

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 3:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Brad Belke [<mailto:b.l.belke@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2016 12:34 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject:

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

While reviewing the Supreme Court's news release regarding the nomination of a replacement for Judge Loren Tucker from the 5th Judicial District, one applicant stood out as the most qualified choice: Lori Harshbarger.

I have worked with and against Lori as a practicing attorney for over 15 years, and I have found her to be intelligent, knowledgeable, ethical, courteous and diligent. She is a fine advocate and counselor for her clients, and an exemplary member of the Bar.

As an attorney, I know that Lori Harshbarger has practiced extensively in the area of family law, has handled major (and minor) criminal cases, and has an extensive background in litigation and personal injury matters. This kind of diversity of practice is critical, as too often new judges do not understand the intricacies of civil litigation or the complexity of family law. Lori's wealth of experience makes her well-suited to serve on the bench.

Lori was born and raised in Jefferson County and her family is well respected in the community. Lori is also extraordinarily active in her community, volunteering at her church and serving as a member of the Twin Bridges School Board.

In the past, Lori has shown an interest in running for judge. And knowing her reputation amongst the local judges, attorneys, and the residents of the 5th District, I suspect she would be elected in a landslide. Judge Tucker has done a fine job for the 5th District, and Lori is easily the best choice to fill the vacancy he leaves.

Brad L. Belke
Attorney at Law
Butte, Montana

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Laura Christoffersen [<mailto:2laurac@nemont.net>]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2016 7:44 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Lori Harshbarger
Subject: Lori Dwyer Harshberger/5th Judicial District

Dear Nomination Committee,

I highly recommend Lori Dwyer Harshberger for the position being vacated by Judge Loren Tucker. Lori hails from a ranching family in the judicial district. She attended Montana State University in pre-med which is where I became acquainted with her. She was a premier student. After college graduation, she married and eventually changed her career choice to the law. She attended law school in Texas and then moved home to the 5th Judicial District where she has practiced law in Montana for many years. She is a lawyer who has been involved in a general practice which I believe is well suited to the position of district judge. She is as adept at real estate transactions as she is at insurance defense work. Lori is an even-tempered person who will be a credit to the bench.

Lori possesses the attributes that are required for the bench in a rural judicial district. She is familiar with the people and the customs and also has experience in nearly every facet of the law.

I recommend Lori for the position of District Judge without any reservations whatsoever. She receives my highest recommendation.

Laura Christoffersen
Christoffersen & Knierim, P.C.
PO Box 650
Culbertson, MT 59218
(406)787-5700
(406)787-5842
2laurac@nemont.net

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 9, 2016 11:29 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Camilla Millie Baycroft [<mailto:billandmill@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 07, 2016 4:13 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission

Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administration

Dear Ms. Menzies,

I write this in support of Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for the position of 5th Judicial District Court Judge for Madison, Jefferson, and Beaverhead counties, which was vacated by Judge Tucker upon his retirement. I have known Lori as an attorney and as a friend for over 10 years and she is an upstanding woman with integrity, honesty, and a solid work ethic. I believe she would be a great asset to the 5th Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,

Camilla "Millie" Baycroft
Retired R.E. Broker
PO Box 332
Whitehall, MT 59759
406-560-8119

November 3, 2016

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Please consider my comments for Lori Ann Harshbarger as an applicant for the open seat of the Fifth Judicial District Court for Beaverhead, Jefferson and Madison Counties. I am a rancher in southwestern Beaverhead County.

Ms. Harshbarger and I were friends in college from 1982-1986 at Montana State University. We have remained friends since then. Even in college, I knew Lori Ann (Dwyer) was going places. Whatever she put her mind to, she accomplished. And, she has shown determination throughout her life.

Ms. Harshbarger was born in Butte and raised on a ranch in Waterloo, Montana. She moved away from home to pursue her educational goals in the 1990's. These travels made her appreciate rural Montana, so she moved back home to continue the legal career she began in Texas. Her resume includes many aspects of law and a variety of experiences related to such.

Her experience and rural background make her a perfect candidate for the open seat in Beaverhead County. She has a breadth of experience in many areas of the law and has a depth of knowledge about issues commonly seen in rural courts. In addition, she has the demeanor to handle a courtroom with ease. She can be tough and decisive when necessary, kind where circumstances allow and fair in all settings.

Ms. Harshbarger is active in her community as well. She is a school board trustee for Twin Bridges and is active in supporting the local academic and athletic programs. On a personal level, anyone who needs a hand knows that they can count on Lori.

I wholeheartedly support Ms. Harshbarger for this position. Please consider her many qualifications for this position and select her as a nominee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristina M. Martinell

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

Dear Lois,

I write in support of Lori Ann Harshbarger's nomination for the vacancy left by Honorable Loren Tucker in the 5th Judicial District Court. I have had the opportunity to work with Lori and observe her complex litigation skills. Although I do not know all of her legal expertise, I know that Lori has a very diverse practice. From issues related to estate planning, civil litigation, divorce, family law and water right issues. In my personal dealings with Lori, she has exhibited the highest standards of legal competence and ethical conduct. I have no doubt she will provide the same level of detail and attention to her judicial caseload, if given the opportunity.

Lori's record as an advocate is very noteworthy. Lori's work ethic is renowned across multiple counties in Montana and has long been one of her strongest attributes as a practitioner of the laws. She is a very thoughtful and confident decision maker. Lori is a leader, a community servant and a professional.

Lori not only has intellect, but the experience, vitality, and character to get the job done. Her twenty three years of court room experience and superior knowledge of laws and codes would be of great service to attorneys and litigants of Beaverhead, Jefferson and Madison Counties. I know she would be a judge with competence and compassion, while upholding the constitutions of the United States and of Montana. Lori Ann Harshbarger is the best choice for the 5th Judicial District Judge.

Thanks you for your consideration and for all you do for the commission.



LISA RAKICH
Beaverhead County

Leonard J. Haxby-----



Attorney at Law

PO Box 3662

Butte, MT 59702

Ph: 406-494-0834

Fax 406-494-0834

Email: lhaxby@q.com

November 8th, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Lois Menzies
Office of the Court administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re:: 5th Judicial District
Court Vacancy
Lori A.. Harshbarger

Dear Commissioner's:

I am taking this opportunity to give my support to attorney Lori A. Harshbarger for the soon to become vacant seat of District Judge Tucker in the 5th Judicial District. I have known Mrs. Harshbarger for many years since she returned to Montana after a successful legal practice in Texas.

Mrs. Harshbarger is a native Montanan, born and raised in the 5th Judicial District to a ranch family. She has practiced in this area for many years. She knows the District, its people and lawyers and is well respected. Lori knows the values of all of us in Montana and has always adhered to these values in her legal practice as well as in her personal life. As I stated above, I first meet Lori when she resumed her practice in southwest Montana, having involvement in numerous cases that she was involved in. Lori was always a staunch advocate for her client, but maintained a decency and respect for her adversary and the high standards of the practice of law.

Lori's practice covered most areas of the law and she was a strong advocate for her client, but never strayed from the highest ethical standards.

Lori knows the law and she has dedicated her adult life, as most of us, to love of justice and the promotion of fairness to all in the practice of law. Lori demands the most of her and expects those around her to live up to the highest standards in the practice of law. She is tireless in promoting a legal system that truly serves those before it. She, in her practice, has never lost sight of common decency, stringent adherence to the letter of the law, but a common sense approach to getting things done. She knows the Practice and gets things done.

She conducts her personal life the same way. She is a married woman, ranch wife; has two children, one attending MSU and the other in high school in Twin Bridges. She contributes to her communities by service as Schools, pro bono legal work for those in need, volunteers to needy projects and generally is a person that you can count on, both as a friend, neighbor or simply one in need.

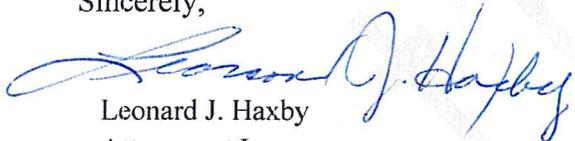
I cannot think of anybody that I would rather see in the position of serving the people of Montana and the 5th judicial District as a District Judge than Lori Harshbarger.

I have practiced law in Montana for over 52 years and as all of you, have meet many fine and honorable lawyers and judges and must say that Lori Harshbarger is one of you that all of us could be proud of to address as "your honor". I know that she would bring to the Bench the highest integrity and respect to the Court and a work ethic that would see that all are treated fairly, with respect and see that justice is meet out with the haste that each case deserves.

Please give Mrs. Lori Harshbarger your attention and see that we in Montana are given the best recommendation for this high post.

Thanking each of you for your time and courtesy and wishing each of you guidance in making this important decision.

Sincerely,



Leonard J. Haxby
Attorney at Law

8 November 2016

Attn: Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator

Re: Lori Dwyer Harshbarger

To whom it may concern

Lori Harshbarger has been a boon to our community both in public practice as well as private. She served at a child advocate for the Twin Bridges school system. I retained her services for a child I had in my custody and Ms. Harshbarger was thorough, fair and tough. She is thoughtful in her recommendations and gives her full attention and energy to her work

I highly recommend Ms. Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District judgeship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Williams-Rash". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Cathy Williams-Rash
Twin Bridges, MT

GAIL H. GOHEEN
Attorney at Law
345 West Main Street
Post Office Box 997
Hamilton, MT 59840-0997

Phone: [406] 363-2722
Fax: [406] 363-7684

e-mail: office@goheenlaw.com

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
[Sent via email to: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov]

November 11, 2016

Re: 5th Judicial District Judge Applicant Lori Ann Harshbarger

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the nomination and appointment of Lori Harshbarger to fill the 5th Judicial District vacancy created by the impending retirement of Judge Loren Tucker.

I have been a Montana attorney for over 40 years, practicing in Hamilton, primarily in the family law arena. While I know Lori has a broad range of experience, it has been in the "family law" context that I have come to know Lori, beginning approximately ten years ago. Our initial involvement stemmed from representation of the same client, and we have since communicated several times over the years about various matters involving legal questions, recommendations, and opinions. We have also participated/attended various "family law" bar seminars and functions together.

I have been struck by Lori's insight, intelligence, resourcefulness, wisdom, sense of fairness, and just plain common sense. I have always found her to be very accessible, courteous, ethical, and professional, with an added appropriate balance of humor and a "down to earth" personable manner.

In short, Lori has a wonderful blend of attributes that would make her shine as a District Court Judge, well respected by not only her peers, but also the public whom she would serve. I strongly encourage you to move Lori's application to Governor Bullock for appointment as Judge for the 5th Judicial District.

Thanks.



Gail H. Goheen

November 15, 2016

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

Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of Lori Harshbarger for the open judicial position in the 5th Judicial District. I have known Lori since acquiring our ranch approximately nine years ago. I have had the pleasure to get to know her both professionally and personally.

Professionally Lori has represented us in a variety of different matters ranging from property purchases, contracts, and a wide range of property related issues. In all instances we have received excellent legal advice. It has been well researched and thoughtful. Importantly it has always come with a practical approach and perspective. We greatly appreciate and value her role as our lawyer.

We have also had the privilege to get to know Lori and her family as neighbors and friends. Lori has always held herself to the highest moral and personal standard. She is actively involved in supporting her community as can be evidenced by her long involvement with the local school board. Lori and her family are the type of neighbors you can count on.

In my opinion Lori's personal and professional attributes would make her an outstanding judge.



David Hoyt
H Double C LLC
41 Judd Lane
P.O. Box 737
Silver Star Montana 59651

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 4:03 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Jerry Sullivan [<mailto:jerry@granitemountainbank.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 10:17 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Ann Harshbargar

I have known and worked with Lori Harshbargar for many years. She has represented our company in many complex legal matters. Lori's skillful representation protected the bank and achieved favorable results. I have high regard for Lori. I respect her skill and intellect. I recommend Lori for the position for the position of district court judge for the 5th Judicial District (Beaverhead, Jefferson, and Madison Counties).

