

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Sunday, July 12, 2020 7:45:51 PM

From: William Muhlenfeld <bill@distinctlymontana.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 11:51 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support Letter for Sheryl Wambsgans



Please accept this letter as one of support for appointment of Sheryl Wambsgans to the position of district court judge for the 18th Judicial District Court.

I have known Ms. Wambsgans on a professional basis regarding a certain legal matter, as well as on a personal basis through connections with her father at various family events.

I have had many interactions with Ms. Wambsgans, and find her to be well-versed in the law, and especially cognizant of her ability and desire to assess individual circumstances in her pursuit of true justice. She believes herself to be strongly motivated by what is "right," which varies from case-to-case, and which requires patience and diligence for satisfactory legal outcomes. Ms. Wambsgans will be an empathetic, constructive and fair-minded replacement for Ms. Brown. I am convinced that she will act with deep respect for the law, and with unusual sensitivity to outcomes of her rulings.

Bill Muhlenfeld

Bill Muhlenfeld , Distinctly Montana

photo



Mobile: 406-522-8700
Email: bill@distinctlymontana.com
Website: <http://www.distinctlymontana.com>
[distinctlymontana.com]



[\[facebook.com\]](#)

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 8:59 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans

From: Lakotah Erickson <lakotaherickson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 9:10 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for District Court Judge

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

I Lakotah Erickson write this letter to support Sheryl Wambsgans for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County).

I have known Sheryl Wambsgans through Bridger Law for the last 5 years. Sheryl is very well versed in law. The applicant is honest, fair, and well educated. I believe she would be the right fit for this position.

Sincerely,

Lakotah Erickson
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone \[overview.mail.yahoo.com\]](https://overview.mail.yahoo.com/)

TO: The Commission

RE: Sheryl Wambsgans – applicant for 18th Judicial District Judge Applicant

Sheryl Wambsgans has served me well when I hired her for a legal matter. She was helpful and professional in all respects and took time and patience for me to understand all aspects of the case. I cannot say enough about the way she clarified and explained her course of action regarding this legal matter.

I am a friend of a member of her family who recommended her to work with me professionally and am happy I chose Sheryl to represent this legal case for me.

Sheryl Wambsgans would serve Montana effectively as a District Judge.

Sincerely,


Anthea George

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 8:37:23 PM

From: Roberta Cestnik <rcestnik@pierce.biz>
Sent: Sunday, July 19, 2020 10:06 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comment for district court judge

Date: July 19,2020

To whom it may concern,

It has been an honor and pleasure having Sheryl Wambsgans as my daughter's counsel and representation. I find Sheryl to be very knowledgeable and understanding of the situations during our times of need. Sheryl has always taken the time to answer questions no matter what day or time of day it was. I believe Sheryl is an honest and trustworthy person and I'm grateful to have her by our side when times have been fearful and tough.

I believe Sheryl would make a great judge. I believe Sheryl would look at all situations equally and fairly. After experience and working with Sheryl I believe she would be a vital and essential add to the Judicial system. Please consider her in the next appointing judge position.

Thank you

Roberta Cestnik
Interior Consultant
Project Manager
Pierce Flooring and Design
1921 West Main
Bozeman, MT 59718
P-406-587-5428 ext 4005
C-406-539-0622

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Letter in Support of Sheryl Wambsgans Isle's Application for district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Holly Brown.

How we know Sheryl:

In 2012, Sheryl Wambsgans walked into my office after being referred by her father (who was a client of our firm) to start an individual IRA account. I liked her instantly. She had a delightful personality. She was smart, practical in her thinking, and intuitive. We got along well, and she told me some of her history. Although her application for the judgeship intimates at a challenging childhood, her perseverance in the face of chronic hardship and her subsequent personal and professional achievements have been nothing short of remarkable.

In 2016, Sheryl began work for a new firm, which was in a tough spot with no office space available in our exploding town and few funds to pay overhead in their new practice. We offered an empty office in our building that the ladies could "borrow" until suitable space could be found if they promised to be model tenants. They were. Possessed of a deeply kind and compassionate nature, Sheryl can be tough-minded, independent and always looks for the best possible outcome for all parties. Against all odds, she managed to separate from this firm after a year and a half with grace and dignity, her own reputation intact.

