

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Doud
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:58:17 PM
Attachments: [image751113.png](#)
[image626140.png](#)
[image788736.png](#)
[image572093.png](#)
[image635127.png](#)

From: Brian Smith <bsmith@WilsonLogistics.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 9:38 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Jeff Doud Application

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

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please accept this email in support of the appointment of Jeff Doud as a District Court Judge for the First Judicial District. In the course of my practice, I had the opportunity to work on the other side of a case or two with Mr. Doud. I always take note when I end up thinking better of the opposing counsel after a case is over than when it begins, and Jeff Doud falls into that category. He is a talented lawyer and an excellent litigator, but above all else, my interactions with him were of the highest level of professionalism. All of these qualities will serve him well as a District Court Judge.

There are big shoes to fill with the retirement of Judge Reynolds, and I think Jeff Doud is up to the challenge. He has my highest recommendation and support.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Smith

Brian J. Smith
bsmith@wilsonlogistics.com



Brian Smith

Legal | General Counsel

p: (406) 829-6202

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Kari Coate
(406) 461-1790
karicoate4@gmail.com

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL ONLY

September 21, 2019

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

RE: *Letter of Recommendation for Jeffrey Doud for District Court Judge, First Judicial District*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission in support of Jeffrey Doud for District Court Judge within the First Judicial District. I have been a legal assistant in the Helena community for nearly four years. In addition to personally working within the legal field, I am the daughter of an attorney and am married to an attorney.

Jeff's keen legal mind and uncanny knowledge of the law would make him an extraordinary judge. He possesses the necessary capability to analyze complex legal issues and appropriately apply the law. As a hearing officer, Jeff demonstrates the incredible ability to remain impartial, professional, and unbiased in his decision-making. Jeff's exceptional work ethic, preparation, and commitment is revealed in his superior work product. Outside of work, Jeff is dedicated to his wife and children, striving to always be present for their needs. His wide range of interests and strong sense of community make him the well-rounded candidate needed in our judicial system.

I highly recommend Jeffrey Doud because of his unique experience that few other candidates bring to the table.

Sincerely,



Kari Coate
406.461.1790

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Doud
Date: Monday, September 21, 2020 10:16:15 PM

From: Stapp, Jennie
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 2:03 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: Judicial vacancy nomination comments

Dear Commission,

I am writing to comment on Jeffrey Doud's application for the judicial vacancy. As an attorney for the Agency Legal Services Bureau of the Attorney General's Office, Mr. Doud is assigned to work on behalf of the Montana State Library. In this role, Mr. Doud handles questions from simple legal interpretations of Administrative Rule to complex legal challenges to our agency. Mr. Doud is always responsive. He takes the time to understand the nature of our legal questions, he researches thoroughly and provides responses that are well-deliberated and clear. Having heard Mr. Doud in legal proceedings, I know him to be very articulate, thoughtful and his arguments are well reasoned. I have complete confidence in his ability to provide legal advice to me and on behalf of our agency. That advice may not always be what I want to hear but it is always well-advised.

I would be happy to provide additional information to the Commission.

Thank you for your time,

Jennie

State Librarian
Montana State Library
PO Box 201800
Helena, MT 59620
406.444.3116
Jstapp2@mt.gov

Michael W. Cotter
993 LeGrande Cannon Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601

September 22, 2020

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Helena, MT

Re: Jeffrey Michael Doud, Esq. (Applicant)
1st Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter in support of Jeffery Doud for appointment as Judge to the First Judicial District Court. I previously served as the United States Attorney for the District of Montana (2009-2017) supervising 29 lawyers involved in federal civil and criminal matters. I was appointed by United States Attorney General Eric Holder to serve on the DOJ Attorney General's Advisory Committee. I am also a member of ABOTA (American Board of Trial Advocates).¹

I met Jeff in my professional capacity as Montana's Chief Disciplinary Counsel in early 2018 when, as an Assistant Attorney General, he was appointed to represent me after I was sued in my professional and personal capacity by a Montana attorney who had been prosecuted by my office for professional misconduct.² The case against me and several others was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Montana. The case was complex, with multiple defendants and multiple counts in the complaint setting forth numerous legal theories. Mr. Doud prevailed on my behalf in the trial court and in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. My experiences with Jeff as my lawyer form the basis for this recommendation.

