

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment

From: Vikki Kilminster-Bird [<mailto:vkbird@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Fwd: Lisa B Kauffman for District Court Judge

Hello!

I just wanted to send my affirmation in regards to Lisa Kauffman being appointed judge in the case of Edward McClean's early retirement.

I have known Lisa for the past 10 years and would highly support the decision to have her as part of our judicial bench. She is fair, honest, open-minded, and has always shown the highest integrity. I believe she has superb knowledge of the law and how it works and has many years of experience as a lawyer in this community.

I also admire her goodwill and empathy for people of all walks of life.

Thank-you and kind regards,

Vikki Kilminster-Bird

408 Connell Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 5:39 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment

From: Judith Loring [<mailto:jaloring@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: comment on judicial candidates

To Whom It May Concern:

I just wanted to comment on the field of candidates vying for Judge McLean's position in the 4th Judicial District. Of the six attorneys, I support Lisa Kaufman, Barbara Leslie Halligan and Brenda Desmond. I have had cases before both Ms. Halligan and Ms. Desmond and found both to be very knowledgeable, competent and fair. While I do not know Ms. Kaufman personally, I agree with her view that too many of our judges are former prosecutors. Being a defense attorney myself and having also represented parents in abuse/neglect cases, I have always wanted a judge on the bench who has had experience representing criminal defendants and parents rather than judges who have spent their careers prosecuting.

Thank you in advance.

Judith A. Loring
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 4
Stevensville, Montana 59870



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From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:24:50 PM

From: Eric Ravitz [mailto:doc@bluemountainclinic.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Lisa Kauffman application

To: Judicial nomination process

Re: Lisa Kauffman

I have worked with Lisa on several cases over the past few years and found her to be thorough, even-keeled, and a clear eyed realist while being an unapologetic advocate for her clients. As a long time Family Physician in Missoula I would be very happy, comfortable, and optimistic about the future stewardship of the local judicial environment with Lisa as a judge.

Thank you

Eric A. Ravitz DO FAAFP
Medical Director
Blue Mountain Clinic

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:24:13 PM

From: Liz Jacobsen [mailto:jacobsenbunch@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:42 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: re: judge candidate Lisa Kauffman

Dear Lois Menzies and the Judicial Nomination Commission,
I am writing to recommend Lisa B. Kauffman as a District Court Judge for Missoula to fill the vacant seat left behind by Judge Edward Mclean's retirement.! I have known Lisa Kauffman for 20 years and have found her to be a trusted and loyal friend and advisor. She is extremely dedicated to her work and to the law. Her attention to detail and knowledge of the law have always amazed me as well as her dedication to her clients. She is very intelligent and skilled in her work. She has a strong personality which I feel will be a tremendous asset for this job. She is not a pushover but rather someone who stands up for what's right. She would be an incredible asset to the District Court and Missoula would be lucky to have her. I lived in Missoula for 10 years and worked professionally at the Missoula Children's Theatre. Now I am a resident of Washington State and will be sending my oldest to the University of Montana this fall. I love Missoula and want to see it continue to thrive and I feel as though selecting Lisa B. Kauffman will be a continued step in Missoula's success. I can wholeheartedly recommend her personally and professionally. Good luck in your continued search!

Cordially,
Elizabeth Jacobsen

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:25:39 PM

From: Sharon ParksBanda [mailto:parksbandas@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Lisa Kauffman-Applicant for District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in regards to the application submitted by Lisa Kauffman for appointment as a District Court Judge in Missoula to fill the vacant seat left by Judge Edward Mclean.

In reviewing and comparing the other filed applications, I felt it necessary to comment in support of Lisa Kauffman. As I am certain the distinguished members of this commission are aware, the judicial system in these United States was founded on the principals of the rule of law and a system that is not bias. The days of appointment to such an office merely because it is "ones' turn" or because of personal or political friendships were put aside to insure the most qualified person in the area of the rule of law and the justice system were appointed to such positions. Every person, be that person a victim, witness, defendant or community member not only hopes, but requires the Judicial process to be one of fairness, based on our laws and processes which are overwhelmingly fair and without bias.

