

City of HARVARD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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CHIEF OF POLICE
Mark Krause

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

August 25, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I have had the pleasure of being associated with David J. Grubich for twenty five years, having worked with David during his tenure as a City of Harvard police officer.

It is with great gratification that I have witnessed David's growth and development over this time. I first met David when we were newly minted probationary police officers with the Department and I have had the pleasure of working closely with David until he moved to Montana and started law school; we have kept in touch since.

I have always enjoyed working with David, regardless of the environment or context. Throughout his time, David earned a solid reputation as a diligent, ethical and compassionate civil servant. As a small police department, David's knowledge, skills and abilities afforded him rare opportunities; he quickly segued into investigations and was able to showcase his discipline, dedication and drive. David's warm, and affable,



Direct all correspondence to the Chief of Police

personality drew his peers to him. I've always felt a sense of ease and comfort whenever I worked with David, a solid testament to not only his competency but his sense of teamwork and devotion.

I proudly recommend David J. Grubich for consideration as District Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit; he is an outstanding candidate who brings an incredible amount of professionalism, knowledge, skill and ability; I am confident he will prove himself an asset to the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark W. Krause". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being more prominent and the last name "Krause" following in a similar style.

Mark W. Krause
Chief of Police

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

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Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur

Attorneys at Law

August 25, 2020

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

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL [mtsupremecourt@mt.gov]

Re: *Candidate David J. Grubich*
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Commission Members:

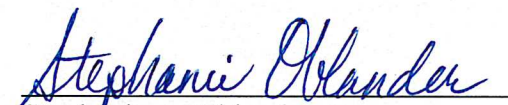
I write to endorse the selection of David Grubich to fill the vacancy created by Judge Pinski's resignation from the bench. Mr. Grubich has a broad-based background and the temperament to be an exceptional district court judge. He has served his country through the U.S. Air Force and has served his community as a member of law enforcement. He has been a business owner. His varied background affords him valuable insight to the needs of the community that he is currently serving in the position of standing master.

I have been in private practice working in Great Falls since 1996. I am familiar with Mr. Grubich's exceptional work at the Ugrin Alexander Zadick law firm. Mr. Grubich handled a variety of civil matters in various venues and proceedings, many involving complex issues. He is a person of integrity, always diligent, well-prepared and has a great work ethic. His current position of standing master has prepared him well for the position of district court judge.

Moreover, Mr. Grubich has an exceptional temperament and disposition for handling the daily rigors of being a district court judge. He is amiable and personable, easy to talk to and has the social skills to handle a variety of matters involving people of all backgrounds and walks of life. He has led our local bar organization. He is a leader among his peers. Our community will be well-served to have him as district court judge.

It is with much enthusiasm that I support Mr. Grubich's candidacy for this important position.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC


Stephanie A. Oblander

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

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Attorneys at Law

August 25, 2020

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Honorable David J. Grubich

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

I write to offer my *wholehearted* support for Standing Master Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

I have known Dave since shortly after he arrived in town. Our first significant contact, as I recall, was when I served with him on the Board of Directors of the Cascade County Law Clinic in 2012. He immediately struck me as earnest, honest, and hard-working. Of course, these are all traits required of a judge.

I have considered him a friend since that time. I will not suggest that we socialize frequently, but we have on a few occasions. We do not always agree politically, but we have always been able to discuss things in a calm polite fashion, and he can use his disarming smile to great effect.

When I learned that he had been appointed as our Standing Master, I was *extremely* supportive, because he has the perfect demeanor for a judge, he is calm, measured, respectful and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

There are a number of traits that he has that I believe will serve our community well as a District Court Judge. First, he is as smart as they come. I have had the good fortune to discuss many legal issues with him, and he is always right on top of them.

Second, he works hard. A common problem in Montana's civil practice is delay, delay, delay. I think that, like the judge he is replacing, Dave will be diligent and fast, always mindful of the motto that "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Third, he is fair. I think too many judges bring a bias to the bench and, while I admire their efforts to shed that bias, a career's worth of positions can be hard to avoid. I have no doubt that Dave will bring his wide and varied background to bear without leaning one way or the other.

Judicial Nomination Commission

August 25, 2020

Page 2


Fourth, he has the perfect temperament for a judge. Busy lawyers and litigants do not need to be scolded and talked down to by judges. If you spend five minutes with Dave, you will know that will never happen, and he will treat everyone with kindness, dignity, and respect.

My wife and I had the good fortune to work with Dave and his wife, Valerie, on the CM Russell Art Auction several years ago. He throws himself into every task with passion and good cheer (as does Valerie!). We consider them lifelong friends and when Dave asked if I would support him in his efforts to land this position, I did not hesitate for a second.

I know a number of candidates for this position, and Dave is not the only suitable candidate. He is, however, the best candidate, and he is the best by no small measure.

Sincerely,

SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC



Gregory G. Smith

MARCIA BIRKENBUEL

ATTORNEY AT LAW
410 CENTRAL AVENUE
SUITE 613, STRAIN BUILDING
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TELEPHONE: 406-761-1932
FAX: 406-453-5901
E-MAIL: mbrknbl@strainbld.com

August 25, 2020

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

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to encourage your nomination of David J. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court here in Cascade County. I have practiced law in Cascade County for over 40 years, and I have appeared numerous times before him in the last two years that he has served as our District Standing Master. I am very impressed by his knowledge of the law and civility in dealing with what are frequently very contentious cases. He was faced with a substantial backlog of cases when he took the Standing Master position, and he has very efficiently and expeditiously operated his court to deal with the backlog and to keep his current cases moving. He brings an energy and respect for others that is a very positive direction for our justice system today.

David J. Grubich is a highly respected member of our legal community here in Cascade County, and I am confident that he will continue to contribute excellent service if he is given the opportunity to serve as our District Court Judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marcia Birkenbuel
Attorney at Law



LAW OFFICE OF
**MEGHAN
LULF
SUTTON** PLLC

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meghan@suttonlawmt.com

August 27, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of either Steve Bolstad or David Grubich to the Eighth Judicial District Judge seat. I believe that these two candidates, among the several who have applied, are head and shoulders more qualified than the rest. Either would be an excellent choice to fill the vacancy, and urge you to select from the two of them. In my opinion, what sets these two candidates apart is their commitment to public service, their breadth of life and legal experience, and their compassionate nature.

I know and respect several of the other applicants, but do not believe they possess the same qualifications. Quite candidly, as a left-leaning, outspoken progressive woman, I'd love to be able to write on behalf of a female candidate. However, I do not believe this commission should elevate gender politics over the inherent qualifications.

Judge Steven Bolstad

I have known Steve for approximately 23 years. We first met in the Fall of 1997 as first-year law students at the University of Montana School of Law. Steve and I both eventually ended up practicing law in Great Falls, Montana. Steve worked as a County Attorney, and later (currently) as our Municipal Court Judge. As such, I have worked both across from and in front of him. I believe Steve has a firm grasp on Constitutional issues specifically affecting criminal law, and treats litigants with respect and fairness. While I do not always agree with his rulings (as I am a criminal defense attorney), I have always felt like he has considered the arguments I have advanced and given both sides a fair shake. I know that Steve is community-oriented: he unsuccessfully lobbied for years for me to join a civic service organization of which he was a part. You can tell a lot about Judge Bolstad's character because his staff seems to really like and respect him.

Prior to entering law school, I learned from social conversations with Judge Bolstad that he had worked, among other things, as a public school teacher. He was extremely proud of the fact that he made his students memorize the County Seat of each Montana County. Steve is a proud (almost) lifetime Montana resident, and just a good and honest human being. I considered him among my group of friends in law school (although I did not attend Griz games with him, for the

record). Reading through his application, I wholeheartedly agree with his assessment about his integrity being important: several years ago, Steve took me to task when he disagreed with language I had used in the conclusion section of a brief which criticized the State's actions. My mother, also a public school teacher, freely used words like "asinine" and, as a young attorney, I never realized the inflammatory nature of the word. Steve made sure that I did. However, we were able to mend fences fairly quickly and successfully resolve the case (which involved over 200 misdemeanor counts) without the need for trial.

Judge David Grubich

Our Standing Master, Judge Grubich, would also make an excellent judge. Prior to obtaining the Standing Master position, I knew Dave primarily through service on the Board of Directors of the Cascade County Law Clinic. (We specialized in different areas of law, so I never had an opportunity to evaluate him as a practitioner. However, the Judge's reputation among the members of the Bar was impeccable. I've never heard anyone relate an instance of Dave being disrespectful or losing his temper with other members of the bar or litigants.) Judge Grubich was very invested in the Board's mission, access to justice, and was not just a passive participant. In reviewing Dave's application, I was struck by the breadth of his life experience, including service to his country and experience as a law-enforcement officer.

I'm always hesitant to recommend former law enforcement officers, or attorneys who only have exposure to civil practice, to the bench because I find that they often bend over backwards to rubber-stamp the State's action, or are hesitant to make any legally correct, albeit unpopular, decision. (For example, years ago, a District Court Judge ruled in my client's favor suppressing a coerced confession, which resulted in the dismissal of a deliberate homicide charge. I've always respected her, a former prosecutor, for that.) I don't have that concern with Judge Grubich; I honestly believe he is fair, and very capable of understanding the sometimes-complex nuances of Constitutional issues. Prior to ascending to the bench, at our annual Cascade County Bar Dinner Dave was always at the forefront of either the comedy (and I use that term loosely) portion or actively soliciting funds for the law clinic through our "raise the gavel" fundraiser.

I've appeared and argued in front of Judge Grubich dozens of times. He's not always ruled in my favor, but I appreciate his thoughtful, conscientious decision making. His even-keel approach is much appreciated in hotly contested, emotional, and sometimes downright nasty custody hearings. I appreciate that he makes timely, decisive rulings and does not make litigants wait weeks for a ruling. Dave is organized, highly intelligent and empathetic.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a recommendation for these two excellent candidates. Because you have two extremely qualified individuals, selecting our new Eighth Judicial District Court Judge is a task I do not envy.

Sincerely,



Meghan Lulf Sutton
Attorney at Law

THE SUPREME COURT OF MONTANA

DIRK M. SANDEFUR
JUSTICE

TELEPHONE (406) 444-5573
FAX (406) 444-3274
dsandefur@mt.gov



JUSTICE BUILDING
215 NORTH SANDERS
PO BOX 203001
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-3001

August 25, 2020

Montana Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Beth McLaughlin, Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

** Via Email Transmittal -- bmclaughlin@mt.gov **

Re: Professional Reference (David Grubich) -- Mont. 8th Jud. Dist. Court Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

Please consider this correspondence in support of the application of David Grubich for nomination for appointment as a District Court Judge in the upcoming vacancy in the Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. In my various capacities in the legal profession over the years, I have known and observed David to be an excellent practicing lawyer and master/judge in the various capacities in which he has served.

In my 14-year tenure as a state district judge in the in Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, I frequently observed David as a practicing lawyer in the prestigious law firm of *Ugrin, Alexander, Slovak, & Higgins* in Great Falls. In my continuing tenure as a Montana Supreme Court Justice, I have more recently observed David in his current capacity as the District Standing Master unanimously appointed by the four judges of the Montana Eighth Judicial District. As a former district judge and one of the founders of the District Standing Master position and program in Cascade County, I am familiar with the wide-range of civil and criminal matters that David handles as the District Standing Master and in regard to which he has performed in an exemplary manner. I know David to be highly-respected by his supervising judges, the legal community, and the general community in Great Falls and Cascade County.

David is an exceptional, highly-competent and experienced master/judge of the utmost personal and professional integrity. He has a proven blend of expertise, wide-ranging experience, integrity, fair and reasoned judgment, balanced and calm demeanor, and professionalism which will well-serve the citizens of the State of Montana as a District Court Judge in the Montana Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County. I highly recommend him for your consideration for nomination for appointment by the Governor to that position.

Sincerely,

Dirk M. Sandefur, Associate Justice
Montana Supreme Court



VETERANS MENTORING

VETERANS PROGRAM

July 28, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Joe Parsetich, and I am writing regarding David Grubich. I am the Mentor Coordinator for the 8th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court in Great Falls, Montana. District Judge Greg Pinski presides. I have worked very closely with Mr. Grubich in Veterans Treatment Court for over six (6) years, as he first volunteered as one of our Mentor's, while he was still in private practice with his law firm. He did an outstanding job mentoring the veteran that I had assigned to him. He showed a high level of compassion and encouragement, which helped his veteran stay motivated and focused throughout the program. After he accepted his appointment to serve on the Bench, he of course had to terminate his role as a mentor because of the conflict of interest. I continued to have the honor of working with him, since he filled in for Judge Pinski from time to time, still in Veterans Treatment Court. He has done an outstanding job in that role, still showing compassion, while dispensing fair and just rulings in a highly professional manner bringing honor and respect to the Bench.

I would highly recommend that you consider Mr. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge, as he would bring honor, fairness, integrity, professionalism and a superior knowledge of the law to the Bench. He would be an asset to our County by imposing fair and just rulings from the Bench and would thus be a great addition to the other honorable Justice's that are currently serving.

I first knew Mr. Grubich, and his wife Valerie personally, for over 10 years, and I'm proud and honored to call this couple friends of my wife and I. They are a happily married couple, who interact socially within the community of Great Falls. They have a beautiful son for which they provide a very healthy and stable environment.

Sincerely,

Joe Parsetich

Joe Parsetich, Mentor Coordinator / Mentor
8th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court
(406) 788-2335

ELIZABETH A. BEST
District Judge

Telephone: (406) 771-3950
Facsimile: (406) 771-6549



Cascade County Courthouse
415 2nd Avenue North - Rm. 203
Great Falls, Montana 59401

**DISTRICT COURT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

July 30, 2020

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

Re: Eighth Judicial District -Dept. A

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Humility, intelligence, and compassion are critical in a judge. This is to encourage your serious consideration of the application of Standing Master David Grubich. I have known Mr. Grubich since he was in private practice, working in the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick and Higgins. Although we had no cases directly against each other, I always found him to be professional, thoughtful, and courteous. Despite his busy private practice, he also committed himself to ensuring that Montanans living in poverty had access to the courts by performing significant *pro bono* representation. He was then, and is now, well regarded by members of the Cascade County Bar Association.

After I took the bench, our district hired Mr. Grubich as our standing master. The Standing Master in this County traditionally carried responsibility for most, if not all, of the family law cases for the district. That practice evolved in the last few years, but the Standing Master continues to cover a substantial proportion of the load for some departments. The Standing Master has been called upon to cover juvenile detention hearings, initial appearances, arraignments, and with the Adult Treatment Court during frequent absences of one judge.

Judge Grubich has, since his hiring, maintained a heavy workload, including most of the family law caseload of Department A. He also has filled in extensively for Department A on juvenile detention hearings, initial appearances, arraignments,

ELIZABETH A. BEST
District Judge

Telephone: (406) 771-3950
Facsimile: (406) 771-6549



Cascade County Courthouse
415 2nd Avenue North - Rm. 203
Great Falls, Montana 59401

**DISTRICT COURT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

and Adult Treatment Court. To some extent, he has covered some family law cases from other departments. He also mediates, and covers some hearings during occasional absences of judges in Departments B, C and D.

Practitioners and court staff routinely praise Judge Grubich for his work and his work ethic. He is a team player, and easy to work with. I have never received a complaint about Judge Grubich either informally or formally. He accepts the workload with cheerfulness and aplomb. He is thoughtful, sincere, and unafraid of hard work. He is a pleasure to have in the building, and a much-appreciated colleague.

In sum, David Grubich deserves your strong consideration. I am happy to discuss this with you further. Do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Best".

Elizabeth A. Best
District Court Judge

Anthony R. Gallagher
3501 12th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405
August 27, 2020

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

**Re: Letter of Recommendation
Nomination of David J. Grubich**

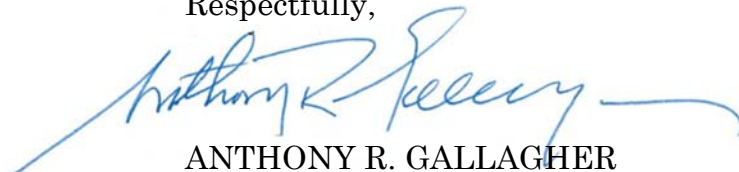
Dear Commission Members:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the nomination of David J. Grubich for the District Court Judgeship in the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski. I have known Mr. Grubich for over a decade. What I observed through various contacts during that time convinced me that he is a vocal advocate for reason and equity no matter what his role – representing the interests of a client or resolving issues between litigants as Standing Master. He is consistently thoroughly prepared, well versed in the law, and fully conversant with the factual issues. His diverse life experiences bolster his impressive academic credentials. I practice federal indigent criminal defense throughout Montana, therefore it is particularly important to me that Dave Grubich has consistently demonstrated respect for all people no matter what their station.

One motivating factor behind my recommendation is Dave's involvement with the Veterans Treatment Court in Cascade County. The dedication by people of his caliber and background make innovative programs like this successful. I feel Dave Grubich is the ideal candidate not only to perform the varied and demanding tasks of judicial office but to build on Judge Pinski's work so improvements to the criminal justice system continue and evolve.

Please feel free to call me to further discuss his qualifications.

Respectfully,



ANTHONY R. GALLAGHER

ARG/mm

8/30/20

James Reavis
Bar Number 12157
jamesrichardreavis@yahoo.com

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I write to you to show my enthusiastic support for David Grubich, who has applied to fill the open seat vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski of the Eighth Judicial District.

I first met David as a classmate in law school. David immediately stood out for his unique life experience amongst the student body. David is a veteran and had a career in law enforcement before signing up for law school. He was able to bring a valuable perspective to our class discussions with his law enforcement background, but he also did not allow that background to control his independent thinking. Most importantly, David was a kind person who got along with everyone. I never heard him raise his voice or act out to others in anger. He has the ideal temperament we need in a judge.

David's experience is substantial. He has been involved in both civil and criminal matters throughout his long career. His work as the current standing master in Cascade County has been great training for the kinds of disputes one can expect to see as a district court judge. He knows the community. David will apply the law in a neutral and straightforward manner. David will not forget that the parties in a case are real people whose lives will be affected by the judicial system. I urge the Commission to forward David's nomination to the Governor.

Sincerely,

James Reavis



JEFFREY S. FERGUSON LAW OFFICE, PLLC
Attorney at Law



August 26, 2020

Office of Court Administration
c/o Lois Menzies
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: *Eighth Judicial District Court (Cascade County), Department A District Court Judge*

To Whom It May Concern:

I am providing this letter of support on behalf of David J. Grubich as the next Department A District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court (Cascade County).

Currently, Judge Grubich serves in the capacity of our Standing Master here in Cascade County. While I believe this is a very difficult job, I think Judge Grubich has done an outstanding job not only dealing with the emotions involved in domestic relations law, but also dealing very compassionately with pro se litigants who can sometimes be very difficult.

Judge Grubich has proved to be a very good listener and I think fairly applies to the law to the facts of each case.

Judge Grubich would be an outstanding District Court Judge for Cascade County.

Very Sincerely,



JEFFREY S. FERGUSON
Attorney at Law

JSF/df

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E-mail: office@fergusonlawgf.com

Facsimile: (406) 453-0252

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:57 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Attachments: image001.jpg

From: Michael Doggett <mike@doggettlawoffice.net>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 1:15 PM
To: MT Supreme Court, <MTSupremeCourt@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on 8th Judicial District Judge Nominations

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to provide my endorsement for both Michele Levine and David Grubich as nominees forwarded by the Judicial Nomination Commission to the governor for the district court position in the 8th judicial district.

Michele Levine has distinguished herself as an effective advocate and someone who genuinely cares about the struggles of everyday Montanans. Michele has developed such an expertise in personal injury law that I often ask her questions about specific doctors or medical professionals practicing in Great Falls and Helena. Prior to law school, Michele was a legislator and has a diverse background that will serve the court well. Michele has the temperament required to be a district court judge.

David Grubich would make a good judge. David is a veteran of the air force and a former police officer. He has the practical experience necessary to take over Judge Pinski's veteran's court. David is competent and also has a great temperament that will serve the Court well.

Ultimately, it will be up to the governor to decide who will serve the remainder of Judge Pinski's term, but Michele and David should be among the names for the governor to choose from.

Michael C. Doggett
DOGETT LAW OFFICES, P.L.L.C.
2120 S. Reserve St., #130
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FLAHERTY || GALLARDO
LAWYERS

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Daniel Flaherty
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Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

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

August 26, 2020

Re: Letter of support for applicant David Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I support David Grubich to be the replacement for Judge Pinski. In my several appearances before Judge Grubich I have found that he has a pleasing judicial demeanor and a sense of empathy with the litigants.

Standing master Grubich has been well-versed in the law, the record and I appreciate the fact that he can deliver a ruling from the bench. Sometimes he would rule against my position, but his reasoning has always been clearly conveyed and well thought out.

