

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:53 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: Jimmy W <jimmyweg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 12:50 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District Judge Applicants

I had the pleasure for working with Mary Cochenour, Dan Guzynski, and Ole Olson over a number of years when I served as an Agent for MTDOJ. Each of the candidates served as a prosecutor and legal liaison to the Computer Crime Unit, which I headed for about 17 years. Montanans will be served well by any of these applicants. Their ability to comprehend and address the most technical aspects of computer crime was outstanding, and they presented our cases in court with remarkable clarity.

Equally important was their fairness in evaluating cases. As you know, investigators and prosecutors may have different views on the merits of cases. Over many years, I've had my share of such debates with prosecutors, but these applicants judged my unit's work based on sound reasoning and the standards required by the criminal justice system. It was easy for me to respect their decisions, which impressed me with being correct.

Each of the applicants were well prepared for court. They treated all parties respectfully and presented our cases professionally. It seemed plain to me that district court judges across the state respected the courtroom presentations of these prosecutors. While I can't speak to the civil side of the law, I can say that the briefs and motions that the applicants prepared were well reasoned and expressed the state's positions persuasively.

Having appeared in dozens of courts across the state, I would have no hesitation about participating in a proceeding over which any of these candidates presided. Thanks for considering my views.

Jimmy Weg
Helena, MT

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:jimmyweg@yahoo.com) for Windows 10

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 7:58:55 PM

From: Mary Larsen <larsenmary3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support for Ole Olson

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,
I write to you in support of the nomination of Ole Olson to the District Court judge position being vacated by Judge Reynolds.

I know Ole to be a person of impeccable character , high moral standards and keen intelligence.. But beyond those qualifications , Ole is a compassionate person who cares about the well being of others.

I know Ole through many venues. I taught at the school his children go to and through activities at St. Pauls' Methodist Church.

The arena where I have worked closest with Ole Olson is for a non profit called Family Promise. This non-profit works with families with children who are homeless to help them reach sustainable independence in their living situation. Ole served on the board of directors for many years and served as board chairperson. This board calls for not only administrative oversight but hands on involvement. Because of the nature of the situations dealt with, difficult decisions have to be made. Ole was clear thinking, compassionate,fair but firm when making those decisions.

I have no hesitation in recommending Ole Olson for this position.
Thank you,

Mary Larsen
1015 N. Davis
Helena, MT 59601
larsenmary3@gmail.com

September 2, 2020

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

Re: Letter of support for David "Ole" Olson

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of the application of David "Ole" Olson for the position of Judge in the Montana First Judicial District currently held by Judge Reynolds. As a business owner, active member of the Helena community, father and husband I have seen the quality not only of Ole's professional ability but also of his character.

Ole and I attended school together at Helena High where we served as teammates and classmates. He was an exceptional student and an outstanding athlete working constantly to better himself and our teams. As an upperclassman, Ole was an example for his peers and a mentor for younger teammates. He continues to demonstrate those traits today as an active athlete and community member.

I admire Ole's dedication to our hometown. Through his long-term service on the board of local nonprofit, Family Promise, Ole has demonstrated his desire to help our neighbors in need while serving in a leadership role as Board Chair.

Ole is a capable professional, a dedicated father, a good person, and a good friend. I highly recommend him for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

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

Tom McGree
1424 Le Grand Cannon Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601

September 7, 2020

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: 1st Judicial District Judge Applicant David Ole Olson

Dear Ms. Menzies and Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Brad Brown and I am a partner with the Crowley Fleck law firm and I submit this letter in support of 1st Judicial District Judge Applicant David "Ole" Olson. Although I have not had the pleasure of working with Mr. Olson in my law practice since his practice focuses on criminal matters and my practice is solely devoted to civil practice, I wholeheartedly support Mr. Olson's application and believe he would be a tremendous asset to Montana's judiciary, and more importantly, an asset to the 1st Judicial District.

While I have never worked with or against Mr. Olson in practice, in my discussions with attorneys practicing in the criminal arena, I have heard nothing but positive opinions of Ole and his skills as a prosecutor. Other lawyers have expressed their opinions that Ole is hard-working, respectful, and diligent in his pursuit of justice. These are all key attributes for a judicial candidate and give me full confidence in his ability to make a welcome addition to bench.

I know Ole personally and consider him a distinguished individual who has the proper disposition and work ethic that I believe makes for a good judge. Recently, Ole reached out to me to get a sense of what I look for in a judge and I told him the most important attributes I see in strong judges are someone who treats all parties, attorneys, and members of the public with respect and dignity and that they apply the law fairly without bias to one side over another. Based on our lengthy discussion, I firmly believe Ole possesses those abilities and the demeanor to be a tremendous asset to the bench and I ask that the members of the Nomination Commission give considerate thought to Mr. Olson's application.

Sincerely,



September 9, 2020

Montana First Judicial District Interview Committee,

I am writing with enthusiasm to express my support of Ole Olson for District Judge. I had the opportunity to work closely with Mr. Olson in 2018. He was the prosecuting attorney on a case that was seeking justice for my client who was sexually abused by her stepfather.

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who works for Youth Dynamics as an Associate Clinical Director. Currently, I oversee six of our therapeutic group homes and day treatment program in Western Montana. However, when I worked with Mr. Olson on this case, I was an Outpatient Therapist with Youth Dynamics.

My client was 10 years old at the time and due to the trauma she experienced from her stepfather's abuse, she was terrified to be alone with males. This presented its own set of challenges for her, and Mr. Olson worked hard to help her find the courage to testify. Throughout the duration of this case, Mr. Olson advocated for my client's needs, was patient with her when she struggled to feel safe, and dedicated a significant amount of time to help her to know what to expect when the trial started.

Additionally, this was my first case of this sort, and I faced a very confrontational defense attorney who seemed determined to intimidate both me and my client. Mr. Olson gave me the guidance and support to understand the system and how to work with my clients in such cases. I am grateful for all of his assistance.

Based on my experience working closely with Mr. Olson, I believe he is a great candidate for the judicial position. He will bring to the bench his extensive experience, a strong work ethic, and a passion to help others.

Thank you for considering my support for Mr. Olson. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Jordan Hinshaw, LCSW, MSW

(406) 270-8785

jordan.hinshaw@youthdynamics.org

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:22 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: Julie Reardon <jtreardon@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:46 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nominating Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to offer my support of the application of David "Ole" Olson for appointment to fill the position of District Judge of the First Judicial District.

I have known Ole for most of his life. He and my son were classmates and friends from middle school through high school and on to college in Bozeman. He spent many nights at our home and the two of them attended basketball camps, etc, together. Throughout those early years I was always impressed with Ole's politeness and his commitment to school and his responsibility to always be trying to improve himself.

As is usually the case, after college the boys took separate career paths as they moved to responsible adulthood. I knew Ole had completed a degree in chemical engineering at MSU and in talking with my son, learned Ole had taken positions out of state. Even though they took different paths, these boys remained friends.

I lost track of Ole for a few years and then learned he had decided to go to law school. He successfully completed his degree at Georgetown in D.C., one of the premier law schools in the country.

I also learned that Ole had married and returned to Helena to work as a young lawyer. I was always impressed with Ole's commitment as a city prosecutor as well as his move to the Attorney General's office. It was clear to me he enjoyed his work as a prosecutor, putting the "bad guys" in jail but equally important was his stated commitment to always get it right by making sure the evidence supported the charge.

Through the years I learned of his volunteer work doing pro bono work for unrepresented individuals as well as his commitment to to community service through the Citizens Council of Helena.

When I think of the qualities that I believe make a good judge, I immediately look to experience, humility, compassion, integrity, commitment to get the job done, and understanding the role of a judge in the community. I believe Ole fulfills all of those characteristics and has done so his entire life. He is an outstanding lawyer, father, community member and he would make an excellent judge for this busy district.

I urge you to move his application forward as I truly believe he would be a tremendous asset to the Montana Judiciary.

Respectfully,
Timothy W. Reardon, J.D.
1906 Virginia Dale
Helena MT 59601

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:21 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: Jim Smith <jim@smithandmcgowan.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 7:54 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for David 'Ole' Olson

September 9, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Letter of Support for David 'Ole' Olson.

Dear Ms. Menzies & Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission,

I have known 'Ole' Olson most of his life, since he was in junior high school. My son and Ole were best friends in high school, and remain friends to this day.

'Ole' has always been a serious minded individual. His dedication, determination, and work ethic set him apart from the average student from his earliest days at Helena High School. I am very fortunate to have been able to observe 'Ole,' my son, and several other fine young man make the transition from the teen aged turbulent years to full grown, responsible adulthood.

I followed 'Ole's' journey to adulthood vicariously until he joined the staff of the Attorney General several years ago. That brought me into a professional, working relationship with him, as I served as the Executive Director and Lobbyist for the Montana County Attorneys Association during that period. I saw first hand the excellent assistance he provided to county attorneys across the state with their difficult, complex cases. They were always pleased to have his advice and counsel. I also saw first hand how effective 'Ole' was at the legislature. His testimony was well organized, well thought out and well presented. He was able to explain the most intimate aspects of the laws relating to sexual assault, for example, in a most professional, dispassionate, respectful manner. His testimony improved Montana's sexual assault statutes a great deal, in my layman's opinion. We also worked together to deliver quality continuing legal education to the county attorney offices and personnel around the state. I was impressed with 'Ole's' relationships and interactions with his peers and colleagues in that venue.

I believe 'Ole' is very nearly the personification of the word 'integrity.' He has the experience and disposition necessary for the position he is seeking.

Thanks in advance for the consideration I know his application will receive. If you have any questions of me please do not hesitate to call or write. If you would like this letter sent in hard copy via the postal service, please let me know and I'll put a copy in the mail.

Kindest regards,
Jim Smith
506 Saddle Drive
Helena, Montana. 59601
406-949-1002



September 14, 2020

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

Re: Ole Olson Application, First Judicial District Court

Dear Commissioners,

I write to you in support of Ole Olson's application for district court judge for the First Judicial District. I first met Ole from the Montana Prosecution Boot Camp held January 7-10, 2019, at the Montana Law Enforcement Center. At the time of the CLE, I had just been contracted by the City of Townsend three months prior to act as their attorney. I had no prior experience in prosecution, so that particular CLE was highly relevant to my new work, and very helpful in getting me grounded and oriented to many of the basic and advanced concepts of prosecution.

