



P.O. Box 1156 | Billings, MT 59103-1156 | 406.867.0007 | bannerhughes@180com.net

December 8, 2016

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

RE: Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Nominating Committee:

Back in January I sent a letter of recommendation in favor of Joseph Sullivan being appointed district court judge. With this recent judicial opening I am pleased to send another letter on Joe's behalf, encouraging you to forward his name to the governor's office.

As most lawyers, I am familiar with his work when he was the State Bar President. I currently serve with Joe on the State Bar's Technology. Joe has a sense of fairness and a calm demeanor, both of which are needed by district court judges. He has a way of distilling complicated information succinctly that will serve him well in a judicial position. He never shies away from a challenging task, always asks for input from all those working on a project, and is willing to carefully consider the positions of all participants.

Recently the Technology Committee was asked to help with a somewhat controversial new rule being considered by the Montana Supreme Court. Joe carefully studied the issue, formed a subcommittee to review the proposed rule, and put together a cogent position paper that was supported unanimously by the Technology Committee.

Joe would be an excellent choice for the position of district court judge. He has a diverse background, a great temperament, has been a leader in serving the bar and the public, and has a good sense of humor. I recommend Joe Sullivan for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Roberta Anner-Hughes'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roberta Anner-Hughes



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

RONALD A. BENDER
PATRICK G. FRANK
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

December 5, 2016

via email

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
MTsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Nomination of **Joseph M. Sullivan** -- Eighth Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write in support of Joseph M. Sullivan as a nominee to the Governor for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District judgeship vacancy. Joe would make an excellent and welcome addition to the Montana bench. I whole-heartedly support his appointment!

I have known Joe for well-over a decade. We interacted significantly when I was elected to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of Montana, although I remember meeting him even earlier. Joe has always been very active in the State Bar. He had served as a trustee for many years before me. Later, we served on the Executive Committee of the State Bar, and I followed Joe through the president position. Joe and I are colleagues and friends.

I have always thought Joe would make a good judge. I say that not because he clearly looks the part with his immaculately-groomed, gray hair, and impeccable attire. Rather, I've long recognized the many characteristics that Joe routinely and consistently exhibits as the same virtues I have seen in good judges.

For instance, I know Joe to be intelligent, prepared, thorough, thoughtful and even-tempered. Many times at Board and Committee meetings when we were discussing important and emotional issues, Joe would be a calming voice that called for more information, careful consideration, and the highest levels of professionalism and decorum. Joe would ask probing questions in order to discern the necessary facts for the decision at hand. He avoided prejudging issues until he had all the facts. When the facts were

fully-presented, he was decisive and clearly explained his reasons for voting for/against the pending motion.

Joe is imminently fair and would treat all people with respect. Indeed, I watched Joe carefully manage many delicate issues confronting the State Bar, such as personnel issues, with incredible grace, confidentiality, and consideration. He is a person of the highest moral character and integrity; I trust him implicitly.

Joe has an impressive work ethic! His ability to balance an active private practice and participate in all those bar activities and leadership roles is clear evidence of Joe's significant energy and commitment. I know Joe would be a judge who remains on top of his caseload, and would complete the work of the court in a timely fashion. Given the Eighth Judicial District really ought to have almost two more judgeships for its caseload¹, Joe's work ethic and energy are keenly needed in the district.

Finally, Joe's proven leadership skills are needed in the Eighth Judicial District and the judiciary of Montana. With the many demands upon the office and the individual wearing the black robe, Joe will be an innovator and leader in addressing the challenges facing our judiciary. He will do more than merely serve as a caretaker of the position.

In short, I ask you to forward Joe Sullivan's name to the Governor for consideration, and I hope the Governor appoints Joe to the position of District Judge. The district and State of Montana would be well-served with Joe as a judge.

If you have any further questions about Joe, please contact me. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Shane A. Vannatta
svannatta@wordenthane.com

Cc: Joseph Sullivan (*via email*)

Sav/16012545.docx

¹ See *Montana District Court Judicial Weighted Caseload Study, 2014*, National Center for State Courts and the State Justice Institute, at 20.

WILLIAMS LAW FIRM, P.C.

235 East Pine, P.O. Box 9440
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Mark S. Williams
Susan Moriarity Miltko
Nicholas J. Pagnotta
Amanda Z. Duman
James D. Johnson
Peter B. Ivins
Alexander T. Tsomaya

Shelton C. Williams (Retired)

December 2, 2016

Via mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

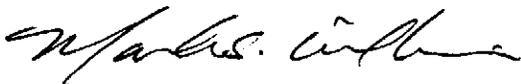
RE: Judicial Nomination, 8th Judicial District

To the Committee:

I am pleased to recommend attorney Joe Sullivan for the judicial position previously held by Judge Sandefur. I have been practicing law in Missoula and throughout Montana for 20 plus years. I have known Mr. Sullivan for much of that time. My practice is civil litigation. I have found Joe to be very professional and civil in all of his dealings. He treats others with dignity and respect, be it the parties, the opposing counsel or the judge. Cascade County would be fortunate to have him as a judge.

Yours truly,

WILLIAMS LAW FIRM, P.C.



Mark S. Williams
MSW:gb
mark@wmslaw.com
721-4350 x101

Sharol O'Brien
961 Turner Avenue
Shelby, MT 59474

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

November 28, 2016

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission members:

Re: Joe Sullivan District Court Judge Nomination

I fully support Joe Sullivan's nomination to be a district court judge. In my dealings with Joe, I have found him to be intelligent, compassionate, and knowledgeable: characteristics crucial to be a successful and effective judge.

One of the Joe's characteristics I most appreciated was his quick response to questions. Every time we saw him, he was well organized and well prepared. He was able to communicate with us without speaking legalese, and we appreciated his compassion and ability to identify with our feelings. Joe's positive attitude is a breath of fresh air.

My father, Judge R. D. McPhillips, was a respected, longtime judge of the Ninth Judicial District. I see the same characteristics in Joe; that, using life experience, knowledge, love and respect for the law, and common sense, he can apply the law fairly, impartially, and mercifully. I see that Joe, like my father, sincerely cares about people and that he enjoys people -- warts and all. He is a man of the people he will serve, and he is well qualified to carry the responsibility of making the life altering decisions that must be rendered.

I believe Joe Sullivan will be an asset to our justice system, and I urge your support.

Very truly yours,



Sharol McPhillips O'Brien

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

January 3, 2016

Re: Joe Sullivan District Court Judge Nomination

I am honored to support Joe Sullivan for the position of Eighth Judicial District Judge. I am a retired public school teacher having taught for a period of 39 years. I was married to Judge R.D. McPhillips for 52 years. He served as Ninth Judicial District Judge for almost 32 years before he retired due to health issues. A few years after Ron's death an incident occurred that caused me to need legal assistance. Joe Sullivan took my case and handled a very complicated situation brilliantly. His knowledge of the law was superb. He went over and above the usual call of duty to bring the case to a fruitful end.

Having been a wife of a judge I have personal knowledge and experience of the kind of stress the position creates and am fully confident Joe has the demeanor and stability to withstand its pressure. I sensed that he is a great family man which impressed me, also.

Without a doubt, Joe will be a great judge.

Sincerely,



Bernice McPhillips

PO Box 629

Shelby, MT 59474

December 05,2016

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

RE: Judicial Nomination, Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County

To the Members of the Commission,

Please accept this letter in support of Joseph M. Sullivan for appointment to the vacancy in the Eighth Judicial Court.

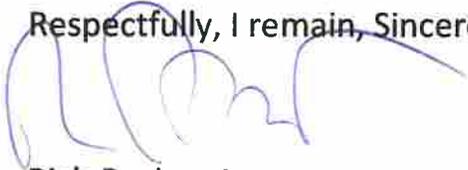
Having once served as Chairman of the State Judicial Standards Commission, I believe I have some understanding of the qualities the people of our County and State should find in a District Court Judge. These being, temperament, consistency, preparation and a belief in both the laws and the people of Montana. I can think of no one who would better fit that description and convey a sense of confidence in the fairness of our court system than Joe Sullivan.

Further, I believe that a person who occupies a position of public trust should also have a commitment to the community he serves. Joe Sullivan and his wife Parker have long demonstrated that commitment. Joe has worked with many groups and on many projects here through the years and I know that the respect and good feeling that we in this community have for Joe will be demonstrated for him in this position both with his appointment and for years to come.

There will be many applicants seeking consideration for this appointment. Many very well qualified.

But I believe, strongly, that when all aspects are considered that this commission and the people of cascade County will be well, and best served by the appointment of Joe Sullivan.

Respectfully, I remain, Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rich Pavlonnis', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rich Pavlonnis

December 1, 2016

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

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JOSEPH M. SULLIVAN'S APPOINTMENT AS JUDGE
FOR THE MT STATE DISTRICT COURT SEAT**

I have known Great Falls attorney Joe Sullivan for over 25 years. During my career as Executive Director of the Montana Red Cross I observed Joe's work ethic as a leadership volunteer with the United Way Board of Directors and as Board President for Central Catholic High School.

A dedicated, energetic, responsible community volunteer, Mr. Sullivan also stepped up to accept needed leadership positions, consistently demonstrating intelligence, integrity, knowledge and professionalism; always with a smile and pleasant demeanor.

Because of his substantial and diverse legal education, numerous professional legal experiences, plus subsequent statewide legal leadership roles, Mr. Sullivan demonstrated he would serve ably and honorably as a Judge in the 8th Judicial District Court.

Having observed Joe's initiative, diligence, persistence and follow-through in several community endeavors which ensured successful and positive results, I am confident these traits will serve him well as a District Judge and in future re-election efforts bringing broad citizen support and a winning result.

Thank you for our consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Kelley Pugh
10 Riverwood Ln
Great Falls, Mt 59405
406-454-1150
dalepugh@msn.com

December 1, 2016

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

Re: *Joseph M. Sullivan, Applicant for Eighth Judicial District Judge*

Dear Members of the Commission:

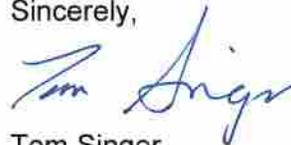
I write in support of Joe Sullivan, an applicant to replace Judge Sandefur in the Eighth Judicial District. I first met Joe in the early 1980s, when he was one of my students at Gonzaga Law School. I lost touch with him until a decade or so ago, when Joe became active with the State Bar and its Professionalism Committee. Since then, we have spent many hours with that committee planning and presenting legal education seminars. It has been rewarding to watch my former student earn the respect of his peers as a speaker and leader.

Joe has committed an extraordinary amount of time and energy to the Bar, and the Bar is vastly better for his efforts. I am impressed in particular by his efforts to educate members of the Bar about legal ethics and legal technology. In his gentle and creative way, he has encouraged the Bar and its members to reap the benefits of practicing in the 21st century, and he has patiently and persistently taught many of us how to do that.

Montana's judiciary will benefit from his knowledge of computers and related technology, and from his collegial nature. Montana lawyers will enjoy appearing before a judge who is smart, knowledgeable, genial, and experienced in a range of practice areas, including highly complex areas such as insurance coverage and intellectual property. Montana citizens will appreciate having a judge who has Joe's depth and breadth of experience, even temperament, and innate sense of what is fair. Once the citizens of Cascade County get to see Joe at work on the bench, I have no doubt they will want to re-elect him.

I strongly urge you to include Joe among the nominees you recommend to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,



Tom Singer

Brian L. Taylor
taylorb@hallevans.com
(406) 969-5229

November 29, 2016

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please accept this letter as my support for Joe Sullivan for the Eighth Judicial District Court position formerly held by Judge Sandefur. I know you are all very busy and as such I will attempt to be to the point regarding why I am supporting Joe Sullivan. However, before I state those reasons I think it is important that you understand how I know Joe Sullivan. I lived and practiced, as an attorney at Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett & Weaver, in Great Falls for about sixteen (16) years. During that time I was fortunate enough to get to know Joe Sullivan on both a professional and personal level. On a professional level I litigated against him and on a personal level I was able to see first-hand all that he has done for the State Bar of Montana and the Cascade County Bar.

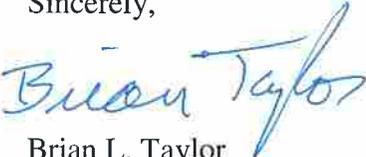
Any State District Court Judge needs to have the right Judicial Temperament. As I mentioned I have known Joe Sullivan for many years. Throughout all my dealings with him I have always found him to be considerate and level headed. That is to say that he is understanding to different points of view and able to maintain a clarity of thought and understanding when confronted with different views. His experience as the 36th President of the State Bar of Montana, as a State Trustee, member of the Professionalism Committee and the State Bar's Technology Committee have without a doubt proven his willingness to serve in the public sector. These experiences have also proven that his temperament is well suited for the Judiciary.

His willingness to serve in the before mentioned capacities, while maintaining a fulltime legal practice, show just how hard working and committed he is to the law, Judiciary and State Bar of Montana. Finally, as I am sure you know, Joe Sullivan has experience in both the criminal and civil areas. In civil litigation he has represented both Plaintiffs and Defendants. This experience and background makes him ideally suited for this position.

It is without any reservations that I am happy to fully endorse Joe Sullivan for the vacant seat in the Eighth Judicial District. Again, I have by intent, tried to be brief as I know you are all very busy. I believe that Joe Sullivan's experiences with the State Bar of Montana and his

experience representing both Plaintiffs and Defendants in litigation establishes that he will follow the law even if he might philosophically disagree with a particular law. As a practitioner this is of extreme importance. If you have any questions regarding my experiences with Joe Sullivan I would gladly answer the same.

Sincerely,



Brian Taylor

Brian L. Taylor



Catholic Church of Eastern Montana
DIOCESE OF GREAT FALLS-BILLINGS

Founded in 1904
For the Gospel. Bring light to the world.

November 28, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P O Box 203005
Helena, MT 69620-3005

Esteemed Commission Members:

I write this letter of recommendation for **Joseph M. Sullivan** who is seeking an appointment to fill Judge Sandefur's position in the 8th Judicial District.

Although I have moved to Billings recently, I worked in Great Falls in the Chancery of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings for the past seventeen years. As Vicar General (assistant to Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel) I got to know Joseph Sullivan in various capacities.

During some of those years, Joseph and his family were parishioners of mine in Great Falls. Joseph also served in leadership positions in various advisory bodies that were influential in the Catholic community. He has been active in the spiritual renewal movement, Cum Christo (Cursillo), and in Catholic education.

He is a man of many talents and a man of faith. I highly recommend him for this important position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can contribute more information in favor of his quest for this position of trust. I am

Sincerely yours,

Very Rev. Jay H. Peterson, V.G.

Charles K. Powers
3901 19th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

November 26, 2016

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

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to endorse the appointment of Joseph M. Sullivan to fill Judge Sandefur's position in the 8th Judicial District. I have known Mr. Sullivan during my employment as a teacher and assistant principal for eight years at Great Falls Central Catholic High School and as a client.

As a member of the school board at GFCCHS, Mr. Sullivan participated in hiring decisions, financial matters, and recommendations to the Diocese. In all of my relationships with Mr. Sullivan, he has exemplified the highest standards of professional ethics and behavior.

His communication skills are one of his attributes that will serve him well as a judge. Mr. Sullivan *relates* to a wide variety of opinions with understanding and fairness. This characteristic was demonstrated by his involvement in many activities associated with the school. For example, he graciously agreed to *discuss* the legal aspects in the novel **To Kill a Mockingbird**, which I was teaching to sophomores. He not only provided necessary background but he also discussed legal facts with these high school students in an engaging manner. Without exception Mr. Sullivan could be counted on for support whether it was with our sports program or the spiritual foundation upon which the school was built. Our fledgling school would have had a much more difficult chance of succeeding without his substantial support and leadership.

Mr. Sullivan has been my personal attorney since my wife and I moved to Great Falls in 2000. When our son died in 2005 at age 32 from a cerebral aneurysm, he settled his estate. In a time of extreme loss and grief, Mr. Sullivan moved us forward with compassion and thoroughness. We will be forever grateful for his empathy and professionalism.

Without hesitation I can unconditionally recommend Joseph M. Sullivan for this position. I have known few people who demonstrate in both their personal and professional lives Mr. Sullivan's qualities. His expertise as an attorney is clearly shown by his many successful cases; however, his work ethic, objectivity, and character are equally clear.

Sincerely,



Charles K. Powers
Teacher/assistant principal (Retired)

Sanford J. McAllister
15 Spring Ridge Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
gswpcmcallister@gmail.com
406-868-9826

December 6, 2016

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

I am writing to give my support to Joe M. Sullivan who is seeking to be appointed to the State District Court seat being vacated by Judge Dirk Sandefur.

I have known and worked with Joe primarily through civic and community organizations in Great Falls. I have been impressed with his knowledge, his temperament, his ability to get along with others and his willingness to spend time bettering his community. In my dealings with him, he has shown fairness and seems able to hear from different sides of an issue before making a reasoned conclusion or recommendation. He is articulate but also a good listener. He is a principled man and is respectful of others. I think he uses very good judgement. Joe works hard and shows up prepared to deal with the tasks at hand.

In addition, Joe is not a polarizing figure. He is a respected member of both the Great Falls community at large and the legal community. My sense is he would have very broad appeal if he was running for elected office, because I think like Judge Sandefur, he is well respected. I feel he would have support from Republicans and Democrats because of his principles, his legal expertise, and his experience. He is reasonable, he is well known in Great Falls and I think many in our community have confidence in him.

I believe Joe is very well suited and qualified to step into this position to succeed Judge Sandefur as a State District Court Judge. He would bring many great qualities to the Bench. I am pleased to recommend Joe Sullivan for this important position.

Sincerely,



Sanford J. McAllister

December 10, 2016

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

TO: Judicial Nomination Commission of the State of Montana

RE: Letter of Recommendation: Joseph M. Sullivan: Judicial Applicant: 8th
Judicial District Court Judge (Cascade County)

FROM: Dennis G. Owens, Member, State Bar of Montana

This is a letter of recommendation for the appointment of Joseph M. Sullivan to the position of district court judge for the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County, State of Montana.

I have known Mr. Sullivan professionally since around 2005. Before that I knew him during our undergraduate days at Gonzaga University. Although I associated with a different group of people, I would say that I was well aware of his reputation as an outstanding student, his strong work ethic, his service to the community, his empathy for others, and his downright decency as a human being. I specifically recall how Joe would always look you in the eye and acknowledge your presence when you met him in passing. That impressed me and has always stuck with me.

Before, during, and after the course of my practicing law in Great Falls, I frequently called upon Joe for his counsel on cases where I felt I needed the assistance of his analytical abilities and sound professional judgment. Joe was always available, unfailingly gracious, and always helpful.

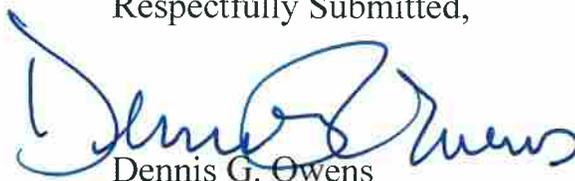
I have observed Joe in court on a good number of occasions and am aware of his reputation in the legal community – which is outstanding. It is my opinion that he is very knowledgeable about the law, has a broad background of legal experience, and is at the very top of the legal community in terms of competence and professional ability. I also noticed that Joe was always poised and had an excellent demeanor and “command presence”.

I have also observed how approachable Joe is in his interactions with other lawyers, as well as in his interactions with persons directly or indirectly related to the legal profession and the community at large. His ability to communicate with others constructively and in an amiable manner is obvious. That includes giving his undivided attention to people and listening carefully to what they have to say.

If appointed I have to think that Joe would then be highly electable because he has done so much for the legal community, and as much or more for the people of Cascade County. I also know that Joe can handle the work load, the stress, and the demands of the bench. I know this because I saw how hard he worked as an undergraduate; how hard he works for his clients; how hard he worked for the state and local bar; and how hard he works for the community of Great Falls and Cascade County.

Accordingly, and without reservation or qualification, I highly recommend Joseph M. Sullivan for appointment to the District Court bench of the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County, Montana.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dennis G. Owens

Member, State Bar of Montana



Office of School Advancement

2800 18th South
Great Falls, Montana 59405
406-216-3344

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

December 1, 2016

Dear Members of the Nomination Commission,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Joe M. Sullivan, Attorney at Law, that he be considered for appointment to the State District Court seat of the 8th Judicial District. I first met Joe in October of 1999 when I applied for the position of Principal at Great Falls Central Catholic High School. At the time he was acting as the President of the preliminary School Board working to reopen the high school after being closed for 27 years. I assumed the position of Principal and Joe and I began the task of hiring a staff, enrolling students, working with the University of Great Falls to temporarily house the school, establish a curriculum, begin Montana state accreditation and develop a budget. The school opened in late August 2000. Joe accepted the position of School Board President which he retained until 2010. Without his leadership and keen insight Central would not have prospered to where it is today.

As President of the School Board he demonstrated his leadership ability in managing the meetings, guiding effective discussion and bringing decisions to an effective conclusion. Joe was careful to ensure that all of the required information was available Throughout our professional relationship I was extremely impressed by his problem solving skills and his ability to weigh both sides of any situation while considering the impact of his decision. I noticed that he was very comfortable in making decisions, standing by them and defending his action. His communication skills and his people skills are excellent.

Personally, I have seen Joe to be a person of exemplary morals, values and ethics that others willingly follow. Having had lawyers and Judges in my family I see Joe as one who will fit the mold of an excellent arbiter. His passion for the law, his interest in insuring fair-play and willingness to dedicate the time required are second to none. I also believe that Joe brings with him a following of individuals that are both professional and personal relationships in nature, that would support his election to the same office in the future. If I can be of further assistance to the commission feel free to contact me at 406-868-6222.

Sincerely,

Hugh L. Smith
Director of Advancement

School Principal 2000 to 2012

Devan Smith
2807 Park Garden Lane
Great Falls, MT 59404
Letsgodevan1@gmail.com
406-788-2014

December 16, 2016

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

I am writing in support of Joe Sullivan to be appointed to the State District Court seat being vacated by Judge Dirk Sandefur.

I have known Joe for many years through the community in Great Falls. He has always been unwavering in his courteous and patient demeanor. I have found Joe to be a leader, good listener and thoughtful when he speaks his mind. Joe cares about the community and the people who live here. He is highly respected in Great Falls for his leadership in our community and his ability to get along with people.

Joe is well respected in the community as well as the legal community. I believe he would do well running for office because of his years of legal experience and civic involvement. I feel very confident recommending Joe for this important appointment.

