

December 23, 2016

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Via email - [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

RE: Allen P. Lanning

Honorable Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

Allen P. Lanning and I have been lifelong friends and it is with great pleasure I offer my support of his application as District Court Judge. I can speak to Allen's integrity and high moral character as well as his efforts on behalf of at-risk children and families in the region. Allen has spent countless hours working with the Department of Health and Human Services, CASA-CAN, the Children's Receiving Home among other community endeavors. He has positively touched the lives of hundreds of children and families with his advocacy.

Please forward Allen P. Lanning for consideration for appointment to District Court Judge.

Jeff Mangan

Former Member of the Montana House and Senate

1223 7<sup>th</sup> Ave North

Great Falls, MT 59401

406.453.6784

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 3:37 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sara Habein [<mailto:sarahabein@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 1:22 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Open position for District Court Judge - In support of Allen Lanning

I'm writing in support of Allen Lanning to fill Judge Sandefur's position. I've known Allen for several years through creative community events, and what I've come to appreciate both personally and professionally is how very fair and trustworthy he is. His work in the community for children, the arts, and other local matters speak to his well-rounded perspective that will benefit our judicial system.

From what I know of his career, Allen is well experienced and willing to go far beyond the bare minimum because doing an excellent job is important. Impartial examination of facts will come first with him, paired with the desire to do the right thing based on those facts. Also, from what I know, he is the only current candidate who has spent time as a judge, so he already has some more specific experience for this position.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that these community recommendations in his favor will factor into your decision.

Sincerely,  
Sara Habein  
Co-Manager, Electric City Creative

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 3:37 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jake Bash [<mailto:jmabash@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 9:11 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning - Judicial Nomination Support

Hello,

I'm writing this email today in support of Allen Lanning's nomination to the Cascade County district court judge seat. I have known Allen both professionally and personally over the last year and have nothing but rave reviews to share. On a professional level, Allen's breadth of law practice and expertise on child abuse and neglect cases make him an excellent candidate. He is a man of sound judgement operating with an open and decisive ear. In terms of the law and the job of a judgeship I would be honored to be a resident in cascade county and have him as a judge on our bench.

On a personal level Allen is incredibly involved with our local community. He gives his time and energy to the LGBTQ center here in Great Falls, and gives the organization a cornerstone of guidance and advice. He is a fantastic father, an active citizen and a good friend.

I support Allen Lanning for the open seat on the Cascade Country District Judge Bench.

Thanks for your time,  
Jake Bash  
Great Falls Resident

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 3:36 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** KEN KIRKMEYER [<mailto:kirkmeyer@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 8:45 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning Application for Montana District Court Position of Cascade County

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

To Whom It May Concern:

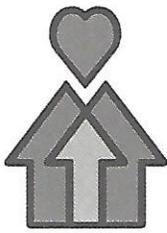
I would like to endorse Allen Lanning for the Montana district court position of Cascade County. I have worked with Allen on several Theater Committees, and his knowledge of the law, and what is right vs. wrong is immense. I honestly believe you would not find a better candidate for this position, and I know that Allen would be a fair Judge.

Thank You For Your Consideration.

Sincerely,

Dana Kirkmeyer  
[kirkmeyer@msn.com](mailto:kirkmeyer@msn.com)

Dana Kirkmeyer



**GREAT FALLS**  
**children's**  
**RECEIVING HOME**

P.O. Box 1061  
Great Falls, MT 59403  
(406) 727-4842  
gfcrh@bresnan.net

December 14, 2016

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

To Whom It May Concern:

*I am writing this letter on behalf, and in support of, Mr. Allen Lanning to fill the open seat of Judge Dirk Sandefur, in Great Falls.*

*I serve as the Executive Director of the Great Falls Children's Receiving Home. My agency serves as an emergency shelter care facility for children who have been removed from their homes of origin due to issues of child abuse and neglect. I have been director, at this agency, for eight years.*

*I possess over 25 years of child protection experience. You might say protecting less fortunate children is my calling in life.*

*Although I do not know Mr. Lanning on a personal level, I am acutely aware of his contributions, on a local level, to children involved with the foster care system. I do know that Mr. Lanning volunteers much of his time and service to our local CASA/CAN office; I'm aware Mr. Lanning has provided his legal services, pro bono to children in crisis; and I am aware Mr. Lanning has presided, in an interim capacity, on such cases, as a Judge.*

*There are many "circles" in a community. I can say that I am very involved in the community circle of child protection. This is how I've become familiar with Mr. Lanning in a professional context.*

*I've always believed Mr. Lanning has a true and deep heart for our community's children, especially those who are at the center of our local Youth in Need of Care cases. I believe with the magnitude of such cases within Cascade County, we need a person who knows all sides, and facets, of child protection. I believe Mr. Lanning is this candidate and the best suited to fill the role as Judge Sandefur's replacement.*

*Judge Sandefur truly leaves a great mark on our community. My hope is that someone equally as great continues in that position. Again, I truly believe Mr. Lanning is that person.*

*I realize other cases are handled in our judicial system. I believe Mr. Lanning is more than qualified to handle those cases as well.*

*Thank you for your time regarding this matter. It is appreciated. Should you need to contact me, personally, regarding this letter, please feel free to phone me at 406-870-2458.*

Sincerely,

Carrie Galvez, Director  
Great Falls Children's Receiving Home

a door that never closes in the face of a needy or deserted child



Grant A. Van Vranken  
Montana DPHHS/CFSD  
2300 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S Suite 211  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
December 23, 2016

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have had the privilege to work with Allen Lanning for the past two and half years in various capacities relating to my job as a Child Protection Specialist in Great Falls. Mr. Lanning has represented birth parents on my case load, as well as serving as an Attorney Guardian ad Litem for children on my case load. I have also appeared in his court several times when he was discharging his duties as a Standing Master.

Mr. Lanning is a consummate professional. More than that, he has a deep dedication to carrying out his duties to the best of his ability. He has a sterling reputation with my fellow Child Protection Specialists, which is no small feat to achieve. He is honest, fair and truly wants to make our community a better place for everyone who lives here. He is a pillar of the community who deserves to be given serious consideration for an appointment to the bench. He has already flawlessly performed his duties during his tenure as a Standing Master.

Allen Lanning has the qualifications and respect needed to make a fine Judge. I hope that the Judicial Nomination Commission will recommend his appointment to Governor Bullock. Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Lanning and thank you for your service on the commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grant A. Van Vranken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the bottom.

Grant A. Van Vranken  
Child Protection Specialist

December 27, 2016

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

Re: Allen Lanning

Members of the Commission

I am writing to show my support for Allen Lanning and his application for District Court Judge of Department D of the Eighth Judicial District Court. Allan would be an excellent choice to fill the seat being vacated by Judge Dirk Sandefur.

I have served as a Law Clerk in the Eighth Judicial District for over 21 years. I have worked for three different judges during this time; Judge Marge Johnson, Judge Julie Macek, and, currently, Judge Elizabeth Best. Having worked for different judges, and having worked in this district for over 21 years, I feel I have an intimate knowledge and understanding of what it takes to be a good judge and what the caseload and demands of the job are. I cannot think of anyone I would recommend more highly for this position than Allen Lanning.

In my many years as a court employee I have had many occasions to interact with Allen in his capacity as an attorney advocating for his clients, as a guardian ad litem, and most recently in his role as a Standing Master and Judge Pro Tem for the Court. In all of my interactions with Allen he has been professional, knowledgeable, respectful of opposing parties, approachable, even tempered, and shown a strong work ethic. In a district like this one, which is fast-paced and where each judge has such a heavy caseload, these are all characteristics that cannot be emphasized enough for a judge to be successful.

What is especially admirable about Allen is the service he has been providing this district as a guardian ad litem, Standing Master, and Judge Pro Tem for over three years. With the vast number of youth in need of care cases in this district and the priority they demand, combined with the tremendous caseload of each judge, it is extremely difficult to stay on top of these cases. Allen has donated literally thousands of hours in assisting the judges of this district in these cases. He does it because he genuinely cares about the children of this community and what happens to them. And he isn't just here on court days, just about every day of the week I see him checking on his cases and seeing if anything needs to be done. He does all this while still retaining a busy private practice.

I would also like to emphasize the heavy civil caseload this district has. While the civil cases do not get the publicity the criminal and youth in need of care cases do, they are often very complex and time consuming in terms of motions practice, trial preparation, and the trial itself. While only the most serious criminal trials last a week or more, civil trials are routinely at least a week in length if not longer. Prior to a civil case going to trial there are often a number of pretrial motions that have to be decided. These motions often involve complex legal issues and can involve any number of parties. Preparing for a hearing on these motions can take a judge and their staff a week or more, the hearing can last all day, and the order that needs to be drafted after the hearing can take a further week or more and can be, of necessity, quite lengthy. I know that Allen can handle these types of complex civil litigation cases

because I have seen him do it. I know he has the intelligence and experience to take on these cases, and the writing experience to draft well thought out and articulate legal orders

Finally, I would like to note that because Allen has been donating so much time to this district he is in a unique position to take over Department D with a minimum of disruption. There won't be a learning curve with Allen, he will be able to hit the ground running and take on the full case load of the department his first day on the job. He is already familiar with what the job requires, he is familiar with all the court personnel, he is familiar with the court processes and how everything works in this district, and, most importantly, he would be a great fit and a great asset to this district – he has already shown that he has the dedication, mindset, and temperament to be a great judge.

Sincerely



Jane McKinney

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

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I estimate a person's qualifications to be appointed judgeship by their character. Character is built over time, tended to and maintained judiciously. I speak on character from my civic activities as campaign manager, for Great Falls city commissioner Tracy Houck; leader in area performing arts; Chair of the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board; founding member of the Mansfield Theatre Foundation; KGPR board member and active person in the community.

For the near decade I have known or known of Allen Lanning he has demonstrated time and again to uphold qualities in excess of the common kind. His adherence to virtues which sustain decency and fortitude, in troubles as daunting as fostering difficult domestic situations and mitigating disturbances which would undermine people's integrity has lead me to make the greatest gesture I can think of. In my capacity, as a provider of quality theatre.

In that domain, the vaunted walls of performing arts, we hope to shape perceptions about the relevance of lives outside one's own, to approach understanding of what possibilities exist within humanity and enjoy the catharsis that comes with true immersion in comedy and drama. Although my perspectives on prescribing doctrines are not as learned as practitioners of the law through performance I can attempt to unearth defining moments and the best way possible is by choosing powerful pieces of theatre and casting the best possible people for their respective roles.

I requested Allen Lanning for a role which typifies greatness, in the face of harsh realities. The fine American Jimmy Stewart played the role in the 1962 film. The story which became The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance was recently converted to a stage play. I knew the absolute best member of our community, of which I know many people, to play the role of studious lawman and upstanding citizen in the play of the same name is Allen Lanning.

His willingness to advance the arts, in what little free time he has, and bring to life such a great play as this is a testament to his devotion to elevating the community in which he lives. The same qualities Jimmy Stewart found suitable in his role as an actor Mr. Lanning applies to his role as lawyer, sitting master judge and pillar of the City of Great Falls. My unyielding recommendation for District Court Judge is Actor, Lawyer, Sitting Master: Mr. Allen Lanning.

Keern Haslem  
3803 Poker Flats Rd.  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
Keernz@live.com



## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Suzanne Porter [<mailto:portchat@bresnan.net>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Montana District Court Judge, Cascade County

Dear Commission Member,

To fill the Montana District Court seat in Cascade County being vacated by the Honorable Dirk Sandefur, I hereby lend my support to Great Falls attorney Allen P. Lanning.

Lanning is an accomplished attorney whom I have known for over ten years. As a CASA board member and a guardian ad litem, I am quite familiar with Lanning's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of our community's children. When handling youth in need of care matters, Lanning displays patience, thoughtfulness, firmness, and adherence to the law. He is also highly capable sitting on the bench whenever called upon to assist in a variety of other legal matters.

Lanning's reputation in Cascade County is impeccable, and he is an exemplary father. Others applying for the position of Montana District Court Judge for Cascade County may be qualified, but Allen P. Lanning is ***the ideal choice***.

Thank you,

Suzanne Porter  
Great Falls, Montana

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:03 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Tyson Habein [<mailto:nonomanagement@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 8:14 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Promotion of Allen Lanning to the office of Judge

In Regards to the Promotion of Mr. Allen Lanning J.D to the office of District Court Judge:

I, Tyson Habein, would like to formally recommend Allen Lanning to the position of District Court Judge. I have known Mr. Lanning for 3 years. In that time I have witnessed first hand his commitment to his community, and the fair and equal treatment of everyone around him. From his volunteer activities, participation in local arts endeavors, and supportive behaviors and attitudes, I know that Mr. Lanning would make a spectacularly suited candidate to the position.

Mr. Lanning is immensely qualified, and has, in my opinion, an ideal mentality and disposition for a district court judge. He is calm, even tempered, kind, and filled with a natural predilection for careful analysis of all of the facts of a situation before movement.

I believe it would be incredibly beneficial to the community as a whole, to see Allen Lanning appointed to this position.

Sincerely,

Tyson Habein

Manager

Electric City Creative

712 8th Ave. North

Great Falls, MT 59401

[406-217-5331](tel:406-217-5331)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Roberta Crossguns [<mailto:rcrossguns@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allan Lanning

I write in support of Allan Lanning's application for the judge position vacated by the new supreme court justice, Dirk Sandefur. In my years practicing in the Eighth District, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Allan as an individual and as a lawyer. He is a person of great integrity and I truly believe, if appointed, he would be a tremendous asset, not only to this judicial district, but to the justice system as a whole.

Allan will fulfill the role of judge with honor and honesty and decency. I endorse Allan without reservation.

Roberta Cross Guns  
PO Box 105  
Ulm, MT 59485  
406-459-9550

*The wind of heaven is that which blows through a horse's ears. Arab proverb*

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 3, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** A Rolando [<mailto:arolando77@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2017 7:09 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Allen Lanning, open District Court position

Greetings,

Please accept this email as my official letter of support for Mr. Allen Lanning for the open District Court position in Cascade County. I have had the opportunity to work with Allen over the last 5 years in my work with Child and Family Services and have found him to be an active and distinguished leader not only in our courts but also in our community. Allen will not only bring a vast wealth of knowledge and experience to the court that stands above and beyond, but also impartiality. I have known Allen to have a steadfast commitment to the law and those he serves and have absolutely no doubt he will protect and respect the role of the courts.

I know Allen will be a highly respected addition to the Eighth Judicial District Court. It is without reservation I provide Allen all my support for this position.

Thank you for your time and attention,  
Angie Rolando  
406-217-4298

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 4, 2017 2:50 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** MELODY BROWN [<mailto:melodious@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2017 10:46 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** 8th Judicial District Court appointment

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

To the Honorable Judicial Nomination Commission:

I would like to add my support for Allen Lanning as the next 8th Judicial District Court Judge. Mr. Lanning is the most qualified candidate for this position. I have known Mr. Lanning since 1985, our first year of law school, and have kept in touch with Mr. Lanning throughout our careers.

