Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois

Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:23 PM

To: Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

From: Steve Reiter <s.reiter@aol.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 1:53 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nomination Commission letter of support

To: Judicial Nomination Commissions

C/O Lois Menzies

I am writing to you in the hope that you will further the application of Chad Parker to replace Judge James Reynolds for the remainder of his term.

I am a neighbor of Chads and have been so for the past 5 years, Chad and his wife were the first in our neighborhood to welcome my wife and I, and they did so with open arms. I have found Chad to be open and honest in all of our dealings, he has acted as an advocate and champion when negative issues that were facing our subdivision. Chad has always offered a helping hand and smile of encouragement.

I would also like to point out that Chad and his wife have raised two outstanding sons, who are a delight to have as neighbors, I only mention that as I truly believe children are a reflection of their parents and it is obvious they are wonderful parents.

In closing I truly believe you would be making a great choice by selectin Chad as the District Court Judge for the First Judicial District. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions regarding this outstanding individual.

Steve Reiter 3726 Talc Way Helena, MT 59602 406-235-0895 Pete Strazdas 608 Logan Str. Helena MT 59601

September 13, 2020

Judicial Nominating Commission c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court administrator PO Box 203005 Helena MT 59620

Via e-mail

Dear Ms. Menzies:

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to you in support of Chad Parker's application for the position of district court judge for the First Judicial District.

I have known Mr. Parker for about five years. During part of this period I have served in a ministerial position in the church we both attend and have had opportunities to work with him in the church's youth program and to solicit his legal advice for a member of the congregation in need.

I have found him to be a compassionate advocate for those whom the legal system sometimes overlooks. He understands the plight of the elderly who do not understand how to defend themselves nor grasp their legal, even financial and emotional peril when those who do not have their best interest in mind seek to control their affairs. He is an instinctual advocate for the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

He has willingly sacrificed his time, at a time when I know his work load was substantial, to be with the youth of the church when called upon, to teach lessons of spiritual, community and civic values, helping these youngsters to grow into responsible people.

I can vouch for his integrity and for his ability to work hard. If ever I am brought to the bar of justice, I would want to be judged by a person of his moral character and wisdom.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Pete Strazdas

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

Dear Nomination Committee,

I have been asked by attorney Chad Parker to write a letter of support as he is being considered as an applicant for the position of district court judge for the First Judicial District (Broadwater and Lewis and Clark Counties) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge James Reynolds. I am very pleased to do so. I have known Chad for approximately 8 years. We met because of our church affiliation but have connected through mutual interests of art, boy scouts, education, and other common interests. My background is that of an educator having taught graduate and undergraduate students at Montana Tech in Butte for 20 years (currently Professor Emeritus) and 12 years in the department of engineering at Carroll College here in Helena. I am also President of a private consulting company since 1989 (WDW Writing Consulting & Planning INC) and have appeared in court and many public hearings as an expert in water-related matters (especially groundwater) since 1994. I am also a registered professional engineer in Montana since 1992. My experience in the legal arena and in knowing what Chad is like as a person provides a background for my letter of support.

Chad has had to deal with a number of very difficult life situations: including medical trauma and associated overwhelming expenses where he was "saved" pro bono by a recommended attorney who greatly opened his eyes as to the power that the legal system could be in the service to others. He has served as an attorney for approximately 20 years in a variety of settings where he excels in the courtroom as a prosecuting attorney. I believe the reception of Chad's pro-bono service undergirds Chads determination to assist others where possible and has sustained him through the tremendously emotional and draining experience of families and individuals who have suffered from sexual abuse and deliberate homicide. I believe that Chad, through his legal experience (#51 in the application), and prior educational and other service opportunities has learned how to balance compassion, the intense intellectual demands (including analytical skills) of the law, the rights of respective parties, and self-control to be able to provide a stabilizing presence on the bench. I believe Chad is seeking this position for the right reasons and would do the right thing.

I believe Chad should be given the opportunity to be interviewed so that he can be asked challenging questions, and perhaps more importantly, be given the opportunity by the interviewer to "size-up" and imagine Chad as a District Judge. If given this opportunity, I believe he will rise to the top. His philosophy of public involvement and practice of giving your time to community service (last paragraph of #31 in his application) conveys an accurate motive for his applying. I also believe my background and opinion are worth considering for his being considered for the position of district judge.

It is always a difficult process to find the best person for the job and have an appreciation for the task confronting you (served as department head and hired three professors). Thank you for your fine work and I wish you the best!

Most Sincerely,

Willis D Weight PhD, PE

Willis D Weight

3781 Yuhas Ave

Helena, MT

406-498-0530 Cell

Chad E. Adams PO Box 1697 Helena, MT 59624-1697

September 15, 2020

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

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter in support of Chad Parker, who has applied for service as district court judge in the Montana First Judicial District.

I have been a Montana lawyer since 2002 practicing primarily in civil litigation. I have known Chad since he and his family moved to Helena from Great Falls in 2010. Chad has unique experience having worked as a non-lawyer in a large civil litigation firm, starting off as a lawyer in various civil matters, and then focusing primarily on criminal matters. This experience in both civil and significant experience in criminal matters is a great background for a district court judge.

