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ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 PHONE: 406-586-1926 FACSIMILE: 406-585-7654

October 12, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59260-3005

VIA EMAIL: [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

RE: Andrew Breuner, District Court Judge Nomination for Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to encourage you to recommend that Governor Bullock nominate Andrew Breuner to be the District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, in Gallatin County. This Committee has a difficult task in narrowing its recommendations from this qualified group of candidates. I have practiced law at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman since 2006. During this time, I have had the pleasure of personally knowing many of these candidates and welcome the opportunity to share with the Committee my experiences and observations of the candidates I know.

I have known Judge Breuner since I began practicing in Bozeman in 2006. I am grateful to know Judge Breuner over the last decade and am glad to call him a friend and peer. Judge Breuner is simply a kind, smart man. I have always enjoyed his courtroom demeanor because he brings a calm, reasoned communication style. Judge Breuner has a keen ability to address disputed issues while maintaining relationships and decorum. Judge Breuner's legal intelligence is well suited for the District Court. I have observed Judge Breuner's knowledge and experience in criminal law. Judge Breuner is a criminal law expert—a necessity in the District Court given the potential consequences and interests presented in District Court criminal cases. Judge Breuner's criminal expertise importantly will protect the interests of all those involved in the criminal justice system. Since

MICHAEL C. COIL · WILLIAM A. BARTLETT · BRIAN P. FAY · CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL  
HILLARY PRUGH CARLS · MARK J. LUEBECK · DANIEL P. BUCKLEY · TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR · RYAN D. MCCARTY

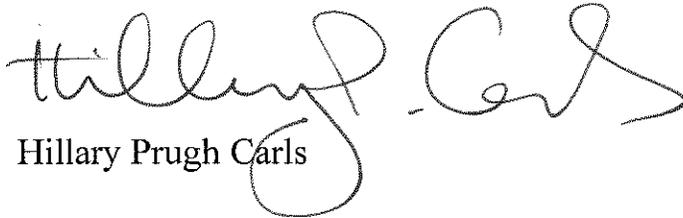
Judge Breuner has been Judge in Belgrade City Court, he has thrived in this neutral position. I believe that Judge Breuner's perspective, style, and intelligence is well suited for the District Court.

Finally, Judge Breuner is a parent. As parents know, until you have children it is difficult to fully empathize with the various pressures and experiences of parenthood. Given that family law dominates the District Court, Judge Breuner's personal experience as a parent is important.

I hope that you recommend Judge Breuner to Governor Bullock for the nomination of Gallatin County District Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Cordially,

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hillary Prugh Carls". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Hillary Prugh Carls

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**ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT**  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 PHONE: 406-586-1926 FACSIMILE: 406-585-7654  
October 6, 2016

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

RE: Comment re: Andrew J. Bruener's application for District Judge in Montana's  
Eighteenth Judicial District

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comment regarding Andrew J. Bruener's application to serve as District Judge in Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District.

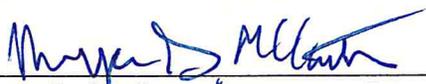
I have been a licensed attorney in Montana since 2006 and have been practicing law in Bozeman since that time. I am currently a partner at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman. My current areas of focus include criminal defense and family law. My prior employment experience includes prosecuting for the City of Bozeman, being a public defender for the Office of the State Public Defender, and working as an associate at Redmon Law Firm.

I've known Andy since my time at the Office of the State Public Defender, which began in 2008. Since one of Andy's practice areas over the years was criminal defense, I've had the opportunity to see him in action in Court on a consistent basis over the years in all of our local courts. He also represented a number of clients in cases that I prosecuted. Andy has always struck me as a passionate and prepared advocate for his clients and he has always displayed the appropriate level of respect and demeanor in the courtroom. I have also had the opportunity to practice in front of Andy in his capacity as Belgrade City Judge. I have found him to be a consistently fair, prepared and thoughtful Judge, all of which would continue to serve him, and those appearing in front of him, well if he were to be appointed District Judge.

In getting to know Andy on a more personal level over the years I've had nothing but positive interactions with him. I find him to be a man of integrity and honesty. I also believe he has the right disposition to be a District Judge, as he is unflappable and not one to lose his patience or make rash decisions.

