

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 14, 2015**

**CONTACT: Lois Menzies**  
**(406) 841-2982**

**JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION SUBMITS NAMES TO GOVERNOR  
FOR APPOINTMENT TO 4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGESHIP**

The Judicial Nomination Commission has submitted the following names to the Governor for consideration for appointment to the seat to be vacated by Judge Ed McLean in the 4th Judicial District (Missoula and Mineral counties):

- Brenda Constance Desmond
- Barbara Leslie Halligan
- Brian J. Smith
- Shane Anthony Vannatta

The Commission's action follows the close of a 30-day public comment period. Before recommending the nominees to the Governor, Commission members interviewed the applicants. The Governor must fill the position within 30 days of receipt of the nominees from the Commission. The person appointed by the Governor is subject to election at the primary and general elections in 2016. The candidate elected in 2016 will serve until January 2019.

Judicial Nomination Commission members are District Judge Richard Simonton of Glendive; Mona Charles of Kalispell, Elizabeth Halverson of Billings; Hal Harper of Helena; Lane Larson of Billings; Ryan Rusche of Columbia Falls; and Nancy Zadick of Great Falls.