Chad's experience working in the City Attorney's office in Great Falls provides experience with trials, hearings, as well as participating in governmental meetings. He also participated in a successful treatment court program, which is important for someone willing to step into Judge Reynolds' position to carry on the work he has done there.

Importantly, Chad has the appropriate demeanor to be a fair and impartial district court judge. He has integrity, is a hard worker, has a good knowledge of the law, and a great sense of humor. He is also not a pushover in any respect and will pursue justice without regard to outside influences. Chad's courtroom experience is more than sufficient to serve as a district court judge, having handled the most serious of criminal matters. He is also a good citizen of the Helena community in various roles including as husband and father in his family, teaching in the local community college, teacher in professional roles, counselor and prosecutor. I recommend him highly and encourage you to submit his name to fill this vacancy.

Chad E. Adams

From: Menzies, Lois
To: Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:05:36 PM

From: leafy62458@aol.com <leafy62458@aol.com> Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:03 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] First Judicial District Chad Parker

Dear Judges John Brown, Janice Bishop, Karl England, Elizabeth Halverson, Hal Harper, Lane Larson, and Nancy Zanuck

I am writing to you to state my comments on the applicant for First Judicial District Judge Chad Parker.

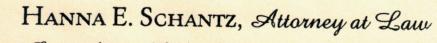
I am Chad's neighbor. My experience as his neighbor has been a good one. He's very personable and has acted as a positive influence on our neighborhood. He has amazing children who are a delight. He is a patient and educated Dad who takes the time needed to guide his kids into adulthood. We have always felt fortunate that he and his family live across the street.

I know that besides being a family man, he also expresses a deep commitment to his work. He has stated that he wants to be a positive influence as he performs his duties. He feels like he has insight that helps him determine a persons character and their abilities to either change paths or remain in the system throughout their lives. He feels like he does and can take the time and effort to thoroughly analyze and come to correct conclusions based on effort and putting in the work to make that possible. He is a well suited nominee for this judgeship.

Sincerely, Debbie Reiter

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com [mail.mobile.aol.com]



Treasure County Attorney | Colstrip City Prosecutor | Small Private Practice

September 16, 2020

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

SUBJECT: Public Comment for District Court Judge for First Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Hanna Schantz and I am an attorney serving eastern Montana as the part-time Treasure County Attorney and Colstrip City Prosecutor. I also manage a small private law practice. I see that Chad Garrett Parker has applied for the district court judge vacancy in the First Judicial District. I have worked with Mr. Parker and write this letter to comment about my past dealings with him.

As the Assistant Attorney General Traffic Resource Prosecutor, Chad Parker has been a great resource for me as a prosecutor. I have sought his guidance on numerous cases in the past. His responses to my questions have always been timely, knowledgeable, and professional.

In 2018-2019, Chad Parker assisted me with a complicated felony Driving Under the Influence case in Treasure County. He was the lead prosecutor and I assisted as second chair. Mr. Parker demonstrated in-depth knowledge of Montana's criminal laws - Titles 45 and 46 as well as Title 61. He was very familiar with Montana's Rules of Evidence and knew how to work within their constraints. I learned a lot from him during that case and was honored to work with him.

In conclusion, I believe Chad Parker possesses the temperament and qualities of a good district court judge. He is a very strong candidate to fill the judge vacancy in the First Judicial District.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Hanna E. Schantz Attorney at Law

Office: (406) 342-5546

Fax: (406) 342-5622

hannaschantzlaw@gmail.com

3660 Longview Way Helena, MT 59602 (via email)

ATTN: Judicial Nomination Commission, c/o Lois Menzies

Dear Commission and Interested Parties:

I would like to respectfully submit this letter in support of Chad Parker's application for judgeship vacancy. I have known Chad personally for about 10 years and consider him as close of a personal friend as I've had. We have hunted together, spent time with each other's family on occasion, and shared countless lunches and get-togethers. Chad is genuine, honest, forthright, tactful, and has strong moral character.

What has struck me most about Chad over the years is his ability *and* sincerity in focusing on the individual. When he asks me, or anyone else, "How are you doing?" he means it. He is interested. He wants to know about those around him, and that they are doing well. If, by chance, someone mentions a struggle or a challenge, he asks questions and expresses sympathy and does his best to offer encouragement. Sometimes, the encouragement includes a kind suggestion to look at something from a different perspective, which has taught me that being thoughtful and deliberative is valuable in human transactions. He offers to help. I have experienced all of this personally, and I value Chad's kindness, fairness, and advice.

Chad's attitude toward his work has also made a lasting impression on me. I am not given to hyperbole when I say he may be the most committed person I have known. Having had many conversations with him about work, I know how much Chad is concerned for victims of crime, along with their families. To say Chad never loses sight of these unfortunate members of society might connote that somehow his focus on them might diminish to a degree during a trial or while working on a case. Chad's focus on these people remains strong, and he works very hard for them.

I will conclude by mentioning Chad's commitment to his family. Chad speaks of his wife and sons with love and appreciation. He says the kinds of things that we all would love to find out our loved ones say about us. Chad puts their well-being far ahead of his own. Chad prioritizes spending time with them often and teaches his sons about art, music, and how to enjoy humor. He is connected to life.

