

COK KINZLER PLLP



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December 15, 2015

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL

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

Re: *16th Judicial District Judge Application of Nick Murnion*

Dear Lois:

I write to support the selection of Nick Murnion as Judge for the 16th Judicial District. I have known Nick since law school. You could not ask for better applicant for this position. Nick was born and raised in Garfield County and spent much of his career as its County Attorney, being sworn in shortly after his graduation from law school. Nick knows the people of this area, he understands their problems, he understands their lives.

Nick is a man of integrity, demonstrated time and again throughout his career. In particular when he and his family and justice were under attack by the so-called "Freemen," Nick never wavered. He showed impeccable courage and justice prevailed.

Nick is the perfect fit for this position. He has the intellectual ability, the experience, the background and the moral fitness to be a great judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,

COK KINZLER PLLP

Michael D. Cok
mikecok@cokkinzlerlaw.com
dml

Glasgow City Court

Judge Lynn Gilbert

121 3RD Street South, Suite D Glasgow MT 59230

406-228-2389 Fax 406-228-2375

December 10, 2015

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

Re: 16th Judicial District Court Vacancy

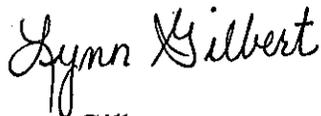
Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Nickolas Murnion for appointment to the vacancy in the 16th Judicial District Court.

I have had the great pleasure to work with Nick in the implementation of our Adult Treatment Court. He was instrumental in starting the process and keeping everyone involved throughout the process of getting the court operational. Nick is very thoughtful of others, hardworking, organized, with excellent judgment and integrity.

The 16th Judicial District Court would be well-served by having Nickolas Murnion as a judge.

Sincerely,



Lynn Gilbert
Glasgow City Court Judge

COMMUNITY, COUNSELING AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, INC.

Corporate Office Building
471 East Mercury Street
Butte, Montana 59701

phone: (406) 782-0417 fax: (406) 782-6964
email: corporate@cccscorp.com website: www.cccscorp.com

Board of Directors: Joe Murphy, President • Connie Kenney, Vice-President • Jim Graham, Secretary • Fred Stradinger, Treasurer • Don Peoples, Board Member • Pat Fleming, Board Member • Wayne Harper, Board Member • Kathy Fasso, Board Member • Father Tom Haffey, Board Member • John Kasperick, Board Member

Corporate Staff: Mike Thatcher, CEO • Steve McArthur, Director Community Correctional Programs • Perry Hawbaker, CFO • Colleen O'Leary, Director Human Resources • Dave Boyd, Director Treatment Programs & Services • Ryan Lynch Director of Development & Administration

December 11, 2015

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

RE: NICKOLAS CLARKE MURNION

Dear Lois:

At this time, please allow me to offer my wholehearted endorsement for Nick in his quest to fill the forthcoming vacant position of District Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District.

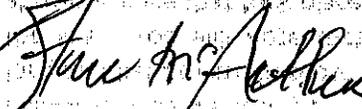
I know Nick as we both sit on the Montana Board of Crime Control. I know that Nick has worked long and hard to attain those professional milestones in his life and that he has a true passion for the law. You will note that Nick's professional resume is quite impressive and reflects the absolute value that Nick places on the law, the whole of the judicial system and those people who count upon, or are impacted by, the legal system in Montana.

Greater minds than I have commented upon Nick's career accomplishments, but I know Nick to be a man of high integrity and his work ethic is beyond reproach. I have come to view Nick not as man that pounds his chest as to those titles, accomplishments and responsibilities he has attained and held over the years, but rather as man of high intellect and superb reasoning who focuses his energies and resources towards any task at hand. Nick is a very engaging and open person and he can comfortably discuss a wide variety of topics in an educated and thoughtful manner. Nick also possesses as sharp wit and a very patient demeanor.

I view Nick as a person who respects people for who they are and he has never discounted nor diminished their right to be heard in a manner that places the highest emphasis on fairness and allegiance to the law.