¹ Membership by invitation based on professional character and trial experience-at the time of my admission (2007)
I had tried approximately 70 civil and criminal jury trials to verdict.

² *McCann v Taleff, Cotter, et al.*, USDC Case No 2018 CV 00115 GF BMM.

Throughout our relationship as client and lawyer, Jeff was professional, open-minded, tactful and patient. He gave me good advice. I had occasion to review all trial and appellate briefs submitted by him and found Jeff's writing skills to be exceptional. His briefs were concise, cogent, and persuasive. His people skills, courtroom skills, and personal disposition will serve him and Montana citizens well if he is appointed to the bench.

Having appeared before hundreds of judges during my career and tried scores of cases, I believe that Jeff Doud has the essential qualities and temperament of a good judge: he listens, he is wise and he will decide cases impartially. I therefore urge your favorable consideration of Jeff Doud to appointment as Judge of the First Judicial District Court and ask that you forward his name to the governor for consideration.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Cotter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Cotter" clearly distinguishable.

Michael W. Cotter
Attorney

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Doud
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:09:31 PM

From: Joseph Liebman <JLiebman@baileykennedy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:53 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comments - 1st Judicial District Judge Applicants

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

I am submitting a public comment regarding Jeffrey Michael Doud, who has applied for the 1st Judicial District. I have known Mr. Doud since 2003, when we both started law school together at Gonzaga University. Mr. Doud has been an amazing friend and companion to me since that time. His character is beyond reproach. His legal intellect and acumen, as well as his demeanor, is well-suited for the bench. I have no doubt he will serve Montana litigants well, and I would highly recommend his appointment. Thank you.

Joseph A. Liebman, Esq. | Bailey Kennedy, LLP
8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302
(702) 562-8820 (main) | (702) 562-8821 (fax) | (702) 853-0750 (direct) | JLiebman@BaileyKennedy.com
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Jill Laslovich
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P. O. Box 797
Helena, MT 59624
406.457.2036 direct dial
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jlaslovich@crowleyfleck.com

September 24, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to voice my sincere support for Jeff Doud, candidate for First Judicial District Court Judge. I have had the opportunity to get to know Jeff and his family well over the last several years. Jeff is smart, honest, and hardworking. He is also very community-minded, and dedicates his time and energy as a volunteer coach for a local fifth grade boys football team. I am constantly amazed by Jeff's passion and his willingness to share that passion with the kids on the team. All of these qualities make Jeff an excellent candidate for district judge.

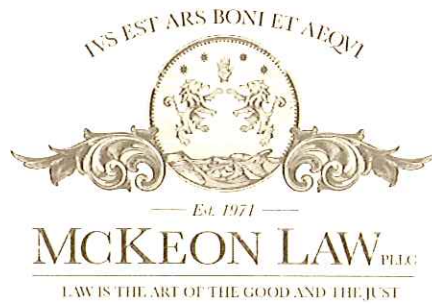
Jeff also has a diverse breadth of legal experience, including six years litigating civil matters on the plaintiffs' side and six years litigating civil matters on the defense side. He has also had experience working on criminal matters. Through this experience, Jeff has earned the respect of attorneys and judges throughout the state. I know Jeff will use his diverse experience to promote justice and fairly serve the people in this judicial district.

I am so pleased to see the deep bench of talent the commission has to select from for this position. I wish you the best in making this decision and invite you to call me any time if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jill Laslovich



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

September 25, 2020

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

Re: Jeffrey Doud

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of Jeffrey Doud for the position of District Court Judge in the Montana First Judicial District. I have known Jeff for many years. Jeff has the experience, competency, compassion, determination and empathy necessary of any Montana district court judge. He is a person who brings knowledge and passion to the practice of the law.