Mr. Lanning is currently sitting as a Standing Master and doing an excellent job. He is the only one with a variety of legal experience he can bring to the bench. He has practiced civil and criminal law. He does not come into this with only one area of practice like other candidates. He has a deep understanding of the law in the areas in which he practices, he is thoughtful, respectful, patient, and he is fair. His experience means he will be able to hit the ground running, very important in a very busy jurisdiction. These are all qualities that make him the best person for the job.

Besides my personal knowledge of Mr. Lanning, I have practiced next to him at counsel table, and I have appeared in front of him as Standing Master. He has always been nothing but professional. He will devote himself to this position and I believe he is the best choice. I urge the Commission to choose Mr. Lanning as the one to sit on the bench in the 8th Judicial District.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Melody K. Brown  
(406)262-3281  
(406)315-3995

**Nick R.D. Henry**  
1501 13<sup>th</sup> Ave SW #43  
Great Falls, MT 59404

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

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

**Consideration for Allan Lanning regarding soon-to-be vacated 8th Judicial District judge seat**

Dear Ms. Lois Menzies,

Greetings. My name is Nick Raymond Danial Henry, a Montana-born, current resident of Great Falls, and employee of the State of Montana as a Child Protection Specialist through DPHHS.

I am very pleased and honored to write this letter of recommendation for Allan Lanning to fill the 8th Judicial District judge seat.

I have known Allan both personally and professionally throughout my tenure as a CPS for the State of Montana. Allan and I both share a profound admiration and love of ancient history and undoubtedly bring our passion for that into our respective career positions. I have been in Mr. Lanning's court while he is seated as a Standing Master and have come to admire his unbiased, impartial, and thoughtful approach to both the children and parents who make up our Y.I.N.C. cases.

I stand next to Mr. Lanning in this philosophy.

Mr. Lanning's credentials, experience, and wisdom speak for themselves.

I would not hesitate to recommend Mr. Lanning, Allan, for this appointment. I certainly hope that his recommendation is given serious consideration by Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,

Nick Raymond Danial Henry



## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** [onlysteve19@charter.net](mailto:onlysteve19@charter.net) [<mailto:onlysteve19@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Alan Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nominating Commission,

I am writing to offer my support for Alan Lanning to fill the District Court vacancy left open by Judge Sandefur.

Alan is dedicated to helping at risk children and their families. He has provided help to those who quite possibly need it the very most. He seemingly has an unlimited supply of energy and has demonstrated his abilities on every occasion.

A consummate professional his heart is in the right place.

We all can benefit from his integrity, hard work ethic and experience. His work with CASA-CAN is a prime example.

HONEST. Sincere. Talented and very well qualified. That is Alan Lanning. I do endorse his selection.

Stephen B. Jackman  
Stevensville, MT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, January 6, 2017 4:24 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** S.M. Kelley [<mailto:archangelkelley@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 05, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission

Greetings,

I wrote to you the last time Allen Lanning was up for a judge's seat, and now I will once again voice my support for him. I have had the pleasure and privilege of knowing Allen Lanning for approximately 19 years. During that time I have sought legal advice and recommendations from him on several occasions. I have always found him to be even tempered, thoughtful, knowledgeable and fair. These are qualities I believe are important to the office of judge.

Most recently, Allen handled the adoption proceedings for my son and has always been a faithful and dedicated member of our community. His tireless efforts in support of children in need of advocates is an example of his dedication to all of us.

In addition, his work in our courts each week show that he has the necessary talent, knowledge and attributes to manage a courtroom.

At a time in our nation when confidence in our government and legal system is at a low, a man with his conviction and sense of justice can only be a benefit to the bench. As a former law enforcement officer, corrections officer and military man, I have been in many courts which made me feel ill at ease. As a legal transcriptionist both in the US and in Australia, I have transcribed too many uncomfortable court proceedings in which control and professional demeanor weren't maintained.

Our communities need public servants with the highest dedication to us, and Allen is and has been a servant of the people for as long as I've known him. Allen is a dedicated man of character, with a deep sense of morality and equality. I can say with confidence that Mr. Lanning has the kind of presence, based on my experiences with him, and his experience with the legal system, that will foster a professional and comfortable but just environment. I would be pleased to stand before him in court, work in a court that he was sitting, or transcribe any proceedings which he oversaw.

Thank You,

Shawn M. Kelley

1/06/2017

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena MT, 59621-3005

To Whom It may Concern;

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning to be appointed as Judge in District 8. I have personally known Allen for 20 plus years and have served with him on a governing board, have spoken for children in his court, and my family has employed him with Estate Planning and Probation of a Will.

I have read all the applications and letters of recommendation of the 5 candidates who have applied. All are qualified and would bring different skills to the position.

Since I have been a Guardian ad Litem in District 8 Court for 9 years I have had occasion to be present in court when three of these candidates have been working and I have personally worked with two of the candidates in YINC court.

Currently in Cascade County we hold the record for the highest per capita of YINC cases in the state. In 2016 our office received 320 new cases which put our total at over 500 active cases. These numbers indicate that District 8 Judges need to be especially experienced and skilled in YINC cases.

Of all the candidates, Allen Lanning has the greatest experience working with children and families in our court system. Currently he is a Standing Master and hears YINC twice a month. He has served on the Children's Receiving Home and CASA office Governing Boards and has been a Guardian ad Litem.

Currently he donates his time by serving pro bono as Standing Master, Substitute Justice of Peace once a month and Judge Pro Tem twice a month. All of these jobs are done in addition to his private practice. He was given awards by the Cascade County Bar Association in 2015 and 2016 recognizing his pro bono work.

Allen is well respected by everyone who is associated with District 8 Court. His professional conduct and the way he represents his clients is recognized as superior and admired by all. He knows what is required of a Judge and has already the experience of the job requirements. The transition between Judge Sandefur and him would be seamless.

Allen is not a one sided candidate as he has a private practice and has experience in other areas of the law. I noted that his private practice represents 7 different areas of the law and that 90% of his experience comes from trials and that he appears in court over half the month.

Allen's involvement in his community is diverse with his time given generously to many other organizations and groups. In addition, he is a parent and enjoys participating in activities that include his daughter, who is a delightful child.

There is no doubt in my mind that Allen Lanning would bring the greatest amount of knowledge and skill to the position and that he would execute the duties with the same degree of compassion and non bias that he has done in his professional career and personal life to date.

I urge you to recommend Allen Lanning to Governor Bullock for his consideration as Judge in District 8 court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marg Greer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue highlight effect.

Marg Greer  
Guardian ad Litem  
District 8 Court

January 11, 2017

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

To the Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies:

I am writing to recommend and endorse Allen Lanning's nomination for the Judicial District Court position.

My name is David Glaeske; I am the Safety Director at a midsize construction company here in Great Falls, called Shumaker Trucking and Excavating Contractors, Inc. I am also a Human Resource specialist for our company. As such, I am experienced in judging and determining a person's character either during interviewing/ orientation or after an accident/incident. I have been with this company since 2003, and as a safety professional since 1990.

Allen and I have known each other most of our lives as we are second cousins. Allen is much more than a relative; he is my attorney and my legal counsel. He was also my mother's attorney and guided her through life's issues, such as, the death of her husband and the settling of his estate and setting up of her own estate. The constant balancing of the Law and the wants of an older person, demonstrated his ability to communicate, ethical principles, and integrity.

As my attorney, he has helped to guide my affairs in many different aspects, such as counseling me when I was appointed executor of my mother's estate first by reclusing himself because of his courage and integrity. Then after the execution of the estate, he acted as the mediator between one of my siblings and me due to the sibling's personal animosity towards the estate's outcome. In this instance, Allen's judicial temperament was exhibited through his patience, courtesy, tact, firmness, understanding, compassion, and common sense.

Allen and I's great grandfather was a police officer in Great Falls back in 1906 to 1916; and Allen is a chip off of him. Allen is kind, fair, trustworthy, intelligent, hard working, attentive, family-oriented, and above all honest. He is passionate about the law and protecting the rights of the innocent, as noted by his work with abused children and CASA-CAN.

Prior to writing this recommendation, I researched the position for which Allen was applying. I looked over his application; I saw he has been a Master pro bono and a substitute judge in the same court as the vacancy. Allen Lanning has the required qualities of a good judge. He has judicial temperament, intelligence, ethics, courage, integrity, education, experience, ability to communicate, good health, civic and professional responsibility. Most of all Allen has the intangible key, which is character.

If you should have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David Glaeske  
2025 3rd Ave, N  
Great Falls, MT 59401  
406-788-0065

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 3:01 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Lindsay Groves [<mailto:lgroves@weissmanaccounting.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning referral letter

Dear commission members,  
I am writing on behalf of Mr. Lanning's judge application.

He is a very well rounded man in the court, in social situations, and in the community of Great Falls.

I have the privelage of experiencing Allen on a more professional level. He is one who likes to take action as things are brought to is attention. He strives to be sure things are taken care of timely.

I feel Mr. Lanning would be a perfect fit for this opportunity to become the new judge.

Thank you.  
Have a great day!  
Lindsay

**Office hours: Monday - Thursday: 8:30-4:30 (MT)**  
**Friday-Sunday: Closed**

Accountant  
Wendy J. Weissman, CPA PC  
525 Central Ave #U-4  
Great Falls, MT 59401

Wendy's email: [wendy@weissman.com](mailto:wendy@weissman.com)  
Direct line: 406-205-4462  
Office: 406-454-8988 ext 2  
Fax: 406-216-5365

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Matt Robertson [<mailto:belisaurius1@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 8:09 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Candidate Allen Lanning

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning. Mr. Lanning has been a friend and opposing counsel for the past 13 years and we have litigated numerous cases from opposite sides of the aisle during that time period. Mr. Lanning has always been professional, prepared, and willing to see issues from both sides when negotiating a compromise solution to a problem. He has provided me guidance and inspired me to be better at my job with his dedication to his clients, who are all too often in positions which are untenable due to the nature of the allegations and the facts which have brought them into the justice system.

Mr. Lanning is one of the most ethical attorneys I have worked with in his dealings with me and with the clients I represent in my practice over the past 23 years. Mr. Lanning is hard working and dedicated. Over the past year or so, I have had the pleasure to appear before him as he has taken a position as a Standing Master on various cases. He has been instrumental in helping parties to resolve the issues by being calm, caring, and advising both sides of the issue as the court sees it, which needs to be resolved. The manner in which he has guided the hearings has resulted in favorable resolutions for all parties and reduced litigation time and expense on all sides. Mr. Lanning will be a dedicated judge, if selected, and will do an excellent job for Cascade County's Eighth Judicial District as he is keenly aware of the abused child issue facing this county, the drug problems which are involved in nearly every facet of the criminal case load, and the civil issues which are crowding the court dockets. I hope that his name is forwarded to Governor Bullock for consideration and give him my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Robertson  
Attorney at Law  
Bar Number 3924

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 2:59 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Helge Naber [<mailto:helge.naber@naberpc.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2017 7:38 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Committee - Louis Menzies

I am supporting Allen Lanning's application for the position of District Court Judge (Department D) in the Eighth Judicial District. Allen appears to be the only candidate with experience on both the civil and criminal side of the law. I find it important to have allrounders on the bench who are versed in as many facets of the law as possible, and I believe Allen meets that criteria just a bit better than other candidates. I have appeared before, with, and against Allen over the years, and he understands to maintain a professional distance to the issues in dispute, yet approach and resolve them reasonably and fairly. I trust his judgment and his reasoning has always been reconcilable, even though we disagreed on particular outcomes on occasion. I find Allen a trustworthy and competent addition to the judiciary in our district, and though I might miss appearing with and against him, I remain confident appearing before him.

Please consider Allen's application for this position with the diligence and consideration he has extended to those he's met along his path.

Respectfully

HNa

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Helge Naber  
NABER PC  
600 Central Avenue Suite 425  
Great Falls Montana 59401  
T +1 406 452 3100  
M +1 406 439 3100  
F +1 406 452 6599  
Skype naberpc.vid  
[www.naberpc.com](http://www.naberpc.com)

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

**RE: Allen Lanning**

**Members of the Commission:**

I am writing to support Allen Lanning and his application for District Court Judge of Department D of the Eight Judicial District Court. Allen is an **outstanding choice** to fill the vacancy that is being created by Dirk Sandefur. Allen not only maintains a stellar professional background in the legal system, but also offers a unique lens of judicial interpretation in these uncertain and divisive times.

I think it's important here that the Judicial Nominating Committee gain a brief understanding of me. I have known Allen since I first came from New York to Montana in 1995. I spent four years in Great Falls with my mother, originally a native of Neihart, during a period of re-invention. My background is in the financial services industry with a heavy focus on investment management, business development and regulatory compliance. I started my career in the securities industry on Wall Street and most recently enjoyed an executive role in the Corporate Credit Union industry. I relocated back to Great Falls from Los Angeles in 2011 as the company I worked for succumbed to the recession. Currently, I am the founder of a national 'S' Corp that provides regulatory compliant educational programming to the credit union space. During this last election cycle, I ran unsuccessfully for the House of Representatives, HD 20, here in Great Falls. On a statewide level, Governor Bullock has appointed me to the Banking Board for a second three-year term and also as a Montana Ambassador. I am finalizing a Master's in Environmental Policy Management from the University of Denver and plan to jump into a policy advisor or executive role in that industry in the near future.

My professional relationship with Allen, though he is my attorney, does not crossover into the legal system in Great Falls or at the statewide level. I'll let the professionals attest to the stellar civil litigation and judicial experience that Allen brings to the bench. I will make note of his passion and commitment to representing abused and neglected children as well as marginalized adults.

I do believe that Allen possesses a unique lens that I suggest sets him apart from any other potential choice for replacing Judge Sandefur's seat; he is openly bisexual in a same-sex marriage and has a very strong tie to the LGBT community here in Great Falls and throughout the state of Montana. His personal journey is amazing, one that now makes him the proud parent of one of the first daughters to have two legal fathers here in Montana. If Allen were appointed, he would be the first openly LGBT judge on the bench in Montana. This perspective is critical not in terms of judicial and civil litigation, but for bringing a much needed diverse lens to the District Court in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are moving to the end of the second decade in this century and Montana is still behind in many areas of civility and non-discrimination. We need only look to recent headlines to see that we are still plagued with pockets of crushing discrimination and intolerance here in our state. I say it's time that the courts here in Montana reflect the state's growing diversity; our lack thereof sends the wrong message and impacts the balance of equal representation for LGBT people in the Montana state legal system. The nation's courts are still very homogenous since our landmark 2015 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage. 95% of cases that have a direct impact on many Montanans' lives are heard at the state level. We need to appoint a judge to our state court system who is qualified and is respectful of the civil rights of Montana LGBT citizens; this will send a message to our LGBT citizen, youth in particular, that they can become anything they want in our state of Montana. I say Allen Lanning is that person and that 2017 is the perfect time to do this.