Ole presented on the topic of discovery and pretrial motions. Of the numerous attorneys and other professionals who presented, Ole's presentation was one of the best. That he possessed a deep understanding of the material was very clear; he spoke extemporaneously with authority and precision in an easy-to-follow manner, while avoiding the bane of good presentations and refraining from rote recitation of the contents of his power point slides. He also recognized the importance of both humor and engaging his audience; he styled part of his power point in a Jeopardy format which both increased attendee participation and showed that he clearly did not throw the power point together at the last minute like some others. Lastly, he took general questions readily and provided answers that left no room for doubt as to their correctness, and also made time to field individual questions from those like me who had follow-up questions afterwards. He did all of this in a consistently good-natured, approachable manner.

While the above constitutes the entirety of the scope of my interactions with Ole, I nonetheless feel confident in recommending him for this judgeship based on the same. Some people just strike you as not just capable but also...human, really, as in what they do and who they are is more than just the job they hold. Ole is one of those. I certainly would enjoy bringing a case before him, as I feel he would not just apply the law mechanically to clear off his workload. Instead, I would expect him to be well prepared, treat those before him with patience and compassion, and generally run his courtroom like he ran that presentation and CLE: thoughtfully, skillfully, respectfully, and with a touch of well-timed and welcomed humor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter T. Simon".

Peter T. Simon, Esq.

| 303 Broadway St, Townsend, MT 59644-2223 |

| p: 406.577.2292 | f: 406.577.2291 | e: ptsimon.law@gmail.com |

September 11, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/of Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Letter of support for David Ole Olson

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

You have an excellent candidate applying for the vacancy of Judge Reynolds, Ole Olson. We have had the pleasure of watching Ole grow up in our neighborhood and attend schools with our daughters. We know his parents and his brother, Brad. Ole was one of those kids that you always enjoyed being around because he was very respectful, easy to visit with and is of great intelligence. Our daughters would say the same about him. That hasn't changed as he grew into manhood.

We believe you will see from his resume that he was outstanding in his college pursuits. He truly excelled. You will read from other letters and we agree, that he is a man of great compassion. He is wonderful with his special needs brother, Brad, not because he has to but it's just how Ole is. He is truly compassionate but, he is also a man of integrity and has a strong belief that the law is to insure people are treated fairly and when necessary, firmly.

We've always believed Ole could've gone into another field of law where he could've become a very wealthy man. Instead, he followed his passion for serving the people of Montana. He will serve the state well with that passion.

It is with great pleasure that we have had a chance to tell you just a few of the reasons why Ole is highly recommended by us and why we respect him so much.

Sincerely,



LaDonna and Wally Bell
Retired/business owner

Pam W. Hunthausen
5 Rebecca Court
Helena, MT 59601

September 16, 2020

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

Dear Commission Members:

Re: First Judicial District Court Judge Candidate David Ole Olson

I write today to express my wholehearted support of David Ole Olson's application for selection to fill the seat of outgoing District Court Judge James Reynolds of the First Judicial District Court. The Commission has, in my opinion, two outstanding applicants and Ole Olson is one of them.

Ole and I worked together at the Montana Supreme Court. Ole worked as a Law Clerk for the Hon. Brian Morris, and I worked in various support staff capacities, ending my 30-year career as the Judicial Assistant to Chief Justice Mike McGrath. Over my years at the Supreme Court some law clerks left good lasting impressions, Ole Olson was one of those Law Clerks--he was a good one. He had the right balance of intelligence, integrity, and hard work—all necessary attributes for a district court judge.

On a personal level, I knew Ole prior to his clerkship at the Court in 2006-07; and, through my friendship with his parents, I see him regularly. He is a dedicated father to his girls; to his home town, Helena; to his health as a fitness enthusiast, and I would characterize him as a forward thinker.

I encourage your favorable consideration of David Ole Olson's application for District Court Judge. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Pam W. Hunthausen

September 15, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT. 59620-3005

RE: Letter of Support for David Ole Olson.

Dear: Ms. Menzies & Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission,

My name is Sharon Smith and I'm writing to offer my support of David "Ole" Olson for consideration for the appointment of District Judge of the First Judicial District.

I have known Ole Olson for all his life. His Mom and I grew up together and have retained our close friendship to this day.

Ole is very dedicated to his family and his profession. He has worked very hard to achieve where he is in life. First completing his Engineering degree at Montana State University, applying and being accepted to Georgetown University to complete his law degree. I have followed his career and know firsthand the kind of dedication he has for his career, community and his family.

Ole takes the time to make you feel that what you have to say is important, he is very respectful of everyone and he really listens to what you have to say. Doing pro bono work for people that haven't the means to pay for legal advice affords them the opportunity for quality legal assistance. He is very active in his community, is an excellent son, brother, and father to his beautiful girls. He is fair and just in his profession. One of the most qualifying factors for Ole is the respect he has from his friends and peers. He is an outstanding human being in thought and deed and I'm am very proud to write a letter on his behalf.

I have moved to Jefferson County but have lived in Lewis & Clark County almost all my life, my family and friends live in Lewis & Clark County and I'm employed there. I follow very closely the news of Helena. I sincerely feel he would be an excellent District Judge.

Respectfully,



Sharon Smith
5 Schoolhouse Lane
Clancy, MT 59634

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

September 17, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing you to express my full support of David Ole Olson JD's application for the First Judicial Judgeship Vacancy. I have grown up with Mr. Olson in Helena in the eighties and nineties. We both went to law school at the same time and became members of the Montana Bar Association in the same class. I have followed Mr. Olson's work with the City of Helena and then the Montana Department of Justice.

In my decades of knowing Mr. Olson in this community, I can say that I have never known anyone who did not hold him in high esteem. Mr. Olson's stellar reputation is founded on his high personal ethics, passion for justice, strong work ethic, friendliness, and humility.

Mr. Olson has also been a leader in advocating for better understanding of mental illness in the criminal justice system. He has been a team captain for the Montana Department of Justice team at the Montana NAMIWalk for multiple years. Mr. Olson has also told NAMI Montana that he is committed to treatment courts and ensuring that treatment courts continue to be a part of the justice system in our community. I look forward to collaborating with Mr. Olson on those efforts if he is appointed.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at (406) 443-7871 by mail at 1331 Helena Ave., Helena, MT 59601.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Kuntz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and last name "Kuntz" clearly distinguishable.

Matt Kuntz, JD

September 20, 2020

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominations Committee,

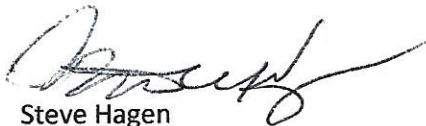
I am writing you to express my support for Ole Olson to fill the 1st Judicial District Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Reynolds.

I first worked with Ole when he was the Assistant City Attorney/Prosecutor for the City of Helena and I was serving as a police officer. Ole was an excellent prosecutor. He was always a great source of information on US and Montana case law. I found his expertise to be unbiased and logical. Ole showed a great deal of empathy for victims and defendants in criminal cases.

Once Ole moved to the Montana Department of Justice, he continued to be excellent in his field. I also had the privilege to attend training on proper investigation of sexual violence cases that Ole assisted in teaching. His professionalism extends from the courtroom to educating the public and law enforcement professionals.

Ole is a respected member of the greater Helena community. His work at a local and state level has earned the respect of many in the criminal justice community. Ole's integrity, professionalism, and dedication to the residents of Montana are beyond question.

As a resident of Lewis Clark County and 30-year law enforcement officer, I fully support Ole Olson for position of District Court Judge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hagen", with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Hagen
Po Box 775
East Helena, MT 59601
(406)431-4736

ML
LAMB LAW OFFICE

Attorneys:
MICHEAL F. LAMB
lambo@mikelamblaw.com

*Stillwater Building
2601 E Broadway St
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 457-1100, (406) 441-2100 (fax)*

Legal Assistant:
VALERIE SCHULKE
valerie@mikelamblaw.com

September 18, 2020

VIA USPS & EMAIL (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

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

Re: Letter in support of Ole Olson - Application for Judgeship

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners:

I write in support of Ole Olsons' application to fill the vacancy in the First Judicial District Court for Broadwater and Lewis & Clark County. I am delighted to have the opportunity to do so.

Ole has done an excellent job of detailing his life and the legal experiences which qualify him in the materials submitted to the Commission. I won't repeat what has been provided, but appreciate the opportunity to focus on the items which I believe make him an exceptional candidate for the position.

First, as my district court acquaintances and friends are quick to advise, the job responsibilities of our state district judges have evolved considerably over the past decade in response to societal challenges. Unfortunately, an ever increasing portion of our district court judges' duties involve dealing with the criminal issues and the familial fall out which attend the drug crisis. Many of our courts, particularly in our urban centers, are overwhelmed with processing of the criminal charges that fall out of that crisis, facilitating the evolving drug treatment programs/regimens designed to stem the tide, address the landslide of family and child related issues that flow from each crisis (custody, abuse, termination of rights, medical treatment, etc.) and do all of that professionally while giving due deference and appropriate consideration to everyone's rights. Add to that the explosion in self-represented litigants in dissolution matters and you have described a "public service position" which requires a very societally dedicated person with a specialized set of skills and experience. Stated simply, for any incoming judicial officer to be able to provide the public with the quantity and quality of judicial talent required to do the job well as it currently exists, the candidate must know exactly what they are getting into and have the tools and experience to hit the ground running. As his application makes crystal clear, Mr. Olson does.

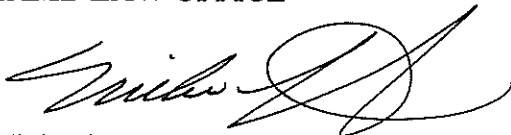
Also significant, as a young prosecutor, when he wasn't seeking justice for crime victims, he was donating his time as an advocate for the true victims in our justice system, children. His selfless conduct in support of the most powerless in our community ensured, insofar as possible, the most appropriate, just outcome for our community's most valuable asset – our children. Actions speak louder than words. Admirable conduct.

Obviously, Ole knows his way around the courtroom extremely well, as evidenced by his prosecutorial career and his more recent work with the Attorney General's office. He is not only called to various jurisdictions across the state to handle the significant felony prosecutions that arise, but has been enlisted to teach/train fellow attorneys engaged in the same service. Again, admirable; reflecting recognition by his peers of his skill, outstanding ability and commitment to make the justice system better serve the public. As an aside, not too long ago I had the opportunity to witness Mr. Olson's courtroom ability and decorum first-hand during a half a day voir dire process where I was one of the potential jurors. He proved himself efficient, insightful, courteous and respectful to everyone involved. He has a practical, no nonsense approach which will undoubtedly serve him well as a judge.