Jerry R. Sullivan
CEO/Chairman
Granite Mountain Bank
Butte, MT

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Jenny Given [<mailto:jgiven@barrethospital.org>]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2016 7:09 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment

To the Judicial Nomination Commission

Please accept my comments and support for Lori Ann Harshbarger, applicant for the position of district court judge to serve the 5th Judicial District in Montana

Lori Harshbarger demonstrates a fair approach to accepting the difficulties of people while still adhering to fair and unbiased treatment of those she serves. Her work with one of my patients was transformative. The family, devastated by internal conflict, met with Lori. Based on the patient report, the time with Lori was not only informative and helpful, it was also healing. It is rare for patient in my mental health practice to have such positive things to say about an attorney. It was not a win or lose situation, but one where Lori was able to educate the client and help them to understand the difficulty they faced.

My personal experience with Lori has also been rewarding. Although I was the facilitator at some trainings Lori attended, I looked forward to her contributions and insight and often left feeling that I had learned something of great meaning from Lori.

Although my professional role does not take me to Madison or Jefferson Counties, I do attend hearings for my patients at times. When I think of the next person behind the bench, I am hopeful for a judge who will recognize the difficulties of mentally ill persons in our community with fairness and acceptance for the limitations associated with some disorders. When I read the list of applicants, I have worked with only a few of them. Of those I have seen in the courtroom, Lori Ann is my clear choice for this County. I like the way she behaves with respect for the people she serves, and this, at least for the community I work with is imperative. In short, Lori Harshbarger is the applicant I would like for my patients to see behind the bench when they present for involuntary commitment, criminal cases, Department of Family Services concerns, or custody issues. I believe Lori will be fair and will uphold the responsibilities as judge with honor and respect.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this applicant.

Sincerely,
Jenny Ann Given

Jenny Given MSW, LCSW, LAC
30 MT Highway 91 South
Dillon, MT 59725
406-683-1183
Fax: 683-9216

jgiven@barrethospital.org



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email message is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact our system administrator at mismail@barrethospital.org and promptly delete this message and its attachments from your computer system.

Leo McCarthy

To: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov.
Subject: Lori Ann Harsbarger. RE %th Judicial District Judgeship



Leo McCarthy
www.leomccarthy.us



Leo McCarthy
Agent

 406-723-3285

 406-490-2739

FAX 406-723-3286

 Visit Leo's Home Page

 Map & Directions

 Access Your Account

15 Discovery Drive
Butte, MT 59701

**CLU, LTCP, LUTCF,
ChFC, CASL**

Dear Lois,

Please accept this letter as a personal recommendation for Lori for her application for the 5th Judicial Judgeship.

I have known Lori for over 20 years and have been able to see her values never change due to outside influences. She has high morals and is uses common sense to many situations with her business and her interactions with many people I know.

Her legal experience is one of precise and helpful support of her clients as well as explaining the law. I have clients use her for many related legal needs and came away confident of her knowledge of the law and precedents that involve their situation.

The current legal system is an amazing arena. I would want someone as noble and common sense as Lori in protecting our rights and judiciously exercising the current laws and rules of our court system.

Thank you.

Leo McCarthy
Agent

Life Calculator
Car Loan Calculator

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Stay Connected:



POWERED BY  BRAND MY EMAIL™

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Patricia Nelson [<mailto:silverstarcrew@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 11:04 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public comment- Harshbarger

To the Judicial Nomination Committee,

As a resident of Madison County I fully support the nomination of Lori Harshbarger. Lori is a thoughtful and intelligent individual and as an attorney works aggressively to ensure her clients are needs are met and fair treatment is received.

Lori has served the local community in many capacities, including as a Twin Bridges School Board member. Even when Lori does not agree with a point of view presented to her, she is courteous and thoughtful in giving everyone a chance to be heard, and takes these comments into consideration before reaching a final conclusion. Her calm demeanor would be well suited for this position.

Respectfully,

Patty Nelson, CPA
5541 MT Hwy 41 N
Silver Star, MT

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Sam Novich [<mailto:sam.townoftb@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, November 17, 2016 2:25 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Lori Harshbarger
Subject: Letter of support for Lori Harshbarger

I am giving my support to Lori Harshbarger to be a replacement for Judge Loren Tucker. I have interacted with Lori on a personal and professional level and feel that she is a perfect fit for this position.

Lori is a native to Montana, but has also experienced other parts of the United States. She has not only been licensed to practice law in other States besides Montana, but she has lived there as well. This experience has helped make Lori the lawyer she is today and allows her to bring a vast amount of knowledge to this position and her career as a lawyer.

The people of the 5th Judicial Court would not be let down by her honesty, fairness, and understanding. Lori has proven her character and ability to be an honest, fair, and understanding individual by the way she practices law and the way she lives her own life.

This is why I can without any hesitation give my support to Lori Harshbarger for the position of a Judge for the 5th Judicial Court. Sam Novich

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 3:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Bernard McCarthy [<mailto:BernMac55@outlook.com>]
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2016 12:05 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,; McLaughlin, Beth
Subject: Fifth Judicial District Judicial Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Lori Dwyer Harshbarger in support of her application for the vacant position of the Fifth Judicial District judgeship. I have known Ms. Harshbarger professionally and personally for a number of years. She is extremely personable, professional and competent. Ms. Harshbarger has practiced law around Southwest Montana, but more importantly to me, she has practiced in all the counties of the Fifth Judicial District. She was raised in the area, and lives there as part of the ranching community near Waterloo. She is a part of the fabric of the community and is intimately familiar with the issues that would face people in the District. As a Judge I would expect her to exercise the same level of high competence and professionalism I have seen her exercise in her practice and her private life. I highly recommend Ms. Harshbarger in her application to fill the Judicial vacancy.

Bernard F. McCarthy
3123 Bayard Street
Butte, Montana 50701
bernmac55@outlook.com

Myles W. Carpenter, Sr. and Ann E. Palmer
PO Box 105, Whitehall, MT 59759
Phone/Cell: 406.490.1558

November 17, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission

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

**RE: Lori Ann Harshbarger,
5th Judicial District Judge Applicant**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We take great pleasure in commenting on our friend whom we have known her entire life, Lori Ann Harshbarger for 5th Judicial District Judge.

Let me begin with her respected parents, Larry & Marlene Dwyer who were hard working citizens of the State of Montana, teaching high school, Butte Metals Bank Loan Officer, Realtor and Ranchers. They brought Lori Ann up in the rich environment of ranching in the Waterloo/Jefferson Valley where Lori attended Twin Bridges High School. She graduated from MSU and furthered her education in the medical field. After reconsidering her occupation, she married, had two children and entered law school finishing up with her degrees from Texas (1993), Helena (1999) and Arizona (2005). During this process both parents had passed and at a young age she shared the responsibilities of owning a ranch in Waterloo with her younger brother, John Dwyer.

Lori pursued her law degree setting up a practice in Butte and then moving it to the Whitehall/Waterloo area. For more than 23 years she has devoted her career life practicing law and her personal life raising two sons, with her husband, Raymond, whom together continue to ranch. Lori Ann was born in the 20th Century and is invigorated by the 21st Century.

Lori Ann understands the "big picture" here in Montana but is grounded enough to know the basics of the people. She works hard, knows the law, has had many experiences learning the system, is extremely ethical, valued in her community and respected by her peers. Lori Ann is the perfect candidate for the position of 5th Judicial District Judge because she knows how to deal with the people fairly in this great State of Montana.

We recommend Lori Ann Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District Judge!

Respectively submitted,


Myles W. Carpenter


Ann E. Palmer



NORDHAGEN COURT REPORTING

CANDI NORDHAGEN

*1734 Harrison Avenue
Butte, Montana 59701
(406) 494-2083*

*Registered Professional Reporter
Conference Room
1734 Harrison Avenue*

November 21, 2016

My name is Candi Nordhagen. I've come to know Lori Harshbarger when she hired my court reporting firm to take depositions for her. We've had the pleasure of working with her for 20-plus years and in that time have seen the work she performs in a professional setting.

A few qualities stand out to me. First, she is always prepared and eager to perform her job well. She does not cut corners, is organized, and is engaged in the deposition whether she is asking questions or representing the deponent. She is competent and detail-oriented.

Second, she is respectful. She is respectful to opposing attorneys and to witnesses. A court reporter fills a supportive role in depositions. She is always eager to see me, acknowledges the hard work I perform and long hours I put in, and has without fail treated me with respect.

Last, she is a pleasure to be around. Her sense of humor keeps the conversation light, but is tempered by wisdom - she does not add unnecessary levity if the situation is solemn.

Without hesitation, I recommend her to be appointed as Judge in the Fifth Judicial District Court. If you have any follow-up questions, please feel free to call me at 406-494-2083.

Sincerely,

Candi Nordhagen
Candi Nordhagen

Twin Bridges Public Schools

ELDON C. JOHNSON, Superintendent
JOYANN BREAKALL, District Clerk
TAMMY DEMIEN, Elementary Principal

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7, MADISON COUNTY
P.O. Box 419, 216 West 6th Avenue
TWIN BRIDGES, MONTANA 59754
Phone (406) 684-5656
FAX: (406) 684-5458

ALLISON WENTZEL
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

November 21, 2016

To Whom It May Concern;

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Lori Harshbarger who has applied for District Court Judge for the 5th Judicial District. I live in Madison County and have worked with Mrs. Harshbarger for the last 5 years as she has served as a Trustee on the Twin Bridges School Board.

One of Mrs. Harshbarger's greatest qualities as a Trustee has been her ability to analyze every issue we have dealt with and explain the principles involved. We have had financial struggles that she has assisted in pulling us through; promoted educational programs that have had tremendous educational benefits for our students; and serious enrollment issues we had with troubled juvenile delinquents. Mrs. Harshbarger has served on the Policy Committee. Her legal expertise has guided the school board in establishing a variety of Board Policies that protect and strengthen the school. Mrs. Harshbarger is straight forward in communicating values that that under lie many of the issues we deal with. She has the ability to evaluate a variety of aspects of an issue and then focus on the greatest needs. I always trust her wise counsel and the decisions she makes.

As a judge she would deal with such a wide variety of cases. She is a hard worker and does her homework in studying a problem and then coming to a fair decision. She is well versed in the law. She has a firm and compassionate nature. I feel that she would balance her decisions with a mixture of justice and mercy working for the betterment of all people involved. For example I have a friend who was involved in a difficult divorce; she represented him and helped get the dispute resolved fairly for all parties.

Mrs. Harshbarger has roots here in the valley and understands maintaining the heritage and personality that has made this a wonderful corner of the state. She is highly respected and liked in the county. She is progressive in accepting change but not at the risk of destroying the fundamental values and goodness that is here.



I have my Masters in Speech and Interpersonal Communication. Mrs. Harshbarger has exceptional speaking and communication skills which is also vital in executing the law and serving people. She is a good listener, an essential skill in decision making.

I hope you will highly consider Mrs. Harshbarger for this position. She would be an exceptional Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyann Lott Breakall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joyann Lott Breakall
District Clerk
Twin Bridges School

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

November 19, 2016

Re: Lori Ann Harshbarger

To whom it may concern:

It is my privilege to have known Lori Ann Harshbarger for the last 35 years. We were college roommates all 4 years at Montana State University, and have never grown apart. Lori has always been a good friend and she plays an important part in the lives of her family and community members.

She is a compassionate, loyal and honest person who I highly recommended for the judgeship. Lori's many years of private law practice and diversity in the court system make her a great choice for the position. She is an extremely hard worker, smart, level headed and professional.

Lori is a devoted parent and community member serving on various volunteer boards. She has an extremely hard work ethic and would work diligently to see that justice be served.