I believe Andy would be a great District Judge and I wholeheartedly support his application.

Cordially,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan D. McCarty, Attorney at Law

MICHAEL C. COIL · WILLIAM A. BARTLETT · BRIAN P. FAY · CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL  
HILLARY PRUGH CARLS · MARK J. LUEBECK · DANIEL P. BUCKLEY · TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR · RYAN D. MCCARTY



Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Judge Andrew Breuner to serve as a district court judge for Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Judge Breuner for 23 years, having first met him when he was a student in the Law Clinic at Santa Clara University where I am a law professor.

Of the literally thousands of students I have had the privilege of teaching over these years, there is not one who I believe is more qualified to serve on the bench of any court than Andrew Breuner. He is highly intelligent, has excellent research and writing skills, is a solidly good person with impeccable social skills and an excellent sense of humor.

Several years after Andy graduated, I called and invited him to apply for an adjunct teaching position in the program I directed and to serve as interim director while I was on sabbatical. I have seen him interact with his law school peers as well as with clinic students, clients, and with faculty when he was my colleague at the Santa Clara University School of Law. There is nothing I can say that better demonstrates my respect for and appreciation of the legal skills, work ethic and temperament of Andrew Breuner.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you my experiences with Judge Breuner and to recommend him to serve as a judge on the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ridolfi  
Professor of Law

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:13 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Susan Day [<mailto:sday@blackfoot.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2016 10:28 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Andrew Breuner

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am a clinical psychologist practicing in Missoula. My practice is forensic in nature, addressing legal questions that pertain to fitness to proceed, criminal responsibility, and parental capacity. I have consulted with Andrew Breuner regarding his clients who have found themselves in these legal predicaments. My role has been to evaluate his clients and give him objective feedback about their functioning as it pertains to the legal standard at hand. One of the primary reasons I have agreed to work with Mr. Breuner is his desire to hear everything about his clients. He has never balked at me or engaged in any efforts to influence my perspective or opinion. He seemed to truly value the information whether it was favorable or unfavorable for his client. I have not always found this to be a quality with other practicing attorneys.

In addition to his ability to view cases in a complex and ethical manner, Mr. Breuner's temperament appears quite balanced and thoughtful. His intellectual gifts are obvious and he seems genuinely curious and excited about the law. I have had the fortune of working with several attorneys and testifying in a number of jurisdictions in the state. I view Mr. Breuner as one of the most outstanding, talented professionals in Montana. I believe Gallatin County and our state would be well served if Mr. Breuner was seated as a district court judge. We need more jurists like him.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Breuner. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Susan Day, Ph.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Missoula, MT  
(406)327-9992

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:12 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Bill Hawley [<mailto:wmhawley@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 08, 2016 1:30 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission c\o Lois Menzies

Andrew Breuner comment]

I would like to recommend appointment of Andy Breuner to the judge vacancy in Bozeman as I feel he would be the best candidate running to fill the position, would be fair and would consider those who came before him carefully. I have had encounters with Mr. Breuner personally and professionally and have faith that he cares about both the people of this community and the community itself which is very important to me as a Bozeman citizen. I hope you carefully consider him as well for the judge seat. I seen there is more than a few applicants applying for the position but know that if you select him you would get a man committed to putting everything he has into to doing the very best at this job, I have seen this in action. I truly can,t recommend him enough and know you would be happy with him representing our court and community.

Most Sincerely  
William L. Hawley Jr.  
Bozeman Montana resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:12 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** todd hicks [<mailto:toddhicks09@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 07, 2016 6:41 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to encourage your consideration of Andrew Breuner to the district court seat, being vacated by Judge Mike Salvagni at the end of the year.

Mr. Breuner has served for two years as the Belgrade City Court judge and before that as a public advocate. Everything I have heard and seen in Mr. Breuner reflects a distinguished career and a person of character and compassion. Mr. Breuner is clear thinking, articulate, and honest.

I am now a retired resident of Bozeman, Montana, but I know Mr. Breuner from his selfless service as a school board member at Petra Academy where I was honored to serve as the school's headmaster from 2008 to 2014. I continue to know him as a friend. I believe he would make an excellent district court judge.