In closing, I respectfully request that the members of the Judicial Nomination Committee give Nick's desire to serve as District Judge for the 16th Judicial District serious consideration as, in my humble opinion, he would well serve the Court and the people of the district.

Sincerely,



STEVE McARTHUR
Director of Community Correctional Programs
CCCS, Inc.
SM/ms

Bismarck Transition Center
Kevin Arthaud, Adm.
2001 Lee Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-222-3440 Fax 701-222-3599

Butte Pre-Release Center
Women's Transitional Center
Jay Grant, Adm.
58-68 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
BPRC 406-782-2316
WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

Connections Corrections Program
Dave Boyd, Adm.
111 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
406-782-6626 Fax 406-782-6676

Discovery House
Carole Kovacich, Adm.
65 Sheep Gulch Road
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-3842 Fax 406-563-2451

Gallatin Re-Entry Facility
Melissa Kelly, Adm.
675 S. 16 Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility
Robert Palmquist, Adm.
P.O. Box 670
Medical Lake, WA 99022
509-299-7733 Fax 509-299-1447

Nexus Program
Rick Barman, Adm.
P.O. Box 1200
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-6860 Fax 406-535-6665

RYO Correctional Facility
Travis Hettick, Adm.
360 Galen Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-693-9975 Fax 406-693-9988

START Program
George Strutzel, Adm.
801 MT Hwy 48
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCH Program
Alex Vukovich, Adm.
Box G
Warm Springs, MT 59756
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

WATCH East
Sarah Simon, Adm.
700 Little Street
Glendive, MT 59330
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

December 24, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of the Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: 16th Judicial District Court Judge Applicant Nickolas Murnion

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to voice my support for Nickolas Murnion's appointment as the 16th Judicial District Court Judge. I have had the pleasure of working for Nick as both a legal intern and as his Deputy County Attorney.

In my time working with Nick I have seen him demonstrate the qualities necessary for effective judgeship. Nick is committed to the rule of law and earnestly believes all parties involved in the legal process should be treated evenhandedly. Nick approaches his job as prosecutor with an eye towards "justice," working to serve the interests of the State and uphold the law while simultaneously ensuring the rights of adverse parties are respected and preserved. When I first returned to Valley County to work with Nick he told me to think of my job in terms of finding solutions to difficult situations. It is this philosophy that would stand him in good stead as judge.

If Nick were appointed he would be sorely missed in Valley County. He has worked hard to build collegial and collaborative relationships with law enforcement agencies, defense attorneys, and the community at large. But Valley County's loss would be a gain for the Montana Judiciary, which would have the benefit of his prudence, restraint, and genuine decency.

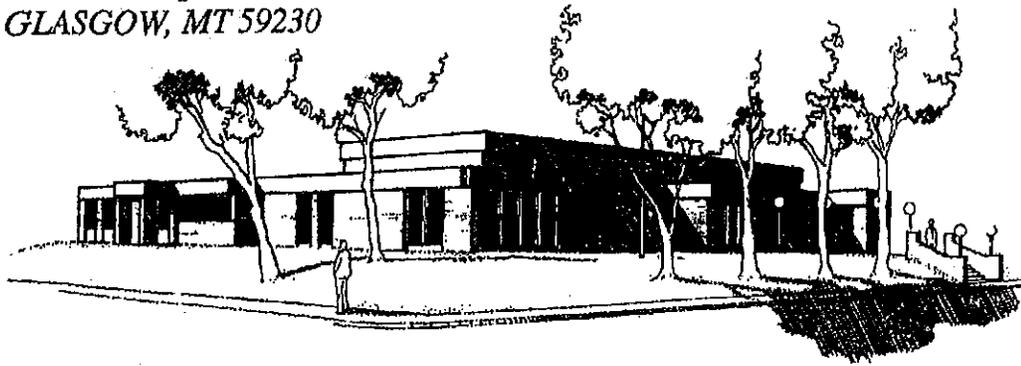
I respectfully request the members of the Judicial Nomination Committee give due consideration to Nick's desire to serve as District Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District.

