

15 Gopher Drive Great Falls, MT 59404 • 406-403-3420

08/25/2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

My name is Christopher Hickman and I reside in Great Falls, MT. I am writing to you in support of Sunday Rossberg for the 8th Judicial District Court position in Great Falls.

I served in a variety of capacities for thirty one years with the Great Falls Police Department from 1983 to 2014. I am currently the owner and sole proprietor of Lone Rock Investigations, a private investigation and process serving company in Great Falls.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Sunday Rossberg for over ten years. Between 2005 and 2014, I served as a supervisory narcotics investigator and later as a narcotics task force commander with the Russell Country Drug Task Force in Great Falls. It was while working in these capacities that I first came to be acquainted with Miss Rossberg and her work as an attorney. On numerous occasions, I had the opportunity to work with Miss Rossberg and her clients who had been charged by the task force with various drug offenses. I found her to be courteous, tactful, introspective, compassionate and eventempered, all qualities I appreciate in any member of the legal community. Miss Rossberg consistently demonstrated incredible empathy and respect for all parties involved in her cases. She did not take on the traditional role of adversary like so many other attorneys I worked with in my capacity as a narcotics investigator and commander. She was solution-oriented, creative and driven. I always found my engagements with her to be positive and productive.

In time, I became aware from conversations with other attorneys and members of the community that Miss Rossberg consistently contributed her own time and resources to various legal causes. I found her motives to be pure and with no expectations of any reward. It is obvious that she takes great pride in providing free services to individuals and causes solely for the purpose of making a difference. Her reputation in this community, particularly in the area of family law is stellar and she is known for her ability to accomplish the goals of her clients. Miss Rossberg's disposition, fairness, firmness and work ethic are exemplary and second to absolutely no one and I have continued to see these traits while occasionally working with her in my current capacity as a private investigator and process server.

Sunday Rossberg has the experience, temperament and work ethic to be an outstanding judge. She has proven to have all of the qualities necessary to be a fair, ethical and committed judge who will continue the long legacy of outstanding judges in the Montana 8th Judicial District.

Thank you,

Chris Hickman Lone Rock Investigations 15 Gopher Dr. Great Falls, MT. 59404 406-403-3420 Hon. E. Wayne Phillips District Judge (On-Call) 523 NE Washington Lewistown, MT. 59457-2034 (406-366-6982) <u>MediationByJudge@gmail.com</u>

24 August 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission C/O Lois Menzies Court Adminstrator Montana Supreme Court P.O. Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005

Hearty Reference for Sunday Rossberg

황수는 물건에서는 한 것들을 때 것을 방법이 가락되어 가락되었다. 나타난

Dear Commissioners:

This is indeed as hearty a reference as I can make it. Ms. Rossberg doesn't just have the right attributes to be a very fine District Judge, she has them well honed and highly developed.

AND SCREEP DATES IN THE AND A STREEP AND A ST

In terms of her grasp of the law applicable to a Brief or for a Hearing, I unhesitatingly rank her in the top ten percent of all attorneys who have appeared before me. Same goes for her professionalism. Same for her intelligence and wit. Same for her demeanor. Same for just about everything I can think of that makes up the basics of a fine Judge.

She brings a feistyness to her work that is refreshing and always levened with respect for Court and Colleagues. She has very special gifts in the area of Family Law/Abuse & Neglect, gifts and talents that the Eighth Judicial District needs right now. Without any question Ms. Rossberg will be a tremendous asset to that Bench. Nothing else to say except to cap it all off with my highest recommendation to you for sending her nomination to the Governor.

Please do feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely, E. Wayne Phillip

Cook, Kevin

From:	Menzies, Lois
Sent:	Thursday, August 27, 2020 8:08 PM
То:	Cook, Kevin
Subject:	Public Comment Rossberg

From: kat_hayes@yahoo.com <kat_hayes@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 4:37 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nomination Commission; From: Kertrina Hayes

To The Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing you in regards about someone that is nominated to be the next district judge and how I think she would be the best candidate for the title. The person I think that would best suit the position is Sunday Rossberg. There are many, many reasons why. I will highlight them throughout my comment. Also I would like to send gratitude towards Judge Pinksi and what a wonderful job he has done on the bench. Many blessings for him on his next journey.

