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October 3, 2016

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

RE: James D. McKenna

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to you to recommend James D. McKenna for the vacant judge position here in the Eighteenth Judicial District, Gallatin County.

I have been in the private practice of law in Bozeman for 27 years. Over that time, I have had an opportunity to come to know Jim McKenna and work with him on a number of matters. He is a wise, experienced, and competent lawyer. He would make an excellent judge here at Gallatin County.

In thinking a little bit about this recommendation for Jim, I recall that Jim and I represented co-defendants in my very first trial here in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Jim and I recently spoke about that case by phone and I recalled that from my initial work from Jim, I found him to be a remarkable lawyer.

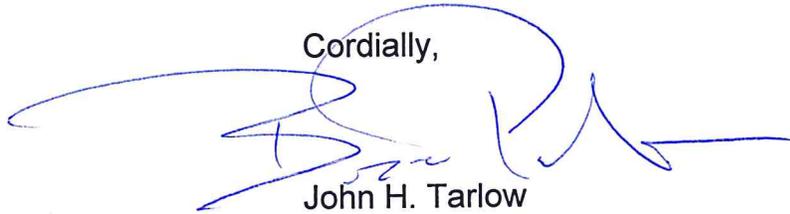
Jim is kind, patient and hardworking. I am confident that he would use these skills to serve well as our new judge. Moreover, Jim has lived in Gallatin County for more than 30 years and knows the people here in Bozeman as well as in the surrounding areas. He will bring a wealth of experience to the position.

I have had the chance, in cases that I have had with him, to learn that Jim knows how to read and understand people. In the matters that we have worked on together over the years, I have always been impressed by his down-to-earth and realistic approach to resolving disputes and working through problems.

Jim already has judicial experience as a result of his service as a Bozeman City Court Judge. I am sure this experience will help him transition from private practice to the District Court Judge position.

I hope that you will accept this letter as my highest recommendation of Jim McKenna for the vacant judgeship in Gallatin County. He will serve our community well.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John H. Tarlow", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John H. Tarlow

JHT/jdw

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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

RE: James McKenna, 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 James McKenna 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 am fortunate to know Jim McKenna socially and as a Judge. Jim has an amazing family in Bozeman. Observing Jim with his family demonstrates Jim's solid foundation and dedication to the Bozeman community. I have also learned that Jim is a kind man. I believe that Jim's desire to become District Court Judge reflects his sense of justice and desire to serve our community.

Jim also presided over a jury trial of mine as a substitute judge in Bozeman Municipal Court. It was a one-day trial, but a trial that required many evidentiary rulings and motions with no advance notice. Jim mindfully considered the information and arguments of the parties before making decisions. I appreciated his deliberate and conscious nature in presiding over the trial. Importantly, I felt

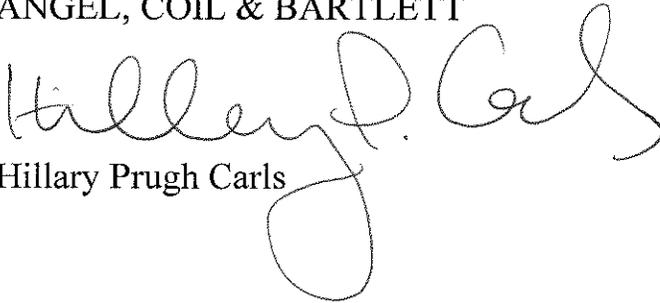
MICHAEL C. COIL · WILLIAM A. BARTLETT · BRIAN P. FAY · CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL
HILLARY PRUGH CARLS · MARK J. LUEBECK · DANIEL P. BUCKLEY · TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR · RYAN D. MCCARTY

the trial was a "clean" trial with no significant appealable issues and that he treated the parties fairly. Leaving that trial with a sense of fairness is especially important given that the jury convicted my client and I lost the trial. Having this experience with Jim further supports my conclusion that Jim is well suited to be District Court Judge.