I urge you to submit Lori Ann Harshbarger's name to the Governor for appointment to this judge position. She would take the position extremely serious and hold it with dignity.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Juli Jo Kelly
Box 188
Ulm, MT 59485
(406) 866-2309

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Chad Johnson [<mailto:cjohnson@twinfalcons.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 12:33 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Nomination for LH

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this email on behalf of Lori A. Harshbarger. She has sat on the Board of Trustees at Twin Bridges K-12 Schools for the past six years in which she continues to use her expertise within the general practice arena to support, create and revise current policy and protocol at TBS. Her expertise has been unparalleled; her knowledge of general law practice and that of school law has made her an incredible source for the students, staff, parents and community of Twin Bridges Schools. She serves on our policy review committee providing a wide array of insight and knowledge in creating rules and regulations that govern our student body and staff; as well as a consistent and fair approach to each and every policy and decision that needs to be made. I know that she has maintained a private general law practice for quite some time; in which she has created and established professional relationships that has allowed her to grow and remain strong within her profession. If the goal of this committee is to find the best candidate qualified for this position, then Lori A. Harshbarger is that person. She is a native of Madison County...her basic understanding of the area is phenomenal. I feel strongly that Lori is consistent, fair, extremely knowledgeable in federal/state law and would best be qualified for this particular position. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 406-320-1662. Thank you...

Eldon C Johnson
Superintendent/HS Principal
Twin Bridges K-12 Public Schools
PO Box 419
Twin Bridges, MT 59754
School: (406) 684-5656
Fax: (406) 684-5458

CONFIDENTIALITY -- This message is intended to be confidential and directed only to the person/entity as addressed above. Furthermore, the contents of this message and any attachments hereto may be subject to the client privilege and/or work product doctrine and should not be disclosed to other parties or distributed/copied in any way. If you have received this message by error, please reply by e-mail to inform us and delete any copies from your hard drive. Thank you.

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 5:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Cronnelly, Julie [<mailto:jcronnelly@trindera.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 10:39 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment - Harshbarger

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please consider my comments in support of Lori A. Harshbarger for the position of district court judge for the 5th Judicial District.

I met Lori in 1982 at Montana State University. I had left the comfort of the small town of Hamilton, Montana and headed to Bozeman for college. I was a little nervous about the big city, and the prospect of being away from home for the first time. The first person I met was a girl from another small town in Montana, Lori Harshbarger. I quickly recognized the values we shared of family, faith and hard work. We formed a friendship that has lasted over 30 years.

As I got to know Lori, it became evident that she was a very driven person. When she set her sights on a goal, she would determine a path for reaching that goal and then dig in and get to work. However, one of the things I most admire about Lori is that if things don't go as planned, she does not give up. She adjusts course and continues working hard to achieve success.

While life took Lori and I on different paths, we have maintained our friendship and have raised our children together from a distance. I have great respect for Lori's parenting style and I believe it says a lot about her character. She raised her children to be respectful, honest, hard-working, and compassionate members of the community – the very same values her parents instilled in her from a young age.

I have no doubt that Lori Harshbarger would be a great asset to the 5th Judicial District Court, and I highly recommend her for the position of district court judge.

Sincerely,

Julie Cronnelly | *Finance Director*
Trindera Engineering

1875 N. Lakewood Dr. Suite 201. | Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
Office : 208.620.3328 | Fax : 208.676.0100
trindera.com | jcronnelly@trindera.com

ELECTRICAL | CONTROLS | LIGHTING | AUTOMATION



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: The information contained in this email and any files transmitted with it may contain confidential or privileged information intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient, please permanently delete the original message and all attachments and notify the sender immediately.

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 5:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Tracy Christensen [<mailto:tracy.m.christensen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 9:31 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: 5th Judicial District Judgeship

I am writing this letter to lend my support of selecting Lori Harshbarger for the position being vacated by Judge Loren Tucker. I have known Lori for a number of years and find her to be honest, ethical, hard working and courteous. I have no doubt Lori would do a tremendous job in this position. Lori is home grown and raised in the valley and has a vested interest in her community playing an active roll.

Thank you for your consideration of Lori Harshbarger

Tracy Christensen
2497 MT HWY 287
Sheridan, MT 59749

A. CLIFFORD EDWARDS
ROGER W. FRICKLE
TRIEL D. CULVER *
A. CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS
JACKIE S. SHIELDS **
JOHN W. EDWARDS
JARED C.B. FRICKLE

* ALSO ADMITTED IN NORTH DAKOTA
** ALSO ADMITTED IN WYOMING



1648 POLY DRIVE, SUITE 206
BILLINGS, MT 59102-1704
406 / 256-8155
FAX 406 / 256-8159
1-800-556-8155
www.edwardslawfirm.org

November 23, 2016

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

SENT VIA EMAIL (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov) and U.S. MAIL

RE: Lori Ann Harshbarger

To Whom It May Concern:

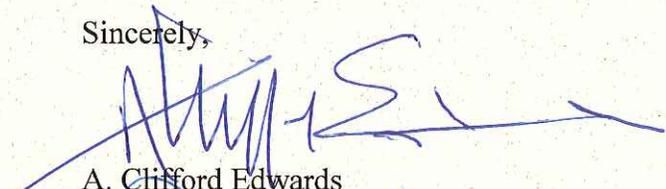
Our firm, and me personally, have known and worked with Lori for about fifteen years.

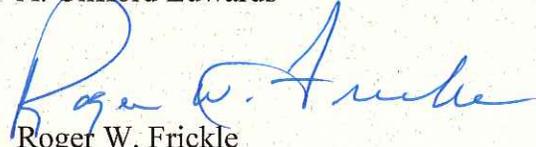
She first associated us on a complex and significant case that together with her input, work, and insight, a very favorable result for our badly damaged client was obtained.

Thereafter, she ran a branch office we operated in Butte for a period of time. In short, we had a lengthy association with her and always found her to be diligent, thoughtful and prompt in completing her work.

We believe Lori would make an excellent Judge, exercise sound judgment while applying the law, and would be a very positive addition to our Montana Judiciary.

Sincerely,


A. Clifford Edwards


Roger W. Frickle

Alexander Blewett III
SCHOOL OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



Gregory S. Munro
Professor
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812-6552
(406) 243-6745
greg.munro@umontana.edu

November 23, 2016

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

Re: 5th Judicial District Court nominee, Lori Harshbarger

Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I write to recommend attorney Lori Harshbarger for the 5th^h Judicial District judgeship being vacated by Judge Loren Tucker. I have known Lori for many years through the Montana Trial Lawyers Association and have had a chance to consult with her for some time on a very significant and high stakes case in which she obtained a fine result for her clients.

My observation of Lori is that she is an experienced courtroom lawyer who is very competent and intelligent. She has good judgment, and works well with others. She is a hard worker, disciplined and can deal with complex matters. I think she is respectful of others and would have judicial temperament.

Overall, I think Lori has the qualifications, values and personal character to be a good State District Court judge for Montana. I recommend you include her in the short list you submit to the Governor.

Thank you for considering my input on this important judicial position.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Munro
Professor Emeritus

SHIMIZU & ASSOCIATES

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

NAOKO G. SHIMIZU, ESQ.

GUAM OFFICE:
SUITE 102 DE LA CORTE BUILDING
167 EAST MARINE CORPS DRIVE
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
671.727.7793

NEBRASKA OFFICE:
10115 NANTUCKET WAY, UNIT K
BELLEVUE, NE 68123
617.750.3552
nshimizu@shimizulaw.com

November 20, 2016

Via Email Transmission: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Lori A. Harshbarger, J.D.

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to convey my support for Attorney Lori Ann Harshbarger in regard to her application to be nominated for district court judge for the 5th Judicial District to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Loren Tucker. I first met Attorney Harshbarger in law school and have had the privilege to call her my friend for over 26 years. Accordingly, I am in a unique position to provide the Commission with an accurate assessment of her character.

Pursuant to the American Bar Association, judicial temperament means that a judge exhibits "compassion, decisiveness, open-mindedness, sensitivity, courtesy, patience, freedom from bias and commitment to equal justice." Attorney Harshbarger possesses each of those traits. She attended law school full-time while working at nights to supplement her expenses. Despite her busy schedule she always made time for other students in need and lead our study group every day making certain that we all succeeded. She was and still is a true leader constantly striving to better herself for the benefit of her family, friends and community.

For the past 26 years, Attorney Harshbarger has been a loyal, kind, dependable and supportive friend who has the ability to listen and express her opinion without being critical. It is her excellent record as an attorney as well as her quality as an outstanding mother, wife, daughter, sister and friend that makes her an excellent candidate for the district court judge position.

Based on the foregoing I am confident that Attorney Harshbarger will be an asset to the 5th Judicial District as its new district court judge. Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Attorney Harshbarger.

Respectfully,

**SHIMIZU & ASSOCIATES
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION,**

By:



NAOKO G. SHIMIZU
Attorney at Law.

Joseph J Willauer
PO Box 546
Twin Bridges, MT
59754

November 27, 2016

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Lori A. Harshbarger for the position of district court judge for the 5th Judicial District. She is an intelligent, fair and ethical attorney who would be an excellent choice to serve in the 5th District. I have worked with Lori in various environments both on a professional and personal level.

As a member of the Twin Bridges Town Council I have worked with Lori for nearly 4 years as the community's attorney. She has worked diligently to ensure that the community is represented in all of our legal dealings, comes prepared to all of our meetings and is readily available for counsel when the community needs her. I have witnessed her work to be consistent, strong and that she holds herself as well as those around her to high standards.

Lori's commitment to our community extends beyond being our city attorney as she is also a school board member for Twin Bridges Schools. Her direction on the school board has been fair and she consistently looks to make decisions that are best for the school and community while putting politics and favorites aside. It is my opinion that Lori has done what she feels is right despite popular votes showing she can take a stand for what she believes in.

I trust that Lori will work diligently as a judge to ensure that the 5th Judicial District court is fair and equitable. I feel she will help to ensure that the way of life we have in Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead Counties is maintained, as she understands the importance of living and working in the 5th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Joseph J Willauer



111 N. HIGGINS, SUITE 600
P.O. BOX 4747
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806-4747
TELEPHONE (406) 721-3400 or 800-337-3567
FAX (406) 721-6985
www.wordenthane.com

DONOVAN WORDEN, SR., 1892-1967
DONOVAN WORDEN, JR., 1918-2001
JEREMY G. THANE, 1927-2016

*LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN MT AND WA
**LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN MT, ND, WY

RONALD A. BENDER
MARTIN S. KING
PATRICK DOUGHERTY
W. CARL MENDENHALL
GAIL M. HAVILAND
SHANE A. VANNATTA
PETER S. DAYTON
SEAN M. MORRIS
REID J. PERKINS
WILLIAM E. McCARTHY
MATTHEW J. CUFFE
JANE E. COWLEY
COLLEEN M. DOWDALL
AMY M. SCOTT SMITH
JORI QUINLAN
JESSE C. KODADEK
*CHRIS A. JOHNSON
**ROSS P. KEOGH
DANA L. HUPP
MARTIN ROGERS

November 23, 2016

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

Re: Nomination of Lori Ann Harshbarger-- Fifth Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing in support of Lori Ann Harshbarger as a nominee to the Governor for appointment to the Fifth Judicial District judgeship vacancy.

I can tell you Lori's family has been in Montana for five generations, and she practices out of an office on a ranch in Waterloo, Montana. I can also tell you she has practiced law for 23 years, 17 of those in Montana, in most areas of civil and criminal law. But what I can best tell you is how I became acquainted with Lori and why I believe she would make an excellent judge for the Fifth Judicial District Court.