Sincerely,



Devan Smith

Smith Oblander, PC

A Professional Corporation

104 2ND STREET SOUTH, SUITE 400
GALLERIA BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

TELEPHONE: (406) 453-8144
FAX: (406) 453-8170
E-MAIL: matt@bigskylaw.com
WWW SITE: <http://www.bigskylaw.com>

Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Tyler C. Smith

Attorneys at Law

December 21, 2016

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

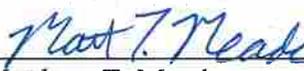
I am writing on behalf of Joe Sullivan's application to fill the District Judge position to be created by Judge Sandefur's departure. I believe Joe will make a great judge and I enthusiastically offer my support for his nomination.

I have known Joe since I began practicing law in 2013. As a younger attorney, I have found Joe to be a great resource for both knowledge and advice. I have followed his lead several times in various cases, and I have always found his opinions to be both persuasive and well-founded in the law. Throughout all of the cases I have had with Joe, he has demonstrated a very high level of knowledge and a commitment to justice. These qualities make Joe a natural leader and great example of how attorneys should strive to conduct themselves.

This past fall I was co-counsel in a trial against Joe and several other attorneys. Although Joe was an adversary in that trial, he was both professional and cordial to our side and my client. Joe's temperament is admirable and will allow him to serve as a fair and reasonable judge in Cascade County.

If selected, Joe will give everyone a fair trial based on the merits of his or her case. I have no doubt that Joe will strive to uphold the Montana and U.S. Constitutions. I hope you will strongly consider selecting Joe to serve as the next judge in Cascade County.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER, PC


Matthew T. Meade

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT, 59620 mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Joe Sullivan to fill the vacancy created by Judge Dirk Sandefur's resignation as State District Court Judge.

I have known Joe for approximately sixteen years. In that time I have personally witnessed him on a community level, as well as a professional level interacting within the community. This man has always conducted himself in a manner above reproach, and respectful of all he has dealt with. I personally do not know of anyone who would be more qualified to fill this vacancy as a District Court Judge. Joe Sullivan has a reputation as a fair minded, honest man with a sense of pride in his community.

My first memories of Joe date back to 1999 when he was volunteering his time with a faith filled group in the Big Sky Cum Christo movement. Joe was one of the first to greet me when I became involved, I knew from the first moment I met him that he was a decent man with respect for the dignity of human beings. I have since become an ordained Deacon, It is because of people like Joe Sullivan, and the example they set that I was able to succeed in my life.

On a professional level Joe has represented my family a couple of times in different personal matters. In one of those my son was seriously injured in an accident at work. The example Joe set for my son in representing him can only be described as a life lesson. Joe turned a situation that was filled with resentment, and hard feelings into a teachable moment that instilled an ethic in my son I could never had imagined had I not witnessed it with my own eyes.

Joe Sullivan's support from this community is far reaching. This is a man not only capable of winning an election, but changing the landscape of the job in a positive way for all who come before him.

Joe Sullivan is a man who is well known in this community, the voters of Cascade County would overwhelmingly support him because of his charitable work in our community as well as in our local schools. I cannot recommend strongly enough Joe Sullivan's appointment to this position.

Deacon Reverend Robert J. Ferguson



MONTANA STATE SENATE

SENATOR ED BUTTREY
MAJORITY WHIP
SENATE DISTRICT 11

HELENA ADDRESS:
STATE CAPITOL
PO BOX 200500
HELENA, MT 59620-0500
(406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
27 GRANITE HILL LANE
GREAT FALLS, MT 59405
PHONE: (406) 750-6798

COMMITTEES:
BUSINESS, LABOR, AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS - CHAIR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT - VICE CHAIR
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
RULES

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

14 Dec, 2016

RE: Appointment of Joseph M. Sullivan to 8th Judicial District Court Vacancy

Please consider this letter as my highest recommendation for the appointment of Joseph M. Sullivan to the 8th Judicial District Court seat being vacated by the Honorable Dirk Sandefur.

I have personally and professionally known Mr. Sullivan for many years, working with both Mr. Sullivan and his wife in civic and community affairs, and in my role as Montana State Senator representing Senate Districts 13 and 11. Mr. Sullivan has the intelligence, personal and professional ethics and temperament needed to effectively rule from the bench as a District Court Judge. His current knowledge, experience and education of the law in many areas, and his personal skillset to identify and understand the effects of his decisions on those appearing before the court will surely benefit the Court and those that appear. In my personal dealings with Mr. Sullivan, I have found him to be level tempered and able to deal with stressors in a way that is unique in dealing with people, issues and emotions. His communication skills are excellent and applied in a way that can help anyone understand the complexities of the law, the repercussions of actions, and the penalties and benefits that the Court can offer.

Mr. Sullivan is a man of the highest character. He is known and respected in his legal profession, is financially stable, and able to make decisions based upon fact, data and free of political pressure or ideology. His demeanor is pleasant, he has a love for the law and the State of Montana, and for his family who is well respected in our community and State. I firmly believe that as a District Court Judge, Mr. Sullivan will be respected by parties on all sides of issues and his rulings will be fair, competent and respected.

With the issues challenging all of us in these trying times for our State and Nation, we need to celebrate opportunities to appoint intelligent, personable, effective and ethical leaders to positions such as District Court Judges. We have a tremendous opportunity in Mr. Joseph M. Sullivan and his potential appointment as District Court Judge representing the 8th Judicial Court. I can find no better candidate to support, and hope that the Judicial Nomination Committee will take to heart my recommendation for his appointment to the bench.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "F. Edward Buttrey", written over a horizontal line.

F. Edward Buttrey
Senator
SD11

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 4:00 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Gustafson Law Office [<mailto:gustafsn@3rivers.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 11:07 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Joseph M. Sullivan-Applicant for Judgeship Vacancy in Eighth Judicial District

November 29, 2016

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

RE: Joseph M. Sullivan

I have known Joe Sullivan for some twenty (20) years. We have been engaged in legal matters involving clients with adversarial positions and I have also worked with him as a Mediator and as Co-Trustees of Area D of the State Bar of Montana. I am aware of his recent candidacy for election of the position of District Judge of the Eighth Judicial District and now his application to fill the judgeship created by Judge Dirk Sandefur's election as a Montana Supreme Court Justice. Joe has served as President of the Montana State Bar and continues to remain active with the Bar as Chairman of the Technology Section. He is also an active member of the Law Related Education Committee of the State Bar which is committed to educating our local community and school population about our much envied system of jurisprudence, our Federal Constitution and Bill of Rights and our very forward looking Montana Constitution of 1972. This Committee has published and distributed the Montana Citizen's Guide To The Courts, the Montana Guide To Turning Eighteen, Veteran's Guide, etc.

Through my professional and working relationship with Joe I can assure each of you that he has the moral integrity, objectivity, temperament, work ethic and professional acumen to serve the general public as a District Judge. As a devoted husband, father and general practitioner he has the ability to empathize with, and serve people appearing before him in a manner consistent with, and promoting the best interests of justice, and therefore our citizenry.

For the foregoing reasons I recommend without reservation Joseph M. Sullivan for appointment as District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District of the State of Montana. I am confident that Joe would be easily elected following his service as the appointed District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Gale R. Gustafson
Attorney At Law #588
Gustafson Law Offices
400 South Main, Suite 101
Conrad, Montana 59425

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 3:59 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Bob Kelly [<mailto:montanakellys@mac.com>]
Sent: Monday, November 28, 2016 11:38 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Endorsement of Joe Sullivan for District Court/ Attention Lois Menzies

Ms. Menzies,

Please accept my letter of support for Joe Sullivan as you and your committee consider the various candidates for District Court. My wife Sheila and I have known Joe as an active community member for over 20 years. I cannot speak to his skills and qualifications as an attorney, but I am aware of many in Great Falls who speak of his professional practice in the highest regard. What I can address is Joe's untiring willingness to participate in a significant way in many community groups serving the traditionally underserved. Joe's efforts are sometimes visible and many times quietly away from view, but are always meaningful and important to our community. I have appreciated the contributions of both Joe and his wife Parker to our city throughout the time I have known them. I am sure Joe would bring his caring perspective and his professional skills to the bench and be a credit to our judicial system. Please know that I heartily support his selection. Thank you for your time.

Best,
Bob Kelly
Mayor of the City of Great Falls.

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 3:58 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Jennifer Lutey [<mailto:jeno@brightwayslearning.org>]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 1:12 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Joe Sullivan
Subject: Letter of Support for Joe Sullivan for District Judge

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Judge Application

Dear Ms. Menzies and Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in support of Joe Sullivan's nomination and appointment as Judge for the 8th Judicial District. I have known Joe for about six years through serving on both the State Bar Law Related Education Committee and the State Bar Technology Committee.

Joe continually exhibits exceptional leadership ability in both committees. His legal knowledge and understanding of application of the law significantly furthers both committees' efforts. Additionally, Joe has the invaluable ability to motivate others to significantly contribute to the legal community and beyond.

Joe continues to positively impact the statewide legal community from his past service as a leader of the State Bar and through his support and education in technical matters to attorneys and judicial members. Joe also benefits the general public through legal education and resource development and through more technically capable attorney representation and judicial understanding of technology as applied to the law.

Further, Joe's ability to listen well, synthesize significant information, and to quickly to make decisions and decisively guide others are all important skills necessary for a District Court Judge. Joe's energy and enthusiasm for the law is infectious and helps to instill confidence in the legal process.

I highly recommend Joe to you and Governor Bullock without reservation; he would make an excellent 8th Judicial District Judge.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Lutey, Esq.
Executive Director



Jennifer Lutey
Executive Director

406.542.3334 | BrightwaysLearning.org
3700 S. Russell #114, Missoula, MT 59801

"Connecting Students to a Bright Future"



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2016 3:57 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Brad Condra [<mailto:bcondra@bigskylawyers.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2016 8:54 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Public Comment - Joe Sullivan

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Louis Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 50620-3005

Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in my individual capacity to express my support for Joe Sullivan's nomination and appointment for the State District Court Judge vacancy created by Judge Dirk Sandefur's recent election to the Montana State Supreme Court. As you are no doubt aware, Mr. Sullivan has a wide depth of legal experience and a clearly demonstrated commitment to public service. In my opinion, Mr. Sullivan would be an exceptional for District Court Judge in the Eight Judicial District.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Sullivan and have found him to be thorough, well-reasoned, ethical and practical. He exemplifies the qualities that only the best in the profession possess. Mr. Sullivan clearly has the qualifications, experience and intelligence to be an outstanding District Court Judge. I hope that you will give Mr. Sullivan's accomplishments, qualifications and commitment the serious consideration they deserve.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance please to not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Brad Condra

MILODRAGOVICH•DALE•STEINBRENNER, P.C.
ATTORNEYS

P. Brad Condra
Shareholder

620 High Park Way, P.O. Box 4947 • Missoula, MT 59806
(T) 406-728-1455 (F) 406-549-7077
www.bigskylawyers.com

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PEGGY PROBASCO
2637 State
Butte, MT 59701

December 23, 2016

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

Re: Joseph M Sullivan

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support of Joe Sullivan for the position of District Judge in the 8th Judicial District. I have known Joe since he began his service on the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Montana and found him to be engaged, prepared and willing to work in this volunteer capacity with the same effort I have no doubt he puts into his practice.

Shortly after joining the Board of Trustees Joe initiated changes that helped the Board become better prepared and ready to do the important work of our unified Bar and he maintained his involvement becoming President of the Bar in 2010. He is becoming well known nationally as member of the National Conference of Bar Presidents.

Joe is principled and knowledgeable in every instance in which I have had the pleasure of working with him. He loves the law and has not lost his passion for justice. I cannot think of a better foundation for a judge. Joe also has a respect for the people who seek resolution to their legal problems in our courts every day. He has compassion which shows in his endeavors outside his practice. In short, Joe also has a demeanor well suited to the bench.

My governmental practice occasionally takes me to the 8th Judicial District and I would be very pleased to present cases to Judge Sullivan, knowing that he would weigh the legal issues carefully and rule fairly. I always enjoy practice in front of such judges, particularly when I do not succeed in the case, because I can see and appreciate the ruling as a furtherance of the law and justice. I have no doubt Joe would be such a Judge and I highly recommend him to the Commission.

Sincerely,



Peggy Probasco
Attorney at Law

Michael Larson
PO Box 1443
Dillon, MT 59725

December 23, 2016

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing in my individual capacity to express my support for the nomination of Joseph Sullivan for the 8th Judicial District Judgeship. I have known Joe for over ten years. I have had the honor and privilege of working with him in his capacity as a State Bar Trustee, President elect, President and past President. Additionally we have presented numerous CLEs together and attended many of the same ABA meetings. I have been proud to consider him both a friend and a colleague.

Though I haven't had the opportunity to practice with or against him, Joe has always presented clear and concise information when presenting at CLEs, regardless of the subject matter. Joe has also represented Montana well when attending ABA functions. His knowledge base is deep, yet he can present the information so that it can be understood by all. I have often met with Joe while visiting Great Falls, to gain a better understanding of the local legal community and the issues they face.

Joe's attributes go far beyond his dedication to the legal profession. Joe and his wife, Parker, are fixtures in the Great Falls community and the legal community of Montana. Additionally, he is the proud father of three wonderful girls, and an even prouder grandfather.

Thank you for your consideration of Joe Sullivan for the position of Judge for the 8th Judicial District. He would be a great addition to the Bench. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (406) 660-1181.

Sincerely,

Michael Larson

THIEL LAW OFFICE, PLLC

327 WEST PINE
P.O. BOX 8125
MISSOULA, MT 59807
(406) 543-1550
www.thiellaw.com

MATTHEW B. THIEL, ESQ.
matt@thiellaw.com

December 28, 2016

Sent via Email

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

RE: Letter in Support of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to write in support of Joe Sullivan's application for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court. I have known Joe for the past 8 years through our work with the State Bar of Montana. Joe has a wide depth of experience in civil and criminal law as a private practice attorney and a demonstrated commitment to public service and improving the legal profession. Joe would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

I have served and worked with Joe in our roles with the Montana State Bar continuously since 2008, when I first joined the Board of Trustees. Joe was an Officer of the State Bar, serving on the Executive Committee and had already been a Trustee for many years prior to my service. Joe has served the State Bar as a Trustee and Officer for more than 18 years. Joe was President of the State Bar of Montana from 2010-2011 and continued to serve the Bar as a member of the National Council of Bar Presidents after his tenure with the State Bar. Most recently, Joe agreed to assume the Chairmanship of the State Bar Technology Committee and is working to reorganize and energize this State Bar committee to assist the State Bar and its members to better address the effects of changing technology on the

December 28, 2016

practice of law. With Joe's help, the State Bar adopted proposed amendments to the rules of Professional Conduct that address technology as it affects attorneys and the public that were recently approved by the Supreme Court.

Joe participated in all of the efforts described above in a volunteer capacity in addition to maintaining a successful and respected general law practice in Great Falls, which has covered an impressive range of diverse areas of law. Joe is clearly dedicated to giving of his time and resources to help both his community and improve the civil justice system, which he has demonstrated with more than 20 years of dedicated service. As such, he will be a valuable asset to the judicial system.

In working with Joe, I have known him to be thoughtful, thorough, and intelligent in addressing the complex issues that came before the State Bar involving the practice of law and the management of Bar functions. Joe is also professional and conscientious in his dealings with people, even when persistence is required to accomplish a goal. Importantly, Joe showed he is a consensus builder when needed, and the State Bar relied on these abilities to help resolve many challenging issues. Through his deliberative approach, Joe inspired those he worked with to remember that they are fiduciaries of the Bar's reputation and resources. These qualities make Joe a respected and effective leader in the Montana Bar.

I am confident Joe will add to the quality and effectiveness of the Court should he be selected as District Court Judge. Joe has the ability to work with the other judges and staff as part of a team to make the Court a place where all parties can be assured of receiving a thoughtful and conscious consideration of their claims. I respectfully request that you include Joe on the list of candidates forwarded to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely,

THIEL LAW OFFICE, PLLC



Matthew B. Thiel

December 27, 2016

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

Dear Commissioners,

I recommend Joe Sullivan for the appointment to District Judge Sandefur's seat.

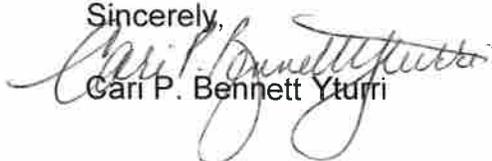
Joe has many admirable traits, two of which I would like to highlight are his consistency and dedication.

I have known Joe for over 40 years and know that he has always been committed to community service. My first encounter with him was when we were students at Gonzaga University serving on Student Council. Whether then or more recently serving on the United Way Board or a Parish Council, Joe ensured the decisions made were thoughtful and fair. Whether it was in college or now as a 28 year veteran attorney, he's been willing to serve his community in hopes to make a difference.

Joe's maintained a life-long dedication to his faith through music ministry and to parish work. For over 25 years he has offered his musical talent and his legal knowledge and expertise to both St Luke Parish (now Corpus Christi Parish) and Holy Spirit Parish.

I encourage you to appoint Joe to the 8th Judicial District Court because he would carefully consider the law in order to consistently and fairly rule in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Cari P. Bennett Yturri

December 23, 2016

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

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to endorse Joe Sullivan for appointment to District Judge Dirk Sandefur's seat.

I've known Joe primarily through Holy Spirit Catholic Church where he has advised the parish council and volunteered as a music minister.

It's my impression that Joe takes great pride to remain dedicated to every community commitment he makes and I am confident he would apply this same dedication and work ethic to serving as a judge.

Please appoint Joe Sullivan to the Eighth Judicial Seat.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Bennett

Marc G. Buyske
511 South Raleigh Street
Helena, Montana 59601

December 28, 2016

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

Re: Application of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to lend my whole hearted endorsement to the application of Joseph M. Sullivan for nomination and appointment as District Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District.

I have had the opportunity and professional pleasure of working with Joe both as a private practitioner and as a sitting District Court Judge. In both circumstances, Joe has exhibited the highest standards of civility, legal competency and ethics.

Joe is an ardent advocate for his clients, but does not lose sight of the goal of a fair and just resolution of the legal dispute at hand. During my tenure as District Judge for the Montana Ninth Judicial District, Joe was defense trial counsel for a matter that was tried to a jury. Joe's professional and legal competence made conducting that trial a good and, for me, learning experience. Joe was always prepared for

the day's trial activity and skillfully and professionally represented his client in the litigation. Joe appeared several other times in my Court in non-trial matters and I could always count on his being prepared and professional.

Based upon my observations and interactions with Joe in these circumstances, I have no doubt he will bring an outstanding legal competence and a fitting judicial demeanor to service as a District Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District.

I urge your favorable consideration and recommendation for Joseph M. Sullivan as the nominee for the position of District Judge, Montana Eighth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Marc G. Buyske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Marc G. Buyske

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
(406) 841-2950

RE: Joe M. Sullivan

Dear Commission,

I have known Joe Sullivan for many years and believe him to be an ethical and caring individual. He is passionate about his profession and often speaks highly of it and his peers. I've had occasion to work closely with Joe and have always found him to be thorough, thoughtful, and fair.

I consider Joe a leader in the community and am glad to hear he is 'throwing his hat in the ring' for the State's District Court seat. We have worked together at the community board level as well as on several community events and I have appreciated his skill in leading and guiding our discussions. He has also led the effort to get more involvement from our legal community within our broader municipal needs.

Joe has earned my trust and respect and I believe he will be a superb State District Court Judge. I wholeheartedly recommend him for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Peter B. Gray
Executive Director, Senior Care
Benefis Health System

Letter of endorsement for Joe Sullivan as judicial appointee:

My name is Don Miller and I have known Joe Sullivan for approximately 18 years. My support for Mr. Sullivan is based on professional, social and personal interactions.

Professionally, I have observed Joe as board chair of two different non-profit organizations. I am always very impressed with his preparation, organization and congenial manner at meetings. I have been on several boards myself and I have yet to see anyone match his leadership abilities.

My wife retained Joe to represent her in an automobile accident case and we witnessed a dedicated and effective attorney in our corner. We were both pleased with his compassion, energy and consistent preparation and organization. We would definitely seek his counsel again in the future, if need be.

Joe provided pro-bono work for a non-profit which I am associated. He explained all the options facing management and provided invaluable help in solving some serious legal issues for the organization. One of his favorite activities is to provide opportunities for youth to get a taste of court through mock trials. I have observed Joe in actual hearings and I think he would excel as a professor, as he brings that realism to a classroom. I am pleased that he is offering that temperament of instruction to the court system

Socially, our families have shared many school and church related activities. His middle daughter and my son were very good friends in high school and I taught two of his daughters in high school. We have a group of common friends that have made a point of getting together for weekly breakfast and “extended family” of sorts. We have supported each other as fathers and husbands in life’s journey.

Personally, I think of this man as a younger, yet smarter brother. I was an Air Force pilot and we have spent some time talking aviation, and especially, stories of Joe’s time with the Space Shuttle program. I am so impressed with his desire to investigate issues, which I’m sure has been a strength in his work as a lawyer. He has an in-depth knowledge in many areas and he seems to thrive on learning. When he is unfamiliar with a subject, he does exceptional research and retains what he learns. This personal trait seems to be perfect for a judicial candidate.

I am proud to be called his friend but I’m not blinded by that friendship. If I didn’t see his calling as something good for society, I would tell him. I do, in fact, picture him as a model of what an ethical judge should be. In future elections, I would be glad to assist in any capacity.

Don Miller
4111 5th Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405
Phone: 406.788.1271

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 6:37 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: John Alexander [<mailto:jda@uazh.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 2:18 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: jsullivan@sullivanlawmt.com
Subject: 8th Judicial District Judge position

Attention:Lois Menzies. I am sending this e-mail in support of Joseph Sullivan for the 8th Judicial District Court opening created by Judge Sandefur's election to the Supreme Court. I have known Joe for over 20 years and have found his temperament and integrity impeccable. I am a retired Attorney who practiced in Great Falls for over 40 years. I have had many dealing with Joe over the years both collegially and adversarially. He was always very professional and I could always take him at his word. His broad background in the law as well as his contributions to the legal community and public community make him particularly qualified to serve as a District Court Judge. I have supported him in the past for a judicial position and his persistence in seeking appointment speaks volumes on his keen interest in serving the public as a judge. As a former Trustee of the State Bar, I was quite impressed with the way he lead the Montana State Bar Association during his tenure as president. I recall one case where I hired Joe as an expert in a complex case involving a number of issues that required exceptional analytical and organizational skills. His work on that case gives me great confidence that he would make an excellent District Court Judge. Should you have any questions on Joe's capabilities to serve in this capacity, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 6:39 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Scott Radford [<mailto:sradford@strainbld.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 3:12 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: jsullivan@sullivanlawmt.com
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE APPLICANTS FOR OPEN SEAT ON 8TH JUDICIAL BENCH

December 29th, 2016 (Thursday)

Judicial Nomination Commission

RE: My comment on the applicants for the open seat on the 8th Judicial Bench

Dear Commission Members:

I have been a member of the Cascade County Bar Association and a member of the MT Bar for over 35 years. I personally know all of the applicants and their abilities and experience.

