

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2015 3:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Paskell, Greg
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2015 2:53 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Guzynski, Dan
Subject: App. of Daniel Guzynski for vacancy at the 1st. Judicial district Court/Jeffery sherlock

Att: Louise Menzies. Judicial nominating committee:

Please consider this a comment/recommendation on the application of Daniel Guzynski for the vacancy on the 1st Judicial District Court just recently vacated by Judge Sherlock.

I have known Mr. Guzynski for over 20 years both during his tenure as an assistant county attorney in Flathead County and as a prosecutor for the attorney general's office. I have opportunities to observe this candidate both inside and outside of the judicial system and the courtroom. I have practice both civil and criminal law in private practice in Kalispell for 30 years and now as a public defender in Billings, for 7 years. I have had a unique opportunity to observe this candidate in a number of situations both criminal and civil in nature.

This candidate exhibits at all times the highest level of professional and personal ethics and responsibility. Having tried cases against him on a number of occasions, he has demonstrated to me an extensive depth of knowledge of the law. His knowledge extends not only in the areas of criminal law, as he has been a prosecutor for a number of years but

he also has a broad and thorough understanding of civil issues, as well. It has been said in the past that prosecutors are not trained in “all” of the law. In the case of this candidate that statement does not apply.

He possess the courtroom demeanor, willingness to insure a fair and even trial for all parties, his view of the big picture as well as a complete understanding of the details of a case and these are the traits that one is expecting from a presiding judge on any case.

Besides his technical skill in the courtroom, this man’s honesty and integrity is of the highest level. His concern for and desire to see the law/courtroom to be place where people can come and have confidence that justice can be received is foremost in his professional practice. Most professional persecutors are solely interested in winning and getting convictions. This candidate wants and expects more than that from the system. He strives to be sure that any conviction/any win that he gets is honestly and fairly won.

He is an excellent student of the law. He will spend the time and energy to insure that when he comes into the courtroom he knows and understands the issues and the law that needs to be apply. He also wants to see the law/system grow and meet the needs of the society with an appropriate balance between where the law/system is now and new and innovated ways and ideas as to how the law/system can grow.

On top of his excellent professional skills, this candidate is a nice guy who has excellent people skills and a willingness to listen.

This candidate will apply the law fairly, honestly and professionally but not with a deafness to the litigants that come in front of him.

Given my long experience in the practice of law and that practice having taken me to many parts of the state, I am familiar with most of the names on the candidate list. I cannot think of anyone on that list that would make a better recommendation to the governor than Mr.Guzynski.

Yours truly

Gregory E. Paskell
Attorney at law

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Anaconda - Deer Lodge County

800 Main Street

Anaconda, Montana 59711

Phone # (406) 563-4019

Fax # (406) 563-5018

ELLEN DONOHUE
Deputy County Attorney

Sandy Sullivan
Paralegal

BEN KRAKOWKA
County Attorney

MICHELLE SIEVERS
Deputy County Attorney

Geri Staley
Legal Secretary



10/5/2015

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

RE: Dan Guzynski

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Dan Guzynski for the last three years. I met him in my capacity as County Attorney for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County. During that time I have had many interactions with Mr. Guzynski both in Court and out. He is a very experienced attorney with a wealth of knowledge about criminal law. My office has utilized his services on many occasions when we were in need of advice on how to proceed in a case. He has also assisted my County on several occasions when we required the use of a special prosecutor.

In addition, Mr. Guzynski is a man with outstanding moral character. He is one of the most ethical thoughtful attorneys I have ever met. That combined with his fabulous family and beautiful children make him an excellent candidate for a judicial appointment. I believe that it would be virtually impossible to locate a better candidate for the position District Court Judge in the 1st Judicial District. I feel that he is an example to others of what an attorney should be and how an attorney should behave and I believe that he would take his experience and character to the bench to benefit all of Montana.

If you have any further questions or wish to speak with me in person please feel free to contact me. My office telephone number is (406) 563-4019 and my cellular number is (406) 560-6221.

Sincerely,


Ben Krakowka
County Attorney

P.O. Box 736
411 Division

Linda Hickman
Attorney at Law
Harlowton, MT 59036

Phone: (406)632-5651
Fax: (406)632-4719
Email: wcatty@itstriangle.com

October 6, 2015

Judicial Nomination Committee
PO Box 203005
Helena, Mt. 59620

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to recommend Daniel Guzinski to fill the Judgeship being vacated by Judge Sherlock of the First Judicial District Court.

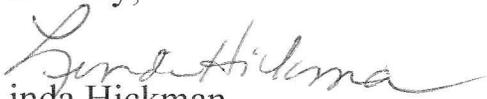
I am the Wheatland County Attorney in Harlowton Montana and I have worked with Daniel Guzinski in that capacity. I have also attended seminars where he has been a presenter.

Daniel Guzinski has a breadth of knowledge of the law that is extraordinary. He has an ability to grasp difficult issues and boil them down to concepts which juries and other non-lawyers can understand. Dan is always quick to assist when requested. He takes his time and uses his energy to help, whether it is to step into a case or just to bounce concepts around.

Dan's main focus is justice. He is a professional in the best sense of the word. He believes in fair play. Dan's ethics are above reproach and he holds those with whom he works to the same standards. Even though he has worked as a prosecutor he understands human nature and has empathy which extends not only to victims, but also to Defendants when appropriate.

