
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2016
Rosebud County Library Meeting Room
Forsyth, Montana

The Commission convened on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 10:05 a.m. in the meeting room in the Rosebud County Library (201 North 9th Avenue) in Forsyth, Montana. All Commission members were present and participated in the applicant interviews: Judge Richard Simonton (Chairman), Janice Bishop, Karl Englund, Elizabeth Halverson, Hal Harper, Lane Larson, and Nancy Zadick. Lois Menzies, Office of Court Administrator, served as Commission staff.

The interview schedule was as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Kevin Peterson
- 10:35 a.m. Nick Murnion
- 11:10 a.m. Wyatt Glade
- 11:40 a.m. Deliberations

Each applicant made an opening statement, and questions from the Commission followed. Members questioned applicants in several areas including range and depth of legal experience (e.g., trials, Indian law; breach of contract, personal injury law); residency in Forsyth if appointed; areas of weakness and how they would be addressed; attributes distinguishing the applicant from other applicants; challenges facing residents in the 16th Judicial District; electability within the judicial district; running an effective campaign if appointed; interest in running for the judicial seat if not appointed; preference for election versus appointment of judges; and treatment courts. Some applicants were asked to clarify or expand upon information in their applications or public comment received. Following questions from the Commission, applicants provided closing remarks.

The Commission began deliberations following the last interview. Seven members (unanimous) voted in favor of nominating Nick Murnion. Six members (Simonton, Bishop, Englund, Halverson, Harper, and Zadick) voted in favor of nominating Wyatt Glade with one member opposed (Larson). Four members (Simonton, Englund, Halverson, and Harper) voted in favor of nominating Kevin Peterson with three members opposed (Bishop, Larson, and Zadick). The reasons for nominating each applicant are contained in the certificate and report submitted to the Governor, which are incorporated into these minutes and attached to them.

The Commission adjourned at approximately 12:50 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

The Judicial Nomination Commission of the State of Montana hereby certifies to the Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana that it has agreed and approved the qualifications of the following lawyers for appointment as District Court Judge for the Sixteenth Judicial District.

All of these we now certify are qualified for appointment under the laws of the State of Montana. We hereby certify the same to you, as required by law, and list them in alphabetical order:

Wyatt Arthur Glade
Nickolas Clarke Murnion
Kevin Ray Peterson

REPORT

Pursuant to Section 3-1-1010, MCA, the Judicial Nomination Commission provides the following report:

Seven members of the Judicial Nomination Commission were present and participated in the applicant interviews and deliberations. The applications of and public comments regarding the above-listed nominees are attached to this certificate and also may be reviewed at: <http://www.courts.mt.gov>.

Wyatt Arthur Glade received six affirmative votes to recommend his appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Mr. Glade:

1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience; and
4. demonstrates judicial temperament.

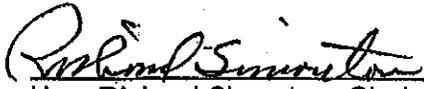
Nickolas Clarke Murnion received seven affirmative votes to recommend his appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Mr. Murnion:

1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience; and
4. demonstrates judicial temperament.

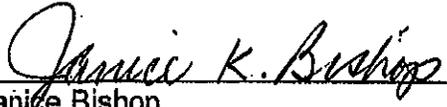
Kevin Ray Peterson received four affirmative votes to recommend his appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Mr. Peterson:

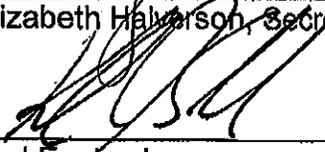
1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience; and
4. demonstrates judicial temperament.

Done at Forsyth, Montana on the 25th day of January, 2016.

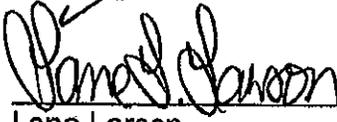

Hon. Richard Simonton, Chairman

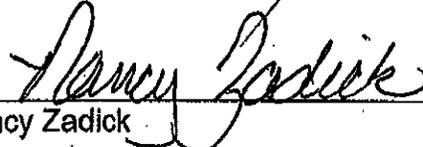

Elizabeth Halverson, Secretary


Janice Bishop


Karl Englund


Hal Harper


Lane Larson


Nancy Zadick