

September 3, 2015

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I urge you to present Barb's name to the Governor as one of your nominees. I have known Barb throughout my tenure with the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) of the Department of Justice. Barb is a friend and a colleague. We became acquainted when I started in 1996 to serve as Supervising Agent of DCI's newly established Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). Barb became the MFCU's prosecutor and shared the job with Judge Seeley. It was no easy task to launch such a project, which had not been done before in Montana. As a self-contained investigative and prosecutorial unit, we had to forge relationships with the state and federal agencies that run the Medicaid program as well as with county attorneys. While the MFCU had original jurisdiction in Montana, fulfilling our mission required a sound, working relationship with local law enforcement and courts. Barb was a seasoned prosecutor and up to the challenge, not only in terms of legal ability, but in forging the relationships that were essential to the job. I should point out that the MFCU's prosecutor also required skill in administrative and civil law, given the complexities of the Medicaid program.

Later, I became the Agent of Charge of Montana's first computer crime unit. As you can imagine, the prospect of computer crime caused many in law enforcement to be awakened starkly by the Electronic Age. The law in this area had begun to evolve and still is adapting to the ever-changing use of computers in every facet of life. Barb was the prosecutor who served as out legal advisor and as a resource to county attorneys when it came to prosecuting crimes that involved computers and the Internet. She handled the task at hand and guided cases so that the courts, juries, and defendants understood electronic evidence. Perhaps more important is the fact that many of these cases involved child exploitation, and Barb presented a kind and sympathetic ear to the victims and their families and guided them through very difficult situations.

Barb also served as the Attorney General's prosecutor for fish and wildlife crimes. There, too, we worked together to investigate and prosecute those crimes when computers played a role. Barb guided us and the law enforcement offered at Fish, Wildlife & Parks in the lawful collection of evidence and diligent presentation in court.

Today, Barb serves in the admirable role of a clerk to Judge Seeley. There, she employs her wealth of legal knowledge to make the system work for Montanans in all walks of life.

In sum, I submit that Barb is an attorney who has handled a variety of challenges and accomplished a great deal. She has the legal talent as well as the demeanor to be an outstanding judge and serve Montanans well. Thanks for considering my views.

Jimmy Weg  
512 S. Roberts  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-465-6717

**KATHLEEN JENKS**  
**105 SOUTHWEST HIGGINS, SUITE 1**  
**MISSOULA, MT 59803**

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September 7, 2015

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

RE: Barbara Harris

Dear Commission members:

I am writing to support the application for District Court Judge submitted by Barbara Harris. I was glad to hear that Ms. Harris had applied for this position because I believe the State of Montana would benefit from her appointment. I have known Ms. Harris for over 15 years. I know her to be an incredibly hard worker, a true student of the law, and an attorney who has an exemplary code of ethics. She is always interested in hearing all sides of a situation so that she can use that knowledge to determine what the correct action should be. As a judge I am confident she will evaluate cases carefully, become fully informed and issue measured decisions consistent with the law.

Ms. Harris also has the advantage of having a great deal of time actually spent in the courtroom trying cases as well as serving as an appellate attorney. Her depth of experience from many years of prosecuting cases throughout Montana with the Montana Attorney General's office is the perfect background for a District Court Judge. She has practiced before most of the Judges in Montana as well as worked with many of the State's County Attorneys. There can be no better way to learn the values and traits required of a District Court Judge then to spend time actually trying cases. Most recently, she has worked as a law clerk for the Hon. Kathy Seeley, which has furthered Ms. Harris's experience in the myriad of cases that are present in the State district courts. She will truly be an asset to the First Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,



Hon. Kathleen Jenks  
Missoula Municipal  
Court Judge

September 10, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission  
Office of the Court Administrator  
Park Avenue Building  
301 S. Park Avenue, Room 328  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to support the nomination of Barb Harris as District Judge of the First Judicial District Court. My name is Jennifer Anders and I worked with Barb in the Attorney General's office during my tenure between 1989 and 2013.

When I was a junior attorney, Barb helped me with a case that neither of us will likely forget. Our key witness was a criminal defense attorney who had been banned from the practice of law in Montana and was no longer living in this state. The success of our case thus hinged upon our ability to get the witness to voluntarily return to Montana, testify at the hearing, defend his representation of the client, and convince the Court that he provided competent representation at the time, even though his license to practice law had since been revoked.

Through Barb's skillful guidance and power of persuasion, we succeeded in our effort. The attorney drove himself to Billings, met us the night before to prepare for the hearing, testified honestly and persuasively, and did so for minimal compensation (witness fees and perhaps travel expenses). Ultimately, we won the case. More importantly, we won each other's respect for having successfully handled a difficult situation. Barb knew exactly how much force and gentle persuasion to apply to achieve the desired outcome, which was a great learning experience for me.

Barb is thoughtful and hard-working. She is impeccably honest and demands the same of everyone around her. She is a good writer and a skilled orator, and is not afraid to take command of a situation. I believe that Barb's self-discipline is attributed in large part to her study of martial arts. We have both been dedicated practitioners of Hapkido, a Japanese-Korean martial art, for over 20 years. I believe these skills will serve her well as a district judge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

  
JENNIFER ANDERS

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 16, 2015 3:16 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** John Anthony [<mailto:JAnthony@valleybankhelenahelena.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2015 12:07 PM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Barbara C. Harris

Judicial Nomination Commission.....

Please accept this letter as my recommendation for consideration of Barbara C. Harris as District Court Judge... I have know Barb personally and professionally for more than twenty years....Personally I have been her neighbor and watched her raise he two sons to become good young men in our community and the state of Montana...She works diligently at any task you sets her mind to. If ever I had a need for legal advice from some one I always knew she would give the answers I sought. Without prejudice or her own bias'. She exemplifies the adage "that good person is some who is always trying to become a better person!". I do not believe your office would do better than to nominate Barb for District Court Judge.....Thank You.... John E. Anthony

**John E. Anthony** | Assistant Branch Manager | NMLS#613969 | **P:** 495-2556 | **A:** 202-2556

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September 24, 2014

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

Re: Barbara C. Harris

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the application of Barbara C. Harris for the position of district court judge in the First Judicial District.

I have known Ms. Harris for almost 30 years. I conferred with her on criminal appellate matters when I was Jefferson County Attorney, and while chief of the prosecution services bureau of the Attorney General's Office. From 1996, until she assumed the position of bureau chief in 2005, she worked as a prosecutor in my bureau.

I will not use space to detail information that appears in her application. Instead, I would like the Commission to know of her unique capacity to produce quality work under some of the most difficult circumstances a trial lawyer faces. I have tried cases with Ms. Harris and observed her managing them alone, cases involving some extremely complex factual and legal situations, while often contending with difficult and sometimes very contentious defense counsel. She is self-motivated, never shying from a challenge.

For the past 2 1/2 years I have job-shared a law clerk position with Ms. Harris. She handles research and drafting complex civil memoranda with the same precision and accuracy that defined her work at the Attorney General's Office. At the same time, she has done exceptionally well as a special master in child abuse and neglect cases and criminal case initial appearances.

