed my efforts. I personally observed her fairness, her demeanor and her work ethic and believe she would make a superb judge. She had no animus towards those she prosecuted; rather she (healthily) viewed her job as to prosecute those who had made a mistake. Her work was not a vendetta, it was service to the public.

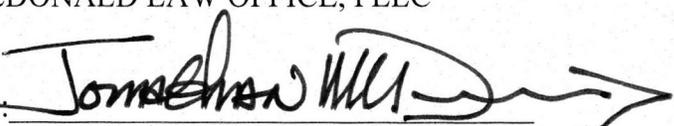
Her experience is not limited to the area of criminal law, as she spent six years working to regulate the insurance industry and the excesses of insurance companies at the office of the Montana State Auditor. With the retirement of Judge Sherlock, having a judge with considerable civil litigation experience like Melissa will be invaluable for the district.

Finally, Melissa has connections to the political community in Helena, which will be invaluable when the time comes for her to run for election for any seat to which she is appointed.

For these reasons, I would encourage Melissa's name be advanced. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

McDONALD LAW OFFICE, PLLC

By: 

JONATHAN McDONALD

October 14, 2015

Montana Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Commissioners,

It is my pleasure to recommend Melissa Broch as a worthy candidate to fill the vacant District Court Judge position in the First Judicial District.

I have known Melissa since 1995 when she was an attorney with the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. Although I did not work directly with her I found her to have all of the personality traits desirable in a good District Court Judge. I served as Deputy Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court which makes me qualified to draw that conclusion, having dealt professionally with numerous of Montana judges and attorneys.

It has been a pleasure to follow Melissa's career after 1995 through her work for Attorney General McGrath, and then with the office of the Lewis and Clark County Attorney.

From 1995 until the present Ms. Broch has spent hundreds of hours in Montana courtrooms as a prosecutor and is very familiar with the criminal and civil procedures of our Courts. Over the years she has practiced before numerous District Court Judges and has developed an excellent court room demeanor which would serve the public well from the Bench.

Finally, as the father of a thirteen year old daughter, I think it is appropriate to appoint more women like Melissa to the District Court Bench, especially women of the high moral caliber and with the excellent legal abilities of Ms. Broch.

Sincerely,



Dave McAlpin, Administrative Law Judge and former State Representative

716 Power Street

Helena, MT 59601

October 14, 2015

Via Hand Delivery and E-Mail

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Hal Harper
1608 Gold Rush Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Melissa Broch for First Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

It is an honor to write a letter on behalf of Melissa Broch for First Judicial District Court Judge. I have known her for 29 years, since we met in law school. Over those years, I have had the unique experience of observing Melissa's work ethic in many capacities, including but not limited to law school, as opposing counsel, as a prosecutor, and as a Board member of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

In law school, I trusted Melissa as a partner on assignments. She was efficient, timely, dependable, calm, and competent.

As opposing counsel, Melissa was professional, reasonable, and respectful toward all involved. Her knowledge of the law was apparent. I learned from her.

Several years ago, I observed Melissa prosecute a family member. She showed integrity by distancing herself from our friendship during the time she was assigned as prosecutor. The fact we remained friends is a testament to her character.

I have also observed Melissa as an active member of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection of the State Bar of Montana. She has assumed additional responsibilities on the Board monitoring and addressing attorney trust account overdrafts.

Melissa's background and experience is well suited for District Court Judge. She has dedicated her career to public service. She has extensive trial experience which will help her preside over cases, whether civil or criminal. She is an expert with the Montana Rules of Criminal Procedure and sentencing procedures. She is a good listener, speaker, and writer. I have no doubt she will be prepared and competent in civil and criminal proceedings. She is a hard worker who has shown her ability to work well with all participants in the judicial process.

Melissa has my full support for District Court Judge.

Sincerely,


Marcia Davenport

Elizabeth A. O'Halloran
716 Power Street
Helena, MT 59601

October 14, 2015

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

RE: Application of Melissa Broch
First Judicial District Judge Vacancy

Honorable Members of the Commission:

Please accept this letter in support of Melissa Broch's application for appointment as District Court Judge in the First Judicial District.

When I first met Melissa Broch 21 years ago, she served the public as the Securities Attorney at the Montana State Auditor's office. She went on to serve the public at the Lewis & Clark County Attorney's Office with distinction and the respect of her peers. Throughout my personal work experience with Melissa Broch, she toiled to ensure that the offer and sale of securities in Montana were fair and lawful. She also used all the tools available to her for the benefit of victimized Montana consumers. Melissa Broch's fundamental commitment to justice and law enforcement has defined her remarkable career.

Melissa Broch's strong background in law enforcement and criminal law, as well as her prior experience in securities cases, would ensure a seamless transition from the bar to the bench. Her even-handed approach to problems and willingness to listen to all perspectives render her an ideal candidate for the bench. As a litigator, I am convinced that Ms. Broch's temperament, intelligence and good common sense will serve Montana well.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment. Please select Melissa Broch as a candidate for the Governor's consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. O'Halloran

October 14, 2015

To the Judicial Nomination Commission,

This letter is meant to provide a character reference for Melissa Broch in support of her appointment to the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sherlock.

I first met Ms. Broch approximately 12 years ago when we were both invited by mutual friends to participate in a recreational outing involving a multi-day rafting trip in southern Utah. Since that time, we have both continued to be active in that same group and have participated in 30 or more similar type rafting trips including 2 separate rafting trips through the Grand Canyon.

From all the time I have spent with her on those outings I have formed the following opinions of her.

She is a very reliable and responsible person and I have never known her to let anyone down. Her word is like gold and she has always lived up to every commitment I have known her to make.

She is an excellent planner. The trips mentioned above require a very thoughtful planning process. I have known Melissa to be one of the core planners on several of these trips. She is very diligent and anytime she has planned one of these events, it has always turned out well. She communicates well with the group and is a very effective leader when in that role.

She is a hard worker and maintains a good attitude in the face of adversity. These trips are often beset with unexpected conditions such as incredibly poor weather, equipment failure, accidents, and the like. When faced with such happenings, she is always a dependable participant to work as a team with the group to overcome the crisis. She never hesitates to join in with any of the hard labor involved in packing and unpacking. In my conversations with her, I also believe that she works extremely hard in her professional life. I can tell that she often works many hours above and beyond a normal work week and that she is the type of person that "gets it done" without excuses.

She is a very fair minded person. The people that participate in these trips often consist of 15 or more in number. As you might expect in diverse groups such as these, there is disagreement from time to time. I've always known Melissa to be patient during disagreements and to listen carefully to all sides. Her opinions during the disagreement are always well informed and seem very logical to me. She is very much a problem solver in these instances.

I've lived in the Helena area all my life (since the 1950's) and have spent the last 25 years of my life managing a hydroelectric plant for the Montana DNRC. I can't speak much to her knowledge about legal issues and how our justice system works, but in the world I'm familiar with, she has all the characteristics that would work well in a responsible position such as this judgeship.

I think if she were appointed, she would do an excellent job for the citizens in this area.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Mike Sims