**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Beth McLaughlin**

**October 12, 2020 (406) 841-2966**

**JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION TO SUBMIT NAMES TO GOVERNOR FOR APPOINTMENT TO FIRSTJUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIP**

The Judicial Nomination Commission will submit the following names to the Governor for consideration for appointment to the judicial seat vacated by Judge James Reynolds in the First Judicial District (Broadwater and Lewis and Clark Counties):

* Christopher David Abbott
* Mary Elizabeth Cochenour
* David Ole Olson

The Commission’s action follows the close of a 30-day public comment period. Before recommending the nominees to the Governor, Commission members interviewed the applicants. The person appointed by the Governor is subject to Senate confirmation during the 2021 legislative session. If confirmed, the appointee will serve for the remainder of Judge Reynold’s term, which expires in January 2023.

Judicial Nomination Commission members are District Judge John C. Brown of Bozeman; Janice Bishop of Missoula; Karl Englund of Missoula; Elizabeth Halverson of Billings; Hal Harper of Helena; Lane Larson of Billings; and Nancy Zadick of Great Falls.

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