Since so many appellate cases turn on issues arising during trial, having a district judge with extensive trial experience is imperative. Ms. Harris's experience, continuing commitment to ethical practice and work product quality is unmatched. Her exemplary career speaks for itself and merits an appointment to the court.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

John Connor  
1401 Jerome Pl.  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 431-5690  
johnpconnor@gmail.com

September 20, 2015

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

RE: Barbara Harris

Dear Commission Members:

It is my pleasure to write in support of Barb Harris for District Court Judge. I first met Barb in 1993 when I was hired as the Central Services Administrator by Attorney General Joe Mazurek. Since our offices were close by, I got to know Barb professionally and personally during my eight-year tenure. Our friendship has continued to this day, centered around tennis, kayaking and other outdoor activities.

Barb would bring a unique and valuable combination of skills to the district court judge position. Her legal background is comprehensive and impressive. She spent 29 years in courtrooms across this state as an assistant attorney general. She has seen the good, the bad, the efficient and the inefficient sides of the judicial system. Barb also has experience as a supervisor and as part of a management team.

For the last three years Barb has worked on the "bench" side as a law clerk to the Hon. Judge Kathy Seeley and has been part of the inner workings of a district court. She has the ability to strive for the ideal court practice, while being realistic in the handling of cases. With this set of skills, there would be a minimal learning curve for Barb as a district court judge and her efficiency would certainly help address an overloaded system.

Barb's work ethic and moral compass are as impressive and important as her legal experience. She is one of the most honest, hard-working and conscientious individuals I know. There is no doubt that the law would be applied fairly to both sides and in all cases brought before her court. Barb Harris is the whole package. The citizens of this district would be well-served by her appointment to District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

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JanDee May  
1224 South Hills Drive  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-422-5244

# KINDRED BOOKER & CO

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PO BOX 245  
HELENA, MT 59624

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

I am supporting Barbara Harris' application for district court judge. I have known Barb since 1975, when we were both attending college. Barb and I have been personal acquaintances since that time, as friends and parents of children in the same schools and daycares.

I do not know Barb as an attorney, but do believe she meets the qualifications for district court judge. She has been working as an attorney in state and local offices since 1984. She has worked a varied case load, representing both criminal and civil cases.

I do know Barb to be an honest, ethical and hardworking person. She is an asset to the community of Helena and the surrounding area. She understands the problems facing individuals, families and the business community. As she has grown up and lived in the Helena area, she has learned the workings of our community and its government.

Please consider Barbara Harris for application as district court judge.

Sincerely,



Marcia Miller, CPA  
KINDRED BOOKER & CO PC

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# State of Montana



Lewis and Clark County Courthouse  
228 Broadway, Second Floor  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 447-8205 or 447-8209  
(406) 447-8421 (Fax)

## First Judicial District Court

Broadwater County Courthouse  
515 Broadway  
Townsend, MT 59644  
(406) 266-9236  
(406) 266-4720 (Fax)

September 16, 2015

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

RE: Application of Barbara Harris for District Judge, First Judicial District

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of the application of Barbara Harris to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jeffrey Sherlock.

I have known Barbara for many years. I met her while we were law students and worked with her at the Montana Attorney General's office for over twenty years. During her tenure in that office, Barbara excelled at researching and writing appellate briefs for the Montana Supreme Court. She later transitioned to a trial prosecutor position and has tried over fifty cases to juries. She was promoted to Bureau Chief of the Prosecution Services Bureau, a bureau that prosecutes criminal cases throughout the state. She diligently and effectively supervised the bureau of trial attorneys, assisted local prosecutors across Montana, and prepared and presented training lectures to prosecutors, law enforcement and others.

Barbara is currently working part-time as my law clerk and, additionally, as a special master in a program to facilitate the handling of child abuse and neglect cases in the First Judicial District. As a law clerk, she provides thoroughly researched and well-written legal analysis. As a special master, she presides over pre-hearing conferences as a mediator with the goal of reaching an agreed-upon resolution without the need for a contested hearing. Child abuse and neglect cases have been increasing exponentially

Judicial Nominating Commission

September 16, 2015

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throughout the state, and understanding the players and problems involved is critical for a district judge. She is also a special prosecutor for the Montana Supreme Court's Commission on Character and Fitness. She does not shy away from difficult duties.

I can assure the Commission that Barbara understands the nuts and bolts of courtroom practice, and evidentiary and procedural rules. She has a proven ability to think on her feet and exercise good judgment under pressure. Her current short stint as a law clerk has given her insight into the unique demands of working as a judge in a busy judicial district.

Most importantly, I can attest to Barbara's high ethical standards, her career-long commitment to public service, and her ability to handle the challenges of the position of district judge. She is an exceptional attorney and an exceptional person. I wholeheartedly support her application for district court judge.

Sincerely,



KATHY SEELEY  
District Court Judge

KS/tbd

P.O. Box 690  
Helena, MT 59624  
September 21, 2015

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

Dear Commission members:

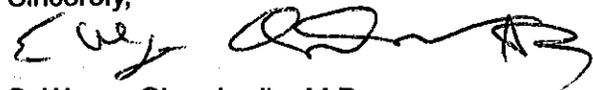
I am writing in support of Barb Harris's candidacy for Montana District Court Judge. I have know Barb for many years (approximately 30), initially through social contacts and bicycling activities, more recently with our work together for a Montana non-profit organization and have, from the start, been impressed with her intelligence, competence and mature deportment.

Barb's legal career is well documented elsewhere. Her professional life demonstrates a great deal of variety—as an appellate attorney, Assistant Attorney General, as a prosecutor, and more recently as a law clerk for Judge Seeley, and more. She has written a legal manual for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks which demonstrates her writing skills-clear, concise and easy for readers to comprehend. She is an experienced and talented public speaker, giving numerous lectures to her professional peers, law enforcement groups and middle school/high school students and she has written documents and presented them to Montana legislative sessions.

I would like to focus on her temperament, demeanor and the respect she commands from others. This is where I know Barb well. She has great dignity; she is honest, considerate of other and listens to what they have to say, she is calm, deliberate and thoughtful. She is decisive and possesses fine leadership skills, as demonstrated in her work as Chief in the Montana Department of Justice's Prosecution Services Bureau. She has a passion for her work but also for her family and friends; she is very supportive and proud of her children.

I know that Barb would definitely be a fine judge for our state and its people.

Sincerely,



S. Wayne Chamberlin, M.D.



COK KINZLER PLLP



WWW.COKKINZLERLAW.COM

MICHAEL D. COK  
TRAVIS W. KINZLER  
JONATHAN M. COK

PHYSICAL ADDRESS  
CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING  
35 NORTH BOZEMAN  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715

PH: 406.587.4445

MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 1105  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
59771-1105

FX: 406.587.9465

September 25, 2015

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

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

Re: *Barb Harris*

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I write this letter in support of the application of Barb Harris for the position of District Court Judge, First Judicial District. She has the most useful experience of any of the applicants. She has tried 55 cases at the District Court level in courts all across the state, as a prosecutor for both Missoula County Attorney's office and the Attorney General's office. She has handled over 70 appeals to the Montana Supreme Court.

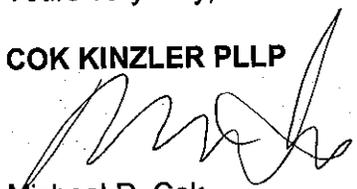
It is this sort of broad experience, both in the District Court and the Supreme Court which makes her uniquely qualified to be a district court judge. She knows what it is like to prepare for trial. She understands how to conduct a trial in a way that does not introduce error into the record resulting in an appeal.