I have known Sunday for approximately 14-15 years. Quite some time. In that time she has helped me a few times in my time of need. It was a family issue for me, also I was injured in an accident and didn't know what to do next, and she was there to help me through it all. Not only for me, but several other people I know (friends, coworkers, acquaintances, etc.) that has known or done business with Sunday has benefited from her help. She has a genuine compassionate personality, intelligence of coarse, assertive to see that the right thing is done, and well just one of the most honest people I have met.

Therefor when it comes to the district judge position, please consider Sunday. Maybe she is what our court system needs to enhance the ability to decide who is guilty or who is innocent. There is a lot of crime going on here in great falls, sure not as much as bigger cities but you have to take our population into consideration. For great falls I would trust Sunday Rossberg to help clean up this city by becoming the next district judge.

I want to thank you for taking time to read this. God bless America.

- Kertrina Hayes

email: kat_hayes@yahoo.com

From: vmh3111 <vicki.haines72@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 11:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Re: Sunday Rossberg

Honored Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to give public comment on the applicants for District Judge, specifically Sunday Rossberg.

By way of introduction, I am a retired school teacher, having taught elementary with the Great Fall Public Schools for 34 years. I currently reside, as I have most of my life, in Great Falls.

In 2016, I experienced the most unprofessional and scarring experience in a legal encounter with Ms. Rossberg. I accompanied my son, a medically retired and permanently disabled veteran, to a consultation with Sunday Rossberg. We were there to gain advice and possibly retain her services in a custody dispute involving my son's child. We had never met her before but acted upon a recommendation.

I know that what I describe will be very difficult to believe, however upon my integrity, I promise that every word of it is true. After being escorted into her office, her first words to my son were, "You do meth, don't you? And don't try to lie to me, because I know you do!" I presume she made this judgement based solely upon my son's appearance. My son's back injuries occurred while he was serving in the Navy and are a constant source of pain. Ironically, over the years he has been prescribed a boatload of narcotics, all of which he refuses to take and none of which he ever fills. His doctors could attest to this fact. He hates drugs. Unfortunately, the pain does affect his appetite and he is quite thin. When I tried to explain this to her, she was rude and dismissive, stating that she was expert on recognizing "methheads" and refused to back down or apologize to my son. You need to understand that my son was very self-conscious about his appearance and at that point was being treated for an intestinal issue which had caused him to lose even more weight. Her words to him were devastating.

M. Rossberg spent the remainder of our \$200 session self-aggrandizing about all her achievements and accolades. She took zero interest in my son's custody situation and at the end, told us it was basically hopeless. She did not refund our money. We paid \$200 for an undeserved, vicious verbal beating.

As a footnote, with the help of a true legal professional, my son went on to gain full legal custody of his child. This past year he purchased his first home. He volunteers as a pastoral assistant and youth sponsor in a local church. His health has improved although he will always carry the physical impairment he received while serving his country.

I strongly urge the committee members to reject your consideration of Ms. Sunday Rossberg for District Judge. Her unprofessionalism and poor judgement would not be in the best interests of the Bench.

Thank you, Vicki Haines 141 Spring Tree Road Great Falls, MT 59404 Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court Administrator P.O. Box 203005 Helena, MT 59620-3005

September 1, 2020

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I would like to write today to express my deep appreciation, admiration and recommendation for Sunday Rossberg, one of the applicants applying for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

When I was a junior in high school, my speech and debate coach referred me to apply to work for Sunday as a high school intern. I had shown an interest in the legal system and he explained how excellent of an attorney Sunday was and what great guidance she could give me as I prepared for my own legal career.

During that summer, the summer of 2016, I began working for Sunday as a legal intern and assistant. I worked for her the rest of my high school career and am currently in college and continue to come back to Sunday's office to work when I am home for winter and summer breaks. She has taught me so much in how the legal system works but also how important it is to know that you are working with human beings when working with clients. The people she works for have feelings and the experience they are going through while filing their divorce or parenting plan is very hard for them. She always treats them with the upmost compassion.