Lori was retained to represent the victim of a automobile accident, and his family. The victim sustained numerous injuries, which will affect him for life. I became involved as the attorney for his spouse in obtaining a permanent full guardianship/conservatorship for the victim. I watched in awe as Lori was able to take a case in federal court with significant insurance coverage issues and obtain a substantial settlement for her clients. In that case a new cause of action was created for loss of consortium for an adult child when their child has been severely injured, through a question brought by Lori on behalf of her clients that was certified to the Montana Supreme Court.

But more impressive to me is Lori's empathy toward her clients, and her tenacity in representing them. While the case I refer to above settled more than two years ago, she has continued to help guide the family through the difficult post settlement stages.

Judicial Nomination Commission

November 23, 2016

Page 2

I have observed that Lori is fair, treats people with respect, and is able to clearly and persuasively explain difficult legal and factual situations, to both clients and attorneys.

Lori is already rooted in the community. Her family has lived in the area for three generations. She has served as a school board trustee, is involved with her church, as well as in 4H and FFA activities with her two sons, She also brings her experience practicing law in Texas (and is licensed in Arizona), for a well rounded, balanced approach to the law.

I ask that the Judicial Commission forward Lori Harshbarger's name to the Governor for consideration. I further hope the Governor appoints Lori to the position of District Judge.

If you have any further questions about Lori, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gail M. Haviland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gail M. Haviland

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:48 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Hanson Dean & Roselle [<mailto:hanson.7ranch@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:18 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Harshbarger recommendation-5th Judicial Court appointment

TO: Judicial Nomination Commission
FROM: Dean and Roselle Hanson
DATE: Nov. 28, 2016
RE: Lori Ann Harshbarger Support

It is with pleasure that we support Lori Ann Harshbarger for the position of district court judge for the 5th Judicial District to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Loren Tucker.

We have known Lori for many years, both personally and professionally. We worked closely with her family in the ranching business, and we believe it was through those ranch and family ties that Lori learned the value of hard work, integrity and helping others. She exemplifies these characteristics in her law practice and in her neighborhood.

Lori has professionally guided us in will revisions and estate planning for our ranch, always giving attention to detail. She has provided expert advice for us with fairness and honesty concerning water rights and easement issues. We value her counsel and her friendship.

Thank you for your consideration in appointing Lori Ann Harshbarger as the next 5th Judicial District judge.

Dean and Roselle Hanson

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:45 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Twin Bridges [<mailto:townoftb@3rivers.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 11:24 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Lori Harshbarger

As a resident and employee of the Town of Twin Bridges I fully support Lori Harshbarger as a replacement judge for Loren Tucker of the 5th Judicial Court. I have been working with Lori this past year, as she is the attorney for the Town of Twin Bridges. She is enjoyable to work with and listens to what everyone has to say. I have found Lori to be a very patient person as issues do not move along very quickly with Municipalities. I also find Lori to be relatable and easy to talk to when we have an issue. She has been a great support system as I have transitioned into my job with the Town of Twin Bridges, and has given me guidance in several areas where the law may pertain.

Lori is an excellent candidate for this position because of her experience. Her knowledge of family law, criminal law, and municipality law gives her the a wide range of knowledge. This will help her make the decisions on the cases that may be brought before her. This diverse knowledge will also guide her to find and research the answers she may need to help her make tough decisions.

Lori is a large part of our community as she is an active member of the Twin Bridges school district and other organizations in Twin Bridges, and willing to help where ever she is needed. All you need to do is ask. Her ability to relate and be part of the community will also help her in forming the best and fairest decisions for the people of Madison, Beaverhead, and Jefferson County.

I feel that Lori would be a competent, fair and understanding judge. She will know how to make the best decisions for the people in our community.

Sincerely,

Kristi Millhouse
Town of Twin Bridges Clerk
Phone: 406-684-5243
Fax: 406-684-5299

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: This e-mail message and its attachments are intended solely for the addressed recipient and may contain legally privileged and confidential information. Any unauthorized use, disclosure or duplication is prohibited. If you are not the addressed recipient or received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender and delete. All Town of Twin Bridges's emails are subject to Montana's Right to Know Law (Article II, Sect 9 MCA) and can be considered Public Record (2-6-202, MCA) available for public disclosure.

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Stacy AuCoin [<mailto:rivendellsal@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:22 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Attn: Laura Menzies, re: Lori Harshbarger for 5th district judge

To whom it may concern;

I am writing to submit my enthusiastic endorsement for Lori Harshbarger for 5th district judge. She will be an asset to the people of her community.

She was my attorney during my divorce and with subsequent issues with parenting agreements. I have witnessed her in action and observed how she builds working relationships with clients and other attorneys in ways that foster respect and trust. When my former attorney seemed to reach an impasse with another attorney, Lori melted that barrier in a way that allowed us to move forward in the case. She did so without compromising my position in the least.

She has a great ability to understand the specifics and details of a case, but also maintain a very clear sense of the big picture. Something I believe was invaluable in my case and crucial to the work of a judge.

Lori Harshbarger can also be very firm and will speak plainly and directly in a way that is clear, respectful and so refreshing.

She knows how to converse with people from different backgrounds and can explain the judicial processes in a way that is understandable to the layperson. She possesses a wonderful balance of listening to her clients and letting them know what needs to be done to accomplish the goals, or what goals are reasonable.

I trust her judgement. She does not storm in to solve all problems by way of the the courts or other formal processes. She has a strong sense of perspective and appropriate degree and finesse in her response. She cares enough about people to know when to give space for a natural process to unfold, and use the might of the legal system when needed.

Finally, she cares about people and justice served. She is the only attorney I've ever met that told me she wanted me to feel more self confident at the end of the process. She understands what makes people tick and cares about an optimal result which goes beyond the legal functions.

It is this beautiful blend of intelligence, knowledge, sensitivity, firmness, clarity, ability to translate to lay people, her constant grasp of the big picture, and her integrity as a person that compel me to write this enthusiastic endorsement of Lori Harshbarger. As judge she would be a tremendous asset to her community.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,
Stacy

Stacy Montaigne AuCoin, LCSW
Passages & Pathways

Sent from my iPhone

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:44 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: D071296@aol.com [mailto:D071296@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 23, 2016 9:19 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for 5th Judicial District Judge Public Comment

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

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to endorse Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District Judge. I have known Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for my entire life. She is a childhood friend who has remained a trusted and reliable ally. I would like to speak to the character of Lori as I believe I know her well. Lori has always been a hard worker who has been thorough in her examination of issues, philosophical in her approach to challenging circumstances, and doggedly determined to research every aspect of the issue before moving forward.

She influenced my life in a way that set a trajectory for the success of my career, provided opportunities for a stable family life where I was able to grow a successful family. My education became a foundational opportunity that has allowed my family to send my daughter to Harvard and now onto her fourth year of Medical School where she will soon enter residency and become a successful MD. This is something for which I am very proud of as an accomplishment. I have a son who is also taking academics seriously and will soon be off to college to start his life. This would not have all happened without the help and sound advice of my friend, Lori. I was only 18 years old and I came from a local family in Madison County that didn't really understand the value of an education for a woman at the time. As was our family tradition, when you graduated from high school, you moved out of the house and into a job. I moved to Billings, Montana where I started working for a bank. Never having a bank account, or even understanding the inner workings of banking, I made a lot of mistakes and was fired for not being terribly competent in my role at the bank (large bank and I was to listen to the issues, divert the caller to the appropriate officers to manage the concern or complete a business transaction). My family always understood the value of hard work and it was a primary core value, so being fired from a "good job," was absolutely devastating to me. I didn't know what to do with my life at that point. I went to my best friend Lori to tell her of my woes. She instructed me that I needed to go to college. She encouraged the best in me that I didn't see in myself. In high school I had been more of an athlete than an academic. I told her that my parents, (who at the time, made too much money for me to qualify for a school loan or receive any Federal or State assistance for college), would never agree to help me with my college expenses. Lori stated we would go talk to my parents. We had no tradition of college in our family, as my family had always been fairly successful financially in the trades. The women were to marry in the church and raise children. This was not the dream that I had envisioned for myself. That dream was not clear yet in my mind, but with sound guidance from a good friend, it became more clear. Lori prepared a sound argument to my parents and convinced them that the best course for me was to get a formal college education. I went onto college at Eastern MT. college now called MSU-Billings. I worked full time while attending, and my parents helped me financially to get through school. I achieved high marks and a degree which became the launching pad for my career. I now run a Council of Governments for eight counties in Washington State whereby we provide a large supportive service network to older adults and adults with disabilities in their home as opposed to a nursing home and have a continuum of community based services to improve health outcomes and help people remain in lower cost services that is their number one choice, home and their own communities. I was able to understand the value of education and ensured that my children took

academics and hard work seriously. I owe much of this privilege that I have in my life to Lori. This is a core illustration of the character of Lori Dwyer Harshbarger.

Lori has the gift of being down to earth, but should not be underestimated because of it. She is extraordinarily intelligent, hard working and loyal. She would be loyal to the law, fair in her approach and nonjudgmental to the people who come before her. She listens well, and has sound advice. She isn't a marsh mellow, but she is forthright, honest, fair and would apply the law equitably. She wouldn't arrogantly make a judgment but would look at the law and interpret it with complete research. She would weight the changes she would be making in a person's life (both the accused and the victims) with the type of seriousness that it should entail.

I think that you would have a person of fine character, along with uncommon competence. I hope that the selection committee will seriously consider Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District Judge. With respect and kind regard, Lori Brown

Lori Brown
12455 Barrett Road
Yakima, WA 98908
(509) 965-0105

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 2:43 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: McLaughlin, Beth
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2016 8:38 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Fwd: Judicial Nomination Commission Recommendation

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Joe Schlemmer <mttimbercrete@aol.com>
Date: November 22, 2016 at 8:02:56 PM MST
To: <bmclaughlin@mt.gov>
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission Recommendation

Dear Commission Members

I am writing to you in regard to an applicant for the position of the remaining term in the 5th judicial district court.

I have known Lori Harshbarger for over two decades. During some of that time I watched her work tenaciously to earn her law degree. It was no easy task being a single mom to achieve the degree as well as work and raise her two sons. Following that were the years of building a reputation by long hours in someone else's firm until eventually opening and successfully running her own practice. It was a tireless and rewarding and exhausting and fulfilling and to this day successful effort.

While I can describe all the efforts around the law degree and the resulting practice Lori now manages, there are other important issues to consider in the appointment of a person to district judge. Over the years of association with the office I have come to realize the important connection a district judge has to the people of the district. I have had that association from the civic duty of juror to years of appointments of local water commissioners to nearly being involved in litigation of my own. In all of those arenas the character of a district judge affects citizens at a grass roots level.

I could not state the fullness of knowledge that Lori has about law itself. It would not concern me because we live in an era that research is easier than ever before and I have seen Lori research issues. What can't be found in the volumes of documentation are the real character issues that make a judge. Lori has spent her life in this district. She knows the people, not by person but by culture. Lori has exhibited a passion for leaving the situations she has encountered in her law practice with a residue of not only affecting the lives involved but improving them. Lori will not compromise integrity. Lori will not be soft on lawlessness. And Lori has compassion. That is valuable since a district judge has to rightly divide painful divorce issues on a frequent basis. Her agricultural background is also an asset in that water issues and supporting water commissioners is an integral part of being a judge in the 5th judicial district.

I believe you could make no better choice and I realize you have quality applicants to choose from. Lori has the youth, zeal, history, compassion, integrity, and character to work with law enforcement and citizens to be fair and impartial while setting a standard for leaving anyone who enters her courtroom better when they leave. Over the years I have come to regard her as my fifth daughter, a place I would

not put someone in lightly since I set a very high standard for my four daughters and they were raised to be serious, conscientious, and diligent to every task in their lives. Lori has lived up to those expectations.