She also knows how to get her work done. You cannot do what she has done without being efficient, organized and dedicated. These traits are crucial to being successful as a district court judge. Many judge's dockets are backed up and behind. Ms. Harris' experience allows her to understand how important it is to make correct, as well as timely decisions on matters before the Court.

Thank you for your consideration of her nomination.

Yours very truly,

COK KINZLER PLLP

  
Michael D. Cok  
[mikecok@cokkinzlerlaw.com](mailto:mikecok@cokkinzlerlaw.com)  
dm1

September 26, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission

C/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

*Re: Application of Barbara Harris for District Court Vacancy in the First Judicial District*

To whom it may concern:

I write to recommend that Barbara Harris should be appointed to serve as a district court judge in the First Judicial District when Judge Sherlock retires later this year.

I have known Barb since 1989, when I worked as a legal intern at the Missoula County Attorney's Office and Barb served as a prosecutor. Between 1990 and 2002, I served as an Assistant Montana Attorney General with Barb. During that time we worked closely together, particularly when we both served in the Prosecution Services Bureau, a group of attorneys dedicated to trying difficult and sensitive cases across Montana. Although I left the Attorney General's Office in 2002, I have remained in touch with Barb and followed her work as an attorney. Thus, I feel very qualified to recommend that she should be appointed as a judge.

Barb is a fine, seasoned attorney. She has significant trial experience as an attorney, an asset that is absolutely critical for a judge to possess. Barb communicates very well, both in writing and by the spoken word, qualities that a good judge must have. Most important, Barb has two innate qualities that cannot be taught or learned—honesty and fairness. Ultimately, parties appearing before Barb as a judge will receive a fair and impartial hearing before someone well-versed in the law. What more could one ask of a judge?

I also note that Barb is a native of Helena. She raised her family in the Helena area, her children attended our public schools, and she remains an active participant in our community. Her knowledge of our culture only enhances the legal skills and ethical qualities she will bring to the bench.

Thus, I strongly encourage you to recommend Barb for this position. I appreciate your willingness to consider my view on this matter.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Joseph E. Thaggard*

Joseph E. Thaggard

Attorney at Law

1111 Stuart Street

Helena, MT 59601

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2015 5:42 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Pamela Collins [<mailto:pcpamelarose@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:26 PM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Application of Barbara Harris for District Court Judge

I am writing to highly recommend the appointment of Barbara Harris to fill Judge Sherlock's seat as District Court Judge in the First Judicial District Court.

I am an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Montana since 1994. Ms. Harris was already working at the Attorney General's office when I started there. I have known Ms. Harris for over 20 years. I worked with Ms. Harris in the Appellate Services Bureau at the Attorney General's Office for several years. I know Ms. Harris to excel at legal research and writing.

Later, Ms. Harris transferred to the Prosecution Services Bureau at the Attorney General's Office where she traveled all over the State of Montana prosecuting criminal cases. Ms. Harris thus has vast experience in the courtroom. From this experience in many different judicial districts, Ms. Harris has first hand knowledge of what works and what doesn't work in the courtroom.

Ms. Harris also has supervisory experience. She was promoted to Bureau Chief of Prosecution Services Bureau where she supervised the work of several attorneys in that Bureau and continued to do trial work herself.

After Ms. Harris left the Attorney General's Office, she took a position as a law clerk for Judge Kathy Seeley, thereby gaining additional relevant experience for the position of district court judge.

I know Ms. Harris to be a dedicated, hard-working, ethical lawyer. She has a good judicial demeanor. She is even-tempered, fair, and is a pleasure to deal with. Furthermore, it is hard to imagine that anyone has more relevant legal experience than Ms. Harris.

I highly recommend Ms. Harris for the appointment of district court judge. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like any further information.

Pamela P. Collins  
Assistant Attorney General  
215 N. Sanders  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 431-1761

**Cook, Kevin**

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 3, 2015 3:45 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris  
**Importance:** High

Debi Corcoran  
No Sweat Cafe, Inc.  
427 N. Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, Montana 59601

Dear members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of the application for District Court Judge for Barbara Claassen Harris. My name is Debi Corcoran and I have known Barb for nearly 35 years as a friend and contributing member of the Helena community. She has maintained an even and unbiased demeanor in matters of family, friends, work and social life throughout the entire course of our relationship despite the challenges of her personal and professional life. In matters of private and business transactions, Barb has consistently demonstrated high levels of integrity and fair-mindedness. The core values of morality, honesty and sincerity have deep roots in her entire family. I have also had the pleasure of long friendships with her brother Jeff and his wife Terri, and her sister Diana and her husband Gary. All of them are solid, hard-working, ethical individuals. Barb would be a true asset and honorable judge for the First Judicial District Court and I give her my highest recommendation.

**GOODWIN LAW OFFICE, L.L.C.**  
**P.O. BOX 1131**  
**HELENA, MONTANA 59624**  
**PHONE: 406.458.1199**  
**FAX: 406.458.9107**

ANNIE M. GOODWIN, R.N.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
[ANNIEGOODWINLAW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ANNIEGOODWINLAW@GMAIL.COM)

October 5, 2015

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

RE: Barbara C. Harris

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Barbara C. Harris's nomination to the judicial position at the First Judicial District for Lewis and Clark County.

I am the Chair of the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Character and Fitness. I have served as the chair for over 25 years. The commission members are appointed by the Montana Supreme Court to review candidates who apply to be admitted as attorneys to the State Bar of Montana. Our commission recently heard a case during a contested proceeding by an applicant who desired to be admitted. Barbara was appointed as the Special Prosecutor to represent the State Bar of Montana before the commission. It was a difficult proceeding with hundreds of pages of documents and testimony. Barb presented the case concisely and with clarity. The commission members were impressed with the caliber of her presentation of the case.

In my 30 years of practice, I have respected Barb's demeanor and professionalism in the practice of law. I have respected her experience and capability as the Assistant Attorney General. She has represented the state in jury trials and also at the appellate level. She clearly has the breadth of experience as a seasoned trial attorney and appellate advocate.

Her record of experience justifies her appointment to the judgeship. Barb has the qualities of fairness, temperament, honesty, and unquestionable integrity required of a district court judge. I respectfully request that the Judicial Nomination Commission nominate Barbara for this important judicial appointment.

Sincerely,

Annie M. Goodwin  
Attorney at Law



**Betty Wing**

2439 Wylie

Missoula MT 59802

[Redpandafan@yahoo.com](mailto:Redpandafan@yahoo.com)

406-241-9170

October 4, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing to endorse Barbara Harris for District Court Judge in the First Judicial District.

I am a retired Deputy County Attorney for Missoula County, having spent nearly 30 years as a prosecutor.

I first knew Ms. Harris as a Deputy County Attorney in our office. She began her prosecution career, as we all did, with Justice of the Peace Court appearances and bad check cases. She then went on to handle drug and Youth Court cases, before moving on to assisting in a brutal rape case and trying her own felony cases. She was energetic, bright, compassionate and personable, having outstanding relationships with her co-workers and law enforcement.

We have kept in touch over the decades, particularly at prosecutor training seminars. She was always eager to learn, grow and improve her work. It is no surprise that she has gone on to do outstanding work in criminal law, and in turn become an instructor at those seminars.