All five are bright individuals. But for me, I would urge the Commission to recommend to the Governor both John Parker and Joe Sullivan as having the superior qualifications (among the five applicants) for this judicial position.

Yours Truly,

Scott M. Radford, esq.
Radford Law Firm, P.C.
P.O. Box 2928
Great Falls, MT 59403

(406) 452-5522 office
<sradford@strainbld.com>

MARY SHEEHY MOE

8 Prospect Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

December 29, 2016

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

To the Commission:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the application of Great Falls attorney **Joseph M. Sullivan** for a judgeship in the Eighth Judicial District in Great Falls. I have known Joe as a Montana lawyer and as a Great Falls community leader for nearly a decade. I believe that he will bring to the bench the strong commitment to both the law and public service that Montanans expect and deserve.

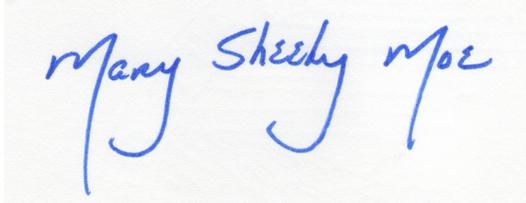
As his application establishes, in his 30+ years of practice, Joe has worked in a diverse range of legal areas. Although he is most experienced in insurance defense, he has made it a point to be a “broad fields” practitioner. His breadth of experience will be an asset on the bench, as will his experience before various kinds of courts on a variety of issues. He is held in high regard among his colleagues statewide. They speak in particular of his unfailing civility and warmth and how well both reflect on him and on the profession.

Joe has also demonstrated an unusual level of service to the Montana Bar Association. For several years he served on its board and ultimately as its President. He actively participated in providing CLE presentations for the Bar, contributing to the monthly newsletter, and working through issues with committees. As a member of the CLE Commission, I appreciated the consistency and the affability of his communication efforts – and the time away from his practice that those efforts required.

Joe’s service ethic and his work ethic go far beyond the Bar. He has been active in the Great Falls community in countless ways. The one that I’m most familiar with is his involvement with United Way. Joe is one of the few attorneys in town who has taken on the time commitment and the legwork involved in making our local United Way such a strong and productive presence in Great Falls. I was on the UW board for almost five years so I know what that commitment involves. Joe’s been on it for six years, including two years as campaign vice-chair and chair, the most time-consuming posts on the board. Under his leadership, United Way of Cascade County not only has had record-setting donations, but has also achieved a uniquely accountable and collaborative model that has made huge, quantifiable improvements in lives in Great Falls.

Over three decades, Joe Sullivan has shown Montana lawyers and the Great Falls community members a professionalism characterized by hard work, selflessness, kindness and warmth. These are the qualities he would bring to the bench. I recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Sheehy Moe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'S'.

Sen. Mary Sheehy Moe
Senate District 12

SNYDER LAW OFFICE, P.C.

Randall A. Snyder
Erika Johnson
Attorneys at Law
Wendy Stewart, Paralegal

8090 MT Highway 35
P.O. Box 717
Bigfork, MT 59911

(406) 837-4383
E-mail: secretary@rsnyderlaw.us

January 2, 2017

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

Via email only to: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Nominees

Dear Commission Members:

I write to support the nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan for District Court Judge in Cascade County. I met Joe nearly years ago as the newest member to the Board of Trustees of the State Bar. Joe was a trustee from Great Falls. We crossed paths on an early morning jog before the Board's annual retreat, that year in Red Lodge. I worked with Joe as he passed through the chairs to the State Bar presidency. I saw his committee work with the National Conference of Bar Presidents. I recall Joe's humor, observing that he was about to be "kicked off the island" as he ended his final days as Immediate Past President of our State Bar. I repeated that very phrase this last September.

Many "past presidents" go quietly into history, as I have. Joe just couldn't say "no" or stand by though – he kept seeing incomplete work for our profession. Even today Joe continues to chair the State Bar's all-important technology committee and recently forwarded recommendations for approved rule changes to our Supreme Court.

I do not write to attest to Joe's technical or professional qualifications. His cases and resume speak for themselves. However, in Bar Association circles today, our concern for administration of justice has radically changed from five and ten years ago.

Our judiciary and attorneys now work with a significantly overburdened court. Every urban district in western Montana has seen their caseloads double and triple. The few judgeships which were added in the 2013 legislative session did not meet the demand. ABA recommendations for number of cases per judge would seemingly justify half again as many District Judges and Justices of the Peace as currently serve Montana's courts. Particularly with reduced revenue this next biennium, it's a certainty the legislature will not authorize new district judges as are necessary at \$1 million per seat.

Compound this with the pro se litigation explosion, the aging out of our profession (one-quarter to one-third of State Bar members will die or leave the practice of law in the next seven to ten years) and rapid technological changes to legal practice and courtroom administration. What case does not now involve e-Discovery? The Trial Lawyers Association presented an instructor who advocates trying cases from an iPad. With the current challenges facing today's jurists, it's a wonder anyone would apply.

The current job description, while still requiring a competence in law and even temperament, now demands an administrator who can handle three times a reasonable caseload (half of which are pro se), inadequate funding and staff, a curious blend of aging and younger attorneys in trial (some of whom don't play well) and rapidly changing technology. Why Joe Sullivan might prefer this to a quiet solo practice and predictable retirement is a wonder, but his background was written for the role.

Joe Sullivan didn't just lead the State Bar. He led us during a tumultuous legislature which attacked the courts and lawyers generally. Joe represented the State Bar and advocated for the courts with calm, collected demeanor, solid data, diplomacy and always a smile. Joe dealt with personalities on the Board of Trustees, a challenging relationship with the Montana Justice Foundation and others. Whatever the tenor of an argument, most everyone was pacified by Joe's approach and smile. You couldn't rattle him.

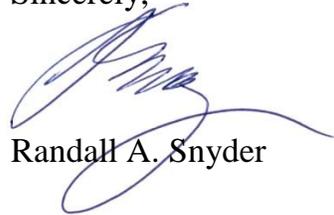
Today's district judge cannot be an average administrator; they must be an expert. They must not only have legal knowledge, but understand the technology for finding, writing and sharing it. They must keep an impossible calendar current and decide cases before litigants expire. Joe's done that. He not only chairs the State Bar technology committee, he resurrected it. He could assist the Eighth Judicial District into a more efficient use of technology and our eventual electronic filing.

I personally mediated the District Judges Association petition to amend the Substitution Rule. I am well aware of the independence of District Judges, as much from practicing attorneys as from each other. That is true within as well as between districts. Here again, there is no room for loss of efficiency today given the caseload. With or without substitutions, district judges must work together at peak efficiency to have any hope of remaining current. Joe has the background, personality and drive to work with the Judge's Association as a whole, as well as with other District Judges in Great Falls for consistent and efficient procedures and policy.

Judicial Nomination Commission
Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Nominees
January 2, 2017
Page 3

I urge you to nominate your most qualified candidate, Joe Sullivan. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RAS", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Randall A. Snyder

RAS/mr

LAW OFFICES
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MICKELSON, P.C.**

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Of Counsel:
WILLIAM M. KEBE, JR.

Retired:
R.D. CORETTE

December 28, 2016

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

Re: Application of Joseph M. Sullivan (Eighth Judicial District Judge)

Greetings:

I write in support of the appointment of Joe Sullivan to fill the position of District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have previously written this Committee on Joe's behalf in relation to other judicial vacancies. I do so again because, in my mind, the Commission could not find a more appropriate person to nominate than Joe. Joe's commitment to public service and judicial qualifications will be more fully set forth below. His willingness to again apply for the District Judge position is more evidence of this commitment as well as a true sign of his perseverance and dedication to the rule of law. These are excellent qualities for a judge.

I have had the pleasure to work with Joe for many years primarily through our mutual volunteer work with the State Bar of Montana and the National Conference of Bar Presidents. Although, I had known Joe prior to his joining the State Bar Board of Trustees, it was through his work on the Board and later as an Officer where I really began to develop an admiration for his abilities both as hard worker and an effective leader.

Joe was an excellent Secretary/Treasurer and helped steer the State Bar through some challenging times. As a tribute to his hard work and commitment to the Bar, Joe was unopposed when he took the next logical step in leadership and ran for President-Elect of the State Bar. Again, he excelled as both the President-Elect and President. Joe was able to assess and resolve difficult situations facing the Bar in a common sense and collaborative manner. He was able to build consensus among members of

Judicial Nomination Commission
December 28, 2016
Page 2

the State Bar to resolve the problems and move forward. He possesses a patient and low key manner but is also confident in his ability to lead.

Joe has practiced in a variety of settings and clearly has the qualities of a good judge. He is diligent, hard -working, thorough and thoughtful. He believes in providing strong representation to his clients while always keeping in mind that the justice system is best served by advocates who fairly and objectively assess the matters at hand and work toward a fair and just solution. Joe has a commonsense approach that is a must for a district court judge. He recognizes that it is important for district court judges to handle matters both objectively and timely in order to reduce the cost of litigation. Joe has the qualifications we all want in a judge. He is smart, even tempered, objective, competent, and fair.

In addition to his many hours of volunteer support to the organized Bar he has also found time to give back to the Great Falls community.

All of the above adds up to the perfect candidate for this position. There is no doubt in my mind that Joe is qualified to be a district court judge; he would have broad support from the Great Falls area; and, certainly, he would run for and be successful in any re-election campaign. He possesses all the qualities required of a good judge.

I strongly encourage you to forward Joe's name to Governor Bullock with your strong recommendation that he be appointed as the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I would certainly be willing to answer any questions the Commission members might have concerning my experience and knowledge of Joe and his background and qualifications.

Thank you for your service as members of the Commission and for your time and attention.

Yours very truly,


Robert M. Carlson

RMC/ss

McKITTRICK LAW FIRM, P.C.

D. PATRICK McKITTRICK (of Counsel)
TIMOTHY J. McKITTRICK

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SUITE 622
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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403
TELEPHONE (406) 727-4041
FAX (406) 727-4044



December 29, 2016

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

Re: Joseph Sullivan;
Montana Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Commission Members:

When two earlier vacancies came about in the Eighth Judicial District Judgeships, I was honored to write letters on behalf of Joseph Sullivan's candidacies. You favorably looked upon his applications and forwarded them to Governor Bullock for consideration. I am honored to write a letter on behalf of Mr. Sullivan concerning the outstanding vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship.

Once again, you have before you the impressive credentials of Joseph Sullivan. As you will note, he continues to serve the public and legal profession in a variety of outstanding ways.

I have known Joe for many years and have found him to be a person of the highest integrity, competence, and responsibility. In addition to all of his other qualifications, he has the judicial temperament to be appointed the next Eighth Judicial District Judge. Joe would apply the law to the facts of each case in a fair and impartial manner.

If you would like to contact me personally, I would be more than happy to visit with each of you.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of his application.

Sincerely,

D. Patrick McKittrick

DPM/ang
c: Joe Sullivan

Janice Frankino Doggett

**Attorney at Law ((*Emeritus*)
105 Oakwood Lane
Helena, Montana 59601**

January 1, 2017

via email

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

Re: Nomination of **Joe Sullivan**- Eight Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I support Joe Sullivan's application for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County. Joe has unique qualities that will make him an exceptional judge: he is thoughtful, conscientious, gracious, and one of the brightest people I've met. His thought process is deliberate and he views all sides of an issue before making a judgment.

Joe served on the Executive Committee and was the acting President of the State Bar of Montana when I was the Bar's Equal Justice Coordinator. I was tasked with improving access to justice for low-income Montanans by coordinating with with local bars, the judiciary and Supreme Court. During this time, Joe championed access to justice in Cascade County.

While Joe was in leadership at the Bar, the access to justice community proposed a variety of changes to the practice of law. Many attorneys feared the proposed changes would create a hardship for them and for their clients. Joe addressed these concerns by articulating the hardship and anxiety of his fellow attorneys and suggesting modifications. His position was viewed by some as being opposed to providing legal services to low-income Montanans; however, this could not have been further from the truth. Joe understood that without attorney support and participation Montanans in need would go unserved. Joe's thoughtful and persistent articulation of the issues faced by attorneys helped members of the access to justice community appreciate and respond to the concerns. Through his leadership more Montanans are now served by attorneys who are confident their voices are being heard. This has resulted in a stronger pro bono community.

If there was a conflict or crisis at a bar meeting during Joe's tenure he was always calm and deliberate. People looked to him for clear-headed leadership knowing he had a strong grasp of the facts and would reach a thoughtful conclusion. I believe the people of Cascade County would be well served by this thoughtful, gracious man. He is a credit to our profession and would be an extraordinary District Court judge. I am honored to support him.

Sincerely,



Janice Frankino Doggett
Jfdlawyer@gmail.com
406-439-6778

Parker, Heitz & Cosgrove, PLLC

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December 29, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
Montana Supreme Court
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: *Joseph M. Sullivan Application for
District Court Judge, Cascade County*

To Whom It May Concern:

I write with an enthusiastic endorsement for Joseph Sullivan as District Court Judge in Cascade County. There are numerous qualities we look for in a judge, all of which Joe not only has been blessed with but in many instances is a shining example of. Perhaps I am getting old and the manner in which I judge a prospective judge has changed. Anymore, I want a judge with even temperament; the ability to be decisive; and who is industrious. Joe Sullivan is all of these things. He has taken on a broad array of duties for the State Bar which would convince any observer that he is dedicated to the faithful and neutral applications of legal principles. He served with distinction as the State Bar president. Because of his prodigious knowledge of math (which explains his first career as a mathematician for the space shuttle project) he has headed up the technology committee.

I do not believe Joe Sullivan is identified with any particular subset of attorneys in the state who champion a subset of causes they hold dear. His single allegiance, as his career proves, is to the application of the rule of law.

Very truly yours,



Mark D. Parker

MDP/drs

December 24, 2016

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

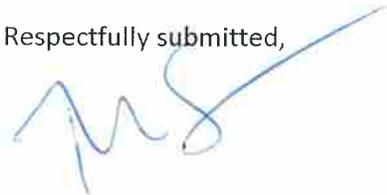
Re: Joe M. Sullivan – 8th Judicial District

Dear Nominating Committee:

Please find my letter in support of Joe Sullivan being appointed the 8th District Court Judge. I have had the great pleasure of working side by side with Joe in the Great Falls community, and I'm honored to work closely with him through the efforts of the United Way of Cascade County. Joe's steadfast commitment to our community and his willingness to help lead the organization is a true testament to the quality of his character.

If I had to choose two words to describe Joe Sullivan, those words would be *Integrity* and *Character*. I can't think of two stronger words that would describe the make-up of a District Judge.

Respectfully submitted,



Thor Swensson
Great Falls, MT



Phone: 454-0443
FAX 761-7342
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104 2nd St S, Ste 201
P O Box 2302
Great Falls, MT 59403-2302

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

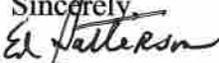
December 28, 2016

Re: Joseph Sullivan applicant for Judge State District Court

Members of the Nomination Committee:

I am writing you today on behalf of Joe Sullivan to voice my support for his nomination.

Over the last 20 years it has been my privilege to serve as the insurance agent for Joe Sullivan and his family for both business and family matters. I have had many opportunities to work closely with Joe on issues pertaining to both his law practice and family and have come to know him as a friend. At all times when I have dealt with Joe he has presented himself as a patient man with strong business ethics and family values. I have no doubt these personal attributes will serve him and our community well as a Judge.

Sincerely,

Ed Patterson

December 30, 2016

Mark Frisbie, J.D.
616 7th Ave. S
Great Falls, MT 59405

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

Re: Nomination for Mr. Joseph Sullivan for District Court Judge, 8th Judicial District, Cascade County

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for Mr. Joseph Sullivan as the new District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County. I have drafted a similar letter approximately a year ago for judicial appointment in this same district, and my opinion has not changed. While I am familiar with the other candidates, Mr. Sullivan remains my choice.

First, although it is not listed as a requirement for being a district court judge or a member of the state bar, Mr. Sullivan is a gentleman. In all of my interactions with Mr. Sullivan, he has always been polite and cordial and I have never seen him openly show anger or say anything negative about anyone. This is important because it is a part of having a judicial temperament: I truly think that Mr. Sullivan will be neutral, impartial, and even-tempered. If appointed, I think Mr. Sullivan will uphold and promote the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary of Cascade County without giving any appearance of impropriety.

Second, I know Mr. Sullivan to be a committed member of the Cascade County community. He was very involved with the Law Clinic here in Cascade County. Further, he is an active member of the local bar association as well.

Third, Mr. Sullivan collects all of the facts before he makes a decision. Approximately 8 years ago when I was a brand new attorney I took on a very difficult client and case. The case was already mostly litigated and the issues were mostly moot. As the case progressed, my client became very upset that she was not "winning". I believe that she made an informal complaint about me. Later, Mr. Sullivan called me about the informal complaint. He took the time to listen about the case, how I approached the case, how I was litigating the case, and what I intended to do next. The case was resolved about one month later. It was Mr. Sullivan who took the time to gather the facts, to listen to me, and then to advise how to proceed. Everything worked out fine and it was Mr. Sullivan who gave me the courage to carry on.

Finally, as a member of the community, I would feel safe with Mr. Sullivan as a District Court Judge.

For all of the reasons stated above, Mr. Joseph Sullivan would make a good judge in the 8th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Frisbie", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Frisbie, J.D.

W. Wayne Harper
Attorney at Law

35 West Granite
P.O. Box 506
Butte, Montana 59701
Tel - 406.782.5729 fax - 406.782.5863
wayne@wharperlaw.com

December 28, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 303005
Helena, Montana 59620-3005

RE: *Joseph M. Sullivan*

Dear Commission Members:

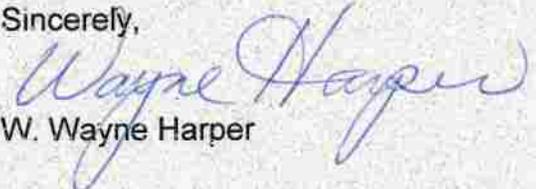
I am writing this letter in support of Joseph M. Sullivan's application for appointment as the District Judge for Montana's Eighth Judicial District Court. I have known Joe for over 30 years and can recommend him for this appointment with great confidence. I first met Joe during some complex litigation, but have come to know him personally since that time. Joe always demonstrated a depth of understanding of the areas of law in which he worked. He also has always shown great integrity in his actions and interactions with others.

As Joe's application clearly demonstrates, his wide variety of experiences and qualities make him an excellent choice for this position. I have been involved in cases with Joe on both sides of the Complaint and issues of law. He has shown integrity in advocating for his client; along with the background research necessary to address the legal matters in a very professional and persuasive way. He is fair, courteous, ethical, and reasonable. He exhibits the proper knowledge, temperament, and work ethic to preside as a District Court Judge.

Joe has been and remains devoted to the profession, his community, and the State of Montana through his charitable acts and professional responsibilities. Qualities such as these are exactly what should be the foundation of a District Court Judge.

I am proud to provide this personal recommendation on behalf of Joe. I do so with great confidence that I am recommending someone who I admire and know will be a District Judge of whom to be proud. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if I can provide you with any additional information regarding Joe's qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,


W. Wayne Harper

Lisa Gondeiro
P.O. Box 3501
Great Falls, MT 59403
Cell: (386) 623-1971
lisagondeiro@yahoo.com

January 3, 2017

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

Re: Joseph Sullivan's Application for the Eighth Judicial District Court vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Joseph M. Sullivan for nomination to the judicial seat vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

For the past two years I have been working very closely with Mr. Sullivan. I have been witness to, on countless occasions, his character, demeanor, and the manner in which he conducts business. In this letter I will be covering the many qualities I feel have contributed to his ability as being the best candidate for the vacant judicial position in Cascade County.

Mr. Sullivan is not only a very competent attorney, but will also make a competent judge, given the opportunity. In all of his cases, I have observed Mr. Sullivan's knack of searching for and discovering things that may have otherwise been easily overlooked. He is always asking questions in regards to things that have yet to surface. He always looks at the "bigger picture" and the journey toward the goal, not only the "end game". He pays close attention to how each thing will impact the other and what needs to be accomplished in order to counteract it. He ensures everything is laid on the table and nothing goes amiss. These characteristics not only detail his competence, but his diligence and thoroughness as well.

His thoroughness and diligence not only in his cases, but as business owner, are very important aspects that positively impact his work. We have all heard the saying "nobody is perfect", and that is absolutely true, but Mr. Sullivan comes as close as anyone could. He is not an overzealous or impractical perfectionist, but rather does everything within his power to ensure mistakes are not made while conducting his work. As we all know, mistakes in the field of Law can be extremely detrimental to a case. If a mistake is made, he reacts appropriately versus what any lay person would expect from someone holding such an important position.

When Mr. Sullivan is approached with a discrepancy, he calmly listens, asks a few questions, and then explains to how to compensate for the mistake. Once the issue has been resolved, he diplomatically illustrates why refraining from a mistake of the nature is so important and how to

avoid it in the future. He is passionate, yet, level-headed and diplomatic in everything he does; objectivity at its finest.

As a prior Service Member, integrity is my most highly regarded characteristic in anyone. I have the utmost respect for individuals who are always honest, can admit when they make a mistake, and point out a particular issue that may have been missed instead of taking advantage of a situation. I have known Mr. Sullivan to adhere to these characteristics invariably. I have observed each of these in separate events in which he could have easily taken advantage of a situation in order to gain the upper hand in a case. Rather, he chooses to contact the other side, or his client, and provide the information he has discovered. Regardless of who is paying attention or not, Mr. Sullivan is always doing what is right. His conscience guides him to maintain his integrity at all times and at all costs.

Fairness is a necessity in a courtroom. I can assure you that it will be appropriately maintained with Mr. Sullivan presiding as Judge. He is a stickler for rules and would have no problem enforcing them, all the while maintaining fairness. I have had many conversations with him about the “gray areas” in Law, and in life. He has opened my mind to new ways of thinking in order to remain fair and impartial when it comes to these sticky “gray areas”.

I have also witnessed his impartiality first hand during a mediation process in which one of these “gray areas” was involved. Although the temporary legal guardian in this case did not have many rights with regard to the child once the biological parent was ready to take the child full-time and wanted the child back home, Mr. Sullivan suggested during mediation, both of the individuals have visitation rights. Neither person was required to neither relinquish rights nor lose them in court due to his suggestion of a fair arrangement.

Mr. Sullivan has illustrated the utmost patience in every situation, especially when it encompassed training me, someone whose only background in Law was a course at a university titled “Introduction to Criminal Justice.” He establishes a comfortable working environment. He is firm, yet understanding and compassionate.

