

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Zander Blewett <zblewett@hoytandblewett.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 9:51 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Applicant for Gallatin District Judge Position

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Alexander(Zander)Blewett III and I work in Hoyt and Blewett PLLC in Great Falls. I have known Audrey Cromwell's husband Charlie for thirty years and have been following Audrey's legal career ever since she graduated from law school with my two sons. Audrey's record speaks for itself and I request this Commission to give her application close consideration since she embodies the type of person we should all desire to serve in our judiciary Thank you.

Zander Blewett

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:54 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Mike Greener <mike@greenervisuals.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 2:09 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

July 12, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I've had the pleasure to know and work with Audrey Cromwell over the last eight years.

While out on assignments as a former staff photographer for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, I would go everywhere in the community to tell the stories of the town. More often than not, I would see her not only at the courthouse but also out with her family cheerful, smiling, and participating in varied events throughout the community.

Every we time we visit, it always strikes me just how much this woman cares for and gives back to the community she loves. She has a genuine kindness that stems from a selfless place of service and the betterment of those around her.

She is such a thoughtful, kind, fair, driven, intelligent soul with a wonderful sense of humor.

I can not think of a better-suited individual to serve as our next 18th Judicial District judge here in Bozeman.

Respectfully,

Mike Greener
Greener Visuals Photography

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Greener Visuals Photography

406.531.5961

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www.greenervisuals.com

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July 12, 2020

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

Regarding: Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Ladies and Gentlemen:

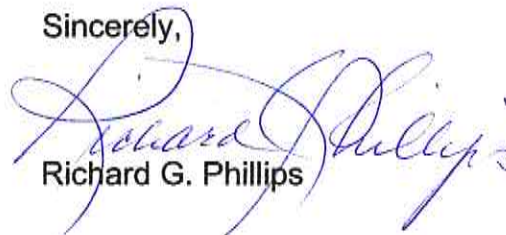
I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation and support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell in regard to her application to be appointed a District Judge for the State of Montana. Having served two terms as a District Judge in the Seventh Judicial District many years ago, I am familiar with the obligations she would assume and services she would be expected to provide. I am confident that she would perform with the highest degree of competence and integrity, and with correct judicial temperament and evenhandedness.

I first met Audrey when she spent almost one and a half years working in the Billings office of the Public Defender. During that first year I worked closely with her as supervising attorney and mentor. I found her to be a very intelligent, hardworking individual whose attention to detail was evident in every case she handled. She is also a most pleasant person with whom to work. During the last months of her stay there she worked independently on misdemeanor and felony cases, felony probation revocation cases, and was very involved in the Thirteenth Judicial Drug Court, doing a fine job in all areas.

Since moving to Bozeman she has expanded her practice and gained valuable experience in other fields of law so that she would ascend to the bench with much needed knowledge, but also with the drive to ever increase her understanding of the law in more areas.

Audrey would be an excellent addition to the Montana judiciary and I highly recommend her to you.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Phillips

July 16, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am honored to provide a reference for Audrey Cromwell for the position of Gallatin County District Court Judge. As a community member, with a background and experience in primary through adult education, I have known Audrey since fall of 2016 when she joined the board of the Community Mediation Center. At the time, I was serving as the President of the Board. Audrey brought fresh perspective to the organization with her legal background and dedication to the mediation process. Audrey joined the organization at a time when we were struggling through a transition period of losing a long-time Executive Director combined with a financial setback.

When a newly-appointed Executive Director abruptly resigned, and the organization's future was at stake, Audrey asked the Board to take a chance by allowing her to resign from the board and to take on the role of Executive Director in the short term. Her promise was to right the boat – to put the organization on sound financial footing, to refocus the organization's mission, to rebuild relations with community partners, and to accomplish this in less than 2 years.

True to her word, Audrey did all of this and more while working for the organization only part time. I have never witnessed anyone with such clarity for what had to be done, and strategies for how to accomplish goals. She streamlined burdensome office practices, eliminated financial and logistic waste, set in place new guidelines, tapped into strengths of board members and key stakeholders, worked with partners to regain trust, and built new partnerships. She brought the board together with greater focus on short and long-term planning.

Her work with others is a testament to her understanding of human nature. Audrey exudes warmth, and sincerity while having the courage to take on challenging situations with grace, humor, and a humble attitude. Audrey's organizational skills are top notch. Her writing skills demonstrate clarity of thought and succinctness that targets the purpose of each communication.

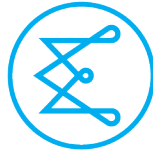
Audrey holds herself to high standards and expects the same of others. Her integrity and dedication will serve the court and the community well.

Thank you for allowing me to share what I know of Audrey Cromwell.

Respectfully,



Janet Bender-Keigley



ELEMENT
LAW GROUP, PLLC

July 17, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District judge position. I have known Audrey for close to 15 years. She is highly qualified and would be an outstanding fit for this position.

Audrey and I attended law school together and went on to work closely together for eight years as we joined forces to bring a healthier divorce option, Collaborative Divorce, to Montana. In the early days of our efforts, Audrey and I worked alone on helping families divorce. We have spent countless hours on dozens of cases trying to problem solve and move families through conflict.

Audrey and I also served on the Montana Collaborative Professionals board together and helped bring a number of Collaborative trainings to Montana. Because of these experiences, I feel I am particularly qualified to comment on the appropriateness of her application for this position.

It is a challenge to keep this letter brief as Audrey's character, work ethic, intellect and compassion are easy to champion. Simply stated, Audrey would be an outstanding District Court judge. She is honest, clear and kind. She is very intelligent, fair and an expert problem-solver. She learns quickly and has the unique ability to hold space for both sides of an issue while working to promote the best possible outcome.

Her Collaborative experience has taught her, among many other things, how to truly listen to parties. Listening is not a skill every practitioner has. It takes time and practice to develop keen listening without judgment or predetermination. Audrey is highly skilled in active listening and in creative problem-solving. She knows how to identify integral case issues and can craft a well-supported, robust outcome as a result.

Audrey also has remarkable breadth and depth of experience. She is very well versed in a variety of subjects, including areas that are of high traffic in the District Court; family law and criminal law. She has been on both sides of the criminal court as well as family law. A solid understanding of litigated family law matters makes for a very good Collaborative practitioner, and Audrey is an outstanding Collaborative practitioner. Part of what makes her a brilliant problem-solver is her range of experience and deep understanding of the case law. Without that knowledge, she would not be able to perform as expertly as she does in both her Collaborative and litigated family law matters.

For the areas of which Audrey does not have much experience, she is a fast and highly competent learner. She is exceptionally bright and is not easily mentally exhausted. I have always been relieved to have her in the room so I could lean on her intellect. Having such broad experience in the legal field is evidence of her ability to master an area of law through hard work and excellent legal research. Her experience and willingness to learn is second to none.

I also need to speak to Audrey's ability to implement systems and processes to remedy or improve a hurting system. No one is as responsive as Audrey. I can always count on her to fulfill her obligations in a timely and thorough manner. Her work product is excellent and highly professional. She has also demonstrated through her work with the CMC, MSU and MCP that she is able to take a broken or infant program and turn it into a healthy, thriving system. Her skill and tenacity in this area cannot be overstated. Her work ethic and desire to be efficient and productive are skills that Audrey has more than proven, and that are absolutely critical for this position.

Working so closely together on a passion project like Collaborative Law? Divorce? means that I have seen Audrey on her best and worst days. Throughout it all, she is the consummate professional. She is always brilliant. She is always kind. She is always true to her word. She is the example we want to set for an officer of the court. She would maintain decorum, earn respect, and be very well received by the people of the 18th Judicial District should she be named as judge. Of the named candidates in the running at this time, there is no doubt in my mind that Audrey rises to the top as the most qualified for the position.



Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and for taking on this difficult task. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further detail if that would be helpful.

Respectfully,

Katie Mazurek
Katie Mazurek
Element Law Group, PLLC





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July 20, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to express my support for Audrey Cromwell's application for the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am a local attorney who primarily practices estate planning, trust and probate administration, and nonprofit law. I have lived and practiced in Gallatin County since 2015. I look forward to continuing to live here with my husband and son, which is primarily why I am invested in the Commission's appointment.

Professionally, I have only worked with Audrey on premarital agreement negotiations. Audrey is always a straight shooter and I have the impression she takes great care ensuring her clients understand the complex legal concepts contained in such agreements (such as the spousal elective share). In all my communications with Audrey, she has been reasonable to work with and it is clear she has a very good understanding of the law. My impression from other local attorneys who have worked with Audrey more regularly than me in the family law sector is that they enjoy working with her for similar reasons. A friend of mine is a client of hers and speaks very highly of Audrey's professional and kind demeanor as well as her intellect.

I do not know Audrey well on a personal level, but Audrey's reputation as an advocate affordable legal services precedes her. Her past efforts with the Community Mediation Center and the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program highlight her commitment to public service and providing affordable legal services in our community.

In addition to the abundance of relevant experience contained in Audrey's application, the attributes illustrated in my letter describe person who I respect and would be proud to have adjudicating matters in Gallatin County. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would be happy to discuss this letter with you.

Respectfully,



Jordan E.G. Feddes, Esq.

July 21, 2020

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

Re: Letter in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell application for appointment to District Court
Judgeship, Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District

Dear Commissioners:

I am a former state representative (D- House District 96) and an attorney at the Garlington, Lohn, and Robinson law firm in Missoula. My practice focuses on civil litigation involving commercial and property disputes. I write to express my strong support for the application submitted by Audrey Schultz Cromwell for appointment to District Court Judgeship of Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District.

Audrey and I met when she was working for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and I was serving as a legislative assistant to Max Baucus. She and her husband Charlie have been good friends of mine ever since.

Audrey's legal experience has prepared her well to serve as a district court judge. She has extensive experience in both criminal and civil matters and has tried dozens of trials since 2009. This amount of trial experience would be impressive for any young lawyer, but especially so for Audrey since much of her practice is devoted to collaborative approaches that spare her clients from much of the expense and consternation associated with litigation. The law firm she founded in Bozeman has an excellent reputation and is growing quickly. Due to the breadth of her practice, Audrey would have hands-on experience with most legal issues she faces while serving on the bench.

Audrey has a strong temperament but listens carefully to opposing arguments and is willing to change her mind. It is clear that Audrey values problem solving, considers opposing viewpoints and positions, and takes an unbiased approach in decision making and conflict resolution.

Audrey's non-legal experiences will also help make her a well-rounded and thoughtful judge. Her work raising her young child and the time she's invested in legislative and political issues have prepared her to deliver the complex and nuanced analysis demanded of a good jurist. It should be noted that she has, at times, balanced her professional career and her family obligations while her husband was deployed on military orders.

While I was serving on Montana's House Judiciary Committee during the 2015 legislative session, Audrey appeared before the committee and advocated for passage of The Uniform Collaborative Law Act. She made a compelling argument and the measure was passed into law that year. I would expect Audrey's

perspective on the bench will be heavily influenced by her time taking collaborative approaches to legal disputes. This will serve those who appear in her courtroom well.

In conclusion, Audrey has the experience, integrity, energy, and disposition to excel as a district court judge. I encourage you to select her for the appointment.

Sincerely,

Andrew Person
623 Phillips St.
Missoula, MT 59802

----- Michael P. Talia -----

434 Chert Place, Helena, Montana 59602

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

July 21, 2020

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I recommend Audrey Cromwell be appointed district judge in the 18th Judicial District. I practiced law in Great Falls for many years and now am a government lawyer in Helena. I have known Audrey for more than a decade, since we were in law school together in Missoula. Her husband and I served together in the Montana Army National Guard. Our families remain personally connected in addition to our professional connections.

Audrey has a unique breadth of experience that is hard to find among Montana practitioners. This experience aligns well with the needs of a district judge. Audrey has also demonstrated a commitment to a collaborative practice that serves courts and litigants alike. She successfully managed the business end of her law practice, and grew that practice, while providing excellent service to her clients. She has a demonstrated history of good judgment and the temperament and presence needed for a judge. Audrey is all the things we should hope a district judge will be.

Please recommend Audrey for appointment as district judge.

Sincerely,



Mike Talia



July 22, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am an attorney in Great Falls, Montana. My law practice includes workers' compensation claims, personal injury cases, and pro bono family law matters. Audrey and I met through mutual friends over ten years ago. She is the real deal. Her impressive character shines through her application. As a busy lawyer mom, she knows how to pack as much as she can into each day to get things done for her clients. She will apply that work ethic to the busy court docket if selected to be a Judge. As a person with impeccable collaboration skills, she is well suited to handle the many diverse conflicts that Montanans bring to the Courts. As a person with the heart of a public servant, she is applying for the right reasons. Audrey cares about the people in her community, from abused and neglected children to senior citizens. She is passionate about making a difference in the world. She is a quick learner. She surrounds herself with smart people and mentors to learn the ropes. She will be an excellent choice for the District Court in Gallatin County. I am very impressed by Audrey's career thus far and am excited to see what she does next.

Respectfully,

Michele Reinhart Levine
Michele R. Levine
mlevine@fairclaimlaw.com

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July 19, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Colin Rubich. I am licensed attorney and member of the state bar in Montana. I have practiced criminal law as a defense attorney in state court, a prosecutor and defense attorney as a Judge Advocate in the United State Army, and as a prosecutor in Federal Court. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as a judge in the 18th Judicial District. I strongly believe Audrey possesses the ethical integrity, intellectual capacity, and legal acumen to become one of the finest jurists in our state.

I have known Audrey for many years, both while she was studying to become an attorney and as a practicing attorney. We both graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2009 and, after this, we both began our careers as defense attorneys with the Office of the Public Defender in Billings. I regard Audrey as among the finest attorneys I have worked with in any of the various courts I have practiced in. She is extremely intelligent and thoughtful with a grasp of legal nuance that surpasses most attorneys I have worked with. She possesses an innate belief in justice and the rule of law. Audrey is the sort of attorney for whom the law is more than merely a way to make money. She passionately believes in the law and its force to better the world.

Because of my varied practice, I have had the opportunity to practice in front of many judges in a variety of courts. In that time, I have seen a few truly outstanding judges whose dedication and legal talent insured that a just outcome was always likely in cases brought before them. Given the chance, I strongly believe Audrey would be such a judge. The integrity and decency of the judicial system heavily depends upon those attorneys we elevate to the bench. By elevating Audrey to such a position, I know that our courts and our profession would be significantly improved and enlivened for years to come.

Respectfully,



Colin M. Rubich
Attorney at Law
Bar # 11230



ECOLIFE

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

July 21, 2020

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Anne Middleton, I am the Executive Director at ECOLIFE Conservation, an international wildlife conservation nonprofit in San Diego, CA. Growing up in Montana made me love the outdoors, and now I've made a career in conservation. I am originally from Billings, where I had the distinct fortune of growing up with Audrey. Our families have been very close since we were young, and my brother married her sister, so I still get to see Audrey regularly, despite our distance.

I write to you today to recommend Audrey Cromwell for District Court Judge in Gallatin County. I have known her since she was in middle school, and have watched with admiration the development of her legal career. She continues to be an inspiration to me; she is truly one of those women who "does it all." She is one of my most loyal friends. In fact, when I was living in Cameroon (not a tourist destination by any means) she came to visit me. We have seen each other through many personal and professional ups and downs. I would trust her with my life. She has an infallible moral compass. She is fair, extremely knowledgeable, kind and just. She actively listens before she reacts. She is detail-oriented and has a strong moral character. She is able to put political differences aside and speak to the root of a problem.

In today's volatile political climate, we need a fair and impartial justice system now more than ever before. I believe that Audrey is exactly the type of person we need in our courtrooms. Please feel free to contact me at any time for additional details.

Sincerely,

Anne Middleton

Executive Director, ECOLIFE Conservation
101 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025
O:+1 760-740-1346
M:+1 619-559-8960
amiddleton@ecolifeconservation.org
www.ecolifeconservation.org

Mary E. Peterson

5330 Eclipse Drive, Bozeman, Montana 59715 | 406.581.1812 | marypeterson.montana@gmail.com

July 21, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: **Audrey Cromwell** Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is a pleasure to write in support of **Audrey Cromwell**'s application for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

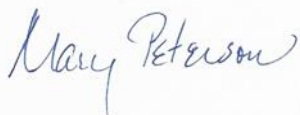
I met Audrey shortly after she assumed the role of executive director of the Community Mediation Center (CMC). I assisted her with fundraising efforts for the CMC, which was desperately in need of funds to continue its work. We worked together pretty intensively for a period of several months, and Audrey's efforts were ultimately successful.

My own background involves several decades of service in the nonprofit sector, raising funds for MSU, the Museum of the Rockies, and Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter before becoming executive director of Eagle Mount Bozeman. I retired in 2017 but have remained active, serving as a consultant to several organizations across the state.

Here's why I think Audrey would be a great successor to Holly Brown. Like Holly, she doesn't mince words. She's a clear thinker and communicator. She's able to maintain perspective in the middle of complicated, emotionally laden situations. She comes across as both kind and fair. She doesn't lack for courage – she took the CMC job knowing it was in desperate shape, and she worked without pay for several months while she got it back on its feet. This may sound corny but working alongside Audrey literally changed my view of the legal profession. As we were drafting a fundraising appeal, she introduced the phrase "legal care" in the text. To me, that was an oxymoron, and yet I came to understand that that one phrase says it all. Employing knowledge of the law for the benefit of people. I finally got it, thanks to Audrey.

She'll be a terrific judge.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Peterson



Pilgrim UCC Bozeman

Seek + Grow + Serve

July 22, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the soon-to-be-vacant 18th Judicial Judge position. I have known Audrey as a member of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Bozeman. As her minister, I asked both she and her husband Charles to undergird a new ministry program at Pilgrim called Pilgrim Connect. This program sought to reach out to the community and direct new people to Pilgrim. Audrey volunteered immediately and along with the team provided support and counsel for the new director.

Audrey is a highly intelligent, compassionate, and dedicated individual. Her professional life since graduating from Carlton College has followed a sure trajectory. She is the consummate professional whose clear mind would enable her to make fair and balanced judgments on the bench. I am not surprised that as a managing partner of Cromwell Law in Bozeman she has received the endorsement of her fellow colleagues.

Audrey wears many hats. As a lawyer and wife and mother she plays her many roles with grace. Professionally I am greatly impressed with her work in mediation. I have not failed to notice also that as a mother she finds time and energy for her young son. She is a complete person who would bring depth of character and mind to this position. I recommend her without reservation and am delighted that she is rising to this opportunity.

Respectfully,

Rev. Glover Wagner, Minister
Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ
2118 South Third Bozeman, MT 59715 (406) 587-3690 mail@uccbozeman.org

July 20, 2020

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

Re. Recommendation letter for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

Over the years, I have worked at the direction of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 13th, and 18th District Courts of Montana. As a facilitator of pre-hearing conferences in abuse and neglect (DN) cases, I work at the direction of the Montana Supreme Court. I have also served on the boards of the Montana Mediation Association and the Community Mediation Center of Bozeman (past president).

This experience has allowed me to meet, work with, and observe many District Court judges. My respect for judges and the job they do is extraordinarily high; so also, is my respect for principled attorneys who intelligently work to serve the best interests of their clients in and out of courts.

Audrey Cromwell is one of the preeminent and community-minded attorneys I have met. Her generosity in volunteering her expertise and time as a mediator with the Community Mediation Center puts her on a pedestal above just about any other attorney in the state. I believe that she is open-minded, respectful, fair, compassionate, and courageous.

Ms. Cromwell has my highest recommendation for the position of the District Court Judge who will replace Judge Holly Brown in the 18th District. She will be an excellent judge if she is appointed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hahn".

Christopher P. Hahn, Ph.D.
Mediator, Court Appointed Facilitator, & Guardian ad Litem

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

July 20, 2020

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to support very strongly the appointment of Attorney Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacancy on the 18th Montana Judicial District Court. I know Audrey because she and her firm assisted me in the past, and I know her outside her practice as a community member and friend. I have recommended her and her firm to several friends, and her performance is always outstanding.

I believe Audrey's career has shown an outstanding dedication to public service in ways that exemplify the temperament as well as the legal viewpoints that will make her an excellent judge.

Her application details many facets of her legal experience, including as a trial attorney, in the Public Defender's office in Billings, the prosecutor's office as a law student, in drug court, and as the founder of the firm Cromwell Law, which has grown significantly since its founding. Her firm was chosen from a competitive process to establish a low-cost legal consultation service with Associated Students of MSU. She supervises that service, including a student intern from UM Law School, and she organizes and conducts legal education outreach events. Currently, the heart (by 'heart' I mean both the center of the content as well as the emotional center) of her legal practice is collaborative law and interest-based mediation, processes that can help minimize emotional pain for clients and maximize positive outcomes for all parties. Make no mistake – mediation and interest-based problem solving require exemplary consideration of all sides of an issue, the complex legal contexts of the issues, as well as great patience and depth of thoughtfulness. Audrey Cromwell embodies these characteristics.

The legal viewpoints she expresses in her application show a very rich texture and extraordinarily deep understanding of nuances of judicial contexts: a) external focus on facts, law, plus assuring all parties are actually heard, b) internal focus on analysis in legal context, while setting aside possible influences of one's own or litigants' personal backgrounds, and c) a measured and deeply thoughtful approach in applying previous case law to current cases. Her educational background is outstanding, including study of criminal justice on Native American reservations, and serving as Co-Editor in Chief of the Montana Law Review. She will undoubtedly continue to learn and develop as a legal scholar and jurist.

As Audrey says in her application, judicial decisions often alter life trajectories, for civil litigants and for criminal defendants as well as criminal case victims. From the bench, I have very high confidence that Audrey Cromwell will work to the benefit of all Montanans.

Sincerely,



Colleen F. Moore, Ph.D., Professor Emerita
Psychology Department
University of Wisconsin—Madison, cfmoore@wisc.edu

Affiliate Professor and former Psychology Dept Chair
Montana State University colleen.moore1@montana.edu

Larry E. Riley
3311 N. Hallmark Lane
Missoula, MT 59801

July 16, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Manzi
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am sending you this letter in strong support of Audrey Cromwell to fill the pending Eighth Judicial District Court Judge vacancy.

When Audrey's husband, Charlie Cromwell, asked if I would send a letter on her behalf, I initially hesitated. I did so because my 50 years of law practice was all at Garlington, Lohn and Robinson in Missoula and I never practiced with, or against, Audrey. I have known the Cromwell family for a very long time and all my prior contacts with Audrey were positive and impressive. But, I had not known her in a legal setting. Then I read Audrey's Application. WOW!

As a member of both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates, and having tried cases all over the State of Montana, in both State and Federal Courts, I have had a tremendous interest in District Court Judges. As you well know, they play a critically important role in our system of justice! I hope what I'm going to say next doesn't sound like hyperbole, but I don't know how anyone could submit a more impressive Application. Impressive because the Application was so well thought out and covered so many issues vital to being a judge. Nevertheless, on some level, it could be said that that is still just all talk. The clincher for me was the scope and detail of her study, her teaching and her practice both in Civil Law and Criminal Law. Also, she so well-articulated all she has done and how that qualifies her for being a Judge.

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support
July 16, 2020
Page 2

I have to tell you as I read her answers to your questions, I kept thinking I don't know how we could find a better person to become a Judge. And, in all she said, you could feel her commitment and passion for the practice of law and, more particularly now, her dedication to wanting to become a Judge. Also, I have to add, you are to be complimented on the excellent questions you posed.