Her work as an Assistant Attorney General for almost 30 years was impressive. She handled complex cases involving sexual intercourse without consent, homicide, elder abuse, fraud, official misconduct, and major fish and game offenses. She competently conducted dozens of these trials all over the state, not an easy feat.

Ms. Harris also handled over 70 appeals in the Montana Supreme Court and orally argued nine of those cases, including one in a death penalty appeal. She handled certiorari cases before the United States Supreme Court and in 1992 participated in a United States Supreme Court case by writing an amicus curiae brief signed by nineteen states and attending the oral argument before the United States Supreme Court at counsel table. Few attorneys in Montana have had that opportunity and responsibility.

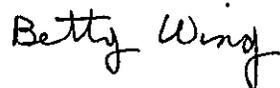
In recognition of this impressive record of work, she was promoted to Chief of the Department of Justice's Prosecution Services Bureau. In that capacity, she shared her knowledge and skill with other prosecutors around the state in trials and in seminars. In addition she gave presentations to law enforcement and judges, all while handling a caseload of her own and supervising the Helena staff.

Ms. Harris then moved into the judicial realm as a law clerk to Judge Kathy Seeley in 2013. This allowed her to broaden her knowledge and skill into the unbiased view from the bench in many areas of the law.

She is now a special master for all four judges in the First Judicial District in child abuse and neglect cases, advancing her experience on the bench. Special masters have been a clear asset to the judges in the Fourth Judicial District for years, and the experience is invaluable as preparation for becoming a District Court Judge.

I am certain that Barbara Harris would be an excellent, hard-working, intelligent and fair judge, and I whole-heartedly recommend her for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Wing".

Betty Wing

October 4, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission  
ATTN: Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena MT 59629-3005

Dear members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to you on behalf of Ms Barbra Harris' appointment for the position of District Court Judge. As the recently retired Law Enforcement Chief at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks I had the pleasure and privilege to work with Ms Harris on numerous occasions when she served as the Assistant Attorney General Prosecutor specifically dedicated to Fish, Wildlife and Parks criminal cases in Montana. She also provided assistance to FW& P in various capacities after she left the Attorney General's Office.

Over the course of the decade that Ms. Harris provided her legal support and expertise to the state wildlife agency, I found her to be one of the most capable and dedicated legal professionals that I had worked with during my 35 years in law enforcement. She was highly respected by County Attorneys, trial Lawyers, and Judges across the state. Ms Harris serves with high ethical standards and integrity, and places a high value on the justice process.

Ms. Harris has shown her commitment to elevating standards and understanding of Montana's judicial process. For the past several years she has given numerous lectures and legal updates to both attorneys and law enforcement personnel across the state. These presentations on criminal law, ethics, and legal procedures have served to enhance the professionalism of our states' law enforcement community as well strive to contribute to a solid and just system.

Montana wildlife law is complex and often difficult to work through. In 2014, Ms Harris assisted Fish, Wildlife and Parks in compiling a case law and criminal procedure compendium specifically dedicated to providing clarity from past wildlife prosecutions and updated legal protocols for wildlife officers in Montana. This comprehensive legal manual provides guidance and information not only to officers and attorneys for prosecutions, but is also valuable to other sectors of the justice community.

Ms Harris' insight into the mechanics of the justice system are reflected in her participation in conducting a reorganization of Title 87 MCA (Fish & Wildlife Code) which was passed and signed into law by our state legislature in 2011. This came about through a formal request from the state's Courts of Limited Jurisdiction due to the fact that penalty statutes were scattered throughout the 87 Code and as such, difficult to locate, define and utilize. To go through almost 110 years of statutes and compile them in a useable and functional structure was an enormous and important task. Without her guidance and leadership it would have not come about.

On a personal level, Barb Harris possesses the right temperament, experience, and dedication that such a position demands. Although a dedicated prosecutor, I found her also to have a strong sense of fairness and justice, qualities that I believe are critical to a person serving in any judgeship.

I urge your support of Barb Harris' appointment for this prestigious position. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 406-465-9806, or [jimkropp@icloud.com](mailto:jimkropp@icloud.com) if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jim Kropp

Randy M. Arnold  
1525 Angelina Way  
Missoula, MT 59808  
406-552-8708

October 12, 2015

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

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have had the pleasure to work with Barbara Harris for the past 15 years. As a prosecutor in the Attorney General's Office, a portion of Barbara's time was allocated to the prosecution of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) cases.

In approximately 1990, I began work as a Criminal Investigator in the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) of FWP. The CIS was tasked with state-wide covert and overt investigation of some of Montana's most heinous, and at times, most difficult wildlife investigations. Barbara Harris was committed to both the investigations, as well as understanding the complexities of Fish and Game law. In her capacity, she prosecuted illegal outfitting, felony wildlife possession, and cases involving the commercialization of wildlife. Barbara often met a critical need for coordinating state investigations while multi-state portions were managed through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Barbara provided annual search and seizure and other case law updates to the entire FWP Enforcement Division. However, it was Barbara's availability for regular communication and case advice that often proved to be the most important. In this role, Barbara provided legal guidance to many game wardens and investigators across the state.

As I transitioned from the CIS to a Game Warden Sergeant in Billings, I maintained responsibility for overseeing larger wildlife investigations. During the seven years I was stationed in Billings, I had the pleasure to work with Barbara on several of the largest wildlife investigations Montana FWP had ever encountered. Barbara was steadfast throughout these cases, despite numerous challenges. Even in the most difficult of times, Barbara maintained a crystal clear focus to maintaining an ethical and legally accurate position. Her principled approach to the law set a standard not only for our investigations, but for me personally throughout my career.

I can say without reservation you will not find Barbara Harris lacking in integrity, motivation, or commitment to the law. I consider myself most fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with her for these many years.

Sincerely,



Randy Arnold  
Regional Supervisor  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

October 10, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission,

This letter is to inform you of the qualities of Barb Harris that I feel are pertinent to her application for Judge Jeffrey Sherlock's position.

I have known Barb for over 20 years. Our relationship began when I became close friends with her brother and his wife, and later her sister and brother-in-law. Over the years, I've included Barb, and have been included by Barb, in our respective family gatherings, outings and important mile marker celebrations within our circle of friends. There have been many of them, and all of them were important ones to those who gathered. I soon learned I had a kindred spirit in Barb because of her love of the outdoors, her love for long walks, and long talks. I haven't ever spent an afternoon with Barb that I didn't come away feeling much more inspired and enlightened. Her world views were always extremely well researched and thought through. I knew I was in the presence of a great mind and have remained in awe of that aspect of Barb. And although Barb had an opinion on subjects, she can relay those thoughts without being pushy or arrogant, and of all her great personality traits, I think that one is the most important. She makes me want to lean in and listen.

In addition to that, she is kind, fair and probably the hardest working woman I know. Yet, throughout her career, you always knew that she never lost sight of the importance of her family, friends, and community. She's one of those individuals that seems to have that uncanny ability to identify and balance all things important, and weed out what is not.

Recently on one of our walks, we were discussing the topic of changes in our lives as we approach an age where some of our peers are considering retirement. "What's next?" I asked her, and without hesitation, she replied, "I never want to stop learning. All of my life, that's been important to me, and I find it even more so now". It was exactly the kind of answer I expected from someone as brilliant as she is. Not remaining involved, not educating herself in the issues of the times, not keeping abreast of the important aspects of the judicial world is simply not an option for Barb Harris.

