

Montana Judicial Nominating Commission
301 So. Park Avenue
Helena Mt

19998 Reber Road
Helena, MT 59620
September 10, 2015

Dear Commission Members:

We have learned of the application of Mike McMahon for the position of District Court Judge of Lewis and Clark County. Since we have known Mike for a number of years and think highly of him, we would like to share with the commission our estimation of this fine man. We are writing without either the knowledge or request of Mike.

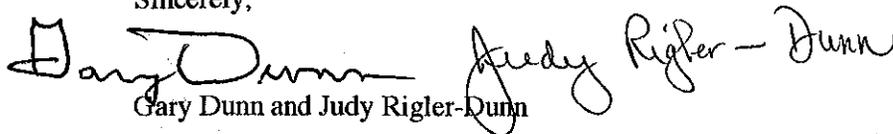
Mike and I have shared assistant coaching duties with the Capital High Fast Pitch Softball program for years. We have had many opportunities to observe Mike with players, parents, other coaches, other teams, and officials. In each case, Mike displays tremendous respect, patience, encouragement, good humor, and knowledge. The girls on our teams clearly trust Mike and feel comfortable around him, as do their parents and grandparents.

Mike and his siblings had the good fortune to be raised by parents who expected their children to be the kind of people others respected. The qualities we most admire in Mike are attributable to that legacy set by Dr. and Mrs. McMahon. Mike is an empathetic, kind, fair man who deeply appreciates his family and friends. This past summer he took time from his law practice to coach his step-daughter's softball team. When we remarked what a great thing that was for him to do, Mike's response was that he just wanted to be a good dad. Mike isn't content with just sitting in the bleachers like many parents; he feels he has the ability, time, and knowledge to contribute as a coach, and he follows through. His interactions with the girls and his pride in their successes are all the thanks and pay he needs. Mike is a truly selfless human being; he cares about helping others in any way he possibly can. He is generous with his time, his encouragement, his praise, and his friendship.

These qualities would certainly enable Mike to be an outstanding judge, in our opinion. Mike is held in high regard in Helena; if he is appointed to fill the term of Judge Sherlock, we have little doubt he would be subsequently elected on his own merits.

Mike is one of the most decent and outstanding men we have ever known, and we feel privileged to be counted among his friends. His intelligence, his passion for fair play, his respect for others, and his character in general are of the highest caliber. We urge you to give Mike your strong consideration for this esteemed position.

Sincerely,


Gary Dunn and Judy Rigler-Dunn

September 23, 2015

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

Re: 1st Judicial District Judge Opening
Michael F. McMahon

Dear Commissioners,

I am providing this public comment in regard to Mr. McMahon's application for the soon to be vacated seat of district court judge for the 1st Judicial District. My comment is based on my experience with Mike and it is unsolicited by him or any professional lawyer association, such as commonly occurs in these comment periods.

The replacement candidates for Judge Sherlock have very large shoes to fill as he is widely recognized as one of the top jurists in the state. Judge Sherlock's opinions are well-researched, well-reasoned and thoroughly consider all arguments presented to him. Even when he ruled against my client, I held Judge Sherlock's decisions in high regard and found he treated each party and their attorney with respect, just as the public expects from the judicial system. I have the fullest confidence that Mr. McMahon will do the same.

My familiarity with Mr. McMahon stems back to my time spent in private practice for a major civil litigation firm. During that time, due to an unfortunate mistake on my part, I had need for legal representation for myself and I inquired of colleagues as to who would be the best attorney to represent me. The most commonly referred attorney was Mike McMahon.

In the course of his representation, Mike provided me well-reasoned, professional advice, was very diligent in communicating and returning my calls, thoroughly researched and presented a strong argument which eventually resulted in the best result for me as his client and the dismissal of a subsequent claim.

With Mike, I could always trust that he would tell me the truth about the strength of our position, as well as the weaknesses. His calm demeanor and diligent approach to litigation will continue to serve him well and the professionalism he demonstrates to opposing counsel, all litigants as well as the judiciary will quickly earn the respect of all

who appear before him. With a strong work ethic, Judge McMahon will run a tight docket and expect the same from the attorneys that appear before him.

I am also aware of Mike's strong commitment to his family, his community and to the legal profession. His character and integrity is unquestioned and when he states in his application that this is an opportunity for him to give back, he truly means it and is his primary motivation.