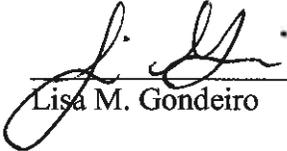
When it comes to time management, Mr. Sullivan is a professional! I have found myself astonished and wondering how he balances his caseload, his many extracurricular activities, and his personal life. Although he keeps busy with his cases, he ensures he makes time for *pro bono* work, volunteer work, and his continuing education. He spends many hours assisting United Way of Cascade County with their Campaign. Every year he exceeds the allowable amount of carry-over credits for CLE. This shows he does not only attend courses to meet the state requirements, but to enhance his knowledge and to be social with his peers.

Mr. Sullivan has portrayed endless dedication to his work. I have observed him lock himself into his mind conducting research on cases until he is satisfied he has found all of the answers and strategies he feels he can use for the best outcome. He has shown me how each case is different, whether it appears to be similar to another or not. There is no repetitiveness to his work and he does research for each individual issue in all cases. He does not merely use content from a previous case, but approaches each differently.

Overall, Mr. Sullivan maintains an excellent judicial demeanor and temperament. His communication skills are astounding, his listening skills are just as admirable, and he always finds the best solution in anything. Mr. Sullivan's open-mindedness provides him with an uncanny ability to listen to both sides of a disagreement intently and propose an agreeable solution. I have witnessed this during mediations he has conducted. He has an amazing capacity to ensure all parties maintain a calm demeanor regardless of how stressful and emotionally provoking the situation. If I could rewrite the definition of "diplomat" in the dictionary, I would place a picture of Mr. Sullivan next to it.

I hope this letter assists you in advancing Mr. Sullivan's name to the Governor. He is someone I see as being re-elected as judge with ease once he has established the position. He never finds himself on the extreme side of anything. He is more of a "middle person" maintaining his thoughts and opinions between the two. Unless of course we are talking about Gonzaga basketball, then you can expect him as an extreme supporter.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope this letter provides a unique perspective from the "insider's" eye.



Lisa M. Gondeiro

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: cheriebowmanlyons@gmail.com [<mailto:cheriebowmanlyons@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 10:54 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Judicial nomination 8th district court judge: Joseph Sullivan recommendation

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

Commission members

Thank you for volunteering to serve on this commission. I know this work takes serious consideration and I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity.

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Joseph Sullivan for the 8th judicial district judge vacancy. I have been acquainted with Joe and his wife Parker for two decades through common friends. From this personal perspective, I can attest to his keen listening skills, his compassion, and his ability to listen fairly with an open mind to all sides of discussions. I am confident this will translate into Joe's ability to consistently use great care on the bench to use common sense and apply the law fairly, impartially and with respect for all individuals.

I know from discussions with other friends who are district court judges in the Great Falls area that our 8th district caseload is extremely heavy. I believe Joe's work history of handling a full and varied practice load and simultaneously handling the duties of his leadership role in the state bar prove that he would be adept at efficiently and effectively managing the significant case load of the 8th Judicial District.

I am not an attorney myself nor have I needed to seek Joe's professional counsel, but I strongly believe Joe's leadership role in the Montana state bar is a testimony to his state bar colleagues belief in him as an ethical man of substantial integrity and a highly respected member of the legal community.

Joe Sullivan has a positive reputation in our community and will have the support of independents, democrats and republicans to be successful in a subsequent general election.

Thank you for your kind consideration of my recommendation for Joe Sullivan for this position.

Respectfully,

Cherie Bowman-Lyons
1526C Meadowlark Drive
Great Falls MT 59404
406-788-3717
cheriebowmanlyons@gmail.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Tracy Axelberg [<mailto:tracy@axelbergmediation.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 7:25 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission, Cascade County

Dear Lois-

I write to cast my support for my friend and colleague Joe Sullivan for the appointment to The Honorable Dirk Sandefur's State District Court Seat.

I began my practice in Great Falls in 1986; Joe began his practice in Great Falls a year later. We litigated a number of cases over the next seven years and, in more recent years, I worked with Joe as a mediator. I have always found him to be a skilled advocate with a strong work ethic. He has ably represented a wide variety of clients in diverse areas of the law. He is an excellent writer, and effective communicator and always abides by the high ethical standards of our profession. Most importantly, in my view, he has the temperament required to effectively deal with the rigorous demands of the bench.

I sincerely hope the Judicial Nomination Commission will give this talented, time-tested attorney its serious consideration for this important seat. Joe is approaching 30 years of service to the Cascade County Bar; his wide-ranging practice and commitment to the Great Falls community make him a perfect fit and predictably electable.

Kindly pass this recommendation on to the members of the Commission. Thank you and best regards.

Tracy Axelberg
Axelberg Mediation and Arbitration, PLLC

Brent R. Cromley
Brent.Cromley@moultonbellingham.com

January 4, 2017

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

Re: Application of Joe M. Sullivan for District Judge Position

To the Members of the Commission:

I write to support the consideration of Joe M. Sullivan for the position of District Judge, in the position recently vacated by Judge Sandefur.

I first became acquainted with Joe almost twenty years ago, during the years when he and I were members of the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Montana. During those frequent contacts with Joe, I became familiar with both his professional qualifications, and his demeanor. As I am sure you are aware, Joe eventually became an outstanding President of the State Bar.

Since that time I have continued to have contact with Joe and have only become more impressed with his unselfish and continuing dedicated service to the State Bar and to the legal profession in this State. Joe is also an outstanding advocate for his clients.

Having practiced law in Montana for over forty years, I have become familiar with the reputation of many Montana lawyers. Joe Sullivan has the reputation of being a skilled litigator, and a lawyer with whom other lawyers are pleased to interact because of his honesty and trustworthiness.

Perhaps more important, however, is the fact that Joe displays intelligence, common sense, and compassion in all aspects of his life, traits which will make him a credit to the Montana judiciary, and to the State of Montana as a whole. I can think of very few persons who would be more qualified to be a Montana District Judge.

Sincerely yours,

Brent R. Cromley

December 31, 2016

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

Re: Support for Joseph Sullivan, State District Court in Cascade County

Dear Commission members,

Once again I write with my unqualified support for Joseph Sullivan. I believe him to be highly qualified for the State District Court position that has opened due to the resignation of Judge Dirk Sandefur. When faced with such decisions as a longtime Cascade County Commissioner, I appreciated hearing from people I trusted who had a long history with the candidate they supported. I count several of you on the nominating commission as long time friends, others I know by your fine reputations. I urge you to support my friend Joseph Sullivan to replace Judge Sandefur.

I met Joe when we were undergrads at Gonzaga. He was dating my friend Parker Emmons, who is now his wife of 34 years. Later, my husband and I reconnected with the Sullivan's in Great Falls and shared momentous, joyful and even mundane life milestones from the raising of our children through the aging of our parents. That's a long lens to view someone's life.

Through it all I respected Joe. He's a man of his word who understands community and works hard to build it. He was always the first to volunteer and never walked away without completing a task. A culminating example is his passionate dedication to the United Way. He dug in to guide the organization to unparalleled success in fundraising and strategic giving.

Given the chance, Joe will combine his love for the community with his legal expertise, keen intellect, and work ethic to be a great District Court judge. I can add with confidence, Joe has the tenacity to hold on to this post by being a rigorous candidate, who will be flanked by friends who will help him.

Thank you again for your service on the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Best,

Peggy Beltrone

Peggy Beltrone
7901 East. Luke Lane
Scottsdale, AZ 85250



HERTHA L. LUND
JAYDAN D. JOHNSON
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
662 Ferguson Ave., Unit 2
Bozeman, MT 59718
Telephone: (406) 586-6254
Facsimile: (406) 586-6259

January 4, 2017

Via Email

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

RE: *Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan, Eighth Judicial District Judge*

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to recommend Joseph Sullivan to Judge Sandefur's position on the 8th Judicial District. Based on our professional relationship and personal friendship, and my observation of Joe's unbiased dedication to the rule of law, I wholeheartedly support his appointment to the 8th Judicial District.

Joe and I have known each other for over fifteen years. We first worked together in litigation on a ranching transaction case. The case was very emotional for all parties and Joe showed what a compassionate and fair individual he is.

Since that time, I have appeared in Montana District Courts and the Supreme Court, various Federal Courts, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. Based on that diverse experience and exposure to a wide variety of judges and justices, I know Joe would be a great candidate as well.

I'm sure you have already read extensively from other letters about Joe's intellectual rigor, excellent writing skills, breadth of legal experience, diligence and hard work, and his commitment to the rule of law. Not only do I respect Joe from working with him, but I have hired Joe to work as my personal attorney as well. When my father passed away, the life insurance company was giving my family a hard time. Joe was the one I trusted to go to for help getting through the difficult time and he succeeded with our case against the insurance company.

If Joe is appointed, I will work hard on his behalf to introduce him to landowners and others in rural Montana who will appreciate his approach to the law. I so strongly support Joe's candidacy that I will help him campaign throughout his district in 2017.

Sincerely,



Hertha L. Lund
LUND LAW, PLLC
Lund@Lund-Law.com

BROWN LAW FIRM, PC

315 N. 24th Street | PO Drawer 849 | Billings, Montana 59103-0849
Phone: 406.248.2611 | Fax: 406.248.3128

John J. Russell
Michael P. Heringer
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Scott G. Gratton
Kelly J.C. Gallinger*
Jeffrey T. McAllister
Jon A. Wilson
Seth A. Cunningham
Shane A. MacIntyre
Adam M. Shaw
Christine M. Cole
Brett D. Jensen*
Davina Attar
Catrina V. Clausen

Guy W. Rogers
grogers@brownfirm.com

January 4, 2017

Via email to mtsupremecourt@mt.gov and U.S. Mail

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

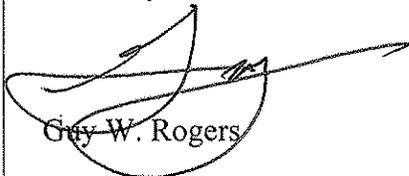
Re: *Eighth Judicial District Judgeship*

Dear Ms. Menzies and Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter to recommend Joseph (Joe) Sullivan for the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court. I have been a practicing civil litigation attorney in Montana for over 30 years. During my career, I have had an opportunity to work with Mr. Sullivan on a variety of matters. I can attest that Mr. Sullivan is an exceptional attorney with very good communication and analytical skills. Perhaps most important, Mr. Sullivan has the temperament to be a good judge. He is fair-minded and handles himself in a calm and even-tempered manner. I have no hesitation based on my many years as a litigator to recommend Mr. Sullivan as a District Court Judge.

Please contact me if I can of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Guy W. Rogers

GWR:sb

*Also licensed in
North Dakota

Retired
Rockwood Brown
John Walker Ross
Margy Bonner

Of Counsel
Robert L. Sterup



STATE BAR OF MONTANA

Serving the people of Montana and their attorneys

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David J. Steele
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Missoula, MT 59803-1467

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Danton Genuoli
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Billings, MT 59104

Shane A. Varma
P.O. Box 4747
Missoula, MT 59806

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christopher L. Menze

December 21, 2016

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

Re: District Court Judgeship, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission members,

This is a letter in support of the appointment of Joe Sullivan to fill Judge Sandefur's 8th Judicial District position. I strongly endorse his selection as a District Judge. In my work and experience with Joe, I know him to be well qualified. As the Executive Director, I have seen first-hand the qualities needed as a judge – competency, thoroughness, diligence, fairness, objectivity, integrity and most importantly judicial demeanor. He has broad support in the Great Falls community and could win a judicial election.

Joe's application and resume address his qualifications and accomplishments. However, I would like to highlight a few areas. First, he has been elected and served on the State Bar of Montana Board of Trustees representing Area D (Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton and Cascade). In statewide elections he was elected as Secretary-Treasurer and then President. In all these positions and responsibilities, Joe continually demonstrated his competence, diligence, objectivity and integrity. In fulfilling his responsibilities, he always ensured thorough review, discussion and ultimately integrity in his duties. His objective consideration, decision making and his demeanor were hallmarks of his service in these positions. He was and is well respected by his colleagues, the judiciary, legislature and members of the public.

Second, Joe has served on several State Bar committees as a chair and member. These include former chair and current member of the Law Related Education (LREC) Committee and current chair of the Technology Committee. He has also consistently participated in various Bar events including the New Lawyers Workshop, Road Show and various CLE programs. As chair of the LREC he oversaw and contributed to some critical publications. These included the Guide to Turning 18 utilized by schools, educators, students and parents around Montana, Guide to the Montana Courts utilized by libraries and the public and the Veterans Financial Guide utilized by veterans and those assisting them. Through LREC he has also lead support of the involvement by local schools in ABA Law Day activities as well as participation and discussion resulting from Montana Supreme Court oral argument presentations around the state.

Recently Joe has chaired the Technology Committee which has been undertaking

analysis and recommendations on areas dealing with cybersecurity, technology tools for lawyers and their office practice. In this work, Joe has had substantial time and effort with other State Bar Committees and the Court on updating technology rules dealing with attorney professional conduct. In all of these efforts his leadership, thoroughness, objectivity and diligence have been appreciated by his Committee members, attorneys and the judiciary.

Finally, Joe's public service commitment with his community involvement in Great Falls is well known as he has devoted countless hours to those projects that benefit those in Cascade County. Of note is his consistent support and work with the Cascade County Law Clinic which for many years he has both represented pro bono clients and assisted in programs to provide legal services for local community members.

In conclusion, Joe is the top candidate for this judicial position. His selection would have another well qualified judge for the 8th Judicial District. The judiciary would have a hard-working member who would be a great addition to other members of the current judiciary both in the 8th Judicial District and statewide.

I am available to address any further specific questions and can be reached at 406-447-2203 (direct) or cmanos@montanabar.org.

Sincerely,


Christopher L. Manos



The Big Sky Country

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE MITCH TROPILA
HOUSE DISTRICT 26

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CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 200400
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

HOME ADDRESS:
PO BOX 929
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-0929
PHONE: (406) 899-3474

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

January 1st, 2017

Re: Application for Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I write this letter as a recommendation for the appointment of Joseph Sullivan to fill the vacancy created by the Honorable Dirk Sandefur's Election to the Supreme Court. I would like to share with you my observations and impressions of Mr. Sullivan as an attorney and community leader.

First of all, Joe possesses the qualities necessary in order to be an exceptional District Court Judge – intelligence, integrity, ethics, diverse experience, optimum respect, unwavering diligence, and unrivalled judicial temperament. With these qualities he has built an excellent reputation as an attorney in Great Falls.

Secondly, he has also served as a community leader in Great Falls for quite some time. Through his leadership with United Way of Cascade County, he continues to serve the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable in our community.

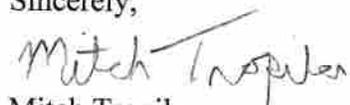
Furthermore, because of his guidance and direction, we have another fine high school in our community-Great Falls Central Catholic. Mr. Sullivan did not step down from his leadership role once the new high school was built, either. He went on to serve as Great Falls Central's board president for 10 years.

Joe's reputation as an outstanding attorney, his work as a community leader, and his dedication and diligence will both make him an impeccable judge and put him in a prominent position for re-election once appointed.

Finally, I know this is not Joe's first attempt to be selected as a District Court Judge. That speaks to me about determination. That is a priceless quality that will serve the Eighth Judicial District well, should he be appointed to the bench.

I strongly recommend you to submit Joseph Sullivan to the Governor for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,


Mitch Tropila



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**

**MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan J. Wolff
CEO/Dean
406.771.4305
susan.wolff@gfcmsu.edu
www.gfcmsu.edu

December 29, 2016

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

To the Esteemed Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with distinct pleasure that I support Joseph Sullivan's application for the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship. I am able to speak to his community service and leadership.

I first met Joe four and a half years ago when I moved to Great Falls and became active with the United Way Board of Directors. He is dedicated to serving the community of Great Falls and through this work understands the spectrum of the social fabric of the community. This understanding and involvement augments legal and judicial work.

As the CEO/Dean of Great Falls College MSU, we also have the opportunity to work with the diversity of our students' and their families' lives. Having depth of "human" knowledge on the bench, strengthens a community's ability to address its challenges and to seek more unified solutions. His leadership in resurrecting Great Falls Central Catholic High School speaks volumes about his dedication to the community as does his role as Chair of the United Way of Cascade County Annual Campaign.

Through his application, you know his legal abilities and involvement with the State Bar of Montana and that of involvement at the national level. I know Joe and his wife, Parker, at a community involvement level. There is no question of their integrity or dedication to this community, region, our military communities, and Veterans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan J. Wolff, CEO/Dean

**Edward F. Bartlett
Attorney at Law
PO Box 1229
Helena, MT 59624**

January 2, 2017

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

Re: Application of Joe M. Sullivan for Appointment as District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write in unqualified support for the nomination and appointment of Joe M. Sullivan to fill the position of District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District.

I have known and worked with Joe for more than 20 years primarily through our mutual service to the State Bar of Montana. For the last 8 years, I have worked professionally with Joe closely during Legislative Sessions through my lobbying representation of the Montana Judges Association and the State Bar of Montana and his roles as an Officer of the State Bar, including its President and Past President.

Joe is an intelligent, personable, experienced and competent lawyer. He is a person of the highest moral character and integrity. He is fair, and balanced, and treats all people with respect. He is always thoughtful, prepared and even tempered. Joe is quick to understand complicated issues, but does not prejudge.

I am familiar with Joe's reputation in the Great Falls Community. He is thought of as being enthusiastic, honest and friendly. Joe would run an excellent and successful campaign for election and re-election should he be appointed.

Joe exhibits all the abilities and qualities needed to be a successful and outstanding district court judge. He would serve Cascade County, the State of Montana, and all who appeared before him extremely well. I strongly encourage his nomination and appointment.

Sincerely,



Ed Bartlett



United Way of Cascade County

January 4, 2017

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

Re: Recommendation for Joseph M. Sullivan, Eighth Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I enthusiastically write this letter in support of Joe Sullivan's nomination for District Court Judge in Cascade County. I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe for approximately ten years both personally and through his volunteer work with United Way of Cascade County. Joe has willingly accepted critical leadership roles with our organization and performed exceptionally in all of his duties over the years.

During that time, Joe has demonstrated an admirable commitment to our community and his personal values. He is able to maintain a calm demeanor and help everyone around him look at issues with critical yet compassionate perspectives. In his volunteer work, Joe offers a persistent voice of reason – when Joe speaks to address anything in front of our board or other volunteers, everyone pays close attention as his opinions and suggestions are well thought out and valued.

I am confident that Joe's traits and talents would make for an excellent judge. I encourage you to positively consider his nomination. Feel free to contact me for any further information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Gary Owen
President

GANNETT LAW FIRM

Wells Fargo Center, Suite 1306 . 175 North 27th Street . Billings, Montana 59101
Telephone 406/245-6330 . Fax 406/245-4416

DAMON L. GANNETT

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1375

Billings, Montana 59103

January 3, 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P. O. Box 20305
Helena, MT 59620-3005
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Ms. Menzies:

This letter is being written in support of the selection of Joseph Sullivan as a Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Montana.

The undersigned has known Mr. Sullivan for approximately twenty (20) years. I initially met Mr. Sullivan while we were both involved in the activities of the State Bar of Montana. I have maintained consistent contact with Mr. Sullivan since our initial introduction.

Mr. Sullivan's commitment to the rule of law and the objective, even-handed application of the relevant considerations to all of the complex questions that came before the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of Montana during Mr. Sullivan's tenure was exemplary. Mr. Sullivan's presentations to the Board were the result of genuine and contemplative consideration of the factors that pertained to the particular decisions that faced the Board.

Joseph Sullivan has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, perseverance and commitment during the time that he has participated in the activities of the State Bar of Montana.

Mr. Sullivan has also been active in the National Council of Bar Presidents of the American Bar Association.

It is without any hesitation, or reservation, whatsoever that I recommend Joseph Sullivan for consideration for appointment as a State District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District of the State of Montana.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions, or requests for additional information,

Ms. Lois Menzies
January 3, 2017
Page 2

that you may have concerning the contents of this recommendation.

Your genuine consideration of the selection of Joseph Sullivan's for appointment as a State District Court Judge is warranted by his outstanding public service and commitment to the legal profession.

Sincerely,



Damon L. Gannett

DLG/dlg

C:\Users\Damon\Dropbox\Client Files\G\Gannett, Damon\Sullivan.2wpd.wpd

LISA SWAN SEMANSKY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

14 5th Street South, PO Box 3267

Great Falls, MT 59401

Phone: (406) 771-1584 * Fax (406) 453-1584

January 4, 2017

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

**Re: 8th Judicial District Court Judge
Application of Joseph M. Sullivan**

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is written in support of the application of Joseph M. Sullivan for nomination for the 8th Judicial District Court Judge that is now open because of the election of Judge Dirk Sandefur to the Montana Supreme Court. Currently the 8th Judicial District court has many cases before it that require our judges to spend many hours just trying to keep up with all the cases they hear and give us timely and considered decisions. It is a big job for an incoming judge. Joe is an experienced, smart, and diligent attorney who has devoted hours of time and his expertise to the communities of Cascade County and the Montana Bar Association. If you look at his record of commitment to this community and state it is clear he understands the concept of and supports public service and I believe is realistic about the case load he will be acquiring as an 8th Judicial court judge.

Again, if you look at his practice as an attorney, the work he has done for clients and in the areas of public service, it is clear that he understands the judicial process and his wealth of experience in dealing with all manner of people seeking justice or some equitable end will be beneficial to people who will come before him as judge. Joe is a well-regarded, successful litigant as well as thoughtful counselor and over the course of his career the diversity he has had proves his ability to listen and hear from a wide variety of people and their issues. He is articulate, well versed in the law and knowledgeable about the different kinds of issues that routinely come before a district court.

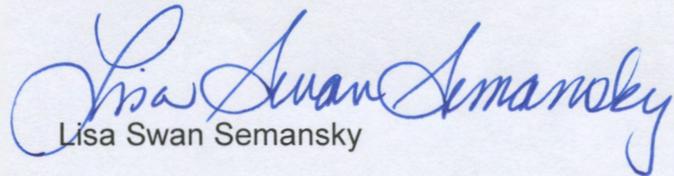
In my experience he treats people with respect, remembers them if he has met them before, and would act responsibly in exercising justice regardless of who is before him. In short, he would follow the law but also act fairly. It is my belief tht he has the temperament and ability to be an excellent district court judge. The Eighth Judicial Court would continue

Judicial Nomination Commission
January 15, 2016
Page 2

to maintain its high level of expertise as to the law itself and commitment to justice being served if he were chosen to be our new judge. Please consider him for nomination to Governor Bullock.

Very truly yours,

SEMANSKY LAW OFFICE



Lisa Swan Semansky

c: District Court Judge Richard Simonton
Hal Harper
Janice Bishop
Elizabeth Halverson
Lane Larson
Karl J. Englund
Nancy Zadick
Mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
Joe M. Sullivan

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

Dear Commissioners:

Re: 8th Judicial District Opening

This letter is in support of the nomination of JOE SULLIVAN for the vacancy on the bench as a result of the election of Judge Sandefur to the Supreme Court. I am a retired attorney, having practiced in Great Falls for 40 plus years. Joe has served the profession as a trustee of the State Bar and has served the community in numerous capacities, United Way and others.