I am sincerely yours, Joe Schlemmer, 52 Mayflower Road, Whitehall, MT

SARAH J. HUSSEY, CFP®, CFE, CDFATM, MAFF®

1001 4TH AVENUE, SUITE 3200, SEATTLE, WA 98154
321 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 426, BOZEMAN, MT 59715
(206) 963-1755 • (406) 587-5587
sarah@maritalanalytics.com

November 21, 2016

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

Dear Governor Bullock and Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am a financial professional who has served as a testifying or consulting expert in marital dissolution cases for over a decade in two jurisdictions, Montana and Washington State. With honor and without hesitation I offer my strongest recommendation that Lori A. Harshbarger be considered for appointment to the 5th Judicial District judgeship.

Due mostly to the purpose (and cost) of my services, I am hired primarily in cases where significant assets and/or incomes are at stake. In this capacity I have worked with dozens of family-law attorneys, as retaining or opposing counsel, from firms large and small, prestigious and humble. Three years ago, I met Lori through a client who had hired me directly. I did not know what to expect from this rural lawyer in solo general practice, one who had taken over the case from another counsel; in my observation, many successful attorneys are loathe to accept existing cases, not wanting to risk any part of their reputation on the prior work of someone else.

Thus, I was pleasantly astounded as I saw quickly Lori was one of the finest family-law attorneys I had worked with or seen in any jurisdiction. To a greater degree than most full-time family-law counsel, even those in major cities, she showed a complete grasp not only of relevant family law, but of complicated financial issues that glaze the eyes of many experienced and respected practitioners. Based on what I have observed from time to time in court and negotiations, this fact alone - a fluency with finance in a professional where many joke about going to law school because they weren't good at math - should raise Lori to the top of your list for consideration.

I recognize this position will adjudicate many more issues than dissolution. Yet, it is precisely because I observed her expertise in this specific area, while she managed cases in many other areas, that I am convinced of her intellectual breadth and interest in learning all that is necessary to master whatever is placed in front of her. Since our first case in 2013 her name has been on the short list of my recommended family-law attorneys to anyone within possible driving distance to her. This has been true particularly for those clients who might need not only excellent counsel, as all clients do, but to feel a direct, human and compassionate connection with their advocate. Without exception each of my clients who has engaged her, even those for whom an appointment meant three hours on the road, has thanked me, and for a good while afterwards.

In addition to legal excellence and sincere compassion, in tense divorce negotiations I've observed Lori finding, and bringing her clients to, a practical solution that provides both parties dignity without sacrificing her client's legal positions. To me, this demonstrates the central skills needed on the bench - to understand yet keep separate facts and opinions, to weigh competing truths and to find a just solution.

There is one selfish hesitation I have in recommending Lori for the Fifth Judicial District Court bench: if appointed, I will no longer be able to give her name to clients in search of representation. However, the people of this District Court would gain far more from her appointment than I would lose, so I enthusiastically offer my observations and comments for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah J Hussey (signed electronically)

Sarah J. Hussey, CFP®, CFE, CDFATM, MAFFTM

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
510 EAST PARK STREET, SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 527
BUTTE, MT 59703
EMAIL: folaw@flemingandolearylaw.com

PATRICK T. FLEMING
WILLIAM M. O'LEARY

TEL: (406) 723-5600
FAX: (406) 723-5602

November 29, 2016

Montana Supreme Court Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Beth McLaughlin
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
bmclaughlin@mt.gov

Re: 5th Judicial Judgeship

Dear Commission Members:

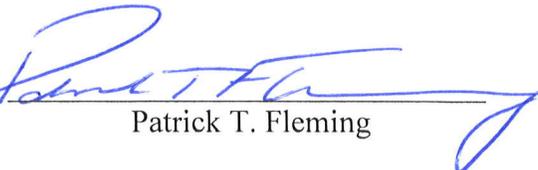
Please accept this letter of recommendation for Lori Harshbarger, an applicant to replace the Honorable Loren Tucker in Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead Counties.

I have had the pleasurable experience of working with Lori on several cases over the past ten years and based on those cases and Lori's performance for her clients, I highly recommend Lori for the 5th Judicial Judgeship. Lori has always practiced law with skill and integrity; she has always advocated for her clients within the bounds of professional conduct and civility. Lori was always prepared, always respectful of the bench and bar, and she always respected the Montana rules of professional conduct. These traits would certainly serve Lori well in replacing Judge Tucker.

In short, I think Lori Harshbarger is uniquely qualified to replace the Honorable Loren Tucker and I can assure you that Lori would not let the Commission or the Governor down if nominated and appointed.

Sincerely,

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

By 
Patrick T. Fleming

PTF/rl

SKAKLES & GALLAGHER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
117 Main Street
P.O. Box 1413
Anaconda, MT 59711

Patrick T. Gallagher

Greg J. Skakles

E-mail-patgallagher@qwestoffice.net

Phone: (406) 563-8409

Fax: (406) 563-8400

Retired

November 29, 2016

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

Via e-mail: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

**RE: Lori Harshbarger
5th Judicial District Court Judge**

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Lori Harshbarger for over fifteen years. When we were young lawyers, Lori worked in Butte and I worked in Anaconda. I have worked with Lori on cases and against her and she has always been an excellent attorney and staunch advocate. Even as a young lawyer Lori was always well prepared and possessed a keen legal mind.

Most important, Lori's diversified legal career has prepared her to step to the next level as a District Court Judge. She has been a true small town lawyer who has engaged in the general practice of the law in every sense of the word. Her daily activities took her from being a Mom and then working on family law matters, personal injury cases, estates and real estate matters. She also was committed to her community and served on the Twin Bridges School Board for several years. Lori has always handled her self with utmost professionalism but most of all she has been an excellent lady lawyer. She distinguished herself as being cordial, hard working and an ethical attorney.

Her commitment to people is also exceptional. She treats everyone she meets with the respect and dignity of a long lost friend. She possesses the innate ability to make friends in an instant and make others feel welcome as if she had known them for years. She is not only attentive to the needs of her clients, but also pays that same

respect to the public, her co-workers and most important her adversaries.

Lori Harshbarger is a sensible choice to appoint as the 5th Judicial District Court Judge. Her work ethic, sense of fairness and diverse legal experience will ensure her success as a Judge. I wholeheartedly recommend that Lori be appointed as the next District Court Judge in the 5th Judicial District Court.

Cordially Yours,

SKAKLES & GALLAGHER

BY: _____

Patrick T. Gallagher

LAW OFFICES

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

THOMAS Q. JOHNSON
JACQUELINE T. LENMARK
JOE SEIFERT
CHARLES G. ADAMS
SARAH P. LARUE
RYAN LORENZ

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

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

P. KEITH KELLER, RETIRED
PAUL T. KELLER (1907-2003)
GLEN L. DRAKE (1927-2001)

TELEPHONE (406) 442-0230
FAX (406) 449-2256
E-MAIL: firm@kellerlawmt.com

November 29, 2016

by email and first-class mail

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

Re: Fifth Judicial District Court vacancy, December 2016
Support of **Lori Harshbarger**

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter of support for your nomination of Lori Ann Harshbarger to Governor Bullock for appointment to the vacancy in the Fifth Judicial District Court created by Hon. Judge Loren Tucker's resignation.

You have a long list of applicants for appointment before you and a daunting and difficult task of comparing and evaluating the experience of each. In my own experience and knowledge, I commend Ms. Harshbarger to you as the most qualified for this appointment.

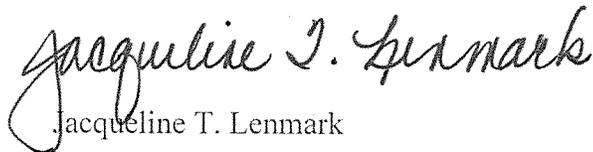
I have known Ms. Harshbarger and practiced with her for two decades--as supervising counsel, co-counsel, opposing counsel, and mediator--in a broad range of legal matters, including class actions, family law, complex transactional matters, and civil tort litigation. I have observed Ms. Harshbarger first-hand skillfully representing her clients, whether the poorest individual or largest corporation, with singular attention, uncommon diligence, intelligence, respect, efficiency, and impeccable ethics. Like I, her peers and the judges before whom she practices recognize her as exemplary among lawyers.

Judicial Nomination Commission
November 29, 2016
Page 2

There are two characteristics, however, that make Ms. Harshbarger the most outstanding candidate on the list before you. First, she is passionate about advancing the rule of law. She understands that the Constitution and the laws of Montana are designed to protect our citizens; and as district judge she would protect and defend these laws to the benefit of the citizens in the Fifth Judicial District. Second, she is fair. Ms. Harshbarger has the ability to approach every case with an open mind, willing to objectively evaluate the facts presented to her without bias and then reach a conclusion that respects the litigants regardless of power or status and the law she is to uphold.

I am confident that Ms. Harshbarger will continue her unmatched stewardship of the law as district judge, delivering justice with unerring intelligence, compassion, impartiality, and integrity. I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to advance Ms. Harshbarger's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Fifth Judicial District bench.

Respectfully,



Handwritten signature of Jacqueline T. Lenmark in cursive script.

Jacqueline T. Lenmark

JTL/dl

MT Supreme Court,

From: Roger & Cyndie Thompson <rczchome@hughes.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 6:27 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment-Judicial District Nominees

Judicial Nomination Commission,

By no means do you require any input on your difficult task ahead on determining the persons who will fill these upcoming District Court positions. This person directly affects my position as a law enforcement official and the ability to conduct ethical and honest investigations that could lead to their court. We have an ethical court now with Judge Tucker. He and I have a good professional relationship and I respect his decisions, even though we have not always agreed. I am fine with that because of the effort and thought he has always put into his decisions. The bottom line is that I know you and I both want an honest and ethical court system. There are several on the list that would make fine judges and have a high work ethic.

There also exists on the list of applicants several whom concern me because of their ethics and work motives. Given your combined experience, I feel comfortable your selection will be of high quality. I also know that after interviewing hundreds of applicants for law enforcement jobs, interviews do not always show the true person which is ultimately discovered in the background investigation. I am expressing my desire that the background process be clear and convincing and that the right person is selected for the job. I know you do not need my opinion but it is important to me the participation of the public in our government system is needed more than ever.

The one question that has always come to mind when judges have been selected during my career is will the person remain impartial, make the hard decisions, and do what is right under the law for all of the people. I am only offering this perspective because from the gallery of the courtroom, I do not want to see a judge who uses their position to further their own personal agenda. I have seen this occur and the public remains in danger because the defendant becomes the only concern of the court, and the public concern is forgotten. I have also seen where people have been needlessly put through the court system when a better alternative was available. We need judges that have common sense and the integrity to do the difficult job ahead of them.

There are many qualified applicants on your list of choices. Because of my experience with several and because of the reasons I have mentioned above, I would gladly recommend two people on the list of applicants whom I feel would do a good job. They are:

Lori Harshbarger
Jed Fitch

Thank you for your time.

Roger Thompson
Madison County Sheriff
671 Middle Road
Sheridan, Montana 59749
(406) 842-7983

704 South Pacific Street
Dillon, Montana 59725
November 28, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Montana Supreme Court
Helena, Montana 59620

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I take this means to recommend Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for the position of Judge of the Fifth Judicial District. I have known Lori since she was a girl in high school in Twin Bridges, Montana. My husband and I were friends with her parents who instilled their values of hard work, respect for the other guy and service to the community in their children.

Lori has never hesitated to work hard to achieve a goal or been intimidated by the challenges of reaching that goal. She is very smart, is able to laugh at herself, is doggedly determined to see a situation through to the end and is just generally a woman with a Montana sense of right and wrong.

I have worked with Lori in my position as a guardian ad litem. While she was certainly working to represent her client, she pressed for the best interest of the child and seemed to recognize what that interest was.