As mentioned before, Barb is very involved in community, deeply committed to her career, and I know that she's volunteered with non-profits, but I personally respect most her work as a special master for all four judges in the First Judicial District in child abuse and neglect cases. She has a big heart, a great mind and a love of all things good. In my humble opinion, she is the perfect candidate to become a judge, she will uphold the position in highest regard and will respectfully fulfill her duties to the highest honor. I truly believe she was made for this task.

If you have questions that I can answer, please feel free to call me at home at 406-368-2226, or on my cell at 406-431-7512. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to shed light on this deserving individual and good friend. It has been my pleasure.

Sincerely,

Barbara Nye – P.O. Box 455 – Canyon Creek, MT 59633

October 10, 2015  
Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Ms. Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
Re: Barbara C. Harris

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the application of Barbara Claassen Harris for the position of district court judge in the First Judicial District. I have had the honor of knowing Barb for thirty-nine years. From her undergraduate days at Montana State University, law school at the University of Montana and her subsequent movement through the justice system, Barb has always held herself to the highest standards. In my opinion, her name is synonymous with "integrity."

Since 2007, I have asked Barb to teach Search & Seizure protocol to my Forensic Science class. Each year, she captures my students with her relevant examples, humor, and forthright answers. High school junior and seniors can be a challenge to many presenters but not Barb Harris. She does her homework and knows her audience.

Throughout the school year, I invite many members of law enforcement to share their experiences with my students. These include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks game wardens, Helena Police Department officers & detectives, and members of the Lewis & Clark County Sheriff's Department. To a person, they hold Barb Harris in the highest esteem and respect her commitment to justice. The same goes for the defense attorney's I have had as guest speakers; they all agree that "Barb Harris knows the law."

On a more personal note, as a friend, I have witnessed the love and commitment she has put forth in raising her two sons and her passion for the outdoors be it backpacking in the Mission Mountains or cycling across Oregon. Barb is also involved in local as well as statewide organizations that seek to make Helena and Montana a better place. She is a valuable asset to any board of directors because of her intelligence, insight, and sincerity.

Barbara Claassen Harris has the wisdom, experience, work ethic, and grit to be an excellent judge. I urge you to strongly consider the merits of this exceptional individual and consider her for an appointment to the court.

Sincerely,

Jim Schulz

Helena High School Science Teacher (Retired)



JAMES A. MANLEY  
DISTRICT JUDGE



TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
STATE OF MONTANA

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
POLSON, MONTANA 59860  
(406) 883-7250

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

October 9, 2015

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

Re: Application of Barbara Harris, First Judicial District Court

Dear Commissioners:

Barbara Harris would be an excellent district court judge.

I have known Barbara for many years. We were always on opposite sides of cases, some of which were quite controversial and high profile. Each time, I came away with respect for Barbara's professionalism.

Barbara has good judgment, courtroom demeanor and ability. She is intelligent, hard-working and always a pleasure to deal with. She is decisive. One of her best qualities is that she never turns a small problem into a big problem. Her broad experience will serve her well on the bench.

Sincerely,

James A. Manley  
District Judge

*[Faint, illegible text at the bottom of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

Douglas and Marianne Owen  
7655 Chico Way NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312  
October 1, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Menzies

We are writing in support of Ms. Barb Harris for selection for the First Judicial District Judgeship of Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties.

Ms. Harris has been a personal friend of ours for nearly 40 years. We are native Montanans and first met Barb during our undergraduate studies at Montana State University in the late 1970's. Although our professional training is in Engineering and Occupational Therapy, we feel qualified to comment on Barb's qualifications to serve as a judge based on our knowledge of her as a life long friend.

We believe Barb would be an excellent judge. She has the character and personal integrity to carry out her duties in a fair and balanced manner. She has a great personality and is well liked in the community. She has practiced her profession to the highest standards while at the same time managing to have a full personal life and be a great mother to her two sons. Barb has always had a positive, bright outlook on her full life. Having raised her two sons and having had a full and successful career as a lawyer, it would seem the next logical step for her would be to serve as a judge.

The people of Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties would be well served having Barb Harris as their District Judge. We know she would treat the position with the highest concern for doing what is right. As our friend, we have watched her do this over the past 40 years of our friendship.

Sincerely,



D. G. Owen and Marianne P. Owen

HON. JAMES A. HAYNES  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPT. TWO  
BECKY KNUTSON  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



RAVALLI COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
205 BEDFORD STREET, SUITE B  
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840  
PHONE: (406) 375-6790  
FAX: (406) 375-6785

STATE OF MONTANA  
TWENTY-FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
RAVALLI COUNTY

October 9, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
lmenzies@mt.gov

RE: Barbara Harris for District Judge - 1st Judicial District

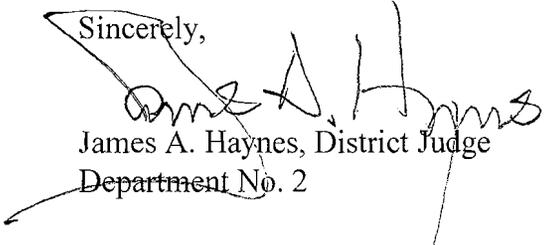
Dear Members of the Commission:

Thank you for your careful consideration of all of the applicants to fill the First Judicial District Court vacancy. This letter provides my personal endorsement of Barbara Classen Harris ("Barb") as the best candidate. Barb would make an excellent judicial colleague.

Being a judicial district court judge requires fair and efficient disposition of a broad caseload which includes civil, criminal, trial, and appellate level cases. As reflected in Barb's resume, she is the rare candidate that has extensive experience and a proven record in advancing the rule of law in all of these four key areas. When she has appeared before the 21st Judicial District Court, Barb has consistently displayed integrity and respect toward the Court, the Court's staff, her legal counterparts, and all parties. Barb's fair and even disposition coupled with her acknowledged diligence (*See* Hon. Kathy Seeley's recommendation) would easily ensure the timely and appropriate discharge of her adjudicative and administrative responsibilities.

Moreover, because Barb grew up in Helena and has lived in the First Judicial District for most of her life, Barb has a significant and historical understanding of local practices and values within the jurisdiction that will serve her well in upholding and promoting the highest judicial standards throughout her judicial career.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Haynes, District Judge  
Department No. 2

JAH/bk

STATE OF MONTANA  
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
MISSOULA AND MINERAL COUNTIES  
DEPARTMENT 4



MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
200 WEST BROADWAY  
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292  
(406) 258-4774

KAREN S. TOWNSEND  
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

October 13, 2015

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

Re: Barb Harris

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Barb Harris as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the pending retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock in the First Judicial District.

I have known Barb for many years, and worked professionally with her in the Missoula County Attorney's Office for a short while, but then when she worked as an Assistant Attorney General when she worked for the Montana Department of Justice. In addition, during the time that I was on leave from the Missoula County Attorney's Office in the late 1980's, Barb held my job for a brief time. Barb's contributions to those offices are truly immeasurable. She brought a degree of professionalism, dedication, hard work and innovation to the two offices. During my years in the County Attorney's Office I found her a resource that I could trust and rely on, valued her judgment and her work ethic. How she got the time to do all that she did I still cannot understand.