Todd Hicks  
156 Poplar Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
(406) 924-6014

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Patty Boyd [<mailto:portnell4@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 1:25 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Lois Menzies Judicial Nomination Commission

This note is regarding Andy Breuner. I've known of Andy in the community for 8 years as our sons went to the same school for a couple of years. He has always been very pleasant to talk with. I called him when I was in a car accident and given a ticket for failure to yield. He carefully sat with me and explained my options. I was not thrilled at all with what he had to tell me but was very impressed with his knowledge. I was completely confident in my decision I made as I very much knew that he knew what he was talking about. The explanation was clear and well articulated. I'm writing because I think he would make a great judge.

Patty Boyd, Citizen  
5794865

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:11 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Nick Palmer [<mailto:nick@bluevistamedical.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 9:17 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Andrew J. Breuner- District Court

Dear Judicial Court Commission-

My name is Nick Palmer and I reside in Gallatin County with my wife and three children. I've known Andrew Breuner and his family for over a decade. In that time I have been continually impressed by his ability to seek out the heart of matters in situations that require much discernment. He digs until he has understanding....Then he forms an opinion by the guide of a moral and ethical compass that also takes into consideration human circumstance. Whether he is serving on a board of directors for a charitable organization, raising questions at school meetings or arguing the legal nature of a current event, a new perspective is always gained by his input. More than once when having to make a decision that would affect my family, business or personal relationships I have asked myself "How would Andy approach this?" I have always valued his character and I have seen people and situations around him grow better for it. As a citizen, I would feel we are in goods hands knowing he is serving as a District Court Judge.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to give my input.

-Nick Palmer

**Nick Palmer**  
**Acquisitions Director**  
**BlueVista Medical Supply, LLC**  
**101 East Main Suite F**  
**Bozeman, MT 59715 USA**  
**Direct: 406.570.8963**  
**Fax: 406.219.0729**  
**Skype: nickpalmer221**

 [LinkedIn profile](#)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, October 14, 2016 2:10 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Patrick DeJong [<mailto:pdejong@manhattanchristian.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 8:34 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judge Breuner

**Judicial Nomination Commission**  
**c/o Lois Menzies.**

I would encourage you to strongly consider Mr. Andrew J. Bruener for the vacant opening as district court judge.

As Superintendent of Manhattan Christian School I have had professional dealings with Mr. Bruener and found him to be fair and impartial in his advise and direction. He has responded to requests for information and advise in a timely manner. He has demonstrated good judgement and has been patient and cautious in responding to issues I have had to deal with in professional life.

I know Andrew on other levels and he is a man of integrity and honesty.

I believe that he would make a fantastic district court judge. His current work in the judicial system as a judge as well as his role as an attorney has prepared him well for the such an important position.

Patrick De Jong  
Superintendent



*Patrick De Jong* // Superintendent, P-5 Principal

8000 Churchill Road / Manhattan, MT 59741

PH: 406.282.7261

FAX: 406.282.7701

[www.manhattanchristian.org](http://www.manhattanchristian.org)

17 October 2016

Re. Andrew Breuner

To: Montana Supreme Court Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for Andrew Breuner to the Gallatin District Court Judge seat.

Andy Breuner has been a personal friend for nearly 15 years. He is a man of great character and wisdom which is evident in his daily life. He is a dedicated husband of 20 years and father of an upstanding 16 year old young man. He is committed to maintaining a tight family unit, which speaks volumes to his virtues as a man. As a family, the Breuners can be found enjoying all that Montana has to offer – farming, camping, fishing, hunting, skiing, running. Appreciating many different aspects of life in Montana and remaining steadfast to the most basic commitments of marriage and family demonstrate that Andy is a well rounded and trustworthy man of integrity.

Although admittedly I have never seen Andy in court, either as a lawyer defending a client or as a judge sitting on the bench, I have watched Andy interact with many different people over the years. Whether it is in a board meeting, a volunteer job, or a small group setting, he is always patient and carefully listens while in conversations. He asks probing questions that not only help with clarification, but also convey his genuine interest in the matter. When he responds, it is not only with humility and compassion, but also with understanding that is both pertinent and helpful.