Lori gives generously to her community and has been on the schoolboard of the Twin Bridges school district for quite a number of years. She is able to be unbiased while again representing the best interest of the students in that district. She is quite plain spoken, but respectful of the other board members, the faculty, and the students as well as their parents

Lori is respectful of people, is even tempered, ethical, hard-working, doesn't back down from a challenge, has a very broad practice that requires her to know much about Montana law and knows the citizens of the 5th Judicial District; I do not hesitate to recommend her for the position of District Judge.

Because I worked with and for Judge Loren Tucker for more than 20 years, I would hope that the next Judge would be as respectful of the litigants as he has been. I believe that Lori would be that person.

Very truly yours,
Lynn Giles

Wednesday, November 30, 2016

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

Thomas Hyndman
Mayor of Twin Bridges
P.O. Box 184
Twin Bridges, MT 59754
mayortohyndman@yahoo.com

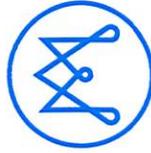
To whom it concerns,

My name is Thomas Hyndman and I am the mayor of the town of Twin Bridges, MT in Madison County. Ms. Lori Harshbarger has served as my personal attorney for several legal matters and for the past four to five years she has also served as Town Attorney for the Town of Twin Bridges. Ms. Harshbarger continuously shows extreme professionalism in all aspects. She is knowledgeable about laws concerning both private parties and municipalities and has helped our town immensely.

I feel that Ms. Harshbarger would represent our District very well as our next District Court Judge for the 5th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hyndman



ELEMENT
LAW GROUP

November 30, 2016

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

RE: *Lori Harshbarger's Application for Appointment to the Fifth Judicial District Court Judgeship*

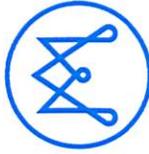
Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing to you in support of Lori Harshbarger as part of the invited public comment on the applicants for appointment to the Fifth Judicial District Court Judgeship. I have been a member in good standing of the Montana State Bar since 2010.

I have worked very closely with Lori Harshbarger for a few years now. She has been a close mentor, an unwavering advocate, and critical support person for me and my firm as I have battled Stage III cancer. Lori has stepped in and applied her professional experience, insights and skills to help guide me and my team during this particularly challenging time. Without her generous assistance, we likely would not have succeeded.

Lori's reputation is top notch. She is incredibly and deeply versed in a broad swath of practice areas. Her experience is almost unparalleled among today's practicing attorneys. She is the definition of professional and practices with integrity and fairness. She is an accomplished mediator and also attended Montana's first Collaborative Law trainings. I believe her experience and training culminate into an approach to law that is thoughtful, detail-oriented, fact driven and sound. I cannot speak more highly of her qualifications for this position.

I know Lori would treat the members of the bar and the public with the respect and dignity this position demands. She is among the best of the best and would be a stellar representation of the Fifth Judicial District bench if selected.



ELEMENT
L A W G R O U P

If I can speak to any questions about Lori, I invite the Commission to contact me.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Mazurek
Kathryn C. Mazurek



Newland and Company
A Professional Corporation

2900 Lexington Avenue
Post Office Box 3006
Butte, Montana 59702
(406) 494-4754
FAX: (406) 494-4958
Website: newlandandcompany.com

212 Missouri Avenue
Post Office Box 850
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722
(406) 846-3733
FAX: (406) 846-3735

November 30, 2016

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

Subject: Public Comment Sought on 5th Judicial District Judge Applicants

Applicant: Lori Ann Harshbarger

Dear Commission,

I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and a partner in the firm of Newland and Company, P. C. in Butte, Montana. I have 34 years of experience and have known and worked with Lori Harshbarger for 13 years. Lori would make an outstanding judge because she communicates effectively, has patience, is polite and courteous and has the character and integrity that a judge should possess.

I have worked with Lori as an expert witness on various cases and I noted that she was very professional, prepared for the subject matter, understood the process and had successful outcomes for her clients. Lori has a variety of legal experiences and has practiced with firms and as a sole practitioner. Her experiences and demeanor give her the ability to evaluate issues, solve problems, and find solutions.

In conclusion, the citizens of Beaverhead, Jefferson and Madison counties will be well served if Lori Harshbarger is appointed as the district court judge for the 5th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Bristol, CPA

Wade Bush & Rory Shea

520 South Idaho St.
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 660-0268
(406) 925-0112

November 27, 2016

Dear Nomination Committee,

Thank you for evaluating and selecting candidates to serve our communities. We are Wade Bush and Rory Shea. I am a registered nurse at Barrett Hospital and Healthcare. Wade has worked at Barrett Minerals for many years. He is also a volunteer EMT for Beaverhead County. This letter is in support of Lori Harshbarger to serve as district court judge for the 5th Judicial District. Although our communities are losing a great man and a well-developed judge, Lori Harshbarger is an excellent replacement. Our family is very pleased to know she is running for this paramount position. We have known Lori for six years. Our first impression of Lori left us feeling challenged. To this day, the challenge has not wavered. Lori Harshbarger is an original. We are fortunate and blessed to know her. One word descriptors of Lori Harshbarger are as follows: intelligent, tough, observant, integrity, honest, flexible, maternal, self-aware, humble and resilient. Lori asks the difficult questions, questions that prompt others to evaluate their lives and choices in respect to the overall goal. Lori Harshbarger is no nonsense. She has impeccable integrity and she expects the same from her clients. She is firm and she is fair. The whole story- the Gestalt is important to Lori. She is able to take in large amounts of complex information and organize them in a meaningful way. She can tell the story. These qualities and more will aid Lori Harshbarger in making a smooth transition for our communities.

Lori has the natural ability and developed skill to view problems from multiple perspectives. She accomplishes this through an unbiased approach. She shares this skill when guiding others to understand their complex situations. This process aids her as she gathers information, creating a more holistic view of the problem. The Gestalt is greater than the sum of the individual parts. This is mediation and integral to conflict resolution. Her approach is absolutely necessary for this position. Her decisions will affect lives. This is a responsibility of magnificent proportions and Lori understands this. She is ready for this position. I applaud her for challenging herself. If anyone can do this job, it is Lori.

Lori Harshbarger encourages her clients to prioritize what is important and what can be temporarily sidelined. Follow-up is an expectation. Again, the challenge to be better people and parents continues. Those of us lucky enough to have worked with her know the innate value of her advocacy, goal-setting skills and organization. Although the choice to act is the responsibility of the individual, Lori continually provides the guidance and 'tough love' that originally helped us set the stage for what is now habit. Imagine what she can do for the people of Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson counties.

Lori is a woman of integrity. She does not compartmentalize her morals and ethics. She is an open thinker and has trained herself to evaluate complex situations from multiple angles. She is an advocate for children. She is an advocate for self-help. She is a vector of Justice. Lori Harshbarger encompasses all the qualities necessary to maintain a fair and unbiased judicial system. Lori understands both the law and humanity. She brings structure, well-formulated thoughts and precision to the court room. She quickly identifies nuances and uncovers pertinent information vital to balanced decision making. Anyone who knows Lori is well aware of her thorough knowledge of the law. What makes her exceptional is her desire for balance, truth and justice based on what is, not what we want to be. This ability necessitates a great deal of self-awareness.

If you can, take the opportunity to ask Lori what qualities make her an excellent candidate for this fundamental position. Ask her about her weaknesses and what areas need further development. She will tell you. From knowing her, I can say there is not a goal Lori Harshbarger cannot attain. Why? She is a hard-working woman. She values the position of judge and everything it stands for; balance, blind justice and neutrality. I believe providing blind justice must incorporate humility and again, a great deal of self-awareness. There are not many promises we can make in good conscience. It warms my soul to be able to promise you, the committee, that you will not regret choosing Lori Harshbarger. She is the ideal candidate for our communities.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us in any way. The husband makes an excellent cup of coffee. Thank you for giving your time to this decision. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support. I also thank Lori Harshbarger and her fellow candidates for their willingness to serve our communities. For that willingness to serve, I am grateful.

I hope I can add to your well-informed decision.

Warm regards,

Wade Bush & Rory Shea

“The best predictor of the future is the past.” - Judge Loren Tucker

“In those days, we finally chose to walk like giants and hold the world in arms grown strong with Love. And, there may be many things we forget in the days to come, but this will not be one of Them...” -Brian Andreas

November 29, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission

Re: Lori Ann Harshbarger

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Lori for over 30 years and it is my honor to write a letter in support of her bid for the position of the Fifth Judicial Judgeship. Lori and I met in college at Montana State University and we had an instant connection that I knew would lead to a lifelong friendship. We are both from small rural communities where we learned that family and community are the cornerstones for a successful life. Lori has proven that through her involvement in her community, church, her children's accomplishments and their school activities.

Lori has been very dedicated and hard working in her career and has a great drive to succeed. I believe she will give justice and due diligence to the judgeship position. Her goals are ambitious but I know she has the ability to achieve them beyond expectations.

I appreciate and thank you for the opportunity to offer an endorsement for Lori Ann Harshbarger. Please consider her for the Fifth Judicial District Court judge position that I feel she is exceptionally qualified and suited to hold.

Sincerely,

Colleen M. Sorenson

KASTING, KAUFFMAN & MERSEN, P.C.
A T T O R N E Y S A T L A W

JOHN M. KAUFFMAN
JANE MERSEN
DENNIS L. MUNSON
LILIA N. TYRRELL
RUSSELL HART

716 SOUTH 20th AVENUE, SUITE 101
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59718
TEL: (406) 586-4383 FAX: (406) 587-7871
E-MAIL: kkm@kkmlaw.net

Of Counsel
KENT M. KASTING
WILLIAM B. HANSON

November 30, 2016

Via Email and U.S. Mail

mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Lori Harshbarger - 5th Judicial District Court

Dear Commission:

This letter serves as my support for Lori Harshbarger to be recommended to Governor Bullock for consideration to fill the vacancy in the Fifth Judicial District as a result of Judge Tucker's retirement.

Lori has an outstanding reputation in the legal community. We have had several cases against each other, and Lori has always been responsive, courteous, and thoroughly prepared. I believe that she has a unique blend of down-to-earth, rancher common sense, and legal expertise that would make her a great judge. What I have witnessed with Lori is that she approaches cases from the perspective of how best to solve the problem(s) at hand.

I believe that Lori possesses all the qualities necessary to be a success in this position. She works hard, is very smart, and has a great energy and temperament. I have no doubt that any litigant or attorney who appeared before her would be treated with respect and that her decisions would be based upon a fair and reasoned application of the law to the facts of the cases. I hope you will strongly consider her application and forward her name to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Munson

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Mark Pederson [<mailto:mpederson@twinfalcons.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 10:05 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Harshbarger Application

PO Box 116
Twin Bridges, MT 59754
November 30, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Lori Ann Harshbarger, who has applied for the 5th District Judge job which has recently opened for Madison, Jefferson, and Beaverhead Counties. I have known Lori Ann for most of our lives, and I have watched her in many different roles, personally and professionally.

I grew up with Lori Ann and was a classmate of hers. I watched her persevere through the losses of her mother and later her father. In spite of these hardships, she finished her education and has had a long and successful lawyer career. She is not only very successful in her professional career, but also serves several roles in the Twin Bridges community; serving as the Town of Twin Bridges lawyer and as a trustee on the Twin Bridges school board. Her husband Raymond and herself, run a successful cattle operation in the Waterloo area and have raised several children who have become successful citizens in the area.

Lori Ann has a solid work ethic, strong morals, and compassion for the people she serves and works with in our area. I have had several of her former clients make comments to me about her passion and commitment to them and their cases. She is fair and impartial, and listens to both sides of an issue before she starts to formulate her own ideas on a subject. This ability alone would make her an outstanding choice to be the new judge for the 5th Judicial District. Her love of this area and her compassion for the people of our valley also add to the positive side of the ledger for Lori Ann Harshbarger.