Next, given his personal background Ole brings a knowledge of and commitment to the community the value of which is difficult to quantify. This is his home town. He has unavoidably acquired a lifetime of knowledge about the communities that comprise the First Judicial District, as well as the particular challenges and processes that make the community work at every level. He is here in Helena for all the right reasons, and I believe would be an admirable addition to the excellent judicial officers currently serving the district.

Finally, I believe that service as a judicial officer is the highest calling of our profession. Our society depends first and fundamentally upon a belief that there is a place, our judicial system, where there is a level playing field. As he details in his submission to the commission, few people end up happy as a result of being involved in either the civil or criminal justice system: the important thing is that they feel they were heard and treated with respect. As he states in response to your question #53, people have a right to be heard, and judicial officers must ever be cognizant of the fact that people "will never forget the way they were treated." Great insight and candor. Mr. Olson has the experience, commitment and disposition to be an outstanding judge. I urge his serious consideration.

Very truly yours,
LAMB LAW OFFICE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micheal F. Lamb", with a stylized, flowing script.

Micheal F. Lamb

Walllace Melcher
5452 Birdseye Road
Helena, Mt 59602
406-459-0046
themelchers@mt.net

September 20, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P. O. Box 203005
Helena, Mt 59602-3005
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Commission Members:

It is a privilege to write this letter in support of David Ole Olson's application to fill the First Judicial District Judgeship vacancy. I have known Ole and his family for more than 30 years. I first made their acquaintance when, as a professional in the field of disabilities, I was involved in serving one of their family members. Ole was just a child at that time, so it has been my pleasure to watch him grow from a bright, energetic child to a high achieving teenager, and now a highly competent and successful professional in the field of law.

The Olson's and I have interacted on an occasional basis over the years and I enjoyed following Ole's high school achievements in athletics and academics. It wasn't until 2014 when I retired from my 40-year career as a non-profit administrator that Ole's and my paths crossed again. In the Summer of 2014, I was elected to serve as a board member on the Helena Area Family Promise board of directors. At my first board meeting, I was delighted to learn that Ole was the Chairperson of the Family Promise board. We quickly became close colleagues in our mutual desires to serve families and children who were struggling with homelessness. Over the years that we served together; I was continually impressed with Ole's ability to bring people from all walks of life together to accomplish common goals. He treated staff members, board members and service recipients with a great deal of respect and sensitivity. At the same time, his wisdom and fairness were a strong stabilizing influence through times that were quite challenging. One of Ole's most outstanding attributes is his ability to analyze the details of a problem and to make well-reasoned decisions that made most people on all sides of the argument feel like the right solution had been found. Through

our years of working together I watched Ole labor tirelessly always willing to put in the time and effort that each situation required. He was a great example to all who knew him.

In conclusion, I unreservedly support Ole Olson's application to serve as the next judge in the First Judicial District Court. He will bring to this judgeship his intelligence, wisdom, even-handedness and diligence. Both justice and the people of Montana will be well served.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William A. Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: PAMELA <pamschindler@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 3:29 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Nomination of Ole Olson for / District Court judge position

Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee,

I am writing to you in support of the nomination of Ole Olson for the position of District Court judge.

I had the pleasure of working for the Montana State Legislature from 1999 - 2017 as the Secretary to the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and then for the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In that capacity I was able to hear hundreds of witnesses testify in front of these committees.

As such, when Mr. Olson would testify in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee I found him to be compassionate, earnest, well informed, and most of all professional about what he was there to testify on for the various bills. When questioned by the committee members, he listened, he was very knowledgeable, and forthright with his answers to the committee members, while always remaining respectful. From this "laypersons" perspective, he came very well prepared.

I have known Mr. Olson's parents, Debbie and Dave, for over 20 years and as they have been active members in the Helena community, so has Ole.

As residents of Lewis and Clark County, both my husband and I look forward to having someone with the integrity, knowledge, and work ethics such as Mr. Olson would demonstrate as District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration,
Pamela E. Schindler
One Reeders Village Dr.
Helena, MT 59601

Rodger and Melissa Foster
1918 Virginia Dale St.
Helena, MT 59601

September 17, 2020

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

Re: 1st Judicial District Judge Applicant David Ole Olson

Dear Ms. Menzies and Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission,

It is with great pleasure that Melissa and I submit this letter of support for Ole Olson's application for the position of 1st Judicial District Judge of Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties. We have known Ole and his family since he and our son became friends in school over 30 years ago. Even at an early age Ole demonstrated his strong commitment to excelling in whatever challenge he accepted or was presented to him. Whether it was his participation in sports, his desire to learn, his relationships with friends, or his compassion for others who maybe were less fortunate in life, Ole has always been the one people look to for leadership and as the example to follow.

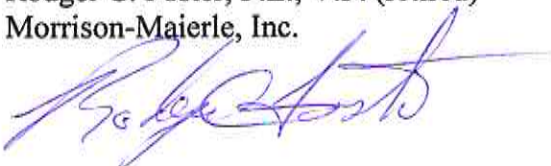
Ole is a person of high intellect yet is well grounded in compassion and common sense. We know him to have a strong work ethic and is personally driven to service to others. After completing his Law Degree at Georgetown University Law Center, he made the decision to forgo very lucrative opportunities with prestigious law firms to return to Montana, and Helena specifically, where he wanted to make a difference in the State and community he so loved. He was committed to that goal and has to date achieved all challenges he has pursued.

Ole is highly principled yet humble and respectful of other's positions, beliefs, and situations. He has a very kind disposition yet is comfortable in his path and decisions. He is a good listener and builds trust. He is thoughtful and deliberate, and shows great respect for people and for the law.

We can't think of one who would better serve the people of our state and community in the adjudication and administration of the law. We believe anyone who were to come in contact with Ole would feel they were dealt with fairly, honestly, with respect and understanding. He exhibits the skills, the experience, the intellect, the diverse knowledge and background, and the commitment to be a bright light in the judicial system in these times.

We sincerely and respectfully endorse Ole Olson for the position of 1st Judicial District Judge of Lewis and Clark, and Broadwater Counties.

Rodger C. Foster, P.E., V.P. (retired)
Morrison-Maierle, Inc.



Melissa A. Foster, Retired Educator
Helena School District



SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DEPARTMENT 2
STATE OF MONTANA

Honorable Nickolas C. Murnion
Alicia Fritz, Judicial Assistant
Sandra Macioroski, Court Reporter



Post Office Box 107
Forsyth, Montana 59327
(406) 346-6109
Fax: 346-6160

September 21, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzes
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Application of David Ole Olson for First Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominating Committee:

I currently serve as the Sixteenth Judicial Court Judge in Forsyth, Montana. I have held that position for over four years and have presided over one criminal jury trial in which the State of Montana was represented by Mr. Olson. I found Mr. Olson to be well prepared, knowledgeable of the law, patient, concise and respectful. He had a sincere desire to promote the interests of justice and was not overbearing or overzealous in how he carried out that duty.

I previously knew Mr. Olson in his capacity as an Assistant Attorney General and in his prosecutorial assistance to county prosecutors. He performed those duties in an outstanding manner. Mr. Olson had a passion for his job and carried out his duties with competence and a commitment to the rule of law. I believe he has the temperament to be a great district court judge. I urge you to give him the utmost consideration to the appointment to fill the shoes of Judge Reynolds who did an outstanding job during his tenure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nickolas C. Murnion".

Hon. Nickolas C. Murnion
District Court Judge

Sept. 21, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission.

I submit this as a character recommendation on behalf of Mr. David Ole Olson in his pursuit of a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jim Reynolds. My references reach back a number of years to Ole as a student in my advanced biology class and as Ole being a member of the Helena High School basketball team that I coached.

Ole selected the biology class, not because of intense interest in the field, but because of the challenge it presented. Ole played basketball, not because of his prowess, but because of his ability to contribute toward a team effort. His areas of interest and study were later found to be engineering and law where he flourished. Athletically, Ole was an excellent track and field athlete which afforded him the financial ability to attend an undergraduate program in engineering and ultimately a law degree. His pursuits and perseverance in attaining this status and expertise are a reflection of his desires and work ethic from his school days throughout his professional years.


Ole has developed a strong professional network of colleagues and clients. He has also renewed social relationships within the community among those with whom he knew in high school and college. He has a significant support group which is close and true.

To be seated as the First Judicial District Judgeship of Broadwater and Lewis and Clark counties would constitute a level of law practice that would be of benefit to persons on both sides of the bench.

Cooperation, collaboration and commitment are attributes which will elicit success from the bench while being relevant, fair and commanding for the court.

Ole Olson is qualified, capable, concerned and ready to do the job in an admirable fashion.

I do most heartily recommend Ole Olson for this position.

Terry L. Beaver

retired teacher/coach,
current Helena School District
trustee.

September 21, 2020

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

Re: David Ole Olson – Application for Judgeship

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

We are writing to fully support Ole Olson for First Judicial Court for Broadwater and Lewis and Clark County.

We have known Ole for 29 years and during that time have witnessed his dedication and excellence as an outstanding athlete and student through high school where he was, and still is, a close friend of our son. We know Ole to be fair, logical, compassionate, and free of prejudice.

Ole's knowledge of the law is admirable as he has proven in his capacity as assistant Attorney General in Prosecution Services for the Montana Department of Justice.

We believe our community and state would be well served with David Ole Olson as Judge for the First Judicial District.

This letter is submitted with our very highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Agee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent than the last name "Agee".

Dr. and Mrs. Michael B. Agee

Sept. 20, 2020

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

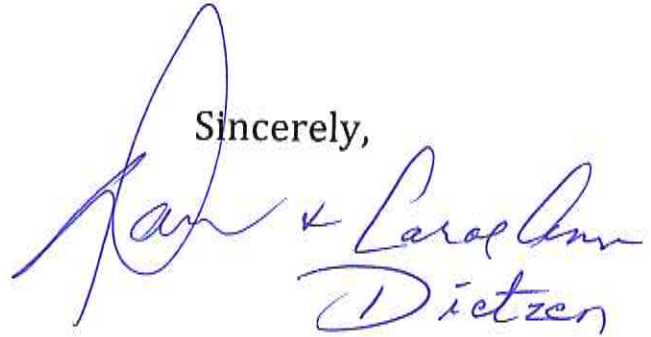
We are writing this letter of support for Ole Olson's application for Justice of the Peace in Helena. Our names are Dan and Carol Ann Dietzen, former educators and guidance counselors for the Helena School system. We are both born and raised in Helena and have resided here for over sixty-plus years.