That being said, Andy clearly has a strong, old-fashioned work ethic, evidenced by his successful, independent law practice in Bozeman, his long hours preparing cases and meeting with clients, and his positive transition to the Belgrade City Judge. Andy works to establish positive, effective relationships with clients, other attorneys, and his staff at the Belgrade City Court. He is passionate about ensuring that all people experience the true blessings of America's legal system.

In summary, I believe Andy Breuner is especially qualified to serve as a Gallatin District Court Judge. He is a man of exceptional character and wisdom. His vast array of experience proves that he honors his commitments, views all people as having inherent value, and strives to communicate clearly. In truth, these characteristics would prove to make Andy an asset in any environment; however, it is his law experiences in combination with his personal enthusiasm for America's legal system that ensure Andy Breuner should be appointed Gallatin District Court as judge this year- 2016.

Respectfully,

Denise Anderson



October 13, 2016

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

Re: 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Position - Applicant Andrew J. Breuner

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

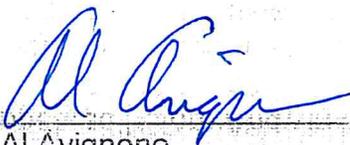
I endorse Andy Breuner for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judgeship vacancy. I've actively practiced both criminal and civil law in the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and throughout Montana since 1993.

I've known Andy since he began to practice in Montana in early 2000. I have observed Andy working hard for his clients in the courtroom on many occasions. Andy and I have been adversaries in an emotionally charged and aggressively litigated court case. And I have appeared before Andy in his capacity as Belgrade City Court Judge.

I firmly believe a lawyer cannot be an effective district court judge without first having extensive and diverse litigation experience. Andy has the requisite experience. And he has the intelligence, sharp intellect, temperament, and legal skills required to be a good district court judge. For these reasons I commend Andy Breuner to the Commission for the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge position.

Very truly yours,

AVIGNONE, BANICK & WILLIAMS, PLLC

By:   
Al Avignone

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

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

October 19, 2016

**Via Email and U.S. Mail**

mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Andrew Breuner

Dear Commission:

This letter serves as my endorsement for Andy Breuner to be recommended to Governor Bullock for consideration to fill the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District as a result of Judge Salvagni's retirement.

I have known Andy for many years, and believe that he possesses all the qualities necessary to be a great district court judge. I have found him to be an incredibly hard worker. I also know and that he is smart and fair, and will listen to all points of view with patience and open-mindedness. Moreover, he possesses common sense and a great temperament. His legal experience is quite varied, and in particular I feel that his background in criminal law makes him a great candidate. His service as Belgrade City Court Judge would also serve him well in this position, and he would be able to hit the ground running.

I also know Andy to be a dedicated family man, and his devotion to his family speaks highly of his character and integrity. Finally, he is an active member of the local community, which I feel is important for a person who seeks this position. I strongly encourage you to forward Andy's name to the governor. The citizens of Gallatin County would be well-served to have such a fine person filling this important position. Thank you for your work on the commission and for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Munson

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:32 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Chris Forrest [<mailto:tacticmt@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 9:34 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Nomination Members,

As a citizen of Bozeman, I wanted to communicate my hope that you will consider Judge Breuner for the open position. He is a man of utmost integrity and able to balance the scales of justice.

Respectfully,

Chris

TACTIC

Chris Forrest, Navy SEAL  
[\(406\) 451-6062](tel:(406)451-6062)  
[www.tacticmt.com](http://www.tacticmt.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:31 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Donna Hawley [[mailto:bd\\_hawley@yahoo.com](mailto:bd_hawley@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 2:55 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies

I am writing this note to express that I believe Andrew Breuner would make an impartial, but firm, and understanding judge to fill the honorable Judge Salvagni's position that is being vacated later this year. I have known Andy and his family for the past 10 years. What strikes me most about Andy is his passion for upholding the law and his determination that all people of all races and social and economic status be given fair treatment under the law. Andy is a gifted listener who asks pointed questions to draw people out whether he has just met you or whether he has known you for years. He is genuine to his core and cares deeply about people. After careful examination of Andy's application, I am sure you will agree Andy is the most qualified candidate who will work tirelessly to uphold the law as Bozeman District Court Judge.