Jeff is also dedicated to his family. Jeff is married to my cousin, Meghan, and they have two wonderful boys, who are growing up to be just as kind, compassionate and caring as their parents. Jeff's family is always at the forefront, but his commitment to his profession and those he serves never waivers. While Jeff leaving the practice will leave a significant hole in the Lewis and Clark County Bar, it will be gaining a judge with the experience, work ethic, and determination that is so very needed of a District Court Judge. Jeff will approach every case with an open mind and free of preconceived notions. His ability to remain impartial and critically assess the cases before him set him apart from the rest of the nominees.

Jeff will serve as a fair judge, who will make the right decisions in both the criminal and civil arenas. I believe Jeff to be the most experienced and qualified applicant for the position of the First Judicial District Judge. I respectfully implore the Commission to strongly consider Jeff to fill the seat vacated by the Honorable Judge James P. Reynolds.

Respectfully,

McKEON LAW, PLLC

By


Michael J. McKeon Jr.

John C. Melcher
729 Bridgeview Court
Helena, MT
59601

September 26, 2020

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

Re: Jeff Doud

Dear Lois:

Jeff is an attorney in the AG's Agency Legal Services Bureau. I am the bureau chief at ALS and I supervise the attorneys of the bureau. Jeff has been with the bureau for nearly six years. At the time of Jeff's hiring, I had already been with the bureau as a line attorney for seventeen years. I began supervising Jeff's work five years ago when I became bureau chief.

From the beginning, Jeff demonstrated an ability to effectively work a caseload more extensive than any attorney we had seen at the bureau. Given the magnitude of his work, one might have had concerns that Jeff would burn out, or that the quality of his work might suffer. Yet, Jeff has continued to effectively work his large and complex case load to the great satisfaction of his client agencies and other involved public officials. He has not only maintained the furious pace, his caseload and abilities have grown. His unrivaled capacity for timely and thorough analysis and resulting work product would make it possible for him to clear any crowded district court docket. (I recognize that our district judges have a very large number of cases to handle, but Jeff's capacity to handle a vast caseload is truly extraordinary.)

Jeff and I have also worked together on many cases, and I have greatly enjoyed and benefited from our collaboration. He is dependably intelligent and pragmatic. In addition, he works well with all our staff, and he is routinely praised by the agencies and the agency officials he has represented.

There is no doubt in my mind that Jeff would bring to bear these same qualities and abilities as district judge. The public would be well served by his appointment.

Sincerely,

/s/ John C. Melcher

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Doud
Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:16:31 PM

From: Katherine Orr <kjahnsorr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 11:30 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Support for the application of Jeffrey Michael Doud, Esq. for a 1st Judicial District Judgeship

>

>

> Judicial Nomination Commission
> c/o Lois Menzies
> Office of the Court Administrator
> Helena, MT

>

> To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

>

> It is with enthusiasm that I am writing to urge the appointment of Jeff Doud (Jeff) as Judge to the First Judicial District Court. I have served as Chief Legal Counsel of the former Department of Health and Environmental Sciences supervising seven attorneys and additional support staff and subsequently have worked more than two decades as an Assistant Attorney General with the Montana Department of Justice in the same office as Jeff who came to the office in 2015. I have had the pleasure of working with Jeff as co-counsel and more informally as an office co-worker. He has all of the attributes necessary for capably discharging the duties of a district court judge. He is keenly intelligent, ethical, methodical, impartial and extremely hard working. His work products are uniquely well-reasoned and draw upon a broad legal experience and well-developed research skills. Most of all he has the judgment and temperament necessary to equitably analyze issues and reach fair and persuasive positions well grounded in the law and evidence. He strives for excellence in each task he undertakes; his written products are exceptional. Jeff is professional, patient and tactful according to the demands of the situation. In litigation this has served him well. Jeff would clearly instill confidence and have the respect of the public and the practicing bar as a judge.