I happened to be president of the Cascade County Bar at the time Joe was a Trustee. He was prompt and thorough with his reports to the local membership. He is respected and liked by the local bar and I believe would be actively supported in elections for this position. In fact of the three candidates I believe Joe is the most electable.

Joe has enjoyed a varied practice and I believe this experience would serve him and the community well in carrying out his duties as Judge.

I have no hesitation in recommending Joe for this position. Should you have any questions feel free to contact me at 406-761-0658.

Very truly yours,



Donald J. Hamilton

Schulte Law Firm P.C.

John C. Schulte
Attorney at Law
jcs@jschultelaw.com

Dwight J. Schulte
Attorney at Law
dwight@jschultelaw.com

January 3, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan
Eight Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

Joe Sullivan is an ideal candidate for the judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District that was created by Judge Dirk Sandefur's election to the Montana Supreme Court. In support of this statement, I note that Joe and I first met when we became Trustees of the State Bar of Montana. That was about 22 years ago and we have been friends and colleagues ever since.

As a result of our long service together, I have come to know Joe very well. I have also served as Settlement Master on several complex cases where Joe was representing one of the parties. Because of my personal experience with Joe, I can unequivocally state that Joe is not only one of the finest lawyers in Montana, but also one of the finest human beings.

Joe has all of the personal attributes necessary to be a successful district court judge, such as exceptional intelligence, strong work ethic, extensive knowledge of the law, real common sense and a true understanding of people, to name just a few. But what really sets Joe apart is his personal demeanor. Joe is one of those rare individuals that maintains his control and composure in even the most difficult situations.

It is apparent that Joe is truly guided by a strong moral compass. This compass makes Joe not only a very good person, but an extremely ethical lawyer. Additionally, I have never seen Joe treat any person in any way other than with respect and courtesy. While I have observed Joe forcefully representing his clients and their positions, I have never seen him do it in anger or in a demeaning way. This is why I know that Joe will be appropriately respectful of all persons that appear before him as a sitting district court judge. Unquestionably, Joe will have an ideal judicial temperament.

January 3, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Joe and I both served as a President of the State Bar of Montana and have been on the State Bar of Montana Past President's Committee together. When Joe was Chair of the Committee, I was impressed with how he had vision as to how the Committee could better serve the SBOM and improve the legal profession. Not only did Joe have the vision, he also had the drive to follow through and implement his vision of how the Committee could be more effective.

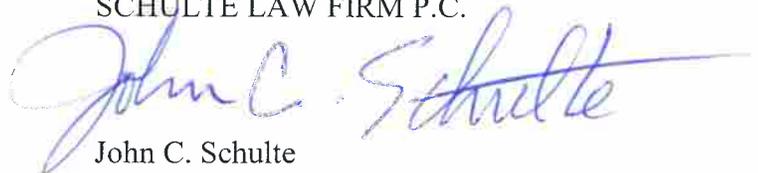
As a former member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association, I have had occasion to observe Joe in his various roles on the Executive Committee of the ABA National Conference of Bar Presidents. It was obvious to me that Joe is highly respected by professional colleagues on a National level.

Looking at his application for this judgeship, it is amazing, but not surprising, to go down the list of volunteer work that Joe has undertaken and performed in order to improve the practice of law, promote the rule of law, increase access to justice and make Montana and the world a better place. Joe's extensive volunteer work in Great Falls, Cascade County, the State of Montana and Nationally make him a very attractive choice for voters when he stands for election. Because of all the attributes that make Joe who he is, he will campaign well and be very appealing to Cascade County voters.

There can be no doubt that Joe would be an excellent district court judge. I strongly urge that the Commission send Joe's name to Governor Bullock with the Commission's most powerful recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,
SCHULTE LAW FIRM P.C.



John C. Schulte

JCS/jrw

J. MICHAEL YOUNG, PLLC

ATTORNEY AT LAW

J. MICHAEL YOUNG

1227 25TH AVENUE S.W.
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59404

PHONE: (406) 868-9666
E-Mail: myoung@gfmlaw.com

December 31, 2016

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

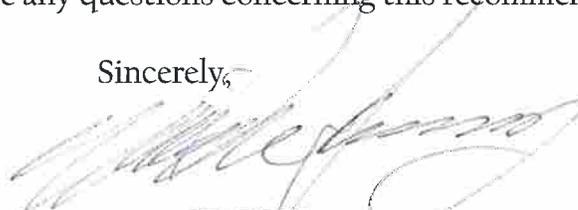
Dear Commission Members:

Please consider this letter of recommendation in support of Joe Sullivan's application to fill the vacancy left by the election of Judge Dirk Sandefur to the Montana Supreme Court. I have been a practicing trial lawyer in Montana for over 40 years with most of that time spent in the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Joe Sullivan for nearly 30 years and have been on both sides of several cases he has handled for clients. What I can tell you is that he always works hard to support his client's cause, and does so with requisite legal skills and diligence. More important, however, he is a man of honesty and integrity in his dealings with all people, lawyers and laymen and lawyers alike. He has also served on many community boards and professional organizations including the State Bar of Montana, and was instrumental in establishing the Great Falls Central Catholic High School. He has always been an asset to the community.

We have a very active, litigious and aggressive bar in Great Falls. Joe is very calm, level headed and capable of dealing fairly with all members of the Bar.

Please call if you have any questions concerning this recommendation.

Sincerely,



J. MICHAEL YOUNG

Mary A. Matelich
3916 13th Ave. So.
Great Falls, MT. 59405-5555
m.matelich@gmail.com

January 4, 2017

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

Re: Letter in Support of Joseph M. Sullivan--Eighth Judicial Judgeship Vacancy

Dear Honorable Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Twenty years ago, Joe and I were young parents and attorneys with children attending the same elementary school. Joe is an experienced, hard working, intelligent, thorough and ethical lawyer. As a judge, he would be fair, impartial and objective. His calm and patient demeanor on the bench would be appreciated by all parties. He is highly respected. If appointed to be our next Judge, citizens would vote that Joe continue to serve as their Judge.

Joe has a tremendous work ethic. In addition to his "day job", he has served countless hours for the Montana Bar Association and several local community non-profit organizations. Joe has the experience and energy necessary to serve as our next Judge.

During my service as Judge Pro Tem for Great Falls' Municipal Court, I learned that people who appear in Court want a chance to be heard by a fair, intelligent and experienced judge. Joe Sullivan will be that kind of judge. He will treat all people with respect while getting cases decided in a timely fashion.

As a former City of Great Falls Assistant City Attorney, I prosecuted a wide variety of crimes. I learned so much from all the people involved with the judicial system. Joe Sullivan has similarly learned much from his extensive years of legal practice. He will be fair to all: lawyers, defendants and victims.

I recommend without reservation that Joe Sullivan be the next Eighth Judicial District Court judge. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mary Matelich, J.D.

LAW OFFICE OF
BRAAKSMA & MILLER, PLLC

1227 North 14th Avenue
Suite 3
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Calvin L. Braaksma
Mark E. Miller

Telephone (406)586-0839
Facsimile (406)586-2168
calvin@braaksmamillerlaw.com
mark@braaksmamillerlaw.com

January 3, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan

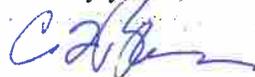
Dear Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission:

I write this letter to you in support of Joseph M. Sullivan's application for the office of State District Court Judge in the Montana Eighth Judicial District, the seat being vacated by Judge Sandefur. I recommend Joe for appointment to the bench.

I have known Joe for almost 10 years. Our paths first crossed while representing opposing parties in a proceeding in State District Court. During that proceeding, each of us represented strong clients with competing interests. Some of the issues were legally difficult and emotionally taxing. Joe dealt with the attorneys and the litigants with extraordinary patience; the quality of the advocacy for his client was superior; the grace and professional courtesy with which he dealt with all the counsel were exemplary; and the manner in which he addressed the District Court - directly and indirectly - displayed candor, deference and respect. His representation and advocacy of his client and the manner in which he dealt with counsel and the Court was an exemplary display of how to practice law at the highest level.

I believe Joe has the broad personal and professional experience, the intellect, the common sense, the patience, and the judicial temperament which will make him an excellent judge. I recommend Joseph M. Sullivan for District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District.

Sincerely yours,



Calvin L. Braaksma

cc: Joseph M. Sullivan (by email)

January 6, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission,

I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe Sullivan for 20 years. Joe and I both served on the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Montana. Joe represented the attorneys from Cascade County and I represented the attorneys in Yellowstone County. Joe eventually went on to become President of the State Bar.

Over the years there have been multiple discussions regarding a variety of issues before the State Bar. Joe was always mindful to consider of all sides of an issue. Joe never acted in haste. He always wanted all issues to be researched and all parties with an interest to be notified and to be given the opportunity to provide input.

Joe has been a true advocate for the members of the Cascade County Bar, particularly with their efforts regarding pro bono litigants. He kept his local bar notified on the happenings at the State Bar and brought back their suggestions and opinions. At times, this was a very time consuming endeavor. Joe never faltered in doing what was in the best interest of his local bar and the indigent residents of Cascade County.

One of Joe's strong points is his knowledge of technology. He is known state-wide for his expertise in this area and the ramifications it has on the practice of law.

I became President of the State Bar a couple years after Joe. He was always available for advice and support. Joe and I continue to serve together on the Professionalism Committee for the State Bar. Joe has become known

nationally through his involvement with the Past Presidents' Committee for the American Bar Association.

I have found Joe to be an ethical, hard-working, and intelligent attorney. He is committed to legal profession. He is also a devoted husband, father and a grandfather. I highly recommend Joe for the position of District Court Judge for Cascade County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Bailey

Scott O'Brien
961 Turner Avenue
Shelby, MT 59474

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P O Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
(406) 841-2950

January 4, 2017

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

The Eighth Judicial District in Great Falls will be well served to have Joe Sullivan as judge.

I worked with Joe for almost three years. Every time I had a question, he always answered clearly and concisely. He could sense when he was using too much legal language, and he would then break it down to terms that could be easily understood.

I recall my late father-in-law, District Judge R.D. McPhillips, saying a great irritation was having unprepared attorneys in his court room. In my experience, Joe is always well-prepared, even going beyond the call of duty in returning messages and meeting with us outside of office hours. This caring attitude for the people, along with his preparedness, experience, and legal knowledge will be brought to the bench. People appearing before Joe can be confident that just, compassionate and wise decisions will be handed down.

I have no doubt Joe will serve the citizens of our great state as a fair and honorable judge.

Very truly yours,

Scott O'Brien
Registered Pharmacist

Michael P. Talia

434 Chert Place, Helena, MT 59602

January 5, 2017

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

RE: Recommendation for Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

I recommend Joe Sullivan be appointed to fill the remainder of Judge Sandefur's term in the Eighth Judicial District. I had the privilege of working with Joe on several matters with the Cascade County Bar Association and State Bar of Montana. Joe is diligent, well organized, considerate, and dedicated. All qualities we want in a judge. Joe has earned my respect and my repeated recommendation for appointment to the bench.

Joe has the experience and temperament necessary to administer justice equitably and efficiently in both civil and criminal matters. Please nominate him for appointment the bench in the Eight Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. P. Talia", is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael P. Talia

600 Central Plaza Suite 428
P.O. Box 3222
Great Falls, MT 59403
E-mail attyjce3@mt.net
Phone: 406.727.0121
Fax: 406.727.9069

January 9, 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, Mt 59620

RE: Joseph M. Sullivan and Eighth Judicial District vacancy.

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission;

Joseph Sullivan has asked me to submit a letter supporting his nomination for District Court Judge in Cascade County. Although I have had limited experience with Joe, I recognize him to be very polite and conscientious in the context of our relationship. He has demonstrated a sincere desire to be of public service while a member of the Montana Bar offices that he has held as well. Therefore, it is my opinion that Joseph would prove to be an excellent choice for this position based upon my limited but very positive experiences with him.

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Engel, III

January 8, 2017

To Whom it May Concern:

Out of concern for those who serve as part of our judicial system, I fully approve of the nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan as State District Court judge. Mr. Sullivan was my attorney in a civil case and has earned my respect both as an attorney and as a person. He listened carefully, asked pertinent questions so that he fully understood my problem. He was thorough and highly competent in handling this legal process and kept me informed as the case progressed.

His competence and knowledge of legal issues make him an excellent choice for this extremely important position. He is a well known attorney in Great Falls and is well versed in diverse legal issues giving him the experience and knowledge to excel in this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leo Baer".

Leo J. Baer

#3 4th St.

Vaughn, Mt 59487

Smith Oblander, PC

A Professional Corporation

104 2ND STREET SOUTH, SUITE 400
GALLERIA BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59405

TELEPHONE: (406) 453-8144
FAX: (406) 453-8170
E-MAIL: gregg@bigskylaw.com
WWW SITE: <http://www.bigskylaw.com>

Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Tyler C. Smith

Attorneys at Law

January 9, 2017

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Court

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I have no hesitation in recommending Joseph Sullivan to fill the vacant District Court Judge position in the Montana 8th Judicial District Court, Cascade County.

I have known Joe almost since I began practicing law 25+ years ago. I first met him as a slightly older, 'co-counsel' in a case I was handling. He treated me like a friend, and he soon became exactly that.

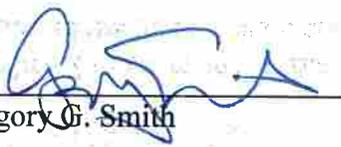
Joe has the perfect demeanor for a District Court Judge. He is always calm, and looks for solutions for every problem. He will treat all litigants with fairness and respect.

Joe is very bright, and an extremely capable lawyer. He can handle the intellectual demands of the position, and I am certain his decisions will be thoughtful and correct.

Joe works as hard as any lawyer I know. He has the work ethic that will be required to stay on top of this very demanding position.

Joe will make a great District Court Judge!

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER, PC



Gregory G. Smith

Kelly and Tamara Nathe
3705 17th Ave South
Great Falls, MT 59405

January 9, 2017

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

RE: Joseph M. Sullivan, Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Nominating Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of Joseph M. Sullivan as a nominee to the Governor for an appointment to the Eighth Judicial District judgeship vacancy.

We have personally known Joe and his wife Parker for many years. As a friend, a parent in our children's school, a Spiritual leader in our faith, and most importantly our attorney. Having him there for our legal assistance when needed has been such a gift. His knowledge of the law and the guidance he continues to give us is commendable and comforting. Joe continues to be there for us when answering a simple question over the phone as needed.

His passion for people, his community and faith is stellar. He continues to shine with his dedication to our community through the Catholic schools, United Way and I'm sure many more causes. He is a person who will continue to represent the people, be fair and honest with his knowledge, passion and trust for the legal profession.

Joe has these qualities and so many more that makes him the best applicant for the appointment.

Sincerely,

Kelly and Tamara Nathe

2405 Skyline Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

January 10, 2017

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

Re: Letter in Support of the Application of Joseph M. Sullivan for Appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I enthusiastically support the application of Joseph M. Sullivan for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship. I have known Mr. Sullivan for many years and have worked closely with him on the Professionalism Committee of the State Bar of Montana. Mr. Sullivan's commitment to the rule of law, his intellectual abilities and organizational skills, the breadth of his practice background, and his community engagement make him an excellent candidate for the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship.

As reflected in his application, Mr. Sullivan has a strong record of professional and civic leadership. With regard to that record, I will focus specifically on Mr. Sullivan's excellent work as a member of the Professionalism Committee of the State Bar of Montana. Since its creation in 1988, the Professionalism Committee has played a leading role in the development of the continuing education program presented at the Annual Meeting of the State Bar. In addition, the Committee has developed and annually presents a New Lawyer's Workshop as well as State Bar Road Shows. Mr. Sullivan has played a key role in planning and implementing each of these educational programs. Permit me to elaborate.

Mr. Sullivan's participation in the Professionalism Committee's planning meetings has been excellent. Without fail, he is always well prepared for those meetings and can be counted on to offer creative and helpful suggestions for the development of case studies and vignettes to be used in future Committee programs. I appreciate his objectivity in analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of program proposals offered by Committee members and his insistence on the careful structuring of each program presented by the Committee.

Given his strong practice background, command of the ethical rules of our profession, knowledge of the law, and leadership abilities, Mr. Sullivan excels in leading lawyers in discussions of the challenging ethical issues that are the subject the Professionalism Committee's various programs. In that regard, I have been impressed by both Mr. Sullivan's ability to engage participating attorneys in spirited debates regarding the application of Montana's Rules of Professional Conduct and his respect for the opinions and analysis of each participant. Because

of the leadership, commitment and engagement of Committee members like Mr. Sullivan, the Committee's programs have been well received by attorneys throughout Montana.

In sum, based on my work with Mr. Sullivan on the State Bar Professionalism Committee, I am confident that, if selected, he will be a state district court judge who will fulfill his judicial duties admirably. I strongly recommend him to you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

J. Martin Burke
Professor of Law Emeritus
University of Montana
School of Law

January 9, 2017

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing to express my support for Joe M. Sullivan for appointment to Judge Sandefur's State District Court seat in the 8th Judicial District.

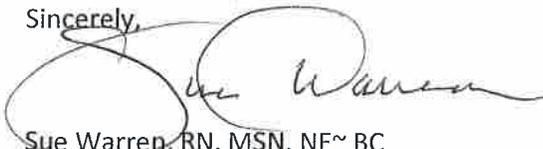
I have had the opportunity to review Joe's application and believe it accurately reflects the broad leadership roles he's had in our local community and as well state-wide in the legal community. These are skills in leadership that as a community member, I believe translate to the role of a District Court Judge who will listen well, analyze thoroughly, and decisively rule. Joe's legal background is quite diverse which seems would provide a broad spectrum of experience helpful for a District Court Judge who would be faced with many different kinds of cases.

I have known Joe and his wife Parker for many years and thus stand witness to their vast involvement in the community of Great Falls. Joe served as the Campaign Chairman while I was on the Board of Directors for United Way Cascade County and he was and is respected for the values he emulates to benefit the many organizations he serves in leadership positions. His leadership skills are knowledge and value-based emulating excellence, teamwork, quality and integrity – all needed qualities for a District Court Judge.

A graduate of the Gonzaga University School of Law, Joe has served in various leadership positions within the State Bar and was recognized in 2012 by receiving the State Bar of Montana Distinguished Service Award.

I am honored to provide this letter of support for Joe M. Sullivan for appointment to Dirk Sandefur's District Court seat. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Warren", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Sue Warren, RN, MSN, NE-BC
Director of Nursing/Senior Services
406.455.5931

BENEFIS HEALTH SYSTEM

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Benefis Hospitals, Inc. | Benefis Medical Group, Inc. | Benefis Community Hospitals, Inc.

Benefis Spectrum Medical, Inc. | Benefis Senior Services, Inc. | Benefis Health System Foundation, Inc.

From the Desk of
Tom and Mary Jane Heisler
90 Elk Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404

December 12, 2016

To: Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
MTsupremecourt@mt.gov
(406) 841-2950

Re: Judicial Nomination, Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County

To Whom it may concern:

It would be our privilege and honor to put forth and recommend to the Judicial Nomination Commission Mr. Joseph Sullivan for the appointment as Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court previously held by the Honorable Judge Dirk Sandefur.

Mr. Sullivan is of the integrity and spirit that we find refreshing in the legal profession and we feel would perform the duties of the office to the highest degree. Joe has always given of himself to provide leadership in both his profession and in the community he shares. He would garner large community support in future elections with his history of accomplishments and being such an effective activist. Once appointed, we feel he would hold the office against any challengers. His entire life has been a reflection of the quality of individual he is. It doesn't seem to matter what Mr. Sullivan becomes involved with, that he doesn't end up raising the bar for those who follow behind him.

The community of Cascade County and the State of Montana would be well served for Joe Sullivan to be appointed to the Judgeship of the Eighth Judicial District Court. We encourage his appointment.

Sincerely,



Tom and Mary Jane Heisler

TH/mjh

CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE
ROBERT G. DRUMMOND
P. O. BOX 1829
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403
TELEPHONE: (406) 761-8600
FAX: (406) 453-4663
E-MAIL: Trustee@MTChapter13.com

January 5, 2017

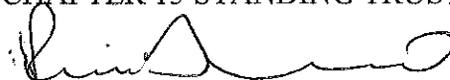
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Mr. Menzies:

I have practiced law in Great Falls since 1987. During that thirty-year period, I have developed a great deal of respect and admiration for Joe Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan has many of the qualities that would make a good Judge. The depth of his experience, his dedication to the law and this community, and his temperament all lend themselves to being an excellent Judge. I would highly recommend him to succeed Judge Sandefur.

Very truly yours,

CHAPTER 13 STANDING TRUSTEE



Robert G. Drummond

RGD:tmf

MAXON R. DAVIS
GREGORY J. HATLEY
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN
BENJAMIN BURNS
* * *
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

LAW OFFICE OF
DAVIS, HATLEY, HAFFEMAN & TIGHE, P.C.
THE MILWAUKEE STATION, THIRD FLOOR
101 RIVER DRIVE NORTH
P. O. BOX 2103
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2103
E-MAIL: paul.haffeman@dhhtlaw.com

TELEPHONE
(406) 761-5243
FAX
(406) 761-4126

FILE NO. 7192

January 15, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Court Vacancy/Joe Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Joe Sullivan to fill the vacancy on the 8th Judicial District Court created by Dirk Sandefur's election to the Montana Supreme Court.

I have appeared before many judges in my 29 years of civil practice, and I know how important it is for the parties in such cases, and their lawyers, to have confidence that the presiding judge will be fair and evenhanded to all sides, no matter who they are or what the circumstances of the case may be. I have every reason to believe Joe Sullivan can be such a judge.

I have known Joe throughout my entire career, having been involved in dozens of cases in which Joe represented litigants whose interests were more often than not adverse to those of my own clients. In fact, our clients are currently adverse to one another in multiple cases which are being actively litigated. Yet we have a cordial relationship with one another, and I have nothing but respect for his legal work. Many years ago I also coached a youth basketball team with Joe. Based on my experience, I can say with certainty that Joe has a hard work ethic, a strong intellect, and an evenhanded disposition that would serve Cascade County well if he were to be appointed District Court judge. I am also confident that when it comes time for Joe to run for reelection, he will have the broad support he need to win an election. I am unaware of anyone who knows Joe personally or professionally who is openly critical of him, and in the competitive environment in which Joe works, that is remarkable.