Amy Rapp, Founder, VirtualCorps.com [arapp@virtualcorps.com](mailto:arapp@virtualcorps.com) 909-524-8894

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Ty Arthur [<mailto:xfiruath@metalunderground.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 5:01 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Public comment on Allen Lanning's judge application

My name is Ty Arthur and I'm a resident of Great Falls.

I'm writing in regards to the 8th Judicial District judge seat that will be vacated when Judge Dirk Sandefur takes up his new position as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

I'd like to express my strong support for Allen Lanning, a personal friend who is deeply involved in the local community.

I was proud to see Allen recently appear with his daughter Sophia at a City Commission meeting earlier this month to speak out against racial hatred in Whitefish, an event that was even covered by our local press at <http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2017/01/03/crowd-great-falls-commission-meeting-says-hate/96138102/>

Besides his active involvement with local creative and entertainment events, Allen's work with CASA-CAN is inspiring to all who have the pleasure of meeting him.

Allen's experience speaks for itself, serving as a stand-in judge in Municipal Court and a stand-in justice of the peace in Cascade County Justice Court

I know Allen to be a level-headed and reasonable person who would make an excellent addition to the judicial system.

Thank you for your time!

Sara Graft, LCSW, MT-BC  
110 Vinyard Road  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
January 11, 2017

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I highly recommend Allen Lanning for the District Court Judge position in Cascade County. I have known Allen for 15 years. Although most of the years have been in the spirit of friendship, I did work for his law office briefly filling in at reception.

Not only is Allen an upstanding steward of the judicial system, proven by his dedication as part-time judge for several years and two awards for his work with abused children, but he is a steady, consistent and reliable individual.

When I think of the responsibilities and services administered by the of District Court Judge, I want somebody with the intelligence, experience, and firm but genial character that Allen Lanning offers.

For any other testament to his character, qualification, or suitability, please do not hesitate to call me at 406-868-0678.

He is the right person for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sara Graft, LCSW, MT-BC". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sara Graft, LCSW, MT-BC

**RICHARD COOK  
P.O. BOX 771  
FORT BENTON, MT 59442**

January 12, 2017

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

Dear Commission Members:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing today to express my support for Mr. Allen Lanning in his quest to be named the District Court judge for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

As the Clerk of District Court for the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District for Chouteau County, I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Lanning and work with him in both the courtroom and office settings. Mr. Lanning possesses the knowledge which I believe is requisite for the position of District Court Judge and certainly has the temperament necessary for dealing with people from all walks of life.

In closing, it is my personal and professional belief that Mr. Allen Lanning would be a superb choice to fill the vacancy created by the election of the Honorable Dirk Sandefur to the Supreme Court. Thank you very much for taking my support into consideration.

Sincerely,



Rick Cook

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 12:54 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Shawn L. Trueman [<mailto:truesh324@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 11:44 AM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning Judge Nomination

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning's application for the position of District Court Judge.

Allen has been a friend to me for over 35 years. Our relationship started when, as a high school student, Allen became my "Big" in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Helena. Not long after that relationship began, I matriculated from Cub Scouts into Boy Scout Troop 211 where Allen was already a member. During my teenage years, Allen was a true friend, and mentor. I wanted to be like him and do the things that he was doing.

On a personal level, we have shared some of each others highest and lowest times. We have stood for one another at our weddings, and comforted and encouraged each other in times of loss and sorrow. I have always been able to call Allen and get much needed counsel.

I would be remiss to neglect mentioning that over the years we both have changed. I suppose that is the nature of men. There are several things that I would no longer agree with Allen on, but we have always been able to disagree in a kind and gentleman-like manner.

My understanding is that Allen is seeking this position in part so that he may continue to be an advocate for children who have been abused and neglected. For this, he is well suited. He has proven his commitment to the underrepresented and underprivileged since coming alongside me as the child of a single mom so many years ago.

Sincerely,

Shawn Trueman  
2832 South Saulsbury St.  
Denver, CO 80227

817-995-6760

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 12:55 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Julia Shindel [<mailto:julia.shindel@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:56 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Allen Lanning for District Court Judge

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter in support of Allen Lanning's application for District Court Judge. I have known Allen for over three years in both a professional and personal level and he has never ceased to astound me with his judgement, fairness, and professionalism in all aspects of his life.

Having sat on quite a number of boards, Allen Lanning is always one of the first names to come up in discussion of who to invite as a new board member. There are few other people who demand the amount of respect that does Allen Lanning, from many pockets of the community. Allen has dedicated his life to serving others, from his work with CASA to protecting children who end up under state care. His reputation as a brilliant and admired lawyer can only speak for itself. He is known for his critical thinking, his ability to always provide a logical answer to all matters personal and professional, and for the incredible devotion to which he extends his family and daughter.

Allen Lanning has devoted his life to the Great Falls community and to serving its residents. We would be incredibly lucky to have him serve as District Court Judge. Thank you for your time, and please consider Allen Lanning for the position.

Best,  
Jules Shindel  
6th Avenue North, Great Falls

MAXON R. DAVIS  
GREGORY J. HATLEY  
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN  
BENJAMIN BURNS  
\* \* \*  
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

LAW OFFICE OF  
**DAVIS, HATLEY, HAFFEMAN & TIGHE, P.C.**  
THE MILWAUKEE STATION, THIRD FLOOR  
101 RIVER DRIVE NORTH  
P. O. BOX 2103  
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2103  
E-MAIL: [paul.haffeman@dhhtlaw.com](mailto:paul.haffeman@dhhtlaw.com)

TELEPHONE  
(406) 761-5243  
FAX  
(406) 761-4126

FILE NO. 7192

January 15, 2017

VIA E-MAIL

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005  
[mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Re: 8th Judicial District Court Vacancy/Allen Lanning

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Allen Lanning to fill the current vacancy on the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court.

I have known Allen for 32 years, having gone to law school with him at the University of Montana beginning in 1985. Following our graduation in 1988, he and I both went to work for long established civil law firms in Great Falls, with which we have both remained throughout our careers. Over the past three decades, I have worked on a number of cases with Allen, mostly on opposite sides, and I have been well impressed with his work. As such, I have felt comfortable referring cases to Allen when I was unable to assist potential clients personally.

Given my familiarity with Allen's professional background and reputation in the legal community, I am confident that he would make a fine District Court judge. He has a strong work ethic, a genuine desire to serve the public, and the appropriate disposition to serve as a judge. He would be well liked as a judge, and well respected. While I am also a supporter of Joe Sullivan's judicial candidacy, I would be remiss if I did not support Allen's judicial candidacy as well, because he too has the personal and professional qualities to be an 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court judge.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Paul R. Haffeman

Paul R. Haffeman

PRH:aab

Dear Commission Members:

I'm writing on behalf of Allen Lanning's application for the position of District Court Judge. I have known Mr. Lanning for nearly twenty years and have always been impressed with his integrity, compassion, and intellect in many areas, particularly in the areas of law. Allen was very gracious in offering me advice in my early adulthood in order to ensure that my rights were upheld and that I treated fairly under the law. He has enormous caring toward those who need additional protections, such has been seen in his work with CASA-CAN that I am sure you are already familiar with.

Mr. Lanning is an extremely flexible thinker, an excellent deductive reasoner, and a very dedicated person who is absolutely committed to fairness and the preservation of the rights that we are all guaranteed under the law. I doubt you will be able to find a better candidate for District Judge. Please take this into consideration when selecting someone for this position.

Regards,  
Ian Court, RN, BSN

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

January 13, 2017

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Allen Lanning's nomination to the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court position recently vacated by the Honorable Judge Dirk Sandefur. It is my understanding that Mr. Lanning is well-versed and experienced in a broad variety of legal fields, including Judicial service and having studied under Judge Sandefur.

My experience with Mr. Lanning has been personal, rather than professional. I have known him for nearly a decade as of the date of this letter. My first interactions with him were on a website where people would submit their own writing (fiction or non-fiction) for critique and feedback. I was struck by Mr. Lanning's willingness to help others, as well as his astute insight into not only writing technique, but also a general worldliness.

This impression has not faded over the years. I eventually left the website, but I stayed in contact with Mr. Lanning over social media. He has been a devoted father, wonderful friend, and a charitable person (notably, participating in a charity drive to benefit ALS research). When I discovered an affinity for the legal profession, and communicated this to Mr. Lanning, he was eager to share his own experiences and wisdom from his time as an attorney and sitting Judge. I have no doubt that his experience and guidance will be of great help as I seek to obtain my JD.

While Mr. Lanning's professional qualifications are no doubt lauded by his peers in Montana's legal community, it is my hope that this letter will testify to his unwavering fortitude of character as that is perhaps an equally important quality for a member of the Judiciary to possess.

Sincerely,



Clayton Mieszala

Paralegal – Dudley & Lake, LLC

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 16, 2017 4:45 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: greg kinder [<mailto:gvk44@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2017 7:38 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning.

I am writing to support Allen Lanning for district court judge in cascade county.

My name is Greg Kinder. I am 58 years old. I have owned and operated a general contracting business for 25 years. I haven't known Allen for very long. But I do consider him to be a friend. We are both acting in a play together and from working with him in rehearsals have gotten to know him on a personal level.

I believe he is a man of high character and high moral standards. He is very intelligent and thoughtful. Allen and I come from very different walks of life and I feel fortunate to know him.

He is very dedicated and the world would be a better place with more people like Allen

I think he would be a very good judge. He is fair. Unbiased and understanding. Thank you

Greg Kinder  
Sent from my iPhone

Teresa Lang-Court

704 35th Ave NE

Great Falls MT 59404

(406) 231-1604

January 17, 2017

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

It is my distinct and certain pleasure to recommend Allen Lanning as a district court judge for Cascade County District 8. I am especially interested in seeing Allen step into the seat vacated by his mentor, Judge Sandefur, as I know Allen will continue the judge's tradition of balanced, fair rulings.

I have known Allen for nearly two decades and cannot recall a time when he was not striving to develop his professional or personal growth in everything from creative writing to parenting.

As a parent, as well as a compassionate human being, Allen has a concern for the children in our community. He understands the damage drug abuse and domestic violence have done to many children and families. I do not think it is exaggerating to say that his volunteer work with CASA has been instrumental in helping save children's lives.

Allen's dedication to the law is coupled with the zeal and positive attitude he brings to all things in life. Allen Lanning is a strong leader, as well as a solid follower when circumstances warrant. I have worked with him in numerous community theater projects. Allen puts in the dedication and time commitment necessary for any successful venture. He is the first to arrive, the last to leave and, is always, an encouraging force of nature.

Allen is often my "go-to" person when I have a concern or a need to discuss a problem. He can meet my most serious of worries with calmness and a rational outlook. I know without a doubt that he will bring this same balanced world view to the courtroom.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you,

Teresa Lang-Court



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Child and Family Services ♦ 2300 12<sup>th</sup> Ave S Suite 211 ♦ Great Falls, MT 59405 ♦ fax: 761-8663

**Steve Bullock, Governor**

**Richard H. Opper, Director**

January 13, 2017

Re: Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of the open seat to replace the Honorable Judge Sandefur. I am currently employed through the State of Montana as a Child Protection Specialist Supervisor. I have been in this career for the past eight years and have had the opportunity to work with numerous lawyers and other professionals. Mr. Allen Lanning has always stood out as an astounding, exemplary man, professional and attorney.

Despite the overwhelming number of child abuse and neglect cases that this county has seen, Mr. Lanning has made time to address each and every child's needs that we have shared in common. I have seen Mr. Lanning go out of his way to go to foster homes to speak with children in their safe and secure settings who were too afraid to go other places to meet with him. I trust Mr. Lanning when he makes recommendations to the Court on behalf of children because he ensures that he has developed appropriate, meaningful relationships with his clients to best represent their desires at Court. He ensures that not only are his clients' legal needs being met, but he takes the time to ensure their social, emotional and well-being needs are being met as well.

In my experience, when the workload increases it becomes easy to lose focus of how these cases affect the day to day lives of the children they involve. Mr. Lanning has ensured that his clients have an appropriate, comfortable relationship with him and know that their voices and desires are heard and valued. Mr. Lanning is a respectable, trustworthy professional whom I would highly recommend to fulfill this position.

With his relentless motivation and his knowledge of Montana Law, Mr. Lanning would bring a wealth of knowledge and skills to this position. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the following address.

Becci Dellinger  
2300 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Suite 211  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
Child Protection Specialist  
(406) 268-3745



## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:21 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Pam [<mailto:pam@vector-ex.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen P. Lanning

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing this letter in support of Allen Lanning for Cascade County District Court Judge. I have known Allen personally and professionally for over 35 years and have seen his integrity and professionalism first hand. Allen possesses a vast knowledge of the law and has the judgment to implement it soundly.

Allen's work with at-risk children and families shows his passion to better families, lives and communities.

Please consider Allen Lanning for the appointment of the District Court Judge in Cascade County.

Best Regards,

Pam Garlick

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sorich, Jake [<mailto:jsorich@cascadecountymt.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 1:16 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Support for Mr. Allen Lanning

Ms. Menzies,

My name is Jake Sorich and I have lived in Montana most of my life. I live at 314 3rd Ave. N, No. 2 in Great Falls, Montana. I am a SHIP Counselor with Cascade County Aging Services. I would like to show my support for Mr. Allen Lanning in becoming Montana's next district court judge to take over for Judge Sandefur.

Mr. Lanning has spent his whole career helping others do good, and now is the time for him to be rewarded for that work. He is, more than anyone else, the most worthy candidate. Some of the reasons I believe this to be true is that

- A) He's been a practicing attorney in Great Falls for 28 years,
- B) He is the only candidate in the running with a wide scope of experience working on the bench as a judge. Not only that, but
- C) Has had most of his district court work been working for Judge Sandefur.

In conclusion, I believe you should appoint Mr. Lanning because he is fair, honest and knowledgeable along with the listed reasons above. I know with complete certainty that he would make an outstanding judge.

Sincerely,

***Jake Sorich***  
SHIP Counselor  
Cascade County Aging Services  
406-454-6990  
[jsorich@cascadecountymt.gov](mailto:jsorich@cascadecountymt.gov)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:20 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** [lpkaldor@aol.com](mailto:lpkaldor@aol.com) [<mailto:lpkaldor@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 12:45 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** ATTN; Lois menzies Judicial Nomination of Allen lanning

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing this communication to show support for Allen Lanning for the position of District Court Judge for Cascade County.