Donna Hawley  
137 Palette Court  
Bozeman, MT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:31 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Jim Keena [<mailto:keena@efcb.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 11:11 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission

Greetings!

It is my honor to serve as a reference for Andrew Bruner to be appointed to the District Court Seat that will soon be vacated by Judge Mike Salvagni.

I have known Andy for over eight years. And I believe is academically and professionally qualified for the position. He holds to the highest of ethical standards and is trustworthy. He's a man of integrity.

I'm also convinced he's fair-minded and balanced. I've never known him to align politically or philosophically with fringe movements on either the left or the right. He maintains a "middle-of-the-road" sensibility.

I will be brief with my statement of support. But, if there is any need for further comment please contact me.

In summary, I wholeheartedly recommend Andy for the position.

Sincerely yours,

Jim

Jim Keena  
Evangelical Free Church of Bozeman  
1701 S. 19th Ave.  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
Phone: 406-587-3337  
Website: [www.efcb.org](http://www.efcb.org)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016 5:30 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Gale Bacon [<mailto:galebacon@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 16, 2016 3:25 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Andrew Breuner

I am writing in support of Andrew Breuner for consideration as the next District Court Judge to replace the Honorable Mike Salvagni.

I currently work with Judge Breuner in a professional capacity. Judge Bruener is passionate about justice and fairness within the court system, he is geniune and bright. He will be a quick study in learning new skills and bring forth an array of knowledge and experiences to compliment the position.

I knew "Andy" before I worked in a professional setting with him. He enjoys meeting and helping people, he is dedicated to his family and takes his service to his community very seriously.

I urge you to consider Judge Breuner as a top rated applicant who has served Gallatin County citizens over the past years. He will be a committed and passionate public servant.

Thank you.

Gale Bacon

**FOUST**  
LAW OFFICE

Lucas J. Foust

October 20, 2016

**TRANSMISSION VIA EMAIL MTSUPREMECOURT@MT.GOV & U.S. MAIL.**

Judicial Nomination Committee

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

PO BOX 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Application of Andrew Bruener, Eighteenth Judicial District Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

I strongly encourage the Judicial Nomination Committee to forward the name of Andrew Bruener to fill the District Judge vacancy created by Judge Michael Salvagni's retirement. I have known Andy Bruener both professionally and personally for over a decade. I was thrilled to discovery that Andy had applied for the position of District Court Judge for Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

A significant percentage of the work completed by District Court Judges involves contentious family law matters and criminal cases. Andy's compassion and even handedness are remarkable.

Andy Bruener is an excellent candidate for Judge in Montanan's Eighteenth Judicial District Court. I strongly encourage the Judicial Nomination Committee to forward Mr. Bruener's application onto the Governor.

Very Truly Yours,



Lucas J. Foust



To whom this may concern: About Andy Breuner becoming District Judge

Hi, I am Executive Director of Alive Again Life Recovery Mission. One of my main duties is Mentoring men and woman to become sober and lead productive lives as good citizens again. In the past 12 years Andy Breuner has help with numerous clients with their addition legal struggles. He really cares if a person is wanting to stay off drugs or alcohol and to help them be treated fairly in the system. I have known Andy Breuner and his family for about 12 years and he has a compassion for fairness. I have known Andy aside from him being a lawyer and just a great friend. I have had the pleasure to take Andy, his wife Susan Beth and their son Jansse water skiing a couple times, and away from business he is a great father and husband. Andy, Susan and Jansse have helped alive again Life Recovery many times serving by washing hours of dishes for our Fund Raising Dinners. Andy is one of the most humble, honest and fair person I have ever had the pleasure to get to know. I have had the privilege to get to know all the other 3 District Judges, and they have come to know AALRM.

Sincerely: Steve De Boer

**Peter B. Ohman**  
**612 South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**  
**Bozeman, MT 59715**  
**(406) 582-2455**

October 21, 2016

VIA EMAIL

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

**Re: Public Comment on 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Applicants**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for Andrew Breuner to be appointed to the position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Mr. Breuner for over ten years and have practiced with him in a variety of settings.