I have practiced law for 40 years and have been before all different sizes, shapes, and flavors of judges. David Grubich will be a wonderful and fair judge and I wholeheartedly hope you will appoint him to replace Judge Pinski.

Thank you,

Sincerely,


Patrick F. Flaherty
FLAHERTY GALLARDO LAWYERS



Providing Legal Counsel Since 1911

ATTORNEYS:

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JAMES P. CAREY
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GRANT R. KELLY
MARIN W. KEYES
RON A. NELSON
KAREN L. REIFF*
AMBER L. STENSON
RACHEL A. TAYLOR
HANNA WARHANK

FIRM FOUNDERS:

I.W. CHURCH (1884-1972)
G.G. HARRIS (1883-1973)
BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
CARTER WILLIAMS (1916-2013)

OF COUNSEL:

E. EDWIN ECK
W. BJARNE JOHNSON*
GREGORY R. SCHWANDT*
JEANNIE YOUNG

ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

GREAT FALLS • HELENA

P. O. BOX 1645 • GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-1645 • 114 3RD STREET SOUTH • PHONE 406.761.3000 • FAX 406.453.2313 • www.chjw.com

September 1, 2020

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

VIA E-MAIL (mtsupremecourt@mt.gov)

Re: Recommendation of David Grubich – Montana 8th Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in wholehearted support of David J. Grubich's application for the state district court position being vacated by Judge Pinski in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court for Cascade County. His broad professional and educational background uniquely prepare him to serve as a state district court judge. That multi-faceted background includes his current service as the District Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County (including assignments as a judge on the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court), his experience as an attorney and litigator in private practice, his service as a member of the U.S. Air Force and later as a policeman, and his experience as a small business owner.

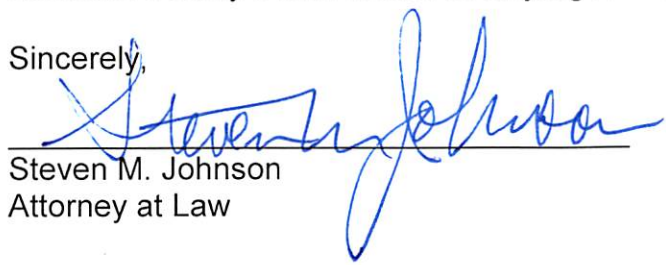
I have known Dave and his wife Valerie for ten years, and my wife and I are proud to count them as friends. I first got to know Dave while he was an attorney in the Great Falls law firm of *Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, & Higgins, P.C.*. Dave is highly respected by his peers and in private practice enjoyed the reputation of being an intelligent, professional, hard-working and honest advocate for his clients. As an attorney myself who has practiced for forty years, I value fellow attorneys who are trustworthy, prepared, and ethical. Dave has those qualities in abundance. I know him to be a person of the utmost integrity. He is fair-minded, courteous, and thoughtful. He has a history of selfless service to his community and to others as is reflected by his receipt in 2017 of the Judge Robert T. Goff Pro Bono Award by the Cascade County Bar Association for countless hours spent in legal representation of low income clients while he was in private practice, and by his generous devotion of time to nonprofit organizations including the Cascade County Law Clinic and Eagle Mount.

Judicial Nomination Commission
Re: Recommendation of Dave Grubich
September 1, 2020
Page 2

Dave has the temperament, intelligence, and work ethic to make an excellent district court judge. His well-rounded experience in civil litigation while in private practice complimented with his experience in family law and criminal law matters while serving as the District Standing Master will suit him ideally to serve as a district court judge on a court of general jurisdiction.

I unreservedly give Dave Grubich my highest recommendation for appointment as Cascade County's next district court judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Steven M. Johnson
Attorney at Law

Michael L. Rausch
1706 Third Ave. No.
Great Falls, MT 59401
mike@bkbh.com

September 1, 2020

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

Sent via US Mail and e-mail

RE: Letter of Support for David Grubich, Montana Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Commission:

I am pleased to provide you this letter of recommendation for David Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District. I have practiced law in Cascade County for 26 years. Dave is a credit to the bar in Montana.

I have known Dave for approximately 10 years. I knew him as a private attorney while in practice with the reputable firm of Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C., in Great Falls. During that time, Dave showed a keen knowledge of the law and applied the law to his cases very well. He has been a great advocate for his clients while at the same time furthering the law and the place it holds in our society.

I have also known him as the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District. In that capacity, I have had him mediate several cases for me. As a mediator, he works calmly with the parties and their attorneys to find solutions to the issues presented to him. As standing master, he has worked expeditiously to tackle the back load of cases he inherited. He has been diligent, trustworthy, thoughtful, and dedicated. His decisions have been well-reasoned.

There are two qualifications I really want in a judge: first, I want a hard-worker and someone who will put in the time it takes to do the job right; second, I want a judge who will give my clients their day in court, will listen to the parties, and will then issue well-reasoned and timely opinions on the issues presented. Standing Master Grubich meets these qualifications. In addition, a great judge is one who has a broad experience and practical knowledge in both criminal and civil law. A great judge is one whose demeanor is calm and level-headed and one who is thoughtful and deliberate. A great judge is one whose judicial philosophy applies the law reservedly, interpreting what is there and leaving to the legislature that which is not. Standing Master Grubich meets all of these qualifications. I believe he will make a great judge in time, and I am happy to recommend him to both this Commission, the Governor, and the Montana Senate. I do so without hesitation.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Michael L. Rausch, Esq.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich

From: Melissa Dascoulias <m_dascoulias@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 8:28 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: dorijohnson
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich

To whom it may concern.

I would like to give my support in favor of a nomination for David Grubich.

As a Broker-Owner, supervising broker and local investor, it is important to me to have a person in this position that is well rounded and immersed in our local community. He has a background in law enforcement that I think will aid him in making effective, educated decisions that are backed by solid experience.

Both my husband and I give him our support towards a nomination. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Thank you

Melissa Dascoulias, Broker Owner - Dascoulias Realty Group The singing real estate agent: "Bringing harmony to all your real estate needs."
406-899-8140

Tina Henry
Clerk of District Court
Cascade County
415 2nd Ave N
Great Fall, MT 59404
(406) 454-6787
thenry2@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to recommend David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

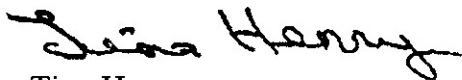
I first met David Grubich when he became the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court approximately 2 years ago. When David joined us at the District Court he walked into an office with a backlog of cases. David fearlessly hit the ground running and soon had the caseload caught up to a manageable state.

I have had several opportunities to sit in David's courtroom as a Clerk of Court. I have always found David to be fair and consistent in the way he deals with individuals in the courtroom. It is apparent that he has a clear knowledge and understanding of the law. As Standing Master, David presides over matters that are often contentious and does so with grace and dignity.

In an office setting such as the one we find ourselves; David brings with him a welcomed sense of calmness and comradery and an ability to unify.

David has been a definite asset to our Judicial District as Standing Master and there is no doubt in my mind that David will be an excellent addition as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,



Tina Henry

Clerk of District Court



September 3, 2020

Keith Tokerud
Jon S. McCarty

William M. Scott,
1946-2008

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

Re: Letter of recommendation for David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, Montana. I have practiced law in Cascade County for 28 years.

I have known David Grubich for almost 10 years, first as a lawyer when he practiced law as an associate attorney with the Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C., law firm in Great Falls, then while I have appeared before him as the Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County.

David Grubich would be a good choice for District Court Judge. He was a fine lawyer for eight years and was one of the most active members of the Cascade County Bar Association before he became Standing Master in 2018. While I have never appeared before him in a bench or a jury trial, I frequently have appeared before him on probate and guardianship matters. I have always found him to be well prepared and he has exhibited excellent judicial temperament. He is very effective in his present position as Standing Master, particularly assisting District Court Judge Gregory Pinski with the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court by serving as judge in those courts. He has varied interests outside the law, is involved in the local community and he is a devoted family man, all of which I believe are important when reviewing his qualifications.

I believe David Grubich is qualified to serve as District Court Judge. I hope the Judicial Nominating Commission will consider placing him on the list for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jon S. McCarty

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

Re: David Grubich

It is an honor to comment on David Grubich's judicial temperament and qualities that will serve the community well should he be appointed to the District Court vacancy in Cascade County. I have had the privilege to serve with David on the Cascade County Law Clinic Board. He is civic minded and understands and cares about the administration of justice in our legal system. I find him to be thoughtful and considerate of the opinions of others. He listens carefully and applies sound legal judgment to disputes. He has a solid moral core that is necessary for someone serving as a judge.

His current appointment as Magistrate for the 8th judicial district has shown him to be a person who is able to handle a large caseload efficiently. His orders are clear, well-reasoned and come out in a timely manner. He has a varied legal career that will serve the community well in handling the breath of cases to come before the court.

Deborah Kottel
6470 Heaven's View Ln.
Great Falls, Mt. 59404

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:09 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich

From: Dori Johnson <dorijohnson@mail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2020 4:46 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich District Court Judge Nomination

September 7, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Commission Members:

I'm writing this letter in support of David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District.

I met David and Valerie Grubich through my husband Steve Johnson, an attorney, at various legal functions and ever since we have been happy to count them as friends. David is a loving husband to Valerie and an amazing father to Evan, their little son, who adores him. As a friend we always can count on his help and support. It's always a pleasure to spend time with the Grubich family.

I have had the opportunity and privilege of being their real agent for the past 8 years. We have had a lots of transactions and during this time I've experienced David as a good and fair negotiator. His patience, knowledge and humor always managed to bring us to the closing table.

I have always been impressed by David's professional background, experience, and knowledge. He is hardworking and because of his wide field of experience and knowledge, he always has a good idea and a solution to every problem. He is just what we need for our community:
a judge with professionalism, ethics, respect and integrity.

I gladly support David Grubich.

Sincerely

Dori Johnson
REALTOR®, GRI, MRP, e-Pro, PSA
Dascoulias Realty Group
Great Falls, MT
Cell: 406-781-5459

Email: dorijohnson@mail.com

RRE-RBS-LIC-17544



September 8, 2020

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

Members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on behalf of David J. Grubich, applicant for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade Country) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski.

My name is Beth McFadden, and I've been a resident of Great Falls, Montana since 1994. I managed Contact Centers throughout the U.S. for a corporation based in Sterling, Virginia (N.E.W. Customer Service Companies, Inc.) from 2001-2014. We employed approximately 13,000 technical support and customer service representatives, with more than 600 of those located in Great Falls, Montana. From time to time, we'd have an employment law situation to deal with, and in Great Falls, we retained the law firm of Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. David Grubich was assigned some of our cases in the 2010-2014 timeframe.

I found David to be exceptionally professional, well-informed, ethical, objective, and insightful when dealing with the situations for which we required his professional assistance. He was an extraordinary listener, had an amazing ability to retain pertinent facts, asked questions that most of us didn't think to ask, and was always willing to do whatever work necessary to resolve an issue.

I dealt with attorneys in many of our business locations, including Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Oregon, Florida and South Dakota, and felt David provided some of the highest quality counsel of all with whom we dealt. His thoroughness, sense of fairness, and responsiveness were second to none.

For the past three years, I've been a member of, and now Chair of the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors. Eagle Mount is a non-profit organization, providing therapeutic and recreational activities for disabled adults, children, and veterans. David also joined this board of directors three years ago, having provided pro bono legal advice to the organization prior to joining the Board.

David has been an invaluable member of the Board, and has become a “go to” person for the Executive Director and myself when difficult issues arise. David is known as a voice of reason, who gathers all of the facts, listens intently, and provides helpful, positive input whenever and wherever he can. He has been a very engaged board member, contributing expertise, energy and resources to further the mission of Eagle Mount. He finds time to participate in events, involves his family in the organization, and inspires other board members to do the same. We continue to be grateful for the time he has carved out of his busy professional and personal life to contribute to the success of Eagle Mount Great Falls.

In my estimation, David would be an excellent choice to fill the critically important position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District. My point of view is based on the David’s qualities which I’ve observed in my interactions with him over the years. These include:

- Professionalism and objectivity exhibited at all times
- Adherence to highest ethical standards
- Excellent listener, gathering all facts before making recommendation
- Well-informed on subject matter, displaying thoroughness in gathering information
- Insightful and fair when bringing law into practical application
- Extraordinary ability to retain pertinent information and details
- Strong work ethic
- Commitment to service throughout our community
- Responsiveness and timeliness, whether for business or community service

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth McFadden
311 McIver Road
Great Falls, Montana 59404

406-788-1014

September 8, 2020

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

Members of the Commission,

This letter is in response to your request for public comment on the applicants for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski. I am advocating for David J Grubich to fill this seat.

My name is Gaines McFadden, and I've been a resident of Great Falls, Montana since 1994. I was the Vice President of Deneuve Construction Services, based out of Boulder, Colorado. I retired in 2007, and have been a community volunteer in Great Falls, Montana since the late 1990's.

My experience with David has been through the Board of Directors of Eagle Mount Great Falls. Eagle Mount Great Falls provides recreational and therapeutic activities for disabled children, adults, and veterans. I was a member of, and Chair of the board during the time period of 2008-2019. David provided pro bono legal services for Eagle Mount for a number of years, and in 2017, joined the board of directors. During the two years we served together on the Board, David provided invaluable legal and professional advice as we rewrote an employee handbook, and bylaws for the function of the board of directors. Both of these projects required significant time and energy to ensure all information and nuances of the organization were taken into consideration. David's experience in the legal field, his commitment to service to the community, and interest in furthering the mission of Eagle Mount were extraordinary, and our final product would not have been of the quality it was without David.

During David's tenure on the Eagle Mount Board, we developed a new program to provide services to Montana veterans experiencing the effects of PTSD. David's understanding of military service, as well as his experience in the courts, and his empathy for veterans, helped guide this project to fruition. During this time, David was a member of the Eagle Mount Board Personnel Committee, where he was instrumental in establishing fair and equitable guidelines for new processes and policies, relevant to employees and program participants.

As Board Chair, I relied on David's insight and advice to deal with employee and participant questions and issues, and was extremely grateful to have his level-headedness and intellect to draw upon. He was always willing to help, regardless of how busy his schedule might have been.

My description of David's qualifications for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District would include his dedication to service in our community, his ability to sort through information and distill it to the most pertinent factors, his written and verbal communication skills, his positive approach to problems, and his knowledge and experience in our legal system. I would be so proud to have him as our next judge to replace Judge Pinski.

Thank you.

Gaines McFadden
311 McIver Road
Great Falls, Montana 59404
406-788-8001

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

104 2ND STREET SOUTH, SUITE 400
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TELEPHONE: (406) 453-8144
FAX: (888) 402-0579
E-MAIL: matt@bigskylaw.com
WWW SITE: <http://www.bigskylaw.com>

Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur

Attorneys at Law

September 8, 2020

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: David Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

I write to offer my unequivocal support for Standing Master David Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District.

I first met Mr. Grubich while serving on the board of the Cascade County Bar Association. We served together for two years. During that time, I found Mr. Grubich to be intelligent, kind, and dedicated. Mr. Grubich genuinely cared about the work he was doing and worked hard to better our county bar. His efforts resulted in significantly increased participation in the county bar by members, and helped to provide substantial funding to the county law clinic.

It was no surprise that after Mr. Grubich's term with the county bar board ended, he went on to win the Goff Pro Bono award. Mr. Grubich's integrity, compassion, and willingness to volunteer his time made him a clear-cut choice for such an honor. I have no doubt that he will bring the same qualities as a judge.

While Mr. Grubich's character is admirable, it is also important to note that his diverse skill set and experience uniquely qualify him to serve as judge. Prior to serving as Standing Master, Mr. Grubich worked eight years in civil litigation. Since becoming the Standing Master, he has overseen criminal and family law cases. His experience makes him a well-rounded attorney who could immediately step in and start handling cases. I have full confidence that if I try a case before Mr. Grubich, his rulings would be well-founded and just.

I offer Mr. Grubich my complete support and hope he will soon serve as our next judge.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC


Matthew T. Meade

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to endorse the selection of David Grubich to fill the position of Judge in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

My name is Kathryn Whitt and I have had the opportunity to work with Judge Grubich in my capacity as Deputy Clerk of Court for Department A. While I am new to the position, I have clerked numerous hearings for Judge Grubich in his role as Standing Master. Although I am aware that a vast amount of Judge Grubich's experience pertains to civil law, I have worked with him exclusively in criminal law, and can assert that he is certainly adept at adjudicating any type of hearing needed. One thing that stands out about Judge Grubich is his ability to maintain control in the courtroom without raising his voice or intimidating others. Watching him adjudicate, I have noticed that he is incredibly fair, respectful, and dignified in his role, all qualities needed in a good judge. Additionally, Judge Grubich values every person in the court, from lawyers to clerks. He is approachable, friendly, and always willing to answer any questions that come his way.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a recommendation in favor of David Grubich. I believe whole-heartedly in his qualifications and would be happy to continue my role as Deputy Clerk of Court for department A, with him as Judge.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Whitt

CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE
ROBERT G. DRUMMOND
P. O. BOX 1829
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403
TELEPHONE: (406) 761-8600
FAX: (406) 453-4663
E-MAIL: Trustee@MTChapter13.com

September 8, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to support your nomination of David J. Grubich for the open position on the Eighth Judicial District Court. Mr. Grubich's experience in state court as an attorney representing clients in private practice as well as a Standing Master make him well suited for the position. Mr. Grubich has a breadth of practical knowledge that lends depth to his experience including a patrol officer and investigator for a police department. His breadth of experience in both criminal and family matters is well suited to the state court bench.

More fundamentally, Mr. Grubich is a good husband, father and family man. He is fair and impartial. I am certain he will be a credit to the bench.

Very truly yours,

CHAPTER 13 STANDING TRUSTEE



Robert G. Drummond

RGD:tmf



**GREAT FALLS
COLLEGE**

**MONTANA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan J. Wolff
CEO/Dean
406.771.4305
susan.wolff@gfcmsu.edu
www.gfcmsu.edu

September 10, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support the application by David J. Grubich for the Eighth Judicial District Court Judgeship. I have known David since I moved to Great Falls in 2012. We were fellow classmates in the Great Falls Chamber's Leadership Great Falls program for 10 months in 2012-13. He and I had many conversations during that time related to his legal work. My brother is an attorney which led to my interest in David's professional work. David also led a community project for Eagle Mount that year where his passion for serving those with disabilities became very evident and continues to this day.

As a board member of United Way Cascade County and Board Chair for a year, I was always impressed with David, who came to the allocations meetings to support the requests for funding of the Cascade County Law Clinic that provides pro-bono family law services for low-income individuals and families.

David is uniquely qualified to serve as District Court Judge in the Eighth District. He has experience with the Air Force, as a law enforcement officer, an attorney, and as the standing master in the Eighth Judicial District Court for two years. In that role, he has assisted Judge Pinski with Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court where I have seen so many people successfully reengage with their lives and families in positive ways.

With his work with the Cascade County Law Clinic, his work with Judge Pinski, his experience as an airman at Malmstrom Air Force Base, and in law enforcement, David stands to provide excellence in legal and judicial service supporting the law, educating people, and relating to those who live in the district.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan J. Wolff, CEO/Dean

Eric J. Bailey
1041 Suburban Drive
Great Falls, MT. 59404

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

Re: Letter of recommendation for nomination of David J. Grubich for Judge, 8th Judicial District Court.

Dear Committee Members,

I am Eric J. Bailey, Senior Deputy in charge of security for the 8th Judicial District Court in Great Falls. Since Standing Master Grubich was appointed, I have had the opportunity to observe his court on numerous occasions. I have listened to the cases and have always found Standing Master Grubich, attentive, focused and genuinely concerned for the parties appearing in his court. He has always been fair and balanced in his decisions and treats the parties with the upmost respect and courtesy.

I believe his background serves him well, he started in law enforcement as a police officer for the Harvard Police Department in Illinois. Mr. Grubich then pursued his Juris Doctorate and began practicing law. He was an integral part of a local law firm here in Great Falls where he served his clients and the community well with his studious pursuit of the law and his professionalism. Mr. Grubich has also served as President of the local Bar Association and continues to serve his community in his current position.

On a personal note, I am grateful of David's constant pursuit of justice and his willingness to go above and beyond even to the point of putting himself in harm's way. On one occasion, he had concluded court when he assisted two deputies subdue a fleeing defendant. This demonstrated to me his courage and his willingness to help in any situation. These are just a few of the reasons I believe this community would be well served if Standing Master Grubich would be appointed to the position Judge Pinski is vacating.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Bailey

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

104 2ND STREET SOUTH, SUITE 400
GALLERIA BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59401

TELEPHONE: (406) 453-8144
FAX: (888) 402-0579
E-MAIL: kaitlyn@bigskylaw.com
WWW SITE: <http://www.bigskylaw.com>

Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur

Attorneys at Law

September 9, 2020

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: David Grubich

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

I write to offer my support for Standing Master David J. Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

As a newer attorney, what struck me most about Mr. Grubich is his dedication to community involvement, specifically, the small community of attorneys who call Cascade County home. It is a rarity for Mr. Grubich to miss a county bar meeting. Mr. Grubich is highly respected and well-liked. He is approachable, thoughtful, and kind; all qualities which would serve him well on the bench. Mr. Grubich is a refreshing example of how the adversarial nature of the practice of law is not an impediment to cordiality. I certainly consider Mr. Grubich a role model in that regard.