I find Mr. Lanning to be a qualified individual for this position because of both his personal citizenship activity in the betterment of all humans. As well as his continued success and hard work in his profession. I have had the pleasure of viewing Mr. Lanning in his professional capacity numerous times. Allen was the drafter and provider of my first will. He was thorough in ensuring that my personal wishes and assets were expressed succinctly. Giving me ease of mind in knowing that should something happen to me, my desires would be executed concisely and to the letter of the law. It was conveyed to me by later reviews from other attorneys that my "Last Will and Testament" was so precisely drafted and created that there would be no way that any challenges would be successful. Another experience I had with Mr. Lanning was when I was able to give evidence in one of his cases. Allen explained to me all aspects connected to the evidence I was providing. He ensured I felt secure with providing the evidence and that should I be called to witness, he would make me completely comfortable with the process. It is because of Mr. Lanning's breath and knowledge and his concern for the person that I recommend him for this position.

On the personal side I recommend him for the position because he is both honest and trustworthy as well as sincere and loyal to a fault. Allen has never shown me anything but respect and fellowship in all the years I have known him. As a member of community, Mr. Lanning has exhibited to be a tireless worker for human rights and dignity for every aspect of humanity with no bias in race, religion, sex, age, or sexual identity. To me personally Allen is the example of the well-rounded human I myself someday hope to be. I trust you can see from this brief statement why Mr. Lanning would make a profound and trusted judge.

It is my hope that this letter reflects the type of person Allen is. I am very proud to call Allen a friend. However, I am even gratified in being able to say that I know such an honesty, trustworthy, and honorable man. I believe Allen possesses the traits, actions, and personage of individual to be considered of a district judge position. If I can offer any other information concerning Mr. Lanning please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lance Kaldor

[lpkaldor@aol.com](mailto:lpkaldor@aol.com)

January 20, 2017

To: Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
PO Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Recommendation of Allen Lanning for appointment to the vacated position on the 8<sup>th</sup> District Court

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation of Allen Lanning for appointment to the vacated position on the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court position. I have worked with Allen in numerous positions. I am always impressed with his depth of knowledge and dedication to the judicial process. The positive personal traits that Allen demonstrates will serve us positively.

I am a CASA volunteer. As such I have worked with Allen as he served as a Standing Master dealing with abuse and neglect cases. He was objective. He was informed. He was fair to all involved as he encouraged the culmination and resolution of the cases that came before him. I appreciated his fine work.

I serve on the Mansfield Advisory Board; so does Allen. He comes to the meetings with a knowledge of the business coming before us. To me this is an indication of his work ethic. He makes time to familiarize himself with what matters.

As you know, Allen has also presided over both jury and judge trials. He has served in justice, city and district court. He has much judicial experience and is anxious to put this experience to work as he serves in the position of District Judge.

It is with pleasure that I recommend Allen Lanning for appointment to the vacancy in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court. We will all be well-served by this.

Respectfully yours,



Patty Myers  
369 Carol Drive  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
406.899.0874

Erica Maruca  
PO Box 403  
Belt Mt, 59412  
Employed with Cascade County Justice Court

To whom it may concern:

Allen Lanning would be a great fit for a Cascade County District Court Judge. I know him from working at Justice Court for Cascade County, he has been a substitute judge for many years here at Justice Court. He is very dedicated to everything he does. He is pleasant to work with.

I would say that Allen is hard working, cooperative, organized and can perform well as a member of a team. He communicates very well.

I believe that Alan has excellent potential to become a District Court Judge.

13231 15th Ave. NE  
Seattle, WA 98125  
January 18, 2017

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

Dear Commission Members:

I write this letter in support of the application of Allen Lanning for appointment as District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District of the State of Montana.

I have know Mr. Lanning for over 25 years, as an Associate and Partner in our law firm, Conklin, Nybo, LeVeque & Lanning, P.C. He has broad experience in the practice of law, including probate and business transactions, insurance and personal injury law, criminal law, and family law. He is a fine trial lawyer who has tried and won some difficult lawsuits, and is always well prepared. We have written several appellate briefs together. Allen possesses very impressive analytical ability which will make him an excellent judge, able to grasp and deal with complex and sophisticated legal issues.

However, as important as the above qualities are, in my opinion Mr. Lanning's most important attribute that supports his appointment as district judge is his large capacity for empathy and understanding the human condition. For several years he has continued to serve as an effective and sympathetic *guardian ad litem* on behalf of neglected children. They could not be better represented.

I am confident that as District Judge, Allen Lanning will treat both lawyers and litigants with respect and understanding. I strongly recommend him for this position.

Yours very truly  
/s/ William Conklin

William Conklin, Retired  
Former Bar Association Member No. 280

1/20/17

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I recommend Allen Lanning for the position of District Judge of Cascade County. I have known Allan only a brief time as we both auditioned for and were (are) cast in the upcoming play "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance."

As a member of our cast he is always prompt and on time. At his level of expertise it is a given to show up to work on time, however, this is an extra project for which we are giving our own free time and he still is available. He has a daughter and myself being a parent I know with children everything involves time management. Working and having rehearsals plus being a parent is a lot of work. I can relate to him in that regard.

I and another member of our cast had got a ride home from him one night after one of our first rehearsals. The conversation progressed and we asked one another about our familial backgrounds, light conversation. He shared with us that he has a husband.

For me this has a significant impact on my view of him and his partiality within a judicial system. As a Native American woman it is hard not to feel somewhat victimized by the system or that in some way the system had it out for us. However, as I grew older I realized although many of us have the intergenerational trauma which has manifested on down to us following the boarding school era, colonization, and whatnot, we tend to feel judged before we even get to the stand.

Maybe this is true for all races as many would argue but since I am writing this I'm just telling you how most of Natives see the court and legal system in Montana. So having experienced being a minority in Montana off the reservation, it sometimes sucks to feel as if we are being judged before anybody even gets to know us. And especially considering many of us have children who are affected by our decisions. In the past our children were taken from us and placed with non tribal members across the United States. Native children then became adults who came back to Montana where their home reservations wanting to know their identity, who they were, which we should all have a right to know! In a recent conversation I was made aware that Allen is familiar with Indian Child Welfare Act which helps keep Native children, whose parents do make choices in which they have to serve time or work with Department of Family Services, with tribal member or kin of the parents. His knowledge of the history of ICWA is a huge reason I think he would do great as a district judge as well. Largely we are a small population within Great Falls so it was nice to know he was familiar.

When I found out Allen was bisexual, it was very empowering, I sensed his own comfort and in his words, "if I share it eventually it will be more normal to talk about," and he says these words from a place of acceptance of truly who he is. Shakespeare said, "to thineself be true." I feel Allan probably had to overcome the precipitation of any stigma cast up on him as a minority (or at least a still not widely

advertised sexuality in Conservative Montana) and therein freeing him from channeling any criticism of self into his line of work. In which men and women of every race, color, and creed will at one point go before him and have their future lie within his reasoning and judgment.

I don't know firsthand if he's ever experienced any hateful language or discrimination in settings due to his openness about his sexuality but if he did I think it would definitely... I don't want to say humble him, but allow him the experience to listen, to listen to both sides of testimony as he knows what it would be like to have harsh judgments and assumptions cast upon him.

These are the thoughts I have in my perspective when I visualize Allan as the District Judge in Great Falls, Montana. I'd really love to see him on the bench and as he stated he basically has had experience within that department so it will be a smooth transition as he already knows exactly what he will be doing. I know without a doubt his dedication and experience as a lawyer, fill-in judge, exemplary parent, and having experience in the arts community in Great Falls will give this position the diversity and fair reasoning we all deserve. I recommend Allan Lanning for the District Judge position for Cascade County, Montana.

Robyn Pepion

January 15, 2017

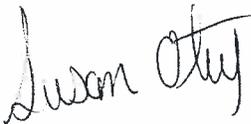
Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies  
Office of Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I have known Allen Lanning for about the last two years of the three I have been in Great Falls. We have worked together on LGBTQ issues in our community and currently serve together on the board of the Great Falls LGBTQ center. During the time I have known Allen I have seen him work to address hate-filled graffiti on a downtown sidewalk through a 'chalk up inclusive community event', raise money for the LGBTQ center by meeting with individual board members to make the ask, and brainstorm with the board on mission and vision and then follow through with a plan to make that vision a reality. I have also seen Allen handle divisive board meetings with diplomacy and the ability to bring all parties together in a way forward.

I strongly recommend Allen Lanning to fill Judge Sandefur's seat as a district court judge. Allen is an individual who is committed to his work, committed to our community and is working in many different ways to make Great Falls a better place for all people. He has a passion for law and for people. This is a good combination for a judge to have. I have experienced Allen as a man with integrity, compassion, critical thinking skills and a love of people. He would make a strong and effective district court judge.

Sincerely,



Rev. Susan Otey  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Great Falls, Montana



*The Big Sky Country*

## MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM JACOBSON**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 21

HELENA ADDRESS:  
CAPITOL BUILDING  
PO BOX 200400  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0400  
PHONE: (406) 444-4800

COMMITTEES:  
TAX  
HUMAN SERVICES  
FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

HOME ADDRESS:  
521 RIVERVIEW DRIVE E  
GREAT FALLS, MT 59404  
PHONE: (406) 868-9814

Montana Judicial Nominating Committee  
C/O Lois Menzies  
Office of the Court Administrator  
P.O. Box 203005  
Helena, MT 59621-3005

January 11, 2017

Judicial Nominating Committee:

It is with great pride I write you today in support of Allen Lanning for district court judge to replace Justice Sandefur. Allen has the drive and the experience to make an excellent judge. With his broad and extensive experience as an attorney in Great Falls, Allen will bring a fair and balanced approach to the position.

Allen has dedicated much of his professional and personal pursuits to children's issues including CASA-CAN, Child Protective Services, and the Children's Receiving Home. His character and integrity are above reproach.

Thank you for your consideration of Allen for District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Jacobson".

Tom Jacobson  
Representative House District 21



January 17, 2017

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

Honorable Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to you as a citizen of the Eighth Judicial District and as Supervisor for the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts.

Allen Lanning has served on the City of Great Falls' Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board since January 6, 2015. During his tenure, I have developed deep respect for the man, his integrity, inherent humanity, and the skill set that makes him a great communicator and mediator. First and foremost, Allen is a gifted listener. He listens and respects all others at the table. He obtains facts, viewpoints and input by all present. He affirms that he understands the attributes, the issues and the concerns. He then brings clarity and summary to the conversation so that action can be taken and a decision can be made. He has demonstrated that he is sincere, honest and has no hidden agenda. He is able to balance his love of the arts with the common sense business of fiduciary responsibility.

While I have not had the privilege of witnessing Allen in court, I had a glimpse of his skill set as an effective, thoughtful, communicator in his presentation to the City Commission on behalf of the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Advisory Board. His respectful, clear, closing remarks spoke for the Advisory Board as well as the Community in terms of the intrinsic value of the Mansfield and the fiduciary responsibility that Board and Staff have upheld. In my tenure, it was the first time that the Commission clearly understood the complexity of the Mansfield finances and the positive impact it has for the city.

Mr. Lanning has the attributes that I value in a Judge. Like the others running for the position, I feel he has the background, skill set and training needed. What makes him the outstanding candidate is his character. He is trustworthy, compassionate, and honest. I feel he employs the acumen that is requisite of someone in the position of District Judge.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dona Hughes".

Dona Hughes  
Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts Supervisor

**HEIDI R. GIBSON**

25 Watson Lane  
Great Falls, MT 59404

January 12, 2017

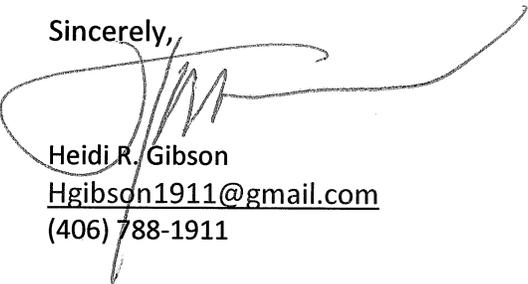
To whom it may concern:

I am writing with support for Allen Lanning JD to be appointed to the District Court Judge position, following the Honorable Dirk Sandefur's departure. Mr. Lanning has demonstrated his legal acumen through his well-diversified private practice in family law, estate planning and probate. His experience includes civil litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, and insurers in bad faith, insurance coverage, personal injury, wrongful death, products liability, class action, professional malpractice, contract disputes to name a few. Mr. Lanning also has practical experience behind the bench in both jury and judge trials. He has already handled hundreds of criminal hearings, and he has gained respect by both clients and peers by being consistently fair and respectful himself. With this scope of knowledge, he will not have to learn how to navigate these disciplines as he is already well versed.

Mr. Lanning is invested in this community both as a legal professional and as a family man. It has been almost 30 years since he passed the bar, and beyond his longevity I support his temperament, experience, and strong sense of duty as making him the best candidate for this appointment. I am confident that he will weigh cases carefully and carry out justice to the fullest extent of the law.

Should you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



Heidi R. Gibson  
[Hgibson1911@gmail.com](mailto:Hgibson1911@gmail.com)  
(406) 788-1911

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:52 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Kandy Sonsteng [<mailto:k.sonsteng@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 6:10 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Alan Lanning as District Court Judge

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for Alan Lanning's appointment as District Court Judge. I have know Alan personally and professionally for many years.

Alan has served as a substitute judge in Cascade County Justice Court for several years, and is a fair and unbiased judge. He has the ability to weigh out the evidence calmly and come to a fair decision.

I feel that Cascade County would benefit greatly from Alan's experience as an attorney and substitute judge. I think he would represent the State of Montana and the office of District Court Judge with honor.

I sincerely hope that you will consider Alan for this position.

Sincerely,  
Kandy Sonsteng

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Cynthia [<mailto:bamffan@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cynthia C. Boyd and I reside at #6 6th st. S. Apt 403 Great Falls Mt.

I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

I have known Allen Lanning for many years and have always known him to be a fair-minded person. He is always willing to take time to help someone with a problem regardless of how big or small it might be. Allen is a man with good conscience and morals who wants to make the world a better, safer place for everyone.

Thank you,

Cynthia C. Boyd

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sara [<mailto:wiblr007@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:58 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Montana Judicial Nomination Commission

To whom it may concern,

I enthusiastically support Allen Lanning for district judge to replace Judge Sandefur who was elected to the Montana Supreme Court.

Allen has been serving as Standing Master for judge Sandefur and others for three years. He has also been handling criminal hearings for judge Sandefur. He is familiar with the work, liked by the courthouse, and is just a good fit for the position.

What impresses me the most about Allen is his passion for helping children, particularly the neglected and abused, in court. As someone who also feels strongly on this issue, I am relieved to know he is in the courtroom looking out for the interests of the children.

I have found Allen to be compassionate, thoughtful, and discerning. I believe he is an ideal fit and should be appointed to the rest of judge Sandefur's term.

Respectfully,  
Sara Borer  
Great Falls MT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:51 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** janelle munson [<mailto:jmunson74@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Janelle Munson. I reside in Great Falls, MT. As a lifelong member of the Great Falls community, it is with great honor that I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge. He is the only candidate with experience. Further, in this time of fear and uncertainty, Allen Lanning's recognition of all members of the Cascade County community is needed as the District Court.