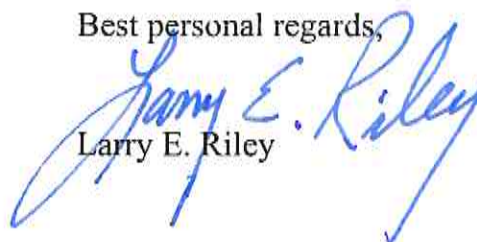
In closing, as I read what Audrey had to say, she made me think about what Bill George had to say in his book "True North." Bill George said:

True North is the internal compass that guides you successfully through life. It represents who you are as a human being at your deepest level. It is your orienting point—your fixed point in a spinning world—that helps you stay on track as a leader. Your True North is based on what is most important to you, your most cherished values, your passions and motivations, the sources of satisfaction in your life.

Discovering your True North takes a lifetime of commitment and learning. Each day, as you are tested in the world, you yearn to look at yourself in the mirror and respect the person you see and the life you have chosen to lead.

My strong sense is that Audrey knows this and will continue to work hard at it. You undoubtedly will have qualified lawyers for this position. But, I think you can feel confident in knowing that Judge Cromwell is an excellent choice.

Best personal regards,


Larry E. Riley



BRYAN LAW FIRM, PC

Justin M. Bryan, JD, LLM
Dash DeJarnatt, JD, LLM
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July 20, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to express my support for Audrey Cromwell's application for the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am a local attorney who primarily practices estate planning, trust and probate administration, and nonprofit law. I have lived and practiced in Gallatin County since 2015. I look forward to continuing to live here with my husband and son, which is primarily why I am invested in the Commission's appointment.

Professionally, I have only worked with Audrey on premarital agreement negotiations. Audrey is always a straight shooter and I have the impression she takes great care ensuring her clients understand the complex legal concepts contained in such agreements (such as the spousal elective share). In all my communications with Audrey, she has been reasonable to work with and it is clear she has a very good understanding of the law. My impression from other local attorneys who have worked with Audrey more regularly than me in the family law sector is that they enjoy working with her for similar reasons. A friend of mine is a client of hers and speaks very highly of Audrey's professional and kind demeanor as well as her intellect.

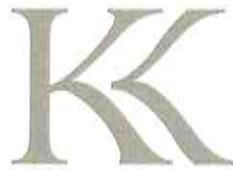
I do not know Audrey well on a personal level, but Audrey's reputation as an advocate affordable legal services precedes her. Her past efforts with the Community Mediation Center and the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program highlight her commitment to public service and providing affordable legal services in our community.

In addition to the abundance of relevant experience contained in Audrey's application, the attributes illustrated in my letter describe a person who I respect and would be proud to have adjudicating matters in Gallatin County. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would be happy to discuss this letter with you.

Respectfully,


Jordan E.G. Feddes, Esq.

KATHRYN KEISER



FAMILY LAW

July 16, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Kathryn Keiser, and I am a family law attorney in Bozeman, Montana. I have been practicing law since 2011, and I have worked as a solo practitioner since 2014. I write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judgeship. I believe Audrey's experience, education, courage, and integrity make her an excellent candidate for a judge in Gallatin County.

I have personally known Audrey since 2008. Audrey was a third-year law student during my first year, and Audrey consistently provided guidance and mentoring to the classes below her in an attempt to assist all students towards success. Audrey was always looked up to with respect from her lower-classmen, and advice and support was always provided by Audrey when needed. Throughout law school until the present, Audrey has presented herself as a leader to colleagues, clients, and the public at large.

I have worked professionally with Audrey in the family law arena since 2012. Audrey's professional attributes have shone brightly through her work as a litigation attorney, collaborative attorney, mediator and mentor to all people who are lucky enough to come into contact with her. Audrey is incredibly knowledgeable in all aspects of the law, as her extensive lawyering experience has exposed her to many different types of law in Montana.

I would describe Audrey's lawyering style as "ethical" and "courageous", as Audrey is willing to do what the law requires even if such action is not the popular choice. Audrey also possesses integrity, which is evidenced by her always choosing to do the right thing for her clients and the Rule of Law, and always adhering to the Rules of Professional Conduct in all aspects of her profession.

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
July 16, 2020

Based upon the foregoing, it is with great pleasure that I support Audrey Cromwell in her pursuit of becoming a Judge in Gallatin County. Please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions arise regarding the information contained herein.

Respectfully,


Kathryn E. Keiser

July 21, 2020

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

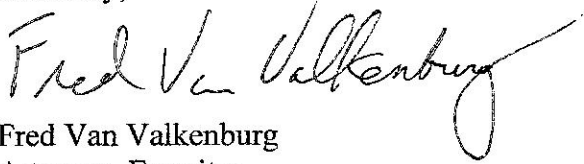
To the Members:

I am writing to recommend the nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell as a District Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

I primarily know Audrey as a person who worked in my office as an intern in 2008-2009. I remember Audrey as someone who was smart, tenacious, enthusiastic and a very promising attorney. Everything I've heard about her since leads me to believe that she has more than lived up to my recollection of her abilities and character in the practice of law. As such, I am convinced she would make an outstanding judge and her name should certainly be submitted to the Governor for his consideration as a prospective appointee.

I also would like to add that I've known Audrey's husband, Charlie Cromwell, since he was an infant. Charlie, who is also a practicing attorney and member of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, is as good a person as you will find in the profession of law. The very fact that Audrey and Charlie have practiced together for years and are active members of the community together indicates to me that she is also of the highest character and can be counted on to serve the citizens of Montana admirably as a district judge. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Fred Van Valkenburg
Attorney, Emeritus
Former Missoula County Attorney

~~fvanvalk~~ fvanvalk@missoula.mt
406-370-4206
112 University Ave.
Missoula, MT 59801

July 20, 2020

VIA EMAIL (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

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

Re: Audrey Shultz Cromwell / Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have been licensed to practice law since 2006 and have been licensed to practice in Montana since 2016. I have known Audrey Shultz Cromwell since moving to Montana in January 2015 and I have both personal and professional relationships with Audrey. I consider myself lucky to call Audrey both a friend and colleague. I can state with utmost confidence that she has impeccable character and overwhelming qualifications to serve the role of District Court Judge.

Our families lived next door to each other for nearly two years. While our children had backyard play dates, I came to know Audrey as a wonderful mother, neighbor and friend. Coincidentally thereafter, we shared the same professional building for our respective law offices. There I came to know Audrey as a passionate and driven attorney, dedicated to helping others and solving problems. Audrey approaches her practice of law with a heartfelt yet results-oriented drive that most other attorneys envy.

Aside from her legal experience, Audrey will provide much needed youth, energy and technological advancement to the Eighteenth Judicial District. Our District's judicial staff is overworked resulting in a community which is underserved. While our public waits for more judges and new facilities, Audrey has the desire and practical solutions to increase our District's productivity. Technological advancements and alternative procedures, proven effective in other venues, can help our judiciary. Audrey is motivated to address these issues while providing new ideas to ease the strain on our dockets.

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I submit this endorsement for the Committee's consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Respectfully,



Matthew I. Sack

July 12, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Abbey Holm and my husband is Ryan Holm. We are writing in support of Audrey Cromwell applying to become the District Court Judge of Gallatin County. We have known Audrey for 20+ years now and feel like her character, temperament and experience would make her a great fit for this position.

We have worked with Audrey's law firm in many instances now. My husband uses her firm for guidance and help with his job at Mystery Ranch Backpacks as the marketing director. They support Ryan and Mystery Ranch with legal requirements on web. Also, we have used Audrey and her firm to help us personally with our living wills and other documents related to that. They have been timely, professional, provide the upmost support, are incredibly knowledgeable in many areas of law, and prove to have vast experience in the field.

Another way I connect with Audrey and her firm is through Montana State University (MSU). At MSU, I am the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness, which is part of the Division of Student Success (DOSS). Cromwell Law is also helping a unit of the DOSS by advising the ASMSU student government and they represent students at MSU. I frequently see them on campus and hear about their work. All great things that are being said about them; they are so great to work with, represent MSU and students fairly, and have a positive impact on our MSU community.

Personally knowing Audrey since we are both from Montana and both went to the same high school, I can say that not only am I work colleagues with her but she is a good friend. I can attest that she is of great character: has good morals, easy-going, honest, very friendly, a great listener, and a high standard of integrity. Also, she is a good mix of temperament for this position: she is patient, open-minded, decisive, compassionate, and of course has common sense.

We hope that you highly consider Audrey for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

Abbey & Ryan Holm

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:13:42 PM

From: Beverly Hosford <bevhosford@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:00 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] c/o Lois Menzies - Audrey Cromwell Applicant for Gallatin District Judge Position

Please confirm receipt of this email, thank you.

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I met Audrey at church when I was pregnant with my first son, four years ago. She is a friendly person who openly introduced herself to me. Every time I saw Audrey at church she checked in on my pregnancy and shared her own experiences. She also offered to lend me anything I needed for this new phase of life, as if I was her sister.

After the birth of our first child, Audrey brought a meal and checked in on us, offering comic relief and love through her presence. When I became pregnant with my second child, she gifted us with a car full of maternity clothes, baby items, kids clothes and toys.

I know Audrey as a generous woman with a bright, bubbly spirit, yet not without challenges in life. Just a winning attitude about them. Her commitment to her career, while maintaining family relationships, hobbies and working on her own resilience is admirable. I only wish I saw Audrey more often, because every minute spent with her fills my spirit with joy and warmth.

Audrey's interest in filling this demanding, yet prestigious position is a marvelous gift to our community. Because of people like her, we as a city can be proud about the way we care for one another, in both the big jobs of a courtroom and in the smaller moments that happen in someone's living room.

Sincerely,

Beverly Hosford

Wife, mother, fitness professional and writer
Resident of Bozeman, MT

Abigail R. Brown
Attorney at Law
abby@mtwaterlaw.com



7 W. 6th Ave, Ste. 512
Helena, MT 59601
Tel. (406) 457-5494
www.mtwaterlaw.com

July 26, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am Abigail R. Brown, managing attorney and founder of ARB Law Group located in Helena, Montana. I write in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). Audrey is well-qualified for the position through her experience, education, temperament, dedication to public service, and active engagement with Montana's legal community.

I first met Audrey at the University of Montana School of Law when we were both law students. I later reconnected with Audrey as colleagues in Bozeman in 2012. From 2012 through 2018, I got to know Audrey well through our work at the Community Mediation Center (CMC), a Bozeman non-profit dedicated to providing free or reduced fee mediations to the Bozeman community.

Keeping this letter brief is difficult because there are so many reasons why Audrey is extremely well-suited to be a district court judge, and why the Montana judiciary would be fortunate to name her among their ranks. As I believe Audrey's work, temperament, and dedication to serving Montanans will undoubtedly speak for itself throughout this process, I will focus my comments on Audrey's time as CMC's interim Executive Director where she skillful modernized an organization that was struggling to keep pace with a rapidly changing Bozeman community.

Audrey and I both volunteered as family mediators at CMC, but she and I worked most closely during her time as CMC's interim Executive Director from 2017-2018. In the fall of 2016, only months after Audrey joined CMC's Board of Directors, CMC's executive director abruptly resigned. This was a period when CMC was financially unstable as it struggled to find its footing in a town that was rapidly changing on all fronts. When Audrey heard the executive director quit, Audrey asked the Board of Directors that she be allowed to resign as a board member and take on the task of

interim executive director. Her stated goals to the Board were that she would bring CMC back to solid financial footing with focused, effective mission-driven programs and a nimbler organizational structure that could keep pace with Bozeman's growth and change.

I was the Vice President and then President of the CMC Board of Directors during Audrey's tenure as interim executive director. With a shoestring budget, minimal staff, and several pressures on her time (she was still a practicing attorney at her firm and with MSU), Audrey did exactly what she said she would do. In the approximately 18 months that she served as interim executive director, Audrey put the non-profit back on solid financial footing, grew CMC's community of donors and volunteers under mission-driven programs, and poised CMC to grow as an organization in sync with Bozeman's growth. Accomplishing these goals include making hard decisions such as pausing or discontinuing favored CMC programs for the sake of the organization's long-term health. Audrey approached these difficult moments with a gentle firmness that skillfully acknowledged the disappointment that some organization members felt when a program was discontinued, while also affirmed the necessity of the change through a well-reasoned and thoughtful analysis. When Audrey and the Board felt CMC was stabilized and poised to grow, she came to the Board with a transitional plan to move CMC towards a full-time Executive Director.

Some of the characteristics I observed during Audrey's time as CMC interim executive director that make her particularly suited to join the Montana judiciary were her: steadiness of temperament; skillfulness at holding space for multiple perspectives and interest during difficult conversations; exceptional problem-solving skills; ability to communicate clearly and directly, even when delivering difficult or unpleasant news; exceptional organizational and writing skills; and ability to be kind but firm when the law or facts lead to a particular conclusion. As a fellow attorney, I know Audrey to be an extremely talented legal mind and a pleasure to work with professionally.

In sum, Audrey is an exceptional candidate for the position district court judge for the 18th Judicial District and I strongly urge the Commission to forward her name to Chief Justice McGrath for consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail R. Brown

Abigail R. Brown



COLLINS LAW PLLC

July 24, 2020

Sent via Email Only to: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy—Public Comment in Support of
Applicant Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I enthusiastically write in support of applicant Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy Position. As a former Montana Supreme Court Law Clerk and a former Water Master at the Montana Water Court I am familiar with the qualities necessary that make a “good judge.” It is my sincere belief that Audrey has the experience, temperament, integrity, and intelligence that are required to be a District Court Judge.

I know Audrey both personally and professionally through interactions in her capacity as ASMSU legal counsel. In regard to my personal knowledge of Audrey, I have had the good fortune to know the Terry and Mary-Glynn Cromwell family for the past twenty-four years. There are few families where all family members equally possess qualities of unimpeachable integrity, intelligence, perseverance, strength of character, and service to others, all while maintaining an unparalleled zest for life—all Cromwells, including Audrey’s husband Charlie, have these qualities. It is not hard to imagine that joining such a family would be intimidating to say the least. I can say that I observed Audrey join the Cromwell family seamlessly, and not only match their qualities every step of the way but be a true complement to Charlie and his extended family.

Audrey’s demeanor is enviable. She is calm and considered, thoughtful and thorough, poised and confident—these qualities, amongst others, make her an excellent candidate for any judgeship. As shown through her work and life experiences, Audrey possesses an internal drive to accomplish tasks and goals no matter how big or small with precision and creativity. She very clearly has the ability to manage multiple responsibilities at once, whether it’s as a mother, business owner, military wife, executive director, judge *pro tem*, boss, community servant, or lawyer with a full caseload. While Audrey’s work experience is impressive and encompasses many areas of law over which she would preside as a judge, she will no doubt be challenged with complex and unfamiliar areas of law. I am confident that Audrey will meet any unfamiliar area of law with diligent research and preparation in order to render measured and careful decisions.

Of the qualities I most admire in Audrey are her good humor, kind spirit, and respectful listening of others, even in the face of frustration and hardship. While for sure she is strong and convicted, it is her listening skills, kindness, and sense of humor that will be invaluable as a judge. When often facing individuals at their lowest points in life, I believe a good judge makes her decisions, especially the hardest decisions, with compassion, kindness, humanity, and even with a sense of humor—and I have no doubt that is exactly what Audrey will do in her decision-making as District Court Judge.

I believe leadership is essential for a District Court Judge. It is important to continue to further the judiciary so that it can best serve society. Audrey has shown herself to be a true leader who is innovative, willing to take on challenges, efficient, and accountable. I believe she will be a genuine asset to the State of Montana and Gallatin County residents, and work within the system to bolster what is working and to take a hard look at anything that is not working and help to facilitate necessary change.

Finally, for nearly the past two decades Hon. Judge Holly Brown has presided over water disputes for the Eighteenth Judicial District. These proceedings are vital in an agricultural community. I am not aware of any of the applicants' prior experience in water law, but as a former Water Master I cannot emphasize enough how important this responsibility will be for the incoming judge. Based on my knowledge of Audrey's abilities and her approach to the practice of law, I believe that Audrey is the right applicant to fill Judge Brown's enormous shoes in this critical area of law.

For the above reasons, I do not hesitate to support Audrey Schultz Cromwell to succeed Hon. Judge Holly Brown as District Court Judge. As such, I respectfully ask that the Judicial Nomination Commission further her application to Governor Bullock for appointment as Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge. If you should have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

COLLINS LAW PLLC


Andrea Collins

DAVID ARONOFSKY
3909 Lincoln Road Missoula MT 59802
406-531-6857 aronofskyd@mso.umt.edu

July 23, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am especially pleased to recommend Audrey Cromwell for the vacant 18th Judicial District judgeship. I have known Audrey for many years. She was an outstanding law student of mine in multiple courses when I taught at The University of Montana Law School, and I knew then she would likely join the bench. I mentored her both in law school and after she graduated, and I have enjoyed following her successful career. Audrey has exceptional interpersonal skills which every judge should have, along with a great work ethic, a keen legal mind, excellent writing skills, a very strong set of professional ethical principles, and an overall sense of what our legal system is intended to be in terms of providing even-handed justice for all. Among the many Montana law students I taught, I rate Audrey at the top in terms of what I hope to see in our judges. Thanks you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Aronofsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Aronofsky, J.D., Ph.D.
The University of Montana General Counsel & Law Faculty (Retired)
Montana Bar No. 3386



SSES

Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Services

July 22, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am honored to support Ms. Audrey Cromwell for the position of 18th Judicial District judge.

I have worked closely with Ms. Cromwell since 2018 as first a volunteer and currently as a board member of the Bozeman Community Mediation Center. We share a deep commitment to public service and collaborative processes. For the past 25 years, I have helped public and private companies, non-profits, tribes, and academic institutions develop processes and cultures that enable constructive, mutually beneficial resolution of conflict. I am founder and CEO of Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Services. I also teach Negotiation in the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University and sit on several non-profit boards in Gallatin Valley.

For the entire time I have known her, Ms. Cromwell has been a model of integrity, service, and humility. She is able to analyze the nuances of complex situations and balance compassionate insight with practical, outcome-based approaches. She displays an authentic, calm professionalism and deep awareness in all circumstances. I am aware that I am not the only person who holds this opinion, as many people have commented to me on their high regard for Ms. Cromwell.

Ms. Cromwell's experience, temperament, and character make her an excellent choice for this position. She would be an asset to the district and I highly support her for this position.

Respectfully,

Kate Stewart, MA, MBA, PhD
CEO, SSES
Board member, Community Mediation Center
Faculty, JJCBE, MSU

John M. Van Atta

531 Hahaione Street #20B Honolulu, HI 96825
johnvanatta@gmail.com ■ 406-698-2350

July 23, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

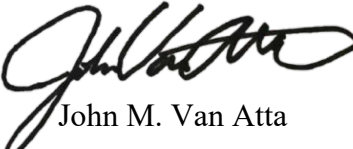
I enthusiastically support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacant judge position in the 18th Judicial District.

I am a former partner with a Billings law firm. While I now practice in Hawaii, I maintain a close connection with the Montana bar. I have known Audrey for several years both as a professional and as a member of my extended family, and I am confident that she would act as an honorable and valuable member of the judiciary.

Audrey's energy to serve and to improve the practice of law and access to justice is unparalleled. She not only founded and has managed a successful law firm, Cromwell Law, but along the way has made pioneering and innovative efforts to provide clients with high quality, affordable representation. Her legal experience includes experience from both sides of the bench and the negotiation table. She has practiced as a trial lawyer, served as a judge *pro tempore*, and has emphasized a collaborative approach to family law.

Audrey's contributions to the legal profession are only the beginning. As an individual, she is an active member of the community, a mother, and a beloved family member. She has a truly unique combination of intelligence, commitment, and humanity that I believe would prove valuable during times when so many question our system of justice.

Respectfully,



John M. Van Atta

July 26, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 18th Judicial District Court seat.

Currently, I am an in-house lawyer at a fast-growing Bay Area technology company and have previously worked within the capital markets group of a large, global law firm. While I am based in California, I have known Audrey for over ten years, as a friend, sister-in-law, and colleague.

During my practice, I have rarely met another lawyer who is as purposeful, intellectually curious, and hard-working as Audrey. From attending immigration clinics to learn how to fill a gap that may exist within her community, or pioneering, along with others, a collaborative mediation approach to often-contentious family law cases, she constantly strives to better herself and her practice for the benefit of her community. She is frequently juggling several projects at the same time, but she does so with an unwavering work ethic, and all the while, with a level head.

Audrey is a prime example of the saying "how you do anything is how you do everything." She takes on every challenge with deep personal commitment and she excels. I am confident that Audrey would be a terrific district court judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Kimberly Kim



LEGAL SERVICES

Klaus D Sitte, Of Counsel

University Center, Room 116
32 Campus Drive
Missoula, MT 59812

Phone: (406) 243-6213
Fax: (406) 258-0450

July 24, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Commission Members:

I am most pleased to offer this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell in her application for appointment as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District. I have known Audrey for 13 of my 48-year legal career, most of which I spent at Montana Legal Services Association where Audrey served as a Legal Intern. I served as adjunct faculty and clinical supervisor at Alexander Blewett III Law School, again meeting and working with Audrey when she attended Law School.

After leaving MLSA, I served as staff attorney ASUM Legal Services until my retirement. Serendipitously, when Audrey began at ASMSU Legal Services, we shared parallel work. During my nearly 5 decades of practicing law, I have trained and mentored more than 700 interns and lawyers. Audrey stands out as among the memorable best. From the beginning of her legal career, I have watched her develop from a neophyte Legal Intern to a wonderfully experienced and extremely capable attorney.

Not only do we know each other as attorney colleagues but as trusted friends as well. When she was a Legal Intern at MLSA, we worked closely together on casework. When Audrey served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review, she and I spent considerable time refining and

editing an article I authored. As colleagues representing students in the Montana University system, we shared similar interests and still remain in close touch professionally and personally. I believe I am very familiar with her character, disposition, and qualifications.

Audrey's impressive résumé reflects her remarkable depth of experience: criminal law, family law, consumer protection, trial skills, supervisory skills, pro bono leadership, a variety of CLE presentations and more. Many attorneys hardly build such a complete CV in an entire career. Her résumé is replete with her admirable credentials. By Audrey's employment experience and through her civic/pro bono activities, Audrey has demonstrated a commitment to access to justice. Essentially, Audrey has already been vetted by the lawyering community and the public; organizations consistently seek her leadership skills.

One of Audrey's most important characteristics is mindfulness. I have always been impressed by her thoughtfulness and patience. She thinks carefully about *how* to practice law. Her calm demeanor and patient temperament make her ideally suited for the judgeship. Clearly, she has given much thought to why she wants to be a judge as well. Audrey has an uncanny ability to balance the demands of her law practice and her family, an essential trait for this demanding judgeship position. We want, and deserve, judges who are contemplative, introspective, and thorough. Audrey has exhibited those qualities throughout her career. Audrey's ever-present buoyant attitude brings out the best in those around her.