> I urge your favorable recommendation of Jeff for appointment as Judge of the First Judicial District Court to the Governor.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Katherine J. Orr

>

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL ONLY

September 28, 2020

Judicial Nominations Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena Mt. 59620-3005

Re: *Letter of Recommendation in Support of Jeffrey Doud*

Dear Commission:

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Jeffrey Doud as District Court Judge. I have practiced law for 33 years, appearing in front of many courts throughout Montana. I have worked on an array of legal matters ranging from medical malpractice to capital homicide matters.

I have known Jeff for approximately 15 years. Shortly after he began practicing law, Jeff and I practiced law together for several years. I have closely observed Jeff in various situations, watching him grow and develop within the legal profession. He has always exhibited the special qualities necessary to be a judge. He evaluates matters with a judicial perspective, carefully analyzing the law and applying it to his specific cases. His passion for the study of law is demonstrated through his ability to quickly get to the heart of any legal issue and by his uncanny ability to recall facts and law.

Not only is Jeff passionate about the study of the law, he is also one of the hardest working people I've encountered, effectively managing a large workload. Jeff exhibits exceptional listening and communication skills. Daily, he exemplifies the fair and ethical values that are critical for a judge to possess. His well-reasoned decisions as a hearing officer further demonstrate his commitment to the rule of law and prove his ability to remain impartial and unbiased.

Jeff married my daughter in 2007 and is father to my two wonderful grandchildren. Jeff is a dedicated family man, and he takes his role within his family very seriously. His children and wife know him to be a dependable, patient, and loving husband and father.

I passionately support Jeff's nomination for the position of District Judge. Jeff brings an experience level that few others possess, as well as the right judicial temperament.

Sincerely



Timothy W. McKeon

ROBERT STUTZ

1925 Highland Street, Helena, MT 59601 • 406-422-8265 • stutz@montana.com

September 27, 2020

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

Re: Public comment in support of Jeffrey Michael Doud

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Having known Jeff in both a professional and personal capacity for years, it is an honor to write and encourage you to forward his name to Governor Bullock as a nominee for the First Judicial District Court Judge position. As a coworker at Agency Legal Services Bureau, Jeff has been the attorney who shoulders the heaviest work load while providing outstanding legal services to clients across state government. Jeff possesses the temperament, work ethic, and professional judgment to excel as a district court judge.

While there are many outstanding candidates to consider for the position, I strongly encourage you to include Jeff on the list of nominees selected for further consideration.

Regards,



Robert Stutz
Attorney at Law

September 28, 2020

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

Re: First Judicial District Judge Public Comment: Jeffrey Michael Doud


Commissioners:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to offer public comment in favor of Jeffrey Michael Doud's appointment for Hon. James Reynolds' empty seat in Montana's First Judicial District Court. I would heartily encourage the commission to include Mr. Doud's name in its recommendations to Governor Bullock.

I currently work with Mr. Doud in the Montana Department of Justice's Agency Legal Services Bureau. Since my first day at the Bureau in December 2016, Mr. Doud has mentored me on a near-daily basis. His extensive knowledge of this state's legal system—and his experiences as a private attorney, public attorney, and administrative hearings examiner—places him in a rare and invaluable position to provide beneficial support for this state's judiciary from day one.

In the nearly four years I have known Mr. Doud, he has continuously proven himself as an extremely dedicated public servant who works hard to be great at his job. When I am searching for legal analysis to support arguments in a brief, I always go to Mr. Doud first, because I know that if he has made a similar argument in the past, his research and analysis is always thoughtful and thorough.

I cannot say that my support for Mr. Doud comes without some hesitation. Such hesitation, however, comes from my own selfishness. Mr. Doud is an incredible colleague to work with and the loss of his comradery and assistance in our office would be very much noticed. But I do believe Mr. Doud is bound for greater things, and I cannot think of a better way to share his knowledge with our great state than by appointing him to serve as one of its great District Court judges.