Sincerely,


Dylan Jensen

Valley County Sheriff's Office

501 Court Square, #10
GLASGOW, MT 59230



Glen Meier
Sheriff

Vernon Buerkle
Undersheriff

Telephone:
(406) 228-4333

Fax:
(406) 228-4601

December 24, 2015

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

To whom it may concern:

As I attempt on this Christmas Eve to write a letter of reference for my friend Nick Murnion, I realize what a loss this county will endure if he leaves. Yes I believe he will be chosen for the Judgeship because I believe he is the best candidate. I have worked with Nick for the six or so years he has been in Valley County as the County Attorney. I admire his sound judgement when I have ask for his advice, which had been on several occasions. Nick always weighs the options and makes educated decisions for the cases he prosecutes. I have been to legislative hearings, and watched him argue cases in court. I noticed that this man loves the law and understands its importance in the workings of our country.

Valley County was using a program like 24/7, before the state, it was Nick's idea. Valley County is instituting the Drug Court Program under the guidance of Nick. In the past several years Valley County has had issues with sovereign citizens. A more knowledgeable person to deal with them cannot be found. This would be, I feel, the largest issue we have dealt with in our county, and Nick has led us in this complicated legal interpretation. Interpretation of and understanding the law with these citizens is where Nick excels.

The last thing I have to say that his qualifications are impeccable, but most important is Nick will put his whole heart and being into the job of being a District Court Judge.

Glen Meier Sheriff/Coroner

23 December 2015

TO: Judicial Nomination Commission

RE: Recommendation for Nick Murnion

As a Valley County Commissioner I have had privilege and good fortune to be able to work with Nick Murnion during his entire tenure as Valley County Attorney.

Nick is an efficient, forthright, insightful, problem solving employee of Valley County. He has an unflappable and confident presence. Nick is the most influential person on the staff of Valley County but he never abuses that status.

His immediate staff and other employees of Valley County appreciate working with Nick because of his cooperative measured approach, good humor, and timely hard work. Since it became known that Nick had applied for a judicial position I have repeatedly heard concern from county employees and citizens about the impending loss of a highly valued community personage.

I believe that his measured approach to problems, logical nature, confidence, knowledge and fair mindedness would serve him well in a judicial position. Working with Nick has been a positive learning experience for me as we often discuss and consider options about matters that affect Valley County. Those conversations reveal the attitudes that I believe would be assets for a person in a judicial position. My commissioner partners have often expressed similar feelings that I list in this correspondence.

I have been considering our options to replace Nick since the day I became aware of his application because I think it very unlikely that you will find a better candidate to fill the judge vacancy. Valley County loss will be a gain for southeast Montana. I give unqualified recommendation for Nick Murnion.

Bruce Peterson
Valley County Commissioner

December 28, 2015

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

Re: 16th Judicial District Judge Application.

Dear Ms. Menzies and Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Nickolas Murnion to fill the vacant position of District Court Judge for the 16th Judicial District.

From the time I have known Nick, he has been great to work with. He is an honorable man, very thorough, and precise.

The 16th District Court will be gaining an invaluable asset if Nick is appointed Judge.

Sincerely,



Paul Tweten
Valley County Commissioner

Shelley Bryan
Clerk of District Court
501 Court Square, #6
Glasgow, Montana 59230

December 29, 2015

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

RE: Nickolas C. Murnion; Application for 16th Judicial District Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing to recommend Nickolas C. Murnion for the position of 16th Judicial District Judge. I have worked with Mr. Murnion in my capacity as Clerk of District Court, Valley County, in the 17th Judicial District, since August of 2009. As the Valley County Attorney, Mr. Murnion has appeared numerous times in the Valley County Courtroom in various types of criminal matters and certain civil matters.

The first matter I would like to bring to your attention is Mr. Murnion's ability to deal with all people with fairness and respect. He is calm under stressful situations, yet decisive in his position on the law. I have watched Mr. Murnion take a potentially explosive situation and calmly set the matter back "on track", without need for Court intervention.