Dan would bring his wealth of knowledge, ability, experience and energy to the position. He would be a true asset to the Montana Judicial community.

Sincerely,


Linda Hickman

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 4:29 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: randal@midrivers.com [<mailto:randal@midrivers.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 11:11 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: App. of Daniel Guzynski for vacancy at the 1st. Judicial District Court/ Hon. Jeffery Sherlock

Dear Commission Members,

I am the presiding district judge for the Montana Fourteenth Judicial District consisting of Musselshell, Golden Valley, Wheatland, and Meagher Counties. My colleague, the Hon. Jeffrey Sherlock, has decided to step down after many outstanding years of service to the citizens of Montana.

He will be missed.

Attorney Daniel Guzynski, along with several others, has applied to be appointed to Judge Sherlock's soon to be vacant position. I write to strongly urge you to consider forwarding Dan's name to Governor Bullock for his consideration.

I have known Dan for several years and he has appeared both within my court and district as well as other districts in cases that I have presided over. Dan is, in my experience, always prepared, always professional, and very knowledgeable. Beyond this, I know Dan to be of the highest moral character, a good husband and father, and a good and personable man. The citizens of Montana would be well served indeed if Dan were appointed to Judge Sherlock's position.

I do not take my endorsement of Dan, or anyone for that matter lightly.

In point of fact I have not endorsed any attorney or candidate for judicial office in my fourteen years on the bench. I make exception in this case because I hold Dan in high regard and believe that he is preeminently qualified to assume the role of judge.

Very Truly Yours,

Randal I. Spaulding

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 4:28 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: mary.cochenour@gmail.com [<mailto:mary.cochenour@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, October 03, 2015 10:26 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Letter in support of Dan Guzynski

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I highly recommend Dan Guzynski for appointment as First Judicial District Court Judge.

I am an Assistant Attorney General and work with Dan Guzynski in the Prosecution Services Bureau. I've had the opportunity to work with Dan on many criminal cases across the State of Montana.

Dan is fair, even tempered, and yet passionate about the law. Dan treats everyone he meets with respect, whether they are victims of crime, court staff, or opposing attorneys. Dan has the ability to make well-reasoned decisions on his feet and the ability to delve into complex legal research and analysis. Dan is thoroughly familiar with trial work and conscious about creating and protecting the record for appeal. He possesses qualities of character that would make him an outstanding district court judge.

I urge you to forward Dan Guzynski's application to Governor Bullock for consideration of his appointment to the First Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Cochenour

Sent from my iPhone

ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MONTANA

Tim Fox
Attorney General



Department of Justice
215 North Sanders
PO Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

October 5, 2015

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

Re: Application of Daniel Guzynski

Dear Committee:

This letter is to voice my strong support for Daniel Guzynski to be nominated for the open seat in the First Judicial District.

I have known Dan for over 15 years. We were hired at the Cascade County Attorney's Office weeks apart in 2000. We remained friends when Dan left to work at the Flathead County Attorney's Office. For the last five years, I have worked with Dan in the Prosecution Services Bureau of the Attorney General's Office. I have had the privilege of conducting several jury trials with Dan, and working closely with him on many occasions.

I have the utmost respect and admiration for Dan Guzynski. He is dedicated, hard-working, and honest. Some might think that after 15 years as a prosecutor that Dan is a prosecutor to the core. On the contrary, Dan is first and foremost an attorney who loves our system and how it works. He has great respect for criminal defense attorneys and has a mature understanding of everyone's respective role in making the system work.

Dan has always been fair and possesses a core belief in justice. He does not count "wins" and "losses" because he understands that he can but do his job in his role to the best of his abilities and justice will be served.

His experience is difficult to match. I have witnessed Dan in trial and spoken to many others who have done so. He is an excellent trial attorney. He is one of a very few attorneys that have actually amazed me with their talent. I am fortunate to have been able to learn from watching him practice.

Judicial Nomination Commission

October 5, 2015

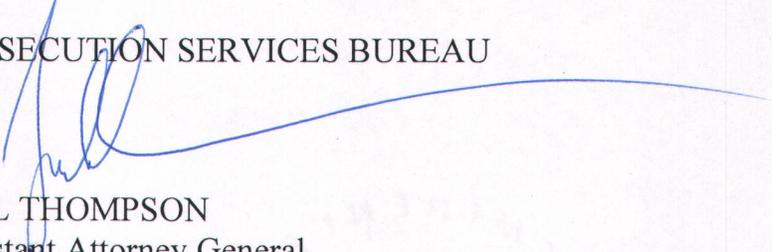
Page 2 of 2

I ask the committee to approve Dan's application to the Governor. I have worked in front of the majority of District Court Judges in this State and Dan would fit in amongst the best of them. Not only is he an excellent attorney, but he is a deeply moral and good man. The First Judicial District and Montana would be well-served by his appointment to the bench.

Thank you for your consideration.