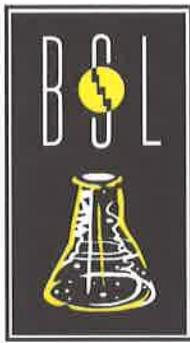
I hope that you recommend Jim McKenna to Governor Bullock for the nomination of Gallatin County District Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter. Thank you.

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



BIO SCIENCE
LABORATORIES • INC

October 19, 2016

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

RE: James D. McKenna

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I am writing to offer my recommendation of James D. McKenna for the judgeship in Gallatin County previously occupied by Judge Mike Salvagni. Mr. McKenna's broad and remarkable career makes him the ideal candidate for this position. He is a Montana native, graduated from the University of Montana Law School, and served as District Judge Joseph Gary's first law clerk. He has served in many capacities, such as deputy county attorney and chief deputy county attorney, while maintaining his own private practice for 28 years. Mr. McKenna served as the attorney for West Yellowstone for 23 years, prosecuting misdemeanor cases and advising the town council on all legal matters, including bargaining agreements. He also served as a part-time judge and substitute judge for the city of Bozeman. He works tirelessly to mediate cases in order to alleviate the case-load in the court system. In short, Jim is the only candidate who has successfully served a law clerk, prosecutor, defense attorney, mediator and judge, proving his expertise as a fair and qualified candidate for the judgeship of Gallatin County.

I believe Mr. McKenna has the intellectual acumen, philosophical perspective, and legal knowledge to serve fairly and brilliantly as a district court judge. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have with regard to Jim McKenna.

Sincerely,

Marsha D. Paulson
Senior Vice President, BioScience Laboratories, Inc.
406-587-5735, ext. 115
mpaulson@biosciencelabs.com

MDP/ta

**Office Of
COUNTY ATTORNEY
Richland County Law & Justice Center
300 12th Avenue N.W., Ste #7
Sidney, Montana 59270
(406) 433-2505 -- FAX (406) 433-9989**

October 21, 2016

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

Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

**RE: Jim McKenna
Eighteenth Judicial District Vacancy**

Dear Committee Members:

The purpose of this correspondence is to encourage you to submit the name of Jim McKenna to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District vacancy.

Mr. McKenna and I were law school classmates. We met at the beginning of our first year of law school in September, 1978. Please be advised in the interest of full disclosure that Jim is by brother-in-law. I have been married to his sister, Rosemary, for thirty five years.

I was reminded when preparing this correspondence of the breadth of Jim's legal experience. He was a clerk for District Judge Joe Gary of the Eighteenth Judicial District for one year after graduation from law school. He then was a Deputy Gallatin County Attorney for five and a half years, from January 1, 1983, to June 30, 1988. Later he was a Bozeman City Judge from December 1, 1990, to December 31, 1995. He has been in private practice since 1988 and from 1992 until autumn, 2013, his firm by contract acted as the city attorneys for West Yellowstone, Montana. Jim did much of the civil work for West Yellowstone and is well versed in subdivision and other municipal law matters. In addition, Jim has an extensive family law practice. I remember him telling me about half of his practice is in family law. I include this because every district judge I have quizzed about their workload in the last twenty five years has told me they devote over half their time to family law matters. In summary Mr. McKenna has prosecutorial experience and extensive municipal law and family law experience.

Judicial temperament is an important part of being a successful judge. In the thirty eight years I have known Jim McKenna I have never witnessed an outburst of anger by him. He is always very even tempered and judicious in the words he chooses. I believe Jim is hard working and will be a conscientious hard working judge.

I cannot imagine Jim McKenna being anything but an excellent district court judge and an asset to the judicial community.