In 2017, Sheryl married the love of her life who also happens to be my personal weight trainer. Chase Isle is a man of extraordinary ability, along with indomitable physical strength, intelligence, and emotional stability. The wedding was hands down the best we have ever attended—beautifully executed and with the nicest people attending—all mirroring Sheryl's and Chase's delightful personalities. In the years since, we've watched them both work heroically toward their professional goals, never losing their powerful, sweet connection as a couple.

In 2020, Sheryl became our attorney when we needed to have our estate plan updated. We know several attorneys in Bozeman and chose Sheryl based on our confidence in her knowledge and believing that she would take care of us better than anyone else we could engage. That proved to be true. With Sheryl's guidance and state-of-the-art tools, the process was much less painful than we had anticipated and moved along to a satisfying conclusion. Sheryl and her staff were efficient and accommodating, ultimately providing lasting comfort to us and to our family.

What distinguishes Sheryl from other applicants:

1. From Sheryl's Application Question 57: "... each and every time I am thanked by a client for the work we do, I beam with pride and feel a renewed passion for advocacy and the law." Sheryl seems to derive the most pleasure and validation from serving others. Her temperament is what separates a mere technically competent candidate with a dizzying number of legal accolades from a real judge. She IS a judicial-type person from her very core. She is motivated purely by the ability to have an even greater positive impact from the bench than she has in private practice.
2. I noticed that Sheryl modestly did not mention that she had been offered a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2015. After a grueling, many-months-long vetting process that included tests of intelligence, knowledge, psychological and emotional grounding, people skills and physical prowess Sheryl was successful in earning a place

with the country's most prestigious and exclusive group of people devoted to upholding the law. In the final analysis, Sheryl chose to remain in Montana and serve the community as a legal professional. I would be surprised if any of the other candidates had run that gauntlet and prevailed as Sheryl did.

3. I have always found it interesting that Sheryl, who is able to make a good living in law, has always kept a server's job "on the side". I believe that it allows a person who is energetic and athletic and would have a hard time spending a lifetime inside an office or courtroom, the relief of doing something physical that also involves serving the public. Maybe more importantly, it also keeps her involved with people from all walks of life, people with a myriad of unique stories and challenges. Sheryl will never disconnect from what we regular folks are feeling and experiencing. She will never stop caring about us and fighting for us.

For these reasons, we are honored to submit this letter of support for Sheryl Wambsgans Isle for district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Elizabeth Harris and Jurgen Weiel

KATHRYN KEISER



FAMILY LAW

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: Sheryl Wambsgans 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 Sheryl Wambsgans for the 18th Judicial District Court Judgeship. I believe Sheryl's experience working as an attorney and as a substitute judge in both the Gallatin County Municipal Court and Belgrade City Court make her an excellent applicant for a District Court Judge in Gallatin County.

I have practiced with Sheryl in Gallatin County since 2014. I have been opposing counsel with Sheryl many times, and I have also collaborated with her on many occasions in regards to complex legal issues we have faced in different cases. Being very open-minded, Sheryl is an excellent resource to her peers regarding many issues in the family law and criminal law arenas. Sheryl has extensive experience in settling cases both as a mediator and working with opposing counsel and clients to reach resolutions that are in a client's best interest.

I know from personal experience that Sheryl has the temperament necessary of a judge. She is patient, open-minded, courteous, tactful and firm. Sheryl is understanding of clients' needs, and she exhibits compassion and humility in the work she performs. Sheryl is known by her peers for her good work habits and her ability to set priorities. Through her work, Sheryl consistently keeps deadlines, honors appointments, and always respects the time of clients and the court. All of these traits exhibited by Sheryl are many of the reasons she has succeeded in her work as a substitute judge in the Gallatin County Municipal Court and Belgrade City Court.

Sheryl has been very active in the Gallatin County community, especially in her three-year service on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County. In that role, Sheryl

has organized events, participated in committee meetings, fundraised, volunteered and looked out for the overall health of the organization. As evidenced through her work with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Sheryl is a leader who is not afraid to accept a challenge.