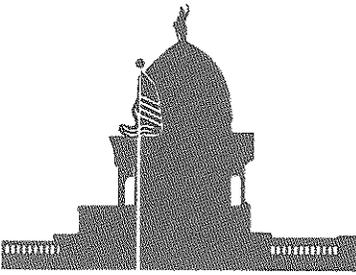
Sincerely,

PROSECUTION SERVICES BUREAU



JOEL THOMPSON
Assistant Attorney General

jt/lj



DIRK M. SANDEFUR
District Judge, Dept. 4
Montana Eighth Judicial District
Cascade County Courthouse – Rm. 203
415 2nd Avenue North
Great Falls, Montana 59401

MONTANA EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

DEPARTMENT 4

October 13, 2015

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

Re: Application Of Daniel Guzynski In Re Mont. 1st Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please consider this correspondence in support of the application of Daniel Guzynski for your nomination to the Governor for appointment to the Montana 1st Judicial District Court vacancy resulting from the upcoming retirement of the Hon. Jeffrey Sherlock.

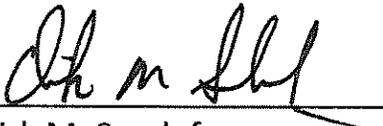
In my tenure as a district judge on the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court over the last 13 years and previously, I have known Daniel Guzynski to be a well-respected and extraordinarily intellectual, skilled, experienced, and professional attorney. Since graduation from the UM Law School and admission in 2000, Dan has faithfully and honorably served the citizens of the State of Montana as an Assistant Attorney General and Deputy County Attorney over the past 15 years. I first came to know him at the start of his career when we were both deputy county attorneys in the Cascade County Attorney's Office in Great Falls. He has since went on to serve with distinction as a criminal prosecutor and in other government civil practice in the Flathead County Attorney's Office and in his current tenure as an Assistant Attorney General in the MDOJ Prosecutor

Services Bureau. Among other major case assignments, he is currently prosecuting a major sex crime case in my court.

Dan Guzynski is a quality individual of the highest personal and professional character and integrity. He is a quality family man who has been highly respected and involved in all of the various Montana communities in which he has lived and served. He is manifestly reasonable, highly competent and experienced, and has demonstrated the type of sound judgment, demeanor, and conduct that we expect and demand of district judges in this state. Simply put, Dan has all of the extraordinary professional and personal qualities necessary to be an outstanding Montana district judge.

I highly recommend Dan for your nomination for appointment to the Montana First Judicial District Court. Please consider him favorably for this critically important position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dirk M. Sandefur", written over a horizontal line.

Dirk M. Sandefur
District Judge

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM
1201 West Holly St. Suite 8
Sidney, Montana 59270

October 9, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of Daniel Guzynski

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee,

This letter is to express my support for Daniel Guzynski to be nominated for the vacancy for the First Judicial District Court Judge.

I am the Director for the 7th Judicial Victim Witness program which consists of Dawson, McCone, Prairie, Richland, and Wibaux counties. My interactions with Mr. Guzynski have been within the court system, working with crime victims, and various seminars that Mr. Guzynski has made educational presentations.

There are often many professionals associated with criminal cases. Mr. Guzynski provides case coordination involving law enforcement agencies, court personnel, victim witness advocates, and attorney staff. This effort brings integrity to the cases he prosecutes. This helps lessen the negativity portrayed to the community and the media, which also lessens the impact the system has on victims.

Gaining the trust is paramount when dealing with individuals who have been traumatized. Mr. Guzynski has always taken the time to get to know the victims of the cases he is prosecuting while displaying compassion, honesty, and professionalism. In a system where the center of interest is on winning, Mr. Guzynski provides focus on both the outcome of the case and the impact it has on the victim.

Upon request, Mr. Guzynski has always provided insight to issues involving victim rights. Victims that have worked with Mr. Guzynski have a high level of respect for him. In all the 17 years of being an advocate, I have never received a complaint or dislike of how he has handled his cases or the people he has worked with. This statement speaks for itself.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VICTIM/WITNESS PROGRAM
1201 West Holly St. Suite 8
Sidney, Montana 59270

Without hesitation, I cannot think of a more deserving individual to nominate than Daniel Guzynski. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information, or if you would like a list of individuals that could provide comments of consideration regarding the nomination of Mr. Guzynski.

Paula Eberling
Program Director/Crime Victim Advocate
7th Judicial District Victim/Witness Program

Amy Kenison
PO Box 241
Thompson Falls, Montana 59873

October 6, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
~~Office of Court-Administrator~~

P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Daniel Mark Guzynski

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

This letter is to lend my support to Dan Guzynski's nomination for the open District Court seat in the 1st Judicial District.

As a Deputy County Attorney in a small town, I have had the opportunity to know Dan Guzynski both personally and professionally over the last 8 years. In courtroom settings, Dan's interactions with all parties involved has always been courteous and constructive.

I am struck not merely by Dan's exceptional mind, but by the strength of his character and work ethic. Dan has a way of approaching each case on its merits, while accepting the ideas of other when presented with a compelling argument.

As a practicing attorney, I know how important it is to have a District Court Judge who is well reasoned and not hasty in their decision making process. Judges need to not only have a keen grasp of the law, but must be able to apply a common sense understanding of its implications and not be afraid to make tough decisions. Dan has those attributes.

In a community of many highly intelligent and able attorneys, Dan stands out. Equally important regardless of our political affiliations or legal philosophies, I recognize the outstanding abilities and attributes that Dan would bring to the bench. As such, I believe Dan Guzynski would be an asset and recommend him to you without reservation.