A District Court Judge should not be an arm of the prosecutor's office nor an arm of the defense. A District Court Judge should always be that person who has a deep and thorough understanding of our ever changing laws, regulations and procedures. In a perfect world that person should be highly educated and experienced in the laws, both civil and criminal as well as be as objective and unbiased as humanly possible. When the two sides in a courtroom are in dispute the Judge is the person that is looked to for a fair and lawful ruling. While The District Court Judge is human and may have opinions outside the courtroom, when serving on the bench, the Judge is expected to provide rulings that follow the spirit and letter of the law, without consideration of popularity or political pressure.

It is clear to me, Lisa Kauffman has spent the better part of two decades, studying and practicing law both as a prosecutor and defense attorney. While she has spent little time ingratiating herself to politicians and private interests, she has spent an enormous amount of time practicing law and supporting the U.S. and State constitutions and building the skills, experience and knowledge required of such a position. I believe the commission would be hard pressed to find a more qualified candidate for District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Sharon Parks-Banda
PBI Security Consultants, Inc.
(406) 381-0395
July 16, 2015

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 6:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment

From: mary jo Barrett [<mailto:barrettmaryjo@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 10:53 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: District Court Judge Missoula applications

I would like to put in a word of support for Lisa Kauffman to be considered for appointment to the seat currently occupied by Judge McLean. I have known Lisa for over 10 years, and I believe she has the qualifications, skills, and experience that would make her an excellent judge. She has worked as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney, and her experience also runs the gamut from criminal to child welfare cases.

In all of her work, Lisa is a compassionate and dedicated advocate of both her client and the justice system as a whole. Our whole community has benefitted from her tireless efforts at raising the bar when it comes to vigorous defense and prosecution in court. I believe that in this helps our community ensure that every case is fully considered and justice is better served.

Thank you for considering Lisa Kauffman for the District Court Judge position in Missoula. She is uniquely qualified to fill this seat, and her contributions to the community and the judicial process would be great.

Thank you,

Mary Jo Barrett, L.C.S.W.

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 7:38:15 AM

From: Mandelko, Reed
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 4:40 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Lisa Kauffman for judge

Hi,

My name is Reed Mandelko. I support Lisa Kauffman's application to fill Judge McLean's seat very soon. Lisa is a trial attorney who knows the rules of evidence and believes in the law. She would make a good judge, mostly because she will follow the law and understands how trials should be conducted.

Thanks for your time,

Reed Mandelko

Catherine Zabinski
302 S. Bozeman Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59715

March 24, 2015

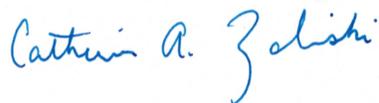
Judicial Nomination Commission,
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator,
P.O. Box 203005,
Helena, MT 59620-3005,

Dear Nomination Commission:

This letter is in support of Lisa Kauffman's application to fill the Fourth District Court Judge vacancy. I have known Lisa professionally for a year, and have been impressed by her extensive knowledge of both state and federal laws, and the depth of her commitment to philosophical ideals. Lisa's sense of justice goes beyond that of our intuitive approach to upholding the law, by purposely defending people who are the least likely to receive a fair trial. To do this means that as legal counsel you frequently put yourself in an unpopular position, and you are, in some ways, constantly swimming upstream. For Lisa, a fair and just society means that everyone is entitled to quality legal counsel, and she has focused her energies on that.

One of the characteristics of a good judge is a deep sense of justice, and a strong commitment to fairness. Lisa stands out amongst the candidates as someone willing to give up social approval in the defense of justice. What she will bring to the bench is a deep appreciation for justice, an extensive knowledge of the law, and the wisdom that comes with being open to working with anyone needing legal representation.

Sincerely,



Catherine Zabinski, Ph.D.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:47 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Kauffman -- Public Comment

From: Matthew Hassenstab [<mailto:matthass@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Support letter for Lisa B Kauffmann

Hello,

I wanted to write in support of Lisa for the position of District Court Judge to fill the vacancy left by Edward McClean's retirement.

I have known Lisa for roughly 10 years and in my opinion, she would make an excellent judge. She is extremely hard working, passionate and balanced in her thinking without being influenced by politics. Her passion for representing the under served and less than desirable cases is a reflection of her character and deep rooted belief in the justice system.

She has been a great friend and valuable resource and even testified in a deeply personal matter that I was involved with. She was at all times during that process fair and open minded. It is my belief that she will carry these qualities to the position.

I wholeheartedly recommend that she be appointed.

Thank You,

Matthew Hassenstab

430 E Sussex Ave
Missoula, MT

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