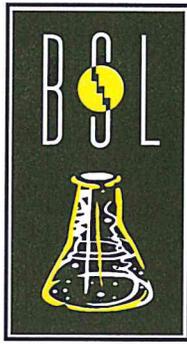
If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Weber". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

**MIKE WEBER
RICHLAND COUNT ATTORNEY**

MW/as



BIO SCIENCE
LABORATORIES • INC

October 19, 2016

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

RE: James D. McKenna

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

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I believe Mr. McKenna has the intellectual acumen, philosophical perspective, and legal knowledge to serve fairly and brilliantly as a district court judge. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have with regard to Jim McKenna.

Sincerely,

Marsha D. Paulson

Senior Vice President, BioScience Laboratories, Inc.

406-587-5735, ext. 115

mpaulson@biosciencelabs.com

MDP/ta

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Phone 406-587-5735 • FAX 406-586-7930 • Web Site: www.biosciencelabs.com • E-mail: experts@biosciencelabs.com

GALLIK, BREMER & MOLLOY, P.C.

Attorneys
777 East Main Street
P.O. Box 70
Bozeman, Montana 59771-0070

October 24, 2016

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

By Electronic Mail

RE: *Recommendations for Lawyers for Appointment
as District Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District*

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Gallatin County is fortunate to have so many qualified applicants to replace the Honorable Mike Salvagni as District Court Judge. Your task, of recommending several lawyers from these applicants to the Honorable Steve Bullock, will be difficult. However, in my judgment, having practiced in this county for 27 years, four (4) applicants, listed in alphabetical order, stand out from the rest of the field and are deserving of your recommendation: Christopher B. Gray, Martin David Lambert, James Donald McKenna and Daniel J. Roth. All would be an excellent judge for this District.

1. Christopher B. Gray.

I've known and worked with (and against) Chris for many years, primarily in his capacity as the Chief Civil Deputy for Gallatin County. Chris, while a dedicated advocate for Gallatin County, was also a problem solver who navigated the County through many legal entanglements which, because of his wisdom, did not see the inside of a courtroom. Chris has a very calm, reassuring demeanor which would serve him well as a judge.

I've also been impressed with Chris's dedication to family. He raised his children in this community and often spoke about them during our conversations

that began with a legal problem and then, having discussed that issue, steered to family and community.

These traits will serve Chris well as a district court judge, where the case load is filled with family and criminal law cases.

2. Martin David Lambert.

Marty was born and raised in Bozeman. In turn, he raised his family in Bozeman. Marty has been, and remains, a dedicated public servant, first as a deputy county attorney under County Attorney Salvagni, and then as Gallatin County's Attorney, a position he has held since 1997. Marty is an excellent trial attorney and fierce advocate for the people who work for him and for the community.

In Marty's capacity as County Attorney, I have been involved in several criminal and civil cases, usually on opposite sides but on occasion, on the same side. In those instances, while we have not always agreed, he has always kept the interests of the community first, whether it be in the form of public safety or in the area of complex issues of land use law in a county that has seen (and continues to see) explosive, and continuing growth.

He has also advocated for the County's Drug Treatment Court, victim services and has served on DUI task forces and child protective committees.

Most recently, Marty has been instrumental in working with other attorneys in the community to raise public awareness of and support for a \$70 million dollar bond issue for a badly needed courthouse and law enforcement complex. Several members of the committee leading this charge have commented to me about Marty's focus and common sense advocacy that has helped guide those efforts.

His devotion to public service is not limited to the field of law. An accomplished musician, he has worked tirelessly to support the arts in Bozeman for all ages, including grade school children, through his position with the Montana Chamber Music Society, which sponsors "Noon Notes" for kids. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Intermountain Opera Company, providing opera to the community. He also works with students at Bozeman High School.

I was also recently impressed with Marty's advocacy for the attorneys in his office when the Gallatin County Commission set their most recent budget. His attorneys work very hard for the community they serve and, as we know, the legal profession is demanding, and is becoming increasingly difficult for prosecutors and public defenders, in a rapidly growing community and more and more cases. Marty is known for running a tight ship with the public funds entrusted to his office. However, when the County Commissioners balked at modest compensation increases for his deputies, Marty went to bat for them and, in the end, was able to obtain the requested budget increase.