Sincerely,



Amy Kenison



SUTTON
DUBOIS
& MILLS P.L.L.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

104 4th Street North, Ste. 200
P.O. Box 1348
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 771.7477
Fax: (406) 727.1812

October 13, 2015

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to highly recommend the appointment of applicant Daniel Guzynski (Dan) to the First Judicial District Judge seat. I believe Dan would be an excellent choice to fill the vacancy.

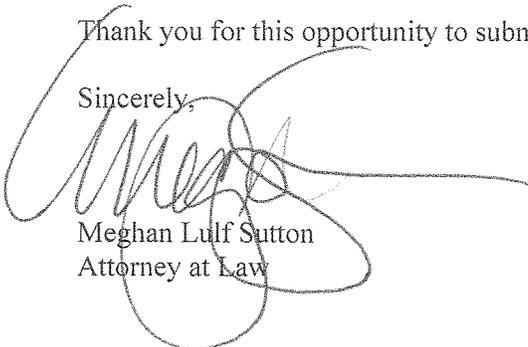
I have known Dan for approximately 18 years. We first met in the Fall of 1997 as first-year law students at the University of Montana School of Law. Dan and I were assigned to the same "law firm": a small group of students who met almost daily, overseen by a second-year law student. As such, we worked closely on several projects. I also considered Dan to be a friend of mine in law school, and a person whom I highly respected.

I have also had several occasions to work with Mr. Guzynski in our respective professions. Dan and I have always been on opposite sides, however: he has dedicated his professional life to prosecuting cases, while I have dedicated mine primarily to Criminal Defense. Dan and I began our careers at the Cascade County Attorney's Office and the Cascade County Public Defender's Office, respectively, after graduation. Currently, we find ourselves on the opposite side of a high-profile Sexual Intercourse Without Consent case. Dan has bent over backwards to make sure there are no ethical slip ups, and that everything is done by the book. Although I have not agreed with several of the numerous objections he has made to my motions, I have understood that he is merely doing his job for the State of Montana.

Working on the opposite sides of this, and other cases, has not diminished my initial respect and admiration for Dan, his work ethic, and his professionalism. Dan is a fierce advocate, but also a critical thinker and listener. His legal and analytical skills are first-rate. He is a hard worker who is passionate about the law and about the people of the State of Montana. Admirably, I have observed Dan handle himself not only with grace and an even temperament in tense courtroom situations, but in heated social situations, as well. Dan will not shirk his responsibilities, nor back down when defending something in which he believes. These are the qualities a Judge should possess.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a recommendation for my colleague, Dan Guzynski.

Sincerely,



Meghan Lulf Sutton
Attorney at Law

Wendy A. Dutton, MA, PhD, LPC
2120 N. Central Ave., Suite 130
Phoenix, AZ 85004
October 9, 2015

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to you regarding Daniel Guzynski's application for appointment to the open District Court seat in the First Judicial District. I have known Mr. Guzynski since 2002, when he began prosecuting crimes against children for the Flathead County Attorney's Office. In my role as a child forensic interviewer and expert witness, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with Mr. Guzynski on many occasions in criminal prosecutions of child abuse cases. Mr. Guzynski has my highest recommendation.

Mr. Guzynski has always displayed a high degree of integrity, responsibility, and willingness to learn and excel in anything he undertakes. His skills as a litigator and legal knowledge are extraordinary. He has prosecuted some of the most difficult and egregious cases of physical and sexual abuse of children, both as a Deputy County prosecutor and as an Assistant Attorney General. Since he joined the Attorney General's Office in 2007, he has assisted county attorneys throughout Montana in the effective prosecution and resolution of these difficult cases. I have found him to be sensitive to the needs of the children and parents involved, while remaining balanced and fair with respect to the rights of accused.

After Mr. Guzynski began working in the Attorney General's Office, he has served an exemplary role model and mentor for attorneys throughout the state. He has given of his time to provide training to professionals involved in child abuse investigations and prosecutions. He is highly intelligent and well informed. Furthermore, he has the calm, assertive temperament essential to the position of judge.

Judicial Nomination Commission

October 9, 2015

Page 2

Daniel Guzynski would be an asset to the bench of the First Judicial District. He has my highest esteem and recommendation.

Sincerely,

Wendy A. Dutton, MA, PhD, LPC

Forensic Interviewer, Phoenix Children's Hospital

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY
STILLWATER COUNTY, MONTANA
544 No. Diamond
P.O. Box 179
Columbus, Montana 59019

Telephone: (406) 322-4333
Facsimile: (406) 322-4688

Nancy L. Rohde
County Attorney

Ryan C. Addis
Deputy Co. Attorney

October 13, 2015

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

Re: Application for Daniel Guzynski

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing to strongly recommend Daniel Guzynski be nominated to fill the open seat in the First Judicial District.

I am the Stillwater County Attorney and have worked with Dan over the past several years in his role as an Assistant Attorney General. I have had the great privilege of working with Dan on two major trials and have witnessed first-hand the excellence he brings to the courtroom. Dan is always prepared, very knowledgeable about the law and is the consummate professional.