Based upon the foregoing, it is with great pleasure that I support Sheryl Wambsgans 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathryn Keiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathryn E. Keiser

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:39:39 PM

From: Lynn Milligan <lynnbrush@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:15 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sheryl Wambsgans for District Court Judge 18th Judicial District Gallatin County

Hi Ms. Menzies,

I am writing in support of Sheryl Wambsgans for the Judicial District Judge position in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I am a seasoned real estate broker, an active Mediator and Ombudsman for the Gallatin Association of Realtors and an active volunteer Mediator for the Gallatin County Law and Justice Center's Mediation program. I do not work with Sheryl nor interact with her in my Law and Justice Center dealings.

I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Sheryl two years ago when we each attended an intense and comprehensive Mediation Fundamentals course given to those who wish to mediate in Montana. It was a small class and the attendees worked very closely together and got to know each other quickly.

While Sheryl was there for a refresher, what was immediately evident is that she could have been the class instructor. In fact, Sheryl demonstrated her graciousness and professionalism as she was frequently called upon by the instructors to share her knowledge and expertise. I learned as much from Sheryl, if not more, than I did from the instructors.

I was impressed by Sheryl's knowledge of the law, her compassion for those involved in the stress of legal conflicts, her desire and willingness to help all of those around her and her ability to express herself to a room of people in a manner that was commanding but appropriate to the setting. Sheryl explained legal principles to a room of novices in a way we could understand and ultimately take with us to incorporate into our own practices.

Having personally observed the Justice Court judges on many occasions, I can easily envision Sheryl in the role of Judge. She has the experience, knowledge, professionalism, commanding presence, compassion, personality and demeanor to do the job in a manner that compliments the Court's principles and practices while guiding attorneys and members of the public through the process.

I fully support Sheryl Wambsgans in this role and hope that the Commissioners and Governor will take this opportunity to engage her in this position for which she is ideally suited and needed.

Sincerely,

Lynn Milligan

Lynn E. Milligan

Broker

Pure West Christie's International Real Estate Big Sky

406-581-2848

P.O. Box 160404

Big Sky, MT 59716

[h \[lynnmilligan.purewestrealestate.com\]](https://lynnmilligan.purewestrealestate.com/)<https://lynnmilligan.purewestrealestate.com/>
[\[lynnmilligan.purewestrealestate.com\]](https://lynnmilligan.purewestrealestate.com/)

Sign Logos-01



From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 7:43:47 PM

From: McLaughlin, Beth
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: 18th Judicial District comments for Sheryl Wambsgans

Phone conversation with Andrea Eastman on July 24, 2020:

Ms. Eastman has known Ms. Wambsgans for 10 years. She is an excellent lawyer, works very hard, and is very likable. She is uniquely qualified for this position, and Ms. Eastman would like to wholeheartedly recommend her for the position.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans

From: Eric Severson <severson.eric@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 4:03 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sheryl Wambsgans-Letter of support-18th Judicial Court

Montana Judicial Nomination Committee:

I met Sheryl through work and have known her approx. 10 years. We both worked as defense investigators. Sheryl moved on to become a defense attorney and now has her own successful practice. I know Sheryl to be compassionate, driven and well versed in the law. She has a strong work ethic and a true desire to help others. This is demonstrated by the commitment she has to her clients and her volunteer work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. I believe Sheryl would maintain the high moral standards the position of District Court Judge would demand.

I have worked in the criminal justice system for approx. 34 years, both in criminal defense and law enforcement. Sheryl Wambsgans has my full support as a candidate for the position of District Court Judge.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:25 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans

From: Cory Pulfrey <cory@pulfreymontana.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 11:00 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Cory Pulfrey
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sheryl Wambsgans Recommendation Note (c/o Lois Menzies)

Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing in support of Sheryl Wambsgans' candidacy for appointment to the position of district court judge for the 18th Judicial District.

I know Sheryl well. We met approximately 10 years ago, shortly after I relocated to Bozeman from Philadelphia where I was a Managing Director with Morgan Stanley Investment Management. Subsequently, my wife and I have spent significant time with Sheryl (and her husband Chase) on a social basis and consider them close friends. I have also worked with Sheryl professionally, using her on a number of personal legal matters. Having worked with many lawyers during my career at Morgan Stanley, I can say her legal abilities are strong.