As the Regional Public Defender for Gallatin, Park and Sweet Grass counties I was responsible for many contract public defenders. Mr. Breuner carried a large caseload for the office and two things stand out relative to your consideration of him for this office: (1) he was extremely fair and scrupulous in billing the State for his services, never expending unnecessary time on matters and representing his clients in an effective yet efficient manner; and (2) I never received a client complaint against Mr. Breuner. I note these two facts because they demonstrate Mr. Breuner can handle a heavy workload efficiently, and it shows he can work well with people who are in stressful situations - as many people who are involved with the judicial system are.

Mr. Breuner also has a range of experience in both civil and criminal law. This is essential for a state trial court judge. Too often we see judges appear on the bench who have experience in only one aspect of trial work - fortunately Mr. Breuner has extensive experience in both.

There are a number of other attributes I could relay regarding Mr. Breuner but I know you are busy. Nevertheless, please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Sincerely,



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Peter B. Ohman  
Attorney at Law

LILI STIFF LCPC  
205 HAGGERTY LN. STE. 270  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715  
PHONE: (406)595-2021 FAX: (406)586-9605

205 HAGGERTY LN. STE. 270  
BOZEMAN, MT 59715  
PHONE: (406)595-2021 FAX: (406)586-9605

10-23-2016

Mt. Supreme Court

To Whom It May Concern:

I have worked in the mental health field in the Bozeman Community for over 35 years. I have served in a variety of capacities. As has become increasingly common the paths of mental health professionals and our legal system intersect. It is in this way that I have come to know Andy Bruner. Additionally, he has become a valued resource and a dear friend.

I am so excited that he is being considered for the honorable Judge Mike Salvagni's vacancy. I have complete confidence in Andy's ability to navigate the complex duties of the 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court. I have observed Andy's incredible depth, intelligence, calm demeanor and engaging demeanor in a variety of difficult situations. Andy has a unique ability to make all parties feel hurt, valued and understood. This is a rare trait. In addition, he is able to parse out the finer details necessary in complex situations in a timely and definitive way.

I truly cannot think of one trait or characteristic that would limit Andy's ability to excel in this position. We in the Gallatin Valley will be well served by Andy Bruner's appointment to this position.

Sincerely,

Your Name

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2016 6:35 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Tom Rooker [<mailto:trooker@pacbell.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2016 9:47 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Tom Rooker, and I work as a psychotherapist in a county hospital here in California. I have known Andy Breuner for approximately 45 years. He is, without question, one of the finest human beings that I have ever known. As I think about, Andy, it goes without saying that he is a trustworthy, righteous, decent, wise, virtuous, humble and principled individual, who is also highly intelligent and hard working. In the many years that I have known Andy, I have seen him use his considerable gifts to touch and improve the lives of those fortunate enough to know him, from family and friends to members of the community in which he lives. I have no doubt that he will continue this tradition of excellence as an 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court judge should he have the opportunity to serve.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,  
Tom Rooker

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2016 6:34 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**Importance:** High

**From:** Mick Maierle [<mailto:mickmaierle@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 21, 2016 1:52 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** ANDREW BRUENER APPLICATION FOR DISTRICT COURT  
**Importance:** High

To: Judicial Nominating Committee

Dear Committee,

I have known Andy for many years both personally & professionally & cannot think of anyone more qualified for this extremely important position of District Court Judge. First, I would like to address my observations of Andy from a personal standpoint. Andy is a man of integrity & above reproach! He's a devoted family man & public servant. He's respectable, self- controlled, sensible, not arrogant nor greedy for gain. Professionally, I see Andy as a "big picture" visionary! More precisely, he's an excellent shepherd of doing the right thing for the greater good of our society & individuals. Andy is always well prepared, knowledgeable, articulate & precise. He's also a dedicated professional who is continually studying & training to give him great judicial perspective & to be the best prepared that he can be to serve others well. He's an advocate of using the resources at his disposal to, again, be a knowledgeable public servant leader. At the expense of family time, Andy has made himself available to other professionals & those in need 24/7! His dedication to understanding the negative impact of alcohol & drugs on families & our society is un-paralleled. He's a real leader in this fight as he's seen & experience, firsthand, the destruction it causes. It takes courage to do what Andy has done & I have tremendous admiration & respect for him both personally & professionally!! I most highly recommend Andy for District Court Judge!