We know that the best indicator of future behavior is past action. We can predict that Audrey will devote her passion and her dedication to the judgeship, just as she has in her practice and the profession. Audrey Schultz Cromwell will be a judge in whom we can all take pride.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Klaus D. Sitte

Klaus D. Sitte

W.T. BOONE (1910-1984)
KARL R. KARLBERG (1923-1988)
JAMES J. BENN (1944-1992)
THOMAS H. BOONE, of Counsel
WILLIAM L. CROWLEY
RANDY J. COX
ROBERT J. SULLIVAN
DEAN A. STENSLAND
CYNTHIA K. THIEL
ROSS D. TILLMAN
JAMES A. BOWDITCH

MATTHEW B. HAYHURST
SCOTT M. STEARNS
NATASHA PRINZING JONES
THOMAS J. LEONARD
JULIE R. SIRRS
TRACEY NEIGHBOR JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER L. DECKER
RANDY J. TANNER
ZACHARY A. FRANZ
TYLER M. STOCKTON
EVAN B. COREN
ALISON R. POTTS

July 25, 2020

by e-mail only

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

**Re: Letter of support for Audrey Cromwell
18th Judicial District Vacancy**

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to express my support for Audrey Cromwell and her application to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I have known Audrey for 13 years and can say, without hesitation, that she is well-suited for the position. I first met Audrey in law school. She was a year ahead of me and served as Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Montana Law Review. I served on the law review staff and worked closely with her. Audrey was an exceptional mentor and leader—always willing to provide any assistance or guidance that I or any other staff members needed. She was also clearly an outstanding writer and communicator, traits she has carried forward in her legal career.

Since graduating from law school, Audrey has garnered substantial and diverse experience, all of which will have direct application to her responsibilities as a judge. Unlike the practices of most attorney's, Audrey has represented clients in both the criminal and civil arenas. What is more, Audrey has served as Substitute Judge *Pro Tempore* in Gallatin County Justice Court, where she has handled numerous matters and judicial functions. Stated simply, Audrey is prepared to hit the ground running if appointed.

Much of Audrey's work in recent years has focused on collaborative family law, mediation, and working with university students. This practice has established Audrey as someone who can bring together all sides of a dispute with the goal of reaching a fair and equitable resolution. The temperament Audrey has shown in her practice is precisely what one would hope for in a judge. Those who will appear and practice before her as a

judge will respect her decisions, knowing she has given full, informed, and thorough consideration to all perspectives.

Audrey has also shown she is committed to the broader legal community outside her practice, organizing and leading a variety of outreach events. Many of these events are targeted at either law students or students at Montana State University. This commitment has earned Audrey the respect of both her peers and those who look to her for mentorship. I have no doubt this commitment will carry forward to the bench.

Attorneys practicing in Gallatin County know the courts there carry a heavy docket. Gallatin County deserves a judge who is able and prepared to administer that caseload in a way that expeditiously moves cases toward resolution. Audrey's prior experience as a public defender alone shows that she is not afraid to take on the challenges of a large docket. Audrey is highly skilled at managing countless matters and tasks (both in her personal and professional lives). She will prove to be an invaluable asset to the Court's administration.

I respectfully recommend the Judicial Nomination Commission forward Audrey's application to Governor Bullock. The Bozeman community would be fortunate to have her as a judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Tanner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Randy Tanner
Shareholder, Boone Karlberg PC

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:13 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Rita Gallagher <ritag7@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 7:39 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

We are writing to you in support of Audrey Cromwell who is running for the 18th Judicial District Judge in Bozeman. We have known Audreys family for about 15 years or more, she comes from a wonderful hardworking caring family. She has amazed me in all the things she's accomplished in her life , starting with being a great student, athlete , singer with Up with People,a public defender where I witnessed her great work ,working with the poor and down trodden in a very professional manner.We've gotten to know her more the past few years as we are friends with her parents, as my Husband is now a retired Radiologist, and I'm a retired R.N.,and I've enjoyed getting to see her be a wonderful caring mother, wife and daughter.

She is a very hard working, dedicated lawyer that not only has her own law practice, but she also works with students at MSU and helps them for a very small fee,so they are given the right legal help that they otherwise couldn't afford.She made top 20 under 40 in Bozeman ,that is a big honor for young professionals.She Also has been a Judge protemp that has given her more experience in the courtroom. We feel she would make an excellent Judicial Judge, from her varied background ,her hard work ethic ,very smart and knowledgeable, attacks every challenge with amazing ease, and all her years in various capacities in the courtroom.We hope you will appoint her to this position, She's got it all!

Respectfully,
Rita and Mitch Gallagher



July 27, 2020

SENT VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Support of 18th Judicial District Court Judge Nominee Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter to offer my public comment and support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell as the 18th district court judge nominee.

I am the founder and managing attorney of the Law Offices of CJ Cook, PLLC in Bozeman, Montana. My firm practices primarily in the field of family law, criminal defense, and small business transaction law. I have worked and am currently working with Audrey as an adversary on multiple dissolution of marriage cases. I also use her frequently as a mediator for dissolution cases.

Audrey's character, diligence, work ethic, and dedication to the law are just some of her attributes that would make her a phenomenal district court judge. This past year we had a very difficult dissolution matter with a large marital estate, and many highly emotional issues. Audrey's zealous advocacy for her client was balanced by her knowledge of the law, and desired to settle matters equitably for both parties. Audrey understands the need for justice through litigation, while also understanding parties' financial needs and desire to settle matters amicably. As a mediator, her experience as a family law litigator and criminal defense attorney has resulted in many settled cases. She is able to educate parties about the framework of the law, while also empowering client resolution.

Outside of family law, she has a passion for accessible legal service in the Bozeman community. My fiancé is a business owner in Bozeman. With the COVID-19 crisis, she has an employee who has a complicated immigration issue, as it pertained to her temporarily laying him off. We were able to contact Audrey, and she dropped everything she was doing to schedule an immediate consultation. Her advice and legal direction allowed him to upkeep his citizenship application, while also receiving unemployment benefits. I feel that this type of dedication to the community is paramount for a district court judge.

Besides the abovementioned legal fields, Audrey's work with MSU's legal clinic and as a public defender will make her a well-rounded judge. On the bench, I imagine that Audrey will assist with the furtherance of Gallatin County's progress in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution, ultimately leading to a less crowded docket with faster and more affordable access to justice.

I fully back Audrey's nomination as a district court judge, and after discussion with many other practitioners in the area, I know I am not alone in my enthusiastic support. She has a holistic legal background and I know she will provide fair and accessible justice to the community.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions or need any clarification to my above recommendation.

Respectfully,

LAW OFFICE OF CJ COOK, PLLC

s/ CJ Cook

CJ Cook

July 26, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support - Audrey Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

We are co-founders and executive leaders of commonFont LLC, a Bozeman-based technology services company that employs 25 Montanans and a total of 31 people across the country. Cromwell Law, PLLC, helped commonFont with the legal and regulatory filings that established our company back in 2013, and they have advised commonFont on legal matters related to state and local law ever since. We have worked with Audrey both for personal and corporate legal matters through our roles as co-founders and co-owners of commonFont, and we have known her as a personal friend for many years.

In our professional and personal interactions with Audrey, we have found her to be of the highest integrity, trustworthiness, and thoughtfulness. We trust and value both her formal and informal counsel, though we place an especially high premium on her guidance related to matters of conflict resolution, communication, and mediation. As business leaders, we've found that binary outcomes—in which one party wins outright and the other party loses outright—are transitory and ultimately unsatisfactory to all involved. Most situations that lead to dispute and conflict have contributing forces that do not conform to simple classifications of "wrong" and "right". Business operates this way, and life does, as well.

We cannot think of more important qualities for a judge than an appreciation for nuance, an objective and thoughtful perspective, and an instinctive desire to seek durable, effective outcomes for all parties involved. Audrey possesses and demonstrates those capabilities on a daily basis in her personal and professional interactions, and she has our strongest recommendations for nomination to the open district court judge position in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,



Abby Schlatter
CEO and Co-Founder
commonFont LLC

PO Box 1830
Bozeman, MT 59771

Email: abby.schlatter@commonfont.com



Matt Fulton
Managing Director and Co-Founder
commonFont LLC

1212 S Pinecrest Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

Email: matt.fulton@commonfont.com

July 28, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

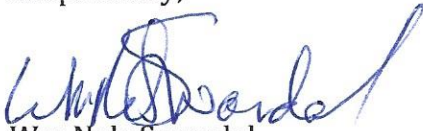
Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell's application to replace Judge Holly Brown. Audrey practiced in my court when I was judge and she was always well prepared and effectively represented her client's interests. She is a hard worker and will get her decisions out in a timely manner because she knows the toll it takes on parties when they have to wait.

Since I have left the bench, I have had numerous contacts with her both socially and as part of my present practice. While I am sure that she and all other applicants have the intelligence to do the job, what impresses me most is that Audrey has the perfect demeanor to be a judge. She is understanding and patient but can be firm when the situation requires. Audrey would do a great job as judge and would serve the Eighteenth District well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wm Nels Swandal", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wm Nels Swandal
Swandal Law, PLLC
305 East Lewis St
Livingston, MT 59047
Swandal.law@gmail.com

July 14, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have had the privilege of working along Audrey for the last two years. Audrey and I came to know one another through our work within the Montana Collaborative Professionals. In that capacity I serve as a financial neutral while Audrey has helped represent her clients going through divorce.

What I appreciate about Audrey is her ability to remain professional in all situations. She is incredibly level-headed, methodical, and always exudes professionalism. Through the two years that I have served as a Financial Neutral I have gotten the chance to work with a number of attorneys here in Gallatin Valley. Her attention to detail and capacity to maintain an incredible level of work is quite amazing.

Although I am not versed in the technical skills that this opportunity would require, I do know that it takes a certain type of person to be successful and well respected. I feel confident in Audrey's ability and desire to serve in this capacity. One thing I admire about Audrey is that she does a great job at setting boundaries and I think that it is a skill that would allow her to maintain an incredible amount of responsibility and maintain respect of not only her peers but also the community members that she would have the privilege of serving in this position as a District Judge.

Respectfully,

Jenifer Schimbeno

July 27, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have had the privilege to work with Audrey in a couple of capacities and it is with great honor to suggest her for the role of a District Judge.

Audrey is incredibly competent when it comes to professional and business matters. Her attention to detail is flawless and her ability to listen and implement is excellent. Her follow through on tasks is timely, professional, and thorough.

Audrey would be an excellent addition to the Montana Judicial system and it is with great pleasure to make that recommendation.

Respectfully,

Brock Schimbeno

July 28, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Kristin Bjella How and I am attorney on inactive status. I work as a project manager at Gallatin Valley Land Trust, a Bozeman area non-profit focusing on trails and conservation in Gallatin and surrounding counties. Prior to working for Gallatin Valley Land Trust, I worked for Oracle and Crowley Fleck.

I first heard Ms. Cromwell's name several years ago. I am often asked for referrals, and when I asked around to friends who are still practicing, her name was repeatedly mentioned. Other attorneys had overwhelmingly positive things to say about her and her work. I finally met her in person a year ago when our sons were in the same kindergarten class at Longfellow Elementary. She quickly became a parent I could rely on for support and camaraderie during our children's' first year in the public school system.

In my experience, Ms. Cromwell treats all people with whom she interacts with respect and dignity. She possesses a calm demeanor, as well as the ability to listen well and intently. I anticipate she would bring these characteristics to the bench and they are part of why I am writing this letter of support on her behalf. I also believe that her experience will be an asset as a district judge. Her understanding of the types of cases she will see as a judge will serve her and our community very well.

Respectfully,

Kristin Bjella How

July 24, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to support the nomination of Audrey Shultz Cromwell for consideration of appointment to the open seat in the Montana 18th Judicial District. I am the Finance Officer of the Gallatin City-County Health Department, but I know Audrey privately, through our joint community service on the board of the Community Mediation Center. In November of 2016, Audrey came on to the board of an organization entering troubled waters, and courageously offered to take the helm. She promised to stay long enough to right the ship, and she delivered exactly that. Audrey finished FY2018 with 293 days operating cash on hand, compared to a very scary low in FY2016 of less than 20 days operating cash on hand – a time when we were deferring her executive salary and thinking about closing the business. Under Audrey's leadership, the CMC did more with less, providing higher service levels with fewer resources. Audrey optimistically and enthusiastically pursued her enlightened vision even at times when optimism seemed irrational or imprudent. Audrey's term as Executive Director was a bright chapter in the final, tumultuous years of the Community Mediation Center.

Gallatin County has an enormous task ahead of it, faced with an ever-growing demand for services, and a confusing and complex environment in which we will be asked to provide those services. Audrey is up to this challenge, and is well-suited for it.

Respectfully,



Keith Wilson, CGFM
Bozeman, MT

July 27, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing on behalf of judicial candidate Audrey Cromwell. I have known Ms. Cromwell since 2006, and consider her a trusted voice in the legal world.

We first met while students at the University of Montana School of Law. By our second year, we had become friends. I admired her work ethic and the fair way she viewed both her classmates and her studies. Ms. Schultz did not partake in classroom gossip, no easy feat at such a small law school. Moreover, she approached her classwork much as she has approached her legal career – open minded and always willing to consider the perspective of each side of a case. This made her an ideal candidate to lead the law review, a post she held in her third year of law school. It also made her an ideal study partner, as her inquisitive mind constantly brought up unique ideas.

She has continued her open approach through the law firm she founded, Cromwell Law. Starting out with a law degree and a couple of dollars, she and her husband have built a law firm dedicated to serving the Gallatin county public. Her work with MSU students has been commendable, as I have seen her take cases not based on what they are worth, but on what people can afford. Her work as Substitute Judge *Pro Tem* reflects her fundamental strength – bringing people together through collaboration. An appointment to the bench would be yet another step on a public service road she has already begun walking.

I consider Ms. Cromwell highly qualified to represent the 18th Judicial District, and am fortunate enough to likewise consider her a friend.

Respectfully,



Brett Olin
Montana State Bar #11436

July 20, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District judge position in Bozeman. I have worked side by side with Ms. Cromwell in dozens of Collaborative and mediation cases here in Montana. Over the years I have witnessed her incredible skill, compassion, dedication, and attention to detail in our work and on behalf of her clients.

I practice as a Licensed Clinical Therapist and specifically as a mental health neutral professional in Montana Collaborative family law cases. Ms. Cromwell's service to her clients, understanding and implementation of the law, and incredible empathy and ability to connect with the clients and professionals on both sides of the table is remarkable.

In addition to my professional work with Ms. Cromwell, I also know her personally as a mother, wife, sister, friend, daughter and an active citizen of our growing community. Her ethical values, steadfast character, and her passion for helping others is inspirational. I wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Cromwell for the judge position and I believe our Judicial District would greatly benefit from her leadership.

Respectfully,

Brandyn Roark Caires, M.S., LCPC
Mind Matters PLLC



600 DEWEY BLVD POST OFFICE BOX 3329 BUTTE, MT 59702
TEL 406.494.8890 THEMCKEONLAW.COM FAX 406.494.7066

July 27, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my honor to support the application of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the position of District Court Judge in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Audrey since law school. Over the course of those years, I was always impressed with her commitment to become an attorney, as well as her commitment to bettering not only the lives of her fellow students, but those who she assisted during her clinical time with the Montana Legal Services office, along with the clients she has so diligently served since that time.

Following law school, Audrey began her career as a law clerk with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. She then joined the Office of the State Public Defender (OPD). During her time with the OPD, her dedication to the law and abilities to assist those in dire need of quality legal representation was unquestionable. After her time with the OPD, Audrey founded Cromwell Law, PLLC with her husband Charlie. Through that practice, Audrey has provided remarkable legal representation at an affordable cost to those who are less fortunate. Additionally, through her firm, she was selected as co-director of the Associated Students of Montana State University and has provided hundreds of students with high quality legal representation that they would not have been able to afford otherwise. Throughout her career, Audrey has provided exemplary representation. Her commitment to those less fortunate and providing them with high-quality representation is something all of us in the Montana legal community should aspire to.

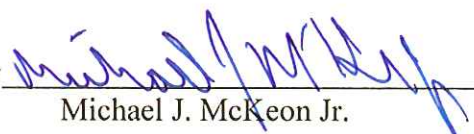
Audrey is also dedicated to her family. She and her husband have a wonderful six year old boy, who is growing up to be just as kind, compassionate and caring as his parents. Audrey's family is always at the forefront, but her commitment to her profession and those she serves never waivers. While Audrey leaving the practice will leave a significant hole in Gallatin County, it will be gaining a judge with the knowledge, experience, empathy and compassion that is so very needed of a District Court Judge.

Audrey will serve as a fair judge, who will make the right decisions in both the criminal and civil arenas. I believe Audrey to be the most experienced and qualified applicant for the position of the Eighteenth Judicial District Judge. I cannot stress any further how highly I recommend her and respectfully implore the Commission to strongly consider Audrey to fill the seat vacated by the Honorable Judge Holly Brown.

Respectfully,

McKEON LAW, PLLC

By


Michael J. McKeon Jr.

July 30, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to you in support of Audrey Cromwell for the Montana 18th Judicial District Court position. Audrey is highly capable and qualified for this position and she would excel at being a Montana State District Court judge.

I know Audrey as a colleague and former office-mate, as my attorney, and as a friend. I have known Audrey since at least 2013 and I have known her husband and law partner, Charlie Cromwell, since 2011 or before. My practice and Cromwell Law were co-located for approximately four and a half years, until May 2019. In 2015 and 2016 Audrey handled a personal legal matter for me. Having observed and interacted with Audrey on nearly a daily basis and working with her to handle an emotional and somewhat complicated legal matter for me, I feel I am very qualified to speak to her capabilities and temperament.

Working in the same office and interacting with Audrey, I observed her to be very diligent, focused, efficient, disciplined and hard working. Audrey juggles numerous client matters, job functions, and practice related administrative duties efficiently and without turmoil. I observed that she dealt with client and business matters very timely. Audrey is very productive and has excellent time management skills and effectively uses the resources she has. I also observed that her staff and co-workers delighted in working with Audrey. I personally found Audrey a very pleasant person with whom to share office space.

I have first-hand experience with Audrey's legal skills and temperament in dealing with clients and adverse parties. Audrey handled my marital dissolution. For me it was emotional and presented challenging financial issues. Audrey managed the process with a very even, business like, yet fair manner. She effectively steered me to handle the process with a rationale approach. Audrey's manner was such that she earned the full trust of the adverse party (my former wife), which allowed us to navigate the dissolution process efficiently, without contentiousness, and with both parties feeling like the outcome was fair. In a process that can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars, Audrey handled it such that the cost was a small fraction of what it could have been. Based on my experience, there is no question Audrey has the temperament to deal with challenging and often difficult litigants and attorneys.

The dissolution process also gave me a view into Audrey's technical, legal skills. Audrey is very thorough and diligent in her approach to learning, understanding, and applying the law. During the process I felt great confidence in her legal abilities. She communicated with confidence backed by concise and complete explanations of the applicable legal issues and governing law. I never had cause to question her legal conclusions or advice. This made me very comfortable with how she handled my matter and with the outcome.

I worked for two years as a judicial law clerk in the Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court (Judge Robert Holmstrom) and I experienced first-hand what is needed to effectively manage a busy, over-full district court. I can say with absolute certainty that Audrey has the skills to be district court judge and manage a department in the critically overloaded Eighteenth Judicial District. Given the caseload of this district court, I believe it is critical to have someone with Audrey's skills and temperament placed into that position.

Lastly, I attended the University of Montana School of Law, was admitted to the State Bar in 1995, and have practiced in Bozeman since 2004. With this background and familiarity of the justice system and the local bar, I firmly believe the Gallatin County Bar would greatly respect Audrey and would quickly see that Audrey will fairly, efficiently, and with compassion and alacrity, advance the cause and system of justice in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,



Paul Grigsby

BECK, AMSDEN & STALPES, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

Attorneys:

Monte D. Beck
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Of Counsel:

Michael G. Black

Paralegals:

Natalie F. Phillips
David W. McGoldrick
Reid M. Beck

July 12, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in support of Audrey Cromwell because I believe she would be a great judge here in Gallatin County.

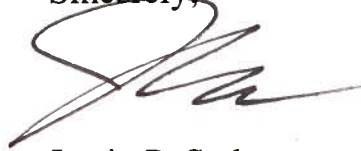
I have known Audrey for 14 years. We were classmates in law school and I came to know Audrey well. She and I served on law review together, with Audrey serving as co-editor. As co-editor, Audrey demonstrated a commitment to accuracy and detail. She worked long hours, and it was not uncommon to see her in the library or in the law review house late at night. Not insignificantly, she did all this while being incredibly well-liked. Audrey is engaging, funny, smart and charismatic. She is fair and open-minded. She is inquisitive and humble. I really do think that Audrey has the qualities to make a good judge.

Since law school, I have watched Audrey form and grow her own practice. Bozeman is a difficult place to start a practice that succeeds, but as a result of her relentless work ethic and high acumen, she has done just that. She has chosen to represent many clients who otherwise would not be able to receive legal advice as a result of her contract with the University, which is commendable. By virtue of the nature of her practice, Audrey has become proficient in the areas of law that a new judge in Gallatin County must know in order to avoid delay or overburdening our other two very busy judges and our magistrate.

On a more personal note, if anyone were to give me praise for anything, I would hope that it would be for being a good parent. I am happy to give that praise to Audrey. Audrey is a good parent for some of the same reasons Audrey would be a good judge. She is patient, humble, and works hard.

In my opinion, Audrey would be a valuable asset to our judiciary. I know her well, and she will be a good fit. She will be liked and respected by the bar. Her temperament, intelligence and work ethic will be well-received. If she is selected, when election time comes she will put in the work and she will have strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stalpes', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Justin P. Stalpes

JPS:kp

BECK, AMSDEN & STALPES, PLLC
Attorneys at Law

Attorneys:
Monte D. Beck
John L. Amsden
Justin P. Stalpes
Lindsay C. Beck
Anthony F. Jackson

1946 Stadium Drive, Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59715
Tel: (406) 586-8700
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Of Counsel:
Michael G. Black

Paralegals:
Natalie F. Phillips
David W. McGoldrick
Reid M. Beck

July 30, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in support of my friend and colleague, Audrey Cromwell. I am an attorney in Bozeman and have been practicing in the area of civil litigation since 2009. I have known Audrey for almost fifteen years. I believe that she would make an excellent district court judge.

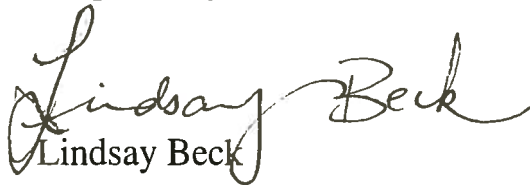
Audrey has always impressed me by her ability to take on new professional endeavors and work hard to learn them quickly and thoroughly. She is not afraid to put in extra time to learn a new area of law or legal issue. I believe this is demonstrated by Audrey's wide range of legal experience in various areas of law, from civil to criminal.

Audrey is also a person who values fairness and justice. I admire Audrey's work at Cromwell Law, where as part of her practice, she helps MSU students who are in need of legal assistance, but have little resources. I also am impressed by her commitment to alternate dispute resolution theories in the area of family law. She is able to navigate difficult family dynamics and legal issues that arise in those contexts with skill and compassion for those involved. She is intelligent, kind and is guided by a strong sense of fairness.

Audrey has also impressed me with her ability to juggle so many things throughout law school and her legal career. I recall in law school how she gracefully led the Montana Law Review, made good grades, participated in clubs, played on a recreational sports team and also never seemed to miss a social event at the law school. This ability to aptly manage so many responsibilities and areas of her life continues today as she thrives in her professional career as well as other areas of her life, including community service, involvement with the University of Montana Law School, and her social and family life.