Judicial Nomination Commission

January 15, 2017

Page 2

Finally, I know that Joe is committed to the betterment of the legal profession, and of society in general. He has in recent years served as President of both the State Bar of Montana and the Cascade County Bar Association, he has taken a leadership role in the local chapter of United Way, and he remains active in many civic affairs. From all appearances, Joe has a balanced approach to his personal and professional life, which is just the type of person we should have on the bench.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Paul R. Haffeman

Paul R. Haffeman

PRH:aab

**JARDINE, STEPHENSON, BLEWETT
& WEAVER, P.C.**

GARY W. BJELLAND
JOSHUA I. CAMPBELL
JENNIFER R. HEPP
JON J. KUDRNA

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
300 CENTRAL AVENUE
SEVENTH FLOOR, U.S. BANK BUILDING
P.O. BOX 2269
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2269
TEL: (406) 727-5000
FAX: (406) 761-4273
EMAIL: bpfennigs@jardinelaw.com

BRION C. LINDSETH
ROBERT B. PFENNIGS
PATRICK R. WATT
MARK T. WILSON

January 16, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

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

RE: ***Joseph M. Sullivan***

Dear Nominating Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to provide my recommendation in favor of Joe Sullivan for appointment as a District Court Judge in Cascade County.

I have worked with Joe on a number of issues during my 28 year career as an attorney and I have always found Joe's temperament, sense of fairness and his practical approach to resolving problems to be beyond reproach. I have every confidence that Joe will bring his temperament and sense of fairness to the bench. Another quality Joe has always exhibited is a capacity for hard work. Given the crowded dockets and heavy workload of the judges in this district, Joe's willingness to work hard will be of great benefit in his role as a judge.

I highly recommend Joe for the position of District Court Judge.

Very truly yours,

JARDINE, STEPHENSON, BLEWETT & WEAVER, P.C.

By


Robert B. Pfennigs

RBP/ss



BLOOMGREN RIVERA & CO, PLLC

225 Second Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405
T 406.727.4004
F 406.727.4014

Allen Bloomgren, CPA
Allen.Bloomgren@CPA.com

January 16, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan

Ladies and gentlemen:

In January 2016 I wrote to offer my endorsement of Joseph Sullivan for nomination and appointment as District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I am pleased to do so again.

I have known Joe since the late 1980s, when he represented a former firm, of which I was a member, in extremely complex litigation. I experienced - first-hand - Joe's client advocacy, tireless work ethic, knowledge of the law and court procedures, and grace under pressure.

That was nearly thirty years ago. In the ensuing years, I have observed Joe's personal growth, both as a lawyer and a community leader. I believe that Joe possesses all of the qualities this appointment requires: extreme intelligence, unquestioned integrity and ethics, diverse legal experience, the respect of his peers, demonstrated commitment to hard work, and the temperament required of a district court judge.

I believe Joe to be the clear choice among the candidates to replace Judge Sandefur, and I urge you to submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Respectfully submitted,


Allen Bloomgren, CPA

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

January 16, 2017

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

RE: 8th Judicial District Court Appointment

Dear Commission Members,

This letter is written in support of Joe M. Sullivan for the position of District court Judge of the 8th Judicial District Court in Cascade, Montana.

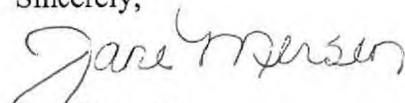
I have known Joe on both a personal and professional level for more than 10 years. I served with Joe on the Board of Trustees for the State Bar and worked on a complex estate administration matter with him numerous years ago. In both arenas, I found Joe to possess all the attributes that would make a great district court judge. Joe is a leader who leads by example and I know he will be a thoughtful and deliberative judge who will work hard and will listen to all who come before him. He is very thorough, diligent, and fair.

In the judicial district in which I mainly practice, the Court are overload and understaffed. We wait years for decisions for clients who cannot afford the expense or the time. It is clear to me that "justice delayed is justice denied." I am confident that Joe will work hard and put in whatever time is necessary to get out well-reasoned opinions in a timely manner. I do not know that you can ask much more of a district court judge.

Joe has the desire, the intelligence, and work ethic to do the job right and will thereby instill in the bar and the public, the faith in the justice system that is sometime lacking in other jurisdictions. I strongly support Joe in his bid for appointment to this judicial position and hope that you all find that his experience has proven he is right for the job.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this letter or about Joe.

Sincerely,


Jane Mersen

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 4:49 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Robert J. Phillips [<mailto:rjphillips@GARLINGTON.COM>]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2017 11:18 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: jsullivan@sullivanlawmt.com
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission.

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

Joe Sullivan Nomination for District Judge

Dear Commissioners:

Joe Sullivan has submitted his application for nomination to the District Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District. This is an important appointment because the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County, sees litigation of issues from all over the state. Many of us involved in the civil arena practice there often. It has the reputation as a district where the judges are hard-working and resolve cases in a timely manner, in spite of a heavy case load. Joe Sullivan will be an important contributor to that reputation if he is selected by the commission and the Governor.

I have dealt with Joe Sullivan in many roles--as opposing counsel, as mediator, and as a bar leader. He is a hard-working, energetic and common-sense attorney that demonstrates great commitment to his clients and to the profession as a whole. Through his work in bar leadership positions, he has done much to improve the administration of justice statewide.

Important attributes to sitting on our district court bench include commitment to the profession, breadth of experience and a calm, reflective judicial temperament. These are qualities that Joe Sullivan exemplifies. Please nominate Joe Sullivan to this seat on the bench.

Robert J. Phillips

[garlington|lohn|robinson](#)
A Professional Limited Liability Partnership
Attorneys at Law Since 1870

PO Box 7909 (350 Ryman Street)
Missoula, MT 59807-7909
Phone: (406) 523-2500, Fax: (406) 523-2595
garlington.com

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NANCY P. CORY
JORDAN Y. CROSBY
DAVID J. GRUBICH
MARK F. HIGGINS
ROBERT F. JAMES
MARY K. JARACZESKI

JOHN D. ALEXANDER
(RETIRED)

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
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TELEPHONE (406) 771-0007
FAX (406) 452-9360
E-MAIL uazh@uazh.com,
Website <http://uazh.com>

CATHY J. LEWIS
KEVIN C. MEEK
MARK D. MEYER
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER
ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

NEIL E. UGRIN
1945 - 2007

January 17, 2017

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Re: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position - Joe Sullivan

Dear Commission:

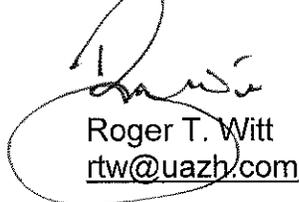
I am submitting letters of recommendation on behalf of two qualified candidates. This letter is on behalf of Joe Sullivan.

I have known Joe since we were in law school at the same time at Gonzaga University. We both settled in Great Falls a few years after graduation, and I have known Joe in the practice since that time, nearly 30 years. Over these years, I have known Joe from cases in which we represented co-defendants through separate insurance company retention, as well as utilizing Joe as a mediator in employment matters. Joe has enjoyed a broad legal practice including representation of both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation, as well as non-litigation matters. As such, Joe has valuable insight and experience in many aspects of the law.

Joe has the reputation in the legal community as a conscientious, cooperative, and well prepared practitioner. He has the calm temperament that would allow him to serve effectively as a District Court Judge.

I sincerely recommend that Joe Sullivan be given full consideration to succeed the Honorable Dirk Sandefur as a District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District.

UGRIN, ALEXANDER, ZADICK & HIGGINS, P.C.


Roger T. Witt
rtw@uazh.com

UGRIN, ALEXANDER, ZADICK & HIGGINS, P.C.

NANCY P. CORY
JORDAN Y. CROSBY
DAVID J. GRUBICH
MARK F. HIGGINS
ROBERT F. JAMES
MARY K. JARACZEŃSKI

JOHN D. ALEXANDER
(RETIRED)

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
#2 RAILROAD SQUARE, SUITE B
P.O. BOX 1746
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-1746
TELEPHONE (406) 771-0007
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E-MAIL uazh@uazh.com,
Website <http://uazh.com>

CATHY J. LEWIS
KEVIN C. MEEK
MARK D. MEYER
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER
ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

NEIL E. UGRIN
1945 - 2007

January 17, 2017

Via E-Mail at MTsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: *8th Judicial District Court Vacancy/Joe Sullivan*

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter in support of the appointment of Joe Sullivan to fill the vacancy on the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County. Based upon my personal and professional experience, Joe has always demonstrated a strong work ethic and an ability to resolve complicated legal issues in a common sense manner consistent with the governing legal authority. Joe possesses the personal attributes that one looks for in a judge – even temperament, calm demeanor, a strong work ethic and an ability and willingness to relate to the individuals and entities that appear before him. For that reason, I firmly believe Joe Sullivan would make an excellent judge, and strongly support his application. The citizens of Cascade County and the State of Montana would be well served by the appointment of Joe Sullivan to the vacant judicial position with the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely yours,



Mark D. Meyer

MDM

BOONE KARLBERG P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W.T. BOONE (1910-1984)
KARL R. KARLBERG (1923-1988)
JAMES J. BENN (1944-1992)
THOMAS H. BOONE, of Counsel
WILLIAM L. CROWLEY
RANDY J. COX
ROBERT J. SULLIVAN
DEAN A. STENSLAND
CYNTHIA K. THIEL
ROSS D. TILLMAN
JAMES A. BOWDITCH

January 20, 2017

MATTHEW B. HAYHURST
SCOTT M. STEARNS
NATASHA PRINZING JONES
THOMAS J. LEONARD
JULIE R. SIRRS
TRACEY NEIGHBOR JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER L. DECKER
RANDY J. TANNER
MARY CILE GLOVER-ROGERS
ZACHARY A. FRANZ
JOHN M. NEWMAN

Via Email to mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Joseph P. Sullivan – Applicant for Appointment as District Court Judge
for the Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Nomination Commission Members:

I write this letter in support of the application of Joseph Sullivan for appointment to the open seat as district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Great Falls. I have known and worked with Joe in litigation and on various bar-related matters for a couple of decades. I am also pleased to write in support of his application. My reasons for supporting his nomination are set forth below.

My first reason for supporting Joe's application is his innate sense of fairness and justice and his commitment to the profession. No matter the case, or situation, Joe has no personal agenda other than to do the very best he can to accomplish the most he can for his client within the framework of the law. Following the law and achieving a sound lawful result reflects devotion to fairness and justice.

My second reason for supporting Joe is the breadth of his legal experience. He has represented major corporations, individuals of limited (or no) means, large institutions and small businesses. He has broad experience which will serve him well as a district court judge.

My final reason for supporting Joe has to do with something known as judicial temperament. He is thoughtful, careful and deliberate. Those are qualities the

Judicial Nomination Commission
January 20, 2017
Page 2

Nomination Commission should be looking for in making its recommendations to Governor Bullock.

Joe does not come with a "plaintiff's view" or a "defense view." I think anyone firmly entrenched on either side of that divide should be looked upon with suspicion because of the very real risk they will never be able to put that aside. Given his personality and his experience, Joe cannot be pigeon-holed with any label. That is a good thing.

The district court bench in Great Falls will miss Judge Sandefur and, in my view, the Nomination Commission (and the Governor) should be looking to find someone who is as smart, capable, respected and down-the-middle as was Judge Sandefur. Joe Sullivan fits the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Randy J. Cox

RJC/ks

BOONE KARLBERG P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

W.T. BOONE (1910-1984)
KARL R. KARLBERG (1923-1988)
JAMES J. BENN (1944-1992)
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JULIE R. SIRRS
TRACEY NEIGHBOR JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER L. DECKER
RANDY J. TANNER
MARY CILE GLOVER-ROGERS
ZACHARY A. FRANZ
JOHN M. NEWMAN

January 19, 2017

By E-Mail (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov) and Regular Mail

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

Re: Application of Joseph M. Sullivan for Judicial Vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County.

Dear Commission Members:

I am again writing to you to support and recommend Joe Sullivan be selected by the Judicial Nominations Commission to be forwarded to the Governor for consideration to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court. In my 36 plus years as a practicing attorney in this great state, I have had the opportunity to practice before many state and federal judges and work with and against many attorneys of this state. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Joe Sullivan for the last 23 years of my practice. Without any reservation or doubt, I whole heartedly support and recommend the appointment of Joe as a District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. Joe certainly has all the qualifications necessary to perform the public service as a distinguished member of our state judiciary.

Much of my association with Joe has been in both of our work as trustees and officers of the State Bar of Montana. During those years I had the opportunity to observe Joe work with other lawyers and judges of this state on many matters related to the practice of law in Montana. During this work, Joe has exhibited the qualities that are necessary for a district judge. He addressed issues facing the State Bar by appropriately listening, gathering all facts, analyzing the situations and working to build consensus and resolve sometimes very difficult issues in the appropriate manner. He was hardworking, diligent and thorough in his work with the State Bar. He did this all exhibiting a level temperament that you would admire and expect of someone in the position of a judge. In addition to his work as a trustee and officer of the State Bar, he has committed his time to many committees and commissions working to improve the quality of the

January 19, 2017

Page 2

practice or law and of legal services to the citizens of this state. Joe has shown that he is an individual who cares about the integrity, fairness, availability and quality of the legal system.

As noted in his application, Joe's experience in the practice of law has been across a broad area of the law. Many attorneys these days have limited their practice to one particular area of law. As you know a district judge must deal with all areas of the law. In my experience, it is best to appoint an attorney to a judge position who has wide and broad range of experience. Joe's practice particularly qualifies him for job of a district judge. He is knowledgeable, objective, fair and committed to arriving at a just resolution.

Separate from the practice of law, Joe has also shown a commitment to his community and family. Certainly, these are additional good attributes of a judge.

It is without hesitation that I support and recommend the appointment of Joe to file the vacancy for district judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I encourage the Commission to forward his name to the Governor Bullock and would encourage the Governor to appoint Joe to fill the position on this occasion. I am happy to answer any questions the Commission members may have about my knowledge of Joe's qualifications and experience.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Sullivan

RJS:bs

UGRIN, ALEXANDER, ZADICK & HIGGINS, P.C.

NANCY P. CORY
JORDAN Y. CROSBY
DAVID J. GRUBICH
MARK F. HIGGINS
ROBERT F. JAMES
MARY K. JARACZESKI

JOHN D. ALEXANDER
(RETIRED)

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CATHY J. LEWIS
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MARK D. MEYER
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER
ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

NEIL E. UGRIN
1945 - 2007

January 19, 2017

Via Email MTsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

RE: Joseph M. Sullivan/Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Members of the Commission,

I would like to take this opportunity to enthusiastically support Great Falls attorney Joe Sullivan's appointment to replace Judge Dirk Sandefur as our Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I have agreed to send a letter of support on behalf of another potential nominee, and would state at the outset that I believe our local court will be well served by the appointment of either individual.

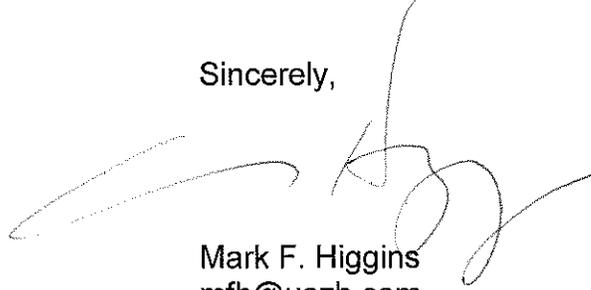
I have carefully reviewed the rather impressive application that Joe has submitted to this Committee. I think his application accurately reflects a balanced and varied legal practice which serves as a perfect foundation for a District Court judgeship. With an active trial practice most of his career, Joe has the precise background and experience needed of anyone who will step in and assume the heavy court docket here in the Eighth Judicial District. His work ethic, and professional ethics, are beyond question.

A good deal of my experience with Joe occurred while he was serving as a mediator, something he has done frequently and successfully. I think that the tools employed by a skillful mediator, as is Joe, are attributes and experiences essential to serving as a District Court Judge. Joe is calm in demeanor and thoughtful. He is also very bright, which is obviously an important attribute.

January 19, 2017
Page 2 of 2

Joe has wanted to be a judge for quite some time. At the risk of stating the obvious, enthusiasm for this position is essential, because it can be a grueling and sometimes thankless job. I feel that we have had a fine tradition of very good judges in this District, and that Joe Sullivan would continue that tradition. Please seriously consider his application for this very important and demanding position. Should you have any questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark F. Higgins', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Mark F. Higgins
mfh@uazh.com

MFH/rkj

4709 Diana Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405
January 16, 2017

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Joseph M. Sullivan who is seeking appointment to Judge Sandefur's position in the 8th Judicial District. I have known Joe for fifteen years, as I first met him while coaching his daughter's basketball team.

Joe is a man who stands for his principles, while accepting the diversity of others. He is a great listener and problem solver. His professionalism, interpersonal relations, work ethic, and leadership skills are exceptional. He retains a wry sense of humor and calm persona which to me exhibits positive judicial demeanor.

Over the years, Joe and his wife Parker have been actively involved in the community of Great Falls. They have spent countless volunteer hours on projects including the children's room at the Great Falls Public Library, the Great Fall's Children's Museum, and the adopt a family Christmas program. Behind their leadership, Great Falls Catholic Central High School reopened in their new facility in 2000. Joe served as the School Board's President for the next ten years. He was instrumental in helping the school's administration receive their Montana Office of Public Instruction's certification and accreditation. Joe, for many years, has been extensively involved with the United Way program. He has been a member of the United Way Campaign Cabinet and served as their campaign chairperson.

Joe's positions with the State Bar have been numerous, including committee chairmanships, being elected the president and secretary/treasurer, while promoting ethics and professionalism through educational programs for attorneys. If I were to choose a lawyer to represent me, it would be Joseph M. Sullivan.

This remarkable gentleman deserves every consideration for the State District Court seat for which he is applying. I feel very strongly that his dedication and hard work should be rewarded and urge you to give him this position in the 8th Judicial District. It is an honor for me to recommend Joseph M. Sullivan for this appointment.

Sincerely yours,



Gary G. McManus

January 13, 2016

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to endorse Joe Sullivan for nomination and appointment to District Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District. In the time I have known Joe, he has always displayed a passion for his work as an attorney and a strong belief in being unbiased.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe through both the Holy Spirit Catholic Parish and the United Way of Cascade County's board of directors in Great Falls, MT. Through both these organizations, I can attest that Joe is very ethical and thoughtful in his decision making. He believes in his community and works hard to better the area in which we live.

I recommend him for your consideration for the State District Court as a Judge. If you have any questions, please feel to reach out to me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keenan Schnider". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Keenan Schnider
Chief Financial Officer
Torgerson's LLC

January 14, 2017

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I write in support of Joseph M. Sullivan's application for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District, to replace Judge Dirk Sandefur. During previous Eighth Judicial District vacancies, I also wrote in support of Joseph Sullivan.

For nearly thirty years, Joe and his family have been active and engaged residents of Great Falls and Montana. For over 20 years, Joe has held leadership positions, including the presidency, with the State Bar of Montana. He raised his family in our community, established his law career in Great Falls, and selflessly contributed his time and talent to worthy organizations and causes. Joe spent many years volunteering his time and resources to United Way of Cascade County, including serving as president, because he understands the value of lending a hand to those facing adversity in their lives. He has been a responsible and effective community leader.

Joe's application details his breadth of legal experience and understanding of the law, his leadership in the community, and his continuing legal education. Joe has the professional experience and the background necessary for service as a District Court Judge.

I personally know Joe to be a man of high integrity, who is well respected by his peers and leaders in the Great Falls community. He is a thoughtful, deliberative thinker who possesses that often missing attribute of being a good listener. Joe is not an ideologue, and is not prone to rash decisions.

It is my belief that Joe is thoughtful, fair, conscientious, and even tempered.

Because Joe is well known in the Great Falls area, he has broad support from many facets of the community. Thus, he would be in good standing to muster support for a successful future election.

Please forward this recommendation to Governor Steve Bullock for his consideration when making this important decision for our community.

Sincerely,



James B. Weber

U.S. Department of Labor (retired)

2001 3rd Ave. No.
Great Falls, Montana
59401

January 17, 2017

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

Re: Judicial Nomination, Eighth Judicial District
Court, Cascade County

Dear Commission members:

It is with pleasure, I give you my sincerest endorsement of applicant Mr. Joseph M. Sullivan, Attorney at Law, to fill Judge Sandefur's State District Court seat.

If selected, be assured Mr. Sullivan will serve with utmost, unbiased, but fair consideration of every case brought before him. He will be an unwavering, totally reliable and responsible asset to the Court. His associations, with whom he would fulfill his responsibilities, would be of integrity and genuine professionalism at every level.

A most exemplary community service Mr. Sullivan gave was his commitment to the local Catholic High School building project. He was the Chairman of that committee from 2004 to 2009. He also was Chairman of the School's board from 2000 to 2010. A most worthy dedication of his time.

For many years Mr. Sullivan and his family lived just two houses from me. The now adult daughters were a pleasure to have

as growing children in the neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan have maintained an easy pleasant addition to the neighborhood and have always been model neighbors.

Some years ago, I had an urgent legal property dilemma. It occurred when I was over 2000 miles from Great Falls. I phoned Mr. Sullivan and with complete equanimity he advised me of the solutions to my problems. On my return to Great Falls, he clearly and competently "walked" me through the steps required to rectify the situation in which I was.

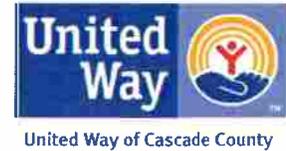
During his legal council he never made me feel intimidated. The confidence he created in his legal solutions, gave me much relief as well as to my family back East.

In closing, please give Mr. Sullivan your careful consideration. I surely find that he would be an excellent choice for the Court seat to be filled.

Very Sincerely,

May B. Chase

Kim Skornogoski
United Way of Cascade County
417 Central Ave. Suite 402
Great Falls, MT, 59401
January 19, 2017



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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Joe Sullivan is an outstanding man of character who would adeptly and honorably fill the 8th Judicial District Court seat. For the nearly six years that I have worked at United Way of Cascade County, I have seen Joe's steady leadership, kindness and passion for community and service. That Joe has been receiving awards for dedication to community and loyalty since college is certainly no surprise.

Joe's role in United Way has grown as he stepped into leadership positions, volunteers at events and for the last two years took on the critical and time consuming task of heading up our annual fundraising campaign. I have seen when Joe commits to a task or cause, he gives it his full heart and attention. I have no doubt that this would be the case should he be chosen to serve as District Court Judge.

United Way regularly calls upon Joe's vast legal knowledge, whether we are establishing policy or researching endowments. Joe offers considered comments to any debate and thoroughly researches the law and relevant information to share with the rest of the board. His opinions are respected and highly valued by this fellow board members, who are our community's business and nonprofit leaders.