She also showed me what it means to give 100% in every situation. Each client she has gets her full attention. As she reviews cases with me and trial preparation, which she spents hours on, it is obvious that she put herself fully in that individual's shoes and is trying her hardest to give them 100% as she does with her dozens and dozens of other current clients at the time.

No challenge is too hard for Sunday. She sees challenges as opportunities to grow and push herself.

Not only is she all of these things, she is a marvelous teacher and mentor. She inspires young minds to seize every opportunity and to take hold of their dreams. She has taught me so much and given me opportunities that wouldn't be possible for me until potentially law school or even later than that including helping prepare for court, research on real legal cases and attend courtroom proceedings.

She gives high school students a chance to prepare for their future. Sunday sees every moment as a teaching moment and if something can be learned or taught, she invites everyone in the office to learn with her. Her desire for the success and progression of everyone in the office is very clear in the way she interacts with those she works with.

My brother has also worked for her while he was in high school and she has mentored other high school interns. She always gets down and works to accomplish every task the office faces. She never acts like she is better than anyone in the office and is very willing to do the work she requires of her staff.

Sunday is an amazing example of putting others before herself and caring about each person she litigates on behalf of. She is also an excellent attorney and really has the mind, experience and knowledge for the law.

I believe she is an excellent candidate for the judgeship and would be able to help and improve the lives of those that come before the court. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Warmest Regards.

Jessica Banks

jbanks08er@gmail.com

Cook, Kevin

From:	Menzies, Lois
Sent:	Friday, September 4, 2020 11:55 AM
То:	Cook, Kevin
Subject:	Public Comment Rossberg

From: David Harbeson <validavo88@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1:25 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Montana Supreme Court Sunday Z. ROSSBERG Judgeship application recommendation letter

Montana Supreme Court,

I am writing this letter in regards to Sunday Z. Rossbergs consideration for position as a Montana Judge. I am a fully medically retired Marine, I came to Sunday 1 year ago in regards to my Custody and Divorce Case. I was Active duty at the time and serving in the Marines. When she did my intake Sunday quickly took on my case hearing about my current situation as I was being treated in a combat rehabilitation unit for Combat PTSD. I instantly felt confident and reassured from the initial meeting that everything with my case was going to be ok. From that point on I received nothing but passionate support, timely service, extremely beneficial strategic planning and execution to protect my fathers rights and my children's future. The best part of Sunday was she allowed me the ability to focus on my treatment as she kept me well informed and took care of all the leg work within my case to ensure I was staying focused on my treatment. I was treated with the upmost respect and appreciation for my situation and service. I believe someone like this belongs in a position such as a judge in a active duty/vet community like Great Falls to ensure these service members are protected and properly served.

Respectfully, David Harbeson Retired

STATE OF MONTANA

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT Toole, Glacier, Teton, Pondera Counties

ROBERT G. OLSON DISTRICT JUDGE

(406) 424-8360 OFFICE (406) 424-8361 FAX



TOOLE COUNTY COURTHOUSE 226 1st STREET SOUTH P.O. BOX 822 SHELBY, MT 59474

September 9, 2020

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

Re: Letter of Support for Sunday Rossberg

Dear Commission members:

aliti a sa sa Na fisika ng sala

I am writing this letter in support of Sunday Rossberg and her application to be appointed District Judge in the 8th Judicial District.

I have known Sunday for almost twenty years. We both practiced family law and found ourselves on opposite sides on several occasions. She handled her cases skillfully and did an excellent job of protecting her client's interests. She always acted with the utmost honesty and integrity.