I have no doubt that Audrey would work hard to learn yet another area in the legal profession as a district court judge and I fully endorse her for that position.

Respectfully,



Lindsay Beck

TARLOW
STONECIPHER
WEAMER & KELLY PLLC

ATTORNEYS

1705 WEST COLLEGE STREET
BOZEMAN, MT 59715-4913

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FAX (406) 586-9720
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July 29, 2020

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

Via Email Only
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

RE: Eighteenth Judicial District Judge Nomination

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission:

I am writing to support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell for the position of 18th Judicial District Judge. I have known Audrey and her husband since shortly after they came to Bozeman in 2014. I am a partner with a law firm here in Bozeman and litigate in the 18th Judicial District.

Lawyers in our firm have worked with the Cromwell firm on a variety of matters, regularly refer clients to them, and have been opposite them in many cases. I hold the Cromwell firm in high esteem, appreciate their talents and abilities, and can unreservedly vouch for their ethics. That is not just talk, as I have retained the Cromwell firm to represent me personally in a handful of business matters.

In addition to direct work with Audrey Cromwell and her law firm, I have interacted with her as a member of the local bar association. In that role I have seen her speak about her work in collaborative divorce and in limited scope representation. Her willingness to share her experiences and to educate the bar exemplifies the public service ethic needed as a district court judge. Audrey has a demonstrated drive to creatively practice law in ways that allow previously underserved clients to obtain affordable and effective representation. We could hardly ask for more in a candidate for district court judge.

Sincerely,



Matt J. Kelly

July 31, 2020

Sent Via E-Mail only

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzes
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to you to express my support of Audrey Cromwell for the judicial vacancy in the 18th Judicial District Court. I have known Audrey for nearly 14 years and believe she would be an excellent selection to serve as a State District Court Judge.

I first met Audrey in the orientation program at the University of Montana School of Law and it was immediately apparent that she is intelligent, hardworking, even keeled, compassionate, and kind. Since that time, my initial impressions have been proven correct. Not only is Audrey a zealous advocate for her clients, she is committed to problem solving and working toward commonsense and practical resolutions to disputes as evidenced by her groundbreaking work in collaborative family law.

While Audrey is a demonstrated advocate, her commitment to public service and the community is equally impressive. Audrey's work as a public defender, her service on a drug court team in the Montana 13th Judicial District, as a leader of the Associated Students of Montana State University Student Legal Services Program, and as a *Pro Tempore* judge in the Gallatin County Justice Court reflects her commitment to serving the public and populations that are generally underserved in our justice system.

July 31, 2020

Page 2

Finally, Audrey's experience and work as an attorney make her well suited to take the bench. When considering the types of cases that make up the bulk of a District Court's docket, Audrey is uniquely qualified due to her experience in both criminal law and family law matters.

Audrey would be a welcome addition to the 18th Judicial District and I fully support Audrey's desire to continue her service to her profession and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eli J. Patten', with a stylized, flowing script.

ELI J. PATTEN

HEDGER FRIEND, P.L.L.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JEFF HEDGER *
MICHELLE T. FRIEND

2800 CENTRAL AVE, SUITE C
BILLINGS, MT 59102
PHONE: (406) 896-4100 FAX: (406) 896-4199

DENNIS NETTIKSIMMONS
BEN RECHTFERTIG
JOEY BREITENBACH **

*Also Admitted in Wyoming

** Also Admitted in WI and WY

August 1, 2020

Sent Via Email Only

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Joseph Breitenbach. I am a litigation attorney at Hedger Friend, PLLC, in Billings, Montana, and it is my honor to write this letter in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the District Court Judge vacancy in the 18th Judicial District.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Audrey for the last fourteen years. As such, I can say with absolute confidence that the Commission will not vet or interview another candidate for this position that is more competent or committed to the legal profession and the people of Montana that she is seeking to serve. Audrey and I attended the University of Montana School of Law together, and aside from being one of the nicest and most accepting individuals I met during my tenure in Missoula, I was immediately impressed by her dedication and determination not only to succeed, but to make a positive impact on those around her. As you already know, she served as Co-Editor of the Law Review and was an impeccable student. But just as important, Audrey was someone whom you could always count on to treat everyone with respect, a quality that has continued into her professional career and one which will serve her well on the bench.

One of the biggest issues facing ordinary Montanans today is affordable access to justice, and we need more judges who are willing to take up active roles on the issue. Audrey's commitment to these issues, and to serving the underrepresented, is commendable and likely unmatched in the field of candidates you are considering. From working at the Office of the State Public Defender, to representing students through ASMSU Legal Services, to being at the

forefront of the implementation of collaborative family law in the State of Montana, Audrey has demonstrated an unwavering desire to represent and serve Montanans regardless of their societal or financial background. Her commitment leaves little doubt in my mind that Audrey possesses the temperament required to treat every individual who comes before her with fairness, impartiality and respect.

Finally, as a litigation attorney practicing in courts across Montana, I cannot stress enough how important I believe it is that the Governor appoint a candidate that has tried cases and possesses well-rounded experience in several areas of law. Audrey is that candidate. Unlike many lawyers in Montana, Audrey has actually tried cases. Moreover, her experience is not limited to one specialized area of law. She possesses extensive experience in civil, criminal and domestic matters, making her the ideal candidate for this position. The 18th Judicial District is one of the busiest jurisdictions in the state, and it needs a Judge like Audrey who can competently and effectively manage a courtroom from day one. Unlike many newly appointed Judges, Audrey understands and has extensive experience with each of the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Rules of Evidence. And she hasn't just memorized them. She has spent the last decade putting them to practical use every day. There will be no learning curve with Audrey. Any lawyer who enters Audrey's courtroom will do so with the confidence that he or she will receive evidentiary and other rulings that are thoughtful and well-informed.

In closing, I cannot recommend Audrey enough to fill this vacancy, and I urge the Commission to forward her application to Governor Bullock for consideration and ultimately appointment. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this recommendation, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Breitenbach

Joseph L. Breitenbach
Bar No. 11246

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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

July 30, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

By Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to offer my unqualified support of Audrey Cromwell's application for the position of District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District. I am an attorney and a partner at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman. I practice primarily family law.

I became trained as a Collaborative Divorce attorney three years ago, and then began taking Collaborative cases with Audrey, who was, as you know, one of the leaders in bringing Collaborative Divorce to Montana. I call her the "Queen of Collaborative." To date, we have completed at least four Collaborative cases together and we are currently working on resolving another.

I have spent dozens of hours over the last three years in conference rooms (and now on Zoom) with Audrey and our clients working through all the issues that arise in divorces: parenting disputes, allegations of mental illness, child support and alimony, and splitting up assets and debts (including family businesses and even a family ranch). Audrey is, without a doubt, one of the most compassionate, intelligent, and sophisticated attorneys with whom I have ever practiced. She is relentless and tenacious in finding solutions to seemingly intractable problems. She advocates for her clients without becoming positional and she is unfailingly polite and cordial to opposing counsel and opposing parties. I respect her abilities and her calm demeanor immensely.

I also serve with Audrey on the board of directors of Montana Collaborative Professionals, so I have observed her in a non-advocacy role, too. She brings the same passion and commitment to the board as she does to her law practice. Last fall she was instrumental in organizing a state-wide, four-day, interdisciplinary Collaborative training for attorneys, financial professionals, and mental health professionals. It was one of the best CLEs I have ever attended.

I expect that the weakness of Audrey's application will be her relative lack of experience with civil litigation. I am not worried in the least about this issue. Unlike criminal law and family law, civil litigation is so broad and encompasses so many disciplines—from personal injury to contract disputes to environmental litigation—that no practitioner is a master of the entire field. Attorneys and judges must learn the intricacies of that particular area of law with each new case. I have no doubt that Audrey can learn those intricacies as well as any other judge.

Sincerely yours,



Eric Goldwarg

WILLIAM A. BARTLETT • BRIAN P. FAY • MARK J. LUEBECK • DANIEL P. BUCKLEY • TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR
RYAN D. MCCARTY • ERIC K. GOLDWARG • MICHAEL C. COIL - RETIRED • CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL - RETIRED

Patrick A. Byorth
Attorney At Law
2360 Whitetail Road
Bozeman, MT 59715

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov; lmenzies@mt.gov

August 1, 2020

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

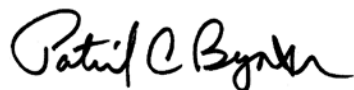
I am honored to support Audrey Schultz Cromwell's nomination as district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey professionally and personally for over a decade, since law school, as a person of integrity, intelligence, and possessing a breadth of experience in the practice of law. I practice law in Bozeman, MT focusing on water law and wildlife conservation for Trout Unlimited, Inc., a national coldwater conservation organization. I also currently serve southwestern Montana on the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission. Most recently, I worked with Audrey Cromwell and her husband, Charlie, developing a new program for young families at Pilgrim Congregational Church.

Since our tenure as classmates at the University of Montana School of Law, it has been a pleasure to observe Audrey successfully develop her law practice, creating a niche based on service to a broad and diverse clientele. Her dedication to public service, especially the underserved client, has been evident all along. For example, Audrey's early adoption of limited scope representation demonstrated her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to providing access to affordable legal assistance while proving that limited scope could both be ethically practiced and preserve the integrity of our profession. Her diversity of experience spans trial practice, transactions, and mediation while serving low income, student, and more fortunate clients. She practices in difficult areas of law, including family law, neglect, and substance abuse, where it takes a strong, self-actualized person to endure such grave conflicts with empathy, grace and professionalism. Audrey has navigated these difficult cases as a judge, in defense, as prosecutor, and as mediator. This spectrum of representation would serve the diversity of citizens of Gallatin County well as a district court judge.

Finally, I have known Audrey and her growing family on a more personal level, watching as she balanced her work and family life, all while serving our community through involvement at our church and other organizations. I believe Audrey Cromwell possesses the legal skills and

experience to be a fine District Court Judge. More importantly, I believe Audrey has a depth of character, grace, and empathy to be an excellent district court judge. Please forward your nomination of Audrey Cromwell to serve as our next District Court Judge in Gallatin Valley. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick A. Byorth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "B".

Patrick A. Byorth

July 31, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my support for Audrey Cromwell in her bid for district court judge of the Eighteenth District.

I am a 35-year Montana resident who resides in Bozeman and am fortunate to call Audrey a friend. For roughly 15 years I worked as a journalist, a majority of that time as a reporter for newspapers in Missoula and Great Falls. While working for *The Great Falls Tribune*, I covered the police and justice beat, spending time reporting on cases in both the district and federal courts. I have a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montana and a Master of Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, I work for The Wilderness Society, directing communication strategy and media relations in the Northern Rockies.

As a Bozeman resident and lifelong Montanan, I want to ensure that my community has a fair and impartial judicial system. A strong judiciary is, in part, reflective of a strong community. It is important that Gallatin County residents who find themselves before a district court judge are treated fairly and with respect. Knowing Audrey and her temperament and general demeanor, I am confident that she would show both compassion and toughness, patience and fairness. She is pragmatic and respectful of others but would also quickly quash actions outside of judicial decorum.

An ideal candidate to replace the seat vacated by Judge Holly Brown is someone with legal experience that matches the wide variety of cases that come before the district court. Someone with a generalist's background can render verdicts with all parties in mind and without prejudice. Audrey's background in family law, experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, mediator, substitute judge in Gallatin County Justice Court and her plaintiff's work makes her well suited to render verdicts in civil, criminal, family law cases, oversee both bench and jury trials, and all other kinds of cases that a district court judge presides over.

Ultimately, a district judge is a public servant – someone refereeing community disputes and ensuring the public receives quick, decisive and fair verdicts. Audrey has proven her dedication to public service time and again from her representation of Montana State University students, to her limited-scope legal practice, to facilitating public events such as Law Day panels at MSU. She would serve the Eighteenth Judicial District faithfully and fairly and would bolster public trust and

confidence in Gallatin County's judiciary. I encourage you to select Audrey to fill the vacant judgeship.

Respectfully,

Chelsi Moy



Louis C. Villemez, Director
lou.villemez@mso.umt.edu

July 30, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am the Director of ASUM Legal Services which provides low cost legal assistance to students of the University of Montana. Nearly my entire 30 year legal career has been dedicated to non-profit and pro bono work improving access to our legal system for marginalized persons. It is from this perspective that I enthusiastically support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as 18th Judicial District Court Judge.

I have worked with Audrey in her capacity as Co-Director of ASMSU Legal Services, and have reviewed her thoughtful and candid District Court Judge application. Audrey exhibits extraordinary insight into the challenges of our court system; the personal and professional as well as systemic and societal challenges. In her application she provides ample indication of her strategic consideration of those challenges; intellectual, objective, compassionate and considerate. She is passionate about the critical role that Courts, Judges and attorneys serve in our society, and her altruistic approach to those roles is exemplary. She brings impressive intellectual insight to her (our) profession while continuing to recognize the importance of sympathy and empathy for all those involved in the justice system. Her character and work ethic will be an asset to the Bench.

Therefore I strongly recommend Audrey for the position of District Court Judge. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

MONTANA MEDIATORS

July 27, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with great pleasure that we write in support of Audrey Cromwell. We have known Audrey since she was a student in Art's mediation class at the University of Montana School of Law in 2008 and have followed her career with interest since we share her commitment to conflict resolution and peacemaking at all levels of society.

As mediators, trainers and educators, we have had the opportunity to co-present trainings with Audrey and have always been impressed with how conscientious she is in her preparation and her respect for trainees. These two qualities give participants the confidence they need to become their "best" selves in challenging situations such as communicating, dealing with conflict and working toward resolution of problems. What a great skill that would bring to serving citizens who find themselves before the court.

Audrey is also extremely thorough and thoughtful in all the correspondence that we have had with her. She is extremely well spoken and tends to command respect with her calm demeanor and careful conversation style. She possesses all the qualities that we would hope to find on the bench and we whole-heartedly recommend that you give her your most serious consideration.

Respectfully,



2025 Orchard Drive. Billings, MT 59102. 406-370-0719.

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

*Re: Public Comment on 18th Judicial District Judge Opening – Audrey
Cromwell*

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter of support in my individual capacity and not in connection with or on behalf of any organization or entity. Fourteen years ago I entered the Montana School of Law and met Audrey. I knew her then as I know her now – a deeply compassionate, empathetic and whip-smart human being with a deep commitment to justice. These are the qualities that would make Audrey an outstanding district court judge.

For the better part of the last decade Audrey has grown her law firm into a regional powerhouse. She is familiar with numerous areas of the law, including family law, criminal law, estate planning, mediation and immigration law. The diversity of her practice makes her particularly well suited for a district judge position.

I also know Audrey to be deeply committed to social justice and procedural protections for marginalized individuals and communities. She believes that the justice system should be fair, equitable and inclusive. Unfortunately, for many individuals the system is anything but. I believe that Audrey would move the judiciary towards a more inclusive position.

In short, the people of Gallatin County would be fortunate to have Audrey Cromwell as a new district court judge in the 18th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Alex Rate
Alex Rate
Livingston, Montana

Sent Via Email Only

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzes
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Julie Rostad Patten, and I am a licensed attorney and member of the state bar of Montana. I have practiced criminal law as a state and federal prosecutor in Billings, Montana since 2011. I write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the judge vacancy in the 18th Judicial District Court. Audrey's breadth of experience, temperament, and legal acumen would make her an excellent District Court judge.

As a prosecutor, I have had the opportunity to practice before a number of outstanding judges. In my opinion, what sets those judges apart from the others is a strong work ethic, an even temperament, and an ability to make difficult, and sometimes unpopular, decisions while correctly applying the law. Audrey encompasses all those traits and more. Her experience in both criminal law and family law makes her well suited for the job of district court judge where those types of cases make up a significant portion of the District Court's docket. On top of that, her experience with treatment courts and collaborative family law make her uniquely qualified.

Moreover, Audrey demonstrates integrity, both professionally and personally. She is kind, compassionate, and caring. She is dedicated to serving her community and making it a better place. It is with the utmost confidence I recommend her for the position.

Thank you,



Julie Rostad Patten
Attorney at Law
Billings, MT

July 28, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Megan Makeever Ali, and I am writing this letter in strong support and encouragement of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 18th Judicial District Court judge vacancy.

I work at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ as the Director of *Pilgrim Connect*, a recently new branch of ministry that focuses on community outreach and innovative programming for young adults and families in Bozeman. Audrey and I served on a team of people that was in charge of brainstorming, visioning, and launching this new ministry 3 years ago. I can tell you that Audrey played a very important and fundamental role in the ministry's evolution and success because of her impressive skillset and characteristics as a person and lawyer.

Working with Audrey in this capacity and seeing her in dedicated and detailed action shed light on how level-headed, logical, compassionate, hardworking, and determined she is. This ministry was incredibly challenging to get off the ground to say the least. Our team comprised of various strong personalities and opinions that often conflicted with one another, and we started out with an incredibly muddy vision. Audrey was our saving grace when it came to conflict management, mediation, problem solving, and finally landing on a concrete and realistic vision. When everyone was about ready to throw in the towel, she modelled resilience as she gracefully pushed through challenges, professionally bypassed drama, and kept her eye on our goals. When conflicts arose while working out nitty gritty details, she calmly took everyone's opinions into consideration, always listening carefully and intentionally understanding every angle before proposing rational solutions. Once this ministry took off, she volunteered even more hours helping us with elements of this ministry that required expertise in law. She helped us compose safety waivers, liability forms, and made sure we covered all our bases legally before launching programs.

Outside of the team environment, I also have come to know Audrey as a friend and fellow church member at Pilgrim. She is a devoted mother and wife. She deeply cares for the equity, well-being, and justice for all people. She is humble, calm, and collected. I also have not mentioned yet that she is an excellent communicator, always delivering information clearly!

With this information I have imparted regarding Audrey Cromwell, I truly hope you consider her as a candidate for nomination to the district court judge vacancy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statements, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,
Megan Makeever Ali
Contact: meganmakeever@gmail.com (406) 599-5364

July 31, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Drew Blewett, and I am a partner at the law firm of Hoyt and Blewett PLLC in Great Falls, MT. I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell respectfully requesting that the Judicial Nomination Commission strongly consider her for Montana State District Court Judge in Gallatin County. I first met Audrey while we were in law school together at the University of Montana where she served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review and have always found her to be a person of sound character and great integrity. Throughout the course of Audrey's 10 year legal career, she has gained invaluable experience working as a public defender in Billings and as the founder and managing partner of her own law firm where she has represented clients in criminal law, dependency and neglect proceedings, collaborative family law, mediation, limited scope representation, adoptions, pre-marital contracts and immigration. This broad spectrum of legal experience has provided her with a unique perspective that lends itself well to serving as a State District Court Judge where she would be responsible for making important and sometimes life-altering decisions for people in Gallatin County.

Over the course of the last ten years, Audrey has tried seven jury trials and thirteen bench trials. Few attorneys around the State can say the same. Needless to say, her track record confirms that she is more than prepared to take on the challenges inherent in serving as a State District Court Judge.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly endorse Audrey Cromwell for State District Court Judge in Gallatin County and hope that the Judicial Nomination Commission takes into careful consideration her fourteen years of legal experience in making its decision.

Sincerely,



Drew Blewett
Attorney
Hoyt and Blewett PLLC

July 29, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for appointment to the 18th Judicial District Judge Position in Bozeman, Montana. I have known Audrey via her parents, Dr. Duane Schultz and Lora Lindberg Schultz, since 1999 when our family relocated to Billings, Mt.

Even during her high school years Audrey stood out from her classmates. She was involved in numerous extracurricular and community activities. These included Billings West High School Girls' State representative, singing with The Meistersingers, which is a competitive chorale ensemble that performed throughout Billings, and being active in her church, to name a few. She did these things while maintaining high academic standards.

After high school Audrey traveled the country as a member of Up With People for a year and explored countries in South America and Europe before beginning her college career. I mention her travels to highlight her exposure to many cultures and people which I expect would be valuable for dealing with the various individuals in a court setting.

Audrey has never been one to rest on her laurels. After law school, where she was co-editor of the law review, she clerked for the United States Senate and then took a position as a public defender in Billings.

When she moved to Bozeman Audrey started her private practice and introduced a new approach for marriage dissolution by focusing on a collaborative process. By bringing together experts from different areas to support people moving through the legal system her goal was to make the experience constructive and fair for everyone involved. In addition, Audrey's Bozeman legal firm was awarded the contract to serve the students at Montana State University providing low cost legal services to students.

Even a cursory look at her resume demonstrates Audrey is more than qualified to be appointed to the Judicial District Judge Position. In fact, she has already been serving as a substitute judge in Gallatin County for five years.

Finally, while performing her legal duties at a high level she and her husband have been raising a son and are active in the Bozeman community.

I drafted this letter before I even looked at Audrey's application. She has accomplished even more than I knew. I realized I needed to add another characteristic to her list of superlatives - humility! I can not

think of anyone who is more qualified and would do a better job for the district court than Audrey. I recommend Audrey Schultz Cromwell wholeheartedly and without reservation.

Respectfully,

Marilyn R. Preston, PhD.
mpreston@fvcc.edu

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:16:37 PM

From: Vincent Pavlish <vinnie@judnichlaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 2:16 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Lois Menzies and Judicial Nominating Committee,

I am writing in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell, applicant for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court bench in Gallatin County. I am a trial attorney in Missoula, working for the Judnich Law Office. Currently, I represent injured Montanans primarily in Missoula, but I have also appeared with them on criminal and civil matters throughout the state.

Audrey and I are both from Billings and attended different public schools there only a year apart. We also attended law school together at UM, which is where I started to get to know her more sincerely and develop an appreciation for the skill and thoughtfulness with which she conducts herself as a lawyer.

In school, we served at the Montana Law Review together both as staff and editors. In our third year, she was selected as one of the co-editor's-in-chief. She is a fine leader with hallmark conviction tempered by an openness to the ideas of others. I understand she has loaned these qualities to the Bozeman bar to develop a collaborative family law practice in that area. Family law--while outside my practice--is a plainly difficult business where the clients often seem to display the worst versions of themselves towards marginal gains. Working with them to understand a better way forward is a truly good thing for Montana and not just the handful of clients that any of us are able to meet and help in an individual practice.

Audrey would be a fine addition to the Montana bench as she has been to the Montana bar. I recommend her to you and the Governor without reservation.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my thoughts.

Vinnie

--

Vincent Pavlish
Judnich Law Office
501 S. Russell Street
Missoula, MT 59801

(406) 721-3354

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The Securities Building
2708 First Avenue North, Suite 300
Billings, Montana 59101

August 3, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Holly Brown.

I have had the distinct pleasure to observe Ms. Cromwell's law career from its very beginning. While still a college student, Ms. Cromwell came to me to inquire about law school. I immediately found Ms. Cromwell to be an engaging and articulate person who made decisions based upon the facts that were presented to her. I was not surprised to hear that she excelled at the University of Montana Law School and was co-editor of the Law Review.

The exceptional talents exhibited by Ms. Cromwell are matched only by her desire to seek justice. She established her law firm to focus on providing Montanans with access to quality, affordable legal care. To that end, she provides Montana State University students with legal assistance through its Legal Services Program.