From a review of Mr. Grubich's application, it is apparent that his dedication to community involvement has echoed throughout his entire career, whether it be his time in the military, law enforcement, and even owning a coffee shop. Mr. Grubich's experience in the private practice of law, and as Standing Master, uniquely qualify him to immediately swing into action as a District Court Judge on both civil and criminal matters.

Without hesitation, I offer Mr. Grubich my complete support.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC


Kaitlyn J. McArthur

September 10, 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 David Grubich

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is my pleasure and honor to recommend David Grubich for a position as District Court Judge. He is personally known to me since 2012 as I have had the opportunity to work as his legal assistant for 6 years. Dave is an honest, dedicated, fair and intelligent attorney who always goes out of his way to assist anyone. He researches cases thoroughly and has a positive attitude when faced with adversity. He has always showed kindness to the staff creating a teamwork environment.

Dave has a remarkable work ethic and yet makes time to be involved in many aspects of the community he lives in. I have no doubt that Dave will have a positive impact in the judicial system. His compassion for others is evident in many of his life experiences. This is exactly the kind of judge that Cascade County needs.

I am confident that he would do an outstanding job serving Cascade County as a District Court Judge. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to contact me at your convenience via the contact information below. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michelle Smith
Legal Assistant
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C.
406-771-0007
mas@uazh.com

FLAHERTY | GALLARDO
LAWYERS

Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
Paul Gallardo
1026 First Ave. South
P.O. Box 1968
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

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

September 10, 2020

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Nomination

Dear Nomination Commission:

I am writing to give my personal recommendation for David Grubich. I base this recommendation first and foremost on David's character. He excelled in law school by serving others. He excelled in private practice by helping others. He has excelled as a Standing Master through his service to the community regarding the heavy work of family law. Service to the community is an essential core of being a judge. David has shown this. Even before law school, he served his country and community.

The Standing Master in Great Falls has a heavy emphasis in Family Law. However, Family Law usually transects many other areas - finances, civil claims, criminal behavior, and Youth In Need of Care. My recommendation is also based upon the numerous times I have been in front of Standing Master Grubich. I have yet to have a client criticize his demeanor, tone, or attention to detail - even if they disagreed with the ruling. I myself have appreciated the time he gives each case and also the efficiency with which he runs his Court. Emotions are often elevated during these hearings and his approach to serving the community is shown in how he treats these people in their time of crisis.

Standing Master Grubich knows the law, understands his role, and importantly works to improve the judicial process with his continued service. Great Falls and the 8th Judicial District would benefit greatly from his nomination.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Flaherty
Attorney at Law

-

Travis G. Grove
1816 1st Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401
September 8, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Letter of Recommendation Nomination of David J. Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

I am a Deputy Sheriff with the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, I was assigned as a Bailiff for the Cascade County Courthouse, where I have had the pleasure of working with David J. Grubich for the past year. David and I have had many conversations due to his prior experience as a Police Officer in Illinois.

I would like to share a story about David and his willingness to help when he is needed. I was attempting to arrest a person wanted on a Felony Attempted Escape warrant. The suspect decided to try to flee from the courtroom which I deployed my Taser. The Taser was effective for a brief time when the leads broke and the subject began fighting with another Deputy and myself. During the struggle with the suspect I noticed another person joined in and was assisting us. After we were able to gain control of the Subject, I realized the person helping us was David Grubich.

David gained my respect and trust from this incident, as I know if the situation occurred again, I could depend on him to help when needed.

I have also been present during several of his civil hearings as the acting Standing Master in the Cascade County Courthouse. I have noticed David always gives each party the benefit of doubt and no matter the case he remains fair no matter the case in front of him.

David had worked his way from being a Police Officer to an Attorney and then to the Cascade County Standing Master position. I have noticed that David continues to work hard and tries to strive to excel in his position. Based on these reasons I believe David would be the best choice to replace Judge Pinski, as an 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Travis Grove



September 15, 2020

Sent via email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

RE: Nomination of David Grubich for Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to endorse the selection of David Grubich to fill the District Court vacancy created by Judge Pinski's retirement. I have known David for many years, primarily in the context of his excellent work with the Cascade County Law Clinic. David has an exceptional temperament and is always well prepared. Among members of the legal community, he stands out as a highly competent and experienced legal professional. His work as the District Standing Master has been exemplary.

David is a professional and demonstrates the integrity required of a District Court judge. I highly recommend him for the Cascade County judicial vacancy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ben A. Snipes

BAS:mcw

417 Central Avenue, Johnson Building 4th Floor, Ste 401, Great Falls, MT 59401
RANDY L. TARUM E-mail: randy@tarumlaw.com ph. 406-268-0001
 ATTORNEY AT LAW fax 406-760-1110

Page 1 of 1



Keith Tokerud
Jon S. McCarty

William M. Scott,
1946-2008

September 10, 2020

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

Re: David Grubich Judicial Application

Dear Ms. Menzies and members of the Commission:

I am writing to recommend David Grubich for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

I have known Mr. Grubich for approximately ten years. Although I have never worked with him when he represented private parties, I have appeared before him in district court on a number of occasions. He displayed good judgment and efficiency, and he was courteous to everyone involved – a trait not universally shared by all judges! From these professional encounters as well as numerous social events where we've had the opportunity to converse, I've been impressed by Mr. Grubich as a pleasant, honest, good person. The fact that he also has experience serving as a police officer leads me to believe that he would make an excellent district judge. I have every confidence that he would be a fair and impartial judge, as well as an asset to the Eighth Judicial District and the Montana judiciary.

Should you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

SCOTT, TOKERUD & McCARTY, P.C.

By: 

Keith Tokerud

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005 Helena, MT

59620-3005

mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

September 14, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of Standing Master David Grubich's candidacy for District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have practiced criminal defense as an Assistant Public Defender for four years in six different Montana counties and I currently represent felony Defendants in all four departments of the Eighth Judicial District.

Standing Master Grubich has been an enthusiastic supporter of the collective passion for public service in the law which shows us he has the right intentions for the job. Though Standing Master Grubich's prior lengthy career as law enforcement may give me some pause as a defense attorney, my decision to support Standing Master Grubich boils down to three qualities I value most in a judge: judicial temperament, impartiality, and scholarship of the law.

First and foremost, I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses a level-headed temperament that no other candidate rivals. I have appeared before Standing Master Grubich at initial appearances and have come to know him as thoughtful, calm, and an astute balancer of statutory factors to strike the right balance on bail. I have never seen Standing Master Grubich lose his temper and he has always treated every person appearing in his Court with respect.

I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses a strong ethical compass and commitment to impartiality. Standing Master Grubich employs analytical reasoning of Montana law and matters of fundamental fairness. Standing Master Grubich will provide the Court with the essential rationale and skillset to be a fair and impartial judge. Though my experience with family law matters before Standing Master Grubich are extremely limited, I know him to be a considerate and concerned referee in a field where emotions often run high. I believe his experience adjudicating family law matters leave him well-equipped to manage and decide equally sensitive matters involving abuse and neglect cases – of which Cascade County has no shortage.

Finally, I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses the hunger for knowledge and scholarship necessary to tackle challenging cases. Grubich is studious and will not "shoot from the hip," so to speak, when it comes to issuing a legal ruling on its merits. I have faith that Grubich will research the issue, study the law, and apply the law justly. I believe his desire to serve the public uniquely position Standing Master Grubich to provide the necessary leadership and composure befitting of a District Court Judge.

My personal philosophy of what makes a great attorney and/or judge involves the following characteristics: knowledge, skill, and integrity. Standing Master Grubich's professional reputation supports the contention that he exhibits all these characteristics and more in the courtroom and beyond. Therefore, I submit my humble recommendation for Standing Master David Grubich to fill the vacant bench of Montana's Eighth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Lettow". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Claire" and last name "Lettow" clearly distinguishable.

Claire Lettow
Attorney at Law

CARLSON LAW, PLLC

PHONE: (406) 750 - 0250

TREVOR CARLSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW

FAX: (406) 720 - 7919

EMAIL: TREVOR@CARLSONLAW406.COM

P.O. Box 3703

600 CENTRAL AVE., SUITE 412

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

September 15, 2020

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

RE: Public Comment on 8th Judicial District Judge Applicants

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Trevor Carlson, and I have been practicing law in Central Montana since 2013. I have a solo practice in Great Falls, Montana, that provides services for criminal defense, family law, landlord-tenant law, and civil litigation. I routinely appear in about a dozen counties around the area.

I have had the pleasure of appearing before Standing Master David J. Grubich since his appointment in August of 2018. In my practice of family law, I have appeared before him on several dissolution and parenting plan proceedings. I have also appeared before him on uncontested adoptions and guardianship/conservatorship proceedings. He has become one of my favorite judges to practice in front of, and I trust he would make an excellent District Court Judge.

I believe that a judge should have three qualities: 1) an ability to accurately and fairly interpret and apply the law; 2) an excellent work ethic; and 3) the proper temperament. Standing Master Grubich has all of these qualities, which is why I am writing this letter in support of his appointment.

In my cases, Standing Master Grubich has issued several orders over the last two years. His decisions have always been well-reasoned and in accordance with Montana statutes and case law. In trial, his rulings on evidentiary issues have been similarly sound. While

I have not always agreed with his rulings, I cannot say that they were wrong, and I have never felt a strong urge to seek an appeal after my cases have concluded before him.

I appreciate this adherence to black-letter law, as it brings predictability to the bench and helps me manage client expectations before going to court. It also saves my clients money by not having to appeal erroneous rulings. In reviewing his application for the Eighth Judicial District Court Judge position, I was not surprised to see he graduated from law school with honors, as he has consistently shown the intellect required for both academic performance and proper interpretation and application of the law.

Both my clients and I are grateful for Standing Master Grubich's work ethic and turnaround time on decisions. It is important for our legal system and society at large for citizens to feel they have been treated fairly and afforded their "day in court," or what we lawyers call "due process." It is not easy to explain to your clients – many of whom have little or no experience with the legal system – why a judge will "only" afford them a few hours for issues so near and dear to their hearts such as parenting time or property distribution. These are issues that will affect the client and those they love for years to come, and it is important for the integrity of our legal system that litigants feel their cases were afforded a proportionate consideration for what is at stake.

Standing Master Grubich has always accommodated my clients' requests for lengthy hearings, and in cases that unexpectedly exceeded their allotment, he has patiently allowed the parties to present their full witness testimony, evidence and arguments. He has always been attentive and interested in each piece of testimony and evidence presented. I can recall a recent hearing that ran until 6:00 p.m. Both my client and I were grateful to have the time to present our case properly and fully to the Court.

When it comes to issuing written decisions, Standing Master Grubich has a very swift turnaround time. I know that it is not easy condensing hours of testimony into findings of fact and conclusions of law on top of an already full trial caseload. I have never asked him directly, but I suspect that Standing Master Grubich probably works nights and weekends to keep up with the litany of contested hearings that a Standing Master is assigned. He does not leave the parties wondering and waiting for the outcomes of their cases (and, in many family law cases, the outcomes of their lives) for weeks or even months on end.

In reading his application for this position, I was once again not surprised that he describes a lengthy history of public service, pro bono work, and a desire to improve the community through the legal system. I can tell you from my own observations that he personifies the devotion to public service that is described in his application.

Finally, it is my opinion that Standing Master Grubich has the proper temperament for a District Court Judge. I have witnessed him deal with unruly litigants, both *pro se* and represented, and at times, unruly attorneys as well. During these incidents, I have never seen him lose his temper. Instead, he maintains his composure in a very professional manner befitting of a judge. His courtroom demeanor is firm, yet equable, and he is a pleasure to practice in front of.

I hope this letter helps you in your decision for the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I strongly believe that Standing Master David J. Grubich would be an excellent addition to the bench here in Cascade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Trevor Carlson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Trevor Carlson
Carlson Law, PLLC



Eagle Mount Great Falls
P.O. Box 2866
Great Falls, MT 59403

(406) 454-1449 * Fax: (406) 454-1780
eaglemountgf@gmail.com
www.eaglemount.net

September 10, 2020

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

RE: Candidate David Grubich for District Court Judge of Eighth Judicial Court, Cascade County.

Dear Commission Members,

I met David Grubich in 2015 through our board of directors. He assisted us with setting up our Veteran's Program and other organizational policies and procedures. In 2017 he came on to our board and has been an active and crucial member of our team ever since. I have worked for Eagle Mount Great Falls for 26 years and have met and worked with many different community members. David stands out among those community members and working with him for the last five years has been an honor. He has incredible interpersonal skills that draws out the best in people and his dedication and passion to better this community is genuine and admirable.

I highly recommend David Grubich for consideration of District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial Court in Cascade County. His devotion, ethics, knowledge, background, and all-around character are just what this judicial system needs and makes him the best candidate for the position.

Sincerely,

Heather Martin
Coordinator of Operations
Eagle Mount Great Falls

ATTORNEYS:

Neal P. DuBois
Eric D. Mills
Phoebe P. Marcinek



DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC
104 4th Street N., Ste. 200
P.O. Box 1348
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 315.3242
Fax: (406) 727.1812

September 15, 2020

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Judge Position;
Support for David Grubich

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the application of Judge David Grubich for the appointment to the vacancy left by Judge Pinski in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County. I have had the opportunity to practice adverse to him in both family law matters and in civil employment and injury litigation.

Like most good lawyers, Dave has always shown the ability to see both sides of a case which he was litigating. It seems he always took it as a duty to his client to understand the other side while advocating for his client. In that sense, I see him being a benefit to both Plaintiff's counsel and Defense counsel in civil litigation matters.

Dave is a thoughtful person who is committed to neutrally analyzing all positions of the parties. His background in law enforcement has allowed him the ability to render fair decisions with thoughtfulness and temperament that all citizens of this county deserve.

I have also had the privilege of practicing family law matters while he presided in his capacity as a Standing Master. He does a superb job explaining the system to pro se litigants. He gives the parties the ability to present their argument and asks poignant questions. In one instance, there was a gentleman who was not being truthful with the Court while Dave was on the bench as the Standing Master. Instead of becoming irate, he calmly explained to the gentleman that he did not feel he was being truthful and probably feels bad about how a certain situation transpired. The gentleman acknowledged that he was untruthful, became teary eyed and took steps to get help. It was quite beautiful.

Dave was also in our mentor group when I graduated from Leadership Great Falls in 2012. He has always been there for the community and seems to take pride in making everything he does better. I have no doubt, if given the opportunity, he will do a wonderful job for the judiciary.

Very truly yours,
DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric D. Mills", with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Eric D. Mills
Attorney at Law

Kim Morris
DEPUTY CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
415 2ND AVENUE NORTH, RM 200A
GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

September 15, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to support your nomination of David J. Grubich for the open position on the Eighth Judicial District Court.

My Name is Kim Morris I just started as a deputy clerk and I have had the pleasure of working with the Standing Master David Grubich.

Let me start off by saying I have never worked in the court system before.

The Standing Master has been very patient, understanding, helpful, He has made this a great Experience and enjoyable. It has been an honor to be his deputy clerk.

He is well respected by all in the courthouse, lawyers, staff, petitioners/plaintiffs, and defendants/respondents.

I have seen him in court he is very much in control and is understanding, caring and listens. He handles himself in very professional manor.

I am very happy to work with the Standing Master David Grubich, He has taught me a lot and help me understand the court room.

He handles large case load with no stress.

He is very fair and consistent in the way he deals with individuals in the court room.

Mr. Grubich is highly respected in the legal community in Cascade County, He would be an excellent choice for district court judge. He will be a credit to the bench.

From what I see he is a loving husband and father, well mannered, polite, well spoken, understanding, fair to all, he would be my first choice as District Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Kim Morris

LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.

RICHARD J. MARTIN
J. KIM SCHULKE
STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN
MICHELE REINHART LEVINE
MEGAN L. MILLER

WAYNE E. LINNELL, Of Counsel
NORMAN L. NEWHALL, Retired

Attorneys at Law
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Great Falls, MT 59403
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PARALEGAL STAFF:

KINDRA MARTIN
BRITTNEY ROTHROCK
ANGIE WHITEMAN

OFFICE MANAGER:
TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MI018-002

September 14, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY – mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

*Re: David J. Grubich, Esq.
Candidate for appointment to Montana Eighth Judicial District Court*

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Please accept this correspondence as a recommendation for the Appointment of David J. Grubich to the Montana Eighth Judicial District bench. I have known Dave for several years and believe he would be a great choice to fill this position.

I have practiced law in Montana since 1981, first in Helena, and then, starting in 1987, in Great Falls. My practice has included administrative law, criminal law, civil litigation and workers' compensation.

Dave and I became acquainted when we served as officers of the Cascade County Bar Association. We also served together as officers for the Board of Directors of the Cascade County Law Clinic, which is an entity providing pro bono legal services to our citizens who cannot otherwise afford legal representation. During our tenure on that Board, the Clinic developed a strategic plan, to include the pursuit of additional funding sources and expansion of services, which have helped to ensure the continued operation of the Clinic. Dave was instrumental in making that happen. He is a good leader, who is considerate of the opinions of others. He is kind, patient and resourceful. In addition to serving on the Board, he provided many, many hours of excellent pro bono service to clients through the Clinic.

Judicial Nomination Commission

Re: David J. Grubich, Esq. – Candidate for appointment to Montana 8th Judicial District Court

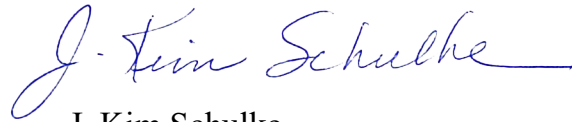
September 14, 2020

Page | 2

Dave was appointed Standing Master of our judicial district about two years ago. While I have not personally appeared before him, I know he enjoys an excellent reputation in that capacity. I would expect nothing less of him.

I have no reservations in recommending Dave for this position. He would bring enthusiasm, energy and integrity to the bench in Cascade County.

Sincerely,



J. Kim Schulke

kschulke@fairclaimlaw.com

(406) 454-5804

JKS/mp

cc: David Grubich

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

**RE: Standing Master David J. Grubich Nomination for District Court Judge – 8th
Judicial District Court, Cascade County, Montana**

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

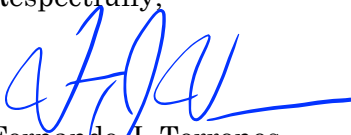
My name is Fernando J. Terrones, Esq., and I am writing to you in support of Standing Master David J. Grubich. I have practiced law before Judge Grubich for a while now, and I have noticed that he exhibits proper judicial temperament. By that I mean he is patient, courteous, tactful, compassionate, and open-minded. Most importantly, Judge Grubich has displayed a high degree of positive commitment to military veterans. He was a great mentor in the Veterans Court 8th Judicial District Court, Cascade County, Montana. And has since continued to support Veterans Court by standing in place for presiding District Court Judge Gregory G. Pinski when need be. When Judge Grubich presides in place of Judge Pinski, he is encouraging, fair, and just with each military veteran participant. In short, Judge Grubich wants every military veteran participant to succeed and works on giving each military veteran participant that special nudge to graduate.

Most importantly, it has been clearly evident from my time practicing law before Judge Grubich that he has extensive knowledge and experience in criminal and civil matters. The 8th Judicial District Court is a busy court, so it is axiomatic that Judge Grubich is ready to handle the heavy caseload since he is already in the mix of the courthouse's workload as the Standing Master for the 8th Judicial District Court.

The issues involved with most district court cases in Montana are difficult, emotional, and require extensive experience to resolve. Judge Grubich has the right mix of empathy, attitude, knowledge, and experience to handle any case before him at the 8th Judicial District Court.

Therefore, my prayer for relief is for you to forward Judge Grubich's name to Montana Governor Steve Bullock.

Respectfully,



Fernando J. Terrones
Bar No: 33845504
Conrad, Montana
Date: September 14, 2020

September 14th, 2020

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation in support of David L. Grubich's application for Judgeship in the Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County. I am currently a Coordinator with Native participants in both the Veteran's Treatment Court and the Adult Drug Treatment Courts here in Great Falls, and have personally worked with, and witnessed Mr. Grubich's style when he was called upon to fill in for Judge Pinski. I believe he would make a fine Judge and a very adequate addition to those already serving the Eighth Judicial District.

I have spoken with David on a few occasions and believe that both his knowledge of law, and delicate approach to justice would make him an ideal candidate for this position.

