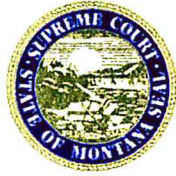


THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

MIKE McGRATH
CHIEF JUSTICE



JUSTICE BUILDING
215 NORTH SANDERS
PO BOX 203001
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-3001
TELEPHONE (406) 444-5490
FAX (406) 444-3274

April 26, 2017

Hon. Richard Simonton, Chairman
Judicial Nomination Commission
P.O. Box 1249
Glendive, MT 59330

Dear Judge Simonton:

I have received your letter notifying me of your retirement as district judge for the Seventh Judicial District sitting in Glendive effective July 14, 2017. Thank you for your nineteen years of distinguished judicial service. Your presence on the bench will be greatly missed.

Pursuant to Montana law, the Judicial Nomination Commission is required to solicit applications to fill the upcoming vacancy and submit a list of nominees to the Governor. I am asking that you initiate the process as soon as possible. Attached is an appointment schedule for your consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike McGrath".

Mike McGrath
Chief Justice

C: Judicial Nomination Commission members
Hon. Katherine M. Bidegaray
Tammy Helmuth, Clerk of District Court, Dawson County
Savannah Kirchner, Clerk of District Court, McCone County
Piney Helmuth, Clerk of District Court, Prairie County
Janice Klempel, Clerk of District Court, Richland County
Michael W. Schneider, Clerk of District Court, Wibaux County
Beth McLaughlin, Supreme Court Administrator