Prior to my work at United Way, I was the Great Falls Tribune crime and court reporter for 10 years where I regularly witnessed 8th Judicial District Judges in court and interacted with them outside of it. Joe possesses the calm demeanor, passion for the community, pride of service, respect for the bench, intelligence and integrity that I saw in respected and long-standing judges Kenneth Neill and Thomas McKittrick. If chosen to serve as District Court Judge, Joe Sullivan will work tirelessly and honorably for the people of Cascade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Skornogoski".

Kim Skornogoski
United Way of Cascade County Marketing Director

January 18, 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

PO Box 203005

Helena MT 59620-3005

Dear Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Joe Sullivan's appointment as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District sitting in Great Falls. I practiced in Great Falls with the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick for over 30 years and have known Mr. Sullivan for most of those years.

Joe Sullivan has been a long time practicing attorney in Great Falls and enjoys a very good reputation as a courteous, competent and effective litigator. His practice is very broad based which I believe to be a very important requisite for a district court judge. More important that the reach of his practice however is his reputation for honesty, hard work and trustworthiness. Mr. Sullivan's reputation for trustworthiness will serve him well as a district court judge. He also treats adversaries and colleagues alike with respect and courteousness. His temperament is very appropriate for a judicial position.

Joe Sullivan is also very involved in varied aspects of his community so his reputation, temperament and work ethic is well known community wide. He would be an asset to the Court if selected as District Judge.

Sincerely,

Nancy Cory 

PO Box 1746

Great Falls MT 59401

Becky Nelson
538 Goon Hill Road
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-899-8642

January 18, 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Joseph M Sullivan

Please consider this letter as my highest recommendation for the appointment of Joseph M Sullivan to the eight Judicial District Court seat being vacated by the Honorable Dirk Sandefur.

I have known Joe primarily through community organizations in Great Falls. I am continually impressed with his generosity in giving his time to various committees and boards. Whether it be the United Way Board of Directors or as the past president of the State Bar of Montana, Joe continues to give in many ways.

His integrity is evident by recently being recognized for his outstanding service to the National Conference of Bar Presidents, serving on the conference's executive council for the last three years as well as acting as chairman of its membership committee and as a member of its programming committee.

Joe is a man of the highest character. He is known and respected in the legal community, has a love for the law and our community. I believe that as a District Court Judge, Joe will be respected by all parties. He would bring many great qualities to the Bench.

I am confident Mr. Sullivan is well suited for this leadership position.

Sincerely,



Becky Nelson

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

January 18, 2017

Re: Joseph M. (Joe) Sullivan

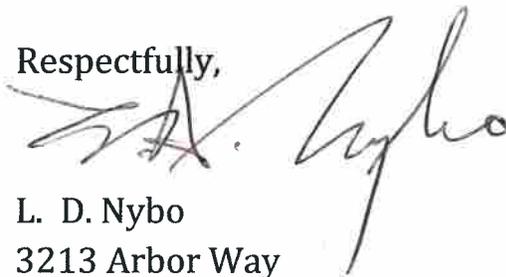
Members of the Commission:

I have written before in support of Joe's nomination for District Judge. A copy of my January 25, 2016, letter is attached for your convenience. What I said still stands.

My apologies for the "tone" of my previous letter. It was as dry as jerky - a trap often sprung by lawyers. There are many intangible factors which support Joe's nomination. Perhaps most importantly is his demeanor - he appears judicial in his mannerisms and, perhaps above all, he is patient and tolerant. Not surprisingly, he looks like and acts like a judge should. He has no agenda and he will give everybody he comes in contact with a "fair shake" whether they are rich or poor.

If Joe is appointed, I will actively support his efforts to be elected as will many others.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. D. Nybo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "N" and "y" that extend upwards and to the right.

L. D. Nybo
3213 Arbor Way
Great Falls, MT 59405

Attachment - 2016 letter of support

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

January 25, 2016

Members of the Commission:

I write in support of Joe Sullivan for Cascade County District Judge. He is clearly qualified, has good legal skills, is a man of unquestionable integrity, will be unflinching in his duties, and, above all, impartial. He has grit which will make him a standout with other members of the judiciary, lawyers, and jurors, as well as voters in future elections. He was mentored by one of the best---Bob Emmons, which no doubt gives him a good instinct for the position. I urge his appointment. He is the strongest candidate in the field.

Respectfully,

L. D. Nybo
3213 Arbor Way
Great Falls, MT 59405

Betsy Brandborg
3730 Eagle Bay Drive
Helena, MT 59602
h: (406) 475-3535
w: (406) 442-2205

January 18, 2017

The Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
MTsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Joseph Sullivan's Application to Serve the Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Commissioners:

I write to wholeheartedly support the selection of Joseph Sullivan as a nominee to the Governor for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

I have worked with Joe in his capacity as a volunteer for the State Bar of Montana and in the 20 years have come to know him as a friend. Joe has served in every position in the State Bar's leadership and with several committees. He's a thoughtful, competent leader and would serve ably as a member of the judiciary.

As I reviewed the other letters submitted, I was struck by the range of Joe's supporting constituency: plaintiff, defense, criminal, civil, members of the judiciary, legislature, members of the community and of course, many other bar volunteers. Trust and respect from all corners of our profession is something special. Joe is the Real Deal. He will ably serve ALL Montanans if appointed to the bench.

Both preceding and after serving as the State Bar's President, Joe has been and is consistently recruited by the serving President to lead Bar members on issues that have required special consideration, most recently in his efforts to lead the profession in absorbing and understanding technology – both with the Technology Committee and the Professionalism Committee (the latter responsible for the Road Shows and New Lawyers' Workshops). He is a respected decision-leader, and has the ability to bring people together to work towards intelligent accomplishment of goals.

In addition, Joe knows the law. His writing skills are exceptional; he is clear in conveying his thoughts, a skill not found in all lawyers. This is another area of strength: he can listen to several sets of ideas and craft the area of common ground. And when necessary, he can be firm.

Judges are critical leaders and communicators in their communities. The recent state and national legislative challenges to the judicial branch of government suggest that judges could do more to explain their role in making government work for people. People don't always see the law as fair or just and it's important for them to understand how the system works. If they know how the system works, they understand that justice is our society's best effort to find fairness. In my bird's eye view of the state's legal communities, I see greater respect, deference and appreciation of civility and of the justice system in the communities where the judges are fully engaged – speaking at local civic associations and schools and participating (and leading) bar activities. The natural result of full engagement is that the legal system benefits. Clients and attorneys both better appreciate how to disagree without being disagreeable and they respect the process that led to the result applied to them.

If selected, Joe will fill the niche with grace, decorum and humor.

The public, both clients and their attorneys, will be well served by appointment of Joe to the Eighth Judicial District bench.

Sincerely,


Betsy Brandborg

January 20, 2017

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

LEWIN LAW OFFICE

615 THIRD AVENUE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, 59401
PHONE, FAX, V-MAIL: 406-727-8464
E-MAIL: stuartlewin@gmail.com



<mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov>

Re: Appointment of Joseph Sullivan to fill Judge Sandefur's District Court, Cascade County seat

Dear Commission:

I have been practicing law in Great Falls since 1972. I do mostly transactions, business and estate planning for farmers and ranchers. I do very little litigation and I have never had any business dealings with the candidate.

So perhaps my recommendation of Joe might not carry much weight. But in reading the letters of those who know Joe and recommend him, it is my view that he is very qualified for this position and the Bench, the Bar and our neighbors would be most fortunate to have him as one of the District Court Judges in Cascade County.

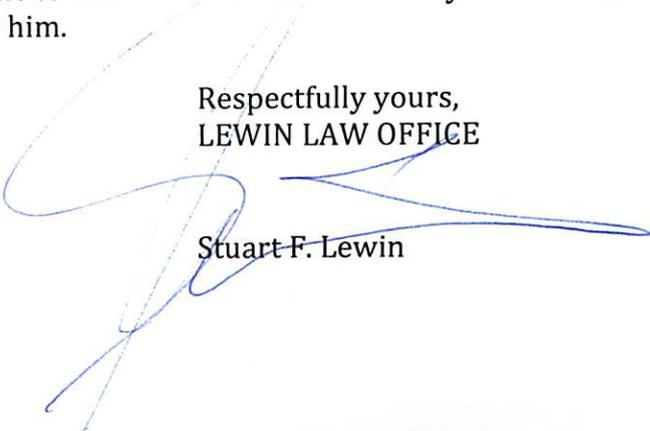
In particular, I note his hard work ethic, legal abilities and the empathy and compassion he has shown over the years to his clients. Further and most importantly I consider him to be an honest man. If that were not the case I would have heard something to the contrary over the many years I have practice law in Cascade County.

I have run for Great Falls City Commission several times and once for mayor. I have never been successful so perhaps my recommendations to Joe for his next campaign might not carry much weight. But I think he might consider the following:

1. I have never liked his professional picture of himself he is using. I think it is time to find a professional photographer who could give him other options.

2. He might talk to the person who handled Pinsky's campaign and see if he would be willing to help him. This person is very experienced and could give Joe advice on how to motivate the public to know what an extraordinary man he is and then to actually go out and vote for him.

Respectfully yours,
LEWIN LAW OFFICE


Stuart F. Lewin

3105 Kingwood Court
Great Falls, Montana 59404

January 21, 2017

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

Last year I wrote a letter in support of Joe Sullivan's application for appointment as Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I am pleased to do so again this year. Throughout my career, I have known Joe to work professionally with opposing counsel while effectively advocating for his clients, regardless of whether they were plaintiffs, defendants, corporations or individuals. Joe exemplifies both the diversity of experience and strident integrity which are essential for a fair-minded judge.

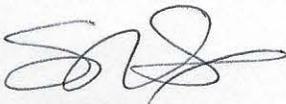
Joe has also devoted considerable effort and energy to the betterment of the Great Falls community and the Montana State Bar. Citizens of Great Falls recognize Joe as a tireless city supporter. He has been a strong advocate for the United Way and was intimately involved in the reopening of Great Falls Central Catholic High School. To enhance the practice of law in Montana, Joe has served multiple roles with the State Bar, from his years on the Board of Trustees, to his more recent role as State Bar President, and to his current role as Technology Committee chair. In these capacities, I have personally found him readily available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Fittingly, Joe has served on the State Bar Professionalism Committee, as he is the consummate legal professional. I am confident that if appointed, Joe will embody the temperament, intellect, dedication and compassion required of a District Court Judge.

I urge you to forward Joe Sullivan's name to the Governor, with your recommendation to appoint him as the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge.

Thank you for your service on this most important Commission.

Sincerely,



Sara R. Sexe

UGRIN, ALEXANDER, ZADICK & HIGGINS, P.C.

NANCY P. CORY
JORDAN Y. CROSBY
DAVID J. GRUBICH
MARK F. HIGGINS
ROBERT F. JAMES
MARY K. JARACZESKI

JOHN D. ALEXANDER
(RETIRED)

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Website <http://uazh.com>

CATHY J. LEWIS
KEVIN C. MEEK
MARK D. MEYER
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER
ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK
NEIL E. UGRIN
1945 - 2007

January 19, 2017

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – Joe Sullivan

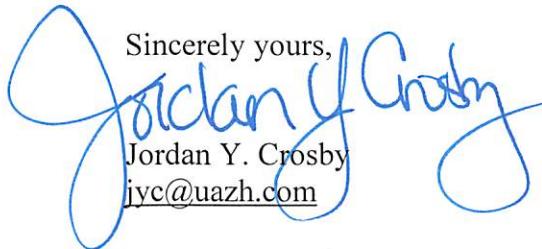
Dear Commission:

I am writing in support of Joe Sullivan to succeed the Honorable Dirk Sandefur as Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.¹ I believe Joe would be a good choice for the position.

I have had the pleasure of litigating against Joe on several different cases. In my dealings, I have found Joe to be professional and civil. He is respectful to the parties, opposing counsel, and the court. Joe has a great temperament, is conscientious, and I have no doubt will work hard if appointed to the position. Joe has enjoyed a broad legal practice that makes him uniquely qualified for the position.

Please accept my support for Joe Sullivan and respectfully request you include Joe among the nominees you recommend to Governor Bullock. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Jordan Y. Crosby
jyc@uazh.com

¹ Please note I have recommended that two applicants be considered for the judgeship.

January 19, 2017

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

Re: Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan -- Eighth Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy

I am writing this letter in support of appointing Joe M. Sullivan to the State District Court seat that is being vacated by Judge Sandefur.

Mr. Sullivan and I served together on the Cascade County United Way board for several years. During that time I observed Joe's leadership and character strengths. His ability to listen carefully and respectfully to issues and opinions being expressed by others was obvious to our team. Joe exhibited seasoned judgement and offered wise insight when making decisions regarding the business of the board. He was well liked and respected by fellow board members and the United Way staff. His commitment to making a positive impact for our community was sincere.

As a result of my interaction with Mr. Sullivan at United Way, I invited Mr. Sullivan to serve on a committee to review the School District's graduation requirements. He was asked to assume the viewpoint of a parent and community-business leader. Throughout the often contentious committee work, Joe offered insight, suggestions and posed questions that caused members of the committee to consider alternative perspectives. Again, I observed Joe to be personable, professional, judicious and respectful in his dialogue and discourse with others in this setting.

I believe Joe is very well suited and from what I understand, well qualified to succeed Judge Dirk Sandefu as a District Court Judge. He will bring professionalism and integrity to the Bench. I strongly encourage the commission to appoint Joseph M. Sullivan to the Eight Judicial District Court.

Respectfully,

Thomas G Moore

Robert J. Emmons

103 3rd Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

January 20, 2017

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

***RE: Letter of Recommendation for Joseph M. Sullivan for the Eight Judicial
District Court Judgeship***

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I endorse Joseph M. Sullivan to be appointed District Court Judge to fill Judge Dirk Sandefur's seat now he has been elected to the Montana Supreme Court.

Joseph is my son-in-law having married our daughter Parker Emmons in 1982 when Joe began law school at Gonzaga.

I am a native of Anaconda and graduated from high school in 1946; I graduated from St. Mary's college in California in May of 1950; I was drafted into the army in October of 1950 and served overseas in Japan and Korea and discharged in October of 1952; I graduated in 1956 from Law School in Missoula after entering in 1953.

I was one of twenty lawyers appointed in 1956 to the Federal Justice Department of the United States Honor Program. I practiced in the Justice Office in San Francisco until December of 1956 when I resigned. Forrest Anderson was the newly selected Attorney General of Montana. He appointed me as an Assistant Attorney General in January of 1957. I argued twenty cases in the Montana Supreme Court during the two and a half years I worked in that office. I resigned in June of 1959 and began my practice in Great Falls where I have since remained. I have had active District Court and Montana Supreme Court practice. I have now conducted my last jury trial and I have now retired.

I have argued over 100 cases in the Montana Supreme Court. I have argued in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Pasadena, California.

Joe accepted my invitation and that of my partner, Judge William Coder, to practice with us in Great Falls. Joe passed the Montana Bar Exam in 1987. He came to Great Falls in 1987 and practiced with our firm. Coder has since deceased.

Joe became my partner in 1992. In 2003, I reduced my law practice and Joe became a partner with attorney Gary Deschenes in 2003.

Why do I give you this information concerning my law practice? As an active trial lawyer, I know the need for competent district judges. I know Joe will be a competent, efficient, knowledgeable, hard-working, and fair district judge, which is a demanding position.

Robert J. Emmons

103 3rd Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401

I recommend Joe Sullivan to be appointed as the next Cascade County District Court Judge to follow Judge Sandefur in that position.

Thank you for your consideration for the appointment of Joe as the District Court Judge.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Emmons". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Robert J. Emmons



308 9th Ave South
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 727-2278 Fax: (406)452-297
john@gagnons-inc.com

January 10, 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan - Eighth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Joseph M. Sullivan's appointment to the Eighth Judicial District judgeship vacancy. I have known Joe for more than 25 years in both a personal and professional capacity. I know Joe to be a person of the highest integrity and moral foundation. In addition Joe has a deep understanding of the law and supports that with the ethics and dedication needed to be an excellent addition to the Montana Judicial bench.

Joe and his wife, Parker, are well respected in Great Falls and the surrounding area for their interaction with civic and non-profit organization and their giving back to the community. I believe that because of his professional and community involvement in our community that our community supports Joe and would continue to support Joe's position as a member of the Montana bench in the 8th Judicial District.

In closing I would ask that the Judicial Nomination Commission and Governor Bullock appoint Joe Sullivan to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,


John J Gagnon


Gagnon's
Reprographics


WatchDog Security
Systems

Computer Services
a division of Gagnon's

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:31 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Jim Walsh [<mailto:rockymtnoyster@charter.net>]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 1:27 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Nomination of Joseph Sullivan for district court judge: attn Lois Menzies

Dear ladies and gentlemen:

I actively practiced law in Great Falls for forty years, although my license is currently in senior status.

My personal dealings with Joe Sullivan, although limited in number, have always been of the highest quality, both in terms of his professionalism and his ability. He has that reputation in the Great Falls legal community, and I believe elsewhere in the state.

His experience in law, as well as many other activities, will allow him to bring a depth of knowledge to the bench. In my experience, this is a key factor in what constitutes an outstanding judge. I recommend Joe for this appointment without reservation of any kind.

Sincerely,

James R. Walsh
2901 Central Ave
Great Falls MT 59401

Smith Law PLLC

P.O. Box 8121, Missoula, MT 59807 - (406) 274-0087 - brian@briancarlsmithlaw.com

January 20, 2017

Sent via email

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Nominating Commission:

I write to support Joe Sullivan's application to fill the vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Joe for many years and have worked closely with him on State Bar projects. He has the temperament to navigate the choppy waters of the judicial branch, the wisdom to make good decisions and the courage to make hard calls. The State would be better off with Joe as part of the judiciary.

Joe is a long-time member of the Montana State Bar Technology Committee and a veteran of State Bar leadership. He is a leader in the Bar on both the local and statewide level. Joe would bring a unique understanding of the technology challenges facing practitioners and judges in an evolving tech world. If appointed, he will be an invaluable resource to his colleagues in arguably one of the most critical areas facing the law. Further, his experience with the State Bar will be a bridge from the State Bar to the judiciary. Attorneys and the community would be lucky to have him as the next judge in the Eighth Judicial District. Please forward Joe's name to Governor Bullock for his consideration and appointment.

Best Regards,



Brian C. Smith
Smith Law PLLC

HASH, O'BRIEN, BIBY & MURRAY PLLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

136 FIRST AVE. WEST – PLAZA WEST
P. O. BOX 1178
KALISPELL, MT 59903-1178

(406) 755-6919
FACSIMILE (406) 755-6911

CHARLES L. HASH (1921-2007)
C. MARK HASH
ANNE G. BIBY
DONALD R. MURRAY
KENNETH E. O'BRIEN, OF COUNSEL

cmhash@hashlaw.com
abiby@hashlaw.com
dmurray@hashlaw.com

January 19, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan; Cascade County District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

This is not the first time I have written to you in an effort to get Great Falls attorney Joe Sullivan "on the bench." I am concerned we may not get another chance. While I do feel that in my thirty-five-plus years of practice we are seeing more well qualified candidates for our judicial vacancies, it is not often we get one "fully-loaded" with Joe's "quiver" of attributes. Accordingly, I again offer my impressions of Joe Sullivan, and the reasons I urge you to recommend him to Governor Bullock.

I have known and worked with Joe for more than twenty years, ever since he became involved with the State Bar of Montana as a trustee from Great Falls in 1993. This exposure has led me to the unequivocal conclusion that Joe is an excellent candidate for the bench – especially as a trial judge.

I believe Joe has the complete "package" of intellectual skills and personal qualities we value and seek in our judges. He has proven himself to be an excellent lawyer over his thirty years of practice. Joe is smart; he is an insightful and analytical thinker. He is an excellent writer. He has maturity and sound judgment. He is conscientious, and his life reflects balance and perspective. He has an ideal breadth of practice experience that has prepared him very well for service as a district court judge. He is inquisitive and demonstrates the important capacity to consider earnestly and openly differing perspectives and points of view.

In terms of relating to the litigants and lawyers who will come before him, Joe is a good listener and relates very well to all kinds of people. He has a relaxed and easygoing manner, yet at the same time, he is strong and decisive and will impart the appropriate formality and decorum to the district court. He is adept at making people feel valued and "listened to." These are important qualities in a judge as they engender confidence in our judiciary and judicial system.

Of course, good analytical, research and writing skills are of critical importance. Joe is very solid in each of these areas. Sometimes these attributes come at the expense of common sense, but Joe consistently displays sound judgment and common sense. He is a thoughtful, solid, down-to-earth person. Joe has a good sense of humor and while he takes his work very seriously, he does not take himself too seriously.

Another key attribute of a good judge is getting decisions out in a timely manner (while at the same time, getting most of them right). This requires decisiveness and diligence, good judgment, good instincts, and a good work ethic. Joe is strong in all of these areas. Having worked with Joe in matters pertaining to the administration of justice through the State Bar of Montana, I can attest that Joe cares deeply that the administration of justice in our state is the best it can be. Moreover, when these matters have come before us as bar leaders, Joe is always engaged and well prepared.

Joe models the qualities that are so beautifully articulated in the preamble to our *Montana Rules of Professional Conduct*:

"As a public citizen a lawyer should seek improvement of the law, access to the legal system, the administration of justice and the quality of service rendered by the legal profession."

One of my favorite qualities that Joe would bring to the bench is his great respect and appreciation for the rule of law and our judicial system. Joe's service to the National Conference of Bar Presidents and other service as a bar leader gives him an appreciation for the role of the rule of law and importance of our justice system that few others attain. These are significant assets for a trial judge, and distinguish Joe from most of his peers. I know the National Conference of Bar Presidents has recognized Joe for his outstanding service to that organization. He has served his profession in this state extensively and was an outstanding leader of the State Bar of Montana serving the Bar in numerous capacities including as its president. The perspective this kind of service to our profession gives a lawyer is hard to articulate (and impossible to duplicate), but it is very important and instills in a lawyer a deep appreciation of the judicial system and its importance in society.

While critical thinking, research and writing skills top the list of qualities we look for in our jurists, other qualities are important as well. Joe is compassionate, but at the

same time he is decisive, and he will not shy away from making hard decisions. Striking a balance between these qualities – compassion and decisiveness – is difficult, but it is an important component of “judicial temperament.” Given the proliferation of *pro se* litigants we are seeing in our district courts, someone like Joe who can relate well to a diverse spectrum of litigants and show understanding and compassion while at the same time keeping the judicial machinery running efficiently is especially important. Joe has the tools and the skills to do this and it is one of the reasons why I was excited when I learned he was seeking appointment to the bench.

On the more “personal side” of being a good judge, again, Joe is top notch. He is earnest, empathetic and objective. He also has high integrity and his ethical principles are beyond reproach. Add to this that he is a very hard worker and diligent in all aspects of his professional life leads me to conclude it would be hard to find a candidate with a better blend (and balance) of qualities than Joe.