Since the majority of my time spent with Sheryl has been on a social basis, I will limit my comments to the personal characteristics I have observed that I believe will make her an excellent judge. These comments are based not only by my direct interactions with Sheryl over the past 10 years, but by my experience running a significant investment organization (Morgan Stanley Alternative Investment Partners) with over 100 (mostly) professional employees for a decade. During my time at Morgan Stanley I had the opportunity to hire and manage dozens of professional employees, which allowed me to gain insights into qualities displayed by high performing individuals. I believe Sheryl embodies many of these characteristics, some of which I have outlined below (in no particular order):

- **Intelligence**
 - Sheryl is simply very smart.
 - The basis for making this judgment is mostly my time spent in college and my career where I was surrounded by a lot of smart people. First, my undergraduate Chemical Engineering classmates at Montana State. Second, involvement with same at the Wharton Business School. Third, at Morgan Stanley where most of the investment people were top performers in both their academic backgrounds (mostly from top undergraduate and graduate schools), and in their careers.
- **Judgement**
 - I have had numerous opportunities to observe Sheryl's judgement and decision making skills during the time I have known her. She is an active listener, considers all available information in a balanced, objective manner, and then makes a timely decision.
 - What I have never seen Sheryl do is make decisions based on emotion and limited facts and data which is another sign of good judgement.
- **Strong work ethic**

- During the time I have known Sheryl she has always had a full time job in the legal profession. First, in the Bozeman Public Defenders office followed by stint in a private practice, and finally establishing her own practice a few years ago. All of these "regular" jobs included long working hours.
- On top of her regular full-time jobs, Sheryl always had a second part-time job. I believe this started out as a way to accelerate payments on her school loans, but has continued subsequent to paying those off.
- **High emotional intelligence**
 - In my experience, the concept of emotional intelligence (i.e. in its essence the ability to communicate and interact constructively and effectively with a broad range of people and personalities) is an important driver in the success of people in job's where "people skills" are important. Although my experience in a courtroom setting is limited, I would assume this ability would be important as a judge given all the different types of people a judge deals with both in and out of court, and the high level of emotion involved in many of these interactions.
 - Based on my observations of Sheryl dealing with a broad range of people over time, she has a high level of emotional intelligence.
- **Unquestioned Integrity and Character**
 - During my career at Morgan Stanley, the primary job was selecting investment managers to include in client portfolios. A key part of our due diligence was assessing manager integrity given the substantial sums of money these individuals would be investing on behalf of our clients. Assessing integrity is hard, and mostly based on assembling a set of disparate data points over a significant period of time and making a judgement based on experience. I did this for hundreds of managers for well over a decade, mostly and increasingly successfully.
 - Based on my 10 years of material interactions with Sheryl, she has high integrity. Not once in my 10 years of interacting with Sheryl has she ever done to cause me to question that view.

This is not an all inclusive list of the factors that I believe will make Sheryl an excellent judge for the 18th Judicial District but rather outlines the most important ones.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Cory Pulfrey
Bozeman, MT

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:37:55 PM

From: Tana Koelzer <tanamfk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 4:55 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nomination

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I would like to take a moment of your time to extend my support towards your consideration to appoint Sheryl Wambsgans into the District Court Judge Position. As a lifelong member of the Bozeman Community I have been in awe of Sheryl and how she has represented herself, her clients, and her town.

I first met Sheryl several years ago while she was attending school and worked in the hospitality industry. Our interactions were brief, but positive; Sheryl is an upstanding person and a hard worker. As a lawyer that works a block away from where I work she has continued to prove how she positively impacts her clients and her surroundings. Recently I was lucky to get the chance to sit in on a meeting with Sheryl and one of her clients. She was poised, helpful, responsive, and knowledgeable towards her clients needs and wants and also within the scope of the law.

I truly believe Sheryl has all the qualities that make a good Judge. She listens well, speaks the truth, and is extremely knowledgeable. She would be a great asset to our community as a District Court Judge.

Again, thank you for allowing us as public community members to comment and express our opinions.