Sunday has appeared before me as counsel several times in the eight years I have been a District Judge. Nothing has changed. She has exceptional trial skills and illustrates high ethical standards. I feel Sunday would be an exceptional choice to fill the remainder of Judge Pinski's term, and it is my pleasure to recommend her for the position.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely. Robert G. Olson

Robert G. Olson District Judge

From:	Menzies, Lois
То:	Cook, Kevin
Subject:	Public Comment Rossberg
Date:	Sunday, September 13, 2020 10:00:02 PM

From: nikki_gulick <nikki_gulick@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 12:55 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Regards to 8th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

To whom it may concern,

In my opinion, Sunday Rossberg is a poor candidate for the 8th judicial district judge. Sunday lacks compassion, organization skills, and communication skills. She was to represent my case and told me "I dont care what happens, I get paid no matter what." She did not seem to want to help me, but to use me as a much as possible for her paycheck. She never returned my calls when deadlines were due, resulting in me having to search for a new attorney. I had no confidence she would resolve my case in a professional, timely, and cost effective way.

Nikki Gulick

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: Thor Swensson <tswensson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 2:56 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment - Sunday Rossberg

Nominating committee,

I have know Sunday Rossberg for 20+ years. In 2010 I reached out to her for some advice regarding a parenting plan. The time she spent discussing the family court system and the advice she gave for drafting a quality parenting plan was incredibly beneficial, but the advice she gave me about becoming a single parent was nothing short of life changing. Her ability to add a personal touch to such a stressful situation is exactly what she will bring to the court.

I have witnessed first hand her willingness to help community members and non-profits that are trying to tackle the biggest problems in the community. I also know her as a fellow single parent and a friend. I would strongly recommend her for the open seat.

Kind Regards,

Thor Swensson

Sent from Mail [go.microsoft.com] for Windows 10

9/13/2020

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

RE: Judicial Nomination of Sunday Z. Rossberg

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Rossberg's nomination for a judicial position. I have known Sunday since we were classmates at Carroll College where we were on the debate team together. Since that time, Sunday has demonstrated passion in her practice of the law, especially as an expert in family law. Her legal acumen and compassion for her clients has ensured fair representation and exceptional advocacy for her clients' legal interests. Family law can be fraught with emotion but Sunday's approach ensures that the legal facts are followed to a successful conclusion for her clients. Ms. Rossberg will always follow the law in her judicial decision-making and will make for an exceptional representative in the Montana Judicial System.

Additionally, Ms. Rossberg has continued her legal education through the Trial Lawyer's College, which demonstrates her commitment to improving her legal practice and acumen. This select group of Trial Lawyer's College alums have become exemplary representatives of the legal profession and Sunday is no exception given her prowess in family law. Montana needs judges with a breadth and depth of courtroom experience coupled with a willingness and ability to learn about the evolving legal profession, of which Sunday represents the best in her practice. Ms. Rossberg's commitment to continuing legal education will serve her well in a judicial position where remaining current in legal research and practice is essential.

I can also attest that Ms. Rossberg is a person of strong character and stands by the conviction of her principles. She will not back down when tested by an argument professionally or when facing challenges personally. Sunday's belief in herself is an empowering example to others, especially for her clients who often find themselves powerless in their family situation that requires legal remedy. Ms. Rossberg's personal strengths will enable her to be a firm but fair judge in the cases that she will adjudicate. She will always do what is right and just by the law.

I provide this recommendation without reservation. Please give Ms. Rossberg's candidacy serious consideration as she will be an outstanding judge who cares deeply about the judicial system and the law. You may contact me for any additional information as required. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John E. Burk

John E. Burk, Ph.D. Brigadier General (Retired) 11822 N. 59th Lane Glendale, AZ 85304 Cell: 623-243-0116 johnburk228@gmail.com

MICHAEL W. STRAIN mike@mormanlaw.com

STRAIN MORMAN LAW FIRM

DALE MORMAN (1927-2009)

EST.1906

KEITH R. SMIT Of Counsel

September 9, 2020

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

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

It is with a warm and enthusiastic heart that I endorse the application of Sunday Rossberg for the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court position in Great Falls.

I have been practicing law in South Dakota since 1987. I have also had the privilege and honor of working with the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyer College for years both as an instructor and on the board of directors. I have also had the privilege of trying all types of jury trials in various venues across the United States including Montana.