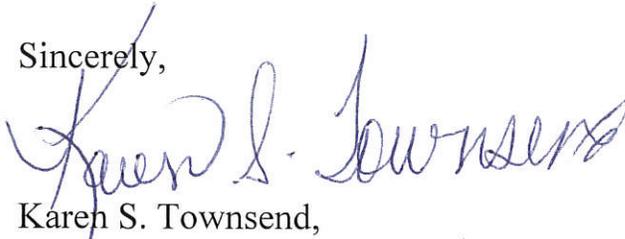
After having the great privilege to assume the position I now hold as a District Court Judge in 2011, I had the opportunity to observe her work as a trial lawyer when she prosecuted a fish and game case in my Court as a special prosecutor. Once again I was impressed with her excellent presentation. She was thorough, professional, efficient and clear, and the guilty verdict is a testament to her work. Since her retirement from the Department of Justice, she has now had the opportunity to broaden her experience by serving as a law clerk to my

colleague Kathy Seeley, and to serve as a Special Master for other District Judges in the First Judicial District. This experience gives her a grounding in both civil law and family law, two areas that occupy significant portions of a District Court Judge's time. The judges in the First Judicial District would not trust her with Special Master referrals unless she understood the law in these matters, was a good listener and problem solver, and was able to demonstrate the patience, even temperament, decisiveness, and compassion that these cases demand.

Now that I am almost five full years into my term as a District Court Judge, I believe that I understand the qualities that a District Court Judge needs. The bottom line is that Barb possesses those qualities: the calm, professional demeanor, the necessary attention to detail, the work ethic, the ability to communicate clearly and effectively in writing and orally, and the organizational skills, as well as having the necessary experience, to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Barb's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Karen S. Townsend,  
District Court Judge for the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

cc: Hal Harper  
Mona Charles  
Richard A. Simonton  
Lane Larson  
Elizabeth A. Halverson  
Ryan Rusche  
Nancy Zadick

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 5:12 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** David/Linda Rice [<mailto:drice2@bresnan.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2015 8:21 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Endorsement of Barbara Harris as District Judge

Dear members of the Judicial Nomination Commission

I write to endorse Barbara Harris as one of your selections to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Judge. I have known her for many years, both as a fellow attorney and as a district judge. She has the intelligence, experience, and demeanor to accept the appointment and immediately begin serving.

I served as a deputy and then county attorney of Hill County for 30 years. Barbara assisted my office as an appellate attorney in the Attorney General's Office and later, as an associate from her post in the Prosecutor Services Bureau. Her research and brief writing were excellent but she was always open to suggestions and questions. In her role as an assistant to many county attorneys, she brought a courtroom skill and organization style that allowed trial presentation of difficult cases that were often beyond the skill of part-time attorneys. She always allowed the local prosecutor to carry a case as an equal partner to assure a case was under the prosecutor's control.

When I served as District Judge of the Twelfth Judicial District, Barbara represented the state a number of times. She was always well prepared and thorough in her trials. Even with our prior relationship as fellow prosecutors, she showed complete respect for me and never lead me to believe that she expected any special treatment. Even in one particular contentious trial, she remained calm in the face of some aggressive trial tactics and exercised superior judgment in maintaining professional demeanor.

I am aware that Barbara has served well as a law clerk for Judge Seeley and I know that the additional experience she has gained in the courtroom from the other side of the bench can only make her an even better candidate for appointment. She is now ready to assume the bench and bring a thorough background as a legal writer and practitioner to the people of Montana.

Please accept my comments and add them to the many others you have received to choose Barbara Harris as one of your candidates to submit to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,

Hon. David G. Rice, Retired  
5304 Gharrett Ave.  
Missoula, MT 59803

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 5:11 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Irene Schulz [<mailto:ducjim29@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2015 1:00 PM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Barbara Harris

I have known Barbara Harris for 39 years. My husband and I had the opportunity to have Barbara live with us while she completed judicial internship in Portland, OR. Barbara is a wonderful friend and we have accepted her as a second daughter to our family. I could not be more proud of her if she were my own. She is very dedicated to the Legal System of Montana. Barbara knows the law of Montana. She is a caring, loving Mother to two sons.

Sincerely,

Irene Schulz  
490 N. Trinity Way  
Sisters, Or. 97759

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 5:10 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** J.D. DOUGLAS [<mailto:j.d.douglas240@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 11, 2015 9:09 AM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Public Comment, RE: Barb Harris

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to provide my recommendation for Barbara Harris as First Judicial District Court Judge. I worked as a Montana Game Warden and Criminal Investigator from 2001 to the present. From 2002 to the time of her retirement, Ms. Harris served as our special prosecutor in the Attorney General's office, handling prosecutions involving our most severe examples of resource destruction and organized criminal activity. I had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Harris on numerous occasions and found her to be extremely professional, ethical and honest in her duties as a prosecutor and courtroom presentation. She has led by example and demanded the same professionalism, honesty and integrity from others involved in the judicial processes. Ms. Harris has gone "above and beyond" to ensure the sanctity of our judicial processes are not compromised. I strongly recommend Barb Harris as District Court Judge.

J.D. Douglas  
Helena, MT

October 9, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of Barbara Harris to the First Judicial District Court

Dear Commission Members:

Although retired since 2010, during my years as a district judge in Missoula I had many opportunities to work with Barbara Harris. She would make a good judge.

Barbara started in the Missoula County Attorney's office in 1989. In addition to her usual excellent preparation, Barbara's opening statements about the purpose of the current proceeding were very clear and short. She was always willing to give opposing counsel wide latitude to present a workable solution to the issue but when their proposals started going beyond reasonable, Barbara had no hesitation to say no. What that says about her judge qualifications is that she knows to listen, evaluate what is happening and set limits on the situation.

After Barbara started working for the Attorney General, we (the judges) were always glad to see her in court in Missoula. We knew the State of Montana would be well represented but more importantly, we knew the proceeding would go smoothly. Barbara was good at communicating with opposing counsel, both before and during the case, and was always open to compromise. Her depth of experience in a wide variety of situations will be valuable when dealing with the broad range of cases presented to a district judge.

What is particularly valuable about Barbara's experience is her work history across the State of Montana. The First Judicial District is unique in that it deals with cases from the entire state involving an agency of the State of Montana. Because in Montana the 'local legal culture' has great significance, Barbara's knowledge of the state, and its lawyers, will be very helpful.

An obvious concern about Barbara's experience is that it has been mainly representing the State of Montana, as if that somehow creates an automatic bias in favor of the State. I suggest it is the exact opposite. Before I became a district judge I was the County Attorney for Ravalli County and was frequently asked that

same question about automatic bias in favor of the government. My reply then, and I know it would be Barbara's as well, was that since we know the errors of our former clients (unadvised confessions, lost evidence, sloppy paper trails, uncalibrated radar, etc.) we demand a higher standard from the State and never take what is presented by the State as automatically entitled to greater credibility.

Oh, did I mention that Barbara has about the best sense of humor of any attorney I have worked with in over 40 years as a lawyer and judge. That type of mindset will be helpful to establish civility among the attorneys.

I recommend Barbara for appointment as a District Court Judge in the First Judicial District.