I believe Ms. Cromwell has also shown that she has the proper judicial temperament by serving as a Substitute Judge *Pro Tempore* in Gallatin County Justice Court. As such, she hears criminal matters, rules on motions and orders, and is involved in related judicial and administrative matters.

In my view, Ms. Cromwell has exhibited a clear and decisive intellect for the law, a strong work ethic, and a passion to serve the best interests of her clients as well as justice generally. I strongly support Ms. Cromwell for the position of district court judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Edward Nord", written in a cursive style.

Eric Edward Nord

TARLOW
STONECIPHER
WEAMER & KELLY PLLC

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August 2, 2020

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

Via Email
lmenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Matthew Haus and I am a partner with Tarlow Stonecipher Weamer & Kelly in Bozeman, Montana. I am writing to encourage you to forward Audrey Cromwell's name to the Governor for appointment to the open position in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Audrey is a great candidate for the position as she has a reputation in the local bar as a skilled lawyer who is professional in her interactions with other attorneys.

I have co-counseled a number of matters with Cromwell Law – the firm in which Audrey is the founder and managing partner. Audrey has created a culture at Cromwell Law that we would be lucky to have passed onto the Eighteenth Judicial District – the lawyers are intelligent, professional, and respectful. I believe that Audrey's experience in founding and managing a well-respected law firm is an important skill for a district court judge. In addition to managing the court room, a district court judge supervises the judicial staff. I am confident our local community would be proud of the atmosphere that Audrey would create amongst the judicial staff and lawyers practicing in her court room.

After Audrey submitted her application, I had the opportunity to speak with her regarding the vision that she has for the position. I came away impressed by her willingness to hear new ideas to address the challenges presented by the extraordinary case load that each judge is required to manage in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I also appreciated Audrey's enthusiasm for the hard work that will be required for a new judge to learn the many aspects of the position.

Finally, as a fellow parent of young children, I believe Audrey deserves tremendous credit for her roles of a working mother and wife while her husband, Charlie, serves in the U.S. Army Reserve. In speaking with Charlie over the years, he has frequently been required to travel outside of Bozeman for his military commitments. Like many other military spouses, I am certain that Audrey has dealt with the additional stress created by managing Cromwell Law and raising their son while Charlie was absent due to his service in the U.S. Army Reserve. However, I have never seen that stress impact the work product of her law firm.

For those reasons, I strongly recommend Audrey for the open position in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Haus", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew A. Haus

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in strong support of appointing Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacant 18th Judicial District Court Judge position in Gallatin County.

I am currently a staff attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and a state legislator for House District 95. I attended law school with Audrey and I regard her as both an accomplished practitioner and friend.

While Ms. Cromwell's impressive record speaks for itself, I want to highlight an area in which I think she is particularly well-suited for this position. Ms. Cromwell has a passion for ensuring access to justice, most especially for our state's vulnerable and minority populations. As an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I believe Ms. Cromwell will absolutely ensure access to justice and equal treatment under the law for everyone – our state's native communities included. As her application points out, Ms. Cromwell is very much aware of the dangers of unacknowledged implicit bias in our judicial system. She has direct experience understanding and being aware of these issues, including in her work on Indian Law policy on Capitol Hill and studying systems of justice on Indian reservations for her history thesis in college. I believe Ms. Cromwell takes a very contemplative and passionate approach to her advocacy and decision-making. No doubt this welcome and necessary approach would continue if she were appointed as district court judge.

I strongly encourage the commission to support Audrey Cromwell's appointment to the bench. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Shane A. Morigeau
Attorney
(406) 546-4290

Parrish Consulting Group of Montana, LLC

July 22, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with much respect that I give my highest recommendation and strongest support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position.

I have served in law enforcement for more than 35 years working my way through the ranks to Chief of Police. I retired in 2013 as an Assistant Chief for a department of more than 13,000 employees and subsequently as Chief of Police at Montana State University, retiring in June 2020. It was during my time at Montana State University that I first met Audrey Cromwell.

Audrey worked as an attorney for The Associated Students of Montana State University. I witnessed firsthand Audrey's support of a diverse student population on matters related to student code of conduct and criminal violations. She represented her clients zealously within the bounds of the law and provided sound legal counsel. What really set Audrey apart, though, was her ability to bring the law enforcement and student body community together. The best example of this was Audrey creating and facilitating the annual MSU DUI Wet Lab, which MSUPD hosted at our Operations Center. Student leaders interacted with and learned from MSU and Bozeman Police Officers, Gallatin County Sheriffs, MT Highway Patrol prosecutors, addiction counselors, and representatives from the State Crime Lab. Audrey created an important dialogue while also educating our future leaders so they could pass on lessons learned to their peers.

Based on my observations, I am confident Audrey has the experience and character to uphold the independence and integrity expected of the Judiciary. I have no reservations when I write, Audrey would respect and comply with the law while promoting confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. Her private interests would never influence her responsibilities. She would perform the duties of the office fairly, impartially, and diligently. She will serve with honor and uphold the integrity of the position at all times.

As a career law enforcement executive, I encourage you to strongly consider Audrey Cromwell for the District Court Judge position. Audrey will make an outstanding district court judge and serve our community well.

Respectfully,

Frank H. Parrish, Jr.

Frank H. Parrish, Jr.
Chief of Police, Retired
Montana State University

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Kylar Clifton and I am a current third-year law student at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. Prior to my studies in Missoula, I served as the Student Body President at Montana State University while an undergraduate student. Through this role, I was responsible for managing our low-cost legal services program that the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) offered to all students.

During my time at MSU, I was fortunate to have the opportunity and truly privilege to work with Audrey Cromwell through the ASMSU Legal Services program. Whenever I would see Audrey work with students whether on a criminal, family, housing or other areas of law, I was always impressed by her compassion and her intentionality. Being intentional when working with students can not only help a student save money by providing efficient support, but it can also help ensure that the student feels heard and is not overwhelmed by the complexities of the legal world. Whenever Audrey would work with students, she always took the time to listen to every concern they had regardless of whether or not it had an impact on their legal issue. Audrey always recognized that while the legal profession is a specific world, the people lawyers serve are people first and clients second. Her compassion and intentionality lead to the ASMSU Legal Services Program nearly doubling in the number of clients served as more and more students became comfortable seeking help. That trust and strength in the program was no easy feat.

No matter the legal issue, I have never seen a more compassionate, level-headed, and trustworthy representative than Audrey. Audrey truly is an incredible role model for anybody like me aspiring to practice law and I hope to live up to the standard she sets for zealous advocacy and compassionate intentionality. There is no doubt in my mind that Audrey would do an incredible job as a judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. The community of Gallatin County and the greater Montana legal community would be privileged to have such a compassionate and capable judge as Audrey.

Respectfully,



Kylar Clifton
Alexander Blewett III School of Law, University of Montana
J.D./M.B.A. Candidate | 2021
Executive Editor | Montana Law Review
Law Clerk | Post Law Firm, PLLC
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August 3, 2020

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

* Via email to mtsupremecourt@mt.gov *

Re: Audrey Schultz Crowmell

Dear Judge Brown and Members of the Commission:

It is my honor and pleasure to support Audrey Schultz Cromwell for district judge in Gallatin County. Audrey embodies the essential qualities of an excellent jurist – intelligence, compassion, integrity, and a commitment to justice for all.

I have known Audrey since 2006, when she was a student in my Torts class. Since then, she has developed a law practice in Bozeman, helped to establish an entirely new way of practicing family law in Montana, become a mother, stepped in as the executive director of the Bozeman Community Mediation Center, and acted as judge *pro tempore* in Gallatin County Justice Court. In addition, she holds down the fort – at home and at the office -- while her husband is deployed.

The bulk of Audrey's law practice is comprised of family law and criminal law. She has tried several bench and jury trials. She is eminently qualified to take the bench and hit the ground running.

While legal expertise is essential for a district judge, though, it is never enough. A judge must also exhibit judicial temperament. According to the American Bar Association, a candidate with suitable judicial temperament is compassionate, decisive, open-minded, sensitive, courteous, patient, free from bias, and committed to equal justice. Audrey Cromwell is all of these things.

Finally, the Commission may also consider a judicial appointee's ability to run for her seat and win an election. Audrey's connections to the Gallatin County community are evidence of her ability to inspire people from all walks of life. Her organizational skills will translate well to a campaign. I believe she would be an excellent candidate for district judge in Bozeman.

Audrey Cromwell is an exceptional applicant for this position. I urge you to recommend her to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth A. Brennan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Beth A. Brennan

August 1, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the District Judge position in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey since 2006 when she started law school with my husband, Mitch Vap. We have spent several hours and weekends together over the years. I know her as a friend, fellow mother and Montana businesswoman.

For reference here is a bit about my background. I am a Physical Therapist. I own two companies in Missoula, Montana. The first, Alpine Physical Therapy is an established company since 2004 and employs just under 50 people. We pride ourselves on being an excellent employer and supporting our community in various ways. Most recently we started the #keepitocoveredmissoula campaign to assist safely reopening during the current Covid-19 pandemic. The second company is a start-up walk-in, cash pay Physical Therapy clinic. This company is a response to the detrimental effects of the rising cost of healthcare and resultant declining access to medical services for many individuals. I am also a mother of two young boys, ages 5 and 8. I love outdoor recreation and care deeply about the preservation of our world and the preservation and progress of human rights. I tell you these things, so you understand the values behind my support.

I know Audrey Cromwell would be an excellent judicial appointment to the District Court. I know this because she exemplifies integrity. I think of integrity as doing the right thing even when the right thing is hard to do. In the face of situations where the right thing is unclear, I believe integrity involves critical thinking and analysis before action is taken. To me this describes Audrey perfectly. I see this in her through discussions around current affairs, decision making and problem solving within her family. She is very thoughtful and considers multiple perspectives before having those hard discussions with a friend or a family member that we all have in life. She is very thoughtful and intentional in her parenting and decisions around raising her son. While I am an outsider to the legal profession, I still see Audrey's high level of integrity in movements she has made in her professional life. A perfect example is her efforts in working beyond a traditional system of family law to use and progress models that encourage a collaborative environment. Another example is recognizing the lack of legal support for students in her community and choosing to do something innovative to address the issue.

Audrey is one of those rare individuals that will naturally shift the world around her toward a better horizon because of how she approaches the decisions she makes every day. This is a quality that will make her an excellent District Judge. I wholeheartedly support Audrey Cromwell for this judicial appointment.

Respectfully,

Angela D. Listug-Vap, DPT, FAAOMPT

HOYT & BLEWETT PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ALEXANDER (ZANDER) BLEWETT, III
KURT M. JACKSON
JOSEPH P. COSGROVE
DREW BLEWETT
ANDERS BLEWETT
JOHN C. HOYT
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August 3, 2020

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Via E-mail: lmenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Anders Blewett, and I am a partner at the law firm of Hoyt and Blewett PLLC in Great Falls, MT. I am writing to voice my support for the appointment of Audrey Cromwell to the judicial vacancy in the 18th Judicial District created by the retirement of the Honorable Holly Brown.

I have known Audrey for over a decade. From the time I met her, she has always distinguished herself as an innovative legal mind and compassionate advocate who consistently exhibits the highest level of professional integrity and even temperament. I have worked with Audrey on legal issues and in promoting the practice of law and I have found her to be very diligent and competent. Audrey manages a general practice firm and has developed a cutting edge collaborative family law practice that holds great promise for reducing family law litigation and familial conflict in the State of Montana.

Audrey is a well-rounded and accomplished legal practitioner who is a proven problem solver. Her diverse experience has equipped her with a unique perspective and has thoroughly prepared her to hit the ground running when she takes the bench. I strongly recommend that the Judicial Nomination Commission appoint Audrey Cromwell to be the next State District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Anders Blewett

AB:jj

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell to the 18th Judicial District Court judge position in Gallatin County, Montana.

I am a U.S. Administrative Law Judge in Spokane, Washington, and a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve. Prior to my service on the bench, I was a Washington State Administrative Law Judge for 11 years and an attorney in private practice for 7 years. Concurrent with my state service and private practice, I also served on the Spokane County Superior Court and District Court as a Court Commissioner Pro Tem and Judge Pro Tem, respectively.

I have known Audrey since 2012 when she took on the difficult role as leader of my Army Reserve unit's Family Readiness Group (FRG) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Audrey revitalized my unit's FRG, attended time-consuming trainings around the country, and traveled to Washington to provide much-needed support to our unit and its families during a time when we had multiple mobilizations and deployments. Audrey's tenure was very successful. She was well-liked and respected by my commander, his staff, my fellow judge advocates, and their families.

We have encountered each other multiple times since her time as FRG Leader – both in social and Army JAG settings. In all of my discussions and professional interactions with Audrey, she struck me as highly intelligent, thoughtful, and possessing the character, temperament, and dedication to public service a community should hope for in its judicial officials.

My experience as a Federal and State judge has allowed me to understand what characteristics and traits are needed to be a good judge. It is my opinion that Audrey Cromwell embodies the best of what is needed, and I highly recommend appointing her to the bench.

Respectfully,



Hon. Mark Kim
Spokane, Washington
(509) 844-2280
dad2nktk@gmail.com

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

RE: Audrey Schultz Cromwell for District Court Judge.

My name is Paul Meier. I am a practicing radiologist in Bozeman and have lived here for 9 years. I have known Audrey for 8 of those years, primarily as a friend and neighbor. I think Audrey would make an excellent district judge. Unlike many other letters of support that I have seen, I cannot speak to her professional competence, although I think her application speaks for itself. I can speak to Audrey's thoughtfulness and consideration of others. Anytime I see Audrey picking up her child from school after a busy day at work, she takes time to stop and check in to see how I am doing. This is not a cursory greeting, but a genuine inquiry into my wellbeing. The commitment to our community exhibited in Audrey's record extends beyond her professional life. Despite her busy career and a little one of her own, she brought a meal to our family during our firstborn's early weeks as we adjusted to life with a newborn. Audrey exudes trust, competence, and compassion, all qualities I would like to see in a district judge.

Sincerely,

Paul Meier

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I state my support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell for District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I have known Audrey in many capacities throughout the past several years – both adversarial and collaborative. In each instance, Audrey has consistently demonstrated her ability to be thoughtful, fair, and just. I have also had the honor of appearing in front of Audrey when she would occasionally judge *pro tem* in Gallatin County Justice Court; again, I remain impressed at her strength of character and her ability to remain thoughtful, fair, and just. More recently, I knew Audrey in her capacity as the Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center. Her passion for making collaborative problem solving accessible to all people is admirable and inspiring – the world could truly use more Audrey Cromwell's.

Audrey's intelligence and kind disposition combined with her wealth of experience will make Audrey a truly fantastic judge and a wonderful addition to the Eighteenth Judicial District. I recommend Audrey for this challenging opportunity without reservation and I look forward to continuing to see the difference she can make in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brittany Peters
Director of Operations, Thrive

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620
montanasupremecourt@mt.gov, montanasupremecourt@gmail.com

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Audrey Cromwell

To Whom it may concern:

Today I have the honor of writing you to recommend the appointment of Audrey Cromwell, J.D., to the Montana 18th Judicial District Court, Gallatin County. I have known Audrey for thirteen years, attending law school with her and working alongside her as a public defender. Audrey's capability for this position is not in question in my mind. She is dedicated to her work, her clients and her ethical responsibilities. I had the pleasure of working in close quarters with her during our time at the Billings Public Defender's Office and found her work ethic, research and writing capabilities beyond reproach. I write you here, however, to endeavor to convey Audrey's personal qualifications. I believe judges should be able to be firm as well as understanding, strict as well as thoughtful, just as well as creative in their deliberations, orders and judgments. Audrey will indelibly fulfill these qualifications, and I encourage the commission to select Audrey for this appointment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephanie J. DeBoer

August 2, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

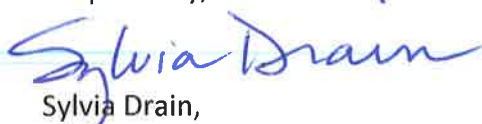
Please consider this letter in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to the position of District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial Court. My respect and admiration for Audrey compel me to write this letter of support.

Audrey and I met through our shared service on the Board of Directors of the Community Mediation Center (CMC). She was always a committed, knowledgeable and valuable member of the Board. And, when the organization's Executive Director left abruptly with the organization facing some financial struggles, Audrey stepped up and stepped in as Interim/Part-Time Executive Director. She not only helped keep things going, but cut expenses, moved years of paper files to digital storage, increased fundraising and set the organization up for a brighter future. All the while, she asked the tough questions, brought solid solutions to the table and looked at what were the right things to do. Her legal opinions and analytical approach to governance of the organization were vital to its success. Her ability to write successful grants and hold meaningful meetings with donors helped the organization right itself.

During our time working together for the future of CMC we faced financial issues, employment disputes and all manner of organizational trials and tribulations. I have said more than once, if I have to go through difficult times on a board I would want to go through them with my fellow CMC board members and especially, Audrey. She handled every problem with a calm demeanor. She looked at all angles of the issue and provided solid, well-thought out solutions. She was interested in fairness but she could also be tough.

Her application speaks to her qualifications. As I said, I respect and admire Audrey and fully support her nomination.

Respectfully,



Sylvia Drain,
Director of Donor Engagement, Greater Gallatin United Way
Board of Directors, Community Mediation Center
Sylvia.Drain@gmail.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 8:28 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Selib, Jonathan <Jonathan.Selib@pfizer.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 11:51 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,; Menzies, Lois
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Jonathan Selib. I am a former Chief of Staff to Senator Max Baucus, and served as a counsel to him on the Senate Finance Committee. I now run global policy and public affairs at Pfizer. I have known Audrey for almost 15 years and worked with her both when she was an intern and law clerk on the Senate Finance Committee. Audrey is extraordinarily hard working, smart and dedicated to ensuring fair and equal access to justice for Americans regardless of status. Audrey possesses good judgement and temperament, and I know has developed a reputation as a skilled lawyer.

I enthusiastically endorse her candidacy for the bench.

Respectfully,

Jon Selib

Jonathan Selib
Senior Vice President
Corporate Affairs, Global Policy & Public Affairs
Pfizer Inc
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DARANNE R. DUNNING
GREGORY G. GOULD
MARK I. LANCASTER
ELIZABETH "LIZ" LEMAN

GARY L. DAVIS (1940-2011)
WALTER S. MURFITT (1930-2002)
H.J. LUXAN (1918-1984)

SABRINA C. HALLSTEN, PARALEGAL
KENZIE A. HEIMBACH, PARALEGAL

August 4, 2020

Via Email to mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of the Court Administrator

PO Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Support of Appointment of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for 18th Judicial District
Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I write in favor of the appointment of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the seat at the bench that Judge Holly Brown is vacating. Ms. Cromwell will make an excellent jurist and her appointment will benefit all stakeholders in the Montana Judicial System.

I attended law school with Ms. Cromwell and have interacted with her since then, particularly since she began her private practice in Bozeman. During law school, Ms. Cromwell demonstrated both talent and zeal for the correct development and application of law, while maintaining and cultivating positive relationships that have continued on into her practice. The combination of her acumen, experience, and personality make her an ideal fit for the difficult but important role of a district court judge.

As editor of the Montana Law Review during law school, Ms. Cromwell demonstrated a willingness and ability to embrace challenges and opportunities beyond the normal expectation of a student. As law review is singularly focused on complex analysis and development of law, her having directed her enthusiasm toward becoming a law review editor showed a fitness for judicial service existing long before we all joined the bar.

During her time in practice since law school, I have witnessed Ms. Cromwell's enthusiasm and skill continue to grow. While I practice in Helena, I often receive inquiries for legal service from the Bozeman area. For factually or procedurally complex

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
August 4, 2020
Page 2

cases (particularly those where a realistic but emotionally intelligent attorney is advisable) Ms. Cromwell is first on my list for a potential client referral in the Bozeman area. By the same token, I have relied on Ms. Cromwell as an excellent “sounding board” for arcane points of substantive law or legal ethics. Without fail she immediately understands issues, focuses on both legally correct and responsibly ethical choices, and gives pragmatic advice or counsel.

Of the many traits that make Ms. Cromwell a particularly good fit for this role, her personality may be her greatest asset. A district court judge must be decisive while also making correct conclusions subject to intense scrutiny, must allow the creation of a record while managing a full docket, and must deal with both unsophisticated *pro se* litigants and overly confident experienced attorneys. Due to her strong but evergreen personality, Ms. Cromwell has the innate talent to fulfill the job requirements.

Ms. Cromwell has deep Montana roots, and is raising her family in the town where she seeks to serve as judge. She has long served as a volunteer for local nonprofits, and is, by any measure, a proactive and positive member of the community she seeks to serve. Based on her considerable merit, I encourage the Commission to forward Ms. Cromwell’s name to the Governor for appointment.

Sincerely,

MARK LANCASTER



for LUXAN & MURFITT, PLLP

ML/sh

Kirsten K. Madsen

703 Eighth Ave. • Helena, Montana 59601
MadsenKirsten@aol.com • 406.459.8685

August 4, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter of support for the nomination of Audrey Shultz Cromwell to fill the Eighteenth Judicial District judgeship vacancy.

I am currently an Assistant Attorney General for the Montana Department of Justice, Agency Legal Services Bureau. For the first half of my career, I was honored to serve as Senior Law Clerk to the Honorable James P. Reynolds, First Judicial District, and before that as the first law clerk to now-retired Judge John C. McKeon, Seventeenth Judicial District.

I have known Ms. Cromwell for over a decade, including throughout our time together in law school. As you have no doubt seen from her application materials, Audrey is a high-achieving self-starter. In my experience as a law clerk for two judges, I am familiar with the demanding scope of cases faced by Montana's district courts and I believe wholeheartedly that she has the intellectual capacity, the energy, and the firm kindness necessary to tackle the monumental and diverse workload. Her resume reflects the many new challenges she has willingly taken on in her legal career. Off paper, I have seen her tackle these challenges by objectively assessing her existing capacity, determining what else she needs to learn or do, devoting reasonable time to develop or create the tools needed, and then executing her choices to move on to the next step. Watching her perform the last step over and over again in her professional life is one of the things that gives me the confidence to say Ms. Cromwell has that intangible, essential quality needed to serve as a judge—a healthy respect for the weight of making decisions, but also the ability to make them.

Audrey is an inviting, warm person with an infectious laugh and a whip-smart head on her shoulders. She has not only the technical foundation and experience to perform the brass tacks of the job, but also the good judgment, commitment to public service, and belief in public good required to engender trust and respect of her community. I am honored to call Audrey a friend and proud to recommend that she be appointed to the bench.

Respectfully,



Kirsten K. Madsen

Sather Law, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

2301 Montana Ave., Ste. 202
P.O. Box 1115
Billings, MT 59103
Phone: 406-294-1700
Fax: 406-794-0673
ben@satherlawfirm.com

August 4, 2020

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

RE: Application of Audrey Cromwell

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ben Sather, an attorney practicing in Billings. I graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2006. I was a law clerk for the Montana Supreme Court for one year and have been practicing civil litigation in Billings for the last thirteen years. I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's application for the 18th Judicial District Court judicial vacancy.

I have known Audrey since 2010, when I met her shortly after she graduated from law school at the University of Montana. Audrey was a new public defender in Billings when I came to know her. From the start, her passion for the law and her clients was evident. It was clear to me that Audrey was intelligent, driven and focused. I heard nothing but good things from my colleagues in the Yellowstone County Bar about Audrey and her dedication to her clients and the practice in general. I also learned Audrey was a big part of the Yellowstone County drug court, which has done so much good for so many people.