The first time I met Ms. Rossberg is I was asked to do a presentation for the Montana Trial Lawyers Association in Polson, Montana. This was in 2009. Ms. Rossberg was doing a presentation involving discovery approaches for family law. I was impressed and intrigued by her approach and continued to visit with her about all aspects of law. I was also asked to assist in a few cases in Montana both in state and federal court. I was able to work with Ms. Rossberg on these matters. I became very acquainted with her and her work as an attorney in these areas. I have found her to be very compassionate, and even tempered. She also has a different manner of looking at the human condition and people that are involved with, and draft applications to solve their legal issues. Her dedication to assisting people with free legal services is a package that is not often seen by private lawyers who practice alone. I am also aware of the various gifts she has with legal research and writing, courtroom protocol and etiquette and exposure to a variety of civil, criminal and family law actions which would bode well to have on the bench. Being a former law clerk in a judicial court in Deadwood, South Dakota out of law school, I can easily say that experience in all avenues in the courtroom on various legal matters is a positive attribute to have as a judge. Ms. Rossberg has experience in the various types of areas and in the courtroom which would bode well for the Montana to have a judge with these qualifications.

I believe she is an excellent candidate for the judgeship based on my knowledge of her. She has judicial qualities about her that sometimes are missing in lawyers that are on the bench. I highly endorse her for the Eighth Judicial Circuit District Court position. Best Regards,

STRAIN MORMAN LAW FIRM

By: Michael W. Strain

MWS/tf

SHEILA D. HILPERT sdhilp@yahoo.com

September 17, 2020

VIA EMAIL: <u>mtsupremecourt@mt.gov</u>

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

RE: Sunday Zoie Rossberg District Court Judge--Public Comment

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is written in support of Sunday Zoie Rossberg for District Court Judge.

I have worked for lawyers for the past 38 years, including many outstanding, prominent lawyers (the "Best of the Best") such as Tom Lewis, Don LaBar, William Scott, Richard Martin, Dennis Clarke, Bill Gregoire, Mike Rausch, Keith Strong, Jack Manning, John Kutzman, Brian Bulger, John Paul, and Jean Faure. I have worked in most types of law but most recently, I have had the pleasure of working in family law with Sunday Rossberg.

In getting to know Ms. Rossberg on a professional level as well as a personal level, I have found that she is one of the smartest, kindest lawyers I have ever worked for. She goes above and beyond by helping her clients during office hours as well as after hours. As all lawyers know, family law is very time-consuming due to the fact that people going through a divorce or determining custody of their children are very emotional and need reassurance that everything is going to be ok. Ms. Rossberg has demonstrated kindness and giving of herself in a way that I have never seen before. She goes above and beyond. I have watched Sunday walk clients through their difficult times over and over again with great results. She also writes off many, many hours for her clients and is more concerned for their well-being than anything else.

I believe Ms. Rossberg is one of the "Best of the Best" and would be a great Judge and great addition to the Judicial Court System. She would bring great knowledge, fairness, kindness and compassion to the Bench in such a way that it would make a difference in people's lives.

Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies September 17, 2020 Page 2

Therefore, I highly recommend Sunday Zoie Rossberg for District Court Judge!

Sincerely,

SHEILA D. HILPERT

From: Annette Watts <jerrysradiatorgf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 2:02 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attorney Sunday Z. Rossberg

To whom it may concern-

I am writing this letter in regards to attorney Sunday Z. Rossberg. Over the past 20 years Sunday has represented my self and family on multiple occasions. She conducts business in a very professional manor and truly cares about her clients; going above and beyond to assist. Not only is she an amazing attorney; She is a genuine person and asset to our community. I think that she is the perfect fit for opening position as judge due to her commitment and integrity to always doing what's right.

Thank you, Annette Watts Jerrys Radiator 601 7th Ave S Great Falls Mt 59404 (406)453-9257

Sent from Mail [go.microsoft.com] for Windows 10

From:	Menzies, Lois
То:	Cook, Kevin
Subject:	Public Comment Rossberg
Date:	Thursday, September 17, 2020 8:55:49 PM

From: Lori Armstrong <loriarmstrong1420@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:32 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for the 8th Judicial District Court position

My name is Lori Armstrong, I have been a resident of Great Falls for over 50 years. I am writing this as a letter of recommendation in support of Sunday Rossberg for the 8th Judicial District Court position in Great Falls.