Douglas G. Harkin  
District Judge (retired)

October 14, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission  
% Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena MT 59620-3005  
[lmenzies@mt.gov](mailto:lmenzies@mt.gov)

RE: Public Comment/Barbara Claassan Harris

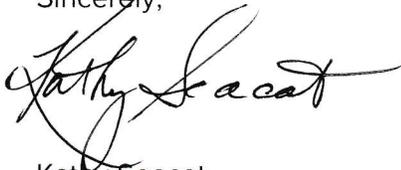
Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Barbara Harris who is seeking the position of district judge for the First Judicial District to be vacated by the retirement of Judge Jeffrey Sherlock. I worked with Barbara administratively, through the Montana Department of Justice, for thirteen years. My various positions with the Central Services Division allowed me to view Barbara outside of the courtroom. She has always proved herself to be compassionate, ethical, proficient and dedicated.

Not only does Barbara have the extensive legal experience required of this position, she has the administrative and management experience which are critical to managing a court. A good district court judge must clearly and concisely communicate, must be unbiased, impartial, energetic and patient. I believe that Barbara possesses these qualities and much more.

Barbara is the total package. As stated in her application, she understands the daily realities of the county court systems and the players involved. She enjoys the interactions with prosecutors, defense attorneys, witnesses, and courts. As a district judge, the people of Montana will be able to count on her to maintain the integrity of our legal system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Seacat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kathy Seacat  
Retired Central Services Division Administrator  
Montana Department of Justice  
3446 Tizer Drive  
Helena Montana 59692  
406-443-6637

Robert N. Lane  
1833 Lupine Drive  
Helena, MT 59601

October 14, 2015

Hand Delivered

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 Barbara Claassen Harris for appointment to the vacant judgeship in the First Judicial District. The Judicial Nomination Commission would be making a wise decision to select Ms. Harris as one of its nominees to Governor Steve Bullock and Governor Bullock would be true to his commitment to seek out the "best and the brightest" by appointing Ms. Harris as the new First Judicial District Court judge.

For a decade, Ms. Harris prosecuted fish and game criminal offenses throughout the state as one of her duties. During that time I was Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and served as the Department liaison with Ms. Harris. In this capacity I had the opportunity to observe first-hand Ms. Harris' skill and dedication as a prosecutor and, equally important, to see the genuine respect and reliance that the Department wardens had for her work and advice. In addition, Ms. Harris was the key architect of a needed revision to the fish and game criminal statutes, primarily in Title 87, MCA. I am convinced that without her knowledge of the fish and game codes, hard work and organizational skills the tangled web of the fish and game criminal statutory provisions would not have been sorted out and combined into a bill that was successfully passed by the 2011 Legislature.

My direct professional experience with Ms. Harris gave me the opportunity to evaluate her abilities and is a solid basis for my confidence in recommending her nomination and selection as a district court judge.

**RECEIVED**

OCT 14 2015

COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

In my opinion the requirements of a trial judge are: knowledge of the law and experience in applying the law; experience and knowledge of how courts function; and, possession of the personal and professional characteristics that best serve a judge.

Ms. Harris' application documents the outstanding breadth and depth of her legal background, including extensive trial and appellate work, starting as a law clerk for a district court judge and a Montana Supreme Court justice, then work in civil and appellate practice, followed by the majority of her career as a criminal prosecutor, and now as a district court law clerk once again. She knows how courts work in all levels of the judicial system. Her application details the quantity of her legal experience. On paper her qualification for serving as a district judge are truly impressive. What I can vouch for is the quality of her legal experience because I have worked with her and know her personally.

I know that Ms. Harris' would be a fair and impartial decision maker because she has the judgment, maturity, and integrity that are necessary to be a good and fair judge. She has a reputation for civility, integrity, well thought out and expressed advocacy, and a willingness to listen. Past conduct is the truest guide to future performance. In discussing with Ms. Harris her desire to serve as a judge in the First Judicial District, I was impressed with her enthusiasm and energy for serving the public as a district court judge.

For all the reasons expressed in this letter, I recommend without any doubt or reservation that Ms. Harris be nominated by the Commission and then appointed by Governor Bullock to fill the vacant judgeship in the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert N. Lane".

Robert N. Lane

## David D. Bohyer

---

3950 Floweree Drive      Helena, Montana 59602-6034  
Home: (406) 458-4843      Work: (406) 444-3592

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

October 10, 2015

Honorable Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

Please accept this letter as my sincere and hearty support for Barbara C. Harris as a nominee for District Judge in the First Judicial District.

I have known Barb for nearly 40 years, first as an undergraduate student at Montana State University and since then as both a friend and professional contact within the Montana Department of Justice and, more recently, the District Court.

As a personal friend, Barb is the type of person that everyone would want as a friend. Being warm hearted, encouraging, always up for an adventure, and a good cook, she is simply fun to be around. When life's challenges have presented themselves she has been a good sounding board, empathetic, engaged, and compassionate, but also straightforward, direct, and honest, even when it's painful--as a true friend must be.

As a professional contact--I have worked in the legislative branch of Montana state government during Barb's entire career as an attorney--Barb has been invaluable as a legal resource and a point of contact with the Department of Justice. Barb, as a law clerk or as an Assistant Attorney General, assisted on or prosecuted scores, perhaps hundreds of cases, many of which involved elder abuse, official misconduct, fraud, assault, sexual intercourse without consent, fish and game offenses, and even homicide. She also handled appeals for many of the same cases, taking at least one appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Barb not only has experience as a prosecutor, but also as an administrator within the DOJ where she served as Chief of the Prosecution Services Bureau and supervised both fellow attorneys and administrative staff for nearly 10 years while also carrying her own caseload and assisting other attorneys with theirs. I believe her administrative experience as Bureau Chief would serve her well as a District Judge.

Over the past 25 or 30 years, I came to rely on Barb in her differing roles within the Montana Department of Justice. When drafting legislation, I often consulted Barb on the intricacies of various statutes and case law, primarily in the areas of fish and game and motor vehicle statutes, but in other areas as well. She typically was able to offer valuable insights, options, and recommendations to me regarding how to write legislation or revise statute to accomplish the objective. In doing so she would help to illuminate for me the pros and cons of various options and how the practical application of a new law or revised statute could or would likely affect prosecutions, defendants, the larger criminal justice system, court dockets, and the day-to-day work of the people involved. On the few occasions Barb felt unqualified or unable to assist me, she was quick to recognize her own limitations and committed to recommending someone who could help me.

I have come to sincerely respect Barb's knowledge and understanding of the law in both practice and theory. She understands that facts and procedures are critical in ensuring that justice is served and she also understands and appreciates that resources, including staff and public and individuals' finances, time, energy, are both necessary and limited, but rarely sufficient.

Given Barb's personal attributes and her varied, dedicated, and impressive 30-year career as an attorney serving Montana in different capacities, I am confident that she would make an excellent district court judge. I cannot think of anyone in whom I would have more confidence to faithfully serve the public and the court system. I also cannot think of anyone with the appropriate experience, knowledge, understanding, temperament, humility and integrity that a district judge should have and exhibit than Barbara Harris.

For these reasons and others, I sincerely hope and recommend that you will nominate Barb to fill the pending vacancy within the First Judicial District and that the Governor sees fit to appoint her.

Sincerely,

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:48 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Ethan Wellenstein [<mailto:ecwellenstein@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:11 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Application of Barbara Harris for District Court Judge, First Judicial District

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the application of Barbara Harris for District Court Judge.