We came to know Ole Olson during his Helena High School years from friendship with his parents Dave and Debbie Olson. While in high school, Ole was both an excellent student and athlete. He earned great respect from his teachers during his tenure in high school. He received a degree in engineering from Montana State University after graduating from Helena High School. Ole then took a great risk out of his comfort zone to attend Georgetown Law School. He graduated with honors!

Ole received several employment offers from major law firms in the D.C. area, but chose to return to Montana to serve his hometown community and the rest of the State of Montana. Ole's knowledge of the law, passion and character were snapped up by the Montana Justice System (Assistant Attorney General's Office). Due to his ability to converse and put people at ease,

Ole was featured several times on NBC's Dateline with Keith Morrison and others. Dan and I believe that Ole would be a first-choice candidate for Justice of the Peace in Helena. Based on his dedication to Helena and our entire state, rather than more monetary gain elsewhere, he stands above the normal young man-in-law. He has demonstrated these characteristics time and time again. Ole's work is fair, impartial, trustworthy and dependable under the laws in Montana. He is also empathetic and understanding of extenuating circumstances, as they appear in courts today. It is our hope that you can see the great value in selecting Ole as Justice of the Peace for Helena.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dan & Carol Ann Dietzen". The signature is written in a cursive style, with "Dan" and "Carol Ann" on the top line and "Dietzen" on the bottom line.

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

My name is Peter Delmoe and I am currently a Deputy County Attorney for the Lewis and Clark County Attorney Office prosecuting dependent neglect matters. I am writing in support of Ole Olson for the position of District Court Judge in the Montana First Judicial District.

I first met Ole about three years ago when I was a Deputy County Attorney in Stillwater County and he was appearing on behalf of the Attorney General's Office to conduct a sentencing in Stillwater County. Watching Ole that day in Court, I was beyond impressed. It did not take long to realize he was an outstanding attorney, who was extremely comfortable in the courtroom and probably the smartest person in the room. Since that time, I have gotten to know Ole more through trainings with the Montana County Attorneys' Association and since moving to Helena two years ago. He continues to impress as an attorney and as a person.

I was excited to hear that Ole had applied for District Court Judge and I believe he would make an excellent addition to the First Judicial District Court. He has the perfect temperament and disposition to handle the daily challenges of being a district court judge. Furthermore, Ole has all the necessary skills to be a judge and I strongly encourage the commission to nominate him for this position.

Best regards,



Peter Delmoe

September 16, 2020

Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Judicial Appointment, First Judicial District
David Ole Olson

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of David Ole Olson's nomination and appointment to fill the First Judicial District Court Judge vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Reynolds.

I have had the pleasure of working with Ole over the past several years, including the privilege of trying a Deliberate Homicide case with him. I have firsthand knowledge of his incredible work ethic, knowledge of the law, and calm and focused demeanor. I was continually impressed with Ole's ability to stay even keeled, measured and objective in the face of stressful decisions and situations throughout trial.

Ole is one of the hardest working people I have had the fortune to work with and it is not hyperbole to say so. He has the intelligence, emergency and efficiency to manage a busy docket. He not only travels the State of Montana trying some of the most difficult criminal cases in their respective jurisdictions, but also has managed to create and maintain the best trainings in Montana for the prosecutors as Montana's Prosecution Training Coordinator. In doing so, he has gained the respect of the county attorneys and law enforcement at all levels throughout the state.

Ole is an empathetic and compassionate person with a willingness to fight for justice but at the same time strive to rehabilitate offenders, which will be important in continuing the work Judge Reynolds' started in his treatment court. Ole is a brilliant legal mind who thoughtfully and accurately considers the facts of the case in light of precedent, the Rules of Evidence and the Rules of Civil Procedure. These traits will serve him well given the breadth of legal issues before the First Judicial District Court.

Ole has practiced in many aspects of the law, giving him the experience and knowledge to effectively step into Judge Reynolds' shoes. Please forward David Ole Olson's name to Governor Bullock for appointment as the next First Judicial District Court Judge.

Best Regards,



Brett J. Irigoin
Dawson County Attorney

September 22 , 2020

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

This is a letter of support for David Ole Olson for the First Judicial Judgeship vacancy.

My wife and I have known Ole since he was a child. I worked with his mother, and he grew up in our church. We have been a fan of his ever since our daughters were in Helena High with him. They say he was the most mature young man in the school, one who treated young women with respect. Our youngest claims he treated her like a real person, even though she was the "little sister" who sometimes tagged along with the older kids.

When he graduated from Georgetown Law School, he passed up some more lucrative opportunities to come back to Helena to be near family. It was obvious that he was now even more mature and caring about people who are less fortunate than most of us. He chose to begin his law career in public service with the city court. He became active in Family Promise, a cooperative effort to help children and their families overcome homelessness.

In the Attorney General's Office, he has worked well with Democratic and Republican administrations. More important, he has had great success prosecuting everything from murder cases to child molestation cases. He has great empathy for the victims of crime. Our goddaughter, who has worked closely with him on many issues, says he has the compassion, brains, and good judgment needed to be an outstanding judge. Add to that his strong work ethic and desire to continue learning, and you have a wonderful representative of the sort of person we want making wise decisions in Helena.

Although Judge Reynolds is leaving big shoes to fill, Ole Olson can grow into them. Please include him as one of your candidates to submit to the Governor.

Sincerely,

Rusty Harper
301 S. Oakes St.
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-6927
rusmlbc@gmail.com

The Law Office of Sarah Corbally, PLLC



Sarah Corbally

Attorney At Law

2601 E. Broadway

P.O. Box 1069

Helena, Montana 59624

(406) 457-5475

mail@corballylaw.com

September 24, 2020

VIA USPS & E-MAIL (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Judicial Nomination Commission

% Lois Menzies

Office of the Court Administrator

PO Box 203005

Helena, Montana 59620

RE: Letter in Support of Application for Judgeship - David Ole Olson

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my sincere pleasure to write this letter in support of David Ole Olson's application for Judgeship in the First Judicial District Court of the State of Montana. I have known Ole since we worked together as Assistant Attorney Generals under now Governor Steve Bullock, over a decade ago. As we both worked on cases involving protection of child victims of abuse and neglect, I was able to get to know him well, and we often relied on one another for advice in difficult cases. I have always found him to be sincere, thoughtful, diligent, hard-working, and very even-tempered. We have maintained contact and stayed friends since that time, and Ole is someone that I can still rely on to provide me with trusted legal advice when needed.

During these current times, I believe it has become more challenging than ever to serve as a District Court Judge in our state. There are many obstacles that a Judge must overcome in order to find justice for the long list of litigants that come before the Court. It is unfortunate that the allocation of resources to our court system has not kept pace with the increase in workload. It is also the unfortunate truth that the caseloads have become more burdened by time intensive

family and criminal matters that involve difficult decisions and topics that many people don't want to hear about on a near daily basis. However, that is the current reality of our District Court Judges who must step up to make the justice system work.

Given this reality, I believe that Ole has the right temperament and work ethic to thrive as a District Court Judge. I believe that he would do whatever it takes to manage the workload and ensure that litigants have access to timely justice. Most importantly, I have no doubt that any litigant appearing before him would be treated with respect and fairness. He has spent countless hours in the courtroom as a skilled and compassionate litigator, and he knows the ins and outs of trial practice. I believe this experience would give him the expertise to run his courtroom in a highly efficient and effective manner. As a proven dedicated public servant, Ole has made clear that he has the commitment that it takes to succeed and persevere in this role.

As a lifelong Helena resident, Ole also has ties to this community that mean he is invested in improving the system to improve the community. As the statewide training coordinator in his current position, he also has ties throughout the state that would give him a broad view on how to improve the system statewide. He has been a part of the political process in his current position in a way that has generated bipartisan support for important issues that everyone can get behind. Ole has demonstrated that he has developed relationships across party lines and community lines, and he has found ways to bring people together. I believe this skill set would allow him to serve for many years to come in the role of First Judicial District Court Judge.

I truly hope that the Judicial Nomination Commission will advance Ole's application through this process, as I believe that the First Judicial District would be extremely fortunate to have him as its next District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Corbally". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Sarah Corbally
Attorney at Law

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

Dear Lois:

I am writing this letter in reference to Ole Olson's application for district judge in the First Judicial District. I have watched Ole grow into the man he is since he was 18 months old. He, our children and his parents have grown up together in Lewis and Clark County. Ole's best attributes include kindness, respect and integrity. He has a bond of mutual affection with his family and friends and almost everyone he meets. He has a very close relationship with his parents who are very good friends of ours. He would do anything for them. He has an older severely handicapped brother. Ole is a constant in Bradley's life and a strong advocate for him on all levels.

Ole is a family man and his children are the most important part of his personal life. He is a nurturing and loving parent. He is never too busy to take time to help them learn musical instruments, enjoy art classes, family ski trips or take them to experience a new adventure. He is generous person giving freely of his time in our community. He has served as youth leader at St. Paul's United Methodist church and has been actively involved with Family Promise in many different positions including board chair. He is very well respected in our community.

Ole is able to uphold his beliefs and opinions in difficult situations. He is fair, has strong character and the reputation needed to serve as a district judge. Please give careful consideration of Ole Olson for judge in the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Anita Moon

My name is Aaron Jones and I am writing this in support of David (Ole) Olson and his appointment to District Judge in the First Judicial District. I am a chiropractor and business owner of Made to Move Chiropractic in Helena. I moved to Helena in 2018 and was fortunate in that Ole was one of the first people I met upon arriving here. I met Ole while attending a workout class at CrossFit Helena. Ole was the first person to greet me upon arrival at CrossFit Helena, a testament to his inviting personality .

I now count Ole as a personal friend and have had the chance to go to numerous public events with him (pre-COVID, of course). To say Ole is respected and well connected within the community would be an understatement. He introduces me to people he knows any time we go to a public place or event. Ole treats everyone with respect and carries himself with professionalism at all times. He has a reputation for being a genuine and humble man among our mutual acquaintances.

Considering we are in different professions, I know little of his achievements and accomplishments in his law career, but Ole's character and respect for others makes him the type of person I would wholeheartedly like to see in an elected position and I believe many other citizens of this district would feel the same. I have no doubt he would make an excellent District Judge and would fulfill this role with utmost honor and integrity.

Adrianne Cotton

8245 Northern Lights Drive, Helena MT 59602 | 406.465.6268 | adrianne.rose.cotton@gmail.com

September 24, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Menzies:

It is my sincere pleasure to submit this letter to the Judicial Nomination Committee in support of Mr. David Ole Olson for the First Judicial District Judgeship vacancy.