Judge Sherlock will be hard to replace, but there is no one better to do so than Mr. McMahon. As mentioned above, I am not writing this comment at the request of anybody or any organization and instead decided to provide this comment because of my deep belief there is no one better suited in the entire state for this position.

I most strongly support Michael McMahon in his application for 1st Judicial District Judge.

Sincerely,



Christian T. Nygren
Associate General Counsel

TALEFF LAW OFFICE, P.C.

300 River Drive North, Suite 5
P. O. Box 609
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 761-9400
Fax: (406) 761-9405
E-mail: mail@talefflaw.com

ATTORNEYS:
Ward E. "Mick" Taleff
Connor J. Murphy

PARALEGAL:
Karen L. Engman

LEGAL ASSISTANT:
Kristin L. Van Every

Our File: MI25-01

October 12, 2015

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

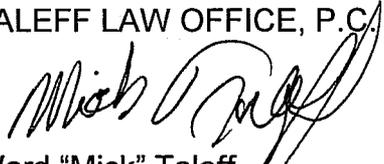
Re: Montana First Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Lois and Commission Members:

I am confident you are inundated with letters and contacts in support of a particular candidate or candidates for the person who will succeed Judge Jeff Sherlock when he retires at the end of this year. While I am not familiar with all of the candidates and many are undoubtedly worthy, I am very familiar with Mike McMahon. I have known Mike for many years. I have acted as a mediator in numerous cases in which Mike has been involved and he frequently appears before the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Practice, of which I currently have the honor to be Chairman. In all aspects of his practice Mike has always demonstrated a superb sense of the law, loyalty to his clients and, above all in my opinion, respect for the law and its process. You could not find a candidate better suited to become a judge or who I could more fully support for this important position than Mike. I sincerely hope that you include his name in those submitted to the Governor for consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

TALEFF LAW OFFICE, P.C.


Ward "Mick" Taleff
Direct Phone: (406) 761-9415

WET/kle



STRAUCH
LAW FIRM

STRAUCH LAW FIRM, PLLC
257 West Front Street, Suite A
Missoula, Montana 59802

Phone (406) 532-2600

Fax (406) 542-3332

tstrauch@strauchlawfirm.com

Lawyer for the long run.

October 12, 2015

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

***Re: Montana First Judicial District Court Vacancy - Applicant
Michael F. McMahon***

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my strong recommendation for the submission of Mike McMahon's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana First Judicial District Court to fill the vacant seat being created by the retirement of the Honorable Judge Jeffrey M. Sherlock.

I have known Mike for a very long time as a friend, counselor, and worthy adversary in many cases. As a friend, he is loyal and trustworthy. I count on Mike like a brother. As a counselor, he always provides candid, independent, frank, plain, and practical, "kitchen table" consultation and honest advice. As an adversary, he is prepared, tenacious, and an absolute straight shooter. Mike has never played games with me or anyone else I know, in any aspect of his life. Mike is a man of impeccable integrity, ethics, and high moral character.

Please keep in mind that Mike and I as lawyers have mostly been adversaries. He has always represented his client against mine with vigor and passion. At the same time, he has always been honest, fair, and professional. The Panel no doubt has other candidates who are well-qualified to analyze and decide cases and to write cogent opinions explaining their rationale. And Mike is definitely one of them. But I cannot stress this enough – Mike is intellectually honest and he is one of the hardest workers I know. Both qualities make him the best candidate for this job.

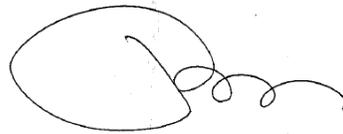
On a more personal level, Mike is one of the kindest, gentlest, and most

selfless human beings I know. He has been there for family, friends, and community. He is a devoted husband, father, coach, and community volunteer.

Please give your most serious consideration to Mike's application. I believe he has earned a recommendation by your Commission to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Court.

If there is anything further I might provide, please feel free to contact me directly. Again, thank you for your important work and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy B. Strauch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "S".