Dan is dedicated to ensuring that justice prevails. This is true for the victims he is fighting for but also that our justice system is providing all parties the opportunity to be heard in a fair and impartial manner.

Dan is a man of the highest moral character and passionate about his family and the law. Montana citizens and the judicial community would be well served with Dan's appointment to the bench. I urge you to forward Dan's application onto Governor Bullock for his consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Nancy L. Rohde

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Janet Christoffersen [<mailto:jchristoffersen@richland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 3:13 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Dan Guzynski for 1st Judicial District Court Nomination

BY EMAIL ONLY

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Commission Members:

I highly recommend Dan Guzynski for the 1st Judicial District Court vacancy. I've known Dan for several years and consider him to be one of my good friends. He is a family man with a beautiful wife and two adorable daughters. He has the highest professional and ethical standards, while still being a reasonable, down-to-earth person.

Dan has prosecuted numerous cases for Richland County. While Sidney is a great distance from Helena and lacks the amenities the bigger cities have, Dan has never once complained about making the trek and handling our cases. Dan has spent numerous hours with witnesses and victims, explaining the process, easing their anxieties, and allowing them to feel heard and important. His court-room demeanor is of the highest professionalism; and quite frankly, he is fun to watch in the courtroom.

Dan is extremely knowledgeable about the law and procedure and is able to quickly and correctly think on his feet. Often times, I call Dan first when I am presented with a new legal issue. One of the main reasons for calling Dan specifically, is that he explains complex issues well and makes it a point not to be condescending. The ability to explain complicated legal matters to attorneys and non-attorneys without coming across haughty or aloof is a rare gift that Dan possesses.

Because Dan possess all these qualities as well as the fact that he has practiced all over the state in front of numerous and varied judges, I believe he is the best candidate for the nomination. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 433-2505 or jchristoffersen@richland.org.

Sincerely,

Janet Christoffersen

Janet Christoffersen
Deputy County Attorney
Richland County Law & Justice Center

300 12th Ave. NW, Suite #7
Sidney, Montana 59270
Telephone: (406) 433-2505
Facsimile: (406) 433-9989

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 5:01 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Kali Wicks [<mailto:kalibeth2@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2015 4:48 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Attn: Louise Menzies; Judicial Nominating Committee

October 10, 2015

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

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing today in strong support of Dan Guzynski for the vacancy on the 1st Judicial District Court vacated by Judge Sherlock.

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to know Dan and his family, and have been extremely impressed by his work ethic and commitment to the people and the children of the State of Montana. As a friend and fellow community member, I feel there is no one better to represent Lewis and Clark County for this position.

Mr. Guzynski is a committed public servant, a dedicated and caring family man, and a respected attorney. His upstanding moral character and devotion to the legal profession make him a top candidate for this position.

Sincerely,

Kali Wicks

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

While working in Montana in January of 2011 my younger brother, Brian Doyle, and was a victim of homicide. It was under these extremely difficult and painful circumstances I came to know Dan Guzynski. At a distance in Michigan, my family and I depended upon the legal system in Montana to see that justice was carried out for my brother and for our family.

In the depths of our despair our family needed to rely on Dan in his capacity as prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office to see that that happened. Being fair, honest and open minded he came through on every measure.

Dan has always displayed the highest degree of professionalism. At all times treating my family with the utmost respect and dignity. He made this case a priority and that gave us comfort during some very dark days. I am grateful of his generous nature and the consideration he gave to me to express my ideas and point of view. Even listening to me describe to him many times about who my brother was and what he meant to me.

This case had many details and complex issues. With clarity, focus and an exceptional intellect he was able to take these complex issues and bring it down to the heart of the matter. Making it easy for anyone to follow and comprehend. It was his determination and patience that saw this matter through to the end.

It is my opinion that Dan Guzynski is an honest, genuine and compassionate person who would be perfect choice for this position. I believe our experience, which I do not believe is unique to just us, is important in deciding whether Dan Guzynski is the right kind of man to fill this judicial vacancy.

Sincerely,
Erin Groom
4140 Beeman Road
Williamston, Michigan
48895
(517) 655-4022

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

October 14, 2015

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to recommend you forward Dan Guzynski's name to Governor Bullock for appointment as a District Court Judge in Lewis and Clark County.

I have worked with Dan at the Attorney General's Office for approximately six years. We have tried cases together, conducted trainings together and worked together on many other projects. I consider Dan both a mentor and a colleague.

I could write to you at length about how Dan's intelligence, character and sound judgment would serve Montana well as district court judge. But I believe his most valuable characteristic is that he always focuses on doing the right thing. In all my work with Dan I have never seen him sacrifice what is right for what may win a case. I have never seen him recommend a stiff sentence just because it looks good in the media. He always strives to do what is just for the victim and the offender and the State of Montana. That is why I always seek out Dan when I need advice on a tough case or ethical decision. That is why I also believe he would make an excellent district court judge.

I would be very sorry to lose Dan from our office, but I know Montana's Judiciary would be better for it. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Ole Olson

October 13, 2015

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

Governor Bullock
Office of Governor
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Recommendation – 1st Judicial District Judge

Dear Commission/Governor Bullock:

I am writing in reference to the opening for a new district court judge in Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties to replace Judge Jeffrey Sherlock. I have had the opportunity during my almost 30 years as an attorney to practice before many district court judges. During the past 8 years, I have practiced across the State as Chief Prosecutor for the Montana Attorney General's Office and have been able to appear in front of most of our state's district court judges. Due to this unique experience I believe I have a clear understanding of what it takes to be an effective and outstanding district court judge. This letter is written in support of my friend, Daniel Mark Guzynski.