Sincerely,

Mick Maierle

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ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 PHONE: 406-586-1926 FACSIMILE: 406-585-7654

October 24, 2016

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

re: 18th Judicial District judicial application of Andrew J. Breuner

Dear Commission Members:

Judge Breuner is, to a remarkable degree, the same person whether he is being a lawyer, a judge, or the runner on our gold medal Peaks to Prairie team of earlier years. His ego-free demeanor is steady and consistent; the apparent product of open minded, healthful balances.

The type of work Andy did before becoming the Belgrade City Court Judge was varied and was of the types that consume so many courtroom resources. He did it well. A year or two ago Andy defended a notorious case which I eagerly followed. His work was impressive. Emotional volatility and conflict in the background didn't sway Andy from his reasonable presence and reasoned presentation of the theme of the case.

Judge Breuner's fair-minded objectivity is evident and his experience is relevant. I encourage you to forward his recommendation to Governor Bullock.

Very truly yours,

Angel, Coil & Bartlett



William A. Bartlett

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# ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 PHONE: 406-586-1926 FACSIMILE: 406-585-7654

October 24, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59260-3005

VIA EMAIL: [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to consider Andrew J. Breuner as one of the judicial applicants recommended to Governor Bullock for district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County.

I have known Judge Breuner since 2005 when I became a law clerk for the Hon. Sam E. Haddon, U.S. District Court Judge. I first became aware of Judge Breuner's work when he appeared in the U.S. District Court several times during my tenure. I found him to be a skilled litigant, superb writer and gifted advocate.

In 2006, I joined the Office of the State Public Defender in Bozeman, MT. At the time, Judge Breuner practiced civil and criminal law. It was through his work as a contract public defender that I got to know him best. Our office routinely contracted out cases to private lawyers, and Judge Breuner was always willing to lend us a hand, even with cases that were complex and fraught with difficult issues. As a result of his impeccable work, Judge Breuner was at the very top of my list of attorneys to recommend challenging cases to. He has a unique ability to put his clients at ease even in cases where others have failed to do so. I am aware of multiple cases in which Judge Breuner achieved favorable outcomes on behalf of public defender clients. Judge Breuner believes strongly in the cause of assisting indigent clients with their legal needs and has frequently prioritized these cases over the more lucrative areas of law. Given his experience in this area, and the specific needs of pro se litigants in Montana, Judge Breuner would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

In March 2015, Judge Breuner became the Belgrade City Court Judge. Since that time, I have appeared before him in criminal law cases. Judge Breuner has always proven to be an objective and neutral arbitrator of the law. I have yet to have heard a single criticism in the legal community in regards to his judicial temperament or judgment.

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MICHAEL C. COIL · WILLIAM A. BARTLETT · BRIAN P. FAY · CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL  
HILLARY PRUGH CARLS · MARK J. LUEBECK · DANIEL P. BUCKLEY · TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR · RYAN D. McCARTY

I ask that you please take this letter into consideration when making the difficult decision of whom to recommend as judicial nominees to Govern Bullock. Judge Breuner would be an excellent choice for Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. Luebeck', written in a cursive style.

Mark J. Luebeck

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2016 8:02 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Eric M. Brewer [<mailto:ebrewer@bridgeband.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2016 5:56 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Andrew Breuner, District Court Judge Nomination for Eighteenth Judicial District, Court, Gallatin County.

BREWER LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.  
Eric M. Brewer, Attorney and Counselor at Law  
13 South Willson, Suite 3  
BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715  
PHONE: 406-570-6664  
[ebrewer@bridgeband.com](mailto:ebrewer@bridgeband.com)

October 24, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission  
% Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59260-3005

VIA EMAIL ONLY: [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

RE: Andrew Breuner, District Court Judge Nomination for Eighteenth Judicial District, Court, Gallatin County.