Thank you,

Janelle Munson

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:48 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Kathryn Kramer [<mailto:kathrynr@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:40 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning for District Court Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing to support Allen Lanning for District Court Judge in Cascade County to replace Judge Sandefur. I have known Allen for about a year now and count him among my good friends. Of the people I have come to know in Great Falls since coming here to take up my current position at the C.M. Russell Museum three years ago, Allen is the one with the deepest ties to the community and the greatest commitment to this city and its citizens.

My experience with Allen comes from tabletop gaming rather than the court, but there is no doubt in my mind but that he has precisely the even temper needed in a district judge. Allen is calm under pressure and handles challenging social situations with not only fairness but with apparent ease. Given with his diverse experience as both an attorney and a judge over the past 28 years, Allen Lanning is eminently qualified as Judge Sandefur's replacement.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Kramer

Sent from my iPhone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:47 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** glen weeks [<mailto:glweek3@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:32 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial.Nomination. Commission

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to support Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

I have known Allen ten years. He has many attributes that make him a great judge - he is calm under pressure , Intelligent, and knows how to make difficult decisions in a way that seems fair to everyone. He tends to rise to leadership positions in groups he becomes a part of. And his work in the legal field and as a standing master speak for themselves.

He is the best candidate for the position.

Thank You!

Glen Weeks

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:46 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Cristal Frost [<mailto:frostcristal@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:17 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning judge application

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission members,

I have known Allen Lanning for several years and count him among my friends. I am writing to support him for District Judge in Cascade County. He is a thoughtful, caring man and father, who is very active in the community and has an excellent reputation as an attorney, working with the vulnerable and abused and giving lots of pro bono time to those in need. He is experienced, qualified, and the right choice for the position.

Thank You,

Cristal Frost  
Great Falls, Montana

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:45 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Laurie Glover [[mailto:nurse\\_glover@yahoo.com](mailto:nurse_glover@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:15 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Laurie Glover and I reside at 1318 16th St. So., Great Falls, MT. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Thank you,

Laurie Glover

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Zac Maddox [<mailto:zac2288@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:18 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Attn: judicial nomination commission Re: Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Zac Muller and I reside at 1513 9th Ave. S. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Thank you,

Zac Muller

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:43 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Wendy Wilkinson [<mailto:boom4real1@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:17 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Wendy Wilkinson  
1705 4th Av N  
Great Falls MT 59401

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:42 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Marcia Lauzon [<mailto:allmyrelations@charter.net>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:17 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Marcia Lauzon and I reside at 325 Hylande Drive, Great Falls. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

I have known Allen for almost a year and sit on a board of directors with him. I have found him to be knowledgeable, fair, thoughtful, and very involved in his community. He takes seriously his responsibility as a citizen to listen, consider, and be fair to all sides. These qualities would make him an excellent judge, in my opinion, one whom I would trust in a case in which I had strong interest. We need judges of high caliber and he would fill that requirement.

Thank you,

Marcia Lauzon

--

The Rev. Marcia Lauzon, FVGEC  
Deacon, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Great Falls MT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:41 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Laura Voight [<mailto:lvoight00@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:09 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** I support Allen!

Allen P Lanning would be an excellent choice. Please choose him!!

Laura Voight  
Billings, MT 59101

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:40 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** christian johnson [<mailto:willisbowmanlb@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Christian Johnson, age 19, and I reside in Great Falls Montana. I am writing this email to Offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination to the District Court Judge seat open in Cascade County. Allen is an upstanding and active member of our community. He has an extensive understanding of Montana and Federal Law and is the best candidate for this position. He will be fair but just and will always work with the utmost care and concern for upholding the law.

Thank you for you time.

Christian Johnson  
2427 3rd Ave S  
Great Falls, MT 59405

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:39 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Austin Rosenbaum [<mailto:arcentralcivil@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 4:36 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning district judge application

### Judicial Nomination Commission Members

I am writing to support Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge. I have known him for more than five years. He has served the community in many ways, on behalf of abused children, in arts and literature. In my opinion he would be a great judge.

Austin Rosenbaum  
Great Falls MT

*Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID*

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:38 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Laura Hill [<mailto:laurajenniehill@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 4:23 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Cascade county district court judge

Hello! My name is Laura Hill, I'm from great falls Montana and I would like to have Allen p lanning appointed as cascade county district court judge!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:37 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Daniel Wilkinson [<mailto:dan@wilkinsonweb.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 3:50 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Attn Judicial Nomination Commission

To the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of Allen Lanning to the Cascade County District Court.

Allen is a person of integrity, intelligence, and energy. His deep commitment to the people of Montana, his unwavering desire to see justice served, and his past judicial and legal experience will make him a fine addition to the court.

As a resident of Cascade County, I would be proud to know that Allen Lanning is part of my justice system.

Sincerely,

Dan Wilkinson  
1705 4th Ave N  
Great Falls MT 59401

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:36 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Brian [<mailto:beamermt79@icloud.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 3:27 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen lanning district court judge nomination cascade county.

Hello. My name is Brian Allison and I live in great falls Montana and I would like to support Allen lanning for cascade county district court judge.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:35 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sarah C [<mailto:sailorandbear@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 3:20 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Sarah Caniparoli, and I reside in Great Falls, Montana. I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination to the District Court Judge seat open in Cascade County.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sarah Caniparoli  
901 2nd Ave N  
Great Falls, Mt 59401  
[sailorandbear@gmail.com](mailto:sailorandbear@gmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:33 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Tasia Ellison [<mailto:ellisonusaf@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 2:52 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Cc: Tasia Ellison  
Subject: Letter of Support: Allen Lanning for District Court Judge

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning's application for Cascade County district court judge.

I have known Allen for approximately three years. I met him when he became the court-appointment lawyer for two of my foster children (who we have since adopted). From the first time we met Allen I could tell he was a man of honor and great character. Being involved with child abuse and neglect cases is not an easy task, no matter what side you are on. Allen conducts himself professionally, following the letter of the law. Allen's first meeting with our family set the pace for the next few years. Right away my son felt comfortable with him and felt very strongly that he could be trusted. For some kids this may not be a big deal but for my son, who had repeatedly been let down by people in positions of authority, this was huge. My son came to see Allen as one of the few people he could trust, who was honest and who cared about what was best for him. When it came time to finalize our adoption, Allen was one of the few people my son wanted to share his special day with.

Allen is a man of great integrity, strong work ethic, honor and decency. His character shows in everything he does; he is a true believer in our justice system and very well qualified to take on this next challenge. He is a great lawyer and would make an even better judge. Please strongly consider Allen Lanning as Judge Sandefur's replacement as district court judge.

Thank You,

Tasia Ellison  
Resident, Great Falls

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:32 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Meghan Mckee [[mailto:meghan\\_mckee99@yahoo.com](mailto:meghan_mckee99@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 2:30 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in email in support of Allen Lanning. He was my lawyer in my divorce, he worked with me closely and diligently to ensure the best outcome for both my husband and myself along with our daughter who was then 4 years old. He is a great lawyer and I believe would do well as a judge. He is non biased and true. I support him in any way.

Thanks for your consideration.

Meghan McKee  
406-799-4167

Sent from my iPhone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:32 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Betty Cagle [<mailto:bettycats@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

Good morning,

Being in the legal field for many years, I have had the good fortune to meet and know Allen Lanning. I feel he is the best candidate for the open judgeship for the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County. Please put him at the top of your list - he has all the skills, knowledge AND the proper temperament for this position.

Thank you,  
Betty A. Cagle

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:31 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** tflebotte [<mailto:tflebotte@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 9:01 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern :

I am writing this letter in support of Allen Lanning to become the replacement for Judge Sandefur.

I am a therapist in town. Though I don't know Allen well, he is always a friendly face whenever I go to a community support function for the LGBTQ folks. It is nice to see someone not afraid to be out and about in their community. I know Allen is very involved in community action and that speaks volumes to me.

Please consider him for the position.

Terri Flebotte, LCSW  
406.952.1444

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Note® 3, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:30 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: AJ DePriest [<mailto:proposallogic@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 12:44 AM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Angela DePriest and I reside at 2033 Shoreline Drive in Mount Juliet TN 37122.

I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

I have known Allen since 1992. We were married for almost seven years beginning in 1993. It might seem strange to receive a testimonial from a former wife—and Allen doesn't know I'm writing this—but I am compelled to share my experiences with him as he pursues one of his lifetime dreams: a judicial appointment.

Allen is one of the most honest men I've ever known. He is kind and fair in ways that most men never achieve. I've had the privilege of watching him in court, the way he represents his clients, his attention to detail, and, above all, his devotion to blind, impartial justice for every person. He is inspiring.

Allen is a father of a little girl, Sophia. I never met her but I see pictures of the two of them on Allen's Facebook. The way Sophia looks at her daddy speaks volumes to me about the kind of man he is today—the man I remember. During our marriage, Allen helped me raise my daughter, Kate. The truest testament to Allen's virtue is the fact that Kate, now 28 years old, still has a warm, close relationship with Allen.

You could not find a better man, a more honest attorney, or a tougher yet more civil judge than Allen Lanning.

Thank you for your time,

Angela DePriest  
2033 Shoreline Drive  
Mount Juliet TN 37122  
615-474-2133

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:28 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Brandon Bushnell [[mailto:nikki\\_brandon325@hotmail.com](mailto:nikki_brandon325@hotmail.com)]  
Sent: Saturday, January 21, 2017 11:42 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

My name is Nicole Bushnell and I reside at Fort Huachuca, AZ. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge because I have seen the amazing things this man has done for his community. He is passionate about serving others and being the best advocate he can be for others.

Thank you,  
Nicole Bushnell  
(540)424-3820

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:28 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Maureen Driscoll [<mailto:maurdrisc@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 9:05 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** In Support of Allen Lanning

To the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Maureen Driscoll, and while I currently reside in Los Angeles, I grew up in Helena, then went to work for Senator Max Baucus in Washington for a little less than four years. In total, I spent almost a decade on Capitol Hill and worked with a number of lawyers in that time. I am using that experience to strongly recommend Allen Lanning for a judgeship.

I went to school with Allen and have been in touch with him since then. He is smart and knowledgeable but above all, fair. In a society which has become more and more partisan, Allen is able to look at issues from all sides, recognizing, as all good jurists must, that serving the law is serving the public good and personal opinions take a back seat to all of it. He is also someone who is well read in many areas of life and loves Montana. I believe he would be an excellent advocate for the rule of law, and the reality of how that applies to Montanans.

I hope you will recognize the contributions he would make to the state. If you have any questions, please either email or call me at 818.561.4431.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maureen Driscoll  
1800 W. Alameda Ave.  
Burbank, CA 91506

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:27 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Debbi Turner [<mailto:doobwa0041@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 4:53 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen lanning.

I would like to put a vote in for allen lanning for district judge...  
I've known allen for over 10 years and know he is dedicated, and would do an upstanding job.  
Debbi Turner.

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:27 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Seth L [<mailto:slutter@ruraldynamics.org>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 11:06 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning Recommendation Letter

To Montana Judicial Nomination Commission;

It is with high praise and pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation for Allen Lanning for the position of District Judge of the 8th Judicial District.

I have known Allen for a few years and found his ethics, professionalism, and reputation have always preceded every encounter we've had. From my many interactions with Allen I have learned that he takes his responsibilities extremely seriously as a father, friend, and lawyer. Even on a personal level I've found Allen to be fair and judicious even when I wanted him to side with me! He is that kind of logical thinker.

In addition to being an active member of the community, he also does charitable work, volunteering with local community organizations, as well as many other small groups that cater to fairness and equality for minorities. I feel that as someone that dispenses justice, a judicial member should also be active in the community encouraging it everywhere, not only when bound on the bench.

His successes and attributes legally speak for themselves while a quick glance at his resume shows that he has been a substitute judge now for many years, an editor for the Montana Law Review, and lead counsel on many cases that have had a significant affect on litigation in Montana. While there are numerous other candidates for this position, I don't feel that any of them will be able to seamlessly integrate into the position as he would, let alone take on the job with the level of enthusiasm and professionalism that he would. In a sense, he lives, breathes and exists for Jurisprudence.

The position would be a reward for a career that he has long strived for, and a reward for the citizens of Cascade County to have a fair, knowledgeable Montanan on the bench.

My own experience comes from working with Allen professionally while acting as the Director of Counseling at a local non-profit financial counseling center where Allen has given legal advice for low-income single mothers needing legal assistance through tough times. I also offer my support a friend who understands Allen's strive for success and fairness across the boundaries of Cascade County. You can find no higher candidate for this position.

Sincerely,

Seth Lutter

Sincerely,  
Seth Lutter  
Director of Counseling  
RDI – Rural Dynamics, Inc. • 2022 Central Ave, Great Falls MT 59401

Direct 406.454.5720 • Fax 406.761.8622

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



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## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:26 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** J Morse [<mailto:havrehasit@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 10:49 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning recommendation

It is with pleasure that I submit this letter of recommendation for Allen Lanning for the position of 8th Judicial District Judge.

I have known Allen Lanning for 7 years. Allen is the most professional person I know and is highly qualified for the position. He also possesses a temperament and demeanor that well benefits a judicial officer in court. I support Mr. Lanning's application without reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Morse

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:26 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jamie Frederickson [<mailto:jamiefred@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2017 10:40 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** To the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

To the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Jamie Morse and I am writing in support of Allen Lanning for 8th Judicial District Judge. I've known Allen personally and professionally for 15 years. It is my opinion that his qualifications as an attorney, pro tem judge, and dual experience in criminal and civil law, unlike some of the other applicants, in addition volunteer work with programs like CASA CAN make him the best and most qualified applicant for this position.

Sincerely,

Jamie Morse

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:25 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** brian court [<mailto:bubbac36@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 10:23 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission - support for Allen Lanning

20 January 2017

Dear Commission members,

I am writing in support of Mr. Allen Lanning for the position of the Eighth Judicial District Judgeship.

My name is Brian Court and I am a longtime Great Falls resident, and a retired Montana Air National Guard veteran. I am also past chairman of the Great Falls Public Radio board, and former artistic director of two local theater groups.

I have been able to rely on Allen's legal knowledge, level-headedness, and intelligence on multiple occasions. He has made himself available to me with time, advice and financial support many times.

I have known Allen for over 20 years and I cannot think of a better candidate for this position. He is trustworthy, smart, and fair. His broad experience as both an attorney and as a part-time judge are greatly needed in the district.

Please consider Mr. Lanning for the Judgeship position. He will not disappoint us.

Thank you

Brian Court

Great Falls, MT

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:24 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jason Kunz [<mailto:jason@speaking-socially.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 5:30 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen P. Lanning for the position of District Judge of the 8th Judicial District

I am submitting this letter of recommendation for Allen P. Lanning for the position of District Judge of the 8th Judicial District. I have known Allen in a personal and professional capacity for a number of years. He is a great friend and father. In addition to being an active member of the community, he also does charitable work, volunteers for Casca Can, as well as many other small local groups that cater to fairness and equality for minority groups. Allen's legal abilities speak for themselves, he has been a substitute judge now for many years, an editor for the Montana Law Review, and lead counsel on many cases that have had a significant affect on litigation in Montana. I have worked with Allen first hand and his expertise and professionalism has been above and beyond. While there are numerous other candidates for this position, I don't feel that any of them will be able to seamlessly integrate into the position as he would, let alone take on the job with the level of enthusiasm and professionalism that he would. The position would be a reward for a career that he has long strived for.