I have had the privilege of knowing Ole Olson professionally for 11 years in his capacities as a deputy city attorney and an assistant attorney general. He has been an invaluable member of Montana's criminal justice system and Helena would greatly benefit from the opportunity to broaden his opportunity for influence and leadership as the First Judicial District Judge.

My experience has shown that Ole Olson has the capacity to create positive change in organizations such as the Montana County Attorneys Association, the Montana Attorney General's Office, and the Montana Legislature. In all circumstances, Ole Olson has maintained the highest standards for compassion, service to others, and absolute dedication to the legal system.

When I was a new resident in Montana and an AmeriCorps Volunteer for the Department of Justice, Ole Olson was the deputy city attorney responsible for prosecuting my first and only traffic violation. Although today my minor failure to yield ticket would be viewed as an annoyance, it was a truly devastating experience as a young adult living below the poverty line. Ole Olson spent a significant and charitable amount of time helping me understand how to navigate the city court and left me with the understanding that I had an ally within the court system. Although I am sure that Ole Olson has no recollection of this minor interaction and his countless and significant accomplishments as a prosecutor truly speak to his abilities as a lawyer, I firmly believe that my experience speaks to who he is as a compassionate person, to whom no individual is unworthy of kindness and attention.

In recent years, I have worked with Ole Olson in my role as the government relations director of the Montana Department of Corrections and as a lobbyist representing various nonprofit organizations. Ole Olson has worked tirelessly on legislative priorities that have strengthened protections for victims of sexual assault, balanced the rights of citizens with public safety in regard to digital privacy, and educated lawmakers to aid in passing thoughtful and responsible legislation. He has proven an invaluable asset to both republicans and democrats and gained respect for his knowledge and abilities.

Ole Olson's extensive experience, energy and passion for the practice of law, and his knowledge of the justice system will make him an exceptional jurist. His temperament, integrity, and ability to remain empathetic within the scope of his practice will make him uniquely qualified to reinforce a court system that is a source of pride in our community.

Sincerely,



Adrianne Cotton

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:21:50 PM

From: Wyatt Glade <W.Glade@co.custer.mt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 2:27 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIP VACANCY

Hello,

I am writing this message in support of David Ole Olson for the position of First Judicial District Judge. I know Ole from my interactions with him in my capacity as the Custer County Attorney, and through various positions that I have held with the Montana County Attorneys Association. These statements are my own personal observations, and not those of the Montana County Attorney's Association.

I have worked with Ole on a number of cases. I have also worked with him in his capacity as training coordinator for Montana's prosecutors. Ole Olson is a brilliant attorney. He has the ability to simplify the most complicated legal issues, and explain them in a way that a layperson can easily understand. Frankly, I am somewhat jealous. He is tactful, yet direct, honest, and fair to a fault. He conducts himself by the highest ethical standard.

Ole is an excellent choice for this position. I highly recommend that you select him to be considered by the governor.

Thank you,

Wyatt Glade

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:24:00 PM

From: elaine.eidum@gmail.com <elaine.eidum@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:04 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment - David Ole Olson

Greetings, Judicial Nomination Commission!

I was happy to have been asked to write to you about Ole. While I've not worked with Ole, I have known him and his family for many years - as a matter of fact, since he was about two! It was a pleasure to work with his mother, Debbie, and hear Ole success stories as he grew through adolescence and into adulthood. She was and is a proud mother and rightly so!

In the years I have known Ole, I have so admired his traits. He is intelligent, respectful, trustworthy, a good listener, a hard worker and has a earning for continued learning, both personally and professionally. He is kind, courteous and thoughtful, yet not a pushover. He can be firm and would demand a high standard for his court, and at the same time, remain level headed with the end goal of proper decision making based on law. People like Ole have the ability to help others realize their potential and make them want to be better and do better.

I admire Ole's energy and was so pleased to find that he was working with Family Promise, a very worthwhile community organization close to my heart. I am thankful he chose to return to Helena, raise his family here and contribute to our community.

Simply put, Ole lives his life with the utmost integrity. You would do well to nominate him for District Court Judgeship.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: Valerie Balukas <vbalukas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 12:31 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for Ole Olson to fill the First Judicial District Court vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Reynolds.

I have known Ole Olson in both a personal and professional capacity for nearly 20 years. When I first met Ole I was impressed at his technical background in petroleum engineering. When he later decided to go to law school I was excited to see him apply his considerable intellect and strong work ethic to the practice of law. I have not been disappointed.

Ole's reputation as an attorney is excellent and I am proud to call him a colleague. He has a well-deserved reputation for effective and conscientious practice as well as an abiding interest in the law and its application. Ole has tried cases in courtrooms across the state, giving him a breadth of experiences that he will bring with him to the bench. Ole is a respected member of the legal community and would be a tremendous asset to the First Judicial District.

Ole is an engaged civic citizen and member of the community. He has strong roots in the greater Helena community and his work on the Board of Family Promise has positively impacted many families during times of turbulence and transition.

I believe Ole has the experience and the temperament to make a superb district court judge. I urge the Commission to forward Ole Olson's application for a judicial to the Governor.

Sincerely,

Valerie A. Balukas
5540 Keir Ln.
Helena MT 59602

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows 10

September 25, 2020

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

To the members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of recommendation for Ole Olson as a judge for the First Judicial District. It has been my pleasure to know Ole in a personal and professional capacity dating back to high school. Without a doubt, Ole retains many qualities that would positively contribute to the First Judicial District, and to our community as a whole.

On a professional level, I have worked with Ole both in my former role as Co-Executive Director of the Montana County Attorney's Association and have also had many opportunities as a registered lobbyist to witness Ole's excellent work representing the Department of Justice during the Montana Legislature. In both cases, it was very evident that Ole is thoughtful, organized, and passionate. Ole possesses calm and assertive aspects to his personality that would greatly benefit a judgeship and also enable him to work effectively with both sides of the aisle and all different kinds of people.

I have also known Ole on a personal level for years, and have witnessed his many contributions to his family and the community of Helena.

I really appreciate the consideration of my comments as well as the thoughts of the many others whom I'm sure have recommended Ole Olson for this important position.

Kind regards,



Erin McGowan
413 East Broadway
(406) 439-8822
erin@smithandmcgowan.com

September 24, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing to support the nomination of David Ole Olson for the judges' vacancy in the First Judicial District Court. I have known Ole for approximately the last two years of my practice. I mainly practice in criminal defense and am always in an adversarial position to Mr. Olson in the courtroom. Over the last 8 years of my career in Montana, I have had occasion to work opposite a number of prosecutors, attorneys, and other adversarial litigants. Ole stands out as a shining star among them.

First, his ethics. They are impeccable. Both of the cases I have taken through a jury trial with Ole have been extremely difficult, involving child victims of sexual crimes. His compassion for these children shone through his work in the courtroom. He was both a zealous and a caring advocate for their causes; telling their stories in compelling and empathic ways. At the same time, he was efficient, professional, and made what is normally a grueling, life-draining process, into a manageable human experience. This compassion and empathy will be key in continuing and improving the treatment court and efforts Judge Reynolds has started. In addition to his efforts in the Courtroom, I have seen Mr. Olson mentor other attorneys, and provide critical guidance and direction to both the Court and litigators for both sides.

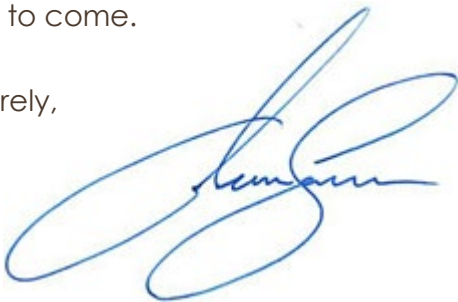
Second, Ole possesses the intelligence, energy, and efficiency that will be necessary to manage a busy docket. I have seen Ole juggle his many responsibilities in the training department, prosecuting cases across the State of Montana (often involving many long hours of travel between long, intense hearings), and a fulfilling family and personal life. I have argued complex motions in court, dealt with delicate issues in chambers, and tried heart wrenching stories in front of juries across from Ole and have always been impressed by his composure and ability to zealously advocate his position. In addition he regularly reaches

across the table and offers mutually beneficial solutions, logical resolutions, and reasonable outcomes in a variety of different situations.

Prosecutors possess a great deal of discretion, and as defense counsel I have seen many abuse this discretion, overzealously wreaking havoc not only in the lives of defendants but also in the lives of victims whom they seek to protect. Ole is the picture of balance and possesses the sound reasoning abilities to see both sides of the coin. Such a gift is rare and is critical for a judge in their role as a neutral arbitrator. I have often been heard to lament that if only we could distill the qualities that make Mr. Olson such a gifted litigator, advocate, and person and dispense them in pill form to all other prosecutors and attorneys, our world would be a much better, fairer place to live.

Finally, one need only observe Ole in the courtroom for a short period of time to know that he is outstanding as an advocate and an individual and possesses all of the qualities that one hopes for in a judge; Intelligence, compassion, fairness, understanding, empathy, and efficiency. It is my hope that you will nominate him for this position and reward the people of Montana with the kind of judge they deserve, who will serve them true and fairly for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Adam M. Larsen, JD
Montana Bar #13195
Utah Bar #14234
409 E Washington St.
Lewistown, Montana 59457
adammerlinlarsen@gmail.com
(406) 366-3330

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: kp kane <kp.kane@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 8:58 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Recommendation for David Ole Olson (1st Judicial District Court judge applicant)

September 25, 2020

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is in support of Ole Olson's appointment as District Court judge for the First Judicial District.

I have been friends with Ole for almost 20 years. When we first met, Ole impressed me because he was a recent high-honors graduate of MSU with a degree in Electrical Engineering, had recently been accepted to Georgetown University Law Center, and was reading James Joyce's novel, *Ulysses*. But what really stands out for me is that Ole is one of the most affable and humble people I have ever met, the kind of person who is compassionate and good-natured in addition to possessing a highly developed intellect. Over the years, Ole and I have kept in touch. I have admired his dedication to his family, his hometown of Helena, his pursuit of mastery over a variety of hobbies, such as aviation, fitness, and amateur radio, as well as his legal career. In the years I have known him, Ole has always displayed a calm temperament, common sense, and humility, three of the most important qualities for a district court judge to possess.

Over the last 8 years, Ole and I have worked for the Montana Department of Justice's Prosecution Services Bureau. In his role as Assistant Attorney General, Ole has distinguished himself as an outstanding prosecutor of complex, felony criminal cases, seeking justice for Montanans as a devoted public servant. In his role as Prosecution Training Coordinator, Ole developed Montana's first Prosecution Boot Camp training for new prosecutors that exemplifies his ability to distill a large volume of complicated information into a manageable format. In both roles, he is highly respected and resoundingly well-liked by his peers and colleagues.