There is no question that Marty, as he has his entire career, will put the community's interests first and foremost. Having spent nearly his entire life in this community, he knows the challenges that this community faces and would serve our community very well as a District Court Judge.

3. James D. McKenna.

When Judge Salvagni announced his retirement, and before anyone announced their interest in the job, Jim was one of the first names that came to mind as his replacement. He was extensive experience as a prosecutor, judge and civil litigator, with extensive experience in family law.

I first met Jim when he was the City Attorney for the Town of West Yellowstone, Montana. He was responsible for representing the Town in civil and criminal matters. During a portion of his tenure for that Town, I served as a public defender at the request of the Honorable Lewis Scott. This work, in turn, led to representation of businesses, the Town's library and employees of the Town in disputes or negotiations with the Town.

During those interactions, I found Jim to be a very quick study, particularly as he was responsible for many aspects of the law such as prosecution of misdemeanor offenses, employment relations, open meetings laws, resort tax issues and interactions with federal agencies which have significant land holdings in and around West Yellowstone. He was a patient and compassionate advocate for the Town and looked for ways to solve problems that served the Town well.

I have also been before Jim in his capacity as a City Judge in Bozeman,

Again, he showed the same characteristics that I witnessed when he served as an attorney for the Town of West Yellowstone, and made clear to me he has the temperament to be an outstanding judge.

I am also aware of Jim's extensive experience in family law matters, which is a fair amount of a district court's docket. When I have a client who needs assistance with family law matters, Jim is always the first name I provide.

In sum, Jim has extensive experience in all aspects of the legal profession which will serve him, and the community, well if appointed to be the next District Court judge.

4. Daniel J. Roth.

Although Dan and I have not had much legal work against each other, he has been a trusted friend for several years and has successfully mediated a number of very difficult cases where I was representing one side of the dispute. The qualities he has shown as a mediator, in helping people solve their disputes, on their own terms would serve him well on the bench.

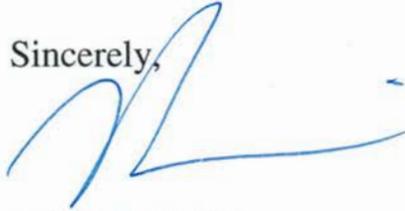
Dan has also been an active member of the County's legal profession for many years. He has been successful trial lawyer in his private practice and has extensive experience in the very important area of family law. This experience, coupled with active participation in the adversarial and dispute resolution processes of our profession, is an important consideration for the next judge.

Dan has also given back to the profession in very admirable ways. His work with the Lawyers' Assistance Program reflects Dan's understanding of the difficulties that our challenging profession can create for lawyers and reflects his compassion to help fellow members of his profession in their time of need, and during their recovery – and without judgment.

These qualities and his life experiences will make Dan a very good District Court Judge.

In sum, as I stated at the start of this letter, you have many fine candidates to fill Judge Salvagni's vacancy. I respectfully submit that the four (4) candidates discussed above should be nominated to Governor Bullock for his consideration to be the next judge in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian K. Gallik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian K. Gallik

KASTING, KAUFFMAN & MERSEN, P.C.
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Of Counsel
KENT M. KASTING
WILLIAM B. HANSON

October 24, 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: 18th Judicial District Judge Vacancy

Dear Committee Members,

I write you this letter to provide my thoughts on who would be most qualified to be appointed District Judge in Gallatin County.

As a family law lawyer for the past 43 years; a past president of the Utah State, Salt Lake County, and Gallatin County Bars; a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; and a member of the Montana State Bar Ethics Committee since 1997, I believe I have the experience and insight to provide my opinion as to who would be most qualified to serve as our next District Court Judge.

I think the most important attributes any judge should have are:

1. Humility;
2. A good temperament;
3. A reasonably good knowledge of the law;
4. A strong work ethic; and
5. A desire to serve the public fairly.