I urge you to give her application the upmost in your consideration. She would make an outstanding Judge and would be an asset for the communities that the district serves.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Pederson
Guidance Counselor
Twin Bridges High School

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:41 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Lynn Vial [<mailto:viallynn@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:57 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment - Harshbarger

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Lori Dwyer Harshbarger since we attended grade school together in Twin Bridges Montana. As a long term resident of Montana's Fifth Judicial District she is aware of the issues and concerns of local residents. I believe leaving Montana for several years to pursue educational and professional goals enhanced her perspective while she maintained an understanding and the values of our district. We are fortunate that she and her family chose to return to her Montana roots. Lori demonstrates a strong commitment to our community in both her professional and personal life. As a teacher in our local school I have had the opportunity to work with Lori as she serves as a trustee on the school board. She has worked to be fair minded and objective as she studies and helps formulate policies and practices that effect students, staff, and community. She is hard working and conscientious about considering legal aspects coupled with the short and long term consequences.

I endorse Lori Harshbarger to fill the Judgeship vacancy for the Fifth Judicial District.

Lynn M. Vial

High School Teacher

Twin Bridges, Montana

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:41 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Gary Konen [<mailto:Gary.Konen@imerys.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 9:00 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: District Court Judge

From: Gary Konen
Sent: 11/30/2016
To: Judicial Nomination Commission
Subject: District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

It is my absolute pleasure to strongly support the appointment of Lori Ann Harsbarger for the position of District Court Judge for the 5th Judicial District. I have known Lori personally for over twenty years and have professionally worked with her for the last three years as members of the Twin Bridges School Board. Her high moral standards, strong sense of community and expert knowledge of the legal system makes her the most logical person for this appointment.

Family is very important to me as it also is to Lori. I have had the pleasure of watching Lori raise her children from infants to fine young adults that are a tremendous asset to our community. It is also equally important to us as a family that someone with strong Montana values occupy this very important position to help ensure the Montana way of life that we have all come to treasure.

Along with her undeniable talent as a lawyer Lori has also been a very valuable member of the Twin Bridges School Board. Her knowledge, expertise, and understanding are a very valued asset to our board as she often fosters an environment that welcomes positive and accurate discussion that leads the group to making the best possible decisions for the school district.

It is without any doubt or hesitation that we as a family strongly and confidently recommend Lori Ann Harsbarger for District Court Judge for the 5th Judicial District. As a dedicated member of the community and with an expert level of understanding of the legal system, I know that she will be fair, firm and consistent as District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Gary and Bobbie Konen

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:40 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Katherine Smith [<mailto:farmchick318@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:45 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Fifth Judicial District Judicial Nomination

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to encourage you to consider Lori Ann Harshbarger for the recently vacated position of Judge Tucker, as district court judge of the 5th Judicial District in Montana.

I'm a 4th generation rancher that lives in Jefferson County and am currently the Madison-Jefferson Agriculture Education and 4-H Program Assistant. As an active member in Madison County 4-H and college student at Montana State University Lori became a cherished friend to numerous members of my family. I first met Lori at a church event more than 10 years and we have been friends ever since then.

Over the years Lori has proved to be a trustworthy and committed person not only to her family and friends but also to her community. She makes an honest effort each and every day to be a positive force in the world and I believe her hard work and dedication will cause her to be successful in anything she puts her mind to.

Lori also is an excellent candidate because she physically is centrally located among our counties and understands the great diversities that each county possess. I feel she would be very mindful in all situations and make decisions that are truly right and just.

I highly recommend Lori Ann Harshbarger for the district court judge position and thank you for taking the time to consider her.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Katherine Smith

234 Hwy 2 West, Whitehall, MT, 59759

406-498-6745

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:39 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Christine Lively [<mailto:christinelively@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 8:11 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION; 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this email in support of Laurie Harshbarger for appointment to the position of District Judge for the Fifth Judicial District. I have worked with Laurie for many years in both court proceedings and deposition work. I have always found her to be professional, courteous, well-versed in the law and a pleasure to work with. I believe that her temperament is well-suited for this important appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine D. Lively
Registered Professional Reporter
1940 Dewey Blvd.
Butte, Montana 59701

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Susan Stoddard [<mailto:Sustod13@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:53 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission, Lois Menzies

Susan Stoddard
PO Box 248
Lima, Montana 59739

November 28, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrations
PO Box 203005
Helena, Montana 59620-3005

Dear Judiciary Nomination Committee,

I am writing to recommend Lori Harshbarger, whom I have known for over 5 years, as a candidate for The 5th Judicial Court Judge. I am a client of Lori's. I was told I would need a darn good attorney to represent me, So I was referred to Lori Harshbarger. As it turned out, she is a very good attorney.

Lori is a very personable individual. She is also highly self motivated and is capable of achieving any goal she sets her mid to. The bigger the challenge, the better. She will focus on what is important and take extra time to truly do research and do a professional job. She welcomes leadership opportunities and continues to be very active in her community and the school. She has many strong qualities, with her strongest being loyal and trustworthy.

I have no doubt Lori would be a valuable asset as the Judge of the 5th Judicial Court and I give my highest recommendation. If I can provide any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 406-596-0898 or by email sustod13@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Susan Stoddard

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 8:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Tutty Law Group [<mailto:tuttylawgroup@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 4:10 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori A. Harshbarger Nomination

Dear Commission:

It is my honor to strongly recommend Lori Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District Judge position being vacated by the retirement of Hon. Loren Tucker.

I have known Lori for a number of years, primarily through my family law practice in Butte. In my experience, she is a lawyer of integrity, fairness, thorough preparation, and great compassion for her clients as well as for her adversaries and for the court system. She is professional and caring, an advocate and a counselor, a strong stand for her clients and prepared to negotiate or mediate for the best possible solution. While these may seem to be juxtapositions, it is my feeling that these attributes are what makes Lori the most qualified candidate for this position.

I reviewed the other candidate information, and while I have little personal knowledge of the others, I am assured both by the manner and by the depth of her experience, that Lori will be a powerful addition to the judiciary in Montana.

I recommend Lori Harshbarger to you as highly as I can, without reservation, and with pride that I have been able to work and learn from her. You will be pleased with her selection.

Cathy Tutty
P.O. Box 742 Butte, MT 59703

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
510 EAST PARK STREET, SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 527
BUTTE, MT 59703
EMAIL: folaw@flemingandolearylaw.com

PATRICK T. FLEMING
WILLIAM M. O'LEARY

TEL: (406) 723-5600
FAX: (406) 723-5602

November 29, 2016

Montana Supreme Court Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Beth McLaughlin
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
bmclaughlin@mt.gov

Re: 5th Judicial Judgeship

Dear Commission Members:

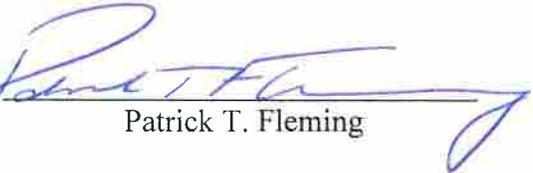
Please accept this letter of recommendation for Lori Harshbarger, an applicant to replace the Honorable Loren Tucker in Madison, Jefferson and Beaverhead Counties.

I have had the pleasurable experience of working with Lori on several cases over the past ten years and based on those cases and Lori's performance for her clients, I highly recommend Lori for the 5th Judicial Judgeship. Lori has always practiced law with skill and integrity; she has always advocated for her clients within the bounds of professional conduct and civility. Lori was always prepared, always respectful of the bench and bar, and she always respected the Montana rules of professional conduct. These traits would certainly serve Lori well in replacing Judge Tucker.

In short, I think Lori Harshbarger is uniquely qualified to replace the Honorable Loren Tucker and I can assure you that Lori would not let the Commission or the Governor down if nominated and appointed.

Sincerely,

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

By 
Patrick T. Fleming

PTF/rll

461 Cutoff Rd
Winn Bridge, Mt
59754

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of Lori Ann
Harshbarger to fill the seat of Judge
Loren Tucker.

I feel she is well qualified for this
job, she is from our district, and I
don't feel we need to get anyone from
outside this district. We hope you will
take a good look at Lori and do the
right thing. Thank you for reading

In Your Respect
Wally Glose

November 30, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
(Sent via email to : mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Re: 5th Judicial District Court Vacancy recommendation for Lori A. Harshbarger

Dear Commissioners:

I am honored to write this letter in support of the nomination and appointment of Lori Harshbarger to fill the 5th Judicial District Judge vacancy upon the upcoming retirement of Judge Loren Tucker.

I have known Lori for several years as parents of students in the Twin Bridges school system. We also served together on the Twin Bridges School Board. Lori was a great resource on the Board, as she not only had good insight and could give us a legal perspective, but she had common sense. She was very compassionate and fair to all parties involved in issues, yet could also be stern and decisive. She has great communication skills, is a good listener, and is wise, courteous, and respectful. Her high ethical standards and professionalism are to be commended, yet she is approachable and down to earth.

One of our ranches neighbors the ranch of Lori and her family. They have been wonderful neighbors and are always willing to lend a hand. Lori has the work ethic of a rancher, and is not afraid to tackle a workload or an issue. Being a Montana native, she understands our strong Montana values. She is very familiar with the people and the area in the 5th Judicial District as she was raised in Waterloo.

Lori would be a great asset to our Judicial system, as she has the skill set and experience to do an outstanding job and to be respected by her peers, but also wonderful qualities that would be supported by the public she serves.

I strongly encourage you to recommend Lori Harshbarger to Governor Bullock for the appointment as Judge for the 5th Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Lynn Harrington-Hirschy
P.O. Box 834
Jackson, MT 59736

ANN M. SHEA

3547 Hartford Ave.
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 490-5563

VIA EMAIL mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

December 1, 2016

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

Re: 5th Judicial District Judge Applicant Lori Ann Harshbarger

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to submit this letter supporting Lori Ann Harshbarger's application for the 5th Judicial District Court Judge position. During my private practice (2005-2013), I had numerous opportunities to work with Lori as opposing counsel. The many cases we were involved in were family law cases. Family law is not an easy practice as divorce and/or parenting struggles clearly involve one of the most difficult times a person will experience in life. Yet I found Lori to be focused and driven in representing her clients in the utmost professional manner. Lori exercised incredible client control and always maintained a courteous and professional attitude in even the most difficult of cases. In fact, I, without reservation referred many clients to Lori for representation.

I believe good decent character is as critical for a judgeship as any other attribute. In that regard, one can always tell a person's character by the way she treats her staff. On one particular case Lori took my client's deposition at her office in Waterloo, Montana. The atmosphere was very welcoming and pleasant. It was clear to me during other business visits to Lori's office the mutual respect and admiration Lori and her staff hold for each other.

In summary, I believe that Lori is well qualified to be a district court judge and I whole heartedly support her application for the 5th Judicial District Court position.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Shea

Henningsen, Vucurovich & Richardson, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*Law Offices Building
116 West Granite Street
Post Office Box 399
Butte, Montana 59701
(406) 723-3219 • 723-9222
Fax (406) 723-9534*

MARK A. VUCUROVICH
ROSS P. RICHARDSON
———

November 29, 2016

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

Re: 5th Judicial District Court Judge – Lori Harshbarger

Dear Commission Members:

Please be advised that I am submitting the following recommendation on behalf of judicial applicant, Lori Harshbarger. I have been a practicing attorney in the State of Montana for over 35 years.

I have been honored to work with Attorney Harshbarger on many cases since she has been practicing in Whitehall. I have had opportunities to be representing clients in which Attorney Harshbarger represented the other side. I have always been impressed with her professionalism. She has represented her clients in the most ethical and excellent fashion in every case I have been involved with her.

Several of the cases that we have been involved in have resulted in trials, and I have always been impressed with her ability as a trial attorney. I have always found Lori Harshbarger to be very well prepared, and she always had a thorough understanding of her strengths and weaknesses. In a very difficult profession, it has always been a pleasure to work with her in the cases we have been involved with.