I believe Ole would be a courteous and impartial judge who would have no difficulty assuming the responsibilities and workload of the First Judicial District Court judge position. I understand that this

Commission has a difficult task in selecting the individuals that will interview with Governor Bullock, and I encourage the Commission to forward Ole's name. He would be steadfast in his dedication to serving the citizens of the First Judicial District as well as the State of Montana.

Respectfully,

Karen P. Kane

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson

From: Mark Mattioli <markwmattioli@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 1:24 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] First Judicial District Court Vacancy (Ole Olson)

Mark Mattioli
markwmattioli@gmail.com
406-449-0525
Helena, MT. 59601

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

Re: Judicial Vacancy in the First Judicial District Court (Ole Olson)

Dear Commission Members:

I write in strong support of Ole Olson's application to serve as district court judge for the First Judicial District Court of Montana.

I have known and worked with Ole since hiring him as an Assistant Attorney General in the appellate bureau. After distinguishing himself as a judicial clerk for former Justice Brian Morris and handling criminal appeals in the Montana Supreme Court, Ole found his passion in the courtroom, first as a prosecutor for the City of Helena and for the past decade as a senior prosecutor for the Attorney General's Office. He does all of this while providing mentoring and training to prosecutors throughout Montana as the State's Prosecution Training Coordinator.

Ole is a highly intelligent, hard-working attorney who is known for his integrity and objectivity. He is a serious, productive and calm-under-pressure professional. He played a pivotal role in resolving a thorny dispute between the United States Department of Justice and the Missoula County Attorney's Office stemming from the handling of sexual assaults on the campus of the University of Montana. We urgently

needed to develop a model sexual assault training program for law enforcement officers and prosecutors. We turned to Ole. And he exceeded our expectations. He is more than capable of handling the varied, stressful and oftentimes unpredictable and unrealistic work demands of Montana's district court judges.

Ole has all the qualities needed in a judge, including the work ethic, fairness, common sense, and impartiality the job demands. He has the required judicial temperament and will not become overwhelmed by the workload. As a life-long, proud native of Helena, Ole will serve the citizens of Lewis & Clark and Broadwater Counties with conscientiousness and fidelity.

You are fortunate to have a wealth of outstanding candidates, including Ole Olson, who I recommend very highly and without reservation.

Sincerely,

Mark Mattioli

Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:Mail [go.microsoft.com]) for Windows 10

September 24, 2020

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

We would like to recommend Ole Olson for fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Judge Reynolds. Ole has been an excellent player for the Attorney General's office team and will be an outstanding contributor to the Judicial District.

Danette and I have known Ole for close to forty years, being neighbors, friends and fellow classmates of our children through Helena High School years and our family friendship continues through all the years. Ole never fails to impress you with his intellectual rigor, his nuanced mind, knowledge of the issues and his engaging relationships with the common person. He is positive in his outlook, tough and committed to excellence in every endeavor. Very simply, Ole is a very exceptional and quality individual.

His experience is solid and pertinent, with over 10 years of working on legal issues and the law all over our state. He has loyally served the people of Montana with a positive approach to the law and by paying attention to detail in tough, complicated areas. He is very prepared to be a judge.

Ole is keenly intelligent, and known for good judgement, fairness and practical when needed. He has wisdom beyond his years. He knows what he wants out of life and is a clear goal setter. Finally, he treats everyone he meets with dignity, friendliness and attention.

It's been postulated that the individuals who desire a certain career are advised to do "what makes their soul shine" Ole works and has done for years "what makes his soul shine." We feel the bench and our community would be well served by the commitment of service that he has shown.

We strongly urge Governor Bullock and the Judicial Nomination Commission to choose Ole as the next judge. You will never be disappointed in this decision, he's the very best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill & Danette". The script is fluid and cursive, with a small ampersand between the names.

Bill and Danette Sprinkle
634 S. Oakes St
Helena MT 59601
406-459-9123 406-459-3354

Dale Schowengerdt
P.O. Box 797
Helena, MT 59624
406.457.2040 direct dial
406.449.5149 facsimile
dschowengerdt@crowleyfleck.com

September 25, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of Ole Olson's application to be a judge of the First Judicial District. I know Ole from my work as Solicitor General at the Attorney General's office from 2014 to 2019.

In my work with Ole, I've always been impressed by his competence and calm demeanor, even when under the extreme pressure of a high profile case. I relied on Ole's extensive knowledge and his ability to reason through difficult legal issues on several key matters. Ole is particularly skilled at breaking down and explaining complex legal issues. Those skills would serve him well in handling the variety of cases that come through the First Judicial District. Ole is fair minded and able to work efficiently under pressure, which makes him well-suited to be a district court judge.

In short, Ole is an exceptional candidate and would be an excellent judge. I strongly encourage the Commission to send his application to the Governor.

Best regards,



Dale Schowengerdt

September 25, 2020

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I feel compelled to submit a letter supporting the judicial nomination and appointment for Ole Olson for the First Judicial District of Montana. I have known Ole since I was in grade school. He has been a lifelong friend of my older brother. I understand that the quality of one's character when they are in middle school and high school does not determine the morals and ethics by which one lives as an adult. However, I think the actions, attributes and character a person displays in their formative years often translates to their conduct as an adult. This is certainly true for Mr. Olson. Growing up Ole was kind, diligent, ethical and hardworking. He was the teenager that would advocate for others and stand up for what was right. As I have had the opportunity to work with Ole in our professional capacities, I see the same qualities now as I did when we were younger.

Professionally, I know Ole through the Montana County Attorneys Association; an organization I have worked for since 2005. During much of that time, Ole has been an Assistant AG as well as the Training Coordinator for the state. He has proven to be a valuable asset and a good partner for local prosecutors and the statewide association. Ole has endeavored to arrange relevant, quality training for prosecutors at our semiannual CLE conferences.

In his role as an Assistant Attorney General, it has been my perception that Ole is deeply committed to serving the citizens of Montana to the best of his ability, which includes fair and impartial treatment for those people with whom he works and serves, continuing his education through quality and relevant law education seminars, and advocating for laws and statutes to ensure the highest legal standard for all people involved in the legal system in Montana.

Another strength Ole embodies is his ability to not only look at problems, but also solutions. When faced with difficult situations and decisions, Ole suggests solutions and puts in the effort to bring those solutions to fruition.

I believe he will bring all of the above-mentioned traits to the bench to serve the people in the First Judicial District in Montana. Please consider Ole Olson for District Court Judge.

Respectfully,



Nanette Gilbertson
nanette@smithandmcgowan.com
406-443-1570

September 22, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-33305

Dear Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to express my support for Mr. Ole Olson as he seeks nomination for the position of District Court Judge. I have served Helena Public Schools as a teacher, coach and administrator for over forty years, and having known the Olson family for much of that time, I can say with confidence that Ole is one of the finest young men I have the pleasure of knowing.

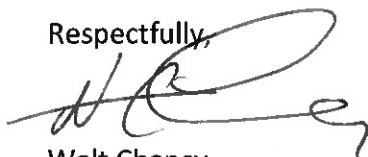
Ole was an accomplished high school student athlete, graduating from Helena High School. He continued his formal education at Montana State University earning his engineering degree, then graduated from Georgetown University Law School with distinction. What I admire about Ole is his ability to maintain balance within his life. His work ethic is exhausting, yet his devotion to family and friends unwavering.

Ole is not only intelligent, he possesses wisdom well beyond his years, often displayed during his proceedings, and his character and integrity are uncompromised. More importantly, it is my belief that Ole would judge fairly and with impartiality, which is an attribute we would expect of someone on the bench.

I have had the ability to observe Ole throughout his development and can attest to his genuinely kind and respectful nature. His mannerisms and temperament are additional traits that would serve him well in this position.

Without reservation and with great pride, I recommend Ole Olson for the nomination of District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walt Chancy', written over a horizontal line.

Walt Chancy

Administrator

Capital High School

Jeff Foster
3076 Early Bird Drive
Helena, MT 59601

September 25, 2020

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

Re: 1st Judicial District Judge Applicant David Ole Olson

Dear Ms. Menzies and Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am pleased to submit this letter of support for David Ole Olson's application for the position of 1st Judicial District Judge of Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties. I met Ole in early High School and have remained good friends to this day. I was excited to hear of his interest in this position as I feel he has all the traits necessary to excel.

Ole has always displayed an incredible work ethic. Whether it was on the athletic field, where Ole was a state pole vault champion, or academic pursuits, he has always been a tireless worker. I have always known Ole to be motivated to serve others. Ole graduated from Montana State with a degree in chemical engineering but after a few years of working in the field was called into the field of Law to help serve others. After completing his law degree from Georgetown, he returned the Montana to serve the state and community that he loves. I have always admired Ole's ability to meet and exceed any goal or challenge that is presented.

Ole is highly intelligent. He has graduated with honors from Helena High, Montana State University and Georgetown law. Beyond the academic realm, he displays emotional intelligence in spades. He has always handled his interpersonal relationships judiciously and empathetically. He is very in tune and in control of his emotions. I have always known Ole to be incredibly kind and empathetic to all he encounters. His varied personal and professional experience, his diverse interests, and his ability to connect with people from all walks of life would serve him well with broad support should he be appointed.

Without a doubt I believe Ole is the right person to serve the people of our state and community in the adjudication and administration of the law. He will do so with the highest of integrity, empathy and acumen.

I am therefore very pleased to endorse Ole Olson for the position of 1st Judicial District Judge of Lewis and Clark, and Broadwater Counties.



Jeff Foster DMD
Helena Orthodontics

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:59:51 PM

From: Jon Bennion <bennionjw@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 9:27 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Ole Olson

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to write the Judicial Nominating Commission to recommend Ole Olson for the open district judge position in the First Judicial District.

I have known Ole for eight years as a co-worker at the Montana Department of Justice. Even though he is one of the top prosecutors in the state, you would never know it from the way he talks about himself. He is one of the humblest human beings I've ever met. For someone who has every right to have an ego, he remains approachable and kind. I think those are qualities judges should possess.

Ole has been a lead spokesperson on critical legislation for the Attorney General's Office in House and Senate committees. Understanding the legislative process and how laws are made can be an important strength an attorney brings to the bench, especially in the First Judicial District where many cases are brought to challenge legislative actions.

When Ole put his name in to be the Attorney General's statutory training coordinator, there was no question he was the right person for the job. He is respected in the country attorney community and possesses the knowledge to be the lead trainer and point-person for answering tough prosecution questions.