Early in his position as Valley County Attorney, Mr. Murnion introduced the Valley County Courtroom to Skype. This enabled out of state litigants to appear before the Court with ease. He has brought Apple TV into our Courtroom, enabling the jurors to see exhibits in the Courtroom "bigger than life", rather than passing a pile of documents from hand to hand. Mr. Murnion is skilled in applying the available electronic technology to fit the Court's needs.

Mr. Murnion is quick to share upcoming changes in the legislature with the Clerk of Court's office to assist us in keeping abreast of new laws which could affect our filings. If a questions arises, he has never turned me away or puts me off but listens to my concerns and advises me how to proceed.

While I would hate to see him go, the 16th Judicial District would be well-served having Nickolas C. Murnion as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,


Shelley Bryan
Clerk of District Court

GARY RYDER
Lawyer
P.O. Box 33
Jordan, MT 59337

Telephone:
(406) 557-2480
E-Mail:
gryder@rangeweb.net

December 30, 2015

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

RE: *Letter of Support – Nick Murnion*

Dear Members of the Commission:

I support the nomination and appointment of Valley County Attorney Nick Murnion to the vacant position of District Judge for the 16th Judicial District. I am the current Garfield County Attorney, and Colstrip City Attorney (Rosebud County). I also served as Treasure County Attorney from 1995 through the end of 2014.

That Sixteenth District has two judgeships. The position that is open was previously filled by Judge Alfred Coate (retired 1988) and Judge Joe L Hegel (retired 2012).

The appointed Judge will work primarily in the rural counties surrounding Miles City, i.e. Rosebud, Fallon, Garfield, Carter and Treasure Counties.

The individual who is appointed as a new District Judge will set the tone and standards for issues of fairness and the safety of those communities. It was good news when Nick Murnion submitted his application for the opening.

Over the years, Nick has been supportive and helpful of other County Attorneys in this area. He has been an attorney who understands the consequences and the effect of actions taken by attorney and Judges, as it relates to the public's interest.

A recent drug related homicide in Miles City, shows the need to effectively enforce laws against substance abuse. As a Judge, Nick would be tough but fair in dealing with the widespread damage caused by the drug and alcohol use. My

observation is that Nick is committed to the major principles of an effective legal system such as the Rule of Law and the truth finding process.

With the unexpected passing of Judge Day, the retirement of Judge Hegel and the resignation of Judge Huss, there is a need for experience and stability in this judicial appointment. Nick has an excellent record of public service, and would continue that with appointment as a District Judge. I appreciate the Commissions consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Ryder', written over a horizontal line.

Gary Ryder, Lawyer

GR/df

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Murnion

From: carla mcwilliams [<mailto:carlamcwilliams@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 4:28 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Nick Murnion - letter of support

Judicial Nomination Commission

Attn: Lois Menzies

I am writing in support of the nomination of Nick Murnion as District Judge of the 16th Judicial District. I worked for Nick in his private practice and as Garfield County Attorney for 29 years. I have never met a more knowledgeable, honest and compassionate person. He always gave each case his utmost attention before making any decisions. He also showed his strength and true character during the time of the "Freeman" situation.

I have no doubt that Nick would be a great asset to the Judicial system.

Carla McWilliams

Jordan, Montana

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Murnion

From: Miller, Perry
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 12:11 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Recommendation of Nickolas C. Murnion to the 16th Judicial District Court Bench

30 December 2015

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

From: Hon. Perry W. Miller
Blaine County Justice of the Peace
PO Box 1266
Chinook, MT 59523

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Nickolas C. Murnion. Mr. Murnion has applied for the open Judgeship in the 16th Judicial District, at Forsyth, MT.

I have been the Blaine County Justice of the Peace for the past 22 years. I have had the pleasure of interacting with Mr. Murnion both professionally and personally, as the Valley County Attorney for many years.

Mr. Murnion is an outstanding attorney and one of the most professional individuals I have ever known. Nick's dedication, commitment and integral approach to his duties as the County Attorney and his commitment to justice are of the highest standard. His work ethic is beyond reproach. Nick Murnion's character and demeanor before the court and to the citizenry of Montana is unparalleled. Nick Murnion is an extremely intelligent and gifted man.