I have a disabled daughter who was interested in participating in the "Learn to Skate Program" offered through the Great Falls Figuring Skating Club. In 2012 she brought home a flyer from the Great Falls Public Schools and shortly thereafter we found ourselves at the skating rink. After explaining our situation to several individuals at the rink she took to the ice.

My daughter skated for 2 years and during this time we had many interactions with Sunday. She not only embraced, encouraged and supported my daughter she even took it upon herself to rush her off the ice while she was throwing up during a lesson. She treated her as if she were her own child. I sat in the bleachers every lesson observing those on the ice. This compassion was not only shown to my daughter by Sunday, but to every child she encountered on the ice. So many of the younger skaters wanted to give up, falling more than standing, frustrated and upset stating they didn't want to do it. Sunday would console them, encourage them and work with them one on one, showing the individual that they could in fact master the skill. She did all of these things as a volunteer. Not once did I ever see Sunday without a smile on her face and enjoyment and laughter in her voice.

Later on, I was looking through one of the previous Ice Show printed Programs. I ran across an advertisement that Sunday had placed in the Program. As I was on the committee to raise funding for the Great Falls Figure Skating Club, and knew that they were selling advertising space in the Programs as a way of raising funds to keep the rink operating. Not only did she volunteer numerous hours on the ice, she also donated financially to a sport she so strongly believed in, by purchasing a large ad for her law practice.

I was later saddened to learn that she was forced to quit skating due to an injury she received while participating in the sport she loved so much. However, I have absolutely no doubt that she will be directing her volunteering and giving nature elsewhere to assist those who need it.

Over the past several years I continue to see Sunday in everyday activities. I've seen her at the gym numerous times where she never fails to say hello and ask how my daughter is. I've also seen her in grocery stores as well as other everyday places. Still, she always has time to stop and visit.

Recently I was having some legal difficulty. I happened to be at a doctor's office when he asked what was going on. Upon hearing my story, he responded "I know exactly who you need to hire" and it was indeed Sunday Rossberg. This was a doctor whom I highly respected. After his extreme recommendation of Sunday, I knew I had to contact her. She was just as he stated! Definitely not a letdown whatsoever. Her knowledge of my situation was beyond my expectations.

The knowledge I have of Sunday Rossbery both in her personal life as well as her professional life strongly show that she is an excellent candidate for this position.

Sincerely

Lori Armstrong 2301 1st St. S. Great Falls, MT 59405 406-899-6157 Loriarmstrong1420@gmail.com Mark E. Westveer 9th Judicial District Court Standing Master c/o Glacier County Clerk of District Court 512 East Main Cut Bank, MT 59427 (406) 217-5069

September 17, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commission C/O Lois Menzies Office of Court Administration P.O. Box 203005

RE: Sunday Rossberg

Dear Commission members:

I have known Sunday Rossberg for 18 to 19 years, primarily as opposing counsel in several family law cases. I practiced family law for 28 years prior to becoming the deputy county attorney in Glacier County in 2015 and then the 9th Judicial District Court Standing Master in 2018. As a practitioner Sunday was a vigorous advocate for her client's position. She was exceptionally good at making sure all the small details of any agreement were thought out and put in writing which generally minimize follow up controversy which all family law practitioners are familiar with. She was prompt with her discovery responses and always made a good faith effort to resolve cases at mediation. Importantly, Sunday was collegial in her relationship with me as a practicing attorney. Sure, we disagreed, sometimes heatedly, about the merits of our respective cases, but when not so engaged we discussed our perspectives on the judges we practiced before, office practice, frustrations at times with the practice of law and even beneficial billing practices. Not once did she ever tell me something that she would do and then didn't do it or repudiate oral agreements made.