Ole's temperament, trial experience, and good judgment make him an ideal candidate for district judge. Please forward his name to Governor Bullock for his consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Bennion

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:00:33 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

From: Jill Laslovich <jlaslovich@crowleyfleck.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 7:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Olson (First Judicial District)

Dear Members of the Judicial Commission –

I am writing to voice my support for David “Ole” Olson, candidate for First Judicial District Court Judge. Although I have not had the opportunity to work with Mr. Olson professionally as his practice is focused on criminal law and I work in the civil arena, I have had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Olson outside of work and to speak with him about the reasons he wants to be a judge. Mr. Olson is well regarded in the community. He has a reputation for being reasonable and hard working.

During this application process, Mr. Olson reached out to attorneys throughout the county - many of whom practice in different areas and many of whom he does not know personally – to learn what attributes they value in a district judge. This is an example of Mr. Olson’s willingness to listen and to work with others, qualities that make him a strong candidate for this position.

I am so pleased that the commission has so many excellent candidates to choose from. I ask that the members of the Commission give considerate thought to Mr. Olson’s application.

Sincerely,

Jill Laslovich

JILL LASLOVICH [\[crowleyfleck.com\]](#)
900 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 200
Helena, MT 59601
Main: 406.449.4165 | Fax: 406.449.5149
Direct: 406.457.2036



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From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:01:07 PM

From: Anna Saverud <absaverud@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 12:10 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Ole Olson

Dear Members of the Commission:

It is my great pleasure to recommend my friend and former colleague, Ole Olson for appointment as the next District Court Judge of the First Judicial District Court. Ole's legal experience and acumen, coupled with his inherent character and integrity make him an ideal candidate to become a district court judge.

I first met Ole about seven years ago when we collaborated on a domestic violence training for municipal prosecutors. Upon my first meeting with Ole, I was immediately impressed with not only his legal knowledge, but his humble and collaborative nature. Over the next several years I attended multiple trainings Ole coordinated or conducted and continued to be impressed with his understanding of the law, command of the rules of evidence, and extensive trial experience.

A number of years later I was fortunate to join Ole as a prosecutor in the Prosecution Services Bureau at the Attorney General's Office. Working with Ole day to day, I saw Ole's strong work ethic and his ability to find a healthy work/life balance. During a child sexual abuse trial we co-counseled in eastern Montana, I saw firsthand this play out. His job is demanding, often taking him on the road away from his kids for days or weeks at a time, though multiple times a day I heard him drop everything and talk to his kids as if there was nothing else going on in the world except for what they were saying and doing. I've seen Ole put the same care and attention into working with crime victims or while crafting a sentencing recommendation for a defendant. It is not lost on Ole for a moment that his work and decisions affect people's lives and he gives each case, and all those involved, the care and attention it deserves. Ole knows what's important both inside and outside the courtroom, and that human quality along with his ability to really see people will make him an excellent judge.

Working on cases with Ole, I can confidently say his legal research and writing skills are excellent. Further, his ability to prepare a case and anticipate objections or issues on both sides is masterful. These skills have been honed over his career and he excels at them in high stress and time sensitive situations. Ole does not get distracted by discovery disputes or frivolous motions. He is an honest and ethical practitioner who knows where to focus his energy. The combination of these skills will make Ole a respected judge. Ole has the ability to tackle and manage a heavy court docket. His extensive trial experience and the preparation he will do for each hearing and trial as a judge, will be evident when he fairly and efficiently presides over matters before him.

This candidate pool before the commission is impressive. Ole's career credentials alone make him a worthy candidate to pass along to the Governor. However, it is who and what Ole embodies as a person - fairness, calmness, confidence, respect, thoughtfulness, patience, perspective, integrity - that set Ole apart and why he has become a natural leader and trusted mentor to so many in the Montana legal community.

Ole embodies all the qualities a lawyer, litigant, victim, accused or juror can hope to encounter

on the bench. I unequivocally recommend Ole to be the next District Court Judge for the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Anna Saverud

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:02:26 PM

From: Kristine White <ckwhite@rosebudcoatty.net>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 2:50 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Recommendation for Judicial Candidates

Throughout my service as the Rosebud County Attorney I have had the pleasure of working extensively with Ole Olson and Chad Parker. Both are very professional, exhibit great knowledge of the applicable law and possess a genuine willingness to assist with cases in any way needed. I have reached out to each of them when I was in the middle of a trial and both were willing to research issues for which I needed a fast resolution. I believe both candidates have the necessary judicial temperament to serve as good a judge.

Sincerely,

Kristine White

C. Kristine White
Rosebud County Attorney
PO Box 69
Forsyth, MT 59327
Phone: 406-346-2236
Fax: 406-346-2238

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:03:38 PM

From: Jenny Eck <jennyeck4mt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 3:09 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Olson

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

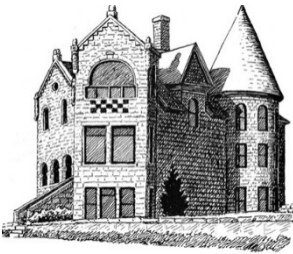
I am writing in support of Ole Olson's nomination for the First Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy. I worked with Ole for three years when I was an employee with the Office of Consumer Protection in the Attorney General's Office at the Montana Department of Justice from 2009-2012. I got to know him as a person of intelligence, dedication to his work, even temperament, and strong work ethic. When I went on to serve in the Legislature (2013-2018), Ole would come in to testify in front of the Judiciary Committee, of which I was a member. He worked on issues related to addressing child sexual abuse and did a good job answering committee members' questions and providing a fair and accurate representation of the facts. Because of his work at the Legislature, I believe Ole has developed positive relationships with legislators on both sides of the aisle, which will be essential if his nomination is to be put before the Senate.

The judge appointed to this seat will need to manage a very busy docket while also knowing how to deal with their own stress and trauma which is inherent to this work. I know that Ole has a lot of experience in managing stress and a significant work load. I also know he is committed to carrying on with Judge Reynold's treatment court, which is critical to the health of our community and will do so with compassion and dedication.

Finally, I think it's important to note that Ole served as the State Prosecution Coordinator, a position which charged him with training, advising and assisting the county attorneys. It took a lot of skill, work and energy to get to the point where he could manage that position. It's this kind of work ethic and commitment which will be required to take over Judge Reynold's position.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jenny Eck
563 Third St.
Helena, MT 59601



Meagher County Attorney

Burt Hurwitz

15 West Main Street ♦ PO Box 309 ♦ White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645
Phone: (406) 547-3041 ♦ Email: burth@meagherco.net ♦ Fax: (406) 547-3252

September 28, 2020

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

RE: Letter in Support of Ole Olson

Dear Ms. Menzies and Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I'm writing in support of Ole Olson's application for Judge in the First Judicial District. I believe that he embodies the judicial temperament you are seeking. When I was elected as the Meagher County Attorney in 2018, I faced significant challenges in recreating a functioning office. Ole Olson was indispensable in helping me during those critical first few months and beyond. Significantly, this included spending months with me trying a very difficult rape case that culminated in a 5-day jury trial last February.

During this case, I learned a great deal about Mr. Olson and I believe that he will make an excellent addition to the bench. He possesses the judicial temperament that our Courts need in this divisive day and age to retain legitimacy. He was at all times professional with opposing counsel; Adam Larsen's letter in support of this same nomination is certainly evidence of that. He was compassionate, professional, and informative when meeting with the victim and her family. Finally, in helping me he was generous with his time, well-prepared, and understanding of the dynamics of prosecuting in a small town. He approached each problem with a reserve that enabled him to see the issue from all perspectives. Whether we were negotiating with opposing counsel on a plea deal or preparing arguments on Motions, he worked to present a case for the Jury that was coherent and thorough.

I hope that you will nominate Ole to fill Judge Reynold's position. He will serve the people of the First Judicial District and Montana for many years to come regardless of your decision, but the best and highest use of Ole's talents would be that of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Burt N. Hurwitz

**Elizabeth A. O'Halloran
716 Power Street
Helena, MT 59601**

September 28, 2020

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

RE: Application of David "Ole" Olson
First Judicial District Judge Vacancy

Honorable Members of the Commission:

Please accept this letter in support of David "Ole" Olson's application for appointment as District Court Judge in the First Judicial District for the State of Montana.

I have known Ole Olson since I moved to Helena in 2013 and have become familiar with his practice, as well as his character as an individual. Ole's casework, work ethic and prosecutorial philosophies are well-suited to judicial appointment. He has developed a great deal of experience in the courtroom and in managing criminal cases. His past public service has been sensitive to the needs and expectations of the public he serves. Having handled a number of very consequential matters for the State of Montana, Ole would bring an informed demeanor to the bench. His demonstrated understanding of both the United States and Montana Constitutions is important in the role of District Court Judge, as the principles of both are central to the office. Finally, as a person and citizen, Ole is thoughtful, well-rounded and engaged, which are qualities that any lawyer appreciates in their judges.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public comment. David "Ole" Olson would be a great choice for nomination to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. O'Halloran

MIKE GEE

2764 Stacia Ave. | 406.865.0110 | trouthater@gmail.com

September 28, 2020

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

RE: Support for Dan Guzynski, Ole Olson, Mary Cochenour, & Chad Parker

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am honored to write this letter of support for my colleagues who have thrown their names in the hat to fill Judge Reynolds' seat in the First Judicial District. Dan, Ole, Mary and Chad comport themselves with honesty, integrity, thoughtfulness, and an even-keeled temperament. Those qualities are vital in the pursuit of justice. Those qualities absolutely transfer to being a Judge.

I would rather be labeled a suck-up than let an opportunity to support my colleagues whom I care about very much go by without comment. The truth is each of them have helped shaped my view of what it takes to do justice and frankly, how to live life. My view is each would bring their individual strengths to the bench and be an asset to the judiciary.

Our criminal justice system is under fire. Fair-minded men and women are needed now more than ever to temper the criticism and instill confidence. Not for nothing, but my opinion is the current Judges in the First Judicial District are already doing just that. If one of the four of my colleagues are selected, they will immediately be able to join that pursuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Gee', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Gee
Assistant Attorney General
Prosecution Services Bureau

~ MONTANA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ~
RAY J. DAYTON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

800 South Main Street, Anaconda, MT 59711

Phone: (406) 563-4044

Fax: (406) 563-7015

E-Mail: rdayton@mt.gov

Law Clerk
Lauren Maes

Judicial Assistant
Sheila Verlanic

Court Recorder
Ann Allen

September 28, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of Ole Olson's application to fill the vacancy in the First Judicial District. Ole has appeared in my Court on a number of occasions. He is a force to be reckoned with as an attorney. He would, in my opinion, make a fine Judge.