Given Audrey's work ethic and passion, it was not a surprise to me she moved on to start her own firm with her husband, Charlie. Even more, it has not been a surprise to see Audrey flourish as a law firm owner in Bozeman all while providing valuable representation to students at Montana State University.

Audrey's qualifications for the bench are clear from her application. What is even more important -- which cannot always be seen from a resume -- is Audrey's temperament and character. Audrey treats people with respect and care. I have come to experience this as both a peer and a friend of Audrey's over the last 10 years. Audrey will bring that same attitude to the bench. The attorneys and parties who will appear before her in Gallatin County will be fortunate to have their problems heard by an individual who genuinely cares for others.

Audrey possesses the attributes I believe necessary to be an effective District Court Judge. She is smart, hard-working and compassionate. Audrey will improve the court experience for both litigants and attorneys and I support her application being forwarded to Governor Bullock by the Commission. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben T. Sather", with a stylized, cursive script.

Ben T. Sather

**ATTORNEYS:**

ROBERTA A. BERKHOF
ERIC B. BIEHL
JAMES P. CAREY
BURT N. HURWITZ
STEVEN M. JOHNSON
GRANT R. KELLY
MARIN W. KEYES
RON A. NELSON
KAREN L. REIFF*
AMBER L. STENSON
RACHEL A. TAYLOR
HANNA WARHANK

FIRM FOUNDERS:

I.W. CHURCH (1884-1972)
G.G. HARRIS (1883-1973)
BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
CARTER WILLIAMS (1916-2013)

OF COUNSEL:

E. EDWIN ECK
W. BJARNE JOHNSON*
GREGORY R. SCHWANDT*
JEANNIE YOUNG

ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

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The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

July 27, 2020

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I strongly support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the pending vacancy in the 18th Judicial District Court. I believe Audrey will make an excellent district court judge because of her sound decision making, compassionate and fair temperament, and her diverse legal background.

I am an associate attorney at Church, Harris, Johnson & Williams in Great Falls. Before graduating from the University of Montana's law school in 2019, I was a clinical intern with the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Legal Services Office. Audrey was one of the program's co-directors and directly supervised me during my time there.

At ASMSU I had the opportunity to work with Audrey representing clients and planning events. Her representation of clients focused on achieving livable solutions, demonstrating immense compassion and keen understanding for each. I also partnered with Audrey to on MSU's Law Day, where Montana Supreme Court Justices hear oral arguments on campus, and ASMSU's Wet Lab, an education program for student-leaders about the dangers of driving under the influence. Both Law Day and the Wet Lab required Audrey to coordinate with numerous stakeholders and to plan creatively for various contingencies. From planning to execution, Audrey modeled thorough decision-making and ensured the events' successes.

Audrey is a superb supervisor and mentor. Her directives and advice to me were always clear and kind, with an eye toward serving our clients as well being a leader in the office. Audrey is a well-respected member of the Bozeman and Montana legal communities. She has the ideal temperament for a judge and will show all parties appearing before her with respect and fairness. Her mediation background and ability to find creative solutions to problems will serve

her and all parties well. Finally, her experience in both criminal and civil law makes me confident she is the perfect candidate to fill the pending judicial vacancy.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: (406) 761-3000 or gkelly@chjw.com

Respectfully,


Grant R. Kelly

July 26, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

To Who This May Concern:

My name is Dr. Alison Shannon-Lier, I am a physical therapist of 12 years and work in Livingston, MT at Granite Sports Medicine.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Audrey Cromwell for the last four years as a fellow parent, athlete and teammate on the field. Our children immediately befriended each other and Audrey and I easily bonded over shared parenting styles, love of outdoor recreation and our dedication for our respective Montana communities.

Her work in the legal community speaks for itself. She created a program through MSU to provide affordable legal services to MSU students as well as mentoring and supervising up and coming law students from the MSU Law School. She has organized and assisted MSU Law School in providing educational opportunities for law students partnering with local law enforcement departments. Audrey also willing has been a substitute Judge In Gallatin County Justice Court covering for a variety of hearings and charges.

It is easy to look up her legal accomplishments, but knowing her on a personal level I know Audrey is the kind of person who will provide a just, discerning and upstanding courtroom making her an excellent next 18th Judicial District Judge in Bozeman.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alison Shannon-Lier, PT/DPT
Granite Sports Medicine Pelvic Floor PT, Mother, Wife

August 3, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nominations Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I strongly support the nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the pending district court judge vacancy for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I am a member in good standing of the Montana Bar Association and a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. I have practiced in the Navy for 11 years. I first became acquainted with Audrey while we were both law students at the University of Montana School of Law. Audrey and I worked closely together while she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review. She was known for her passion, competence, and leadership abilities. In the 11 years since we graduated, she still exhibits those same qualities.

The entire time I have known Audrey, she has been unafraid to take on difficult tasks and help her community. She believes every Montanan deserves affordable advocacy and finds passion in supporting her clients. Her contributions have been felt throughout Bozeman and Montana, as evidenced by her success as Substitute Judge *Pro Tem* in Gallatin County Justice Court. Her efforts and role in collaborative law and supporting the Uniform Collaborative Law Act epitomizes her passion and demonstrates the best ideals of the legal profession.

In addition to being an attorney, Audrey is an incredible friend, wife, and mother. She has a proven history of success in whatever endeavor she undertakes. Audrey has the judicial temperament, judgement, and experience required of a district court judge. She is the perfect candidate to fill the pending vacancy.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. You can reach me at (407) 921-0871 or at prohlfig@gmail.com.

Very Respectfully,



Philip Rohlfing
Lieutenant Commander
United States Navy

Views expressed are my own and not the Department of the Navy's

August 4, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Heather Sather, and I write you to state my support for Audrey Cromwell in her application for the 18th Judicial District Court judicial vacancy. I am a Senior Deputy County Attorney at the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office in the child dependent/neglect (DN) division, and previously served as an attorney guardian *ad litem* in Yellowstone County's DN cases, while maintaining a private solo practice primarily focusing on domestic relations.

While I met Audrey in Missoula while she was in law school, I really became much more familiar with Audrey while she was living in Billings, working as a public defender. I was so impressed with Audrey's passion for her work and her ability to handle such a heavy workload right out of law school. I continually heard positive reports from others in our Yellowstone County Bar regarding Audrey, and all were disappointed when she made the decision to relocate to Bozeman.

The past years that Audrey has been in Bozeman, I have followed her accomplishments and continued to be very impressed with her commitment to justice, as well as her drive to provide improved outcomes for the litigants in cases she handles. I so admire her work at her firm, at student legal services, and her work over the years to change the dynamics in family law through collaborative mediations and through limited scope representation. Audrey's ability to treat others with respect, kindness, and care, is quite impressive.

Audrey is smart, hard-working, and respectful, and her even temperament makes very well-suited to serve in the role of District Court Judge. The attorneys and parties who will appear in front of her will be lucky to have their matters heard by such a compassionate, caring, thoughtful individual. I fully support her application being forwarded to Governor Bullock by the Commission. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Heather W. Sather
Senior Deputy County Attorney
Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

GREGORY S. MUNRO
ATTORNEY AT LAW
3343 Hollis Street, Missoula, MT 59801
(406)493-5361

August 3, 2020

Montana Supreme Court
Judicial Nomination Commission
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
Imenzies@mt.gov

Re: Judicial Candidate—Audrey Cromwell

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I highly recommend attorney Audrey Cromwell for the judicial position open in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Audrey's personal qualities, high professional competence and breadth and depth of relevant experience make her an exceptional candidate to assume the bench in Montana.

I have known Audrey for thirteen years having first taught her as a student in my classes during her three years at the law school. I observed that Audrey demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills. She likes people, as is reflected in the respect she shows others and their affinity for her. She proved to be impeccably diplomatic and tactful and mature beyond her years. She has excellent judgment.

She demonstrated high intelligence and keen analytical skills which assured that she was always on the mark in classroom discussions and work. She has excellent verbal and written communication skills. She was co-editor of the Montana Law Review, and I can attest that her skills at presenting are also superior.

Even as a student, Audrey was disciplined, hard working, organized and efficient. She was also highly active in student life and events at the school. She was and is exceptionally well rounded in her life.

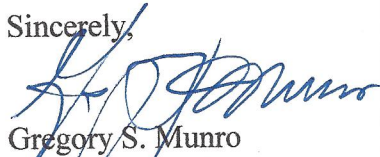
I have watched Audrey's career as a practicing lawyer for the last thirteen years, and my observations hold true in her professional life. Her professional experience beginning when she interned in law school has included criminal prosecution with Missoula County, Montana Legal Services Association, civil practice with Crowley Fleck, criminal defense with the Office of Public Defender's, 13th Judicial District Drug Court, and legal counsel to students at ASMSU. She has capped off this people-oriented career with development of a successful law firm specializing in quality affordable legal care. She has had exceptionally broad experience in the very matters Montana State Courts of general jurisdiction address. Moreover, she clearly has stayed at the forefront of development of collaborative family law and alternatives to the system's adversarial litigation methods. Audrey's application reflects the deep thought that she has put into what it means to be an active, innovative, and creative State District Court judge.

I have no question that Audrey could have elected to practice in lucrative corporate law

firms and admire the public service trajectory she has chosen, a trajectory that naturally lends itself to being a judge in a court of general jurisdiction..

Audrey is exactly the kind of lawyer and person we should put on the bench. She will be an asset to the Eighteenth Judicial District, the Montana judiciary and the people of the State. I cannot recommend her highly enough!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory S. Munro", written over the printed name.

Gregory S. Munro
Professor Emeritus

University of Montana Alexander Blewett III
School of Law

85 Brookside Way
Missoula, MT 59802
July 31, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell, Applicant for Eighteenth Judicial District Judge

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter in support of Ms. Audrey S. Cromwell's application.

I am a lawyer who practiced in Bozeman for several years and appeared before former several Eighteenth Judicial District judges, including the Honorable W.W. Lessley and the Honorable Thomas A. Olson. I later served as a professor at the then University of Montana School of Law for more than 30 years, 14 years of which I was dean of the School. While serving as dean, I met Audrey Schultz in 2006 when she enrolled in the School and became well acquainted with her work during the next three years.

In law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated that she possessed the abilities essential to being an excellent student and to becoming an excellent judge. Her research and writing skills led to her selection to the staff of the Montana Law Review. Her fellow staff members recognized these skills, as well as her leadership ability, by selecting her to serve as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the publication. During her co-editorship, she and her co-editor were willing to undertake thoughtful innovations that resulted in increased subscriptions to the Review.

While in law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated her belief that the law is about serving the people. Not only did she display respect for her professional associates including her student colleagues, her professors, and the many lawyers and judges who participated in the life of the School, she worked hard to advance law for ordinary Montana citizens. She organized a Judge Browning Symposium on rural law and public lands. She arranged panels that included ranchers, fishermen, Montana legislators, the Governor, members of Congressional staffs, employees from the Department of Agriculture, as well as academic leaders. She reached out to the public and scheduled sessions at times when everyday citizens could participate. And, thanks to her, the public did participate in record numbers.

As you know, judges are required to be competent many areas of the law. When Ms. Schultz was a law student, she successfully completed the school's heavily-required curriculum, which introduced students to a broad array of legal topics. She was an excellent student in all of her courses. Outside her class work, she demonstrated her ability to become competent in several areas of law. She was a student prosecutor in the Missoula County Attorney's office. She served as a clinical intern with Montana Legal Services and helped students with their family law, landlord-tenant law, and consumer protection law problems. During one summer, she clerked for a large Montana law firm. I understand that she wrote memoranda on topics including estates, property, insurance, and oil and gas law. She also helped with a

variety of litigation matters. Ms. Schultz is not intimidated by an area of law that is new to her. She has proven she knows how to develop competence in any area of law.

I think one might legitimately wonder whether the views of a former dean about a former student concerning events occurring more than ten years ago are relevant to your commission. Respectively, I suggest they are. A law student arrives in school with values and habits she acquired at her home, in her prior studies, and at the workplace. In law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated a very strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn about new topics, a willingness to innovate, and a desire be a thoughtful, contributing member of a community. Those habits and values were predictive of Ms. Schultz's practice. I think they will be predictive of her work on the bench.

In short, I urge your nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to the district court. Just as I am proud that she was once an outstanding student at the University of Montana School of Law, I think you will be pleased with her performance as a judge. I think she will serve in the tradition of Judge Lessley, Judge Olson, and the many other distinguished judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Thank you for your consideration of her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Edwin Eck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "E." being prominent and followed by "Edwin" and "Eck".

E. Edwin Eck

August 4, 2020

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

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Via Email
imenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

As is apparent from the myriad letters in support of Audrey's nomination to the 18th Judicial District vacancy, there is no shortage of positive sentiments to express in her favor. And while her resume and application speak for themselves, I cannot pass up the opportunity to add my own recommendation of Audrey's nomination to the long list of so many others.

As Audrey's former employee and forever mentee, I have had the privilege of observing and learning from her first-hand. During law school, I served as the clinical attorney at ASMSU Legal Services under Audrey's supervision and joined Cromwell Law, PLLC as an associate upon graduation and admission to the Bar. Among all of the admirable traits Audrey possesses, the things that inspire me the most are her innovative spirit and commitment to character.

Where many of us see problems, Audrey sees challenges. When most of us are content to complain about problems, Audrey formulates solutions and executes. On countless occasions I have witnessed Audrey identify opportunities for improvement and execute creative solutions to create positive change. She is always finding ways to improve the efficiency of processes and institutions so they may better serve her community. For example, while simultaneously running her own private law practice, co-directing a university program that serves hundreds of students each year, and parenting a two-year old, Audrey took on yet another role as interim director of the Community Mediation Center. I watched in awe as she used her passion for conflict resolution as a driving force to effectuate change. She worked in tandem with the court administrators, judges, clerks, and non-profit community to streamline free and low-cost family mediation services and expand access to these essential services to those in need. While this is just one example, it is exemplary of Audrey's tenacity and boundless dedication to her community. It is also exemplary of her tireless spirit and ability to adapt and accept new challenges with grace. She never resorts to cookie cutter solutions or relies on the old adage, "because that's the way we've always done it." I believe her dedication to innovation and creative problem solving will not only serve those who come before her bench but also the community at large through increased judicial efficiency and access to justice.

While Audrey's resume speaks to all that she has accomplished, I have always been more impressed with *how* she has reached her achievements. Audrey is both deeply compassionate and

introspective and maintains her commitment to character through even the most difficult adversarial processes. She is accepting of critical feedback and dedicates time to self-improvement.

As a young attorney entering the field, I could not have asked for a better boss and mentor. I continue to look to Audrey's dedication, innovation, and commitment to kindness and character as guides for my own career. She exemplifies what it means to be an excellent attorney and public servant and as judge, will hold practitioners to a high standard of professionalism.

I cannot overstate my support for Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District vacancy. I hope the outpouring of support will encourage the Commission to support Ms. Cromwell's appointment to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Layla Turman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Layla Turman
Attorney
(406) 541-4940

August 4, 2020

Via Email - mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Jeffrey B. Smith. I am a partner at Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP. I was admitted to practice in Montana on October 6, 2009 and have been in good standing since admittance.

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's appointment for the District Court Judge position in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey since attending law school with her at the University of Montana, School of Law. During that time, Audrey was highly respected by our classmates and the faculty as a very hard working, energetic and compassionate student with an unmatched level of character and integrity. I am not surprised to see that she has developed into a highly qualified attorney and has been able to maintain her strong work ethic, compassion, character and integrity.

During my eleven years of practicing law at Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP, I have worked with and against a very diverse group of attorneys. I have also represented clients in civil matters across the entire State of Montana. From this experience, I have learned the best attorneys and judges possess a strong work ethic, an enthusiasm for attention to detail and an unbiased opinion. Audrey possesses these skills as an attorney and I have no doubt she would make an extraordinary Judge.

Very truly yours,

GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP



Jeffrey B. Smith
Direct Line: (406) 523-2585
Email: jbsmith@garlington.com

August 5, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

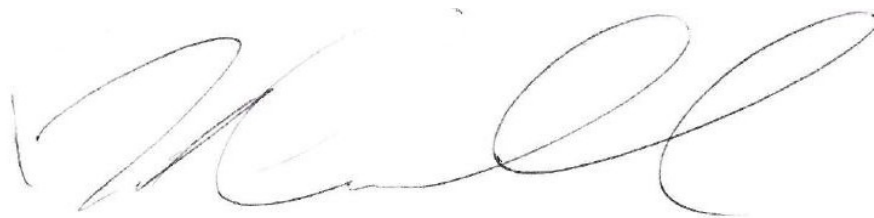
My name is David Cromwell, and I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's nomination to district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am currently a Senior Associate at the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Seattle, where my practice focuses on technology transactions, licensing, and intellectual property. Born and raised in Montana, like most expatriates, I have maintained close ties to the state; particularly to Gallatin County, where my sister-in-law Audrey, brother, and nephew live.

Audrey's commitment to the law and to equity is unique among the lawyers I have met, and that commitment makes her my choice for the nomination. I have known Audrey since 2008, and that entire time she has unwaveringly focused on her role within existing frameworks of law and equity and also on her role in improving those frameworks. Many dinner conversations have consisted of me asking questions and learning from Audrey on these points: what does the law say about family law? Why is that? How would a collaborative approach change this landscape? These are questions that bounce around in her mind both during and after the workday.

I also believe that Audrey's experience on all sides of the law will provide a smooth transition into judgeship. My first year of law school, I learned that I could pursue one of a few (traditional) paths: law firm, prosecutor, or public defendant. Audrey's curiosity led to experience in all three. It therefore came as no surprise to me when she began working as a substitute judge, a natural next step given her previous learnings. This experience will (with your support) allow her to see the law from all sides, ask the tough questions, and apply the law in an intellectually honest way.

Gallatin County would be lucky to have her.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Cromwell', with a large, stylized 'D' and 'C'.

David Cromwell

August 4, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to you today to express my deepest support for Audrey Cromwell.

I am a family physician, local business owner, and Instructor for the University of Washington. I have had the great pleasure of knowing Audrey and her family for the past 8 years. I have come to know Audrey both personally and professionally during this time.

Audrey has always possessed a striking equipoise and wisdom – even in our first years of acquaintance. I have universally experienced her as paced, thoughtful, and the consummate professional - even in emotionally charged situations. However, in the midst of this impressive presentation of professionalism, is an equally impressive warmth, humanity, and delight. It is indeed rare to find such all-encompassing balance... and Audrey possesses it in spades.

Professionally, I find myself exhaling in relief when a patient tells me they are working through a high-conflict experience with the legal assistance of Audrey Cromwell. I know not only are they in good hands, they are in the best hands. Her gift of mediation is a rare jewel, and an art form in itself. In our current climate we need her skill set and mindset now more than ever. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leah M.K. Anderson, M.D.
Family Physician, Bozeman Creek Family Health
Clinical Instructor, University of Washington



August 1, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

As the Director of the Office of Student Engagement at Montana State University, I have had the pleasure of serving, in both professional and nonprofit roles, with Audrey for six years. I am pleased to offer my highest recommendations for Audrey Schultz Cromwell. She is a dedicated public servant, an adept problem solver, and a laudable leader. I am confident that she will be an outstanding District Court Judge for the State of Montana.

At Montana State University, Audrey is well known for her professionalism, intellect, and discernment. In 2014, the Associated Students of Montana State University created an innovative partnership with Audrey's law firm, Cromwell Law, to revolutionize our student legal services program. Through her ingenuity, problem-solving, and leadership Audrey established a 'limited scope' legal representation program which offer affordable legal services to MSU students that is a model for higher education across the state and the nation. This inclusive, accessible, and affordable program supports students with legal advice through a wide range of issues, including alcohol charges, landlord-tenant issues, and business and family law. The program was successful in its initial year and has grown 400% since its founding, now supporting approximately 500 each year.

Audrey's commitment to justice and public service is deeply personal. She has demonstrated long-term engagement with diverse students across campus and in our community. The cumulative summary of her achievements is impressive, including a breadth of expertise across multiple disciplines, that will be an asset to the District Courts. One of her characteristics that I admire most is her

**Office of Student
Engagement**

SUB 221 & 222
P.O. Box 174200
Bozeman, MT 59717

Tel 406-994-2933
Fax 406-994-6911

Mountains & Minds

commitment to access, inclusion, and justice for those typically underserved in our community. At MSU, Audrey observed that many of the students seeking legal services needed immigration advice that is rarely available in Montana. Audrey recognized the need, secured funding, identified professional certifications, researched institutional best practices, and coordinated attorneys to participate in intensive professional trainings. Due to her initiative and on-going commitment, international students now have unprecedented, affordable access to legal support. Montana needs more leaders like Audrey.

In addition to her role at MSU, I have also had the pleasure of working with Audrey during her several years of leadership with the Community Mediation Center. She has served as Executive Director and subsequently on the Board of Directors. As a mediator, Audrey has a reputation of providing quality, affordable conflict resolution education and services in small claims cases, low-income divorce cases, family disputes, landlord-tenant issues, neighborhood conflicts, land-use disputes, victim-offender mediations, and conflict resolution education in schools.

Audrey embodies her values with remarkable intelligence, integrity and impartiality. She authentically listens. She genuinely cares. She makes well-researched, ethical choices. These are inspiring qualities, but maybe more impressively, she has consistently demonstrated her acumen for creating collaborative legal solutions with diverse stakeholders while accommodating the unique needs and capabilities of individuals and institutions.

I have confidence in Audrey's character, judgement, and work ethic. I would like to offer my highest recommendations for Audrey Schultz Cromwell.

Sincerely,



Marianne Brough
Director, Office of Student Engagement
Strand Union Building 221
Bozeman, MT 59715
marianne.brough@montana.edu
406-994-2933

August 5, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

As co-founders of a Bozeman-based technology company, we are writing in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Our relationship with Audrey spans professional, personal, and community members with a shared interest in supporting a thriving local economy with care and consideration for the wellbeing of all residents. We are currently the executive leaders of Tadpull, Inc., an eCommerce technology company here in Bozeman with 14 employees. We are also long-time residents of Bozeman, grew up here, and are always concerned about the Bozeman community's leaders and the impact they can have on its residents.

We have been clients of Cromwell Law since 2014 and have been friends with her and her spouse, Charlie, since 2012 (and we have known Charlie since the 1980s as competitive swimmers in the state of Montana). Throughout our professional interactions with Audrey, we have always been impressed with her thoughtful approach to challenging situations. Her willingness to consider the possibilities and desired outcomes from multiple perspectives with integrity and respect for each individual party involved is an admirable quality that would serve her well in the role of judge.

One of the best examples of this is in her collaborative family law practice in which she and two colleagues (representing legal counsel, financial advising, and clinical therapy) work to support the needs of the whole family throughout the divorce process. She embraced this novel method to better serve her clients and ensure the long-term success of everyone in the family. She has also worked within the university system to support the legal rights of students at Montana State University. This experience also represents her in-depth understanding of the rights of

individuals while conscientiously applying the law as it relates to the university and broader community.

In the personal realm, as a friend and parent, Audrey conducts herself in a manner that reflects her ethics, strong moral compass, and accountability for her actions, even in casual interactions. This familiarity with her character is what gives us the confidence to fully support her nomination.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us if any further details are needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Cook". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jacob Cook
Co-Founder and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eulalie Cook". The script is elegant and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Eulalie Cook, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & Chief Data Officer

FRICKLE LAW, P.L.L.C.