Please give him the utmost consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Nick Henry
Tribal Coordinator/Compliance Monitoring
Veteran and Adult Treatment Court - 8th Judicial District
Great Falls, Montana
406-604-7605



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

RE: Public Comment on 12th Judicial District Court Judge- Letter of Support for David Grubich and Against Steven Bolstad

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support for David Grubich for the 8th Judicial District Court Judge. I also write this letter to inform the Commission that I do not believe Steven Bolstad is the right person for this important job. The Cascade County community has a long history of having independent district court judges that possessed the right temperament, value and integrity so the rule of law was respected in an ever-changing legal environment. David Grubich will be able to continue that legacy.

I had the pleasure to write to this Commission two years ago regarding the Hon. Kaydee Snipes-Ruiz in the 12th Judicial District Court. I currently work at the Montana State Office of Public Defender, Region 3, in Great Falls, Montana as an attorney. I represent clients in felony criminal cases, dependent neglect cases, juvenile and involuntary commitment cases in the 8th Judicial District Court. As a practicing attorney in 8th Judicial District Court, I feel I have an obligation to write this even if it has negative repercussions on my practice because of the importance this position has.

Why in support of David Grubich:

I have had the pleasure of practicing in front of David Grubich in his capacity as the Standing Master for the 8th Judicial District Court. I have always been impressed with Standing Master Grubich's judicial temperament. Standing Master Grubich never gets too high or too low with the parties. He does not let prejudice, passion or anger rule his thought process. Standing Master Grubich takes the facts and the rule of law to decide his decisions. I will admit that the first time practicing in front of Standing Master Grubich during an initial appearance, I was skeptical that his previous experience with law enforcement would slant his thinking and not give my client a fair shake. I found the opposite to be true. I have personally witnessed him treat attorneys on both sides of a case with respect. If he is chosen for the position, I know he would carry that same mentality as a district court judge.

Standing Master Grubich truly understands the Cascade County community. His experience handling family law and dependent neglect cases is going to be a real benefit in those caseloads. As this Commission is probably aware that Cascade County has one of the highest filings per capita of dependent neglect cases in the State of Montana. Those cases typically have families that face systematic barriers to achieve an amicable resolution. Standing Master Grubich is the person that already has a pulse on the hurdles Cascade County families face.

Standing Master Grubich also has the requisite experience to handle the Cascade County civil litigation case load that often gets put on the back burner. Standing Master Grubich will not ignore these cases and will be able to effectively handle complex civil litigation. His years of experience working at Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick, P.C. gave him a wealth of experience of handling broad array of civil litigation issues. I have the utmost confidence he will be able to handle these types of cases as judge.

The other real benefit to Standing Master Grubich being the district court judge is that he already regularly assists the other district court judges and appears to have a good working relationship with all of them. I believe he will be able to effectively work with the other judges on calendaring, logistical, local rules and other issues that arise when multiple judges are in a district. As a litigator that is often in Court four days a week in all four departments it would be frustrating to me in recent years when the judges would appear to be in squabbles over certain issues. It would negatively affect my legal practice because when the judges would be in disagreement, I would be in a difficult position of either having to be in two places at once or not truly understanding what trial had priority when they both were scheduled for the same day. Standing Master Grubich will collaboratively work with the other district court judges to avoid these issues.

Why not in support of Steven Bolstad:

I will admit I know very little personally of Steven Bolstad. However, I have a lot of reservations about him being able to handle this position if appointed. My experience practicing in Great Falls Municipal Court is fairly limited as I have mostly practiced in District Courts in the Hi-Line and in 8th Judicial Court but I have had plenty of colleagues that have practiced in front of him. I have also appeared for my colleagues in Great Falls Municipal Court a couple of times. My experience in front of Judge Bolstad has been negative.

My impression of Judge Bolstad is that he is a former prosecutor that has carried that over to the bench. He also appears to let passion, prejudice or anger come to his thought process. I do not believe he has the judicial temperament to handle this position. I have had colleagues tell me in recent years how he has threatened contempt or yelled at them in an attempt to bully or embarrass them, as public defenders, from making good faith arguments.

I personally appeared as stand-in counsel not too long ago in Great Falls Municipal Court for initial appearances. There was a female client that had multiple allegations/cases dealing with petty misdemeanor theft. Judge Bolstad decided to set an aggregate bail amount at \$45,000 per prosecutor request. I challenged the Court on that bail. I argued in good faith using the bail factors in MCA § 46-9-301 and set forth an example of the unreasonableness of that bail because at the time I was representing a client on more serious felony allegations in District Court that did not have a bail amount that high. Judge Bolstad preceded to lose his temper, threaten me with contempt and forbid me from speaking further. He then set unreasonable release conditions prohibiting this female from essentially any convenience, retail or grocery store in Great Falls, MT.

I also have regularly had clients that I represent on a felony that will be released on their own recognizance for that case but still will be incarcerated on a Great Falls Municipal misdemeanor case. The reason is because he set an unreasonable bail amount that the client could not afford. It has been on charges as small as disorderly conduct, driving offenses or petty theft. I am very worried what he is going to do with indigent people on more serious allegations if he becomes the District Court Judge.

He also regularly poses with Great Falls Police Officers for photos for the Great Falls Police social media pages. The appearance seems to allude to the fact that he unabashedly leans in that direction. It becomes even more apparent with his writing samples he has provided this Commission. They are all orders denying defendant's motions. Other practitioners in the criminal defense bar have informed me that is par for the course for Judge Bolstad. I believe that calls into question whether he can truly be an independent and fair judge for very serious criminal cases.

Concluding Remarks:

I appreciate the time the Commission took to read my public comment on these two candidates. I truly believe that David Grubich is the right person for appointment as the 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daylon Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daylon Martin
Attorney of Law
Office of the State Public Defender



HARTELIUS, DUROCHER & WINTER, PC

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

HDW

Roland B. Durocher | Jeffrey G. Winter | Channing J. Hartelius (of counsel)

September 14, 2020

****Via email ONLY to: lmenzies@mt.gov****

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Support of David Grubich for Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing you in support of Standing Master David Grubich's appointment as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District for the vacancy left by Hon. Gregory Pinski's resignation.

I know Dave primarily through his service as Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District. In my law practice, it is frequently necessary to seek Court approval of settlements and protective arrangements for clients who are minors or incapacitated. In that context, I have appeared at hearings over which Dave has presided on a number of occasions. Every time I have appeared before him, Dave has been professional and courteous, and prepared to fairly address the issues at hand. My clients have commented to me on how much they appreciated Dave's calm and professional demeanor, and how it helped them feel more at ease in an otherwise stressful situation.

As others have mentioned in their letters of support, many aspects of Dave's background and experience have prepared him well for the demands of serving as a District Court Judge. But Dave's competent and dedicated service as District Standing Master is what sets him apart. Dave has done an outstanding job as Standing Master, and has proven his ability to effectively manage an overwhelming workload of cases in the Eighth Judicial District. Through his service as Standing Master, Dave has become intimately familiar with the Cascade County court system, and the challenges faced by our District Court Judges. I have no doubt that Dave will handle these challenges competently and fairly.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of Standing Master David Grubich and for your service on the Judicial Nominating Commission.

Very Truly Yours,


Jeffrey G. Winter
Hartelius, Durocher & Winter

406.727.4020 | fax 406.771.7319

118 6th Street South • P.O. Box 1629 • Great Falls, MT 59403 • www.mtlawyers.net

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:31:08 PM

From: civilfaye@yahoo.com <civilfaye@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 12:49 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Menzies, Lois
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of support-David Grubich

Hello,

I'm writing on behalf of David Grubich to strongly recommend that the Judicial Nomination Committee appoint him as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County.

I had the pleasure of working with Dave when he was hired in 2018 as the Standing Master, up until my retirement as Cascade County Clerk of Court in January of 2019. My career in the Clerk of Court Office spanned 18 years, so I also knew Dave when he was a practicing attorney.

Dave hit the ground running when he was hired as a Standing Master and was not deterred by the huge caseload. The position had previously been vacant and our office had been inundated with calls concerning domestic relation cases. It didn't take Dave long before he had the caseload up to date. Dave was always available when needed and I especially appreciated his experience and expertise whenever I reached out to him.

I can't express enough what a pleasure it was to work with Dave. It's people like him that I miss since my retirement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide additional information regarding Dave's ability to successfully serve Cascade County as District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Faye McWilliams

406-781-5645

civilfaye@yahoo.com

Master Sgt. USAF Retired
James G. Schreiber
729 48th St. S
Great Falls, Montana 59405
09/05/2020

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Judge Nomination

Judicial Nomination Commission,

It is my distinct pleasure to support David Grubich for the opening District Court Judgeship, Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

Over the years I have had the opportunity to interact with David in many situations. As member and president of The Forte Nightly dance club. Dancing, yes ballroom, in private and public environments including live on stage at the Great Falls Dancing with the Stars. Pistol shooting at the Great Falls Sports Shooting Complex. And in his family environment with wife and son. He handled every situation with innate professionalism, equality, dignity, safety and care. No task was ever too large or, more importantly, too small.

In my opinion David is well suited for the task of judgeship. He would enhance this seat with his personal qualities now and in the future.

Sincerely,

James G. Schreiber
James G. Schreiber

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

September 15, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I would like to submit this letter of my support for David Grubich for the position of district court judge for the Eight Judicial District (Cascade County) being vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski.

I first met David Grubich after becoming a Volunteer for Veterans Treatment Court, 8th Judicial District. Dave was coined and sworn in as a mentor for the participants. In my volunteer for Veterans Treatment Court, under Judge Greg Pinski, I was honored to take photos and write some stories of support with some of the participants, and post upon their successful completion of the program.

I have worked with Veterans Outreach over 25 years in our Great Falls area and was married to a Vietnam Veteran. I was the secretary of our first CIT Advisory Board in Great Falls; Secretary MHA, for almost nine years, Great Falls; Secretary for the State Mental Health Executive Board for three years; 12 years with the Vets4Vets 5 years as their secretary and working year round with our veterans on the streets of Great Falls and Cascade County. I also was a past volunteer, DAV, at the Great Falls Vet Center when it opened working on the front desk.

It takes special hearts on a team working with persons overcoming the invisible wounds of war. It is something you feel in your heart and it is more a calling than it is a job or position. Not everyone could do this type of work. Their stories can haunt you, their needs are deeply rooted in their stories and traumas. They need time, they need patience and they need to know that someone truly cares about what happened to them, while, at the same time holding them fully responsible for their actions and involvement in the program through successful completion. They need to know that they can trust the person/s working with them. Trust is a big issue.

Judge Greg Pinski has set the bar pretty high for anyone taking on this position. I was able to witness the respect between Judge Pinski and David Grubich and the other members of the Veterans Treatment Court Team and Administrator. The therapists, Parole and Probation staff, clergy, mentors, volunteers, plus, City, State and Federal Agencies all working together doing their best to enable these Veterans to return home healed and on a healthy personal road. It is a gentle but firm balance and David Grubich was a part of this very important team.

I have seen this highly professional team work with all their hearts for the common goals, Veterans and their families back together, some going back home for the first times in years.

I cannot imagine any other person taking on this position other than David Grubich. He's been there with the team, he knows inside out how it works, he is respected and gives respect to everyone, watched it and participated in all the team building, that to me is so important. He has built the trust and most of all he cares. He wants everyone coming into the program to succeed, and I am sure that would be across any program he touches bringing families and community together through hope, trust and his commitment to this position. It seems the natural flow and the best for the well-being of the program for David Grubich to step into this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hampton
Great Falls, Montana

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

*Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Vacancy for District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District*

September 16, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I write to offer my full support for David J. Grubich to be appointed District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District. I have had the pleasure of working with Dave for the past two years and I can undoubtedly say that he is the best fit candidate to replace the Honorable Gregory A. Pinski. I acknowledge that there may be other qualified individuals applying for this position but what sets David Grubich apart from the rest is his exceptional way of maintaining a calm temperament. Despite the rigorous case load and the everyday stresses that come with his position as Standing Master, he has demonstrated on numerous occasions that no matter the case presented in front of him, he is able to set aside any personal biases he may have and make fair, consistent rulings. For a District Court Judge I believe it is important to possess such a temperament and to remain level-headed and patient, especially when dealing with pro-se litigants who have little to no knowledge of how the court system works. This helps put parties' minds at ease during an otherwise stressful time.

Having clerked for Dave as my position of Deputy Clerk of Court, I can personally attest to his ability to treat not just myself but also our fellow court staff, attorneys, and pro-se litigants with respect, compassion, and understanding. This has created a pleasant work environment

because even as mistakes are made, he does not admonish us for them but rather guides us on how to correct them. This is an especially important quality for a Judge to possess when handling family law cases because when children are involved, an open-minded, compassionate individual is who you would want to make the final decisions.

In conclusion, David Grubich has been both successfully and exceptionally fulfilling his role as Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District, and I truly believe that if given the opportunity he will succeed as a District Court Judge and surpass any and all expectations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Sweeney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Elizabeth Sweeney
Deputy Clerk of Court



Agamenoni & Frank Court Reporting

Dear Commission Members:

September 16, 2020

My name is Joanie Agamenoni. I am a free-lance court reporter in Great Falls, Montana. I have seen my share of attorneys, their style, their strengths, their weaknesses over my 30-plus year career. So when Dave Grubich informed me he would be applying for the vacated seat of Judge Gregory Pinski in the Eighth Judicial District Court, I wanted to take an opportunity to share my thoughts about Dave.

I first met Dave informally in 2009 when he interned for Faure Holden, but I really came to know Dave when he became an associate with the firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins. When reporting a deposition for Dave, I knew it would be a good day. Dave was always prepared and very well organized. His even temperament; respect for others; strong, but calm, caring demeanor helped make the depositions run smoothly.

As I got to know Dave over the years, I came to know his eclectic background. I think this background from service to our country, law enforcement, small business owner, to civil litigation attorney has served him well and adds to his wealth of knowledge about so many different areas. But it is his current job as standing master that truly stands out as the natural transition to serve as the next judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

Dave's work ethic and caring ways are truly highlighted in his involvement in the Cascade County Law Clinic, serving on the board of directors and the pro bono work he has done over the years. Dave's commitment to ensuring citizens who cannot afford an attorney are fairly represented in the court system earned him the Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award by the Cascade County Bar Association in 2017.

Devotion to community is also a value Dave possesses, which can be highlighted by his many volunteer positions, serving as President of the Cascade County Bar Association, and becoming involved in the Veterans Court.

But if you really want to see Dave's face light up, ask him about his family, his wife and son. Dave is truly a family man.

Hard worker, fair, devoted, caring, organized, respectful, well-rounded, knowledgeable are just a few of the characteristics I see in Dave that make a great judge. So it is without hesitation I ask you to nominate David J. Grubich to serve as our next Eighth Judicial District Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Joan P. Agamenoni'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Joan' being particularly prominent.

Joan P. Agamenoni

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

September 16, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners,

I am writing to you today with my highest recommendation for our current Standing Master, David Grubich, to be appointed as our next 8th Judicial District Judge, for Department A. I am a Deputy Clerk for the District Court, and I have had the pleasure of working with and clerking for the Standing Master over the last year.

In the time I had been here, I have learned two different positions within the District Court, and even though I was in training a lot of the time, Standing Master Grubich was always patient, and kind while learning my new roles. He was always very understanding of the demand of the clerk's job, and always willing to answer any questions I have had, and do so with respect, and courtesy. He always has a positive energy, and if he did not have an answer, he would work until he could find it and answer my questions. He has always been a pleasure to work with, in and out of the Courtroom.

The Standing Master has taken on many jobs, and tasks since being appointed, which include Initial Appearances, as well as Juvenile Detentions. He has even stood in on other judge's Arraignments, Youth in Need of Care cases, and has even mediated family law. Not only is he dependable, and always happy and willing to help, he cares about this Court house, its cases, and EVERY staff member he comes across from the fellow Judges, down to the maintenance staff. He always has dignity and a friendly courteous disposition for all those who encounter him.

In the Courtroom I have witnessed Standing Master Grubich's thoroughness in every case. He never hesitates to follow the law, even if does not always weigh in favor of the parties. If concerns do arise, however, he converses with the parties, counsel, witnesses, and staff calmly and courteously. He is extremely dedicated to his position and has been an amazing asset to this Courthouse. We are lucky to have him and someone like him represent our County. I highly recommend Standing Master Grubich, in becoming the next Judge for Department A, and I am excited and look forward to seeing him in Department A and continuing his legacy as a District Judge in our Courthouse.

Sincerely,

Chelsey Heinle
Deputy Clerk to the Honorable Judge Best

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-305

September 16, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners,

I am writing to highly recommend David J. Grubich to become the next Eighth Judicial Judge for Department A. I have been employed with the Eighth Judicial District Courthouse since 2015. I started as a Deputy Clerk of Court for the Honorable Judge Gregory G. Pinski for two years and then I worked for the previous Standing Master Kathleen D. Jensen as her Judicial Assistant for one year. I have had the pleasure of working with Standing Master David J. Grubich since he began his journey as the Standing Master in 2018. There are several characteristics I have observed that make me believe he is the best candidate for Eighth Judicial Judge for Department A.

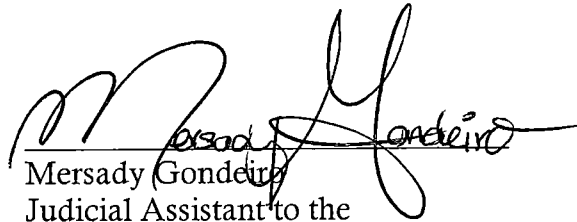
Firstly, as we began working with one another, we were able to create a system that works for us as a team. Throughout that process he was very patient and understanding. He is a joy to work with because he sets a positive and engaging work environment every day. David Grubich is always open for new suggestions to improve the working process. David Grubich's commitment to his work is impeccable. He is efficient and organized in executing every well thought out order in a timely fashion.

As the Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District he mainly presides over family law. Although, he is always at the ready when the Eighth District Court Judges call upon him as they require assistance with juvenile detentions, initial appearances, arraignments, youth in need of care, and has also acted as mediator for other family law cases. I always observed positive relationships and interactions between Standing Master Grubich and the Eighth Judicial District Judges. David Grubich treats every courthouse staff member with the utmost respect and with dignity.

Finally, David Grubich has shown his ability to handle the most difficult family law cases as the Standing Master. He has the willingness to do what the law requires even though the course he must follow may not necessarily be the popular one. David Grubich maintains order in his courtroom at all times. He communicates with counsel, witnesses, and parties calmly, courteously, and clearly. He demonstrates his open mindedness with every matter, looking at every possible angle which some angles I would never have thought of.

I am lucky to be working for such a humble, dedicated, reliable, and compassionate person. David Grubich has already been a great addition and asset to our community as the Standing Master. He will only excel and succeed for our community further as the next Eight Judicial District Court Judge. For the above characteristics, I confidently recommend David Grubich becoming the Eighth Judicial District Judge for Department A.

Sincerely,



Mersady Gondeiro
Judicial Assistant to the
Honorable District Standing Master

Bill Bronson
733 – 32nd Avenue NE
Great Falls, MT 59404
Tel: (406) 799-9373
E-mail: bill.bronson@bresnan.net

September 16, 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 Hon. David Grubich,
Montana Eighth Judicial District Court Judge**

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to recommend without hesitation the Hon. David Grubich, current Standing Master for the Montana Eighth Judicial District, for consideration as a finalist/nominee for the position of state district court judge in our district.

By way of background: I have been a practicing attorney for 37 years, and just recently retired from full-time law practice. In addition, I serve as the part-time executive director of the Cascade County Law Clinic, a non-profit corporation working with the local district court to find attorneys willing to handle cases for low-income residents in the county on a *pro bono* basis. I also served for 12 years as an elected member of the Great Falls City Commission, stepping down in December 2019. During my career, I have had the opportunity to get to know and work with Standing Master Grubich on a personal and professional level. He is extremely well qualified for service as a state district judge.

During my years of practice, which began with a clerkship with a Montana Supreme Court Justice in the early 1980s, I learned about qualities that make for a good judge, including, but not limited to, an even temperament, the ability to make timely decisions, a capacity for listening carefully, and not taking oneself too seriously. Standing Master Grubich has all of these qualities, and more.

I first became acquainted with Mr. Grubich when he entered private practice in Great Falls about ten years ago. He associated with the Ugrin firm, which enjoys a stellar reputation in the Great Falls legal community. Historically, the firm has been careful to hire only those people that demonstrate a desire for hard work, keen intellectual skills, but also a willingness to serve the community in their spare time. In the times I had occasion to work with Mr. Grubich in connection with some case, I always found him pleasant and cooperative, without sacrificing the necessary devotion to the needs of his clients and the integrity of our profession.

Later, we became even better acquainted when I was asked to take on the executive director functions of the Cascade County Law Clinic. He was then a member of the Clinic's board of directors. I began working with he and other board members monthly on range of Clinic programs and projects. He was always diligent in responding to my requests for assistance, and he demonstrated a strong personal commitment to working with our less fortunate community members, addressing their legal needs.