Ole demonstrates the ability to know, understand and communicate the content of the law. I believe he would be more than capable of grappling with the many and varied issues that would confront him on the bench.

Ole presents himself in a way that would instill confidence in those appearing before him, and in the public. He would be an asset to Montana's Judiciary.

Sincerely,



Ray J. Dayton
District Court Judge

RJD/smv

ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF MONTANA

Tim Fox
Attorney General

Jon Bennion
Chief Deputy Attorney General



Department of Justice
Joseph P. Mazurek Building
215 North Sanders
P.O. Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620-1401

September 28, 2020

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

RE: Application of David Ole Olson for First Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

This letter is submitted to you in support of the application of David Ole Olson to be appointed to the unexpired term of Judge James Reynolds on the First Judicial District Court. I have practiced law in Montana for 33 years, and I have worked with many attorneys in local, state, tribal, and federal courts at all levels.

I have known Ole for the past eight years in my role as Montana's Attorney General. The Montana Department of Justice is a respected institution and this office is thankfully able to attract exceptional lawyers to work here. Ole Olson is one of those exceptional lawyers. While I do not keep track of every compliment that I receive about one of our employees, I can tell you that Ole is one of the most complimented attorneys in our office. County attorneys, judges, law enforcement officers, and victims of crime frequently reach out to tell me how impressed they are with Ole's professionalism and abilities.

I have no doubt that Ole's extensive courtroom experience will be extremely beneficial to him, and to our citizens, if he becomes a member of the judiciary. He is even tempered and a very hard worker. Ole cares about access to justice, and he is reasonable and fair in his approaches to justice.

In 2018, I selected Ole to be the statutory Prosecution Training Coordinator for the State of Montana. Ole is responsible for developing and executing the continuing legal education and training programs for Montana's prosecutors. I selected Ole for this position because of his extensive experience and extraordinary abilities as a lawyer and a prosecutor. Ole has done a fine job as the Prosecution Training Coordinator while expertly handling a full load of criminal cases.

In April of 2014, my office settled a dispute between the Missoula County Attorney's office and the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, over alleged mishandling of sexual assault cases. As a part of that settlement, I selected Ole to work with Missoula County to prepare a comprehensive manual for investigating and

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MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Legal Services Division * Division of Criminal Investigation * Highway Patrol Division * Forensic Science Division
Gambling Control Division * Motor Vehicle Division * Information Technology Services Division * Central Services Division

Judicial Nomination Committee
September 28, 2020
Page 2

prosecuting sexual assault cases. Ole led that effort, and resulting work product serves as a valuable resource for all of Montana's prosecutors. Again, Ole completed this task while also handling a full criminal law caseload.

I believe that Ole would make a fine district court judge. He has always served with distinction, and he is an extraordinary professional and a down-right good person. I commend him to you without hesitation or reservation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about Ole's application. Thank you for serving on Montana's Judicial Nomination Commission members, and thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Fox', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TIM FOX
Attorney General

September 26, 2020

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter in support of David Ole Olson's application for appointment to the First Judicial District.

I believe that Ole is well-qualified for the vacant judicial position. He is an intelligent and experienced prosecutor who handles complex criminal cases. Ole is also experienced in legal research and writing from his time clerking for Justice Brian Morris on the Montana Supreme Court.

As an attorney with the Department of Labor, I have had the opportunity to discuss a case in common with Ole. He is thorough in his preparation and case work. I am also impressed with Ole's strong communication skills and knowledge of the law. Ole has a very good reputation amongst the attorneys I know for being a skilled attorney and displaying a high level of professionalism.

In his role as an Assistant Attorney General and the State's Training Coordinator for County Attorneys, Ole takes on challenging and sensitive cases balanced with his leadership role working with prosecutors in local communities. His ability and experience managing these duties are important assets that will carry over to the bench.

As a resident of Helena for much of his life, Ole understands and values the community. He would serve Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties well as a Judge with the First Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Kevin Maki
922 Choteau Street
Helena, MT 59601

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Olson
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:59:25 PM

From: Sealey, Jeff
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 1:05 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: David Ole Olson comment

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

Members of the Commission,

I write to support Ole Olson as a judicial candidate for the First Judicial District Court. I have worked with Ole in various capacities for the last 12 years. We collaborated on criminal prosecution cases when he was a Deputy City Attorney and I was a Deputy County Attorney. That professional collaboration continued when Ole moved to the Montana Attorney General's Office, where he and I discussed overlapping criminal case, training opportunities, and worked together to support new legislation protecting victims of domestic assault from strangulation. Ole and I also run into each other at various community events and school functions in the Helena area.

When I discuss Ole with other people, which I have had the opportunity to do many times in the last month or two, I speak highly of him. Ole is a gifted attorney and a conscientious human being – qualities that will serve him, and the First Judicial District, well. Ole's talents and leadership have also been recognized in our local legal community. His rise from a new Deputy City Attorney to the State Prosecution Coordinator happened in short order, and anyone who interacts with him will immediately see why. Ole brings intelligence and energy to his work. Our next judge in Helena will need those qualities to efficiently juggle the Treatment Court program along with a healthy regular caseload. Ole is up to the task.

I recall sitting at the Capital building watching Ole present information to the Senate Judiciary Committee and being impressed, as I have been many times before, by his professionalism. He showed an uncommon ability to field questions from both sides of the aisle with intelligence and grace. He successfully advocated to protect a vulnerable and complicated group of crime victims, and when challenges came from committee members, Ole cut through the rhetoric and provided effective, factually solid responses. From what I have seen, the Senate confirmation process poses no hurdles for Ole.

I have repeatedly described Ole as a worthy candidate for judge to friends and family, and I do the same to this committee.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sealey
Helena resident and attorney

September 28, 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 of Recommendation for Ole Olson for First Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter to support Ole Olson as an applicant for the current vacancy for district court judge in the First Judicial District. I have known Ole for multiple years socially and professionally. I am currently employed as a staff attorney with the Montana DNRC. I have been in practice in Montana for more than 7 years and have lived in Helena for almost 5 years.

Knowing Ole, I can attest to the fact that he possesses exactly the sort of experience, temperament, and dedication that one looks for in a judge. The work of a district court judge is a serious undertaking – the caseloads are heavy, the work is, at times, monotonous, at times very complex, the hours can be long, and the lives of many are seriously impacted by the decisions made by a judge. The First Judicial District even among some of Montana's other districts, seems to bear a heavy case burden. From the wide discretion we invest in judges for criminal sentencing, to the power a judge possesses over the lives of children in youth courts and youth-in-need-of care cases, to the authority over families in divorce/custody proceedings and the lives impacted by personal injury cases, being a district court judge is a weighty responsibility. I think it is fair to say that lives can often hang in the balance, dependent on a district court judge's wisdom.

Consequently, I believe one of the best values one should look for in a district court judge, intuitively, is good judgment. If appointed, I trust that Ole will serve from the bench with wisdom, humanity, fairness, and will exercise the best of judgment in his duties. These are all attributes that, in large part, cannot be taught – one either possesses them, or does not. Ole is well known among the Helena community, the Montana legal community, and his colleagues generally as an upstanding attorney and person. Ole is also known to have the respect of his colleagues regardless of political views. These are all valuable assets, and I trust that Ole would bring them to the bench.

As far as work history, and as attested to in his lengthy resume, Ole has extensive experience in criminal law through his many years of service with the Montana Attorney General's office, U.S. DOJ, and the City of Helena. As State Training Coordinator for county attorneys throughout Montana, Ole has been in a particularly important position and had years of experience to see the challenges, opportunities, and flaws in Montana's criminal justice system, which would serve him well on the bench. Particularly in the First Judicial District, judges see not only the usual criminal case load, but often see cases of statewide importance filed here, making this position particularly important to fill with a good candidate, such as Ole.

Moreover, if appointed, I would be happy to see someone on the bench with a background in environmental law such as Ole has. The First District often sees environmental

cases, and these cases are often consequential to statewide interests. As noted in his application materials, Ole practiced environmental law as clerk for U.S. DOJ and has handled environmental crimes cases while with the Montana AG's office. Many of Montana's judges do not have particular experience with environmental cases, so I feel Ole's background in this regard would be particularly helpful to this position.

In closing, while other applicants for this position are no doubt highly qualified both personally and professionally, as a practicing Montana attorney who has worked with Ole, I can enthusiastically attest that he has the experience and good judgment that we ought to expect of a judge in this position.

/s/ Bradley R. Jones
Helena, MT



Craig D. Charlton
Scott H. Clement
Lewis K. Smith, III
R. J. "Jim" Sewell, Jr., of Counsel

Massena Bullard (1850-1915)
J. Miller Smith, Sr. (1862-1934)
David R. Smith (1896-1956)
J. Miller Smith (1899-1969)
Paul W. Smith (1895-1976)
Chadwick H. Smith (1925-2007)

Attorneys at Law
26 West Sixth Avenue • P.O. Box 1691, Helena, MT 59624
Telephone (406) 442-2980 • Facsimile (406) 449-3817

September 27, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59602-3005

Re: David Ole Olson Judicial Application

Dear Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I submit this letter in support of David "Ole" Olson's application for the First Judicial District Judge position open by the retirement of Judge Reynolds. My name is Craig Charlton and I am the managing shareholder of the Smith Law Firm, PC in Helena, Montana, and I encourage the members of the Nomination Commission to give his application thoughtful consideration and move it forward to the Governor for consideration.

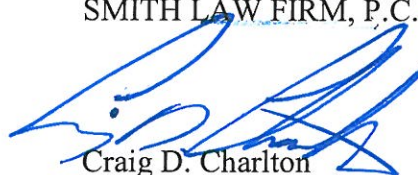
I have known Ole most of my life as his family and my family have been close friends for many years. As a Helena native, Mr. Olson is committed to and invested in this community and that commitment can best serve our community by placing him in the position of district court judge. It is clear from his application that Ole has the background, knowledge, and legal experience needed to be a very capable jurist.

Mr. Olson also possesses the interpersonal character needed to be a successful and respected judge. Ole is hard working, meticulous, trustworthy, and well tempered, all character traits necessary to listen to the facts of a case; then apply the applicable law to those facts; and issue a proper decision. Additionally, Mr. Olson's ethics and integrity are unquestionable.

I am confident Ole will make an exceptional judge in the First Judicial District; I urge you to move his application forward. If you have any questions of me, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

SMITH LAW FIRM, P.C.



Craig D. Charlton
Attorney at Law