**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Beth McLaughlin**

**July 28, 2020 (406) 841-2966**

**JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION SOLICITS APPLICATIONS FOR**

 **FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIP**

Chief Justice Mike McGrath has notified the Judicial Nomination Commission that the Hon. James P. Reynolds, district judge for the First Judicial District (Broadwater and Lewis and Clark Counties) will be retiring effective October 2, 2020.

The Commission is now accepting applications from any lawyer in good standing who has the qualifications set forth by law for holding the position of district court judge. The application form is available electronically at <http://courts.mt.gov>. Applications must be submitted electronically as well as in hard copy. The deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 2020. The Commission will announce the names of the applicants thereafter.

The public is encouraged to contact Commission members regarding the applicants during the public comment period, which will begin Friday, August 28, 2020, and close Monday, September 28, 2020.

The Commission will forward the names of three to five nominees to the Governor for appointment after reviewing the applications, receiving public comment, and interviewing the applicants if necessary. 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 Reynolds’s term, which expires in January 2023. The annual salary for the position is $136,896.

Judicial Nomination Commission members are District Judge John 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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