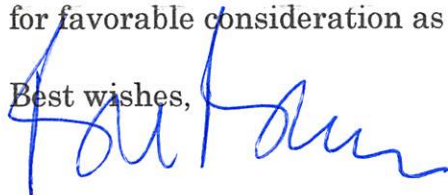
Ultimately, when he applied for and was retained as the new Standing Master, my association with him was enhanced even further. I have had the pleasure to appear before him, in open court, on case matters. He is always prepared for each case, is courteous with counsel and the parties, and his decisions are both timely and well-reasoned. The standing master faces many of the same pressures experienced by the district judges every day. There is no doubt in my mind, based on my personal experience, and my observation of Mr. Grubich, that he will be able to handle the responsibilities of a district court judge from day one.

In that regard, I was pleased to learn, as I as doing some further research into Mr. Grubich's background, of his prior work in policing, both in the military, and in the private sector. As a city commissioner, in addition to overseeing many important policy and financial decisions involving our local police department, it was my privilege to get to learn more about the day-to-day experiences of police officers, in their interactions with the general public, with offenders, and with victims. Now knowing about his law enforcement background, I have a better sense of the discipline and insight I have observed in his handling of cases and client matters, both as an attorney, and then as standing master. His background has obviously helped him develop and hone those skills. They are critical for a judge to possess when he or she begins work as a judge; we cannot afford to wait for those skills to show up at some later time.

Finally, as the standing master, Mr. Grubich has worked closely with me the past few months in the development of a new family law program we hope will improve the process of adopting and implementing parenting plans. Although the program was initially developed by Clinic staff and our attorney board members, the refinement of the plan required the careful eye of a judicial officer – in the case, Mr. Grubich. Working with our district judges, he has helped to make the plan more realistic and workable once it is put into practice. I am convinced that, once the plan is underway later this year, Mr. Grubich's work on and support of the plan will be critical to its success. His eye for innovation is a trait we need so desperately in the judiciary.

Standing Master Grubich is well-positioned, both personally and professionally, to assume the responsibilities of a state district court judge, I again recommend him for favorable consideration as a nominee.

Best wishes,



Bill Bronson

LAWRENCE A. ANDERSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.

300 4th Street North
P.O. Box 2608
Great Falls, MT 59403-2608
Telephone (406) 727-8466
Toll Free (888) 707-8466
Fax (406) 771-8812
E-Mail laalaw@me.com

September 16, 2020

VIA FED EXPRESS AND E-MAIL: bmclaughlin@mt.gov

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Beth McLaughlin
Office of Court Administrator
301 S. Park, Suite 328
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Letter of Recommendation for: Steve Bolstad, Michele Levine, David Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

During the last 45 years practicing law in Great Falls, we have had numerous district court judges.¹ Some of these people were well-respected lawyers who had extensive broad-based experience before ascending the bench, while others did not.

What distinguishes the good district court judges was not their broad experience in the practice before ascending the bench. Rather, what distinguishes the good district court judges is how they used the extraordinary power of their offices.

Prior broad professional experience is not in itself a predictor of how one will perform as a district court judge. However, prior experience does give one an indication of how prospective judges will use the power of their offices. But there are other means to determine how one will use the power of their offices. How one treats the service providers in their daily lives can be a good indication of how one will use power. And how prospective judges have used whatever power they have in their jobs often provides a good indication of how they will use judicial power.

None of the people in this applicant pool have prior broad professional experience that will enable one to assess how they will use the power of judicial office in the manner in which it is supposed to be used. Other than the personal recommendations that accompany their applications, we have no idea how they will use their judicial power.

¹ An informal list from memory includes: R.J. Nelson, Paul Hatfield, Truman Bradford, Bill Coder, John McCarvel, Joel Roth, Marge Johnson, Bob Goff, Tom McKittrick, Ken Neil, Julie Macek, Dirk Sandefur, Greg Pinski, John Kutzman, Elizabeth Best, John Parker.

I am acquainted with three applicants who have power and who have used it in a measured, proper way. For this reason, these applicants should have their names passed on to the governor for his consideration.

1) **Steve Bolstad** presently serves as a city court judge. The people who appear in his courtroom have been charged with engaging in publicly irresponsible behavior. These people are often the weakest and least powerful citizens among us. Yet, Steve treats the people in his courtroom with respect, humanism, and without cynicism. That is a hard thing to do in his job.

2) **Michele Levine** presently serves on Cascade County's zoning board. Regulatory boards, generally, are apt to be controlled by the interest that the board seeks to regulate. In the case of zoning boards, the real estate and development industries regularly appear before zoning boards; and as a result, zoning boards typically end up promoting the interests of the real estate and development industries. It is hard for regulators not to align their interests with the interests they are regulating, because the regulated interest constantly appears before the board. Yet, Michele has consistently resisted this pressure while serving on the Cascade County Zoning Board. This is a hard thing to do in this job.

3) **David Grubich** presently serves as the district court special master for family law matters. This job often involves making decisions in contested child custody matters in which neither side or only one side is represented. Decisions that are wrong in this context can have lifelong devastating consequences to the children who are the victims in these broken unions. David recognizes the importance of these decisions. This is a hard thing to do in this job.

Thank you for consideration of this letter.

Very truly yours,



Lawrence A. Anderson
LAA/teb

REBECK & CRUM
AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRACTICE OF LAW
300 CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 410
POST OFFICE BOX 2720
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2720

DARCY M. CRUM dba DARCUM M. CRUM, PLLC
ATTORNEY AT LAW
KAY KILBY SULLIVAN
CERTIFIED LEGAL ASSISTANT

TELEPHONE (406) 727-8400
FAX (406) 727-9895
EMAIL dcrum@mcn.net

RETIRED
SUSAN J. REBECK

September 15, 2020

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

Members of the Commission,

I am pleased to recommend David Grubich for the open Eighth Judicial District Court Judge seat. He has been the Eighth Judicial District Court Standing Master for the last two years. It is in that capacity that I know and have worked with him.


As Standing Master he has worked closely with all of our District Court judges. Practicing law for over 30 years and having appeared in front of others who have held the same position, I can unequivocally say he is the best at this job. I do a lot of adoption work and in ruling on my petitions I can report he is unfailingly courteous and professional, recognizes the importance of the matter on the individuals in front of him, treats parties with respect and takes time to recognize my clients on a personal level. Consequently they leave the hearing feeling confident in the judiciary. This is such an important quality to model to the public in today's environment.

Dave has the utmost confidence of our district court judges. He presides over criminal and family law matters. This requires him to be fair and impartial and in control of his courtroom. It also involves juggling several matters at a time. I have observed all of these qualities. Dave embodies the qualities we need as a District Court judge – intelligence, independence, decency and hard work. His temperament is exactly what we want as attorneys and citizens whose cases are being heard by the District Court. Being “in the trenches” at the Ugrin firm in Great Falls gave him exposure to a wide variety of matters. His work product and his demeanor with other lawyers translates into unbiased decisions and fairness to all litigants.

Dave is in touch with people outside the legal arena as well. He is not isolated. He has served tirelessly as a board member and officer of the Cascade County Law Clinic, as a police officer, a small business owner and a member of the Air Force. These activities illustrate his time management skills and work ethic – also traits needed to be an effective District Court Judge.

Dave would make an excellent District Court Judge and I hope you will recommend him to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Sincerely,



Darcy M. Crum

MAXON R. DAVIS
GREGORY J. HATLEY
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN
JOSEPH SULLIVAN
TRAVIS CUSHMAN
* * *
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

LAW OFFICE OF
DAVIS, HATLEY, HAFFEMAN & TIGHE, P.C.
THE MILWAUKEE STATION, THIRD FLOOR
101 RIVER DRIVE NORTH
P. O. BOX 2103
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-2103
E-MAIL: paul.haffeman@dhhtlaw.com

TELEPHONE
(406) 761-5243
FAX
(406) 761-4126

FILE NO.

September 20, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter of recommendation of the appointment of David Grubich to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Hon. Greg Pinski.

I have known Dave for a decade, during which time I served with him for several years as a Board member of the Cascade County Law Clinic, which provides pro bono legal representation to those of limited means. From that experience, it became obvious to me that Dave is very dedicated to public service. That dedication further reflected itself in his decision to accept the appointment to the position of Standing Master for Eighth Judicial District Court, instead of continuing to work in more financially lucrative private practice. That Standing Master position is a difficult one, but from personal experience representing litigants appearing before Dave, I have seen that he is not only totally up to that task, but could handle much more, including serving as a District Court Judge. He has the experience, the work ethic, and the affable personality which could well serve the needs of Cascade County long into the future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/Paul R. Haffeman
Paul R. Haffeman

PRH:

STATE OF MONTANA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DEPARTMENTS 1 & 4
arubin@mt.gov



MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292
(406) 258-4778

AMY S. RUBIN
STANDING MASTER

September 19, 2020

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

Dear Commission Members,

I write this letter in support of the application of David J. Grubich for the Cascade County District Court Judgeship. I have known David Grubich since his appointment as a fellow Standing Master. I have found him to be intelligent, thoughtful, and considerate and I value his input on various issues facing Standing Masters. Prior to his appointment as Standing Master, David demonstrated an impressive commitment to pro bono work, going above and beyond what would be expected of any attorney. I am impressed with David's continued on-going volunteer involvement in the community of Great Falls.

David's background of both law enforcement and the Air Force have given him a solid foundation when working with people in stressful situations. His comments about litigants who appear in his Court show a level of compassion and empathy, even when making hard decisions. His respectful and measured approach to people and problems will serve him in good stead as a District Court Judge.

David's application shows that he has broad experience, including civil and criminal work, and I have no doubt that he would be able to transition to the role of District Court Judge without difficulty. In addition, having David serve as District Court Judge would allow continuity in the important work of the Veteran's Court.

Thank you for your consideration of him for this important appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ASR", is written over a horizontal line.

Amy S. Rubin

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

Re: Candiadate David J. Grubich

Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

September 17, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I write to you today to express my recommendation for the appointment of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District to David Grubich. I strongly believe that David possesses the qualifications as well as the qualities necessary to uphold the U.S. Constitution as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I know David to be committed, compassionate, and just in his rulings as Standing Master. I am confident that these qualities are what is needed for our Judicial District.

I met David in 2018, while working for the 8th Judicial District Treatment Courts. As Standing Master, David has sat in for the Honorable Judge Gregory Pinski on several occasions. David is committed to serving those involved in the Justice System. He was eager to assist and quickly connect with the participants and staff involved in the treatment courts. David's compassion was evident by the patience exhibited while serving the participants in the court. He spent time with each participant and took all facts presented during staffing to make the conversation effective. David administered sanctions and incentives in accordance to Best Practice Standards. He was fair and considerate in his rulings. David quickly and easily adapted to the differences in both the adult drug treatment court as well the veteran's treatment court.

I also had the pleasure of attending the National Treatment Court Conference in Washington DC with David. He attended several seminars and was enthusiastic to learn more about Best Practices and dedicated to serving those involved in these specialized courts. David's integrity is marked by the justice that is served while on the Bench.

I am honored to highly recommend David for the appointment of this position. I believe that he will most definitely be an asset to our community. Justice will be served and our community will be in great hands. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to call me if further input is needed.

Respectfully,

Kathryn A. Hanks

(406) 564-5222

September 18, 2020

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

Members of the Commission,

I am writing in support of David J. Grubich, who has applied for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County) to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski.

My name is Kelly Maki and I am a retired elementary principal with Great Falls Public Schools. I am currently on the Board of Directors with Eagle Mount Great Falls. Eagle Mount Great Falls is a nonprofit organization which provides therapeutic activities for disabled children, adults, and veterans. I met David when he joined the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors three years ago.

While serving on the Board with David, I have been impressed with his dedication to the organization and his experience and knowledge with veteran and personnel issues. David has been a tireless supporter of Eagle Mount Great Falls and the program participants. He brings many skills to the table and his commitment to our community is truly evident.

David's strengths, which I have witnessed through our work with Eagle Mount, are many:

- He is an excellent listener and has an ability to organize and synthesize information quickly.
- David is very professional and respectful of those with whom he is working.
- He is approachable, sincere, and easy to talk to.
- Obviously a hard-worker and very organized, David always lends a hand and supports the goals and activities that have been established.
- David has enthusiasm and energy. He is a positive thinker and influence on the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors.

I feel that David is an excellent choice for district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to share my support of David.

Sincerely,

Kelly Maki
3008 Dawn Court
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 868-8614

LUINSTRALAW OFFICE

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

GREGORY A. LUINSTRALAW

219 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 302
CTA ARCHITECTS/ORANGE CRUSH BUILDING
P. O. BOX 3169
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

PARALEGALS:
MARY P. LUINSTRALAW
PATRICIA NEMITZ

PHONE: (406) 761-4800

FAX: (406) 761-4804

September 17, 2020

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

RE: *David J. Grubich Application for District Judge, Cascade County, Montana*

Dear Panel Members:

I am writing in support of the application of David J. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County, Montana.

I have known David for the last ten years while he was in private practice in Great Falls. He is currently serving as Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court. My connection with Mr. Grubich is in his capacity as the Standing Master, rather than as a lawyer. My practice areas were different than his as a private litigator. I do know he enjoyed a great reputation among his colleagues.

Dave had a broad scope of legal experience as a litigator for the Ugrin firm in Great Falls, in different sectors, in complex cases and with numerous parties. His trial experience will be a great asset to the judicial system. I believe his legal and life experiences before he was a lawyer will serve him well in handling the many and varied issues that courts now need to address. He has handled numerous types of cases as Standing Master. He is well suited to and understands the needs of the Court. He can step right into the shoes of a district court judge.

David is a considerate person, wise, with a good judicial temperament. David will be a good complement to the judges in the Eighth Judicial District.

Letter to Judicial Nominating Commission
Re: Application of David J. Grubich
Page 2
September 17, 2020

I heartily endorse his application for the Judge position.

Very truly yours,

LUINSTRA LAW OFFICE



Greg A. Luinstra

GAL:psn

cc: David J. Grubich

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Fw: 8th Judicial District - David Grubich
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 4:07:04 PM

From: DAN SUE DELLAROSSA <ROSSA4349@msn.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 11:04 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 8th Judicial District - David Grubich

Judicial Nomination Commission

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of David Grubich to fill the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County). I had the pleasure and honor of working as a paralegal with Dave in private practice at UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, PC, where he practiced civil litigation for 8 years. It came as no surprise that Dave has excelled in his position as Standing Master. Dave is intelligent, hardworking, ethical, and compassionate. He has a calm demeanor and the judicial temperament required of a Judge. His positive attitude is infectious to all that he comes in contact with.

Dave's commitment and dedication to better his community is admirable in the volunteer work he has done with Eagle Mount and the Cascade County Pro Bono Clinic. I have personally seen the countless hours he dedicated to his pro bono clients providing legal services with integrity and empathy. Dave has been able to balance the demands of work, family and community, always with a smile on his face.

Dave's diverse background in military service, law enforcement, private practice and as Standing Master make him exceptionally qualified to serve as District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District.

I strongly urge you to forward Dave's name to the Governor for consideration. Thank you.

Sue L. Della Rossa, CLA
Paralegal
UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, PC
2 Railroad Square, Suite B
Great Falls, MT 59401
(406)771-0007

W.T. BOONE (1910-1984)
KARL R. KARLBERG (1923-1988)
JAMES J. BENN (1944-1992)
THOMAS H. BOONE, of Counsel
WILLIAM L. CROWLEY
RANDY J. COX
ROBERT J. SULLIVAN
DEAN A. STENSLAND
CYNTHIA K. THIEL
ROSS D. TILLMAN
JAMES A. BOWDITCH

MATTHEW B. HAYHURST
SCOTT M. STEARNS
NATASHA PRINZING JONES
THOMAS J. LEONARD
JULIE R. SIRRS
TRACEY NEIGHBOR JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER L. DECKER
RANDY J. TANNER
ZACHARY A. FRANZ
TYLER M. STOCKTON
EVAN B. COREN
ALISON R. POTTS

September 18, 2020

by e-mail only

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

**Re: Letter of support for David Grubich
Eighth Judicial District**

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to express my support for Dave Grubich and his application to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District. Dave and I started law school together 13 years ago. Over that time, it has become clear that Dave's professionalism, work ethic, and public service set him apart. Dave's appointment to the bench would be a great benefit to Cascade County and those who appear before him.

When we were in law school, Dave brought an important perspective to our student community, having served in both the United States Air Force and as a patrol officer and investigator with the Harvard, Illinois Police Department. Since then, Dave has only continued to diversify his experiences—practicing civil law in a Great Falls law firm in a wide array of areas and serving as Standing Master for Cascade County, handling numerous family law matters, among others. This rich background will benefit Cascade County in a number of ways. Dave's service in the Air Force will immediately allow him to connect and relate to an important sector of the Great Falls community—those who serve at Malmstrom Air Force Base and with the Montana Air National Guard. His varied experiences also mean he will hit the ground running in both criminal and civil cases, which is a rare quality among today's practitioners, who tend to specialize in one area or the other.

While my firm is located in Missoula, I regularly practice in Cascade County, and I know the bench carries a busy docket. Cascade County could not ask for a better judge to help manage that docket. Dave is extremely organized and very task driven, as he has no doubt proven as Standing Master.

Dave has and will continue to develop deep roots in the Cascade County community. He has been an integral part of a number of non-profit organizations in the community, and he has established himself as a leader. Having been a small business owner himself, Dave is as comfortable with other business owners and leaders in the community as he is with the families he has served in his pro bono work. This shared connection with so many cross-sections of the Cascade County community means he not only understands the community better than most, it also means he will be re-elected if appointed.

Dave has committed his life to public service and improving the lives of those who live in our communities. That was evident to me and so many others, when we first got to know Dave in law school. With this commitment to the public, Dave brings an admirable combination of intellect, integrity, impartiality, and allegiance to the Rule of Law. In short, I am not surprised at all that I am writing this letter—Dave has always possessed the qualities of an outstanding judge. I respectfully recommend the Judicial Nomination Commission forward Dave's application to Governor Bullock. He will be a tremendous asset to Cascade County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Tanner", with a stylized, flowing script.

Randy Tanner

FLAHERTY | GALLARDO
LAWYERS

Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
Paul Gallardo
1026 First Ave. South
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Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

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: Letter in Support for David Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

I strongly support David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Mr. Grubich since his early years in private practice. Throughout those years, and into his tenure as a Standing Master, he has kept the same public image – intelligent, good-natured, humble, reasonable, fair, and hard-working. In private practice, Mr. Grubich worked for Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, P.C., one of the most well-respected firms. Even while working on complicated matters and maintaining a full case load, he was known for helping others less fortunate through pro bono work, and received public recognition for his pro bono efforts. And now as a Standing Master, he is known for treating those before him with respect, ensuring litigants and attorneys are heard, and providing well-reasoned analysis into his decisions.

Like myself, David Grubich served in the United States Air Force. I can attest that he still embodies the Air Force core values of Excellence, Integrity, and Service Before Self in his everyday life. I have no doubt he will continue exhibiting these values as our newest District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Paul Gallardo

September 18, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Evie Ugrin, a resident of Great Falls since 1970. My late husband, with two other attorneys, founded a law firm in Great Falls in 1986. I first met David Grubich at a social gathering that firm held with attorneys and staff when he was new to the firm.

One of my long time favored non-profit organizations has been Eagle Mount of Great Falls. David, as a board member of Eagle Mount, has given extensive time and counsel to the organization.

His communication ability and analytical skill are wonderful tools to possess for his profession and I consider David to be an asset to our community. His personal experience and professional background make me comfortable recommending and supporting David for the District Court Judgeship, Eighth Judicial District.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Ugrin".

Evie Ugrin
3300 Centennial Court
Great Falls, MT 59404

email: ugies@msn.com

R. HENRY BRANOM JR.

Attorney at Law
104 2nd Street South, Suite 301
Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 727-5328
(406) 727-4329 (FAX)

September 18, 2020

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

Re: David J. Grubich

Dear Commissioners:

I write in support of David J. Grubich's application to the Eighth Judicial District bench. I have known Dave professionally and personally for over ten years. I believe he would make an outstanding judge.

I first met Dave when he interned for Faure Holden in 2009. I have had the opportunity to follow his career as he has developed into an outstanding attorney and now Standing Master. His performance as Standing Master clearly demonstrates he has the ability and temperament to be an excellent judge for the Eighth Judicial District. The Court would be fortunate to have someone with Dave's breadth of legal and life experiences on the bench. I am familiar with the Veteran's Treatment Court as I have had two clients graduate from the program. Dave contributes to the success of the program as Standing Master and will continue his involvement as a judge if appointed by the Governor.

Dave and his wife are members of the same church as my wife and me. We played together on the church's softball team. Dave has sung in the choir. Knowing Dave in this aspect of our lives outside of the legal practice reinforces my belief that he would be an excellent judge. All who would appear before him as a judge would receive a fair and impartial evaluation of their case. Cascade County would be fortunate to have Dave as a judge.