Gentlepeople of the Commission it is my belief that Nickolas C. Murnion would be an outstanding District Court Judge and any consideration given him would be well placed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Mr. Nick Murnion, if I can be of any further assistance in this matter please feel free to contact me at 406-357-2335 wk or 406-357-4218 hm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry W. Miller
Blaine County Justice of the Peace

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Murnion

From: Moore, Casey
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2015 3:53 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: comment on Nickolas Murnion

Dear Commission:

I am writing to offer my support for Nickolas Murnion's appointment as judge of the 16th Judicial District. During my career I have worked with many different prosecutors. I think Nick is an excellent County Attorney and believe he would be an excellent judge. He is easy to work with, thoughtful, and interested in helping people when the situation presents itself. He is approachable and always ready to listen.

I believe his demeanor would be well suited to the bench. My experience has shown him to be both fair and impartial, two qualities necessary for any judge. Nick is a hard worker. He is familiar with rural Montana and the problems facing people in rural areas. Nick has the experience to do a good job for the individuals who would appear before him if he were appointed.

Sincerely,

Casey R. Moore
Office of the State Public Defender
334 West Court Street, Suite 3
Glasgow, MT 59230
Telephone (406) 228-2101
Fax (406) 228-2107

STEVEN HOWARD
Attorney at Law

211 North Main Plentywood MT 59254
(406) 765-1213 Fax: (406) 765-1202
Howardlaw34@gmail.com

December 31, 2015

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

RE: Nick Murnion - Recommendation

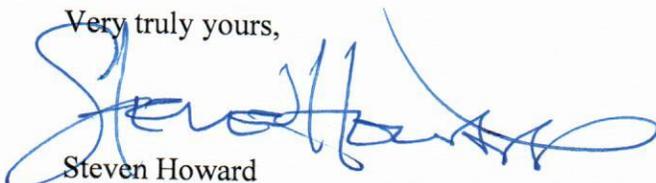
Dear Commission Members:

I have practiced law in Plentywood, Montana, since 1985, and served as Sheridan County Attorney for 28 years. I have known Nick Murnion for almost three decades. Upon learning of Nick's interest in the Judicial vacancy in the 16th Judicial District, I immediately thought he would be an excellent District Court Judge.

Nick is extremely professional in his approach to the practice of law. I had him appointed as special prosecutor in several cases in which I had conflict. His work is outstanding; he is diligent, hardworking, and fair. Another characteristic I noticed about him is his enthusiasm for law. Nick has a passion for his work and a curiosity about new theories and new methods. He has always maintained a serious commitment to public service.

I can think of no finer candidate for a judicial position than Nick Murnion. He is well respected and deservedly so.

Very truly yours,



Steven Howard

MJNCd31

December 30, 2015

Montana Supreme Court

Justice Building

P.O. Box 203001

Helena, MT 59620-3001

Re: Nick Murnion for 16th Judicial Court Judge

To Whom It May Concern:

I was notified that Nick Murnion had applied for consideration as the 16th Judicial Court Judge. Mr. Murnion is currently the County Attorney in Valley County. I have worked closely with Mr. Murnion for approximately the last 6 years. Initially, I was the only social worker covering Valley County for Child and Family Services and later I was hired as the District Supervisor for Child and Family Services covering Valley and several other counties. Naturally, given the nature of my occupation, Mr. Murnion and I worked closely on an array of abuse and neglect cases. This continued until May of 2015 when I resigned from the Department to return to school. However, throughout my employment with the state, Mr. Murnion impressed me with his knowledge and professionalism. In addition, he has consistently been on the forefront to improve our community and interactions between agencies. For instance, when our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) was floundering, Mr. Murnion took the incentive to assign an individual to reorganize this team and promote new training for our group; bringing in a trainer to our area. This team is instrumental in ensuring we limit the trauma to victims, provide wrap-around services as needed, and move forward efficiently with possible charges and convictions of perpetrators. Mr. Murnion has also been instrumental in encouraging the development of a local drug and DUI treatment court; similar to other courts which have been so successful in a multitude of areas. Mr. Murnion identified the potential value of these courts to our local communities and took action. Again, individuals from other areas were brought in to provide training to our local providers in an attempt to initiate this process.