As the 9th Judicial District Court Standing Master she has had a few cases before me which to this point have been settled, still with thorough and complete detailed settlement agreements.

I feel she has the requisite skills and temperament to be a fine District Court Judge and I recommend her for that position.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Westveer 9th Judicial District Court Standing Master

SHEILA D. HILPERT sdhilp@yahoo.com

September 17, 2020

VIA EMAIL: <u>mtsupremecourt@mt.gov</u>

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

RE: Sunday Zoie Rossberg District Court Judge--Public Comment

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is written in support of Sunday Zoie Rossberg for District Court Judge.

I have worked for lawyers for the past 38 years, including many outstanding, prominent lawyers (the "Best of the Best") such as Tom Lewis, Don LaBar, William Scott, Richard Martin, Dennis Clarke, Bill Gregoire, Mike Rausch, Keith Strong, Jack Manning, John Kutzman, Brian Bulger, John Paul, and Jean Faure. I have worked in most types of law but most recently, I have had the pleasure of working in family law with Sunday Rossberg.

In getting to know Ms. Rossberg on a professional level as well as a personal level, I have found that she is one of the smartest, kindest lawyers I have ever worked for. She goes above and beyond by helping her clients during office hours as well as after hours. As all lawyers know, family law is very time-consuming due to the fact that people going through a divorce or determining custody of their children are very emotional and need reassurance that everything is going to be ok. Ms. Rossberg has demonstrated kindness and giving of herself in a way that I have never seen before. She goes above and beyond. I have watched Sunday walk clients through their difficult times over and over again with great results. She also writes off many, many hours for her clients and is more concerned for their well-being than anything else.

I believe Ms. Rossberg is one of the "Best of the Best" and would be a great Judge and great addition to the Judicial Court System. She would bring great knowledge, fairness, kindness and compassion to the Bench in such a way that it would make a difference in people's lives.

Judicial Nomination Commission c/o Lois Menzies September 17, 2020 Page 2

Therefore, I highly recommend Sunday Zoie Rossberg for District Court Judge!

Sincerely,

SHEILA D. HILPERT

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 <u>mtsupremecourt@mt.gov</u>

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 posthearing 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 From: JOHN BURK <nan.and.jburk@cox.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 12:59 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunday Rossberg judicial nomination

9/13/2020

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

Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Judicial Nomination of Sunday Z. Rossberg

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Rossberg's nomination for a judicial position. I have known Sunday since we were classmates at Carroll College where we were on the debate team together. Since that time, Sunday has demonstrated passion in her practice of the law, especially as an expert in family law. Her legal acumen and compassion for her clients has ensured fair representation and exceptional advocacy for her clients' legal interests. Family law can be fraught with emotion but Sunday's approach ensures that the legal facts are followed to a successful conclusion for her clients. Ms. Rossberg will always follow the law in her judicial decision-making and will make for an exceptional representative in the Montana Judicial System.

Additionally, Ms. Rossberg has continued her legal education through the Trial Lawyer's College, which demonstrates her commitment to improving her legal practice and acumen. This select group of Trial Lawyer's College alums have become exemplary representatives of the legal profession and Sunday is no exception given her prowess in family law. Montana needs judges with a breadth and depth of courtroom experience coupled with a willingness and ability to learn about the evolving legal profession, of which Sunday represents the best in her practice. Ms. Rossberg's commitment to continuing legal education will serve her well in a judicial position where remaining current in legal research and practice is essential. I can also attest that Ms. Rossberg is a person of strong character and stands by the conviction of her principles. She will not back down when tested by an argument professionally or when facing challenges personally. Sunday's belief in herself is an empowering example to others, especially for her clients who often find themselves powerless in their family situation that requires legal remedy. Ms. Rossberg's personal strengths will enable her to be a firm but fair judge in the cases that she will adjudicate. She will always do what is right and just by the law. I provide this recommendation without reservation. Please give Ms. Rossberg's candidacy serious consideration as she will be an outstanding judge who cares deeply about the judicial system and the law. You may contact me for any additional information as required. Thank you!