Jason Kunz  
Media Maestro  
[406.217.5656](tel:406.217.5656)  
[www.speaking-socially.com](http://www.speaking-socially.com)



## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:24 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Her Gracefulness [<mailto:cjgracie@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing this letter as a measure of support of Allen Lanning, who is vying for the open judicial seat left by Judge Dirk Sandefur, in Great Falls.

I had previously written a professional letter, conveying much the same tone and content. However, this letter is more personal in nature--not as a professional within the Great Falls community but as a private citizen of that same community.

I had sent a similar person letter in December. However, it appears that letter was never received.

There are many reasons I support Mr. Lanning to serve as our newest District Court Judge. However, there are three reasons I believe are most important and which best serves as my personal recommendation of and to him, for this position.

Mr. Lanning is the ONLY candidate vying for this seat that has experience in doing the job. He has diligently served as Standing Master, when needed. No other candidate possesses that experience. I believe this, alone, puts Mr. Lanning ahead of the other candidates.

Mr. Lanning is very experienced in matters pertaining to child protection. Currently, Cascade County ranks #1 in substantiated child abuse and neglect cases. Mr. Lanning is well-versed in this area. He has volunteered many years with CASA CAN, he has served on local boards that dedicate themselves to child protection and he has extensive knowledge of DPHHS/CFSD and how that system works. Great attributes to have in a community that is immersed in an epidemic of child abuse and neglect cases.

Mr. Lanning is not seeking this position for any personal or professional gain, whatsoever. He is seeking this position because he believes, as do I, he has the qualifications and experience pertinent to the position. No one can say this man is not qualified. Essentially, he has done this job and has done it well.

Mr. Lanning is very involved in our community. In my opinion, this is a welcomed attribute to the position. People know him. People like him. People trust him. People respect him. Again, all great attributes lending to this position.

I am not one that offers up letters like this, unless of my own accord. This letter is genuine as to why I believe Mr. Lanning SHOULD be our next District Court Judge, in Great Falls. No one has asked me to write this letter. I am doing it/writing this because I believe it's the right thing to do. Mr. Lanning has qualifications for this position that surpass, in my opinion, the qualifications of other candidates seeking this position.

Please humbly accept this letter as my personal support of Mr. Allen Lanning.

Thank you for your time. It is greatly appreciated.

Carrie Galvez  
Private Citizen  
Great Falls, MT  
Phone: 406-899-6563

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:22 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Tracy Houck [<mailto:tracy.mthouck@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 2:08 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Fwd: Allen Lanning, District Court Cascade County nomination

**TO:** [Montanasupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:Montanasupremecourt@mt.gov)  
**FROM:** Tracy Houck, Great Falls, MT  
1016 Third Ave North, Great Falls, MT 59401  
[Tracy.mthouck@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.mthouck@gmail.com)  
[406-781-8958](tel:406-781-8958)  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning, District Court Cascade County nomination

Dear Governor Bullock and the Judicial Review Board,

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning for District Court judge in Cascade County to replace to Dirk Sandefur.

This is in fact my second letter of support for Allen Lanning to represent our community and District Court in Cascade County as Judge. I am honored to endorse Allen Lanning, as I believe he has the leadership skills and legal acumen to best serve our District Court.

Community and our legal system are both very important to me. I have spent the last twenty plus years volunteering and professionally advocating for those who are underserved and/or in need of human services in Great Falls. I have held the Executive Director position with Voices of Hope, a nonprofit organization that provides a 24 hour sexual assault victim services and suicide prevention hotline and have held volunteer positions with the Montana Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Montana Continuum of Care and the Great Falls Pre Release. Currently, I am the Executive Director of Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art, as well as, an elected city commissioner of Great Falls.

Allen has 28 years of legal experience and brings the most diverse experience of all of the current candidates. As you are already aware, Allen is the only candidate, of the five vying for the position, who has judicial experience. This is important to me knowing that our community would have a smooth transition with Allen's placement. Having Allen appointed would keep costs down, minimize the financial impact of the transition and could expedite services to those with cases in front of the court.

Allen's service and reputation in the court as both a lawyer and a judge is clean and solid. He has built strong professional relationships with court employees and members of the judicial system. That reputation follows him into his personal life as well. Allen is a leader, volunteer, and activist in our community who is always willing to get involved. Interestingly, Allen often takes the quiet behind the scenes approach in his volunteering, never seeking recognition or accolades. His work with CASA CAN is deep and heartening.

Judge Sandefur, himself has mentored Allen in his court. While they are different people, they hold similar values in the court room. Allen is cool, calm and collected. Everyone is treated the same, with dignity. Again, with the court's very high case load, our community needs an efficient, intelligent judge who can rule with solid, legally sound, timely decisions.

I am not the only one who recognizes Allen's experience and knowledge on the bench. It is significant to note that Cascade County judges routinely call on Allen to be part of their team. They trust him, they rely on him and they invite him back, over and over. In the three years, he has served, none of Allen's cases has been pulled and reviewed.

I appreciate your time and consideration to this appointment and the many letters of support for Mr. Allen Lanning for District Court in Cascade County. If you wish to have further information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Houck

Sent from my iPad

--  
Tracy Houck  
Paris Gibson Square / Executive Director  
Signature Ceremonies, Owner  
Electric City Cabinets & Tops / Co-Owner  
City of Great Falls, Commissioner  
406-781-8958

Please excuse my typos and bizarre words. Most of the time my fingers are much slower than my brain!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:21 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: MUSCLE, JAMES E GS-09 USAF AFGSC 341 FSS/FSVS [<mailto:james.muscle@us.af.mil>]  
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 12:03 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning

Attention Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for Allen Lanning, candidate for District Court Judge.

I have known Allen Lanning for 10 years, first as a member of a local German/American social club we both attend, and more recently as a Notary Public in support of the passing of my father. As a man, Allen Lanning holds strong family values and in a world view that mirrors that of most Montana residents. His genuine, no-nonsense approach to everyday life issues shows that he will represent the people of our county and state with whole hearted and thought out decisions. He will represent Cascade county and the state of Montana honorably and ensure that the people's voice is heard and respected.

Allen Lanning has the common-sense approach and drive needed to make an outstanding difference in the future of our state. I cannot stress enough my confidence in Allen Lanning for Cascade County District Judge.

V/r  
James Muscle  
Fitness and Sports Director  
341st Force Support Squadron  
Malmstrom AFB, MT  
DSN 632-3069  
Comm 406-731-3069

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:21 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Ford Gouchenour [<mailto:fordgouchenour22@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 11:21 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Support

Hi my name is Ford Gouchenour I work for the City of Great Falls and am proud to be a local resident. I am writing in regards to the support I show for Allan P. Lanning for our future district court judge. I have worked with him personally and believe he would be a great choice and also great to work with. Thank you!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:20 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Tianta Nelson [[mailto:Tianta\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:Tianta_1@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2017 3:27 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Cc:** [aplanning@mt.net](mailto:aplanning@mt.net)  
**Subject:** Lanning Application

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tianta Stevens and I am writing to express my support of Allen Lanning for District Court Judge in Cascade County. I am a local business owner and have had the privilege of knowing and working with Allen for the past 27 years. I first met Allen while in a local theatre production and was immediately impressed by his even keeled, mild manner and composed nature. This is not to suggest that Allen is not without passion. I have seen Allen quick to act on an injustice and to come to the defense of someone whom he felt an injustice was being perpetrated on. He is also passionate and committed to fostering the arts within our city.

I believe Allen has proven himself to be more than qualified with his experience as a substitute Justice of the Peace, part time City Court and District Court judge and his good working relationship with court personnel. Allen has the reputation in our community for being a strong advocate of child abuse prevention in and out of the court. Allen was honored to be mentored by Judge Sandefur and to be entrusted to work on Judge Sandefur's caseloads.

Allen has been a good friend over the years. I find him to be honest, fair, reliable, and to always conduct himself with the highest of integrity and I am confident he will bring these assets to the bench as District Court Judge of Cascade County.

Thank you,

Tianta Stevens

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:19 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Amanda Kesterson [<mailto:akesterson09@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Support for Allen Lanning

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning's application to replace Judge Sandefur.

Great Falls became my home over 7 years ago after graduating with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Currently, I work as a Hospice RN Case Manager.

Over 5 years ago, I became friends with Allen after we met through my husband. There are so many attributes that make him an amazing human being. He has an even temperment, contagious personality, strong work ethic, a friendly smile and is an active listener. Allen is also very passionate about being a great dad, a wonderful friend and supporting local businesses and activities.

During his 28 year career as an attorney in Great Falls, Allen has represented a variety of clients. He works very hard to preserve the legal rights we are all guaranteed. One area that Mr. Lanning is very passionate about is advocating for the abused and vulnerable. He does almost 150 hours a year of Pro Bono work as a Standing Master in child abuse and neglect cases. Allen also serves as a part-time judge which has given him the experience he needs for this job. It will allow for a smooth transition into a full-time position.

Allen's expertise in law has also helped me in my line of work. I take care of people with terminal illness. He is always willing to answer questions that patients and families ask me about settling end of life affairs. Patients and their families are very appreciative of this information as it lessens the burden of those difficult decisions during a very trying time in their lives.

I whole-heartedly believe that Allen's knowledge, character, experience and commitment to the legal profession undoubtedly make him the best person to fill the shoes of the Honorable Judge Sandefur. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amanda Court RN, BSN

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:18 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Kelly Manzer [<mailto:kellymanzer@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2017 9:42 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - Allen P. Lanning

January 18, 2017

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

Re: Correspondence of Support - Allen P. Lanning

I would like to express my support and endorsement for Allen Lanning, P.C. for the position of 8th Judicial District Court Judge. In the several years which I have known Mr. Lanning, I have found him to be very responsible and personable. He presents himself in a very professional manner, whether it be at personal school functions or as a member of appointed boards. I serve on the Mansfield Center Board with Mr. Lanning and am very impressed by his knowledge and preparedness regarding the topic at hand.

Mr. Lanning's past experience with the judicial system in justice, city and district courts would serve as an excellent qualifier for this position. His ability to listen to all parties prior to forming a fair and impartial decision is a rarity in today's society.

Not only is Mr. Lanning very qualified for this position, he is also very civic-minded and volunteers his time for several community events. His sincere concern for the subject at hand is truly admirable.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Kelly Manzer  
1420 Central Ave. W.  
Great Falls, MT 59404  
(406) 453-1289

January 17, 2017

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

Re: 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judicial Nomination Applicant:  
Allen Lanning

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to oppose Allen Lanning's application for nomination as the new Eighth Judicial District Judge. I have the unique perspective as a past juror, a volunteer, friend of someone who had to endure Mr. Lanning presiding over a matter involving her children and understand the importance of how profoundly a Judge's actions impact the people that have to come before it. As a general member of the public, I expect the judiciary to be of the highest standard of character, integrity, and honesty. I have spent a lot of time reviewing each of the applications, as well as reviewing all of the public comments for those applicants. I also checked, to the extent possible, social media for additional information. Of all the applicants, Mr. Lanning would be the very worst individual to serve as a judge.

I observed a court proceeding in which he presided over as the temporary judge. He was late, condescending, and unprepared. He was obviously making judgments based on his emotion rather than the law. I thought that was the opposite of what a judge is mandated to do. He added more drama to the problem than he resolved. He certainly was not in control of the courtroom, and treated one attorney more favorably than the other. I was not impressed. He does not have the temperament to be a respectful judge.

The fact that I found to be most disturbing and shows his true character is a "letter writing" party he orchestrated to help people write letters on his behalf. I am attaching a printout of his facebook so that for your review. If he has to tell people what to write about him, are any of the letters supporting him genuine? One of the supporters claims to be a surrogate for his and his husband's daughter. Was there money exchanged for that service? Doesn't that impact that supporter's opinion? The bottom line is the letter writing party appears

to have been a coaching session. I think that is extremely inappropriate and letters that have been offered in support of Allen in light of that are questionable. This is a deception at its best. Deception is not a word that should be associated with the character and integrity of someone who will serve as a judge.

Then there is the "volunteer" work for the Court. As a volunteer, I find it offensive when people volunteer for some self-serving reason. It is quite obvious Allen's "volunteer" work was an attempt to put himself in a better position for the judicial nomination. Not one of the other candidates' volunteer work was geared toward self-serving interests like Mr. Lanning's.

The volunteer work also presents another concern. One the main principles I believed judges and judicial nominees were supposed to gage their actions according to was the principal of avoiding "even the appearance of impropriety". How are the people who are involved in cases supposed to have faith that they will be treated fairly when they see Mr. Lanning preside over matters as a judge and then appear as a private attorney on cases? As a member of the public, I am outraged that no one has put a stop to this or recognized how corrupt this little arrangement appears. I have heard other members of the public express the same concerns. To make matters worse, I see that one of the public supporters is a law clerk. At the very least, the law clerk would have some influence on the Judge's position. The language in the law clerk's letter matches the language found on a posting by Mr. Lanning on his facebook page where he is soliciting letters of support. Is that random or a reflection of the coaching by Mr. Lanning? If Mr. Lanning is willing to engage in this kind of conduct now, he should not even be considered to serve as an actual judge.

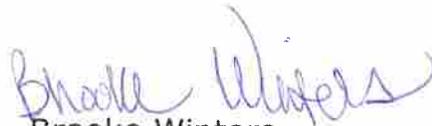
According to his application, he has served as a temporary judge for youth in need of care matters. Another volunteer told me that Allen either approves of or allows you-tube videos of his daughter to be broadcast. In looking at you-tube, there are multiple videos of his daughter. Isn't that exploitation of a child? Displaying a child while pretending to be an advocate for children is hypocritical and distasteful. It certainly does not reflect the actions of someone who wants to serve as a judge and preside over cases involving young children.

Further, I could care less what his sexual preference is and find it offensive that someone who wants to be a judge talks about his sexual preference so much. I do not want to know about it or think about it. It shows that he is very political and an activist. In fact, he admits that he is an activist on his facebook page. I thought it was considered inappropriate for judges to show their support of political organizations because it creates a bias (or at least the appearance of one) against individuals that would appear before the Court.

His actions, character, and lack of integrity (especially with the letter writing coaching session), show that he would not be fit or an appropriate person to serve as a judge. His application should be rejected.

Thank you for your time and effort to seek out the best candidate.

Sincerely,

  
Brooke Winters

[BrookeTWinters@gmail.com](mailto:BrookeTWinters@gmail.com)

Allen Lanning

Bridget Home Find Friends




Allen Lanning

Add Friend Message

Timeline About Friends Photos More

DO YOU KNOW ALLEN?