In addition to this, Murnion has continued to educate himself, not only about the laws, but also about the factors which impact the individuals we work with. For instance, when Murnion saw increasing arrests due to substance use and abuse, Murnion attended training regarding the impacts of a variety of drugs on individuals, their functioning, and their ability to recover from these drugs. From my perception, it was not just about prosecution. Murnion liked to understand what was taking place in individual's lives; ensuring public safety, but also with an eye towards rehabilitation possibilities. His plea agreements with parents I worked with seemed fair and just. He was objective in his decisions, but also ensured he was adhering to the laws and regulations that were set forth.

In short, considering all that I know about Mr. Murnion, I recommend his appointment as the 16th Judicial Court Judge. I believe he would be a fair, objective, and apt appointment to this position. While it may be a great loss for Valley County, I know that Mr. Murnion would be invaluable asset to the 16th district.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. Mason

Ronald S. Efta

Attorney at Law

Ph: (406) 796-2431
Fax: (406) 796-2625
Email: wcaefia@midrivers.com

P.O. Box 300
Wibaux County Courthouse
Wibaux, MT 59353

December 29, 2015

Via E-mail & U.S. Mail

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

RE: Sixteenth Judicial District Judge Vacancy–Nickolas C. Murnion,
Applicant

Dear Commission Members:

I am sending this letter in support of the Application of Nick Murnion to fill the Vacancy in the Sixteenth Judicial District.

I have known Nick since Monday, September 22, 1975. We met as we were standing in line to register for our first semester of law school. We became friends, cubemates and upon graduation, fellow prosecutors and sole practitioners in Eastern Montana.

Nick has many years of experience both as a civil attorney as well as a prosecutor. His prosecution of the "Freemen" cases earned him the prestigious Profiles in Courage award. Even though he and his family were threatened with harm by those defendants, he successfully prosecuted all of the cases.

He practiced in the Sixteenth District for thirty years. He is familiar with the

attorneys and Court personnel. Nick is a diligent, scholarly and practical attorney. His calm and patient temperament is ideal for the bench. His appointment would be a great addition to the judiciary in this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Effa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald S. Effa

RSE:kag

December 30, 2015

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

Re: Application of Nick Murnion -16th Judicial District Court Judge

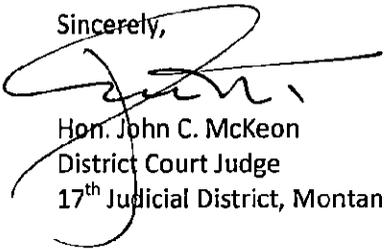
Dear Nominating Committee:

I have been the presiding district judge in the Montana 17th Judicial District for the past 22 years. From the comments already posted, it appears you have three qualified applicants for the vacant position of district judge in the Sixteenth Judicial District. One of those applicants is Valley County Attorney, Nick Murnion, who has practiced before me on a regular basis for the past 6 years. I do not know the other two applicants but know and respect some of those individuals providing comment regarding their applications. With that background, I offer the following comment regarding Murnion's application.

In his legal practice, Murnion presents himself as a good listener, advocate and communicator showing compassion and patience when needed. His briefs are generally well written and, as with his courtroom appearances, show a good understanding of the evidence and the issues of fact and law. He handles the numerous and varied matters of his position in a timely fashion displaying integrity, common sense and respect.

It is my opinion that Murnion truly has a passion for public service and the courage, competency and commitment to interpret the law of case with appropriate judicial discretion. Murnion would make an excellent district judge. Indeed, my only regret is that I am pondering retirement and should Murnion be appointed to serve the 16th Judicial District, he would not likely apply to fill a vacancy in this district.