It is a pleasure to recommend Chad for the important charge of serving the people seated at both courtroom tables. When people are trying to settle a dispute, or when a victim needs someone to preside over a fair trial that will get to the truth, they deserve Chad Parker as a judge.

Sincerely,

Greg Pierson, MA, PMP

17 Sep 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 Chad Parker

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of the application of Chad Parker for the position of Judge in the Montana First Judicial District currently held by Judge Reynolds. As a retired U. S. Navy Commander, a retired Manager of the Helena Division of the Montana Power Co., and having held numerous community and church leadership positions, qualify me to submit this letter of support for Chad.

Having known Chad's Family since they moved to Helena several years ago, I commend him for his integrity, his knowledge of the law, and his good judgment. I feel he exhibits the qualities and knowledge required to hold the position of District Court Judge. He has good judgment, appropriate temperment and respect for the law. He is considerate of others and does the right thing.

Chad has a good sense of service. For example, he has provided good advice and support to me personally when I was dealing with difficult legal situations. Two years ago, he spent considerable time and effort supporting a woman who was having very complex legal problems. Her family members committed her to the Behavioral Unit of St. Peter's Hospital to they could take possession of her assets. Working with everyone involved, Chad set up a program where a non-interested business had control of her assets, and made all the financial decisions protecting her from future persecution. He received no compensation for the many hours he devoted to assisting her.

I admire Chad for his good judgement, professionalism and dedication. He would make a fine District Judge.

Sincerely,

Blair Ricks

1036 Cedarwood Drive

Helena, MT 59601

From: Menzies, Lois
To: Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 2:25:17 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Chad Parker

To: Judicial Nomination Commission C/O Lois Menzies

I believe Chad Parker is the type of individual we need serving in the District Court. Unlike many letter's of recommendation, mine does not come from having a long or deep association with Mr. Parker. Rather, mine comes from a single interaction that I believe reveals his true character and concern for others, his willingness to sacrifice his time in pursuit of justice, and his knowledge of the legal system.

I was approached by a childhood friend to help her son (mid-twenties in age) who she felt had been swindled by a business partner. Her son has had many challenges and disadvantages in life, resulting in social, mental, and emotional disabilities. As a truly marginalized member of society, this individual was having trouble getting anyone to listen to his concerns.

When hearing the details of his story, I was convinced he had a likely valid criminal or civil case. Unfamiliar with the legal system, I did not know where to start. Through my direct and extended network, I reached out to 5-6 attorneys for direction. Chad Parker was one of them, and he immediately responded to see how he could help. A meeting resulted with Chad, myself and the victim attending. This meeting, and subsequent follow up, highlights the following characteristics Chad possesses that I experienced firsthand:

- Chad is willing to sacrifice personal time to help others he doesn't even know. This meeting occurred in an evening because that is when Chad could carve out the time.
- Chad has great empathy for others. After listening to the details of the situation, Chad keyed on the emotional wellbeing of this individual and shared personal stories of support. The resulting conversation was very inspiring to watch. Chad's concern for the individual was palpable, and his ability to connect at a personal level was impressive.
- There was no hint of self-interest on Chad's part either in what he could gain from helping, or in what the sacrifice might cost. His focus was to serve and see that justice is served.
- Chad knows the legal system. He helped us understand the different avenues we could pursue to seek justice, and he facilitated opening those doors.
- Chad follows through. He has shown continued interest by periodically reaching out on his own to see if things are advancing and how he can help.

I believe these types of experiences show the true measure of a person ... and in some ways maybe even more so than a long history of interaction. It would have been so easy for Chad to ignore the request for help, and doing so would not have been noticed by anyone but me. In my estimation, Chad Parker is the type of individual I would want on the bench. Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Bret Romney



Bret Romney | Business Guide & Sherpa
Ascend Strategies, Inc. - 323 McClellan Creek Road | Montana City, MT, 59634
Direct: 406-459-7148 | bromney@ascendnow.com | www.ascendnow.com

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Mineral County P.O. Box 339 Superior, Montana 59872 Phone (406) 822-3535 Fax (406) 822-3822



September 23, 2020

Hon. John C. Brown, Chair Judicial Nomination Commission Law and Justice Center, Room 202 615 South 16th Avenue Bozeman, MT 59715

The Honorable John C. Brown:

I am honored to write this letter in support Chad G. Parker for appointment as District Court Judge for the First Judicial District for Montana (Lewis & Clark and Broadwater Counties). I have known and worked within the same legal circles as Mr. Parker for approximately ten (10) years, and have sought out his expertise and guidance in several serious cases in which I was involved.

A recent matter that comes to mind is a Vehicular Homicide case I handled. The driver, a young woman from Washington, was involved in a violent and devastating crash shortly after entering Montana from Idaho, traveling east on Interstate 90, in which the passenger, her fiancé, was killed. This was a complex legal matter and a heart-wrenching emotional challenge for the state, the defense, the first responders, eyewitnesses at the scene, and the families of these two young people.