I hired Dan right out of law school to work in my office in Cascade County as a deputy county attorney. Like most young attorneys Dan started in Justice Court and quickly worked his way up to handling felonies in district Court. Over the years Dan became an excellent trial attorney. In 2009 when I came to the Attorney General's Office I again teamed up with Dan in the Prosecution Services Bureau. Since 2009 Dan as handled many of the most complex and difficult criminal cases in Montana. Since joining PSB Dan has become one of the finest, if not the best, sexual assault prosecutor in the state.

Governor Steve Bullock
October, 2015
Page 2 of 3

In looking at the qualities that I admire in a judge, the most important trait I look for is a person who will work hard and put in the enormous hours required to keep up with the huge caseload. I want a district court judge who will show up at every hearing and trial totally prepared and versed on every possible issue that might arise. Dan has proven over the years that he possess the needed work ethic to handle the heavy caseload that the judges in Lewis & Clark County have.

The second quality that I want to see in my district court judge is an even temperament. Clearly there are times when a judge must control his courtroom and times when he/she must be stern in holding defendants accountable for their actions. However, I feel it is just as important to have a judge who understands that there are times when compassion and understanding are necessary tools to help a defendant better himself and become a productive citizen. Dan Guzynski is considered one of the nicest and most cordial prosecutors I have. However, he has shown in the handling of his cases that he understands the need to hold defendants accountable while at the same time believing there is a time and place for being compassionate. I have no doubt that as a judge he will control his courtroom in a dignified and professional manner.

Finally, as a trial attorney, I want my district court judge to allow the attorneys to try their cases and not micromanage the trial. As a prosecutor it is important that I be given the opportunity to put forth my case strategy. Very few attorneys can match Dan's trial experience and as a former trial attorney he will be the kind of judge that trial attorneys love to be in front of.

All of the candidates are fine attorneys and good people. But few possess the attorney skills, the strong family values, or the fine personal character that Dan Guzynski has. I have had an opportunity over the years to make numerous recommendations on behalf of attorneys for the position of district court judge. However, never have I felt as strong toward a candidate as I do Dan Guzynski. I have no doubt that Dan would honorably follow in the huge footsteps that Judge Sherlock has left. I would deeply appreciate your consideration of Dan Guzynski as the next District Court Judge in Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties.

Thank you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

BRANT S. LIGHT

Governor Steve Bullock
October, 2015
Page 3 of 3

408 Clearwater Ct.
Great Falls, MT 59405

State of Montana

Blair Jones
District Judge

Hannah J. Scott, Law Clerk
Stacy Fortune, Court Reporter
Kathryn Stanley, Court Administrator



Big Horn County
Carbon County
Stillwater County

406-322-5406
Fax: 406-322-8429

DISTRICT COURT

22nd Judicial District
P.O. Box 1268
Columbus, MT 59019

October 14, 2015

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

Re: Application of Dan Guzynski/First Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of Dan Guzynski for the position of District Court Judge of the First Judicial District.

Dan has appeared before me a number of times in his service as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Montana. Dan is always very well prepared and zealously represented the interests of the State of Montana. He is respectful to the Court and to the opposing parties and has a genuine desire to see justice served.

Dan is an experienced and skilled trial litigator, having participated in more than two dozen jury trials. Furthermore, Dan is very knowledgeable with regard to criminal law in particular and he does not hesitate to share his knowledge with his colleagues as evidenced by Dan's many presentations to other prosecutors on an array of important topics.

In my view, Dan Guzyinski has earned your careful consideration for this important position. I give Dan Guzynski my highest recommendation for First Judicial District Court Judge. Thank you for allowing me to express my support for Dan Guzynski. I appreciate the important work that you do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blair Jones".
Blair Jones
District Judge

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:37 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Brent Larson [<mailto:brentlarson@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:32 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: App. of Daniel Guzynski for the First Judicial District Court vacancy / Hon. Jeffery Sherlock

Dear Commission Members,

I highly recommend Daniel Guzynski for appointment as First Judicial District Court Judge.

I first met Dan in the summer of 2001 when he was a Deputy Flathead County Attorney and I was clerking with the Flathead County Justice Court in Kalispell. Our friendship has continued over the past 14 years, during which Dan joined the Attorney General Office's Prosecution Services Bureau and I began clerking with the Montana Supreme Court here in Helena.

Upon meeting Dan, I immediately was struck by his passion for the law, his respect for the courts, and his commitment to justice. I have observed these qualities in Dan consistently over the years I have known him. In my opinion, Dan exemplifies the sort of prosecutor that the United States Supreme Court described in the oft-cited *Berger* case: "He may prosecute with earnestness and vigor—indeed, he should do so. But, while he may strike hard blows, he is not at liberty to strike foul ones. It is as much his duty to refrain from improper methods calculated to produce a wrongful conviction as it is to use every legitimate means to bring about a just one." Consistent with this principle, Dan's goal has never been about simply tallying up convictions at any cost. Rather, it has been about fairness and justice for all involved—the victim, the community, and the accused. Indeed, I have known Dan, when prosecuting a case, to remain respectful and cognizant of the constitutional rights of the accused. One example of this occurred several years ago when Dan (rather than defense counsel) noted the defendant's absence from an in-chambers discussion and promptly asked that the defendant be brought to chambers before the discussion continued. This is but one example illustrating Dan's commitment to fairness in our legal system, a quality I believe is essential in any good judge.