Jared C. B. Frickle
1633 Main Street, Suite A, #374
Billings, Montana 59105
Telephone: (406) 318-9630
E-Mail: jared@fricklelaw.com

August 5, 2020

Sent Via Email Only

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Jared Frickle, and I am a solo practitioner in Billings, Montana. I am writing you to express my sincere support for Audrey Cromwell as a candidate for the upcoming District Court Judge vacancy in the 18th Judicial District.

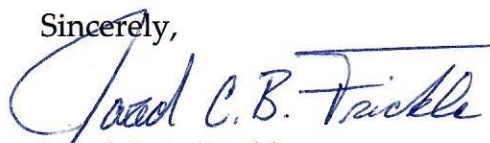
I first met Audrey in our first year of law school at the University of Montana School of Law. After the initial orientation, and while we as students were settling into our classroom routines and attempting to maintain some sort of law student/social life balance, Audrey immediately struck me as someone who was intelligent, personable, approachable, and quick-witted. She is a good person, through and through. Over the last fourteen years, my opinion of her remains unchanged, and I am happy to be able to view her not only as a colleague, but a dear friend.

Following graduation, Audrey and I both served together in Billings with the Office of the State Public Defender. This was the first time I had been able to work alongside Audrey, and it solidified my belief that she is a more than capable attorney both in and out of the courtroom. As I am sure you are aware, the caseload and work environment for public defenders can be overwhelming and thankless. However, Audrey was always someone who took the work in stride and was able to see the silver lining in anything that was thrown her way. On top of that, she excelled in her role in the treatment courts and has always garnered the respect she deserves from colleagues and clients alike.

Since our time as young public defenders, Audrey has gone on to form her own successful law firm and has gained significant and extensive experience in many areas of law, from family and domestic matters to civil issues and criminal defense. The breadth of Audrey's experience, coupled with her even temperament and personable qualities, embody precisely what the judicial bench needs. She is truly someone that can, and will, serve the citizens of Montana with dedication and compassion.

I cannot think of a single attorney who would be a better fit as a District Court Judge than Audrey, and I wholeheartedly recommend her for the open position in the 18th Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Jared C. B. Frickle

Jared C. B. Frickle

Bar No. 11178

August 4, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Elaine VanDyk, and I am the receptionist and attendance secretary at Chief Joseph Middle School. From the Fall of 2012 until 2017, I served as the Peer Mediation coordinator for Chief Joseph Middle School. The Community Mediation Center (CMC) worked closely with the Bozeman schools to support the schools with the proper training needed to teach students how to mediate disputes between their peers. Students were taught tools to use, questions to ask, and ways to support their peers in handling conflict. It was an amazing program, and I was honored that I could be part of it. While serving in this position, I had the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful volunteers at the CMC. One of those people was Audrey Cromwell. In the Fall of 2017, I was asked to join the Board of Directors of the CMC and saw first hand the many ways the CMC serves the community. I also had the privilege of getting to know Audrey better as I observed her lead and advise the CMC as the Executive Director.

Audrey Cromwell is an amazing leader. She listens attentively to others, yet isn't afraid to disagree. She does so in an affirming way which lets others know they have been heard and then carefully explains why she does not agree with that opinion. Audrey is wise. She is kind. She represents herself well and is well spoken. Audrey has integrity, she is honest and has strong moral principles. As a member of the Board of Directors for the CMC, we were confident in her abilities and trusted her to represent the CMC in an honorable way. She is trustworthy. Audrey cares deeply for people, and feels strongly that every person be treated equally, fairly, and respectfully. She is an extremely hard worker and does an incredible job of handling all her responsibilities. She does this all with grace and with a smile on her face. She gets things done, and she has fun doing it.

I am confident that Audrey Cromwell will be an extremely thoughtful, fair, disciplined, and compassionate District Court Judge. I look forward to her sharing her gifts and talents with the broader community and continuing to serve others and be a servant. She is a treasure!

Respectfully,

Elaine VanDyk

August 1, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

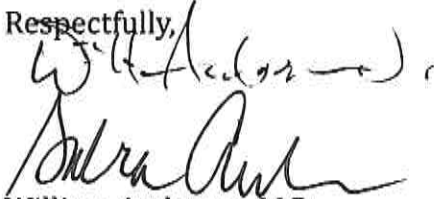
Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

We have known Audrey and her family for more than two decades. We are part of the medical community in Billings, first met her parents in that context, and over the years enjoyed a social relationship with the family as well. We watched her and her siblings grow through their youth and into adulthood.

Audrey is of strong and moral character, she is disciplined and motivated, and she has an even temperament that will not stray or be distracted by the challenges that may confront her. We support her wholeheartedly and believe she would be an excellent judicial appointment.

Respectfully,

The block contains two handwritten signatures. The first signature is in dark ink and appears to read "William Anderson". The second signature is in a lighter, possibly blue or grey ink and appears to read "Sandra Anderson".

William Anderson M.D.
Sandra Anderson
3530 Masterson Circle
Billings, MT 59106

SWANDAL LAW PLLC

& Mediation Center

305 E. Lewis Street Livingston, MT 59047

REBECCA R. SWANDAL

//

WM. NELS SWANDAL

August 5, 2020

Sent via Email

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell's application to be appointed as District Court Judge in Gallatin County. I met Audrey in 2006, during our first week of law school. Since that time, I have known Audrey to be diligent, hard-working, and a woman of great integrity. I believe she would make an excellent judge.

Audrey will work hard to timely make her decisions and issue orders, which is paramount to litigants and lawyers alike. There is nothing more frustrating in my practice than working in front of a judge who cannot make a decision.

I urge you to consider her as Judge Brown's replacement, as she would serve the 18th Judicial District well.

Very Truly Yours,



Rebecca Swandal

August 5, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my support for Audrey Cromwell and recommend that she be appointed the next district judge in Gallatin County.

I am a partner at the Bozeman firm Goetz, Baldwin & Geddes, P.C. I met Audrey over a decade ago on our first day of law school. She was the first person in a sea of strangers to say hello. Her small act of kindness has encouraged me to be more inviting, more welcoming. That is what role models do: they set the example.

District judges are the ultimate role model in the legal profession. Litigants, attorneys, jurors, and the community at-large look to them for guidance and leadership. They are above the ruckus of the courtroom drama. They are patient, compassionate and understanding. But most importantly, they are fair and strive to ensure equal justice for all.

Audrey Cromwell is ready to be our next role model in the Eighteenth Judicial District. She has the right mix of professional legal experience. She has served as both prosecutor and public defender (as well as a substitute justice of the peace). Her private practice offers aid to university students, families working through separations, and, notably, families working through our complex immigration system (not to mention traditional civil and contractual matters). She also has the right temperament. She does not rush to judgment. She is patient and listens. Audrey is also fair. She plays by the rules and expects others to do the same. Finally, Audrey is exceptionally bright. Her experience has her ready to go on day one, but her drive to learn more—and to learn quickly—will carry her through the challenges ahead.

I encourage you to select Audrey Cromwell to serve as the next Gallatin County district court judge. She already possesses the virtues of a good district judge. The time is right to give her the chance to prove it.

Sincerely,



Kyle W. Nelson

John F. Haffey ‡
john@haffeyvap.com

Mitchell J. Vap ‡
mitch@haffeyvap.com

‡ Reg. Patent Attorney



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www.haffeyvap.com

Aug. 5, 2020

by email

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I strongly support Audrey Cromwell's nomination for the 18th Judicial District Court judge position. She is highly qualified and possesses all the attributes to be an excellent District Court judge.

I have known Audrey since 2006. We were law school classmates and I was fortunate enough to work with Audrey many times throughout law school. Audrey has always possessed tremendous legal acumen and appreciation for the nuance of law. She has always had the ability to understand and fairly analyze opposing positions. Audrey has always possessed an amazing work ethic. From law school, to her time with the Office of the Public Defender, to beginning her own law practice, Audrey has excelled. These attributes are the reason Audrey has had such a successful career and will be an outstanding judge.

On a personal note, our families have remained friends through the years and we have been fortunate enough to spend time with Audrey and her family away from work life. Audrey is always engaging, positive, humble, and she has a great sense of humor. She possesses all of the attributes necessary to engage colleagues and parties in the demanding District Court environment. It also bears noting that Audrey has made time to be a top-notch mom in addition to all her other accomplishments!

In conclusion, I highly recommend Audrey's nomination for the 18th Judicial District Court judge position. She will be an excellent addition to the bench. Thank you for considering my letter of recommendation. Please feel free to call me if you have any further questions.

//

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Sincerely,

HAFHEY VAP PLLC

Mitch Vap

Mitchell J. Vap



Quentin M. Rhoades
Nicole L. Siefert
Robert Erickson

August 5, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am a lawyer in Missoula at the law firm of Rhoades, Siefert & Erickson. I went to law school with Ms. Cromwell and graduated with her in 2009. I heartily recommend Audrey Cromwell for appointment as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

In law school, Ms. Cromwell excelled as a student and a peer. She was involved in a vast array of activities, was always willing to lend a hand, and stood out as a student. Ms. Cromwell was always prepared, brought insightful and thoughtful discussions to class, and was not afraid to kindly but firmly speak a dissenting opinion. It was a pleasure to be a classmate with Ms. Cromwell and I have always valued her as an esteemed colleague and friend.

While geography has separated us, I have followed Ms. Cromwell's career. Her wide range of experience is what is needed on the bench. As a trial attorney, I value practicing in front of judges who have both criminal and civil experience, both defending and prosecuting client's rights. Ms. Cromwell has done all of these, all while managing her business and being a wife and mother. Her obvious intellect, familiarity with many different subject matters and her calm but firm demeanor will serve the bench well. I only wish I practiced in the 18th Judicial District more often so I could appear before Ms. Cromwell.

Sincerely yours,
RHOADES SIEFERT & ERICKSON PLLC

Nicole L. Siefert

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
(Delivered via email to: lmenzies@mt.gov; mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Celia Blewett and I am a solo practitioner practicing tax and bankruptcy litigation in Great Falls, Montana at Slate Law PLLC. I am writing to give my highest recommendation to support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell to the judicial vacancy in the 18th Judicial District created by the retirement of the Honorable Holly Brown.

I have known Audrey socially for several years and have been struck by her thoughtfulness, compassion and ability to empathetically review both sides of an issue. She has discussed her approach to family law practice with me and I have noted that she is both rigorous in her legal practice and also practical in addressing the needs of her clients and the community.

Her resume speaks for itself and shows that she is hardworking, high achieving and also well-versed in the law. Even more, since Audrey has built a legal practice from the ground up, she understands the pressures of practicing law in both a solo and larger firm context. Since she has worked with families and clients in crisis, she knows how important timely, clear rulings are to all parties. I know that Audrey would work tirelessly to pursue justice in all cases that came before her, without bias or prejudgement.

In all of my interactions with Audrey she has shown an even temperament and the highest moral standards, as well as a strong work ethic. Accordingly, I strongly recommend that the Judicial Nomination Commission appoint Audrey Cromwell to be the next State District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Celia Blewett

BECK, AMSDEN & STALPES, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

Attorneys:
Monte D. Beck
John L. Amsden
Justin P. Stalpes
Lindsay C. Beck
Anthony F. Jackson

1946 Stadium Drive, Suite 1
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Tel: (406) 586-8700
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Of Counsel:
Michael G. Black

Paralegals:
Natalie F. Phillips
David W. McGoldrick
Reid M. Beck

August 6, 2020

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

Re: Letter of Support for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

First, thank you all for your time and service to the Judicial Nomination Commission. The work you do is of critical importance to Montanans and is deeply appreciated.

I am Anthony Jackson and I am an attorney with Beck, Amsden & Stalpes in Bozeman, Montana. Almost all the work I do is litigation in state and federal district courts. A significant amount of that litigation is in the 18th Judicial District. I am honored to support Audrey Cromwell to be an 18th Judicial District judge. I have known Audrey for about a decade and know she would make an outstanding judge and be a benefit to all who practice in the District.

As demonstrated by her numerous letters in support of nomination, recognitions, and achievements, Audrey brings with her a multitude of skills, talents, and abilities needed to be a great judge. Audrey's often spoken of and demonstrated ability to learn quickly would seem to be of particular importance. Based on conversations that I have had with judges, it seems generally agreed that the only real way to learn the job of being a judge is to be a judge. I have no doubt that Audrey will learn what is needed to become a great judge as fast as or faster than anyone could hope for.

In addition to her ability to learn quickly, Audrey's background demonstrates she has the trial experience necessary to assist in her becoming a great judge. Audrey has

tried 11 jury trials to completion. Audrey has tried 19 bench trials to completion. This seems likely to be more trials than all but a handful of judges and civil lawyers have tried as attorneys in their entire career. Audrey also has substantial experience working on family law and criminal matters, as well as cases involving children. From my understanding, these type of cases make up a substantial part of the Court's docket.

Audrey is also very social and comfortable in social gatherings. While easy to overlook in considering a judicial candidate, I believe this trait to be of critical importance. As the Commission is aware, judges are elected in Montana. Judges can face electoral challenges in Montana. Judges need to be able to run for election effectively and efficiently – which includes building a network of support in their community. Audrey has done this among the defense bar, the plaintiff bar, the criminal bar, and the non-legal community. Audrey's letters in support of nomination evidence the breadth of her support. Further, judges often learn of what is going on in the legal bar by participating and attending bar functions and similar events. Audrey does this now and will almost certainly continue to do so in the future.

For these and many other reasons, I believe Audrey would be an asset to the 18th Judicial District. I strongly and enthusiastically support her to be the next 18th Judicial District Court judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Jackson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anthony Jackson

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

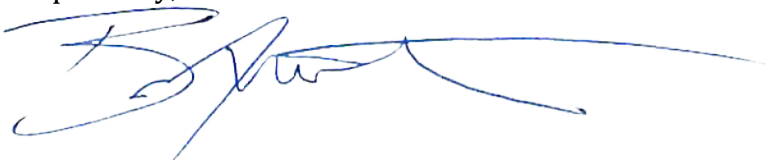
Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Brian West. I am a practicing attorney in Missoula, Montana. I write to support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to be appointed as judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have been personally acquainted with Audrey for over 15 years, extending back before law school, through attending school here in Missoula, and professionally through our respective practices.

Audrey's commitment to the law and passion for securing a positive result, coupled with her sense of justice, are the exact criteria I believe make for respected judges. Her prior experience in criminal defense for indigent clients, her dedicated work in the area of family law, and her practical experience founding and growing her own law practice cover the range of skills needed in for a District Court Judge, given the wide variety of legal issues faced. She is experienced, knowledgeable, and - I think most important - fair minded.

I can give no higher recommendation than when my own firm needed to refer our clients to counsel in the Gallatin County area, Audrey was our first thought. I sincerely believe that the citizens and participants in the Eighteenth Judicial District would be well served with Audrey on the bench. This Committee could do no better than to nominate Audrey for consideration and I encourage you to do so.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian West', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian J. West

Crist, Krogh, Alke & Nord, PLLC

Attorneys at Law



Benjamin J. Alke
balke@crislaw.com
Telephone (406) 255-0400
Facsimile (406) 255-0697

The Securities Building
2708 First Avenue North, Suite 300
Billings, Montana 59101

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's application for the position of District Court Judge in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District. I am a partner at Crist, Krogh, Alke & Nord, P.C. I practice in the area of civil litigation and have resided in Bozeman since 2008.

I know Audrey and her husband Charlie through the practice of law. I know of Audrey's legal abilities and accomplishments, as well as her commitment to providing quality services to the Bozeman community. In particular, I am familiar with work performed by Audrey and her law firm concerning trust and estate work and work concerning the Associated Students of Montana State University.

In my opinion, Audrey would be an asset to the bench due to her intellect, skills, temperament and ability to communicate. She would serve as a fair and able judge on civil and criminal cases. Her background and experience has prepared her for the range of matters she would encounter. I recommend that Audrey be selected to fill the vacancy left by Judge Holly Brown.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Benjamin J. Alke

BJA/ckr



August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter to urge you to consider nominating Audrey Cromwell as the next District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District. I am an attorney with a practice based in Bozeman, Montana with a focus in family law. Through this, Audrey's path has crossed with mine on numerous occasions. I consider her not only a colleague, but also a friend, mentor and worthy adversary.

Audrey has many admirable traits as she is organized, motivated and highly intelligent. Particularly, Audrey's creativity and empathy for all people she encounters will serve her well in a judiciary role. Audrey has an amazing ability to listen and understand people's perspectives even when it may be far from her own experience.

Audrey also brings creativity to any problem she is working to solve. I have observed as she assisted in mediation to help parties stuck in a gridlock to be able to work creatively to find solutions that actually met their needs. I am confident that where appropriate, Audrey would use these skills to better the lives of the individuals who participate in her courtroom.

There is much more to Audrey than listed here and her strong record speaks for itself. I highly recommend Audrey for the next District Court Judge.

Respectfully,


Angie Cavallini

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission. c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov
Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of support for Ms. Audrey Schultz Cromwell as a candidate to fill the 18th Judicial District Court judge vacancy. I have worked closely with Ms. Cromwell during the past seven academic years in her capacity as the lead Students' Attorney with the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU).

I cannot be more pleased with the advocacy Ms. Cromwell has offered our students during her time on campus. At the beginning of Ms. Cromwell's service, the Students' Attorney program struggled with a lack of awareness and credibility among our students. Because of Audrey's passion to support underserved individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the reputation of our program rapidly improved. Now, students often rave about the level of care and attention to detail from Audrey during their interactions. I know that our student government could not be more pleased with how the program is being managed and operated.

Beyond her strengths with offering legal advice to clients, Audrey is a program innovator. Her county and state-wide relationships with various law enforcement agencies are one of the reasons we have been able to offer multiple "wet-labs" on campus. These programs have provided our students a hands-on opportunity to learn how alcohol impacts reaction time and driver safety. And, as you can imagine, providing alcohol to students, even in a highly controlled environment, is a provocative program idea in some administrative circles. Audrey's leadership and drive were necessary to bring this controversial and worthy idea into reality.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that I've very much enjoyed getting to know Audrey on a personal level during the past seven years. She a well-respected citizen in the Bozeman community, and a devoted mother and wife.

Audrey has the professional temperament and the type of values that will guide her in becoming the type of District Court judge that we need in our local community. I highly support her appointment to this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions you may have about her qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Caires
Matthew R. Caires, dean of students
Montana State University – Bozeman

The views expressed in this letter are my own and not that of Montana State University

**Office of the
Dean of Students**

174 Strand Union
P.O. Box 174220
Bozeman, MT 59717-4220

Tel 406-994-2826
Fax 406-994-5931
deanofstudents@montana.edu

Mountains & Minds

Haley Jackson
125 Meagher Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718
connell.haley@gmail.com
406-396-7374

August 5, 2020

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

Re: Letter of support for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Haley Jackson and I am an attorney with the appellate division of the Office of the Public Defender. I am honored to support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position. I have known Audrey for several years and think she would make an outstanding judge.

When I first learned that Audrey applied for the position my immediate thought was: “Audrey would be perfect.” As an appellate attorney, my job primarily consists of dissecting district court proceedings and identifying where district court judges erred. I believe this has given me a strong sense of what qualities make a good district court judge: a sharp mind and keen understanding of the law; a commitment to justice; an ability to listen to and consider conflicting opinions; strong communication skills; and integrity.

I can confidently say—and as reflected by her impressive resume—Audrey possesses all these qualities. Audrey’s diverse background in the civil and criminal arenas has given her a wealth of knowledge in multiple areas of law and an acute ability to analyze complex legal nuances. As evident by Audrey’s work at the Office of the Public Defender and ASMSU Legal Services, Audrey cares deeply about improving access to our legal system and helping marginalized people in our community. Audrey’s expertise and success in collaborative family law demonstrates her impressive ability to truly listen

to different positions, problem-solve, and effectively communicate with parties to secure a just result. Perhaps most importantly, Audrey's outstanding reputation among lawyers and clients reveals that she is an attorney with great integrity and would make an honorable judge.

I have always marveled at Audrey's ability to successfully juggle so much. She is a mother, a wife, a lawyer, an active community member, and a friend and mentor to so many. She excels in each of these roles. The courts in Gallatin County carry a heavy docket and require a judge with a strong work ethic and ability to tackle multiple tasks at once. Audrey has proven she has the motivation and skillset to take on this challenging role.

I believe Audrey would be an asset to the judiciary, and I strongly support her for the judgeship position.

Respectfully,

Haley Jackson

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I recommend Audrey Cromwell be appointed to serve as district judge for the 18th Judicial District. From 2004 to 2013, I served as staff director for the United States Senate Finance Committee under the leadership of former U.S. Senator Max Baucus of Montana. In that role, I supervised all staff, including interns and law clerks serving the committee.

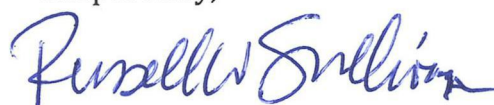
During 2008-2009, the committee focused on reforming health care laws. Senator Baucus published a health reform white paper at the end of 2008 and throughout 2009 staff worked on a myriad of issues related to what would ultimately become the Affordable Care Act. Committee staff researched and analyzed a number of issues regarding how current health care law worked as well as the constitutionality of proposals under consideration. These included whether an employer health care mandate was constitutional, whether an individual mandate was constitutional, whether the federal government could force states to expand Medicaid, and whether private companies could be required to provide certain health benefits to their employees. Many of these issues have been or are currently under examination by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ms. Cromwell (at the time Ms. Schultz) served on our legal team as a law clerk. She worked on many of these issues and did specific research on whether undocumented persons and new immigrants qualified for various health benefits under existing federal and state programs. It is her work on these issues where I intersected with Ms. Cromwell.

Ms. Cromwell demonstrated resolute determination and calm under fairly intense pressure to find answers to many of these health and immigration-related constitutional and procedural questions. Her research was thorough, her writing crisp, and her analysis objective and illuminating. Her colleagues on the health team and the legal team were impressed with her writing as well as her oral communication skills. We attempted to get Ms. Cromwell to stay in Washington and continue working, but she wanted to end up in Montana. And she has.

I am happy to answer any questions about her skills as a lawyer. She will be a great judge for the Treasure State.

Respectfully,



Russell W. Sullivan
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Aug 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have known Audrey Cromwell since 1996 when she entered the Freshman Girls Choir at West High School in Billings, Montana, where I was the Choral Director for 19 years. I also taught Audrey's younger sister and brother. I subsequently became friends with Audrey's family, and we've stayed in touch throughout the years. Audrey was in my choral classes for her 4 years of high school, which included many hours spent in extra-curricular choral activities. Not only was she a fine singer and dancer, she excelled in all her scholastic endeavors and presented herself as a confident, caring, and reliable young woman.

I know Audrey to have a deep caring for humanity. She has always exhibited a sincere concern for the wellbeing of others and was one of those students who reached out to people regardless of status or situation.