I have reviewed the background and credentials of the individuals who have applied for this position and have concluded that some do not possess the above-described attributes to the extent necessary to be a good judge.

However, they say, "Cream rises to the top" and in this case, three of the

applicants, in my opinion, do have the necessary quantity and quality of the traits itemized above, to be considered for the position.

I would respectfully recommend that you send the names of:

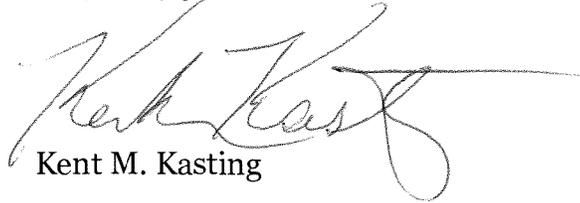
Magdalena Bowen;
Rienne McElyea; and
James McKenna
(Listed alphabetically not preferentially.)

to Governor Bullock for his consideration.

I have practiced law in the same community with each of these fine lawyers for the last 26 years and think any one of them has what it takes to dispense justice fairly, be kind, and respectful to those appearing in front of them and respect the role of lawyers as an integral part of our judicial system.

Thank you in advance for considering my thoughts and volunteer service. I know your deliberations will be thoughtful and thorough.

Very truly yours.



Kent M. Kasting

KMK/bas

RALPH W. STEELE, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW
a professional corporation

202 West Main Street, Suite 201
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Ralph W. Steele
www.steelelawmt.com

Telephone: (406) 582-9986
Telefax: (406) 582-9995
E-mail: rsteele@steelelawmt.com

October 24, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, Montana 59602-3005

SENT VIA EMAIL ONLY
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

RE: James D. McKenna
Montana 18th Judicial Court District Judge Position

Dear Commission:

I am submitting this letter in support of the candidacy of James D. McKenna for the upcoming Eighteenth Judicial Court vacancy.

Jim McKenna is a true native Montanan. Although he grew up in the Bitterroot Valley, his mother was a long time resident of Gallatin County, Montana.

Jim's qualifications are unique amongst some of the other applicants in that he has a background working as a former prosecutor in the Eighteenth Judicial District in the early 80's, as clerk for former District Court Judge Joseph B. Gary, and as a well respected local civil practitioner in Gallatin County for more than thirty (30) years.

I practiced law in Albuquerque, New Mexico for fifteen (15) years and have practiced law in Bozeman, Montana for more than eighteen (18) years. I have served as opposing counsel against Jim McKenna and served alongside him representing co-defendants in a complicated civil matter which lasted approximately two (2) years. Over this time I came to respect Jim's understanding of complicated legal issues, his analytical abilities, his brief writing and oral presentation skills in court. Jim possesses a comprehensive and practical understanding of the law and, more importantly, understands the implications of case filing, preparation, presentation of witnesses as well as evidentiary, procedural and substantive areas of the law.

I believe it also worthy of comment that throughout my nearly twenty (20) years of practice in Bozeman other attorneys have consistently commented on Jim's legal abilities with high regard and respect. I believe Jim's respect by his peers and colleagues arises from his own sense of respect for his clients, other litigants, the Court and his role as a

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

October 24, 2016

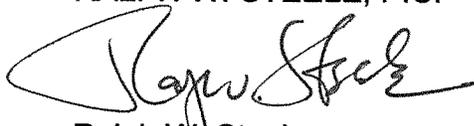
Page 2

practicing attorney. Jim's personal demeanor is also a strong asset. His ability to project competence and confidence is apparent while at the same time maintaining an open and balanced perspective in both life and the law. Jim's integrity, legal ability and objectivity prepare him to serve as a fair and impartial district court judge.

I recommend that the commission give strong consideration to Jim McKenna's candidacy and request that he be included in the final list of candidates to be submitted to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Yours very truly,

RALPH W. STEELE, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph W. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Ralph W. Steele

RWS/lzc