Dan is quite knowledgeable in multiple areas of law—as I am sure other candidates are as well. But every judge is eventually faced with legal issues with which they have not had previous experience, and what has particularly impressed me about Dan is the determination with which he confronts such issues. Dan and I have discussed the ins and outs of various legal questions over the years—both criminal and civil—and he has never been one to throw up his hands or take the easy way out. Quite the contrary, Dan works through each problem until he has gained a good understanding of the issue, the law, and the correct resolution. I can attribute much of my own knowledge of the law to these discussions. During my nine and a half years clerking with the Montana Supreme Court, I read numerous District Court orders and decisions—some that reflected a great deal of thought and research, and others that did not. I sincerely believe that Dan's orders and decisions would fall in the first

category: reflecting an understanding of the issues, comprehension of the law, and a reasoned judgment. I believe this is another quality that is essential in any good judge.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that Dan is one of the most competent, ethical, fair, and even-tempered persons I know. He is extremely conscientious, attentive to detail, and a capable decision-maker. He treats his family, his friends, his coworkers, and the various individuals he interacts with in the legal system with the utmost respect. These qualities, combined with his commitment to justice and the law, would inspire confidence in our legal system among those who appeared before him—litigants, attorneys, and members of our community.

I believe Dan would make an outstanding judge, and I strongly urge you to forward Dan's name to Governor Bullock for his consideration.

Sincerely,

Brent P. Larson

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:38 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: anixon@carboncomt.com [<mailto:anixon@carboncomt.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 3:13 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Letter in support of Dan Guzynski

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

Dear Members of the Commission,

As Carbon County Attorney I have had the opportunity to work with Dan Guzynski in his capacity as a special prosecutor with the Attorney General's Office. My office benefited from Dan's professionalism, dedication, and expertise. More importantly, I now consider Dan a friend as well as a colleague. Knowing Dan personally and professionally, I recommend, without hesitation, Dan for appointment as First Judicial District Judge. Dan's passion and dedication for the law and breadth of knowledge would provide an invaluable asset as a district court judge. Dan's personable, compassionate, and common sense demeanor would prove to be every bit as important.

Like many county attorneys around Montana, I have benefited greatly from working with Dan, and am a better prosecutor as a result of our association. Dan's tireless-- and sometimes thankless-- efforts as a special prosecutor will be hard to replace. Nevertheless, I truly believe this Commission will not find a more tireless or capable advocate of the law, and should take advantage of the opportunity to forward Dan's application for appointment. Dan's energy and drive to excel, in conjunction with his strength of character and fundamental fairness, will make him an excellent district court judge.

Please consider my endorsement, and recommend Dan for appointment as First Judicial District Judge. Dan's excellence in the courtroom, dedication to the law, fundamental honesty, and tireless drive to do what is right will prove to be an invaluable asset to the judiciary.

Sincerely,
Alex Nixon

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:39 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Derek VanLuchene [<mailto:derek@ryanunited.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 9:30 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Dan Guzynski

Greetings,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying our beautiful Montana Fall.

I am writing to give Dan Guzynski my endorsement and whole hearted support for superseding the Honorable Judge Jeffery Sherlock as the next Lewis and Clark County District Court Judge.

I have had the honor of working with Mr. Guzynski, as an Assistant Attorney General in my capacity as a victim advocate and a law enforcement officer. I have worked in this state to bring Justice to victims of crimes since 1987 , when my 8 year old brother Ryan was abducted and murdered by a repeat sex offender in the community of Libby, Montana. I have proudly served as a veteran of Montana Law Enforcement for 18 years and am now the Founder of an organization that brings Justice to crime victims. In my current capacity, I have called on Dan in several situations involving horrific crimes against children. Dan has proven to be an unwavering resource in these cases. Dan looks at all the facts and is not afraid of doing what is right, all the while keeping crime victims in his mind. Dan is thorough and transparent in his approach to his crucial work he does through our Attorney General's office. I have talked to several County Attorney's throughout Montana who hold Dan in the highest regard and thanks to his work, have been able to bring Justice to the people of Montana .

Families like mine need people like Dan to help us continue our mission for sensible criminal justice. He would be invaluable asset to the seat of Lewis and Clark County District Court Judge.