I think all the lawyers that appear before him will appreciate him very much and all the litigants who appear in his court will feel they had their cases earnestly considered and that they were well served by the system. We cannot ask for more, nor should we settle for less. That is why I feel Joe is such an ideal person to be a trial judge.

Joe is also at an ideal position in his career to assume the role of judge; he has a wealth of practice experience, while at the same time he has enough years ahead of him that we will have him for a considerable length of time.

Another asset Joe would bring to the position is that he will be well liked and respected by the court staff and his colleagues. He works very well with others. As an administrator and leader, Joe has the sensitivity and interpersonal skills to step smoothly into this position and I believe he will inspire those with whom he works to give their best every day to their work for the court. The staff will respect and appreciate working with Judge Sullivan. As a bonus, Joe is a leader in the area of technology, and has served for years on the State Bar’s Technology Committee; a big asset to any court.

I believe we are very fortunate that someone with Joe’s credentials is willing to leave private practice to serve his state as a district court judge. Without reservation, I encourage you to recommend Joe to the Governor; he will be an excellent trial judge. Thank you for considering my recommendation, and thank you for your service on this important commission.

Sincerely,

Hash, O’Brien, Biby & Murray, PLLP



Donald R. Murray

Deacon Peter N. Woelkers Sr.
205 Riverfront Lane
Great Falls MT. 59404

January 19, 2017

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

Dear Nomination Commission,

I am sending this letter to you to support the nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan for District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial State District Court seat vacated by Judge Sandefur. I am excited by the possibility that a person and lawyer of Joe's quality could end up on the bench serving our community and Justice System.

I have been meeting with him for breakfast almost every week for close to two decades, I also served with him on several committees and boards. He always showed strong leadership and problem solving skills and was great at bringing folks to consensus. He had a way of getting past the surface to the foundational issues and working the tough issues that make a difference.

Joe has always struck me that he would be the kind of Judge I would like to hear a case I had any interest in. His grasp of the Law is as good as any lawyer I know. He is able to take complex problems and understand the many facets before coming up with the right solution. He has consistent objectivity and a strong sense of fairness. His keen intellect, incredible work ethic and ability to listen will serve him well in analyzing the variety important cases important both to individuals and to our community, and then rule decisively. Most importantly, Joe Sullivan has always been motivated by the need to serve others along with a trust and belief in due process. In these times of skepticism of the people serving in public office, Joe Sullivan, a man of integrity and strong character, is a light in the dark. We are very lucky to have a person like Joe Sullivan who is willing to step up and serve.

I believe that Joe is exceptionally well prepared both professionally and personally to handle the challenges of the bench. He is highly regarded by people I know across our Great Falls community and I believe he would receive strong support for re-election. I personally plan on dedicating time and other personal resources to ensure that happens. I strongly endorse him for the position as District Court Judge!

Sincerely,

Peter N. Woelkers Sr

19 January 2017

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
MTsupremecourt@mt.gov
(406) 841-2950

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan letter of support for State District Judge Vacancy

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission,

I write this letter giving my strongest support for Joe as the next State Judge. Traci my wife and I have known Joe, Parker his wife and children for almost 30 years. As a former Wing Commander and School Board President, I have always seen Joe display the highest integrity, service to others and excellence in everything he does as a lawyer, husband, parent and friend.

As a grandson of a District Judge I couldn't have been prouder of my grandfather as he honorably served as a Judge and worked so hard on balancing justice, mercy and always upholding the laws of his district, state and nation. I see all these high qualities in Joe and I am so proud of him having the courage to serve where good Judges are in such high demand to meet the ever dynamic challenges of the times. I know firsthand that Joe has the broad respect of his community, judges and peers!

There is no doubt Joe is up to the challenge and he has only the passion to serve with an ego that is one of the most humble I has ever seen. I know his record and experience speak for themselves and you will find him to be one of the most qualified for the position. I could not imagine a more electable candidate for this position as he will truly represent the people with fairness and decisively rule.

I strongly endorse Joe for the people of the State Judgeship who will serve exceedingly well and find the right balance of justice! Please feel free to contact me anytime for further reference.

Respectfully,

//signed//

J. Peter Hronek

Brigadier General, Montana Air National Guard

917 4th Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401
799-4154

//signed//

Traci J. Hronek

P. MARS SCOTT, P.C.
LAW OFFICES

P. Mars Scott
Ryan A. Phelan

2920 GARFIELD, SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 5988
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806
TELEPHONE: (406) 327-0600
FAX: (406) 728-0948
www.pmarsscott.com

Ruth A. Hammill
Dianne I. Rice

January 20, 2017

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

*Sent via U.S. Mail and email to
lmenzies@mt.gov*

Re: Judicial Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

Joseph M. Sullivan has submitted his application for appointment as a Montana District Court Judge. I offer this letter to offer my support of Joe's application.

I've known Joe through my activities and involvement with the State Bar of Montana. I've had the opportunity to read many of the comments already made by other practitioners about Joe and I support and agree with all of them about his involvement in the State Bar activities and his abilities as an attorney. Joe obviously has a wealth of practical experience in the practice of law and has been "in the trenches," so to speak, which gives him the invaluable experience to deal with the myriad of issues that district judges face on a daily basis.

That practical experience, in my mind, is the most valuable asset that a judge can bring to the bench, except for one other, and that is judicial temperament. I've not seen any comments about judicial temperament but I believe that appropriate and proper judicial temperament is a key factor in how the public views the judiciary specifically, and the legal system generally.

In my opinion, Joe Sullivan has the experience, maturity, professionalism, and intellect to bring the appropriate judicial temperament to the bench to serve the public in the best way possible.

Sincerely,

P. MARS SCOTT LAW OFFICES

By 
P. Mars Scott

PMS/jeg

STATE OF MONTANA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 1
lhalligan@mt.gov



MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292
(406) 258-4771

LESLIE HALLIGAN
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

January 20, 2017

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

Re: Joseph M. Sullivan

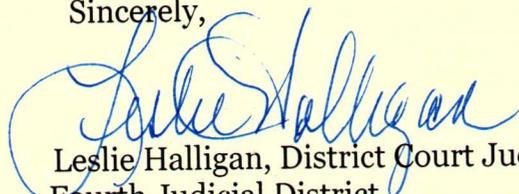
Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I write in support of the appointment of Joseph M. Sullivan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District. I have had the opportunity to know and work with Joe through our combined volunteer service with the State Bar of Montana. Joe has demonstrated effective leadership to the State Bar and has devoted countless hours of volunteer service for the advancement of the legal profession. In addition, Joe is actively involved in his community, again devoting his time and talents to a variety of community organizations, including United Way of Cascade County. His public service has repeatedly been recognized by both legal and community organizations.

Joe's legal education and experience create a strong foundation for his future work in the judiciary. He is an excellent communicator, well organized, intelligent and personable. He is well established in the legal community and has broad and diverse legal experience, which is essential to the District Courts. Additionally, his sound judgment and judicial temperament make him exceptionally qualified to assume the role of District Court Judge.

I am confident that Joe will be able to meet the challenges of service as a District Court Judge with integrity and professionalism. I urge his selection by the commission for advancement to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,


Leslie Halligan, District Court Judge
Fourth Judicial District



DESCHENES & ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Gary S. Deschenes

January 23, 2017

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

Re: Judicial Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this letter in support of Joseph M. Sullivan's application for the position of District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court. I have known Joe for over 21 years and have worked with him for over 10 of those years. Joe is very dedicated to his clients and strives to do the very best he can to represent their best interests. Joe is very knowledgeable, extremely thorough, has an exceptional analytical ability, an extensive knowledge of the law, great common sense, and has a strong moral compass. I have always found Joe to have a very calm demeanor and I believe he would be a very fair, impartial and competent Judge.

I recently had the opportunity to observe Joe in the courtroom. Joe was co-counsel with Gary S. Deschenes in a jury trial with several opposing attorneys. Joe was very professional and prepared. He was very respectful to all parties and the Court.

I believe Joe has the qualifications to be an outstanding District Court Judge and ask that you give serious consideration to his application. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Peck".

Lisa Peck
Legal Assistant

309 First Avenue North ■ P.O. Box 3466 ■ Great Falls, MT 59403 ■ Phone 406-761-6112 ■ Fax 406-761-6784

Email: gsd@dalawmt.com



DESCHENES & ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Gary S. Deschenes

January 23, 2017

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

Re: Judicial Nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is written in support of Joe Sullivan to be appointed as a District Court Judge to replace the Honorable Justice Dirk Sandefur. I have known Mr. Sullivan professionally and socially for over 25 years. For ten of those years, I was his partner in the firm of Deschenes & Sullivan. We disbanded our partnership in 2013 primarily so Joe could seek a judgeship. I have been able to observe Joe on numerous occasions with not only his clients, but also with opposing counsel and his performance in Court. I have always been impressed by Joe's professionalism and calm demeanor in all situations. I am happy to say that some of his calm demeanor has even rubbed off on myself.

I can certainly attest that Joe is an ethical, professional, and knowledgeable attorney that is fair to deal with. My personal knowledge of Joe allows me to state unequivocally that he would be impartial as a judge. Quite frankly, that is all a true attorney could ever ask for, but unfortunately, that is not always what we get.

As I am sure you are well aware, Joe has extensive participation in the State Bar and in our community in several different organizations. By examining the length of time that Joe has actually been involved with the activities, one can clearly see that Joe does not do these things to just build a "good resume". Joe actually believes in helping the community and those organizations in which he gets involved. Joe has not looked for reward for himself, only his own self-satisfaction. This is exactly how I see Joe's seeking of the judgeship. He does this not only as one of his personal goals, but also with the genuine belief that a judge should be a help, not a hindrance.

309 First Avenue North ■ P.O. Box 3466 ■ Great Falls, MT 59403 ■ Phone 406-761-6112 ■ Fax 406-761-6784

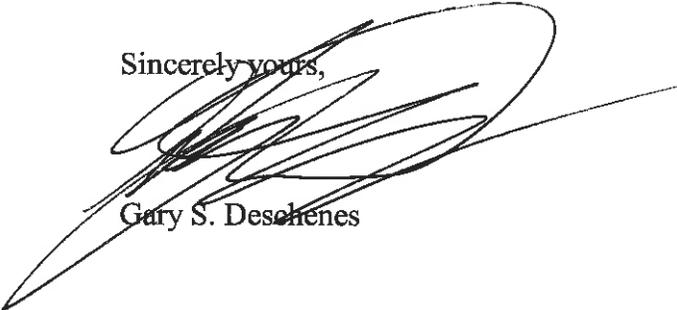
Email: gsd@dalawmt.com

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
January 23, 2017
Page 2

There is also no question that Joe has the necessary intelligence and writing capabilities that all judge's should possess. Joe's pleadings have been well researched and well written to assist Court's in their decisions. Joe does not look towards the appointment of his being a District Court Judge as a stepping stone to something else. Joe truly desires to be a District Court Judge and has for some time.

I understand you will receive multiple letters in support of the candidates that are seeking this position. I am aware of all of the candidates. If the reader of this letter were to assume that I would support Joe simply because he was a former partner and a current friend, they certainly do not know me very well. If I truly believed that another candidate was better than Joe, I would support that person. Many of the support letters you receive for candidates quite frankly, may have something to gain in the future if their candidate were to become appointed. I do not. As a former partner of Joe's, I will not be able to appear in front of him due to our conflict. I have nothing to gain by Joe becoming a District Court Judge. In fact, I have only to lose. Joe and I currently own a building together and if he were to be appointed, it would result in our having to work something out regarding his position in the building. Why then would I support him? That question is easy if you start from the beginning of this letter. The reasons are clearly there. Joe is simply the best choice of all the candidates. Joe has no preconceived positions or long time position with one side or the other. Joe has been both a plaintiff and defendant in multiple civil cases and owes no allegiance to anyone or particular side. Quite simply, Joe is the best candidate for the position and I would ask that you assist in getting him appointed as the next Cascade County District Court Judge.

Sincerely yours,



Gary S. Deschenes

GSD/lp

Merle Raph
ATTORNEY AT LAW
P.O. Box 730
153 Main Street
Shelby, MT 59474

Telephone (406) 434-5417
Facsimile (406) 434-5522

January 20, 2017

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

Re: Application of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

It is with pleasure that I write to lend my support and endorse the application of Joseph M. Sullivan for nomination and appointment as District Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District.

As the Toole County Attorney for the past twenty-five years, I had the opportunity to work with Joe in both civil law and criminal law matters. Joe has zealously represented his clients without sacrificing professionalism or civility. In the heat of litigation he maintains a steady temperament.

I have also called Joe for legal advice on several occasions and while I value his counsel, I also consider him a friend. He is reliable and truly cares about people.

Joe honorably served as President of the State Bar of Montana and together we were members of the Professionalism Committee. He was a respected advocate with the legislature and the Supreme Court and represented the attorneys in Montana with aplomb.

I believe a district judge should be diligent, intelligent and affable and Joe Sullivan possesses these characteristics. The State of Montana and Cascade County would be well-served

Page 2

Re: Mr. Sullivan

with Joe as a district judge. Please give his application serious consideration and endorse him as a qualified applicant to the governor.

Thank you for allowing this public comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Merle Raph", is written over a yellow rectangular highlight.

Merle Raph
Attorney at Law

MR:ar

January 23, 2017

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

Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Joe Sullivan for the State District Court Judge seat vacancy that was previously held by Judge Sandefur. I have known, worked with, and interacted with Joe for the past 7 years in both professional and personal settings.

We've spent much of our time over the past seven years working together at United Way with the Board of Directors, the executive committee, campaign committee, and numerous volunteer events. Joe brings a high level of professionalism and trustworthiness to the table. You can count on Joe to follow through with his commitments. He is always well prepared, open-minded, and asks the right questions in a way that enables better understanding for everyone. He pays attention to details while providing a common sense approach that is consistent with rules and parameters that we operate within. He's not afraid to challenge the team with tough decisions and articulate that in a way that is supportive and collaborative which leads to better teamwork and decisions. He is a community leader.

I believe Joe has the education, legal experience, work ethic, and ambition to be an outstanding judge. Please consider this letter as my support for Joe Sullivan being the next District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District. Thank You.

Bill Harp



SPOONGORDONBALLEW

ATTORNEYS AT LAW, PC

Dan L. Spoon
William V. Ballew III*
Bryan L. Spoon
Paul Sharkey
John R. Gordon 1942-2011

*also admitted in New Mexico and Texas

January 23, 2017

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

Re: Joe Sullivan
Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Members of the Commission:

Please consider this letter my whole-hearted endorsement of Joe Sullivan for District Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court.

I have known Joe for many years and can honestly say that he has conducted his practice of the law in a flawless manner. His work ethic and integrity are beyond reproach and his commitment to his clients, his practice and his community are well documented.

In my nearly thirty-five years of practicing law in Montana, I have worked extensively on cases in the Eighth Judicial District and have had the good fortune to work with Joe. While there may be many attorneys capable of understanding and interpreting the law, Joe possesses these critical abilities along with the personality, temperament and common sense which in my experience, are the key characteristics necessary to discharge the awesome responsibilities imposed on District Judges in Montana. For myriad reasons, the Eighth Judicial District provided challenges to District Judges not found in other districts. Joe's longstanding practice in Great Falls and his well-deserved, exemplary reputation will be a distinct asset to the citizens of Great Falls and the attorneys who practice in front of him.

I am hopeful that Joe will be given the most favorable consideration of the Commission and secure the appointment to succeed Judge Dirk Sandefur. Joe has my complete trust that he will be a very valuable addition to the other outstanding District Judges who serve the Eighth Judicial District. Joe has my unconditional support for the appointment as Judge Sandefur's replacement.

800 S. 3rd St. W. Suite A | P.O. Box 8869
Missoula, MT 59807-8869



Phone: 406.541.2200 | Fax: 406.541.2202
www.spoongordonballew.com

January 23, 2017
Page 2

Thank you for your time, consideration and professional courtesies in considering this unconditional endorsement.

Best regards,

SPOON GORDON BALLEW PC

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan L. Spoon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dan L. Spoon

DLS:pl

Dan@spoonlaw.com

January 23, 2017

Sent via email and hard copy

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

Re: Letter in Support of Joseph M. Sullivan

Dear Commission Members:

It is my pleasure to write in support of Joe Sullivan's application for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

I have known Joe for several years both as a practicing attorney and as a private citizen. He has clearly demonstrated a commitment to public service through his volunteer efforts with both the State Bar and United Way. He also has expertise and broad experience in the law, which is needed in this position. I believe Joe has both the experience and temperament to serve as our District Court Judge. I encourage you to nominate him for the appointment to full Judge Sandefer's term.

Sincerely,



Laura E. Walker

PETER F. HABEIN
500 TRANSWESTERN PLAZA II
490 NORTH 31ST STREET
P. O. BOX 2529
BILLINGS, MT 59103-2529
DIRECT DIAL - 406-255-7208
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phabein@crowleyfleck.com

January 23, 2017

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

RE: Support for Nominee Joseph M. Sullivan
Judicial Nomination, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please accept this letter as my expression of support for the nomination of Joseph M. Sullivan to fill the Eighth Judicial District seat vacated by the Hon. Judge Sandefur.

I have known Joe now for several years. He chairs the State Bar of Montana Technology Committee, while I chair the State Bar Ethics Committee. Joe reached out to the ethics committee, worked hard to find common ground, and kept the broader interests of the members of the bar uppermost in his mind. He has been a pleasure to work with.

He brought to our discussion the personal qualities that those who know him well value so highly – a keen analytical mind, a calm and obviously judicial demeanor, a genuine respect for his fellow lawyers, and a ready ability to articulate his views so well that they commanded respect, regardless of whether the hearer agreed with them or not. Individuals rarely possess all these qualities, and those who do are uniquely suited to the judicial role.

Last year, Joe and I collaborated on a two-hour program for the bar at the annual CLE & Ski at Big Sky. That collaboration illuminated all of the qualities in Joe that I have described. We each independently drafted our own outlines, representing the unique perspectives of our respective committees. Joe's outline demonstrated clear command of the law at its intersection with technology. Joe then deconstructed both outlines, identifying the intersections between them, the common ground, and he proposed a format that perfectly harmonized both perspectives into a coherent program to get

January 23, 2017

Page 2

our main ideas across. Presenting with Joe was a real pleasure, personally and professionally. He interjected forcefully where appropriate, presenting his committee's perspective clearly but with obvious respect for contrasting views. He responded to questions directly and clearly, bringing to complex concepts his characteristic easy and articulate brilliance.

After 33 years of practice, mostly in litigation, mostly representing defendants in civil matters, I have come to value judicial decorum and intellectual acuity above all other qualities in judges. The best judges, in my view, demonstrate respect for the lawyers appearing before them and for the arguments presented to them. They bring to the art of judging a bearing and gravity characterized by dignity and respect for the parties and their counsel. These qualities, when combined with decisiveness and legal acumen, inspire respect for the court's decisions. My knowledge of Joe Sullivan and my personal and professional experiences with him convince me that he possesses all of the qualities necessary to becoming one of Montana's finest district court judges.

Sincerely,

CROWLEY FLECK PLLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter F. Habein", is written over the printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "H".

PETER F. HABEIN

PFH/hj

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:17 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Jensen, Cort
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 2:52 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Joe Sullivan

To whom it may concern,

I have worked with Mr. Sullivan on the state bar tech commmitte. I think he has the right personality and temperament to be an excellent judge. I whole heartedly recommend him for the job.

Cort Jensen

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:16 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Ron A. Nelson [<mailto:ronnelson@chjw.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 1:36 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Joe Sullivan / 8th Judicial District Judge

I am writing this email in support of Joe Sullivan's application for the open seat in the 8th Judicial District. I have known and worked with Joe for almost 30 years. In that time, I have observed that Joe is a strong advocate for his clients, yet he has been very collegial and cooperative with colleagues. In my dealings with Joe, I have always found him to be fair, knowledgeable, responsive and honest. He has a calm demeanor which will serve him well as a district judge. The significant contributions to our community and the bar demonstrate Joe's desire to place the interests of others over his personal interests. I am confident that Joe has the skills and character to serve as a district court judge. I urge the Commission to recommend his appointment to Governor Bullock.

Ron A. Nelson
Church, Harris, Johnson & Williams, P.C.



114 3rd Street South
P.O. Box 1645
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone 406-761-3000
Fax 406-453-2313
www.chjw.com

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:15 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Darla Bergstad [<mailto:DBergstad@mtlawyers.net>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 1:07 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Cc: Channing Hartelius; jsullivan@sullivanlawmt.com
Subject: Joe Sullivan District Court Judge Application

January 23, 2017

VIA EMAIL ONLY, Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies, Office of Court Administrator

RE: Joseph Sullivan district Court Judicial Application

To Whom it may Concern:

Judge Sandefur was recently sworn in as a Montana Supreme Court Justice, leaving a vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Joe Sullivan has applied for that vacancy. I supported Joe fro the last vacancies and believe he will be an excellent Judge. I have known Mr. Sullivan professionally and socially for over 30 years. Mr. Sullivan has been on the opposing side of me in several personal injury cases. I can attest that he is ethical, professional, knowledgeable and fair to deal with. I believe Cascade County would be best served by an accomplished attorney that has extensive civil experience which Joe has.

I also have personal knowledge of Joe's participation as State Var President and other roles he has served with distinction. Joe is also an outstanding community leader in several respects.

Mr. Sullivan has the experience, demeanor, and intelligence to be an outstanding Judge in the same manner he has been an outstanding lawyer.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Best Regards,

HARTELIUS, DUROCHER & WINTER, P.C.

Channing J. Hartelius

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:15 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Steve Fitzpatrick [<mailto:stevef@bkbh.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 9:45 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Comment on Joe Sullivan for 8th Judicial District Court

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

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing in support of Joe Sullivan for the vacant position in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court. I believe Joe has the qualities and experience that make an excellent district court judge. Joe has an impressive record of work in a variety of areas and he has an excellent reputation in the legal community. But more importantly, I believe Joe has the right temperament for a district court judge. He is smart, thoughtful, and will take the time to listen to all sides before making a decision. He will be a great addition to our bench here in Cascade County.

Steve J. Fitzpatrick

Attorney
stevef@bkbh.com
www.bkbh.com

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Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 7:14 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Sullivan

From: Christy Clark [mailto:christy_clark@ymail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 9:14 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Support for Joe Sullivan

Dear members of the commission,

I am writing today to urge the appointment of Joe Sullivan to the eighth judicial district court seat vacated by Judge Sandifer. My experience with Mr. Sullivan as an attorney has been overwhelmingly positive. He is knowledgeable of the law, and extremely ethical. His work on our case was outstanding. We worked with him on a settlement case as well and in that setting he was reasonable, thoughtful and had a global understanding of conflict resolution. I can think of no one who make a finer judge than Mr. Sullivan.

Thank you,
Christy Clark
former representative
5618 Rainbow Drive
Helena, Mt 59602