Kyle Chenoweth
Attorney

John F. Haffey †
john@haffeyvap.com

Mitchell J. Vap †
mitch@haffeyvap.com

† Reg. Patent Attorney



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September 28, 2020

Via email to:
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

RE: ***Jeffrey Doud Nomination for 1st Judicial District Judge***

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please accept this letter in support of Jeffrey Doud for appointment as a District Court Judge in the First Judicial District Court. Jeff has a complete package of qualifications and temperament that makes him the ideal candidate to replace Judge Reynolds.

I have had the good fortune to know Jeff and his family on a personal level for many years. I have also had the opportunity to work with Jeff on civil matters in practice. He was a pleasure to work with and his intellect and legal talent were readily apparent.

His civil experience as an advocate on both sides of the "v", as well as his criminal experience, will give him a solid foundation to preside over the cases that come before the court. He is calm, thoughtful, and is a great communicator. Those traits, along with the breadth and depth of his legal experience, will give all parties confidence that their matters are fairly addressed and decisions are thoroughly reasoned.

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of Jeff. He would make a fantastic judge and I urge the Commission to send his application to Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Haffey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn across the middle of the name.

John F. Haffey



Dan L. Spoon
Bryan L. Spoon
David M. Murray*
Makenzi D. Mansfield
John R. Gordon 1942-2011
**Also Admitted in Florida*

September 28, 2020

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

Re: Appointment of Jeffrey Michael Doud

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Jeffrey Michael Doud (“Jeff”) to the position of Associate Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

I’ve been opposing counsel on a number of cases with Jeff over the years. I’ve always found Jeff to be a true professional, a strong advocate for his clients, and an attorney knowledgeable in both the law and facts of whatever issues are involved in the case. Although the practice of law is oftentimes a challenging profession, Jeff knows how to balance the zealous advocacy of his clients with a courteous and cooperative approach to resolve the important issues in a case.

Jeff is extremely well-qualified to serve as a District Judge for the First Judicial District in Helena. His wealth of knowledge and experience of how civil cases are litigated – from the pleading stages through discovery, trial and appeal – would well serve our judiciary and the citizens of Montana. Jeff’s role as an Assistant Attorney General is also excellent preparation for his role as a District Judge in Helena where issues involving governmental disputes are commonplace and require the type of unique experience that his position with the Attorney General’s office has provided to him.

I wholeheartedly endorse Jeff for District Judge for the First Judicial District, and respectfully request that you forward his nomination to Governor Bullock.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

SPOON GORDON PC

Dan L. Spoon
DLS:pl
Dan@spoonlaw.com

800 S. 3rd St. W. Suite A | P.O. Box 8869
Missoula, MT 59807-8869



Phone: 406.541.2200 | Fax: 406.541.2202
www.SpoonLaw.com

September 27, 2020

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

Re: In support of Jeff Doud

Dear Commission:

I write this letter in support of the nomination of Jeff Doud as District Court Judge for the First Judicial District. I am a retired Montana District Court Judge, having served nearly 23 years, and rely in great part on that experience when recommending Jeff for this position.

Jeff did not appear before me; however, I first met Jeff years ago when he married my cousin's daughter. Since that time, I have followed the legal careers of both Jeff and his wife. I know Jeff to be competent, hard-working, detail oriented and possessive of a great analytical mind. Throughout his career, he has shown to be a good listener and effective communicator. He has also displayed the patience, compassion, courage and dedication to be an outstanding district court judge.

Perhaps more importantly, Jeff has been and remains courteous, humble and a great family man. He consistently spends quality time with his wife and children. He has not let the legal profession take over his personal life. Simply put, he remains grounded in every day life.

I whole heartedly support Jeff for the position of District Judge.

Sincerely,



John C. McKeon
PO Box 545
Malta, MT 59538