Oftentimes in the law, egos outweigh common sense, and I knew this case was one that required the assistance of someone who could appropriately support the State in finding an appropriate and just resolution. I reached out to the Attorney General's Office, and in short order, Chad was in contact with me, offering Mineral County his experience and legal acumen. I can, without a doubt, affirm that without his help, we would not have arrived at the just and appropriate sentence that we did. Chad took the time to come to Mineral County on numerous occasions to not only meet with defense counsel and me, but to appear personally in Court, and to come and view the evidence with Montana Highway Patrol supervisors and me.

I am in my eleventh year as a prosecutor, and my fourth year as a County Attorney, and I understand American Jurisprudence is based upon an adversarial system. However, Mr. Parker tempers legal culpability of the offender with justice and a sense of humanity for all those involved in a case. His approach to cases is, quite frankly, very refreshing and honorable.

Chad came in at the county's request to lend a hand on a felony matter with an attitude of a team player. We would discuss the facts of the case and the State's evidence frequently, and I appreciated his thoughtfulness in crafting a legal argument, his consideration in asking for and acknowledging the worth of my opinions and insight, and the honest and frank discussions we had when we did not completely agree with each other on a particular point of law. At no time was I ever talked down to, nor did he subject me to any form of "mansplaining" (yes, it's true, mansplaining has found its way into the hallowed halls of justice). Mr. Parker was one attorney with a vast array of experience and knowledge that he made available to Mineral County and me to properly handle this difficult criminal matter without ever minimizing my contribution or knowledge base.

I believe all of the attributes I have observed in Mr. Parker are desirable in a District Court Judge. Chad exhibits characteristics that not only speak to strengths needed to hold a position of public trust, but characteristics one must come to expect in a decent human being, such as grace, humility, honesty, and integrity.

In closing, I must reference the truly immortal Honorable Ginsburg; "[J]ustices continue to think and can change. I am ever hopeful that if the court has a blind spot today, its eye will be open tomorrow." In Chad G. Parker, the First Judicial District Court will have a servant of the people and to the law, who will continue to learn and grow as a District Court Judge. Chad will honor this position by maintaining a level of integrity, fairness, common sense and impartiality that Montana and its citizens not only need, but what they require.

Thank you for your consideration, and if I may be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Isl Ellen Donohue
Ellen Donohue, MSW, JD
County Attorney

Mineral County

 From:
 Menzies, Lois

 To:
 Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020 10:26:18 PM

From: A Dormady <dormady@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 6:36 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for First Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter to support Chad Parker for the position of district court judge for the First Judicial District. In 2011, I met and started to work with Chad when he began employment at the Montana Attorney General's Office. I believe that Chad would be an excellent district court judge because he is honest, intelligent, dedicated, and has exceptional communication skills.

Chad and I have worked on projects in both large and small group settings. He is professional, hard working, and demonstrates outstanding critical thinking skills. Chad does exactly what he says he will do and puts in the effort to make sure that projects have a successful outcome.

Over the past two years, I began to learn more about Chad on a personal level. He volunteers his time to civic causes and is committed to helping the youth in our community. I am impressed with Chad's dedication to helping others, his integrity, and positive outlook on life.

I know that Chad would be an excellent candidate for this position and would work hard to serve the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Anne Dormady

September 26, 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 Chad Garrett Parker

Dear Commission Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to provide comment to the Commission in support of Chad Garrett Parker as a nominee and Governor's appointee for the position of district court judge for the First Judicial District.

I have known Chad for approximately 15 years, and during that time, I have personally known him to be ethical, compassionate, intelligent, humorous, kind, dedicated, thoughtful, fair, articulate, and a wonderful person. These are all qualities that I would hope to find in a district court judge, as well as a friend.

I first met Chad in my role as a Forensic Toxicologist with the Montana Department of Justice, Forensic Science Division. At that time, Chad was prosecuting criminal cases for the City of Great Falls and I regularly consulted with him regarding toxicology results in his cases. Chad always gave thoughtful consideration to the scientific evidence, asked inciteful follow-up questions, and skillfully incorporated the information into his prosecutorial decisions. We learned a great deal from each other.

I have always known Chad to provide the utmost respect and professionalism to expert witnesses, law enforcement, defendants, opposing counsel, judges, court staff, and witnesses. While some in his position may be condescending or arrogant, Chad is consistently kind and acknowledges the importance of each individual's role in the legal process.

When Chad moved to the Attorney General's Office, I was fortunate enough to continue working with him in the same capacity. In 2014, Chad encouraged and supported my decision to become an attorney. Truth be told, Chad's approach to prosecution and the law in general, and the positive impact he was able to have on his community as a whole, truly inspired me to join the legal profession. Throughout law school, Chad was an incredible mentor, cheerleader, and friend to me, and he continues to be today.