It is my pleasure to whole heartedly recommend David Grubich to you as a judge on the Eighth Judicial District Court. Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Henry Branom Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

R. Henry Branom Jr.



Eagle Mount Great Falls
P.O. Box 2866
Great Falls, MT 59403

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eagle_mountgf@eaglemount.net
www.eaglemount.net

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend David Grubich for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

My name is Deb Sivumaki, Executive Director of Eagle Mount Great Falls. In 2017 David joined the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors. Over the years, I have had many opportunities to work with him. David is a board member that I seek out for guidance in difficult situations that may arise within our organization. He is an excellent listener and communicator. Even with his demanding work schedule, he finds the time to fulfill his board commitment. David has many admirable qualities. He is honest, humble, reliable, level-headed, compassionate, and always professional. Eagle Mount is proud to have him serve on our board. Great Falls and Cascade County is fortunate to have David and his family in our community.

I believe that David's real-life experiences and education have given him the qualities and qualifications necessary to be a fair and well-grounded District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Deb Sivumaki
Executive Director
Eagle Mount Great Falls

**Mark F. Higgins
387 Carol Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405**

September 21, 2020

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

Re: David Grubich/Eighth Judicial District Court Judgeship

Dear Members of the Commission:

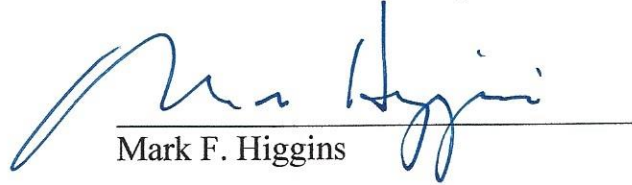
I write today asking that you give serious consideration to David Grubich's application to be appointed as State District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. While I know that there are other very qualified, worthy candidates for this important position, I honestly believe that Dave's unique background and skill set make him an excellent aspirant for this post.

I have spent over thirty years as an active litigator in state and federal courts throughout Montana. That experience has counselled that serving as a Judge is not for the faint of heart. It is hard, challenging work that requires not only a keen intellect, but an unwavering willingness to put in long hours of hard work. It also requires a profound sense of fairness. Everything I observed during the eight years that Dave and I worked together at the Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins law firm gave me strong assurance that he has each of those qualities, in abundance.

Please take a strong look at Dave's professional background. Obviously, his recent experience as the Standing Master in this very Court is as close of experience that anyone can have without actually being a District Court Judge. I know our existing Judges over here quite well, and if any of them did not have considerable confidence in Dave, they would not be using him as actively as is the case. He has been very busy, and I have heard nothing but positives from those who spend more time at our local courthouse than I. Second, I think Dave's experience as a police officer is an obvious asset given the nature of the cases that would come before him. Finally, I have seen Dave in action: in a hotly contested discharge case where our firm happened to be on the Plaintiff side, Dave strode into the elegant boardroom of the corporate defendant, in

Nashville, and went toe to toe with some difficult witnesses and quite skilled opposing counsel. The calm and sound judgment he displayed are assets that will serve him well if he is fortunate to move on to this vital judgeship.

Again, I know this selection process requires each of you to make some difficult calls. I have complete confidence that this process is fair, and that all members will make decisions based upon a sound belief that they are in the best interests of our great state. Whatever you decide, I appreciate your willingness to serve in this important role, and hope that Dave's submission will be given serious consideration. Thank you.



Mark F. Higgins

CHRISTOPHER A. HOFFMAN

HOFFMAN LAW, PLLC

410 Central Ave., Suite 319 / P.O. Box 1113 / Great Falls, MT 59403

Ph: 406-315-8555 / Fax: 406-315-8111

September 21, 2020

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

RE: EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT VACANCY

Dear Commission Members:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to support and recommend David Grubich and Sunday Rossberg to fill the vacant Eight Judicial District Judge seat. Cascade County is truly fortunate to have several well-qualified individuals submit applications for this position. I respect each applicant to this position and have had numerous personal and professional interactions with nearly all the applicants. For the reasons stated herein, I have an abundance of confidence that David Grubich and Sunday Rossberg would serve Cascade County well.

Standing Master David Grubich:

I first became familiar with David when he served in leadership with the Cascade County Bar Association. David was always energetic and diligent with his responsibilities to the Bar Association.

More recently, I've known David as the Eighth Judicial District's Standing Master. I've often appeared before David in contested custody and divorce cases. David also assists the other District Court Judges as a mediator, presides over drug court, youth in need of care proceedings, and preliminary criminal proceedings. I've observed that David possesses an even temper, compassionate understanding towards the litigants, and ample knowledge of law and procedure. David's empathy and understanding towards the litigants, who are living through one of his or her worst days, is refreshing. David's compassion and empathy often preemptively defuse litigants post-hearing troubles.

For these reasons, David is an exceptional choice to serve as Cascade County's next District Court Judge. Compassion and even-temperedness is greatly needed in the courtroom and more broadly throughout our community.

Sunday Rossberg:

I've known and litigated against Sunday for approximately five (5) years. Sunday zealously advocates and protects her client's interests. Sunday is well-versed in domestic relations issues. Sunday practices law with integrity and diligence, which is highly commendable in emotionally charged cases.

In the past couple of years, Sunday is someone I can call and seek advise on abnormal legal issues arising in divorce or custody cases. Sunday is generous with her time in assisting me with case-related issues. Furthermore, Sunday is willing to volunteer her time as an advocate for children in nasty custody cases.

Sunday's integrity, diligence, and focus upon the interests of children make her a well-qualified candidate to fill this District Court Judge seat.

I appreciate your attention and consideration to my opinion. As a final thought, I believe Cascade County would be well served by an applicant with a wealth of experience in matters concerning children. Cascade County has hundreds of divorce and custody cases filed annually; not to mention the approximately 400 yearly of youth in need of care cases. Both applicants supported herein would be equipped with the knowledge and experience to preside over cases concerning the most vulnerable citizens of Cascade County.

Sincerely,

/s/ ***Christopher A. Hoffman***

Christopher A. Hoffman
HOFFMAN LAW, PLLC

**Robert F. James
332 Fox Drive
Great Falls, MT 5404**

September 20, 2020

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

Sent by email

RE: David Grubich

Dear Commissioners,

I retired from the law practice several years ago from the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, as a partner, where I specialized in civil trial litigation. Dave Grubich and I worked on many cases together and I observed him interact with clients.

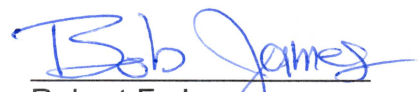
Dave worked hard and had excellent people skills. He is one of the nicest people that I had the pleasure to work with in my career and I think he would be an excellent judge.

Many judges had a profession prior to attending law school and they had a wide diversity of life experiences. As lawyers, they handled different types of cases in their careers, and didn't specialize in one type of case. The same is true for Dave.

In my forty plus years of practice, I found the best judges are fair, kind, patient, and are good listeners. In addition, they treat lawyers and the public politely, exercise common sense, have a good sense of humor, and can make a decision in a timely manner. A good judge is impartial, hard-working, and appreciates the importance that courts have in our society and how judges can significantly impact peoples' lives. Dave fits all of these qualifications.

What you see in Dave is what you will get if he is selected the district court judge. He's no chameleon and he will not change his principles to please others. Dave's experiences and personal standards will help him become an outstanding judge.

Sincerely yours,


Robert F. James

September 16, 2020

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

RE: Recommendation Letter for Standing Master David Grubich

Dear Justice Nomination Commission,

I unequivocally endorse Judge David Grubich for appointment to the judicial vacancy in Cascade County and this letter is in support of his appointment.

My name is Donna Gass and I am the office administrator at the Cascade County Law Clinic (CCLC). The CCLC is a small non-profit located in Great Falls, Montana. Our mission is finding pro bono attorneys for low-income individuals in family law and tenant/landlord issues.

My interactions with Judge Grubich include his previous role as board member with the CCLC and as the current Standing Master in Cascade County District Court.

As a board member, I observed Dave's tireless efforts to close the gap in legal services and improve relations between our organizations' various stakeholders.

When Dave became the Standing Master, I continue to observe his legal knowledge, empathy towards pro se litigants and continued efforts to improve the courts.

Family law issues are always acrimonious. Judge Grubich recently presided at a hearing for one of our clients, who had to appear *pro se*. The action is a parenting plan modification, possibly resulting in immediately relocating a child out of state. After the hearing, the client reported the Judge's thoughtfulness towards her son and the law. He declined to issue an Order from the bench, easing all parties' concerns for immediate removal of the child. It's obvious Judge Grubich considers the statutes and what's in the best interests of an eleven-year-old boy. He clearly considers the commonsense approach to administering that law. Judge Grubich is an outstanding example of what all lay people (non-attorneys) think a good judge should be.

Our clients at CCLC are *pro se* litigants until they are given a pro bono attorney referral. Our clients are extremely fearful and anxious about going to court without legal representation and appearing before a judge. Everyone thinks the judge is going to take their child away, the judge will throw them in jail, or their lack of legal experience will upset the court, affecting the circumstances of their case. After a hearing date, these are some of the unsolicited comments I

have heard about Judge Grubich:

"...fair, kind, understanding, empathetic, and spoke so I could understand what was happening". The clients are pleasantly surprised Judge Grubich was so understanding, nonjudgmental to the circumstances of the case and acted in a fair manner. Clients testify to his fairness and kindness even though the Order may have not entirely in their favor.

Even though Corvid-19 has affected all our lives and the speed of court proceedings, Judge Grubich's court runs extremely efficient. Judge Grubich schedules family law hearings and replies to motions in a timely manner. CCLC clients are always surprised when a hearing is scheduled in a reasonable amount of time. They expect a hearing or court ordered- mediation six months or more after filing. Judge Grubich seems to realize, that especially in family law, moving court proceedings in a timely fashion, lets people get back to their lives.

Judge Grubich, William Bronson, (CCLC Executive Director) and I are collaborating on a Parenting Orientation Forum for the Eighth Judicial District. This program is following the model of the Fourth Judicial District's Parenting Plan Orientation. Judge Grubich volunteered and became the liaison between our committee and the judges at the courthouse. Judge Grubich presented our proposal, outline and handouts to the other judge for their in-put. Not only did Judge Grubich proof all the paperwork, he made sure to insert the different judges' opinions and thoughts. Without Judge Grubich bringing together many different people's opinions and wishes, this program could not have moved forward.

He works efficiently and conscientiously with all personalities and opinions to make this program a reality in our court district in the future.

I strongly encourage you to consider Judge David Grubich for the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. To those of us who are outside the legal community, Judge Grubich has been a wonderful example of what we think a Judge should be. Kind, compassionate, empathetic, knowledgeable of the law and using commonsense in administering that law.

Thank you, Justice Nomination Commission for your time and reading my thoughts in this letter.

Sincerely,



Donna Gass
736 32nd Avenue NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

The Law Firm of
Falcon, Lester & Schaff, P.C.

Randall C. Lester
Tonja Schaff Kostelecky

Retired:
Daniel L. Falcon

Stockman Bank Building
25 – 5th Street North, Suite 202
Great Falls, MT 59401
VOICE (406) 727-5740
FAX (406) 727-9415

September 21, 2020

VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

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

RE: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position for District Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Commission Members:

I would like to take this opportunity to submit my endorsement for David J. Grubich to be nominated and appointed as District Court Judge for the upcoming vacant position in the Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, created by the departure of the Honorable Gregory G. Pinski. Filling the position left by Judge Pinski will require a person that is fair, hardworking, dedicated and who has the ability to handle complex legal issues. From my review of the current applications for the position, attending the Candidate Forum held last week with the Cascade County Bar Association, and my general knowledge of the candidates, I believe that Mr. Grubich has the integrity, ability and work ethic to serve as District Judge.

I practice primarily family law in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. I have been in practice in Great Falls since 1992. I have appeared before Mr. Grubich in his capacity as District Court Standing Master. Mr. Grubich is well-prepared, prompt, fair and has a temperament that serves him well as a standing master, and will also serve him well as a District Judge if he is appointed to that position. As a standing master, Mr. Grubich treats attorneys and self-represented litigants with respect and dignity. Mr. Grubich appears on the bench well-prepared. It is evident that he has read the file, is aware of the issues pending before him and is aware of the legal principles that he must apply. Mr. Grubich is confident and has the legal competence to serve well in the capacity as a District Judge.

I did not have the pleasure of working with Mr. Grubich in private practice before he became the standing master. When he was appointed standing master, I opined regarding what experience Mr. Grubich had with complex family law cases and how he would proceed in his capacity as standing master not being overly familiar with the area.

Mr. Grubich has always appeared well-versed in the area. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, while at the same time being down to earth and not demeaning to any person in the courtroom.

Mr. Grubich has a varied background that will suit him well as a District Judge. During all of the times that I have appeared before Mr. Grubich, he has been very well spoken and his professionalism is impeccable. Mr. Grubich has managed his standing master calendar efficiently and does not appear to have a large backlog of cases. Mr. Grubich rules timely and fairly.

Mr. Grubich has a broad background and he has proven that he is not afraid to learn new areas of the law. With Mr. Grubich's background, I believe he will bring common sense and fairness to the District Judge position. If Mr. Grubich is appointed as District Judge, I believe that he will garner trust in the Eighth Judicial District and he will be able to successfully maintain the elected position through future elections.

It is with great pleasure, that I recommend David Grubich as District Court Judge, among a field of many qualified applicants.

Very truly yours,

FALCON, LESTER & SCHAFF, P.C.

By: 
Tonja Schaff Kostecky

cc: David J. Grubich

September 21, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Helena, MT
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of David Grubich's application for the position of District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County). I worked with David from 2010, when he joined the law firm of Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C., until 2018, when he left to take his present position as Special Master. I was an attorney with the firm from 1999 until my retirement last month.

The Ugrin firm specializes in civil litigation, and David and I worked on several cases together over the years. I always found him to be responsive, intelligent, thoughtful and to have good judgment. Personally, he is level-headed and conscientious. He possesses very good interpersonal skills which is a trait often lacking on the bench. I think David would be an excellent and impartial judge. He has the right combination of intellect and temperament for the position, and he would make a valuable contribution to the administration of justice in Cascade County. He has a wonderfully varied background, and so brings unique life experience and understanding of the world with him.

You would do well to advance him as a recommended candidate to the Governor. I hope that you will do so.

Sincerely,

Cathy J. Lewis

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

**JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
#2 RAILROAD SQUARE, SUITE B
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GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403-1746
TELEPHONE (406) 771-0007
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E-MAIL uazh@uazh.com,
Website <http://uazh.com>

**ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK**

September 21, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – David J. Grubich

Dear Commission:

I am writing in support of Standing Master David J. Grubich to succeed the Honorable Greg Pinski as Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I believe Dave is uniquely qualified for this important position and request he be given strong consideration.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Dave for over 10 years, not only as a colleague at Ugrin Alexander Zadick, PC; but as a board member on the Cascade County Law Clinic, and as a friend. In my experience, any task Dave approaches he does so with nothing less than 100% effort. As an attorney, Dave was respectful to the parties, opposing counsel, and the court. He was prepared, well versed in the facts and law of the case, and approached every matter in a highly professional manner. Dave encouraged a team environment and his sense of humor brought much needed levity and perspective to us all.

In addition to Dave's dedication to his legal work, Dave's involvement in his community is unprecedented. In our work on the Cascade County Law Clinic board, I quickly learned that Dave is an active board member who is always willing to step up to assist. He enjoyed great respect from other board members. Dave recognized the extreme importance of pro bono legal representation in Cascade

County and in addition to serving on the board, volunteered his time to represent several clients in family law matters. This work was recognized by his peers when he received the Judge Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award from the Cascade County Bar Association in February 2017.

Since Dave became Standing Master, I have witnessed Dave's growth and development. While I have not had the pleasure of practicing in front of him, I have spoken with several practitioners who have and am not surprised to learn how well he has done in this position. Dave is amiable and personable. He has a reputation for timely decisions and a calm demeanor. He is prepared and demonstrates a civility that is much needed when dealing with contentious cases. His energy and respect for others is just what our judicial system needs.

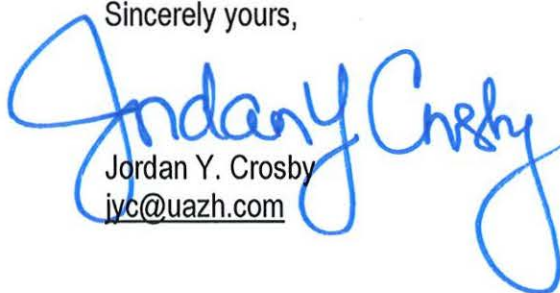
Finally, Dave's love for his wife, Valerie, and son, Evan, is unmeasurable. He is truly a family man, who always places his family's needs above his own.

Dave's broad legal practice and recent service as Standing Master make him uniquely qualified for the position of District Court Judge. Dave's diverse life experiences, and commitment to the community, not only bolsters his ability as a judge, but I also believe they will resonate with the voters of Cascade County. The comments submitted already on Dave's behalf demonstrate the wide-ranging support he has not just from the legal community, but the community as a whole.

Dave has a great temperament, is conscientious, and hard-working. Dave will demonstrate compassion, while still dispensing fair and just rulings. I believe his empathy, as well as his common sense and dedication to the pursuit of justice, makes him well suited for the job. I have no doubt our community will be well served to have Dave appointed as District Court Judge.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you include Dave among the nominees you recommend to Governor Bullock. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Jordan Y. Crosby
jyc@uazh.com

Judicial Nomination Commission

September 21, 2020

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Public Comment on 8th Judicial District Judge – David Grubich

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I appreciate the opportunity to write this letter of support to the Judicial Nomination Commission for David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, Montana to fill the seat to be vacated by Judge Gregory Pinski.

I know David Grubich not through the practice of law or any appearances, but through our time together in the Great Falls Chamber Leadership Great Falls. In the approximately 10 years since I've known him Dave has always come across as professional, courteous, and helpful. It says something to me that of the minimal amount of time we had to get to know each other through the Leadership Great Falls course, and of the dozens of participants, he still showed sincere interest in my career, husband and our young child. Dave still always shows interest in the things that are most important to me. As Theodore Roosevelt has presumably said, "People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." This strength applies to Dave.

Although I do not have an anecdote to share of his involvement in the law, I have observed him to be professional, intelligent, and organized in our civic engagements together. Our mission during Leadership Great Falls was to unify and produce an effective positive movement in our community. He acted with sincerity, respect, focus and wisdom in those efforts and I believe he would uphold the highest expectations of a District Court Judge. I hope the Judicial Nominating Commission will consider placing him on the list for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Sincerely,

Danielle M Grebe
Architect, AIA



danig@lpwarchitecture.com

P 406.771.0770 ext. 320

15 FIFTH STREET SOUTH
GREAT FALLS | MT 59401

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520 Third Avenue North

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Telephone: (406) 727-3550 • Fax: (406) 727-1640

Kitty Agostinelli, Legal Assistant

Clari Davis, Legal Assistant

September 21, 2018

Sent via email to: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

RE: Letter of Support for David J. Grubich

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members:

I am privileged to write a letter of support on behalf of Dave Grubich. I urge the Commission to recommend Dave for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Dave has a diverse professional background. He served his country in the United States Air Force, the citizens of Illinois as a police officer, and the citizens of Cascade County as a private practice attorney, community volunteer, and Special Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court. In his capacity as Standing Master, Dave works closely with the judges of the Eighth Judicial District on family law matters, juvenile proceedings, criminal proceedings, and civil cases. He has also worked with Judge Pinski in furtherance of Veterans and Drug Treatment Court matters.

Dave's background has helped mold the approachable, yet thoughtful, disposition he brings to every encounter. He has a calm demeanor and a sharp legal mind. These attributes have earned Dave the respect of his peers. And all of these admirable qualities make Dave well suited to be a trial court judge in Cascade County. As such, I highly recommend that you consider him for the position.

I am happy to speak with you further about Dave's qualifications should you wish to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith D. Marr

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Monday, September 21, 2020 9:01:34 PM

From: Eric Borggard <puckman@bresnan.net>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:19 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Application of David Grubich

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing with respect to David Grubich's application for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County). I am a Financial Advisor in Great Falls and I've lived and worked in the community since 1992. My association with David began with his involvement with Eagle Mount Great Falls, an organization dedicated to the advancement of recreational opportunities for disabled individuals. I was on the EMGF board for seven years until this past June.

Though David's formal involvement with EMGF began in 2017, he had been called upon to provide guidance to the organization's board and staff for some time before that. It was at this early juncture where David's objectivity and insight became apparent. It was clear that David's legal experience would be a tremendous asset to the organization but his compassion and civic-mindedness were attributes that made him a great fit for board involvement. He has contributed greatly to Eagle Mount's culture.

In the few years that I've known David, I believe I've had the opportunity to witness how his assets could benefit the citizens of Cascade County. There are three specific attributes that I would like to highlight:

I have witnessed a man of integrity. He is a decent human being. David always kept the organization's mission squarely in focus and insisted on transparency and accountability at all times. I believe that his experience in the military and law enforcement may have helped to foster such keen ideals.