Timothy B. Strauch

LUXAN & MURFITT

PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MONTANA CLUB BUILDING • 24 W. SIXTH AVE., 4TH FLOOR
P.O. BOX 1144 • HELENA, MONTANA 59624

(406) 442-7450
FAX (406) 442-7361

Gregory G. Gould
ggould@luxanmurfitt.com

JEFFREY R. GLOVAN
GREGORY G. GOULD
TOM K. HOPGOOD, OF COUNSEL
MARK I. LANCASTER
KELTON D. OLNEY
CANDACE C. PAYNE
DALE E. REAGOR, OF COUNSEL

—
GARY L. DAVIS (1940-2011)
WALTER S. MURFITT (1930-2002)
H.J. LUXAN (1918-1984)

—
SABRINA C. HALLSTEN, PARALEGAL

October 14, 2015

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

Re: Montana First Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I write to urge the Commission to submit Mike McMahon's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana First Judicial District Court seat being vacated by the Honorable Jeffrey M. Sherlock.

I have known Mike for years, as counsel on many cases, as my personal counsel and as a friend. Mike has a wealth of legal experience, including very considerable litigation experience. Mike's legal work has always been superior. His ability to quickly assess cases and understand the legal -- as well as the practical -- issues of a case is second to none. He explains his positions and arguments succinctly and understandably. He treats his clients and adversaries alike with respect. He promptly returns calls and responds to communications.

Mike is a person and lawyer of the utmost integrity. He has a deep and practiced understanding of the law and the legal process. He is an extremely hard worker and brings a high level of energy to all of his endeavors. He has the calm and dignified demeanor demanded of a trial court judge. He is also one the most giving and selfless people I have ever known. Mike is extremely well-suited to serve as a district court judge.

Judicial Nomination Commission

October 14, 2015

Page 2

I strongly urge the Commission to include Mike's name in those submitted for the Governor's consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Gould", written in a cursive style.

GREGORY G. GOULD

LAW OFFICES

**Keller, Reynolds, Drake,
Johnson and Gillespie, P.C.**

THOMAS Q. JOHNSON
RICHARD E. GILLESPIE
JACQUELINE T. LENMARK
JOE SEIFERT
GREGORY A. VAN HORSSSEN
CHARLES G. ADAMS
SARAH P. LARUE
DARANNE R. DUNNING

GUARDIAN BUILDING - 3RD FLOOR
50 SOUTH LAST CHANCE GULCH
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

MAILING ADDRESS
P. O. BOX 598
HELENA, MONTANA 59624

OF COUNSEL
P. KEITH KELLER
PAUL T. KELLER (1907-2003)
GLEN L. DRAKE (1927-2001)
TELEPHONE (406) 442-0230
FAX (406) 449-2256
E-MAIL: firm@kellerlawmt.com

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: First Judicial District Vacancy, September 2015
Michael F. McMahon

Dear Commission Members:

I write this letter in hearty unsolicited support of the Commission's nomination of Michael F. McMahon for appointment to the vacancy created by Hon. Jeffrey Sherlock's retirement from the First Judicial District Court. You have before you a long list of qualified candidates. Of them, Mike McMahon is the most suited to serving the litigants and their advocates in this Judicial District.

I have known and practiced with Mike, as cocounsel, adversary, and mediator, for more than a decade in a broad range of cases—class actions, complex transactional matters, family law, civil litigation. Mike's experience is vast. This can be said about others on your list of candidates, however.

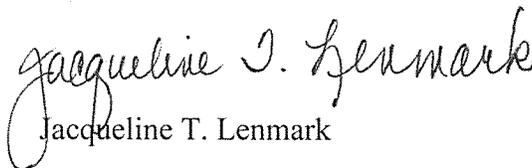
Two qualities set Mike apart and above the others. First, his impeccably ethical advocacy is unerring and effective. Mike skillfully advances the rule of law to the benefit of his clients, whether the largest corporation or the poorest individual, with singular attention, uncommon diligence, respect, and empathy. He is an exceptional writer and communicator.

Judicial Nomination Commission
October 14, 2015
Page 2

Second, Mike's administrative and management skills are prodigious. Having observed at close hand his even and insightful management of McMahon, Wall & Hublely, PLLC, and his skilled management of lengthy complex litigation, I can think of no one better suited to maintain and enhance Judge Sherlock's well-run courtroom or to contribute to a seamless administration of this judicial district, which are at the core of a fair and efficient delivery of justice.

For these reasons and for those evident from his impressive application for appointment, I strongly urge Mike's nomination to Governor Bullock.

Respectfully submitted,


Jacqueline T. Lenmark

jtl