I am an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Montana. I worked in the Attorney General's Office with Barb for over 20 years. I worked with Barb in the Appellate Services Bureau at the Attorney General's Office. As an appellate attorney, Barb wrote briefs and argued cases in the Montana Supreme Court, Federal District Court and the Ninth Circuit. Barb is an excellent researcher and writer. Later in her tenure at the Attorney General's Office, Barb prosecuted major criminal cases throughout the State. Barb's experience as an appellate attorney and a trial attorney make her uniquely qualified to be a district court judge.

Barb is also hardworking, honest, fair and highly ethical. I strongly support Barb's application for district court judge.

Sincerely,

Mike Wellenstein

Assistant Attorney General

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:48 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Ed McLean [<mailto:edmclean64@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 7:29 PM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Re: The Application of Barbara Harris for the judicial seat being vacated by the Honorable Jeffrey Sherlock

Honorable Dick Simonton and Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please excuse my tardiness is writing on behalf of Barbara Harris for the Judicial position being vacated by Judge Sherlock.

I have known Barb Harris for over 30 years and can attest to her high moral character, her diligence and comprehensive knowledge of all the types of practice of law and the expertise required in each. Barb has a work ethic that is not surpassed and brings a diligence to any problem that she is involved with. Her devotion to the law enables her to be prepared for any case not matter how important or trivial.

As you can ascertain from Barbara Harris' application, she worked for the Missoula County Attorney's Office while I was in that office. She had a dedication that made her stand out from several other young attorneys and her success in the attonrey general's office came as no surprise to me as she was always well prepared, considerate and yet a strong advocate for the position she was taking on behalf of the State of Montana. Yet, she was a compassionate prosecutor and was always approachable by opposing counsel.

I believe that Barbara Harris would make an excellent judge and would urge you consideration of her appication.

Sincerely,

Ed McLean  
Retired District Judge

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:47 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Lee Johnson [<mailto:lejohanson6564@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 10:14 AM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Public Comment- Barbara C. Harris, First Judicial District Court Nomination

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for the Application for District Court Judge of Barbara C. Harris. As the Major Case Supervisor of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, I have worked directly with Ms. Harris the majority of my 28-year career. Having served under six Attorneys General, Barbara Harris forged an unparalleled level of experience in legal research, litigation, decision making, appellate review, and supervision of trial attorneys.

Barbara's initial experience as a trial attorney in Missoula County blossomed into a career with the Attorney General's Office where she prosecuted criminal cases across the state. The experience of handling hundreds of criminal prosecutions ranging from complex theft cases to deliberate homicides has been invaluable in understanding the Montana criminal justice system at all levels. She has made a profound difference for so many citizens and families seeking justice because of her fairness, dedication and relentless drive to defend constitutional rights at all levels.

Barbara has tried over 55 complex criminal cases (major crimes); handled over 70 appeals in the Montana Supreme Court; orally argued 9 cases (one of which was a death penalty case); handled certiorari cases in the United States Supreme Court; and in 1992 participated in a United States Supreme Court case by writing an amicus curiae brief signed by 19 states. Aside from criminal prosecutions, Barbara is extensively experienced with civil litigation, working as agency counsel within the Department of Justice and more recently as a Law Clerk with the Honorable District Court Judge Kathy Seeley.

Barbara Harris is a profound leader, having worked as Chief of Prosecution Services Bureau. During that tenure, she led a talented prosecution team with many statewide successes on challenging and difficult cases. I know that Ms. Harris would make an excellent District Court Judge. I have worked along side her in several homicide trials and hearings; having seen first hand the unique work ethic that stretches beyond dedication to the passion required of this important position. Her ability to research and apply the law fairly is unparalleled. I witnessed this first hand when she dismissed and re-filed a homicide case in protection of the criminal defendant's rights. Barbara Harris would be a tremendous asset to the citizens of Montana while serving as a District Court Judge. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Lee Johnson  
(406) 388-1572

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:47 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Jeff Scott [<mailto:jscottmt@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 11:20 AM  
**To:** Menzies, Lois  
**Subject:** Judicial Applicant Endorsement of Barbara C Harris

My name is Jeff Scott I would like to take this opportunity to endorse Ms Barbara C Harris for the First Judicial Judgeship of Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties. I am a retired Game Warden and Regional Investigator for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. My career spanned over 33 years. During my time as a FWP Investigator I had the pleasure of working with Ms Harris who at the time was a Special Prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office. During that time Ms Harris prosecuted a number of wildlife crimes that I was the lead investigator on. These cases were both high end misdemeanor and felony in nature that involved multiple defendants from within and outside Montana. One thing was very apparent when working with Ms Harris, you needed to have done your job at the investigative level. Ms Harris inspired the importance of good case work, accurate report writing, the collecting, handling and preservation of evidence and court room preparedness and testimony. Barb always demonstrated a hard work ethic and was very well prepared when cases went to court. Barb was a very honest, dedicated prosecutor with a passion for what her role in making defendants accountable for their involvement in crimes associated with Montana's wildlife resources. I depended on Barb for her professional advise on many occasions because of her vast knowledge of criminal procedure and the trust I placed in her judgement. Again it is with honor and respect that I endorse Ms Barbara Harris for the vacant First Judicial Judgeship.

Jeff Scott  
Retired Montana FWP Regional Wildlife investigator

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** Menzies, Lois  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:46 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Harris

**From:** Jonathan Krauss [<mailto:13sraleigh@mt.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015 8:52 PM  
**To:** 'mtsupremecourt@mt.gov' <[mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)>  
**Subject:** Nomination of Barb Harris for First Judicial District Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission: Though my wife, Ann Mary Norton, and I are relative newcomers to this State and this valley, we have come to know and love Barb for the tireless public servant she has been for decades and for the wonderful person we have come to know over the past few years. She was always a trusted colleague and will always be a friend. I first truly met Barb at a softball game between the Montana Attorney General's office and the Montana Supreme Court in the summer of 2006. While her play perhaps was not what it once was—whose was, really?—her outspoken fairness and esprit de corp were what stick in my mind. As I came to work with her at the AG's office—she as a prosecutor and I as a criminal appellate lawyer—Barb's qualities as a dedicated public servant, a forthright judge of character, a defender of the public interest, and a knowledgeable lawyer were evident every day. We developed a good working relationship and exchanged ideas, legal theories, and strategies in her cases and in mine. I could always trust Barb to push the discussion—no matter the issue—to the right outcome for the people of the State of Montana, within legal and ethical boundaries, with respect for the rule of law, with respect for opposing counsel, and with respect for the constitutional rights of the accused or the convicted. Barb can get to the issue and is decisive. She is loyal, ethical, and committed to the public good. She will speak her mind, and will consider all sides, but she does not suffer fools. As a citizen of the State and of Helena, as an attorney for the State in serious criminal and constitutional matters, and as a friend I would be honored to know that the Honorable Judge Barbara Harris sat on the bench in this jurisdiction and there rendered her clear-eyed and heartfelt justice on behalf of the People. Please consider our hearty endorsement for Barb's nomination to this position.

Jonathan M. Krauss  
Ann Mary Norton  
13 S Raleigh St  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-457-2373  
[13sraleigh@mt.net](mailto:13sraleigh@mt.net)