Tana Koelzer

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:38:47 PM

From: Christopher angel <crangel1234@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2020 10:58 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sheryl Wambsgans Application

To whom it may concern:

I am honored to have the opportunity to recommend attorney Wambsgans for 18th Judicial District Judgeship. I am now retired but I did practice law with the law firm of Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman for 20 years.

I have known Ms. Wambsgans for several years. In 2016 she served as my divorce attorney. My personal experience with attorney Wambsgans was very positive in every respect. She was always very well prepared and organized, professional and pleasant to interact with.

Based upon my observations and personal and professional experience I believe Ms. Wambsgans would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

Respectfully

Christopher R. Angel
Inactive Montana State Bar Member
Retired

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans
Date: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:39:47 PM

From: Christina Angelucci <christinamangelucci@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 1, 2020 8:00 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Sheryl Wambsgans

To whom it may concern,

I have known Sheryl Wambsgans for 12 years, our paths crossed in a professional setting and turned into a friendship. Working alongside her in our service industry job I believe she was always fair and to the point with our patrons and coworkers. Working in a bar as an entry level employee you see all walks of life, and deal with a large variety of personalities in a short period of time. I think that experience sets a person up for dealing with hardships on a larger scale. She is all business, with a kind and understanding outlook on life. Above all I think Sheryl would be an asset to our community. She is an upstanding example of what hard work and tenacity can get you, and would be refreshing to have someone like that on the bench in Gallatin County.

Thank You

Christina Angelucci
914.204.1386



July 29, 2020

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

Via Email

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Sheryl Wambsgans for Eighteenth Judicial District Court
Judge Position

Dear Ms. Menzies,

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for Sheryl Wambsgans for the judge position for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

I am Sheryl's law/business partner and I unequivocally support Sheryl as the new judge. I have worked with Sheryl for the last six years and have been at Bridger Law with her for the last three years.

At Bridger Law, I have seen Sheryl practice law with dignity, compassion, and humor. Sheryl is a fine lawyer and would make an excellent judge. Sheryl has already proven that she has an excellent judicial temperament in the Bozeman Municipal Court as the sub-judge. She is fair minded and uses her skills already as a professional neutral (GAL, parenting coordinator, mediator) to improve the lives of families in Gallatin County.

Sheryl does not hesitate to rise to the occasion in her practice, no matter the challenge. She produces excellent results for her clients, not because she practices "scorched earth" litigation but because she is fair and just and kind.

I have mulled my recommendation over because I know what I would lose were Sheryl to be the district court judge: a tremendous lawyer and law partner that excels in her practice and livelihood. At the same time, I recognize that my loss would be the judiciary's gain. I can support that because Sheryl on the bench would benefit every litigant that enters her courtroom. With that, I fully support Sheryl's application.

Sincerely,

/s/

Maggie Sullivan Braun

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 9:03 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans

From: Shannon McLaughlin <shanncmclaughlin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 3, 2020 10:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment/Recommendation Email for Sheryl Wambsgans

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to recommend Sheryl Wambsgans for the position of district judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I worked with Ms. Wambsgans for almost two years at Element Law Group, a family law firm in Bozeman. Sheryl, as an attorney and individual, is one of the hardest working and capable people I know.

When the firm where we both worked first started in early 2016, the owner unexpectedly had to take an extended medical leave of absence shortly after opening. Sheryl immediately provided the leadership the firm needed by taking over the day-to-day operations while continuing to serve her clients extremely well. As I was new to working in the legal field, her guidance, initiative, and management were imperative to the success of the firm. Her confidence and "can do" attitude kept ELG going during those challenging times.

With her experience and well-regarded reputation, she has been able to establish herself within the community as a strong and capable attorney. Sheryl's specialization in collaborative family law has benefited many clients looking for less adversarial options. Ms. Wambsgans is both professional and personable with her clients and other legal professionals. She is highly proficient in many aspects of the law as noted by her employment as a substitute judge with the Belgrade City Court and Bozeman Municipal Court.

I have no doubt that Ms. Wambsgans would be an asset as a district judge for Gallatin County and I give her my highest recommendation. If you have any additional questions with regards to this reference letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Shannon McLaughlin

LEANNE SCHRAUDNER & TODD HILLIER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

August 3, 2020

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

Re: Sheryl Wambsgans

Dear Commission:

I am submitting this comment/letter in support of Sheryl Wambsgans for the district judge position for the 18th Judicial District. I have been practicing law in Gallatin County for over 30 years and I have had the pleasure of working with Sheryl Wambsgans on a number of family law and estate related cases over the past eight or so of those years.