To see what he shares with friends, send him a friend request.

Add Friend

Intro

Lives in Great Falls, Montana

Photos



Friends · 512



Allen Lanning  
20 hrs

There is one more week for public comments in support of my application for district court judge. If you have already emailed or sent a letter on my behalf, thank you so much! If you haven't, I would greatly appreciate it. The deadline is 5 p.m. next Monday, January 23rd. If you are emailing, send your letter to [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov) to the attention of the Judicial Nomination Commission. If you are sending by regular mail, the address is:

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

Let them know who you are; that you support me for district court judge, and why.

I have been an attorney for 28 years and have spent all of it here. I love this little city and have worked hard to make it a better place, both as an attorney and through community involvement, such as my efforts on behalf of abused children, supporting arts and culture, and working on civil rights and LGBT issues. I am an enthusiastic parent and have great adventures with my daughter Sophia.

I am seeking the position because I have been fortunate to serve as a part time judge - in district court, justice court, and city court - for several years, and I love the work. I love being in the courtroom and I work hard to provide the most just result in every case before me.

The scope of my practice has been very broad - I have experience in virtually every type of case a district court judge hears - personal injury, insurance, contracts, divorce and parenting, wills and estates and trusts, criminal law, both as prosecutor and defense attorney, juvenile court, and in child abuse and neglect cases. I won't have to learn new areas of law.

I am the only applicant with experience on the bench. I have already handled hundreds of hearings and my transition to full time judge will be seamless. Most of my district court work has been for Judge Sandefur. I know his case load and I get along great with the staff who work on his cases. I have been mentored by him and he has expressed full confidence in my judicial ability, as has the local bar association, which has honored me with two awards in the past two years for my pro bono work.

If I am appointed, people appearing before me can expect quick and thoughtful decisions and to be treated fairly and with respect. There will be continuity. And because I love the work, the job will get my full attention. Our district has challenges - including a burgeoning case load with a higher case to judge ratio and a child abuse crisis - and even though I am an attorney in private practice, I have been at the courthouse doing what I can, often in a pro bono capacity, to help the district in this challenging time. In that way, being selected would not be a new endeavor for me, but a continuation of my commitment to the court and the work I am already doing.

Thank you for your support!

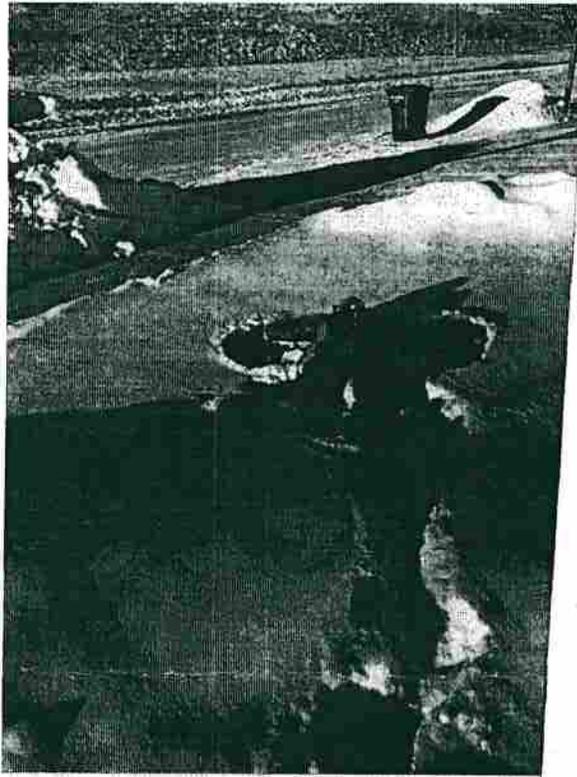
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Facebook © 2017

Allen Lanning  
January 12 at 3:34pm · Great Falls · 🌐



👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

👤 44

Allen Lanning



Like · Reply · 🗨️ 2 · January 12 at 3:35pm

 **Allen Lanning**

January 10 at 5:57am · 🌐

There are 13 more days of public comment period on my judge application. If you haven't yet, please send an email of support. Thank you so much!

The email address is [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov).

I will have a letter writing party this Saturday night for anyone who needs a little help figuring out what to say and to thank those who have already written. You know the drill - short presentation by me, letter-writing tips, and then fun and games! I'll post details tonight.

I can't thank you all enough for your support!

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

🔄 35

 **Allen Lanning**

January 4 at 1:21pm · KRTV Comments · 🌐

Love my daughter! Forgive a proud dad for one more post on last night's proclamation at the City Commission meeting. 😊

👍 Like    💬 Comment    ➦ Share

🔄 156

1 share

View 16 more comments

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:44 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Belinda Gopher-Hayes [<mailto:belindakhayes@mail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 10:30 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** ATTN: Judicial Nomination Commission RE: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Belinda Hayes. I am member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe. I reside in Great Falls Montana and am a student at Great Falls College MSU. I am writing today to give my support to Allen Lanning for the District Court Judge seat in Cascade County. As a Native American it is important to me that I those who uphold the law in my county respect me and my background. Allen is a pillar of this community. He is supportive and non-judgmental. His vast knowledge of the law will ensure that he brings education and experience to the bench. Allen will bring fairness but firmness to the bench and will work toward ensuring Cascade County is a better, safer place to live. Allen's experience makes him the best candidate for this position.

Thank you for your care and concern on this matter.

Sincerely,

Belinda Hayes  
234 Smelter Ave NW, Great Falls, MT 59404  
[belindakhayes@mail.com](mailto:belindakhayes@mail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:42 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Kristy - Google [<mailto:ninjountant@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 5:02 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination - Allen Lanning recommendation

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Allen Lanning. I have known Allen personally for over 10 years. During those 10 years, I have felt incredibly blessed to have Allen as a part of my inner circle of friends. I look forward to having himself, along with his wonderful family, as friends of mine for the rest of my life.

For years, I have been a public accountant who often weighs and judges the performance and consistency of an individuals' work product. Allen, during the years I have know him, has repeatedly exemplified moral behavior that I personally, as a voter find akin to that necessary for public office. He has always remained rational, logical, balanced, fair and committed to his work product. This is aside from the obvious professional requisites for his profession, for which he has excelled. I believe Allen attempts to incorporates those qualities into providing the kind of civil service we so rarely hear about anymore.

It is my hope that you carefully consider his qualities and skill sets during your nomination process. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions that I may be able to answer in his regards.

Regards,

Kristy H. Rutherford  
Manager of Finance  
Weblink International  
865.466.2147  
[kristy.h.rutherford@gmail.com](mailto:kristy.h.rutherford@gmail.com)  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kristy-rutherford-38b30817?trk=hp-identity-name>

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:41 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Kevin Seawell [<mailto:kevinseawellart@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 4:52 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kevin Seawell and I reside at 11100 East Dartmouth ave, Denver Co, 80204. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Thank you,  
Kevin Seawell

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Laura Wight [<mailto:bigskylibrarian@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 4:36 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Cascade County District Court Judge

Dear Judicial Commission and Governor Bullock-

Please consider this email an overwhelmingly positive support for the nomination of Allen P. Lanning for Cascade County District Judge. Allen is an upstanding, highly experienced, balanced and fair individual. Allen has nearly thirty years of experience and is the only nominee with judicial experience. I trust Mr. Lanning with upholding Montana law and putting our citizens first. Thank you

Laura M. Wight  
Great Falls resident

Sent from my iPhone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:40 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Grace Davis [<mailto:squegee4me@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 4:28 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial nomination Allen Lanning

Dear Commission Members,

My name is Grace Davis, a lifelong resident of Great Falls and mother of two. I am pleased to support Allen Lanning for the district court judge position currently open in Cascade County, Montana. Recently vacated by his mentor, the Honorable Dirk Sandefur, Allen would be excellent in this opportunity to further serve a community he actively supports through his work with Casa Can and other community organizations. I have had the distinct privilege to call him my friend for more than 25 years and have enjoyed the benefits of that friendship. He is unfailingly helpful whenever possible; recently assisting me with the difficult task of settling my husband's probate pro bono even though he is happily busy in his professional and personal life. When I think of leaders who effortlessly enhance our world by simply living out the goals they have set for themselves, Allen is someone who comes to mind. I would like to share an example of why by sharing the story of how we met.

I was awarded a small role, the first of its kind for me that required an accent in our local community theater group. Nervous does not begin to state how I felt about my ability to act this part. Allen played in the cast opposite this role as a young romantic interest. For many people, this would have been awkward in the extreme, but Allen treated me professionally, kindly, and above all as an equal. He helped write the story of the person I would become, as an actress and a woman, by behaving so generously in that particularly challenging role. The qualities Allen displays routinely- professional demeanor, leadership, kindness, and concern for justice - are all merits I would appreciate in a judge. Please consider Allen Lanning earnestly for the position of district court judge.

Thank you for your consideration,

Grace Davis  
4000 4th Ave North  
Great Falls, MT 59405

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:39 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** [lori@riverscapeproperties.com](mailto:lori@riverscapeproperties.com) [<mailto:lori@riverscapeproperties.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 2:53 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attention of the Judicial Nomination Commission-Allen Lanning

Hi My name is Lori Lanning-Redd and I am in support for Allen Lanning being appointed for district court judge.

Allen will bring his passion for being ethical and seeing both sides. He is also a huge advocate to protect Children in less than ideal situations. Plus not to mention the countless hours of pro-bono Allen gives each year to help his community. I believe Allen will give you 110% as judge .

Lori L.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:39 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Justin Sakalis [<mailto:justin.sakalis@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 2:34 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning, attn: Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning for District Court, whom I have known over the last four years as a family friend. Allen remains the most qualified person for this position.

Under stressful situations, Allen is unshakable and cannot be rattled. He remains calm in all situations, even when personally attacked. I have seen him deescalate confrontations while treating everyone with dignity. In addition to his demeanor he is more than professionally ready for this position. Out of all the candidates, Allen has the most experience based on his various roles on either side of the bench. Through his judge pro tem, his background working on various civil, criminal, and family law, as well as vast community service, he is prepared for the realities of the job.

Sincerely,  
Justin Sakalis

**Cook, Kevin**

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:39 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Susan Wilkins [<mailto:swilkins@mea-mft.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 2:29 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Message of support for Allen P. Lanning

Good afternoon,

This e-mail is in support of Allen P. Lanning for Cascade County District Court Judge. I appreciate your consideration of Allen for this position.

-Susan Wilkins

*Susan Wilkins*

MEA-MFT  
1232 East Sixth Avenue  
Helena, MT 59601  
(406) 442-4250

\*\*\*\*\*

Only the individual sender is responsible for the content of the message,  
and the message does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of  
the National Education Association or its affiliates.

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:38 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Tami Lanning [[mailto:tami\\_lanning@hotmail.com](mailto:tami_lanning@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** In Support of Allen Lanning for District Judge of the 8th Judicial District

January 23, 2017

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

Dear Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning's candidacy for District Judge of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Cascade County. I am Allen's sister and consider myself fortunate to have a brother of the highest integrity, ethics, compassion and passion for justice. As an individual, he is someone to aspire to emulate. He cares about people; he cares about his community; and he cares about the law. Allen brings more than 25 years of legal experience in all areas of the law, and has been a stand-in judge in the district court, justice court and city court for more than 5 years. He has overseen cases of all types. His experience on the bench is unequalled among the other candidates and his ability to step into the job and be effective on day one is without question.

Allen's desire to be active in the community and give back has led to hours of pro bono legal work, as well as working on behalf of abused and neglected children through CASA. His work is well respected amongst his peers and he has twice been honored with awards by the Cascade County Bar Association. Allen's interests span far beyond the legal community and he has contributed his considerable talents in support of the arts in Great Falls, including performing arts, literature and poetry, and is active in promoting LGBTQ rights.

I strongly support Allen's appointment to this position, and not because he is my brother. Rather, as a human resources professional, I recognize the competencies and attributes required for success in a specific role. Allen has architected his career to gain the necessary experience to be an effective judge. Layer on top of that, his superior listening skills, his ability to be empathetic, his temperament, his passion to serve justice and

his desire to make a lasting impact in his community, and you will be doing Cascade County a singular, lasting service by appointing an exceptionally qualified judge to carry on the work of Judge Sandefur before him.

Sincerely,

Tami R. Lanning

Vancouver, WA

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:38 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Nicole Edwards [<mailto:nedwards@helenaindustries.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 2:19 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

Dear Governor Bullock and Judicial Nomination Commission,  
My name is Nicole Edwards. I am a resident of Bozeman MT and I urge you to nominate Allen P. Lanning for appointment as Cascade Country District Court. Thank you!  
-Nicole Edwards

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:37 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jamie Lynn [<mailto:jlynnsundq@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** District court judge

Hello, my name is Jamie Sundquist and I live in Great falls MT. I would like for you to appoint Allen p Lanning as Cascade County District Court judge!!!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:37 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Georgiana Dundas [<mailto:georgianadundasis@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** District Judge candidate endorsement

Hello,

I would like to take a moment of your time to recommend the nomination of Allen Page Lanning for the open district Judge position. He is a respected and active member of the Great Falls and Montana communities as well as a loving and responsible father. I feel that Cascade county and Great Falls could only benefit from his fair judgment and strong community ties making him the perfect choice to recommend to the Governor.

Respectfully Yours,  
Georgiana Dundas

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:36 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Megan Mattingly-Arthur [<mailto:meganmattinglyarthur@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** I support Allen Lanning for the 8th Judicial District judge seat!

Hello,

My name is Megan Mattingly-Arthur and I'm a resident of Great Falls.

I'm writing about the 8th Judicial District judge seat that will open up when Judge Dirk Sandefur assumes his new position with the Montana Supreme Court.

I'd like to convey my support for Allen Lanning, a family friend whose work in, and dedication to, our community and state is nothing short of inspiring. In addition to his experience serving as a stand-in judge in Municipal Court and a stand-in justice of the peace in Cascade County Justice Court, Allen has also won multiple awards for his pro-bono work. He is a tireless advocate for the marginalized -- working with CASA-CAN on behalf of vulnerable and abused youth, serving on the board of the Great Falls LGBTQ+ Center, etc.

Allen is also one of the kindest and most reasonable people I've ever met. He works so hard to ensure that our community is a vibrant and wonderful place to live, and would be an excellent judge for the 8th district.

Thank you for your time.

Megan Mattingly-Arthur

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:36 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Andrew Keegan [<mailto:dreux.keegan@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 12:30 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Lanning for Cascade County District Court Appointment

I earnestly support Allen P. Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Best regards,

--

### **Andrew Keegan**

Email: [dreux.keegan@gmail.com](mailto:dreux.keegan@gmail.com)  
Tel. +1 (406) 224 0563  
1679 Gale Court  
Bozeman, MT 59718

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Le temps est un grand maître, dit-on, le malheur est  
qu'il tue ses élèves. Hector Berlioz (1803-69)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:36 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Kibbie Horsley [<mailto:khorsley414@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** support for Allen P. Lanning

Dr. Governor Bullock and the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to give my support for the nomination and confirmation of Allen P. Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge.