As the son of an attorney, I was pleased to see Audrey go into law. Now, seeing her many community and professional achievements, I am very impressed by the range of her accomplishments. She strives for a just and humane society. Audrey has the intelligence, compassion and experience to serve us well as District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

John Haughey
Director of Choirs, Billings West High School (retired)
Teacher of the Year (2005), Billings Education Association
2126 Northridge Circle
Billings MT, 59102
(406) 671-4643

LAW OFFICES OF
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KENT P. SAXBY
PAUL A. SANDRY
THANE JOHNSON
SARAH D. SIMKINS
PRESTON RAMMELL
ALEXANDER AMSLER

August 6, 2020

Of Counsel or Retired:

STEPHEN C. BERG
BRUCE MCEVOY

Sent Via Email Only:
lmenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

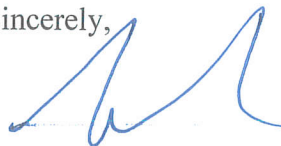
Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to address Audrey Cromwell's qualifications as a candidate for the District Court position in the 18th Judicial District. I have known Audrey for close to 15 years. Audrey and I graduated law school together and I have had the opportunity to watch her as her career has progressed over the last decade.

Audrey has a large range and depth of experience in both criminal and civil law and is known for her intelligence, clarity of thought and succinctness, as well as for her strong set of professional ethical principles. She has an excellent understanding of human nature as well as understanding of case law, and has a demonstrated commitment to collaborative practice. Her attention to detail makes her an expert problem solver and her temperament gives her the ability to consider opposing viewpoints with an unbiased approach. She holds herself to high standards and accountability and is without a doubt fair and impartial. Audrey's dedication to helping others and serving her community is also well known.

Audrey has the experience, disposition, and high standards required for this position. The 18th Judicial District could not do better than to appoint her as District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Sarah Simkins
ssimkins@jbsattorneys.com

HEENAN & COOK

TRIAL LAWYERS

1631 Zimmerman Trail, Billings MT 59102
Ph: (406) 839-9091 Fax: (406) 839-9092

August 6, 2020

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my honor to offer this letter support of Audrey Cromwell's application for appointment as a District Court Judge in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey since 2006, and we were classmates in Law School. From day one, she has impressed me as someone that is thoughtful, whip-smart and fair.

Since law school, I have witnessed how her admirable work ethic and industriousness (and guts) have allowed her to build a successful and respected firm from the ground up. While our practices have not aligned to allow the pleasure to work with her and her firm, I have referred many people to her knowing they will receive high-quality, caring representation.

Audrey clearly has the experience, diversity, and capabilities to be wonderful judge. My recommendation is her application should be forwarded with confidence for her appointment.

Best regards,



Joe Cook
joe@lawmontana.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:43 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Diane Black <diane.ffmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:41 PM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
August 6, 2020
c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to recommend Audrey Cromwell be appointed district judge in the 18th Judicial District.

I have been both a client of Audrey's, and a colleague. As a client, Audrey provided me a clear understanding of my legal position and worked diligently to ensure the process proceeded in a timely manner. She was compassionate and understanding during a very difficult time.

I've also had the opportunity to work with Audrey on several collaborative divorce cases. I have been impressed with her compassion for her clients, her desire to ensure that her clients truly understand their position under the law, her willingness to tackle the difficult topics with her clients and her ability to work with her clients to create equitable property settlements.

Audrey is caring, thoughtful, diligent, smart and approachable. She would make an excellent judge.

Regards,

Diane Black
Bozeman, Montana

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:42 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Linda Burgess <kentlindaburgess@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:56 PM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell

August 6, 2020

Linda and Kent Burgess
5485 W. Green Ct.
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 58620-3005

Dear Ms. Menzies:

We are writing this letter on behalf of Audrey Schultz Cromwell as she seeks the position of District Court Judge of the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I, Linda, am a retired teacher for Billings School District #2 and my husband, Kent, was President and CEO of St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings (now called St. John's United). We have known Audrey primarily while she was growing up in Billings, MT as we are close friends with her parents.

While in high school, Audrey served at St. John's Lutheran Ministries as an "Elder Chabar." Chabar is a Hebrew word describing companionship or friendship. This was a program designed by St. John's where high school juniors and seniors worked as a companion to nursing home elders in the late afternoon and early evening. Kent served as the St. John's CEO at the time and became familiar with Audrey's commitment to serve others.

Audrey has always stood out as a self-disciplined, goal-oriented, energetic young woman with a heart for people. She is bright and personable. Having been long time members of the Billings, Montana community and having known Audrey and her family well, we earnestly recommend that Audrey Schultz Cromwell be considered for District Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Linda and Kent Burgess

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:41 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Jennifer Giuttari <jennifer.giuttari@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:26 PM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: 18th Judicial District Judge vacancy (Cromwell)

To The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in response to the Commission's request for public comment on the 18th Judicial District Judge applicants. I am 2007 graduate of The University of Montana School of Law. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to practice in both the public and private sector in State and Federal court. I am now writing to recommend Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Judge vacancy.

I first met Audrey during law school. Although I have not worked professionally with Audrey as either opposing or co-counsel, as an Assistant Public Defender in Bozeman, I have appeared before her when she is a substitute judge in Gallatin County Justice Court. I believe Audrey has the temperament and professionalism required for a District Court Judge, and that her diverse background in collaborative, conflict resolution would be a welcomed perspective to bring to the bench.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions regarding my public comment.

Best,
Jen Giuttari

Jennifer A. Giuttari, Attorney-at-Law
Find me on [LinkedIn \[linkedin.com\]](#)

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:39 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: Patrick Lowney <LowneyP@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:58 AM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>; Menzies, Lois <LMenzies@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Applicant for Gallatin District Judge Position

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in support of Audrey Cromwell in regard to her application to be appointed a District Judge for the State of Montana. I have known Audrey for approximately thirteen (13) years, and I have known her husband Charlie since we were children. We have spent a significant amount of time not only interacting socially over the years, but also discussing and debating our respective legal practices, and I know Audrey to be intelligent, compassionate, fair and a person of the utmost integrity.

While I grew up in Missoula, I spent my first twelve (12) or so years as an attorney practicing in Oregon, both as a county prosecutor and in a private firm dedicated to family law. Having moved back to Montana to raise a family in 2018, I now work again work as a prosecutor in the Missoula City Attorney's office. That is to say, I have had the occasion to appear before a great many judges in my career. Because of that, I can say without question that Audrey is an outstanding candidate to be appointed as a judge, both in temperament and experience. Her time spent in the criminal system and the family law system comprise the two highest-volume types of cases judges see. Additionally, she has civil experience and thus she will be prepared to handle a varied caseload adeptly.

I urge the committee to give Audrey's application careful consideration. Her addition to the Gallatin County bench would be to the benefit of all involved in the local legal system.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lowney
Deputy City Attorney



CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
435 Ryman • Missoula, MT 59802-4297
Phone: (406) 552-6016 • Fax: (406) 327-2105

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 7:39 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell

From: David Irion <iriondavid@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:13 AM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Schultz Cromwell Letter of Recommendation—Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I'm delighted to submit a letter of recommendation for Audrey Cromwell who is applying to fill the vacancy on the bench which now exists in Gallatin County in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Audrey for 24 years and wish to comment on her school-age years development as she was in early preparation for community leadership roles such as this judgeship.

As Principal of Billings West High School during Audrey's high school years I observed in Ms Cromwell four distinctive traits that might be key to success as a judge: intellect, compassion, integrity and tenacity.

Intellectually Audrey was top of her very competitive class taking the most challenging course work. She was interested in learning for learning's sake and constantly curious and challenging the how and why of the materials. Her teachers spoke highly of her commitment to academic excellence. She exhibited similar success in college and law school.

Audrey possesses strong emotional intelligence. I recall her organizing support projects for other students in need. While she was a very popular student with the top students she had strong relations with all groups of students including those who were intellectually challenged or economically disadvantaged. Audrey grew up in a family where a societal greater good was emphasized and lived by daily action—this continues to be evident in the scope of her law practice. Her altruistic efforts won her the admiration of an incredible cross section of the BWHS student body.

While empathy is a strong personal trait, Audrey's commitment to doing the right thing is a 'true north' attribute. In Audrey one could never doubt her integrity. She is honest, forthright and willing to stand her ground when the right thing is questioned. She would be appropriately flexible taking many factors into account while staying true to her values and precedents of the law.

Lastly Ms Cromwell's trait of tenacity leads me to believe you'd have a workhorse on the bench if selected. I recall the look on Audrey's face as she participated in competitive sports. I remember her "game face" as she was challenged academically....I thought at the time, "This is a girl who is not to be denied."

I realize 20 years of history has passed since her high school days and I assure you I've kept track of her personal and professional progress during that time. Each has been a predictable success. As we age and grow traits learned early in life continue to come to roost throughout our years and I hope my comments assure you that this woman, like her early past has a bright future in the law as a trusted judge. Please carefully consider Audrey's application. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

David A. Irion
3133 Ben Hogan Place
Billings, Montana
406.855.5385



BRYAN LAW FIRM, PC

Justin M. Bryan, JD, LL.M.
Dash DeJarnatt, JD, LL.M.
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11 East Main Street, Suite D
Post Office Box 1371
Bozeman, MT 59771-1371

Telephone: (406) 586-8565
Facsimile: (406) 586-3968
Email: blf@bryanlawpc.com

July 20, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:


I am writing to express my support for Audrey Cromwell's application for the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am a local attorney who primarily practices estate planning, trust and probate administration. I was born and raised in Bozeman, Montana and have practiced in Gallatin County since 2011.

Professionally, I have only worked with Audrey on premarital agreement negotiations. Audrey is always timely and responsive. She is a fair to deal with and a great advocate for her clients. I have the impression she takes great care ensuring her clients understand the complex legal concepts contained in such agreements (such as the spousal elective share). In all my communications with Audrey, she has been reasonable to work with and it is clear she has a very good understanding of the law. My impression from other local attorneys who have worked with Audrey more regularly than me in the family law sector is that they enjoy working with her for similar reasons.

I did attend law school at the same time as Audrey, however we were not in the same class year. It is my impression that she was well liked by fellow students and would always go the extra step and help those that were struggling. Her past efforts with the Community Mediation Center and the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program highlight her commitment to public service and providing affordable legal services in our community.

In addition to the abundance of relevant experience contained in Audrey's application, the attributes illustrated in my letter describe a person who I respect and would be proud to have adjudicating matters in Gallatin County. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would be happy to discuss this letter with you.

Respectfully,


Justin M. Bryan, J.D., LL.M. (Tax)

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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

August 6, 2020

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

RE: Comment re: Audrey Cromwell's application for District Judge in Montana's
Eighteenth Judicial District

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

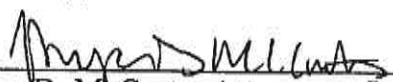
The purpose of this letter is to provide comment regarding Audrey Cromwell's application to serve as District Judge in Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District.

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

I have known Audrey for approximately 6 or 7 years and first met her when I was prosecuting cases for the City of Bozeman and she was representing criminal defendants. I think very highly of Audrey and believe she is an excellent candidate for the position. Given her relatively young age I believe she would bring a fresh perspective to the bench that is welcomed. I know that she has experience in a number of areas of the law and is certainly a well-rounded candidate. Audrey always behaves in a professional manner, but is warm and engaging as well. I have no doubt that she possesses the appropriate temperament for the bench, and would consistently make best efforts to do the job to the best of her abilities.

I believe Audrey would be a great District Judge and I wholeheartedly support her application.

Cordially,


Ryan D. McCarty, Attorney at Law

August 5, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:


I am the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Helena. I have known Audrey since our first year of law school in 2006.

I was proud to hear she was applying for the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. Over the past eleven years since we graduated from law school, I have watched her excel in her practice and community service.

Audrey has always been a conscientious and dedicated attorney. Her drive for her clients is evident in the resolution of her cases. She is thoughtful, creative and even tempered. All qualities that are needed to maintain the integrity of the Court.

It is my honor to support Audrey as a candidate for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Thank you for your time, please do not hesitate to call with any questions.


Judge Anne Peterson
Helena Municipal Court
406-447-8465

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helen, MT 59620-3005
Via Email to: lmenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am Jason Armstrong, an associate at Cromwell Law, PLLC. I began practicing law in Montana, Gallatin County, in 2005. I started working as a card-carrying member of the bar as Judge Mike Salvagni's law clerk. After working with Judge Salvagni, I transitioned to the Public Defender's Office and eventually went out on my own. I have practiced in Montana, North Dakota, and California. A year ago, Audrey and Charlie gave me the opportunity to work at the firm that Audrey founded. Assuming you've read the letters of support, what I am about to tell you is nothing new. But let me briefly tell you why appointing Audrey to the 18th Judicial District Court bench is in Montana's best interests.

Audrey cares about the legal issues that face students at MSU. The issues that students face are myriad and often complicated. Audrey navigates these legal issues with special attention on the personal needs of the students. Because she cares, she's tuned into the person for whom she is providing advice. I find this attribute to be uncommon and is a product of her caring nature.

Because Audrey is a lawyer who cares about process and being able to see a need and craft a remedy, Audrey helped to create legislation necessary to develop the collaborative divorce process. This is what good lawyers do, they see a problem and then seek and implement a remedy. Imagine the good she has done by helping people navigate the difficult and often traumatic experience of dissolving their marriages through a less adversarial process.

Audrey does not get bogged down by side issues or become derailed from her task because of outside influences that may distract her. She is focused, relies on appropriate procedure to implement a remedy, and pursues her task like a force of nature. Audrey is patient and observant. Audrey is detail oriented.

Audrey is an athlete. While this may seem a little silly to tell you, what it means to me is that Audrey has a mastery of the self, has a high pain tolerance, and overcomes the adversity that athletes experience. She is disciplined.

The only reason that Audrey should *not* be appointed to the bench is purely selfish; I want to keep working with her. I seek her advice and counsel on legal issues. And when, as often happens in family law specifically and the law generally, those legal issues are being influenced by emotional or personal issues on either mine or a client's behalf, I seek her calm advice and counsel so I can return to the problems at hand and provide a necessary remedy. She is wise and approachable. And if she is appointed, I will miss that.

However, all of Montana will be better off.

Audrey's caring nature, her attention to detail, her discipline, and her wisdom will serve Montana for years to come. Good luck with your decision.

Sincerely,
Jason A. Armstrong
Bar #8034



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32050 Frontage Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715



Aug 6, 2020

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacancy of district court judge for the 18th Judicial District in Gallatin County.

I have known Audrey Cromwell for many years, after she and her family chose to attend the same church my family attends. She immediately got involved in the outreach work that is so important to help support others in our community. We are a small but dedicated group of caring people who believe it is our job to spread social justice and stand up for the weakest among us. That demands not only thoughts and prayers but action, and Audrey jumped right in.

The majority of my interaction with Audrey has centered around our work together on the Young Adult and Family Ministry Team. She is a thoughtful, considerate, and determined team member. We were tasked with figuring out how to serve the youth and young adult population, both within our church and in the wider community. Through many false starts and difficult conversations gaining alignment inside the church, Audrey held a steady presence and helped us ultimately craft a solution that continues to be successful today.

In my position as the founder and owner of West Paw, a manufacturing business that has thrived in Bozeman for almost 25 years, I have interacted with many people from all walks of life. There are a rare few that strike me as having such a high level of integrity as Audrey. She is intelligent and empathetic, and holds herself with strength and fairness in conflict-ridden situations. Most importantly, it is apparent that she has found her true calling. I believe that Audrey would be an incredible asset to the District Court and I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Spencer Williams".

Spencer Williams

August 6, 2020

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

RE: Applicant Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

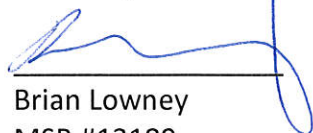
I am writing in support of the nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District, left vacant by the retirement of the Honorable Holly Brown.

I have known Audrey for over ten (10) years, since she and her husband Charlie first met. The Cromwell family is an accomplished and gregarious group and Audrey is no exception. Audrey has a sharp intellect and a formidable work ethic, qualities she has consistently used throughout her career not for her own gain, but to provide access to justice for Montana citizens who would otherwise lack legal support. Audrey's compassion for her clients and the esteem she has generated with her regularly excellent work demonstrates how suitable her professional philosophies are for a judicial role.

Additionally, Audrey's breadth of experience makes her well-situated to handle the wide variety of subjects which a district court judge must adjudicate. Audrey has experience as a criminal prosecutor, a criminal defense attorney and a family law attorney, areas of the law which make up the overwhelming majority of a district court judge's docket.

Above all, Audrey's demeanor would be an asset for the bench. Audrey is self-assured but unpretentious. She is levelheaded and remains poised even in charged situations. Audrey's conviction, empathy and humility make her an ideal candidate for the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I encourage the Judicial Nomination Commission to advance Audrey's application to Governor Bullock for appointment as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Brian Lowney
MSB #13189

July 20, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I'm writing a letter of support for Audrey Cromwell. I currently live in Missoula, Montana, where I work as a real estate developer. Although I have not actively practiced law in many years, I attended law school with Ms. Cromwell and we graduated together in 2009.

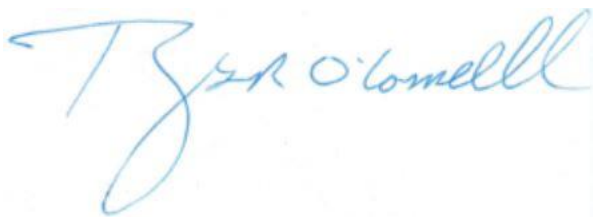
During this time, I worked very closely with Ms. Cromwell, as she was the Co-editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review, while I was the business manager of the Montana Law Review. Due to the law school remodel, we had a somewhat stressful and disjointed year, (our classes took place mostly in the Missoula Children's Theatre), and Ms. Cromwell not only didn't miss a beat in publishing a fantastic Montana Law Review...she excelled.

I worked closely with her and watched her put in long hours and many hours of deep thought to ensure to accomplish this goal. Her temperament and leadership during this time were even-keeled, well-reasoned, and an inspiration. I remember thinking at the time, if I had to select one classmate in our class that I expected to be judge, it would be Ms. Cromwell.

Now many years later, I've watched Ms. Cromwell build a successful career as the founder and managing partner of her own law firm. During this time, she's become a well-respected attorney and advocate and I'm confident she'll also be a well-respected judge.

I unequivocally support and recommend Ms. Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Tyson O'Connell
tysonoconnell@wishcmpaerpartners.com

August 6, 2020

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I started working part-time for Cromwell law in 2018 and recently became a full-time associate with the firm in January of 2020. However, my personal relationship with Audrey long pre-dates our professional relationship. Audrey and I first met while attending Billings West High School and she was in the class ahead of me. We reconnected when we both started law school at the University of Montana in 2006. It was during law school that Audrey and I truly bonded and became close friends and roommates. Our friendship continued past law school and I had the honor of being a bridesmaid in her wedding in 2011.

I ask that you consider the overlap of our personal and professional relationship because it takes a certain type of temperament to not only work with your husband on a daily basis, but also to navigate the role of supervisor over a close friend in a manner that does not disrupt or interfere with the strength of the friendship.

In 2015, Audrey was asked by Justice of the Peace Rick West to serve as a substitute judge in Gallatin County Justice Court. Though she is the youngest judge at the Gallatin County Law and Justice Center, "Judge Cromwell" has been complemented on her judicial style and philosophy by being strict but fair when dealing with defendants, defense attorneys, and prosecutors that appear before her. Audrey is an incredibly busy young lawyer, but she still manages to have a lot of fun with her friends and family in and around this great town. She is an inspiration, a successful businesswoman and attorney, a great friend and loving mother.

As a former prosecutor for 10 years, I know the value of a judge's ability to connect with a variety of individuals who all walk different paths. I can assure you that on a personal and professional level, the character and integrity Audrey will bring into the courtroom is indispensable. I strongly support her nomination,

Respectfully,

Shannon R. Foley



August 6th, 2020

David Langlas
6132 Sam Snead Trail
Billings, MT. 59106

The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Louis Menzies
Office of Court Administration
Helena, MT 59620-3009

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am the retired Vice President and Co-founder of Langlas & Associates General Contractors in Billings, MT.

I have known Audrey Schultz Cromwell since 1995 when our families first became friends. The three Schultz children and my two are all within seven years apart in age and went to the same schools and had similar friends. In 1998 my company built a new house for the Schultz family and I saw more of Audrey during and soon after construction.

I have a very high opinion of Audrey's moral standards, her scholastic achievements, work ethic, and character as a good mother, citizen, and friend.

I highly recommend Audrey for the 18th Judicial District judge position in Bozeman. I think she would be a judge who would be fair and just to all who come into her court while abiding by the law and not driven by her emotions or politics.

Thank you for considering my opinion of Audrey.

Sincerely,

David Langlas

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell
Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020 7:43:45 PM

From: Josh McCain <josh@bigskybravery.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 9:44 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,; Menzies, Lois
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

August 5th, 2020
The Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
[Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov](mailto:mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Dear Judicial Commission,

My name is Josh McCain and I am the Founder and President of Big Sky Bravery, a Bozeman-based nonprofit for active duty Special Operations personnel. I am writing on behalf of Audrey Cromwell, regarding the position of 18th Judicial District Judge.

When I first dreamed up the idea of Big Sky Bravery, Audrey selflessly jumped in, taking on the arduous process of assisting in starting a 501(c)(3) organization. Without knowing me personally, Audrey dedicated countless hours of her time and knowledge in service of our overall mission: to help America's most elite fighting forces. She did so willingly, selflessly, and with great passion. Due to Audrey's sacrifice, Big Sky Bravery began with a strong foundation that continues to serve us to this day. I will forever be grateful for the vital role she played in helping this dream becoming a reality. As a result of her hard work, over 175 Special Operations personnel have found restoration and newfound hope.

Since the beginning of Big Sky Bravery, I have also worked with Audrey on multiple other issues that have arisen over the past 5 years. Her level of care and professionalism has never wavered. I am continuously impressed by her skill, hard work, and dedication to those that serve our great country.

I wholeheartedly believe that Audrey's experience, professionalism, work ethic, and temperament, should excel her to the top of the list of candidates for the 18th Judicial District Judge in Bozeman, Montana.

I write this letter with overwhelming support of all Audrey has accomplished and will undoubtedly continue to accomplish in the future. I have no doubt that she will uphold the values of this incredible state for years to come.

V/R,

Josh McCain
Founder & President
Big Sky Bravery
www.bigskybravery.org
[\[bigskybravery.org\]](http://bigskybravery.org)
Bozeman, MT
"Our Heroes, Our Responsibility"

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Cromwell
Date: Saturday, August 8, 2020 7:42:45 PM

From: Skye Lazaro <skye@lazarolegal.com>
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 5:54 PM
To: Menzies, Lois; MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell District Court Nomination

To whom it may concern,

I previously submitted this letter however it does not appear to have been published. Please consider the following in support of Ms. Cromwell.

I had the unique and amazing opportunity to attend and graduate from the Alexander Blewitt School of Law at the University of Montana as a classmate and friend of Ms. Cromwell. While I have not had an opportunity to practice in the same jurisdictions as her, I have followed her successes and contributions to the community over the past 10+ years. Ms. Cromwell has, and will continue to exceed every expectation. She has throughout her person and professional life exhibited the highest degree of skill, professionalism and integrity. In addition, she has strived to be a good steward of the community and make positive changes in access to justice. As a trial lawyer I can attest to those being inherent in the most accomplished members of the bench. We would be lucky to have her as a judge and I would welcome having her sit in judgment of any cases I have.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Best regards,
Skye

Skye Lazaro | Ray Quinney & Nebeker P.C. | 36 South State Street, Suite 1400 | Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

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