Sincerely,



Hon. John C. McKeon
District Court Judge
17th Judicial District, Montana

Public Comment -- Murnion

MT Supreme Court,

Mon 1/4/2016 1:59 PM

To: Cook, Kevin <kcook@mt.gov>;

From: christina hillman [mailto:mymillie06@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 03, 2016 4:19 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: Judicial Nomination for the 16th Judicial District Court Judge

I would like to take this opportunity to submit my public comment on behalf of Nicholas C. Murnion for the position of the 16th Judicial District Court Judge. I am the Valley County Justice of the Peace and I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Murnion in other capacities besides the courtroom such as the Glasgow Treatment Court team and the Valley County DUI Task Force. My opinion is that Mr. Murnion will show great integrity on the bench. He's has been a fantastic asset to our community and it would be a loss for our county. On the other hand, it would be a gain to a larger district that he would be able to serve.

I ask that you consider Nicholas Murnion for the 16th Judicial District Court Justice.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Hillman

Valley County Justice of the Peace

Montana State Senate



SENATOR TAYLOR BROWN
SENATE DISTRICT 22

HELENA ADDRESS:
PO BOX 200500
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0500
CAPITOL, RM 328
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

HOME ADDRESS:
775 SQUAW CREEK ROAD
HUNTLEY, MT 59037
PHONE: (406) 252-6661 EXT. 21

The Big Sky Country

December 30, 2015

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

I am writing today to submit a letter of public comment in support of Nickolas Clarke Murnion's consideration for the position of District Court Judge in the 16th Judicial District in southeastern Montana. I have known and worked closely with Nick Murnion for over 40 years, and I have repeatedly been impressed with his experience and his commitment to the rural counties of this District. Nick grew up here, represents the very fabric of this District, and he has distinguished himself professionally upon multiple occasions.

After serving as the Garfield County Prosecutor for 30 years in Jordan, Nick moved up to a similar position in Glasgow, and has gained much valuable experience in the past 6 years in Valley County. He has both General Practice experience, and served admirably as County Attorney for both counties. Nick has a great deal of trial exposure, having worked over 20 different trials. He is familiar with the challenges of dealing with a high volume of cases, and is good at scheduling and moving things forward. His exemplary participation in the highly-publicized 81-day armed standoff with the "Montana Freeman" in 1996 is well-documented.

In short, Nick Murnion is knowledgeable, and fair, and a true product of eastern Montana, with a genuine understanding of local our issues. His family has had deep roots here for generations. Nick is familiar with the challenges of long distances between small far-flung communities, and will make an excellent District Court Judge for this District. I urge you to give him your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Taylor Brown".

Senator Taylor Brown
Senate District 28

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Murnion

From: Teddy Robertson [<mailto:trobertson59337@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2015 10:53 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Support letter Nicholas Murnion

Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Ms. Menzies,

It is with great admiration and respect that I have the distinct pleasure to write this letter of support for Nicholas Murnion as a candidate for a Judge position. He has been a member in good standing in Garfield county his entire life. As our County Attorney, he has handled his share of difficult cases. He reads and considers each case, regardless of the seriousness, before he responds. I believe he is one of the most ethical men we know. He was instrumental in handling the Freeman incident back in the 90's. I believe Nick to be a fair and principled man who would not demand perfection but expect accountability. We were extremely fortunate to have him in our community for so many years. He is a good and honorable man. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts and views about a man any law abiding community would welcome.

--

*Teddy Robertson
Commissioner Garfield County
Jordan Montana
406-557-2434*

Cook, Kevin

From: MT Supreme Court,
Sent: Friday, January 8, 2016 3:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Murnion

From: Kay [<mailto:collins@midrivers.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2015 8:51 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Ms. Menzies,

It is with great admiration and respect that I have the distinct pleasure to write this letter of support for Nickolas Murnion as a candidate for a Judge position. He has been a member in good standing in Garfield County his entire life. As our County Attorney, he has handled his share of difficult cases. He reads and considers each case, regardless of the seriousness, before he responds. I believe he is one of the most ethical men we know. He was instrumental in handling the Freeman incident back in the 90s. I believe Nick to be a fair and principled man who would not demand perfection but expect accountability. We were extremely fortunate to have him in our community for so many years. He is a good and honorable man. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts about a man any law abiding community would welcome as a citizen and Judge.

Thank You,

Edward & Kay Collins



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