From my experience in working with Sheryl on a number of cases, I have found her to be completely honest, ethical, hardworking and a pleasure to deal with, even when we are on the opposite sides of cases. She never hesitates to ask questions when dealing with an issue on which she is admittedly less experienced in handling. I find this trait rather refreshing, especially from a younger member of the bar. It is also a trait I find admirable in a judicial candidate as I would rather have a judge who is more concerned about finding the right answer than caring about what someone thinks about them if they don't have all the answers immediately. It speaks to both her courage and wisdom as a practitioner and a person.

Sheryl is also an extremely hard worker. I know she has held down more than one job at a time and a strong work ethic is another positive trait for a district judge candidate. The current case load for district court judges, especially in Bozeman where we only have three judges, is daunting and having a solid work ethic is essential to being an effective judge, in my opinion.

I also know that Sheryl is experienced in handling family law and criminal law cases, which comprise a substantial percentage of the district court case docket. An attorney who is experienced in family law would be a big plus to the Bozeman area.

For the reasons stated above, I believe Sheryl Wambsgans would make an excellent district court judge. She is fair, considerate, ethical, hardworking and not afraid to ask questions when she doesn't have all the answers.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Hillier

August 2, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that Sheryl Wambsgans has submitted an application to become a state district judge for the 18th Judicial District Court. I would like to provide a recommendation that she would be an excellent judge based on my previous experience having been a client of hers at Bridger Law.

After over 40 years of marriage, my husband died unexpectedly without a will. As a result, I sought out legal advice from Ms. Wambsgans on how to handle some complicated estate matters. She was very knowledgeable on the subject of "right of survivorship" and was able to assist me in providing letters to his children (my step-children) about community property law and my rights as his spouse. With Sheryl's counsel and advice, I was able to avoid an uncomfortable dispute.

Not only was she well-versed in these legal matters, but showed an extreme amount of compassion and patience during a very difficult time for me. I have often wondered in my distressed condition if another attorney may have taken advantage of me because of my age. I feel that Ms. Wambsgans treated with the utmost respect.

I highly recommend Sheryl for consideration as a state district judge. She is not only very qualified for the role but upholds the high standards and moral characteristics that the court will need.

Thank you.

Velma Sabo

Velma Sabo
Billings, MT

August 5, 2020

RE: Public Comment for Judicial District Judge Applicant Sheryl Wambsgans

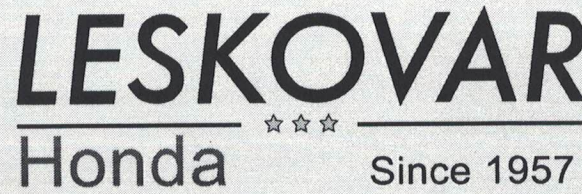
I am writing this letter in support of Sheryl Wambsgans for Judicial District Judge. I've had the privilege of knowing Sheryl for nearly five years. Sheryl's husband and I own Urban Fitness, which is local health and fitness club here in the Gallatin Valley.

Regarding the position of District Judge, I believe having good and qualified people in these positions are imperative - for everybody. I also believe that Sheryl possess a valuable collection of knowledge, skills, abilities, and experiences to make her an admirable and effective District Judge. Since meeting Sheryl, it has become clear to me that she has a deep interest and passion for the law and for serving others. Furthermore, I understand Sheryl to be very compassionate, yet objective, when evaluating circumstances. She has a genuine ability to actively listen, problem solve, and engage with a very diverse group of people. Her level of professionalism and understanding of the law is truly remarkable.

I strongly recommend Sheryl for District Judge. With Sheryl's skillset, experience, and drive, I have no doubt that she would be a tremendous asset to our community in this capacity and have a positive impact within our judicial system.

Sincerely,

Eddie M. Davila
Owner/Operator
Urban Fitness
Bozeman, MT.