Chad Parker possesses the most critical traits and skills required of a district court judge and he is a highly qualified candidate for the First Judicial District position. Chad will be thoughtful and fair in his legal decisions and continue to place ethical conduct as his highest priority. Additionally, as a seasoned public servant, Chad will continue to work extremely hard and dedicate infinite amounts of his time to provide timely, thorough, appropriate, and legally

sufficient decisions as a judge. Finally, as a district court judge, Chad will continue to inspire and mentor the individuals he comes in contact with. I have absolutely no doubts or reservations in offering my support in Chad's nomination by the Committee.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara J. Hansen-Baiamonte

Sara J. Hansen-Baiamonte Attorney

26 September 2020

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

Re. Letter in Support of Chad Garrett Parker

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter in support of Chad Garrett Parker as a nominee for the position of district court judge for the First Judicial District.

I have known Chad Parker both personally and professionally for about fifteen years. We became acquainted while I was a trooper with the Montana Highway Patrol and he was prosecuting for the City of Great Falls. I consulted with him on a case and then testified as an expert witness. As result of that positive interaction, I invited Chad to be a guest lecturer in a motor vehicle law course that I teach as adjunct faculty at MSU-Northern. Chad appeared many times as a guest lecturer in my classroom over the course of several years. My students consistently remarked that he was an outstanding speaker because of his depth of knowledge and engaging personality. Chad has a way of explaining complex legal issues in a down to earth manner.

Throughout my career I have worked with dozens of prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges in state, tribal, and federal courts. There are a handful with whom I have been fortunate enough to maintain relationships. Chad is one of these people. We have remained friends and professional colleagues as our careers have taken us different places. While I have many friends and colleagues in the legal profession, Chad is on my short list go-to people for sound, well-stated legal opinions.

I fully support Chad Parker's nomination and appointment as a First Judicial District judge. I have always known Chad to be a man of high morals, character, and integrity. He has a great sense of humor and humility, and is grounded in reality. These attributes, coupled with his depth of knowledge and professionalism, will make Chad an excellent district court judge.

Sincerely,

Stephen Baiamonte

Stephen Baiamonte

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

In Re: Chad Parker

9/25/20

To The Judicial Nomination Committee:

My name is Samuel L. Martin, III and I am a defense attorney working primarily in Lewis and Clark and Jefferson Counties. I am submitting this letter of support of Chad Parker for your consideration in the nomination process.

I have worked against Chad Parker during his time at the Attorney General's office. He acts with integrity, conscientiousness, and honesty. He objectively prosecutes his cases and the individuals that find themselves afoul of the law. He is neither lenient, nor harsh. He is steadfast in his resolve to support justice and work with opposing counsel to obtain a reasonable result.

My experience working with him leads me to believe that he would make an excellent District Court Judge. His ability to objectively judge his own cases and weigh the evidence is clearly the type of analysis we expect on the Bench. He has an easy-going demeanor and is not easily agitated. He is not afraid of being challenged or responding to those challenges head on. He is level headed in his approach to his work and I believe this will make him an excellent Judge.

Respectfully,

Samuel L. Martin, III

Kenneth K. Lay 2705 Gold Rush Avenue Helena, MT 59601 406.457.2037 (work) 406.202.0512 (mobile) klay@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

Via E-mail

Re: First Judicial District Court Vacancy – Application of Chad Garrett Parker

Dear Commission Members:

It is my pleasure to provide comment in support of Chad Garrett Parker's application for the vacancy on the First Judicial District Court. I am a partner with Crowley Fleck, PLLP, practicing in our Helena office, and I regularly appear before the First Judicial District Court on civil matters.

Although I am an attorney, my knowledge of Chad comes primarily from my personal interactions with him. We met while attending church, where I have gotten to know Chad and his family since 2010. Chad has taught three of my children in Sunday School, and he is an insightful and entertaining teacher who is well-liked and respected by his students (including my sons).

Over the years, I have had many opportunities to observe Chad as he interacts with his children and his wife. I have always been impressed with the kindness and dedication Chad displays toward them. You can tell a lot about people by how they treat their family outside of the public view, and I can attest that Chad is a caring, patient, committed father and husband.

I have also seen Chad's compassion for others outside his family. On several occasions, I have gone with Chad to visit and minister to other members of our congregation. Chad has unfailingly displayed empathy and a heartfelt desire to help those we have met. He listens to people, tries to understand them, and does not judge them for their circumstances. He is unselfish with his time, energy and advice.

Although our paths have not crossed professionally, Chad and I have often discussed our jobs, and our shared profession. He is genuinely enthusiastic about the law and the legal profession. Based on our conversations, I am confident Chad has the right temperament to be an excellent judge. He is even-keeled and deliberate in his communications. While Chad is not afraid to express his beliefs, he listens carefully and is open to considering other perspectives – a rare quality that I feel is essential to being a good judge.

I hope you will forward Chad's name for consideration by the Governor. If nominated, I believe Chad would serve the people of the First Judicial District and the attorneys of the Montana bar with honor and distinction.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth K. Lay

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois

Sent: Saturday, September 26, 2020 12:39 PM

To: Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

From: Karen Alley <kalley642@gmail.com> Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 4:18 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for C. Parker

I write in support of Mr. Chad Parker.