Sincerely, John E. Burk John E. Burk, Ph.D. Brigadier General (Retired) 11822 N. 59th Lane Glendale, AZ 85304 Cell: 623-243-0116 johnburk228@gmail.com

Cook, Kevin

From:Menzies, LoisSent:Wednesday, September 23, 2020 10:31 PMTo:Cook, KevinSubject:Public Comment -- Rossberg

From: Wyatt Wood <choppersinc2011@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 10:25 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sunday Rossberg

September 22, 2020

Judicial Nomination Commision c/o Lois Menzies Office of Court Administrator Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Sunday Rossberg

Dear Commision Members:

I have known Sunday for 9 years. During that time, she has helped me with custody of my son and my divorce. I believe Sunday's experience as a criminal defense attorney gives her a definite advantage representing clients who are in child custody disputes with spouses or ex-spouses who are addicts. She has seen addiction tear families apart. She knows how to protect children from seeing the horrors of addiction, through the legal system. She is versed on how different drugs affect addicts in certain tell-tale ways. She suggested a certain substance that i never thought possible and sure enough... A substance that is destroying families all across this country and throughout the State of Montana. Without her help my son would've seen things that no kid should ever see!

Sunday is honest and has the integrity to be a District Judge in the 8th Judicial District.

Thanks for listening, Wyatt Wood

То:	The Judicial Nomination Committee of the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, Great Falls, Montana
Date:	September 23, 2020
Re:	Letter of Recommendation for recent opening as a District Judge for Sunday Rossberg
From:	Scott Albers, Attorney-at-Law

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been an attorney, specializing in criminal defense, since 1986. Over the past 34 years I have represented hundreds of Defendants on thousands of charges. I have been routinely before the judges of scores of counties, in the states of Missouri and Montana. I have been a licensed member of the Montana Bar since 1994.

I first met Sunday Rossberg in 1995 when she was first beginning her practice in Cascade County, the place where she was born and grew up. We became very good friends almost immediately, and she struck me as a very intelligent, articulate and very conscientious attorney. In every capacity she has undertaken, I have seen her do her very best for her clients and for society in general.

For me, personally, she has been a very welcome font of advice and good ideas. Along with Bob Emmons, Betsy Brandborg and Channing Hartelius, I know of no other attorney to whom I would more readily turn for help in a moment of uncertainty, doubt or difficulty. She has been correct in almost every suggestion she has ever given to me. She has been strictly ethical, and concerned about adherence to the Rules of Professional Responsibility, in every conversation that I have ever had with her. Her advice in the area of her specialty – family law – has been unfailingly correct and helpful.

My real desire to advise this committee as to her qualifications goes deeper than simple friendship, however.

The *sine qua non* of judicial practice, as I have seen it throughout my career, is the ability of a judge to LISTEN to ideas which are contrary to the fixed beliefs already held by the judge, and after LISTENING to the attorneys arguing their cases, to address fairly the matters presented. A judge who cannot or will not listen to people can never be a fair or adequate judge at all, of even the simplest matters.

This is not an easy task. Often emotions and grudges wedge into matters, biases creep in, animosities brood and the quality of justice suffers in exponential proportion to the failings of the judge on this score. Fewer and fewer attorneys enjoy the courtroom of such a judge and, sooner or later, if the offense of being deaf is grave enough, the judge will face serious blowback and possible loss of position as orchestrated by the offended attorneys and their clients.

Without hesitation, I would predict that Sunday Rossberg would never fail in her post on this particular sin. Time and time again I have seen her give the most open-minded consideration of just about anything and everything. There is literally nothing which we have discussed in our 16-year friendship which has ever run afoul of the intellectual flaw of a narrow-minded, self-satisfied bigotry.

The committee is fortunate in having so many good candidates of whom I would say very similar things. However Sunday Rossberg truly stands out as unique and even exemplary in this way. I cannot fathom any situation wherein her first desire would not be to know what ALL the parties have to say, and in as much depth as they can provide it.

In short, I believe that Sunday Rossberg would make an outstanding judge should she be given the opportunity to take this role by the committee.

Cordially,

Scott Albers