August 5, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Sheryl Wambsgans in support of her candidacy for the Gallatin County District Judge position. I have known Sheryl for just over 10 years as a co-worker, acquaintance, and an attorney.

Sheryl has an innate work ethic both personally and professionally. Sheryl was financially responsible for both her college undergraduate education as well as her law school education. In the time I have known Sheryl, she has consistently worked a second (or even third) job to expedite repaying her tuition debt. Although she rarely has a day off, this hustle and bustle lifestyle has allowed her to hone her time management skills and focus. While professionally, Sheryl does not abide by any set office hours. Clients are constantly contacting her in what is typically considered off hours/weekends; yet she happily advises her clients day or night. Sheryl's dedication and commitment is relentless. She puts forth the absolute maximum amount of effort and energy possible to every position she has ever held.

On a personal level, Sheryl's character traits would make her an excellent judge. Sheryl has a rare combination of intelligence "book smarts" paired with practical experience "street smarts" that is uncommon in today's world. Sheryl's honesty and strong moral principles guide her in her ability to problem solve and make challenging decisions. Sheryl also has exceptional communication skills; she has the ability to articulate the law and then break it down to make it more understandable, while also relating it to the topic at hand. Her understanding of the law and ability to interpret a situation is remarkable, which can be attested to by her wide range of experience through the cases and clients she has represented.

I highly recommend Sheryl for the judge position. Her character, work ethic, and dedication to the law are unwavering. Sheryl takes great pride in practicing the law because she loves what she does every day. She would make an excellent addition to the Gallatin County Judicial system. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide additional information in support of Sheryl's candidacy.

Carly Leskovar

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August 5, 2020

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

RE: Letter of support for Sheryl Wambsgans for district court judge vacancy for the Eighteenth Judicial Court(Gallatin County).

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing this letter of support for Sheryl Wambsgans to fill the vacancy of the district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial Court(Gallatin County).

I have known Sheryl personally for the past ten years as a great friend. Sheryl's husband and I grew up together in Wolf Point, MT. I was with her husband when they met for the first time. Over the past decade we have had countless adventures and fond memories.

Sheryl has always been able to look at things from a logical standpoint. She likes to listen and take in all the information before making a sound decision. I am always impressed at her ability to maintain a level head during our intense discussions. Her ability to remain objective is also something I admire. Even during these difficult and uncertain times when issues become more personal or political she still seeks to be objective. I believe she is the right choice to fill the vacancy left by Judge Holly Brown.

Thank you for considering my support for Sheryl Wambsgans.

Christopher Unger
General Manager
The Historic Bacchus Pub
Bozeman, MT

August 3, 2020

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

RE: Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy for Gallatin County

Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I support Sheryl Wambsgans in her decision to apply for the district court judge opening in the Eighteenth Judicial District and think she is an ideal candidate to become a judge. I find Sheryl to be fully qualified for this position as an attorney and business owner within the community. In addition, her experience as both a fill-in judge with the Belgrade city court and Bozeman municipal court have provided the stepping stones for her to succeed at the District Court level.

Sheryl Wambsgans has an excellent reputation as an attorney here locally. With my business, I have both worked with her on legal matters and worked with other attorneys that are familiar with Ms. Wambsgans. Without a doubt, she is known for her strong work ethic and moral character which again, lends itself to her becoming a district court judge.

I find that she has the background, character strengths and competency to become a judge. Along with her dedication to being a great attorney, she also serves on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County. She chooses to share her success by giving back to the community and those who need assistance most – our youth.

Sheryl is intelligent, trustworthy, caring and dedicated to helping others. I cannot think of another person that would be better qualified to become a Gallatin County district court judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Matthew McLaughlin
BB Club LLC
Bozeman, MT

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, August 7, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Wambsgans

From: Jennifer Giuttari <jennifer.giuttari@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 2:28 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: 18th Judicial District Judge vacancy (Wambsgans)

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 Sheryl Wambsgans for the 18th Judicial District Judge vacancy.

I have appeared before Sheryl when she is sitting as a substitute Judge in Bozeman Municipal Court. I have observed her to be kind, fair, and courteous, and I believe that her demeanor and temperament would be appreciated by both counsel and clients appearing before her.

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 \[linkedin.com\]](#)