I have also had an opportunity to observe Lori Harshbarger in cases that were very factually delicate, both in the area of child custody, and also guardianships for protected persons. Although she would remain as an advocate, I always found her willing to work with all parties to achieve a goal of protecting the best interests of the individuals.

I would highly recommend Lori Harshbarger for the appointment of a District Court Judge. Her experience in the courtroom, common sense, and approach to achieving just resolutions would be invaluable to the bench.

Page 2 –
November 29, 2016
Re: Lori Harshbarger – Fifth Judicial District

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me. With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

HENNINGSEN, VUCUROVICH
& RICHARDSON, P.C.

By: 
Mark A. Vucurovich

cc: Lori Harshbarger
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

Importance: High

From: Kathy [<mailto:kathy@shobeauktion-realty.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 3:24 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: kathy@shobeauktion-realty.com
Subject: Recommendation for Lori Harshbarger for 5th Judicial District Court Judge
Importance: High

To the Judicial Nomination Committee,

It is my honor to highly recommend Lori Harshbarger to fill the replacement position of Judge Loren Tucker with the 5th Judicial District Court. I grew up with Lori in Waterloo, MT and have known her for 52 years. Lori was raised by her parents on a cattle ranch and understands the value of honest and hard work. Losing her mother to cancer at a young age, Lori became the woman of their home and did an extraordinary job in trying to fill her mother's shoes. She is such a strong individual whom has worked tirelessly to become the professional person she is today.

Lori is a wonderful individual who has always been kind, honest, trustworthy & compassionate. She is always willing to lend a hand to assist her fellow community member. I have had the privilege to work besides Lori through various organizations such as 4-H, church and community gatherings over the years and I feel very confident that she has temperament, integrity and intelligence to lead our court system as Judge of the 5th Judicial District.

I firmly agree that as a Judge for the 5th Judicial District, Lori will be professional, fair and just in upholding the law, while providing unwavering leadership and moral value to her colleagues and those she will continue to serve.

I thank you for your time and considering my recommendation for Lori Harshbarger, to fill Judge Loren Tucker's position following his retirement.

Respectfully,
Kathy Robbins (Gornick)

Kathy Robbins, Broker Associate
United Country Shobe Auction & Realty
408 W. Main Street
Lewistown, MT 59457

(406)366-4399 Cell
(406)538-5125 Office

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Bart Baumeister [<mailto:BBaumeister@pipestonequarrymt.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 3:20 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Ann Harshbarger

Dear Nomination Committee,

I recommend Lori for District Judge not based on the law which I know very little about but based the type person she is. Lori is a friend to me and my family and is a person that I confide in because I know she will be honest and straight with me even if the answer is not what I want to hear. Lori has the ability to speak to anyone and make them feel safe and willing to open up about any topic. Lori is trusted by the entire community because of a lifetime of forthright dealings with everyone she comes in contact with.

There is no doubt in my mind that Lori is fully capable of filling Judge Tucker's position because she excels at everything she does and always will.

Best regards,

Bart Baumeister
Operations Manager
Pipestone Quarry LLC
(406)287-9153

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: accounting@tobki.com [<mailto:accounting@tobki.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 2:46 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

Dear gentle person,

Please accept this as a thoughtful vote of confidence for Ms. Lori Harshbarger in her application for the seat of the Fifth Judicial District Court for Beaverhead, Jefferson, and Madison Counties.

The opening of this seat provides an opportunity to further strengthen our judiciary system, by inserting one of our most brilliantly-genuine, legal minds available. This seat, is owed a candidate with an iron-clad integrity, a firm grip of reality, a loving compassion towards others combined with the morale fabric that never fails to overcome the next obstacle. Ms. Harshbarger exudes more quality characteristics than this humble recommendation can hold. She is held in the highest regard among the very people who truly understand the needs of this position.

This opportunity is unique, and Lori Harshbarger will fill this role completely beyond any expectations. Her record is exemplary. She is fair but tough, she is thoughtful yet determined. She is a litigator and a mother. She has had loads of obstacles stand tall in her path, only to be left as rubble along side of her journey. She is a perfectly woven tapestry of life experiences, education, resiliency and hard work, that will give her all she needs to achieve excellency in her next level of service to this community.

I am proud to know, work with, and support Lori Harshbarger. Thank you for your energy is considering her for the district court judge of the 5th Judicial District in Montana.

With the most sincere regards,

Tony Capuano
The Open Book-Keeper, Inc.
Bozeman, MT

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Jesse Beaudette [<mailto:jbeaudette@bebtlaw.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 1:50 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: 'Lori A. Harshbarger (jdlawfirm@msn.com)'
Subject: Lori Harshbarger

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I would like to comment on Lori's application for the position of Judge in Montana's Fifth Judicial District Court based on the retirement of Judge Tucker. I have litigated one case against Lori and believe she is highly qualified for the position as a Judge. The case we litigated against each other was a personal injury case involving severe injuries to one of her clients, including a traumatic brain injury. The case boiled down to an insurance coverage question in which there was going to be either multi-millions in coverage or zero. The stakes were very high for her clients. Lori represented her clients very well throughout the litigation, which was in Federal Court and included a detour to the Montana Supreme Court on a certified question dealing with loss of consortium damages. *North Pacific Ins. Co. v. Stucky*, 2014 MT 299. Lori's representation of her clients was complicated by the family dynamics between her clients and their extended family members. We ultimately settled the matter short of a trial but I know that her representation of the family continues due to the significant injuries suffered by the client involved in the accident. Throughout the litigation, I found Lori to be well prepared and knowledgeable on the issues that needed to be addressed. She was also very easy to work with while still zealously representing her clients. The attitude, demeanor, professionalism and ethics she exhibited during the litigation would be well suited for a position on the bench. I fully support Lori as the person who should be selected to replace Judge Tucker as Judge in the Fifth Judicial District Court.

Jesse Beaudette
Bohyer, Erickson, Beaudette & Tranel, P.C.
283 West Front Street, Suite 201
P.O. Box 7729
Missoula, MT 59807
Phone: (406) 532-7800
Fax: (406) 549-2253
www.bebtlaw.com

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:45 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Craft, Marilyn
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 11:07 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Harshbarger Public Comment

RE: Lori Harshbarger - Public Comment for Fifth Judicial District Court Judge Appointment

Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I have worked with Lori Harshbarger as Jefferson County Clerk of Court and have always found her work to be thorough and timely. She exhibits a confident attitude and appears to work diligently for her clients. This office appreciates her courtesy and her ability to work well with opposing parties to reach equitable and fair agreements. Lori is always very professional and well-prepared for court hearings.

I hope you will give her application thoughtful consideration for this important position.

Marilyn A. Craft
Clerk of District Court/Jury Commissioner
Jefferson County
P.O. Box H
Boulder, MT 59632
406-225-4042

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: ganel@montanajdlaw.com [<mailto:ganel@montanajdlaw.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 10:58 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment re Lori Ann Harshbarger

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Lori Ann Harshbarger for appointment to the 5th Judicial District position that will be vacant upon Judge Loren Tucker's retirement.

I have known Lori Ann since we were in grade school, a period of 47+ years. We grew up a few miles from each other in the Waterloo/Silver Star area of Montana. Our families were friends and we have joked that we even share our brothers.

After graduation from high school, Lori Ann and I moved away to attend different colleges and pursue different interests but our friendship never wavered. We kept in touch throughout all the years, including moves to different states, raising our sons and helping each other's parents.

After working in Billings in the legal field for almost 25 years, I returned home to help with a difficult family situation. My mother was very sick and I could no longer be so far from home. I went to work for Lori Ann.

Lori Ann and I have worked together now for five years and I have had the opportunity to see her in a professional light. I have worked for many attorneys through the years and can attest to Lori Ann's skills as a very competent and knowledgeable attorney. She has experience in a large variety of areas of the law. I have watched her be tough when necessary, but she is also very compassionate and understanding when warranted. She has an uncanny ability of getting people to open up to her within a short window of time and is, therefore, able to help people deal with difficult and personal situations in a timely fashion. She has the great quality of being able to assess people and situations quickly. She is an excellent listener who does not judge. She helps find solutions for our clients in both conventional and unconventional ways. She encouraged one client to dress up and wear makeup in order to feel confident after going through a divorce. She sent a book to another client who was struggling with step-parenting issues. She has encouraged clients to further their education and has set family meetings in order to resolve conflicts. I could go on and on with examples of ways Lori Ann helps clients both in and out of the courtroom. She not only cares about our clients, but she cares about their families as well and truly wants to be a problem solver.

Lori Ann is not only a wonderful, loyal friend and employer, she is also very active in our community. In addition to Town Council and the Twin Bridges School Board, she plays an active role in her church, is a wonderful neighbor and is always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need.

I believe Lori Ann would make an excellent Judge and recommend you submit her name to the Governor.

Ganel G. Given

Paralegal to Lori A. Harshbarger

JD LAW FIRM, P.C.

336 Waterloo Road

Whitehall, MT 59759

Tel: (406) 287-7933 Fax: (406) 287-3175

Email: ganel@montanajdlaw.com

The information contained in this electronic transmittal may be confidential, may be subject to the attorney-client privilege only for the use of the recipient named above. If the reader is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this information to the intended recipient, you are notified that this is not a waiver of privilege and any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmittal in error, please immediately notify the sender

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 4:44 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Francis Badu [<mailto:fbadu12@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 7:12 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Re: Reference for Lori Dwyer Harshbarger

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am Francis Badu, 53 years old, a CPA and currently the Director of Business and Operations for the Highland School District in Cowiche, Washington.

I have known Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for about 30 years and as good family friend. Over the course of these years I have had the chance to interact, observe and engage Lori in numerous situations. I have witnessed firsthand Lori's decision making process. She is methodical, contemplative and extremely fair minded. I recall Lori's decision many years ago to leave a career in the medical research and pursue a degree in law. It was with such passion and I had no doubt of her determination. She is hardworking and has proven to be successful in all her endeavors. She is civic minded and has contributed to many noble causes over the years.

I highly recommend Lori Dwyer Harshbarger for the 5th Judicial District Judge and have no doubts that Lori will excel in this position.

Francis Badu
509-678-8634

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 8:24 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Bonnie Klose [<mailto:klosebonnie@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 5:09 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Harshbarger

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Lori for 40+ years as we grew up together. I feel Lori would be a perfect fit for this position as she is compassionate and caring towards everyone equally. She is honest, ethical and above all, fair. She feels everyone should have a second chance to prove themselves. She will look at each case individually and truly try to help someone out that deserves it.

She was raised on a ranch so she has the "work for what you want" ethic, working hard is what she knows.

Once again, I feel Lori is the best fit for this position as she knows the people here better than anyone.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Klose

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2016 8:24 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Harshbarger

From: Bree Williamson [<mailto:bree@williamsonlawpc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 4:51 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Lori Harshbarger, Fifth Judicial District Vacancy

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

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Harshbarger for the Fifth Judicial District vacancy. I am professionally new to this judicial district, but Lori's reputation precedes her. Knowing that I have recently started practicing as a solo attorney in Dillon, many attorneys from multiple jurisdictions have encouraged me to reach out to Ms. Harshbarger. The bar seems to be not only impressed with the high level of her work, but also her generosity in mentoring other attorneys. She has been extremely welcoming to me, and I appreciate her willingness to apply for this supremely important position.

Ms. Harshbarger is very committed to the communities in this judicial district, and has the temperament and experience to make an excellent judge. I encourage the council to forward her name to the governor for appointment. Judge Tucker leaves behind large shoes to fill, and Ms. Harshbarger is more than up to the task.

Sincerely,
Bree Williamson

WILLIAMSON LAW, P.C.
PO Box 1406
Dillon, MT 59725
(406) 396-6831