If you need further information or comment, please reach out to me at derek@ryanunited.org or at 406-439-8748

Best Regards,

Derek VanLuchene
1125 Choteau Street
Helena, Montana 59601
406-439-8748

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:39 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Jonathan Krauss [<mailto:13sraleigh@mt.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Nomination of Dan Guzynski for First Judicial District Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission: Please consider my endorsement and recommendation for Dan Guzynski's nomination for appointment to Judge Sherlock's impending vacant seat on the First Judicial District Court. I have worked with Dan in the Montana Attorney General's office for nearly eight years—he as a prosecutor and I as a criminal appellate attorney. From the moment he arrived, it seems, I was handling appeals from cases Dan had prosecuted. While we joke that I have always been there to “bail him out” from error at trial, the truth is that Dan needs no bailing—his trial skills are unmatched and his integrity unblemished. Although he is always a zealous advocate for the People of the State of Montana, for the victims of often terrible crimes, and for the fair punishment of offenders, what has always struck me about Dan is his sensitivity, humility, and honesty. Dan is earnest, caring, and sincere in his dealings with EVERYONE—you know where you stand with Dan. And Dan understands that people's rights and lives are at stake in the cases that he prosecutes. And Dan understands that laws govern these proceedings. And Dan understands how to cut through the complexities of criminal cases, procedural and evidentiary issues, courtroom drama, and the inevitable human emotions and suffering that is present in every case. Dan holds to the highest ideal that every person involved deserves a fair trial: the victims of crime, the public, other witnesses, judges and court personnel, the jury, law enforcement, and the defendants, other parties, and their attorneys. And Dan knows his way around the courtroom—decorum, sanctity, and respect for the institution of the court, the Constitution, evidence, and the law. As a judge for the First Judicial District, I trust that Dan will serve with candor, honesty, fairness, and correctness. Dan's commitment to public service and to affecting the law and legal system in Montana for the better should be recommendation enough for his nomination and appointment. Thank you.

Jonathan M. Krauss
13 S Raleigh St
Helena, MT 59601
406-457-2373
13sraleigh@mt.net

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 8:34 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

From: Jenny Eck [<mailto:jennyeck4mt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 4:45 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: In Support of Dan Guzynski for First Judicial District Court

Dear members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Dan Guzynski for judge. I worked at the MT Attorney General's Office for three years before being elected to the Legislature. During that time, I was a colleague of Dan's and got to know him well. I have always been impressed by Dan's passion, dedication, and sacrifice for his work. As a prosecutor, Dan has been a tireless defender of abused children and other victims of crime. He is clearly a very skilled attorney in the court room, having prosecuted many cases all the way to trial. At the same time, Dan understands the rights of all persons to a fair trial, and firmly believes that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. I know that as a judge he would be committed to protecting the rights of the accused along with the rights of victims and their families. After all, our justice system depends upon fairness for both the defendant and the accused.

I have absolute confidence in Dan's legal abilities. He knows the law, he is articulate and thorough in his work. He would make an incredible judge and I strongly urge his nomination.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jenny Eck
PO Box 1206
Helena, MT 59624

October 14, 2015
BY EMAIL ONLY
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Application of Daniel Guzynski

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

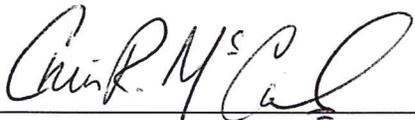
Daniel Guzynski has my highest recommendation and is an excellent applicant for district court judge.

Mr. Guzynski is a role model to his peers and many others outside our legal community. He dedicates his life to bettering Montana communities through his legal service and philanthropy. I work with Mr. Guzynski at the Montana Attorney General's Office and consider him a mentor. I see the impact he has on others on a daily basis. He compassionately advocates for victims of the most heinous crimes while protecting the constitutional rights of all.

Some applicants might have other types of legal experience than Mr. Guzynski. But few applicants have his compelling track record of trial experience and courtroom civility. Mr. Guzynski is respected by court staff, opposing counsel, and members of the bench alike. His experience includes litigating criminal cases throughout the State of Montana, not just in the First Judicial District. The knowledge and skill gained from such numerous involvements establishes his unique qualifications.

The Judicial Nomination Commission would do a service to the Montana Bar, to the First Judicial District, and, most importantly, to the citizens of Montana, by interviewing Mr. Guzynski and selecting him as one of the Commission's nominees for the position of district court judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Chris McConnell
Assistant Attorney General
Montana Department of Justice

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 9:12 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Guzynski

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

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission:

I am writing this personal letter in support of Dan Guzynski's application for the District Judge vacancy in the First Judicial District. I have known Dan personally and professionally for over a decade, and I believe Dan possesses the qualities necessary to be an excellent District Court Judge.

As a former prosecutor and colleague, I have seen Dan demonstrate the ability to be fair and respectful to people from all walks of life. He is particularly thoughtful in his treatment of child victims, and I have been impressed by the extra steps he takes to prepare them for difficult courtroom experiences. Dan is also able to see matters through to fair resolutions, because his focus has always been on justice. Dan has an even temperament and a disposition that I believe would be well-suited to being on the bench and maintaining order and decorum in the courtroom. Furthermore, as a result of the significant amount of time Dan has spent in the courtroom during his career, I believe that his litigation skills are exemplary and would make him extremely qualified to handle the difficult situations and decisions that arise on a daily basis for a District Court Judge.

Finally, I believe that Dan's career and life choices demonstrate that he cares a great deal about the future of Montana, which I think is an important characteristic for any District Judge who hears cases of every type and is often in a position to make decisions with broad reaching implications. He is a devoted father and an upstanding citizen. I am hopeful that the commission will see fit to recommend him to the Governor to fill the vacancy on the bench in the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,
Sarah Corbally