Chad has a great sense of humor and demeanor. He is knowledgeable and would provide great education from the bench. I believe him to have great insight into the impact the judicial system has on the lives of real people, which is invaluable insight for a judge to have. Beyond that, I believe Chad to be extremely well-rounded, as many of the conversations I have had with him begin with the law and meander into other areas of interest. It is apparent Chad is a balanced individual. I believe having the ability to set aside the law and engage in other areas of interest is critical in maintaining sanity, either as a practitioner or as a judge.

I find Chad to be a great resource of knowledge, particularly on DUI cases and I believe his legal background and experiences would serve him well on the bench.

Thank you, Karen M Alley Hill County Attorney
 From:
 Menzies, Lois

 To:
 Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:28:12 PM

From: Ed H <edward.hirsch.mt@gmail.com> Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 2:59 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chad Parker Public Comment

Judicial Nomination Commission,

Chad Parker is the perfect balance of legal, personal, and teaching experience to serve as the next First Judicial District Court Judge.

Chad's legal experience is self-evident. He has been a tireless public servant for Montanans on both a local and statewide scale through his work with the Great Falls City Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office. In his application, he has written extensively about his more recent role with the Attorney General's Office. However, as a city prosecutor myself, I hope you will indulge me in extolling the virtues of Chad's service as such: The daily grind of a front line prosecutor trains the mind to handle the rigors of crowded dockets and the stress of spontaneous high-stakes decision making in a way that cannot be replicated in an office. This legal experience proves Chad can handle the workload our overburdened judiciary endures and expects of our judges.

Chad's personal experiences, including a traumatic medical event, have shaped a big-hearted and thoughtful attorney. We all have seen the heavy toll the practice of law can have on a person's psyche, attitude, and view of their fellow man. Chad has not fallen prey to such pitfalls. Instead, Chad continues to be a caring individual who I am proud to call a friend.

Chad also has a unique qualification through his teaching experience. Through his work at the Attorney General's office he has presented on various topics to an ever-growing number of other professionals, including law enforcement and prosecutors. I have often thought one of the most undervalued characteristics of a good judge is that of a teacher. Through their legal analyses, demeanor, and treatment of others, they must lead and educate the citizens and attorneys who appear before them. Chad has a real gift for sharing his knowledge in a way that sets him apart.

You will not be disappointed if you select Chad. The people of Broadwater and Lewis and Clark Counties would be very lucky to have such a fair, intelligent, and compassionate judge.

Ed Hirsch Bozeman, Montana

From: Menzies, Lois
To: Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:28:41 PM

From: Chad Colby <cgcolby@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 5:45 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] letter of support for nomination of First Judicial District Judgeship

September 20, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing a letter of support for the nomination of Chad Garrett Parker to the First Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy. Chad was one of the first people I met when I moved to Montana almost ten years ago while attending church. His friendly and approachable personality made it easy to quickly form a friendship with him.

I have been able to observe Chad in multiple settings. I have been in his home, I have been hunting, camping, and attended church with him. In all these settings he is always friendly and thoughtful of others.

A few years ago, my job was very stressful and I was fighting through some depression issues. I found myself at the elementary school with a flat tire and I did not have the right tools in the car to change the tire. I felt so frustrated and defeated. When behind me I heard a familiar voice ask if I needed help. Of course, it was Chad Parker. Chad quickly rolled up his sleeves and we got to work. He drove me to the hardware store to buy what I needed then took me back to the car and helped me get the tire changed and did not leave until we were finished and he knew I could make it home. Chad turned this frustrating experience into a fun time as we laughed and enjoyed each other's company.

I have also witnessed on several occasions people asking Chad for legal advice. He is always open and kind about sharing his legal opinion and ensuring there is no ethical or legal restrictions to doing so. Having hunted with Chad he is always very clear that he is a servant of the court and that no one in the hunting party can break any laws or ordinances. One season someone in our group shot an elk close to a non-motorized road that we could have easily got a pickup truck on and

no one would have ever known. This would have shortened our day significantly but Chad was clear to say that would be wrong and that we needed to do the right thing. Chad is always mindful of having the highest moral character due to his profession and religious beliefs. I feel this would make Chad an excellent judge because he always wants to do the right thing even if it is hard.

These may seem like small things but to me it has made a huge impact on my life. These are great examples of how Chad serves his community. He quietly goes about doing good, expecting nothing in return and making the community better for it. In all my years of knowing Chad I have never heard anyone question his integrity. In my opinion Chad has all the right characteristics to make an outstanding judge.

Sincerely, Chad Colby
 From:
 Menzies, Lois

 To:
 Cook, Kevin

Subject: Public Comment -- Parker

Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 10:29:20 PM

From: Kevin L Rencher < MKRencher@msn.com> Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 9:40 PM

To: MT Supreme Court,

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Recommendation for Chad Garrett Parker for 1st Judicial Judge

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am excited to write a letter of recommendation for Chad Garrett Parker. I have worked with him closely for the last eleven years in a variety of capacities. I know him very well. I am honored to consider him one of my closest friends. We have served together in our church organization. We both volunteered together with local Boy Scouts of American Troop 215. In this capacity we have camped and hiked together, instructed youth together, and spent countless hours serving the youth in our community. He has taught weekly religious education courses to my three children. These experiences have provided me excellent insight into Chad Parker's character. I know that Mr. Parker would be an exceptional judge and would serve our community with distinction. I give him my highest of recommendations.