I have witnessed David's clarity of thought. His ability to analyze challenging problems and forge solutions is noteworthy. EMGF experienced some challenges in recent years and David's composure during stressful times provided great leadership.

Finally, I witnessed a guy who was willing to roll up his sleeves and get the dirty work done. He did not take responsibilities lightly, and whenever help was needed, David did whatever was necessary.

I've seen board members shy away from the dirty work in the past, but David was the antithesis of such a person. His commitment to the EMGF mission was abundant.

The most useful way I could summarize my support would be this: if I were ever involved in a courtroom adjudication, more than anything else, I would want those charged with execution of the law to be fair, honest and empathetic. In my estimation, David exemplifies these traits and possesses a unique portfolio of personal and professional experience to illustrate that.

David has my wholehearted support in his application for district court judge.

Sincerely,

Eric Borggard

[3404 Fern Drive \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#)

[Great Falls, MT 59404 \[x-apple-data-detectors\]](#)

[\(406\) 454-3790](#)

September 21, 2020

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

E-Mail: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Members of the Commission;

I write in support of Dave Grubich, applicant for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District, filling the seat of retiring judge, Greg Pinski.

My name is Terry Potter and I am employed with U.S. Bank as a credit analyst in the Wealth Management division. I have had the pleasure to work with Dave on the board of Eagle Mount Great Falls, a non-profit organization which provides therapeutic and recreational activities for disabled adults, children and veterans. We've also worked together on a community committee/board for The Russell, Exhibition and Sale for several years.

Drawing on the strengths and expertise of community members is invaluable to non-profit organizations. In regard to the Eagle Mount Board of Directors, Dave provided important legal advice as the Board tackled organizing employee policies and board of director by-laws. I found Dave to be an attentive listener and one who could gather the information and disseminate it to everyone's understanding. He has a strong work ethic, balancing the demands of his professional life while still balancing family and community service. For this, I am truly grateful to have someone of Dave's caliber working tirelessly for the betterment of our community.

Working on the community board for The Russell, Exhibition and Sale, each member undertook the organization of a portion of the renowned art event. Despite his demanding work schedule, Dave (along with his wife, Valerie), worked tirelessly to help create an art event the community is proud to host.

I strongly support Dave Grubich as district court judge. In addition to his skills in law and public service, he brings a demeanor of patience, level-headedness, fairness and a high moral ethics.

Sincerely,

Terry Potter

Terry Potter
dt999498@msn.com
406.453.5368

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:50:21 PM

From: Allen Lanning <allenplanninglaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:29 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies re David J. Grubich/8th

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

Re: Application of David J. Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

I have known David J. Grubich for a number of years, primarily, although not exclusively, in a professional context.

He was a talented and professional private attorney.

Since he became the 8th Judicial District Standing Master, I have appeared in front of him a number of times, both in contested and uncontested proceedings. He is always prepared, fair, and impartial. He has a calm judicial demeanor, which promotes control of his courtroom and litigant confidence in the administration of justice. He is efficient and decisive. In short, I believe he has demonstrated all of the qualities which are important in a district court judge. Given that he is already working judicially in the 8th Judicial District, the transition to district court judge would be natural and uncomplicated.

I believe he is qualified to serve as a district court judge and would be an asset to the 8th Judicial District if he were appointed to that position, I urge you to pass on his name to Governor Bullock for final consideration. Thank you.

Allen

--

Allen P. Lanning
Law Office of Allen P. Lanning, P.C.
300 Central Avenue, Suite 500

P.O. Box 544
Great Falls, MT 59403-2049
406 727-9270
406 761-1406 (fax)

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From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:51:18 PM

From: Bridget Tighe <btwith5@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:37 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial District Judge Public Comment

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I would like to extend my full support for Standing Master David Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position, Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

As Standing Master he has covered for the Adult Treatment Court and Veteran's Treatment Court on numerous occasions. Judge Grubich has taken it upon himself to undergo extensive training on the judicial role in these specialized courts. As a military veteran, Judge Grubich is able to connect with the veterans in a way that not only holds them accountable, but is also meaningful and impactful. He put forth extra effort, to not just cover these courts, but to understand their unique nuances, and fill the judicial position effectively. He has demonstrated an understanding of addiction, criminality, treatment, trauma, and the positive role the courts can play.

Judge Grubich is a man of strong character- a man of integrity, who brings a sense of teamwork and respect to the workplace. He makes those who work with him feel valued. He is a fair man, willing to listen, learn, and make tough decisions. I recommend him for the District Court Judge position.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bridget M. Tighe

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:52:56 PM

From: coppertwt@yahoo.com <coppertwt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:43 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Judicial Nomination of David Grubich

Nomination Committee,

I am writing this letter in full support for 8th Judicial District Court Nominee, David Grubich. I had the pleasure of serving in the United States Air Force with David Grubich, and was appointed as his first line Supervisor. As David Grubich's Supervisor I noted that he carried out all that was expected of him, and he was always willing to lend an extra hand in any given circumstance. After I was honorably discharged from the Air Force I embarked on a career in law enforcement and subsequently lost touch with David.

By chance, my wife had informed me that she had just met a Judge named David Grubich, and I had informed her that I was in the Air Force with someone by the same name, some twenty five years earlier. While driving down the road my wife spotted David Gubich outside of one of his rental properties and I stopped and introduced myself only to find out that it was in fact the same David Grubich I had been in the Air Force with.

I explained to David that I had recently retired from my career in law enforcement. David informed me that he had been a Police Officer in his home state of Illinois, then he moved back to Montana and obtained his law degree and he had then worked in private practice for a period of time.

Based on David Grubich's background, of being a former Air Force serviceman, Police Officer, and Attorney, I would highly recommend him for the position of 8th Judicial District Court Judge without hesitation.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tighe

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Public Comment -- Grubich
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:53:26 PM

From: Laura Walker <lwalker@jardinelaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 2:50 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support letter

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to express my support for David Grubich to be appointed as the judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court's open seat.

I have known Mr. Grubich in both a professional and personal capacity for the past ten years. When in private practice, Mr. Grubich obtained the respect of his peers and clients. He was also dedicated to pro bono work, receiving our local bar award for his many hours of pro bono service service. As the current standing master, I have been impressed with both Mr. Grubich's preparation and calm reserve on the bench. His decisions are well reasoned and researched, and he brings a calm and compassionate demeanor to the courtroom. Mr. Grubich has also demonstrated an amazing work ethic to all that he does.

For those reasons, I hope that you appoint Mr. Grubich to the open seat for the Eighth Judicial District.

Laura E. Walker
Attorney
Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett & Weaver, P.C.
300 Central Avenue
U.S. Bank Building, 7th Floor
P.O. Box 2269
Great Falls, MT 59403
lwalker@jardinelaw.com
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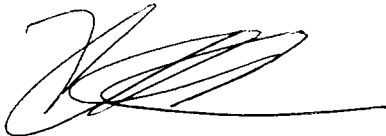
To Whom This May Concern:

I am Nathan Prohaska, an attorney in my second year of practicing here at the Great Falls OPD. During my tenure at this office, I have had the pleasure of being in Grubich's presence as a judge. He has always been a good leader in the courtroom. I know that if David were in the position of being District Court Judge, he would do a fantastic job.

David Grubich has always been a very kind person to me. Being a new attorney, I have learned a lot from practicing in front of him. I have seen him handle all different types of cases. No matter what, he always is informed and up to date on the law as well as the status of the case. I imagine that this would be very hard, since he is constantly appearing in different courtrooms and dealing with many case types.

I have noticed the way that David connects with others. He is a people person, which makes him a more effective judge. He has a great ability at making everyone feel like they are being treated fairly. Often a defendant will simply blame their situation on the judge that they have. However, I have never had that experience with David. I know that his reputation in this county is very high. I cannot say anything but great things about him. If David Grubich becomes the next district court judge, I truly think the area we live in would be a better place. I know that he has the respect of all attorneys that have practiced in front of him. He is the right man for the position.

Sincerely,

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

Nathan Prohaska, Attorney

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

September 22, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I would like to offer my recommendation for Standing Master David Grubich to be appointed as the 8th Judicial District Judge for Department A. I currently am employed as a deputy clerk to the Honorable John W. Parker, but I have had the opportunity to clerk several hearings for Standing Master Grubich.

The Standing Master does a great job of maintaining a sense of control and fairness in the hearings that he presides over. I have also seen him guide self-represented litigants through some touchy family law matters by explaining Court procedure to them in a way that they could understand what was happening in their hearings.

I believe that Standing Master Grubich has all the qualities necessary to be the next District Court Judge in Cascade County. His educational background and previous work history has prepared him well for the position he is currently in as Standing Master, and the experience he has gained as Standing Master will definitely be an asset to him should he be appointed as District Court Judge.

Standing Master Grubich has always presented himself as a knowledgeable and fair Judge. He treats everyone with kindness and respect, in the Courtroom and in the hallways of the Courthouse. He has a positive attitude that I believe will allow him to tackle the heavy case load that we have here in Cascade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Tehle". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Betsy Tehle
Deputy Clerk
Phone: 406-454-6779
E-mail: Elizabeth.Tehle@mt.gov

Doug Otto
Lieutenant
Great Falls Police Department
P.O Box 465
Great Falls, MT 59403

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

Commission Members,

I am submitting this letter to extend my support for Standing Master David Grubich for Judge within the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Dave for several years, dating back to when we were both serving in the United States Air Force, stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base. Although there was a lengthy period that we were not working together after he departed the military, his drive for public service never faltered.

While serving in the Air Force, Dave was committed to serving our country with pride. He was involved in securing our nation's most lethal weapon systems, ensuring the safety and security of the American people were met every day. Our paths crossed multiple times while we were stationed at Malmstrom AFB and Dave was always a professional in carrying out his duties.

After separating from active duty, our paths would not cross again for some 20 years. In my role as a detective with the Great Falls Police Department, I served on the Veterans and Adult Treatment Court staff. Standing Master Dave Grubich would substitute as the judge for the court when Hon. Judge Greg Pinski was unavailable. During this time, Dave fulfilled the duties in a steadfast manner. He made educated decisions on participant matters based on the input from his treatment court staff. These decisions were made to hold participants accountable for poor choices or to provide praise for those participants that were following the right path in their treatment. I believe that Dave's time in the military and his service as a police officer gave him the ability to understand the human factors that came into play with

addictions and provide fair and balanced accountability for the treatment court participants.

I also have testified in Standing Master Grubich's court as a detective for the Great Falls Police Department. Dave's approach to those in his court was with a firm yet understanding nature for the issues he had to make decisions on. He maintained order in his court but kept people at ease as he made decisions from the bench.

I fully support Dave Grubich and believe he is the right choice for the next Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. His background of military service to his country, serving as a law enforcement officer, an accomplished attorney and currently as the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District give him the vast knowledge base to serve in this capacity.

I recommend Dave Grubich to be nominated for appointment by Governor Bullock.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Otto", is written over a horizontal line.

Doug Otto

Sandy Webb
3500 Coyote Lane
Great Falls, MT 59404

September 21, 2020

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Dave Grubich for District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County. I am a paralegal and have worked in the legal field for over 30 years, and I worked with Dave at the Ugrin Alexander Zadick firm here in Great Falls.

I believe Dave is the best candidate for this position for many reasons, including

- His legal knowledge. Dave is an excellent attorney, knowledgeable and focused on the best outcome for his client. He will follow the law and not let other matters cloud his judgment.
- His employment history. Dave's background in the military, law enforcement, as a lawyer, and as a Standing Master gives him vast experience in dealing with civil and criminal matters, as well as issues regarding family law, youth, and veterans. He's worked in the public sector and private sector. He is well qualified for this position.
- His moral and ethical standards. Dave is honest, fair, and hard-working. He always treated his clients, other attorneys, and co-workers with respect. He can be firm and direct in making a decision, while getting his point across in a respectful manner. He was always cognizant of adhering to the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- His demeanor. Along with knowledge and experience, Dave also has common sense, and he stays calm and level-headed in the midst of dealing with conflicts between parties and attorneys.

As an aside, I have never heard Dave spread disdain or dislike toward a certain group or industry, such as the insurance industry, like I heard another candidate at a CLE presentation she recently gave.

I strongly urge you to nominate Dave Grubich for appointment as the next District Court Judge for the 8th Judicial District in Cascade County.

Thank you.

Sandy Webb

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

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Laura Buchholtz. I am submitting this letter on behalf of David J. Grubich in support of his application for District Court Judge, 8th Judicial District, Cascade County, Montana. I believe David will be an excellent judge and serve with honor and distinction. David is honest and fair, with a well-balanced understanding of the community and the law. I believe he will be an exceptional judge.

I am a native Montanan, member of the military, wife, mother, and attorney practicing out of Missoula, Montana. Prior to law school, I served my country as an Arabic Cryptolinguist in the United States Air Force. I met David in law school at the University of Montana School of Law and was impressed with his demeanor and high regard for the profession. After law school, I commissioned as an active duty Judge Advocate General (JAG) in the United States Air Force. During my service, I was stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana from 2015-2016. As the head prosecutor at the base, I became aware of contemporary issues facing Great Falls, and worked with local authorities to solve them. After my service, I joined a law firm and began practicing primarily in family law. I continue to serve in the Montana Air National Guard.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to practice in front of David on family law issues. David is fair, and firm on the bench. His decisions are well-thought out and articulated with well-reasoned analysis. As an attorney, I depend on judges to make fair and informed decisions, and to have a firm understanding of the law. David is all of these things and more, and will serve the bench well. David knows the community of Cascade County, as I do, and is in an excellent position to serve the same.

SINCERELY,



LAURA K. BUCHHOLTZ
ATTORNEY

ATTORNEYS:

Neal P. DuBois
Eric D. Mills
Phoebe P. Marcinek



DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC
104 4th Street N., Ste. 200
P.O. Box 1348
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 315.3242
Fax: (406) 727.1812

September 22, 2020

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

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judicial Vacancy;
Support for David Grubich

Dear Commissioners:

I write to offer my *strong* support for Standing Master David Grubich's application for the District Court Judicial Vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County.

I had the incredible fortune of starting as an associate in Great Falls around the same time Dave began his position of Standing Master in the Eight Judicial District. As I was tasked with mostly family law matters, I found myself in front of Dave before any District Court Judges. I vividly remember these first encounters. I was visibly nervous, and Dave made the experiences very positive through his engaging demeanor and genuine questioning. Dave has this unique ability to make everyone in the room heard, while he is diligently listening to the person presenting.

Over the last two years, I have appeared in front of Dave for a variety of complex civil and family law issues. Dave easily commands respect of all parties through his preparedness, demeanor, thoughtfulness, and patience. Dave expects parties, both represented and pro se, to be prepared and respectful, and allows all parties the space to be heard and present their cases. Although he provides ample support for parties to be heard, he expects the courtroom to be a place for decorum and discussion. I remember him reigning in an opposing, pro-se litigant's attitude, after a heated parenting discussion where the opposing party started hurling insults directed toward myself and my client. Dave controlled the situation, refocused the parties, and allowed the hearing to proceed successfully.

Dave has a robust and diverse background, clearly committed to public service. He has a thorough understanding of the law and is very thoughtful with the questions he directs

toward parties. I have also seen his strong commitment to neutrally analyzing all positions of the parties. He has an ideal demeanor for the bench, and this unique approachability that allows parties to feel his continued engagement and interest, even when hearings are long and drawn out. He is clearly very respectful of the citizens of his community, doing a superb job explaining the process and case procedures to pro se litigants. His commitment to his community and the Bar Association are clearly distinguished in his record; he does not simply tout service to his community, he has shown it time and time again.

Dave works tirelessly to make sure that cases are not delayed, and attorneys can have some assurances that their pleadings are being timely and diligently considered. His orders are swift, thorough, and carefully considered.

I have no doubt, if given the opportunity, he will do a wonderful job for this community and be a true example of the temperament, hard work, and diligence we want on the bench in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Very truly yours,
DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Marcinek', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Phoebe P. Marcinek
Attorney at Law

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

RE: Application of Hon. David Grubich, Montana Eighth District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

It is with utmost respect for David Grubich that I write to voice my support of him as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Dave on a personal level for five years now. At seventeen I was not ready to be a parent, Dave and his wife offered their support and ended up adopting my son. Dave did not cast judgement on my situation and has allowed me to continue to be a part of his son's life welcoming my family with open arms. Over the last five years I have had the pleasure of watching Dave raise his son with gentle guidance. He is compassionate, courteous, and tactful in all he does and a great source of advice.

Dave is someone that is proven in his genuine care for those around him and in his community. I believe he will use the same characteristics above to preside over his courtroom with humility and justness. I hope you will consider Dave as a top candidate.

Sincerely,

Amy Lutz



MILODRAGOVICH & DALE STEINBRENNER, P.C.

ATTORNEYS

MICHAEL J. MILODRAGOVICH
LON J. DALE
GERALD W. STEINBRENNER
PERRY J. SCHNEIDER*
P. BRAD CONDRA
HANNAH STONE

September 23, 2020

TIM E. DAILEY
MICHAEL D. BYBEE**
LIESEL SHOQUIST
RACHEL H. PARKIN
MICHAEL P. SHERWOOD
ALYSSA L. PROBST

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

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is written in support of David Grubich's Judicial Application for District Court Judge in Cascade County. I met David when we were in law school, and fondly recall his enthusiasm and professionalism that was a constant during our three years at UM. As a former officer, he came to law school with a broad background that gave him a fresh and more in-depth perspective on issues and consequences involved when discussing legal issues in class. David was always upbeat and friendly, and even following a heated class debate would be able to diffuse the tension with a humorous remark or positive comment.

David's professional background as both a civil litigator and standing master would benefit the broad spectrum of cases he would preside over if appointed to the bench. I had the opportunity to work with David in his capacity as a private attorney and always found him to be straightforward and to the point. While I have not had any cases with him as a Standing Master, I have no doubt he continues to approach each matter thoroughly, with attention to detail and the goal of working towards an amicable and just resolution.

Finally, I believe the bench would benefit from having a young father on the bench, especially given the challenges faced by families during these novel times. I believe David would be an asset to the bench and to the members of the Cascade County community.

Sincerely,

MILODRAGOVICH, DALE
& STEINBRENNER, P.C.

Hannah Stone

EMAIL: hstone@bigsky.com

HS:sn

ATTORNEYS:

Neal P. DuBois
Eric D. Mills
Phoebe Marcinek



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September 23, 2020

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Judge Position;
Support for David Grubich

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to write in support of David Grubich for the appointment to the vacancy left by Judge Pinski in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County. While I am certain that the Commission has received numerous letters of support for the persons who have applied for this position, I hope that you will give serious consideration and your ultimate approval of David Grubich for submission to the Governor as a finalist for this position.


I have known Dave Grubich dating back to law school. More recently, my experience with Dave has been as a fellow attorney whom I have litigated against, and as a Standing Master whom I have appeared before. Dave has consistently demonstrated respect for the law, courtesy toward all parties, and a keen analytical mind. Most importantly, in my opinion, has been Dave's obvious common sense and ability to glean from the testimony a real sense for what likely occurred in a given scenario.

As opposing counsel, Dave was fun to work with and started every conversation out inquiring about my family. Throughout these cases, Dave demonstrated his ability to effectively represent his client while cooperatively working with all parties to conclude a case efficiently. Dave did not play games with procedure and was always willing to extend a deadline or any other professional courtesy requested.

In my appearances before Dave as a Standing Master, I have found him to have a calm demeanor and temperament while managing the case before him. Dave is not afraid to make a tough decision and does so with sound legal and factual analysis. In every instance he has been fair, reasoned and in control of the case.

As an attorney who represents a wide array of Montanans including injured parties, businesses and individuals in disputes with companies or others, I would be pleased to have David Grubich making judicial decisions on the rights of parties or the interpretation of Montana's laws. He has a balanced regard for the meaning of the law while protecting the rights of parties.

Very truly yours,
DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC



Neal P. DuBois
Attorney at Law

**JARDINE, STEPHENSON, BLEWETT
& WEAVER, P.C.**

GARY W. BJELLAND
JOSHUA I. CAMPBELL
DALLIN A. LIND
ROBERT B. PFENNIGS

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HEATHER M. STARNES
LAURA E. WALKER
PATRICK R. WATT

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

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Re: *Candidate David J. Grubich*
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District


Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for David Grubich to fill the vacancy created by Judge Pinski's resignation in the Eighth Judicial District Court. I have worked with Mr. Grubich for several years and believe Mr. Grubich would be an excellent District Court Judge. Mr. Grubich served in the U.S. Air Force and as a member of law enforcement. In addition to this service to the country and his community, Mr. Grubich worked for many years in private practice where he handled varied complex civil matters before becoming the Standing Master in Cascade County.