Allen is exactly the kind of fair, balanced, experienced and intelligent person we need to fill positions like this.

I encourage you to nominate and confirm this gentleman.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kibbie Crawford  
3015 Rose St.  
Bozeman, Mt 59718

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:35 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Gracie Freeman [<mailto:gralexandrukas@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 11:44 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Lanning for Cascade County District Court Judge

To the Judicial Nomination Commission and Governor of Montana:

I wish to express my support for Allen P. Lanning as Cascade County District Court Judge. Allen has a long history of support community and statewide issues that matter to our community and state. He has practiced law for 28 years and is obviously qualified to handle any case that could appear before the District Court. He has also received awards in the past two years, including the Liberty Bell Award and the Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award based on his work for abused children. He is the only applicant with judicial experience, and he is a proud ally to the LBGTQIA community, and I support him to be Cascade County District Court Judge. I appreciate your time and consideration, and trust you will make the right decision.

Sincerely,  
Gracie Freeman

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:35 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** John Harris [<mailto:john@speaking socially.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 10:22 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning for 8th Judicial District.

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is John Harris and I reside in Cascade County. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge. It is my humble opinion that Allen has been for the last two times, and is again this time, the most qualified candidate for this position. Unlike the other candidates, Allen actually has experience in all of the case types that he would be overseeing in this position and he has also been dutifully serving as a pro tem judge and filling in as needed in City, Justice, and District courts in Cascade County for a number of years. His commitment to programs such as Casa Can and other volunteer organizations show that he has a commitment to our community and he work for organizations such as the Great Falls LGBTQ Center show that he is committed to ALL Montanans, be they the grater majority or even small often overlooked groups in our governmental structure.

With the numerous changes abound on the horizon for the government of the United States, I feel now is a more appropriate time to appoint candidates who clearly have the ethical and judicial qualifications to be appointed to these positions rather than people who just feel they would be good for them. This candidate is clearly Mr. Lanning and I hope that you will see that as well and make the prudent decision to appoint him as a qualified, deserving replacement for Judge Sandefur who is moving up to a very deserved position within the Montana Supreme Court.

Thank you,

John Harris

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:34 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Miki Richardson [<mailto:mikirichardson@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 9:46 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,  
My name is Michael Richardson, and I reside in Great Falls, Montana. I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination to the District Court Judge seat open in Cascade County. Thank you for your time and consideration, Michael Richardson 1217 10th Ave SW [mikirichardson@hotmail.com](mailto:mikirichardson@hotmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

---

**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:34 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Jo-Ann DiBari [<mailto:joanndibari@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, January 23, 2017 9:42 AM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: Letter of support for Allen Lanning's application for the district court judge position

Dear Commission Members,

It is my honor to write to you in support of Allen Lanning's application for the district court judge position for Cascade County. Allen has been a dear friend of mine for the past 10 yrs. His love and dedication to his family, strong character, intelligence, work ethic, and passion for his profession are admirable. His dedication to the children he advocates for is nothing short of heroic.

These characteristics are what have made him one of my lifelong friends. I without hesitation believe they also make him the best choice as your new judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jo-Ann DiBari  
312 Conway Road  
South Deerfield, MA 01373  
1-413-575-2783

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:33 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Tyler Menzel [<mailto:tmenzel91@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 9:29 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

Honorable Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I'm writing to endorse Allen Lanning for the Montana district court position of Cascade County.

I've known Allen since moving to Great Falls two years ago. He and I have worked together planning community events, and I have come to appreciate both how professional he is, and how he holds honesty and trust in the highest regard. Allen's work in the community spans a broad range from his work with children, his work with the arts, to his work with the local LGBTQ+ community, and much, much more.

In my personal experience, Allen always goes above and beyond to do the right thing, because settling for the bare minimum is simply not an option. Allen is able to distance himself from the emotional heat of situations allowing himself and others to examine facts impartially, which has been of great benefit to our board of Directors at the Great Falls LGBTQ+ Center.

From my research on all of the candidates for this position, Allen is the only current candidate who has spent time as a judge, giving him direct experience for the position at hand.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this email. I hope that these community recommendations in his favor will factor into your decision.

Sincerely,

Tyler Menzel

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:32 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sytrus [<mailto:sytrus@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 9:17 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission, My name is Donald Hahn, and I reside in Great Falls, Montana. I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination to the District Court Judge seat open in Cascade County. Thank you for your time and consideration, Donald Hahn 517 5th street North Great Falls, MT 59401  
[sytrus@gmail.com](mailto:sytrus@gmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:31 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Sarah Boston [<mailto:sarahxboston@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission, My name is Sarah Boston, and I reside in Great Falls, Montana. I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination to the District Court Judge seat open in Cascade County. Thank you for your time and consideration, Sarah Boston 517 5th St. S. Great Falls, MT. 59401 [Sarahxboston@hotmail.com](mailto:Sarahxboston@hotmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:31 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Fischer, Dallas  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 8:48 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning

Judicial Nomination Commission  
Attn: Lois Menzies

January 23, 2017

My name is Dallas Fischer and I work at Cascade County Justice Court. I have known Allen for many years as he has been a substitute Judge for our court. He is very knowledgeable of the law and is enjoyable to work with. I would highly recommend Allen Lanning to the Cascade County District Court Judge position that has become vacant in Judge Sandefur's seat.

Sincerely,  
Dallas Fischer

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Darren Edwards [<mailto:darrenedwards1@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 8:46 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Allen Lanning has my support

I am Darren Edwards from Bozeman. Allen Lanning has my support for supreme court judge.

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:30 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jolley, Mary  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 8:37 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Judicial Nomination Commission/Allen Lanning

Judicial Nomination Commission  
c/o Lois Menzies

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing again in support of Allen Lanning for the position of Cascade County District Court Judge. This time I ask that Allen Lanning's name be sent on to the Governor as a candidate to fill Judge Sandefur's seat. I knew and supported Judge Sandefur in his elections to judicial office, including his election to our state's highest court. I hope you will choose Allen Lanning, a man I have known professionally for over 10 years. Most recently he has served as my substitute judge at Cascade County Justice Court since the beginning of my term in 2013. Mr. Lanning has served with a commitment to the Constitutions of the US and Montana. He treats all who appear before him with respect and full knowledge of the laws that govern our court system. He is as even tempered as anyone can wish. He would be a wonderful judge in the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District here in Cascade County.

Sincerely,  
Mary Jolley  
Judge, Department 1, Cascade County Justice Court

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:29 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** maggie0210 [<mailto:maggie0210@q.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 1:29 AM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Filling the GF vacancy

Dear Gov Bullock and the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I live in Great Falls and I see the need to replace Dirk Sandefur. I am writing to encourage you to consider Allen Lanning an excellent candidate to replace Sandefur on the District Court.

Mr. Lanning has practiced law for almost 30 years and has won awards from his colleagues. He has served part-time in District Court as well as the Justice and Municipal Courts.

Mr. Lanning has been a family man since 2005. He and his husband have a 7-year-old daughter. Mr. Lanning would be the first openly gay member of the judiciary in Montana and would fill the post excellently.

Montana has always embraced diversity and Allen Lanning is an exemplary candidate to continue our history of including the best people regardless of their differences.

Please choose Allen Lanning to fill the District Court vacancy in Cascade County. He will make a fine justice.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Campbell  
2400 13th Avenue South  
Apt. 204  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
(406) 217-6818

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:29 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** [ann@rockwellscales.com](mailto:ann@rockwellscales.com) [<mailto:ann@rockwellscales.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 11:07 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Open position for District Court Judge - In support of Allen Lanning

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ann Rockwell and I reside at Simms, Montana. I am writing this email in support of Allen Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge. I met Allen when I just moved from China to USA, he is always very friendly and nice! He is a great lawyer and a good father! 4 years ago I battled with cancer, my brother needed an American lawyer's letter for the American Embassy to get a visa to come to USA to help me. Allen helped me with the letter without any charge! That is a life saving letter, Allen is always so kind to help people, he did a lot of volunteer work for people who need him!

Please forward Allen P. Lanning for consideration for appointment to District Court Judge.

Thank you,  
Ann Rockwell

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:29 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Jessica Waters [<mailto:j.anne.waters@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:45 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Subject: Judicial Nomination Allen Lanning

To Whom it Mat Concern:

My name is Jessica Anne Waters. I reside at 2427 3rd Ave. S, Great Falls Montana 59405. I am Operations and Maintenance Engineer for a local energy company, and a relocation from Indiana. I am writing to show support for Allen Lanning to appointment of District Judge. I have known Allen for about a year and have found him to be a honorable, trustworthy, community-oriented, family-centered individual. He has a strong presence in the community both in his work with DPHHS, and as a CASA, his activism for equality and human rights and his support of local arts and business. Allen is a well rounded attorney with a knowledge of the law that encompasses every aspect he may face as a sitting judge. Additionally, he has judicial experience to bring with him to the bench.

Allen is also a caring father who has raised an incredible daughter who puts Montana first, having recently written a letter of support for the Jewish community in Whitefish at just 7 years old. Allen's morals and acceptance for all are visible in his actions and those of his daughter. Considering Allen's very accepting stance for every human as equal, there will never be a time where prejudice effects a ruling in his courtroom. As the climate of this country changes, it will be important for judges of great character to put aside difference to enforce the laws as written without bias. Allen is just the man for the job. He will act with the law in mind. He will be fair but firm and he will bring years of experience to the bench.

Thank you for your consideration of Allen Lanning for District Judge.

Sincerely,

Jessica Anne Waters  
2427 3rd Ave S, Great Falls MT 59405  
406-836-2985  
[j.anne.waters@gmail.com](mailto:j.anne.waters@gmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Trina Filan [<mailto:newrthwmn@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:32 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** I support Allen P Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Trina Filan

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:28 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Megan Good [<mailto:mgoodbbc@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:18 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Support of Allen P. Lanning!

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission and Governor Bullock,

My name is Megan and I am a college freshman from Great Falls, Montana. I am emailing you today to show my support for Allen P. Lanning for appointment as Cascade County District Court Judge. I think his experience and recognition make him a perfect candidate. Besides this, representation in the government is extremely important and it is time we show future generations that they can do anything, no matter their sexual orientation. His advocacy for LGBT+ rights and equality is so important now more than ever.

Thank you for your time!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Nerissa Neumann [<mailto:nerissa.neumann@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 8:08 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission

Good evening,

I am writing to express my support for Allen Lanning for District Court Judge. I have worked with Allen as his client and as a fellow board member for the LGBTQ+ Center and have found him to be reliable, honest and concerned with bettering his community. When undergoing classes and evaluations to become foster parents, every member of DPHHS we spoke with, talked of him with the utmost respect and said he always puts the children first and has been an incredible asset to their organization. His work as a CASA is also important when considering his moral compass and willingness to work with others to support family and uphold safe and appropriate living arrangements for children. Additionally his recent award for his Pro Bono work goes to show his absolute commitment to this community and its population.

In an appointment like this, I believe that core value is also important as is dedication to the community you serve. Allen has proven time and again that he is committed to making Great Falls a safer and more accepting place to live. His constant support of the arts, his willingness to give his own time to numerous causes and organizations and his support for local business are all commendable. His role as parent to his smart, well-spoken and active in community events daughter once again show his commitment to bettering Cascade County. He is raising a child who stands for her state, her city and her beliefs. Those beliefs are equality and safety for all and as judge, Allen would work to uphold those same values. He would treat every person equally, no matter what their race, religion, orientation, background, economic status or difference. Allen accepts people exactly the way they are and would never act on prejudice when considering or ruling on a case.

Fairness, and acceptance for all, partnered with years of experience (including judicial), dedication to community and upholding the laws make him the only candidate appropriate for appointment to District Judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nerissa Rae Neumann-Waters  
2427 3rd Ave S. Great Falls MT 59405  
[nerissa.neumann@gmail.com](mailto:nerissa.neumann@gmail.com)  
406-836-2878

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:27 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Madison Scofield [[mailto:scofield\\_madison@yahoo.com](mailto:scofield_madison@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:57 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Appoint Allen Lanning

It is time for an appointment and no one deserves that more than Allen P. Lanning! His work in the social justice community of Great Falls standing up for the LGBTQ and their families has been astounding. He has amazing character and I know he will represent our district well. Please appoint Mr. Lanning!!!

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:26 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

From: Tawnee Winberry [<mailto:tawnee.winberry@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2017 7:32 PM  
To: MT Supreme Court,  
Subject: Allen Lanning

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing in support of Allen Lanning's application to replace Judge Sandefur.

My name is Tawnee Winberry and I am a life long Great Falls resident. I work as a Hospice RN Case Manager for Peace Hospice.

I have known Allen on a personal level for a few years. He is kind, caring, personable, and intelligent.

As a lawyer, Allen is dedicated to advocating for the abused and vulnerable. He works as a part-time judge and has a reputation of being fair with an even temperment.

I know that he is the right man for the job.

Sincerely,  
Tawnee Winberry RN, BSN

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:26 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Matthew Miles [<mailto:matt.eugene.miles@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 6:53 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn: Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission, My name is Matthew Eugene Miles and I moved to Great Falls Montana about a year ago. I am an 18 year old Senior attending Great Falls High and am a member the JROTC, symphonic band, concert band and Gay Straight Alliance.

I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination of District Court Judge in Cascade County. Allen is a man of great moral compass. He is passionate about his community, protecting it and working with places like the LGBTQ Center to make it a better place to live. His work as a CASA and with DPHHS to help children in their most desperate times of need is more than commendable and his recent awards show the community and his peers support him. He has already proven himself a capable judge and is the only candidate with the skills, background and qualifications to adequately and appropriate fill the position.

Thank you for considering Allen for this position. Sincerely, Matthew Eugene Miles 2427 3rd Ave S,  
Great Falls MT 59405  
[matt.eugene.miles@gmail.com](mailto:matt.eugene.miles@gmail.com)

## Cook, Kevin

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**From:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Sent:** Monday, January 23, 2017 6:22 PM  
**To:** Cook, Kevin  
**Subject:** Public Comment -- Lanning

**From:** Hannah Pate [<mailto:patehannah2015@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 22, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** MT Supreme Court,  
**Subject:** Attn. Judicial Nomination Commission Re: Allen Lanning

Honorable members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,  
My name is Hannah Pate and I reside in Great Falls, Montana. I am an eighteen-year-old of the class of 2017 at C. M. Russell High School. I am writing this email to offer my support to Allen Lanning for the nomination of District Court Judge in Cascade County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Hannah Pate  
1908 11th Avenue South

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Hannah Pate  
cell: (406) 788-5567  
email: [patehannah2015@gmail.com](mailto:patehannah2015@gmail.com)