Chad Parker is the most honest person I know. He knows the laws and follows them precisely. He does not bend rules to his advantage. His integrity is above reproach. A few years ago, we were deer hunting together. Chad knew precisely the legal shooting time. I suggested we take our guns out of their case and get ready to shoot in case we saw a deer as we were driving to our hunting location. Chad commented that he would prefer to leave his gun in its case until it was precisely the legal shooting time. He told me that he wanted to be completely honest and not even give the perception of breaking the law.

Chad shoots trap competitively every Wednesday evening at the Helena Trap Club. On the last day of the season, there is a special competition. Chad is a competitive person and takes this sport very seriously. We were shooting trap together, and the person in charge of counting inadvertently miscounted and gave Chad a score too high. Only Chad knew of this mistake. Chad politely corrected him and gave himself the lower score. This correction caused Chad to not win the competition—he missed first place by one shot. He smiled and said, "I sure enjoyed that. I cannot wait for the next season."

Chad Parker is one of the most kind and thoughtful individuals I have ever met. Chad and I have spent many hours together working with and teaching youth leadership skills through the Boy Scouts of American program. Sometimes youth can be difficult to work with. In all of these interactions, Chad has been kind and deliberate. He always approaches the situation with kindness and compassion. Many of the youth we work with have very challenging and troubled families. Chad always goes the extra mile with these youth and lets them know how much he cares about them. I have seen him go above and beyond the responsibility of a Boy Scout Leader to make certain these young men get the attention they need and the

compassion they deserve. A few years ago, Chad and I were on a winter campout with our boy scouts at the top of McDonald Pass. We were digging and sleeping in snow caves in very cold weather. We had taught the boys how to dig out a snow cave, and they were all in the caves preparing for bed. After the last boy went to bed, Chad and I stayed up to make certain all was well. After about an hour, I went to bed. It was cold, and I wanted the shelter of my snow cave. I woke up the next morning and found Chad in the exact same place I had left him eight hours earlier. He said he was worried about the young men. He had spent the entire night checking on them and making certain that everybody was safe.

A few years ago, Chad was in charge of helping a group of men who were struggling with very hard and complicated challenges. Many of them had made poor choices and were trying to overcome addition and get their life back on track. Chad spent countless hours counseling them and helping them work through their problems. I was always amazed at his compassion and his unique ability to work through a problem. He seemed to reach them in a way that others could not. He was always kind and deliberate. He always spoke from a position of compassion. His love and empathy for these men helped change lives and place them firmly on the road to recovery.

For the last few years Chad has been teaching our church's weekly Youth Sunday School class. Chad is a master teacher, and the youth enjoy his lessons. He is able to teach complicated subjects and make them understandable. He has a special way to make even the most uninterested youth pay attention and leave positively impacted. He is the youth's most favorite teacher. I have had several youth beg to remain in Chad Parker's class after they are ready to graduate to an adult class.

Chad and his amazing wife have an autistic 13-year-old son. Having a special needs child is a real challenge and requires a great deal of patience. Chad has never complained about his situation. He and his wife spend countless hours helping and teaching their son. I have seen the love, patience, and concern that Chad has for his son. Whenever his son achieves a major milestone, Chad always gives the credit to his son. He always says how proud he is of his son. He has never complained or bemoaned the fact that his son will never be able to do things that other kids can do so easily. I have learned a lot from watching Chad interact with his precious son. I hope that I could handle such a challenge with the grace, patience, and empathy that Chad has.

I was excited when I learned that Chad was applying to be the 1st Judicial District Judge. I have thought a lot about the type of person a judge should be. A judge should be fair. A judge should be honest. A judge should be kind. A judge should be patient. A judge should have the skills necessary to work through hard and complicated situations and act deliberately and methodically. A judge should be able to balance justice and mercy. In all of my close interactions with Chad Parker, I have found him to be an amazing individual who possesses the character traits necessary to be a fantastic judge. Our community would be most fortunate to have a judge like Chad Parker.

Sincerely,

Kevin L Rencher, DDS 876 Jade Street Helena, MT 59602 406-431-6437

Kory Larsen

384 McIver Road Great Falls, MT 59404 prsctr@gmail.com

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: Chad Parker Nomination for District Court Judge – 1st Judicial District

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of Chad Parker. I practiced with Chad for several years at the City Attorney's Office in Great Falls and have worked with him in his capacity as an Assistant Attorney General on numerous occasions as well.

Chad has a wide range of legal experience based on his career as a prosecutor and as acting City Attorney. Chad also conducted a number of trainings on behalf of the Attorney General's office. He has the necessary research skills and is one of the hardest workers I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

Chad has the sort of temperament necessary to be a District Court Judge. He has dealt with heavy caseloads in the criminal arena and as acting City Attorney understands how to juggle a case load between criminal and civil practice. His skillset is exactly what is required for a District Court Judge.

I believe Chad has the experience and temperament to be an excellent Judge. Please consider forwarding Steve's name to the Governor.