In the two years Mr. Grubich has served as Standing Master I have appeared before him many times. Mr. Grubich is always well-prepared, courteous and personable to those appearing in his courtroom. He has an exceptional temperament and brings a calm and compassionate demeanor to the courtroom. Mr. Grubich has demonstrated his ability to efficiently manage his varied caseload by keeping his current cases moving forward while clearing the existing backlog that existed when he became Standing Master.

Mr. Grubich is a well-respected member of the legal community and has demonstrated his integrity and work ethic throughout his career. I am confident that Mr. Grubich will make an excellent District Court Judge and support his candidacy for this important position.

Thank you,


Heather M. Starnes
Attorney at Law

**JARDINE, STEPHENSON, BLEWETT
& WEAVER, P.C.**

GARY W. BJELLAND
JOSHUA I. CAMPBELL
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HEATHER M. STARNES
LAURA E. WALKER
PATRICK R. WATT

September 23, 2020

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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

Re: Hon. David J. Grubich

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing this letter in support of the application of David Grubich for nomination for appointment as a District Court Judge with respect to the upcoming vacancy in the Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. I know David from his position as the District Standing Master and from his significant activity in the Cascade County Bar Association. I know David to be highly respected by the legal community. He is a man of high integrity, competency and professionalism. He has the right temperament to be a Judge and is always very respectful to all he comes in contact with. I believe he would be an excellent District Court Judge and I strongly recommend your favorable consideration for nomination for appointment by the Governor to that position.

Sincerely yours,


Gary W. Bjelland



Providing Legal Counsel Since 1911

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HANNA WARHANK

FIRM FOUNDERS:

I.W. CHURCH (1884-1972)
G.G. HARRIS (1883-1973)
BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
CARTER WILLIAMS (1916-2013)

OF COUNSEL:

E. EDWIN ECK
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JEANNIE YOUNG

ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

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September 23, 2020

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

Re: Nomination of David Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

I am happy to recommend Dave Grubich for the 8th Judicial District vacancy due to Judge Pinski's retirement. I have had the good fortune to know and work with Dave for quite some time. My primary interaction with him has been due to our roles as fellow Board Members of the Cascade County Law Clinic. In that interaction, I have found Dave to be dedicated, fair, conscientious, and skilled. He has demonstrated all of the characteristics I believe will make him an excellent District Court Judge.

Dave's broad background and range of experiences will serve the public and bar well. He is patient, respectful and kind. Nonetheless, he is firm in his convictions and beliefs. I would consider it a privilege to practice before Dave as a District Court Judge. I encourage you to favorably consider his nomination for that position.

Sincerely yours,

CHURCH, HARRIS, JOHNSON & WILLIAMS, P.C.

BY: 

RON A. NELSON

RAN:tbm

9/23/20

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Brian Crosby and I am a teacher and coach at CM Russell High School in Great Falls, MT and I write this letter in support of David J. Grubich and his candidacy for 8th Judicial District Court Judge. I have known Dave for several years through my wife, Jordan Crosby, who was a co-worker with him at Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick.

Dave is one the most genuine and sincere people I have ever met. His ability to connect with people and make them feel comfortable is something I have admired about Dave for years. Over the past decade plus I have met many amazing attorneys and judges. One common thread with the best is their ability to connect with people and how empathy drives their daily lives.

Dave is thoughtful, compassionate and giving of his time and energy to others. Most of my time spent with Dave was working with him on charitable events. To me the best judges and lawyers I have met are ones who are connected to their community outside of their jobs. Their job title does not define who they are, instead it allows them the ability and access to make a real difference in their community. Dave volunteers and serves with Cascade County Law Clinic, President of the Cascade County Bar and works with the Veterans court.

Dave's life experiences are varied and impressive and I believe will him help to be an excellent judge. I believe he will represent our community well and continue a long tradition of excellent judges in this district. From serving our country to law enforcement to working in the very difficult and emotional area of family law, those experiences are qualities that will make Dave an excellent candidate for this position.

In closing, I know Dave to be a tremendous family man who is greatly involved in his community. The many attorneys I know all speak very highly of his ability as a lawyer and standing master. I whole heartedly recommend Dave Grubich to fill the position of 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Brian Crosby

brian_crosby@gfps.k12.mt.us

(406)781-1701



Providing Legal Counsel Since 1911

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BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
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September 23, 2020

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

via email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: David Grubich
Candidate for appointment to Montana Eight Judicial District

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of David Grubich for Cascade County District Court judge. I have appeared before Mr. Grubich in court on several trust and estate matters. I have found him to be prepared and efficient. I have observed his interactions with a number of pro se individuals, and he is unfailingly pleasant and patient and a good listener. He is fair and impartial.

I believe he has excellent qualities that would equip him to serve as Eight Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Reiff

STATE OF MONTANA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
DEPARTMENTS 1 & 4
arubin@mt.gov



AMY S. RUBIN
STANDING MASTER

MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292
(406) 258-4778

September 19, 2020

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

Dear Commission Members,

I write this letter in support of the application of David J. Grubich for the Cascade County District Court Judgeship. I have known David Grubich since his appointment as a fellow Standing Master. I have found him to be intelligent, thoughtful, and considerate and I value his input on various issues facing Standing Masters. Prior to his appointment as Standing Master, David demonstrated an impressive commitment to pro bono work, going above and beyond what would be expected of any attorney. I am impressed with David's continued on-going volunteer involvement in the community of Great Falls.

David's background of both law enforcement and the Air Force have given him a solid foundation when working with people in stressful situations. His comments about litigants who appear in his Court show a level of compassion and empathy, even when making hard decisions. His respectful and measured approach to people and problems will serve him in good stead as a District Court Judge.

David's application shows that he has broad experience, including civil and criminal work, and I have no doubt that he would be able to transition to the role of District Court Judge without difficulty. In addition, having David serve as District Court Judge would allow continuity in the important work of the Veteran's Court.

Thank you for your consideration of him for this important appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ASR", written over a faint, repeating background pattern of the words "JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION".

Amy S. Rubin

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER

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Website <http://uazh.com>

ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

September 23, 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

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – David J. Grubich

Dear Commission:

I write in support of David ("Dave") Grubich as the next Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I worked closely with Dave at the law firm of Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. (previously Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins) for six years before he accepted his current position as the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District. During this time, I observed Dave handle all of his legal matters with skill, diligence, and professionalism. While balancing his work for the firm, Dave was also always willing to help those in need by taking on numerous pro bono cases for the Cascade County Law Clinic. He was justly honored for this service by the Cascade County Bar Association with the Goff Pro Bono Award.

I believe that Dave has the proper judicial temperament because he always remains level-headed and conscientious. He will be a respectful and neutral arbiter to all parties and their counsel if selected for the position. His experience as the Standing Master for the last two years has also prepared him well for this position. In his current role, Dave has diligently managed a heavy caseload while displaying the same thoughtful and fair attributes that he will bring to the bench. Great Falls and the Eighth Judicial District would greatly benefit from his selection as our next judge.

Sincerely,



Andrew T. Newcomer
atn@uazh.com

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
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ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

September 23, 2020

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – David J. Grubich

Dear Commission:

I am pleased to offer a letter of recommendation for Dave Grubich as the next Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. While there are other applicants deserving of consideration, Dave is the best qualified. While it would nice to believe that Dave's ability to serve as the District Judge benefited mostly from his association with this law firm, which I'll discuss in earnest below, in reality it is Dave's lifetime of experience, knowledge, education and practice that best qualifies him for the position. Beginning with Dave's service in the military and later in law enforcement, as a business owner, family man, lawyer, and now a Standing Master, Dave has developed the needed perception, patience, pragmatism, and practice to effectively administer a broad cast of characters and cases comprising a judge's docket. He will conduct his courtroom with nothing more than the desire to do what law requires or equity compels, and to do it in a way that is respectful to the parties and their counsel.

Dave and I routinely collaborated on matters with this firm. I can attest that he gained valuable experience ranging from personal injury and property damage claims, employment, wage, and discrimination disputes, and a host of other matters that will come before him as a Judge. At all times, Dave handled these matters with diligence, skill, and professionalism. Separately, Dave was always willing to take calls to discuss options for a person troubled with a legal challenge, some which he ultimately agreed to represent.

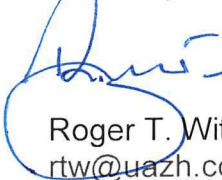
Page 2
September 23, 2020

Similarly, Dave often agreed to provide services for organizations or individuals at reduced rates or without expectation of compensation.

If selected for the position, I am confident that Dave can successfully campaign for re-election. Dave is not beholden to any political affiliation or other interest group, and he should appeal broadly to the electorate. I can easily see Dave serving for as many terms as he desires.

Letters of recommendation by their nature necessarily tout a lot of the same virtues. Dave is well deserving of them. Most of all, Dave is genuinely a decent and thoughtful person. Any attorney and party should be content drawing his name on their case.

Sincerely,



Roger T. Witt
rtw@uazh.com

September 24, 2020

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

Re: Eighth Judicial District Judgeship Vacancy (Cascade County)

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for Steve Bolstad, Dave Grubich and Michele Levine for the position of District Judge for Montana's Eighth Judicial District. Each of these candidates has the experience, expertise and temperament to be an outstanding district judge.

I've had the pleasure to know all of these candidates personally and professionally over many years. In addition to being talented, hard-working and experienced lawyers, each candidate has a calm, even temperament and possesses a sincere respect for our justice system. I have no doubt that whomever is appointed to the bench by Governor Bullock from this impressive 'short list' will bring all of these important qualities to work each day as a District Judge for Cascade County.

For all of the above reasons, I support these three candidates' applications for this important judgeship without reservation and respectfully urge the Commission to submit their names for consideration by Governor Bullock.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. George

FAURE HOLDEN
attorneys at law pc

Jean E. Faure • Jason T. Holden • Katie R. Ranta

September 23, 2020

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

Re: Standing Master David Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Standing Master David Grubich has a special place within our firm. He was our first Summer Intern before he was hired by the Ugrin law firm. We wanted to hire David, but we told him he could not go wrong with accepting Ugrin's offer and we were right. When he was appointed as Standing Master, we knew that we would be asked to write this letter one day and we do so with great pleasure.

We practiced against David while he was a lawyer at Ugrin. He showed that a litigator in fact can achieve the delicate balance of tenacity with temperance. He was wise in his approach to the assessment to liability and damages. He knew where to focus in terms of discovery, and his motion practice was effective once he obtained the documents and admissions he needed to prove his point. His deep knowledge of civil practice is a key to David's success not only as a lawyer but as the Standing Master.

But it is not just David's skill and strength as a lawyer that make him unique. It is commitment to justice. Shortly after David was hired at Ugrin we asked him to assist with the Cascade County Law Clinic as our firm had long served on the Board. It was not long before David took that organization to new heights in association with Jordan Crosby and his tireless work on behalf of those who have nothing but have everything to lose. His work on behalf of the Law Clinic has truly revealed his dedication to justice - the cornerstone of character for anyone who seeks to don a black robe.

David's service as Standing Master is remarkable. He shown the ability to manage an unmanageable docket. This is perhaps the greatest achievement of any person appointed as Standing Master in Cascade County. He is efficient and he has given credibility to a position so critical in Cascade County. He deals with the reality of family law every day, and he has shown the ability to master legal concepts that are challenging while at the same time treating the parties and issues fairly timely and fairly.

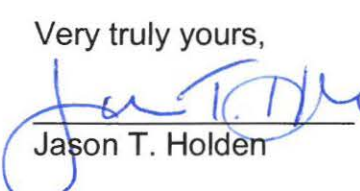
FAURE HOLDEN attorneys at law pc


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PHONE: 406.452.6500 • FAX: 406.452.6503 • www.faureholden.com


His decision to give up his private practice to dedicate himself to being that Standing Master makes him the perfect fit to replace Judge Pinski.

David has the intellect, discernment, attitude, and decorum we need in a District Court Judge. He will be a perfect fit to fill the shoes of Judge Pinski. We urge you to forward his name to the Governor for appointment.

Very truly yours,


Jason T. Holden


Jean E. Faure


Katie R. Ranta

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 on behalf of David J. Grubich for District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District. My name is Courtney Miller and I am a Deputy Clerk at the Cascade County Courthouse. I have had the pleasure of working with Standing Master Grubich for the last two years and can think of no better candidate.

I began my work as Deputy Clerk not long after Dave became our Standing Master. Learning a new job is never an easy, especially in a field such as the one we are in, Dave has always been so kind and helpful while I learned to navigate filings and the court system. Having worked with him in the Courtroom I can say that he is not only professional, but also very courteous to everyone that enters his courtroom. Dealing with family matters is not always the easiest job but he is always fair, compassionate and, under the stress that comes along with family law cases, maintains a cool head and is always fair and just in his rulings.

Often, in civil matters, we deal with pro-se litigants who have very minimal knowledge of the judicial system. Dave has a way of making these people feel at ease in his courtroom and has patience, kindness and understanding that very few possess. It is that kind of temperament and character that is necessary in this position.

Outside of the courtroom he carries the same kindness and professionalism, with not only the Clerk's office, but with attorneys and anyone else that he encounters. He has always treated me and the rest of the Clerk's office with respect and has always been supportive. Not only would our courthouse and staff be blessed to have him appointed as District Court Judge, but it would be extremely beneficial for our community. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Courtney Miller
Deputy Clerk

September 23, 2020

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

Sent via email to: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I am writing to provide some thoughts for your consideration when reviewing David J. Grubich's application for appointment to the Eighth Judicial District opening. Dave's time serving as Standing Master for the District Courts attests to his understanding of the law and ability to manage a heavy caseload with ease. His familiarity with the existing county cases and his experience with the state software programs would enable him to easily transition into the District Court justice seat.

I have known Dave since 2016 when we worked on a long-range strategic plan for the Cascade County Law Clinic, an organization providing pro bono legal representation to low income individuals and families in our community. At the time, Dave was chairman of the Law Clinic and he had asked me to facilitate a strategic planning session with the Law Clinic's board of directors. He and I met several times in advance of the planning gathering to prepare the agenda and structure a two-day session for a dozen local attorneys representing multiple facets of the law. Dave was totally engaged in designing a worthwhile meeting for his colleagues, but even more importantly it was obvious that he was dedicated to the citizens in our community who are so desperate to acquire legal services for their problems. Dave diligently reviewed and made suggestions to the agenda, prepped the board for the meeting, and helped keep the group focused on the mission throughout the two-day session. It was obvious that his colleagues respected him; and his high energy kept the meeting lively and productive. I have facilitated many planning sessions in my career, but my time with Dave and his colleagues was one of the most fulfilling group experiences of my lifetime of facilitation. There was mutual respect, open dialogue, civil discussion about disagreements, and eventual consensus for the strategic plan resulting in a fine path towards longstanding success. Dave was clearly the leader of the group.

As has already been mentioned, Dave's time presiding over cases as a Standing Master has specially positioned him within the District Court system. He is readily accepted by the other District Court judges and respected for the extensive workload he carries and completes. His temperament is facilitative by nature, and while he does not concede to others, instead he exhibits the ability to build unanimity within a group. I trust Dave could easily progress from Standing Master to District Court judge within a short time.

Dave's ability to find consensus with colleagues, rule with the knowledge of the law and experience on the bench; and his endless energy make him a fine candidate for the Eighth Judicial District appointment. Thank you for the opportunity to share some ideas with you.

With respect for your deliberations,



Jane Weber

Longstanding resident of Great Falls, MT and County Commissioner

Lydia Low
Judicial Assistant to John A. Kutzman
415 2nd Avenue North, Room 300
Great Falls, MT 59401

September 23, 2020

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

Re: David J. Grubich

I write this letter to recommend David J. Grubich for the Judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County.

Judge Pinski was a tremendous asset to this district and he will be hard to replace. I feel that Dave has the desire, drive, compassion and most of all, the capability to step into this position. Dave has been the District Standing Master for the past couple of years and has been dedicated to every aspect of that job. He has volunteered to help the Judges in any way he could.

Dave and I became friends while working on the Board of the Cascade County Law Clinic. It was then that I learned how important it was to him to be the best public servant he could be. He went above and beyond the call of duty working to keep the Clinic at its very best with a great group of attorneys and volunteers.

Dave has committed his life to serving this country and community. He is a wonderful husband and father and the joy on his face when he speaks of his son, shows the love and compassion he has.

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This job that Dave has applied for is a very stressful and time consuming position. It will take someone who is dedicated, organized, and willing to protect rights of every citizen in this community. I feel that Dave has all of these qualities.

I would highly recommend Dave to fill this Judicial vacancy.

Very truly yours,

Lydia Low
Judicial Assistant to John A. Kutzman

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

Re: Application of David J. Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing this letter in support of David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.


I first met David in 2018 when he was appointed as the Standing Master. He walked in the door to a back log of cases as the position has been vacant for some time. It became obvious right away that he was the right man for the job, he worked diligently and efficiently to get all cases up to speed.

David has proved over the last two years as the Standing Master to be extremely professional and compassionate. I have clerked several of his hearings and witnessed firsthand his knowledge and understanding of the law. David treats attorneys, court staff, and litigants with respect and professionalism. He has an amazing amount of patience for pro se litigants who need additional direction.

David has proved to have an incredible work ethic. He is efficient and reliable. He is extremely approachable and always has time to answer questions if help is needed. David's positive attitude makes for a great work environment.

With David's extensive background and experience as the Standing Master, I truly believe that David is the best candidate for District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Kristin Antonovich
Chief Deputy

September 23, 2020

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

*** Via email to mtsupremecourt@mt.gov ***

Re: David J. Grubich

Dear Commission Members:

It is my honor and pleasure to provide my strong support in appointing David Grubich as the Eighth Judicial District Court Judge in Cascade County. Dave has the essential qualities needed for a judge including empathy, integrity, intelligence, and a keen ability to ensure justice is done for all who appear before him.

I am currently a staff attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and a state representative for Montana House District 95. I attended law school with Dave during which I not only grew to respect Dave, but also became a good friend. Knowing Dave as I do, I also know he has integrity, honorable character, a commitment to justice, and a courteous and compassionate nature. Dave brings a strong background being a military veteran, law enforcement officer and small business owner, which gives him a breadth of experience and broad insight that is needed to serve his community as a judge.

Because Dave has served as Standing Master, he has had an opportunity to recognize how vulnerable and minority populations need and deserve unobstructed access to our justice system. As an attorney and an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, I am particularly interested in knowing that a person being considered for a judicial appointment will ensure access to justice and equal treatment under the law for everyone. Dave will ensure equal treatment does occur. As Standing Master, Dave encounters a high number of unrepresented, low-income, and minority persons in important family law proceedings. I know Dave ensures they are treated fairly and with dignity, and that they receive all the benefits the law provides them despite their position, background, or identity. Dave will carry this same assurance forward as a district court judge.

Dave has also served as a judge presiding over the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court in Cascade County. I take a particular interest in this aspect of Dave's experience because Cascade County treatment courts have Native American groups which provide culturally specific services which encourage Native American's to join the program and attain successful recovery. Native American's serve in the United States Military in greater proportions based on population than any other group. As a veteran, Dave recognizes and appreciates this, and that Native Americans deserve equal access to these treatment programs,

which have proven success and amazing results. Dave will ensure everyone is given equal access to these important programs and an equal opportunity to recover and flourish.

Not only does Dave have all the attributes of a fine judge, he also has a background which will prove invaluable in any run for his seat in a future election. It is well known that Great Falls has a high percentage of veterans and active duty military with Malmstrom Air Force Base. Dave's veteran status will carry much weight. His organization skills, strong work ethic, and willingness to get things done will also take him far. Dave's broad background has instilled in him a unique ability to communicate easily with people from all walks of life. Dave has always had an amazing ability to get along with everyone he meets, and this natural ability will serve him well in carrying the day in any election he may face.

I strongly urge the Commission to recommend David Grubich to Governor Bullock for appointment as and Eighth Judicial District Judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane A. Morigeau', with a stylized, flowing script.

Shane A. Morigeau
Attorney,
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
(406) 546-4290

Mark D. Meyer
3229 3rd Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

September 21, 2020

Via email – mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

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

Re: *David J. Grubich*

Dear Ms. Menzies:

Please accept this letter as my strong recommendation in support of David J. Grubich's application for the position of District Court Judge with the Eighth Judicial District Court.

I had the privilege of practicing law with Dave at the Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins law firm for a number of years, and can safely say the personal attributes and character he displayed during that time makes him an excellent candidate to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District. Dave has always demonstrated a strong work ethic and an ability to resolve complicated legal issues in a common sense manner consistent with the governing legal authority. Even more important, however, Dave possesses the personal attributes that one looks for in a judge – even temperament, calm demeanor, a strong work ethic and an ability and willingness to relate to the individuals and entities that appear before him. For that reason, I firmly believe Dave Grubich would make an excellent judge, and strongly support his application. The citizens of Cascade County and the State of Montana would be well served by the appointment of Dave Grubich to the vacant judicial position with the Eighth Judicial District.

Sincerely yours,



Mark D. Meyer

MDM