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Eric M. Brewer. I have practiced primarily criminal defense law for approximately 12 years in all of the Courts in Gallatin County, Park County, and infrequently other jurisdictions. I have known City Court Judge Andrew Breuner for approximately 12 years, primarily as a colleague and more recently as the Belgrade City Court Judge.

As an attorney, Judge Breuner was recognized as a passionate, honest, intelligent, and dedicated individual who represent his clients well. Judge Breuner was always helpful to other attorneys, whether sharing research or brainstorming an issue. In my experience he never took unreasonable positions and is one of the most ethical attorneys I have had the pleasure to know. In a recent conversation I had with Judge Breuner, he told me that he was not going to read any of the comment letters submitted, whether appointed or not. This indicates to me, if appointed by Governor Bullock to the District Court, he would be fair and impartial to all who appeared before him.

In my experience with Judge Breuner as the Belgrade City Court Judge, I have seen what is often referred to as "judicial temperament." He treats all who appear before him with respect, dignity, and fairness. This applies to *pro se* litigants, the City Court Prosecutors, defense attorneys, and litigants represent by counsel. He has an excellent command of the law and follows it scrupulously. As a devoutly religious person, when on the bench, his guiding documents are not religious texts but the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Montana, the Montana Code Annotated, and case law.

In sum, Judge Breuner is also an individual who conducts himself with humility, fairness, and impartiality on the bench. I have known Judge Breuner to be not only an extraordinary lawyer and Judge but to be an extraordinary person. It is for these reasons I strongly recommend Judge Breuner to serve on the bench as District Court Judge in Gallatin County.

Thank you for your consideration,

/s

Eric M. Brewer, Attorney and Counselor at

Law

BREWER LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C

Eric M. Brewer, Attorney and Counselor at Law  
BREWER LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.  
13 South Willson, Suite 3  
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(406) 570-6664  
[ebrewer@bridgeband.com](mailto:ebrewer@bridgeband.com)

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## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2016 8:02 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

From: Steve Anderson [<mailto:steve@rehability.net>]  
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 2:51 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: 18th Judicial District Judge Applicant Andrew J. Breuner

Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I provide public comment regarding Andrew J. Breuner, applicant for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship.

As a small business owner in Belgrade, Montana, I have noticed the profound impact Mr. Breuner has had on our community while serving as our City Judge. He has instilled a fabric of respect throughout Belgrade's court system and its proceedings. As our Belgrade City Judge, Mr. Breuner has also demonstrated fairness and consistency while being thorough, pragmatic, and decisive. Mr. Breuner is a true professional who cares. The City of Belgrade has benefited from Mr. Breuner's service, and I have no doubt that he will build on the wonderful legacy of Judge Salvagni, if appointed to the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship.

Respectfully,  
Steve Anderson

SteveAnderson  
Rehability  
403 West Main Street  
Belgrade, Montana 59714

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2016 8:01 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Breuner

**From:** Carole Young [<mailto:cyoung39@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2016 9:58 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** comments Addressed to Applicants for the District Court Seat being Vacated by the Hon. Mike Salvagni

RE: Andrew Breuner

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

It is with a high degree of enthusiasm that I highly recommend Andrew Bruner as a top candidate to fill the vacancy by Hon. Mike Salvagni. I have known Andy Breuner for almost a decade and have witnessed his passionate work with inmates in the Gallatin County Detention Center as a public defender. I am one of the chaplains in the Gallatin County Detention Center and know that Andy is one of the sought after public defenders by inmates because of his documented record of passionate care and commitment to truth at all costs. I have been blessed to be in a men's Bible Study with Andy and know that his faith commitment guides his work. I could go on and on about all Andy's qualities and qualifications that make him the most suitable candidate for the vacancy; however, I am confident that his record on paper will speak for itself. It is without hesitation that I offer Andrew Bruner the highest recommendation afforded a candidate for this vacancy.

For your information, I am a third generation Montanan who has lived in Bozeman for over 39 years. In my job life I work at Montana State University-Bozeman. If you have any questions about my comments, please do not hesitate to contact me by return e-mail, or by office phone (406-994-5552) or by cell phone (581-4013).

Best regards and blessings in your work,

David M. Young  
2622 Spring Creek Drive  
Bozeman, MT 59715