Sincerely,

Kory Larsen

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

To the Judicial Commission:

I write to support Chad Parker's application to fill the judicial vacancy in First Judicial District. I am an active member of the First Judicial District bar and I have worked with Chad at Attorney General's Office for the last eight years. I have known Chad in and out of the office and consider him both a professional mentor and a personal friend. This is second letter I have written to the Commission, because I feel strongly about more than one candidate. Each have their own individual strengths that the Commission should consider.

When I was a new attorney, just arrived at the AG's Office, Chad and I worked together on a committee that was aimed at bettering the entire office. Although he had much more experience—both as a lawyer and within the office—Chad always treated me like an equal and made me feel like my opinion was valuable and heard. Over the years this has never changed, and whenever I needed help or advice, Chad was always there to teach or guide with clarity and without judgment.

I know Chad does not just treat me this way: he approaches every person with the same respect and compassion. Chad has dealt with many people in his life experiences and in his career who were lost, troubled, or experiencing dark moments. As private criminal defense counsel, a family law attorney, a city attorney, and then a state criminal prosecutor, it has always been his job to interact with people who are in crisis and facing life altering events. No matter who or where people are in their journey, however, Chad treats each with the utmost kindness and honor. He has made it his life's work to help people, and he has done it in many different capacities. He has truly dedicated his life to serving the public—the collective and the individual—and to making people's lives better. This would be an invaluable trait for a judge, who also must interact with people in their most difficult moments. I have no doubt that Chad would bring his compassion to the bench and couple it with his extensive legal experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this public comment in support of Chad.

Sincerely, /s/ Sarah Clerget

September 26, 2020

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

RE: Chad Garrett Parker for First Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission:

I am writing to express my support for Chad Garrett Parker to fill the seat that will be vacated by Judge James Reynolds in the First Judicial District Court in October. I have known Mr. Parker for over 10 years, almost as long as I have resided in Helena. I believe that my eleven years as a Director of Human Resources for the City of Helena and several state agencies, including my current role as Chief Human Resources Officer for the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, help me to be a good judge of character, commitment and ability. My positions have required me to lead my organizations in recruiting and selecting talented people who work hard and carry themselves with the highest level of integrity. Mr. Parker is someone who I know possesses the tenants I would want for an employee in a leadership position in the organizations where I have worked. He will also perform very well as the next First Judicial District Court Judge.

Mr. Parker has the traits that will make him very successful as a District Court Judge. I have always seen him speak about and treat people with dignity and respect. He may not agree with individuals, but he always listens to them and hears them out. He would be impartial and fair in his courtroom. This is another area I have a lot of respect for with him. He does not let emotion get in the way of treating others fairly when he interacts with them. Mr. Parker is dedicated and hardworking in all that he does. This includes his roles as a Deputy Attorney General, cub scout leader, youth leader, friend, father, and husband. I have been around him in most of those roles and have observed and heard of nothing less than he is committed to giving his all and doing his best.

Mr. Parker is a true professional who takes his craft as an attorney and prosecutor very seriously. He sets a high bar for himself in the areas of self-development as an attorney, preparation and performance of his job as a prosecutor. I have seen dedication from him as he has been away preparing for cases and across the state preparing for and participating in trials. Mr. Parker is very intelligent and is clearly a student of learning. I believe he will utilize this ability to fully understand cases and issues he is faced with in his court room.

The traits and characteristics I have listed here are the types of things I look for in upper-level employees that I am involved in hiring in my roles as an HR Director. I do my best to hire and surround myself with professional, committed, honest, high performing individuals. I try to surround myself on a personal level with open, honest, hard-working, and dedicated individuals as well. Mr. Parker is this type of person and that is why I am lucky to call him my friend. Please support Mr. Parker for the next First Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

James M. Fehr, MBA, SPHR

Caner M. Felin

909 Insulator Avenue Helena, MT 59602 jmfehr@ymail.com

Menzies, Lois

From:

Kristine White <ckwhite@rosebudcoatty.net>

Sent:

Monday, September 28, 2020 2:51 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

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,

Mike Gee

Assistant Attorney General Prosecution Services Bureau

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 Chad Parker's application for appointment to the First Judicial District.

I have known Chad for eight years, having first met him when I was a new attorney in Helena. Chad welcomed me into the profession and has always made time to discuss cases we have in common and legal issues with me. I trust Chad's professional judgment and his willingness to help others.

Over the years, Chad and I have worked together on various issues. As an Assistant Attorney General, he has appeared before the Board of Pharmacy, my former client, regarding the scheduling of dangerous drugs in Montana. I came away from our interactions impressed with Chad's knowledge of the law and analytical skills, including his commitment to researching and understanding areas of the law that may have been less familiar to him.

As a prosecutor with substantial trial experience, Chad is suited to lead from the bench. I know him to be fair and objective in the pursuit of justice. When approaching challenges and difficult decisions, I have observed Chad to be thorough and level-headed in reaching just outcomes.

Chad has the professional and personal skills to be an outstanding Judge. He cares about our community and would be an asset to the First Judicial District. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and express my support for Chad Parker.

Sincerely,

Kevin Maki 922 Choteau Street Helena, MT 59601