

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this e-mail correspondence as my personal recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ed McLean of the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie and worked with her on various community planning groups in support of our young adults in Western Montana.

I know her to be of excellent character, impeccable ethics, even demeanor, and strong work ethic which represents an effective grasp of planning skills.

During Leslie's distinguished legal career she has successfully resolved challenging cases of wide variety; this requires significant intellect, a good judge of character, all attributes of the position she is aspiring to. Her years as Deputy County Attorney and Adjunct Law Professor have uniquely prepared her for the responsibilities of District Judge.

Based upon Leslie's personal and profession background and experience, and my personal interaction with her, I strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

David C Gray, D.C.

February 24, 2015

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

Dear Selection Committee Members:

To introduce myself, I have been assigned to Judge McLean as his court clerk for the past twenty-one years and I am writing to express my support of Leslie Halligan as our next District Court Judge. I know you have several qualified applicants to choose from, I am familiar with all but one of the applicants and I believe Leslie is the most qualified and experienced person for the position.

I have known Leslie for at least twenty years and I have always been impressed by her. Leslie is the most qualified, knowledgeable, problem solving, committed and compassionate person for the judiciary. During the time I have known Leslie, she has been a payee for people in need of help with their finances, she has had foster children, she was the on-call person for commitments

for many years and she is always willing to help with any situation that comes up.

During the last two years while Leslie has served as Standing Master to Judges McLean and Townsend, she has gained another level of courtroom experience regarding domestic relations issues. I can tell you that Leslie takes more initiative in working out the parties' parenting plans than our current judges; she spends more time listening to the parties and does her best to come up with a fair and equitable resolution. She looks out for the best interest of the children involved. Since assuming the role of Standing Master, Leslie has been the "go to" person for three of our District Court Judges regarding dependent neglect matters. The Judges, as well as the attorneys involved in those cases, rely on Leslie to reach a resolution and there are many times that she does just that. She has saved the Judges many hours which would have been spent on contested hearings.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I look forward to working with the next District Court Judge.

Sincerely,


Laura M. Driscoll



Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

LAW OFFICES | EST. 1974

Missoula Offices

Central Square Building
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Milton Datsopoulos

Dennis E. Lind
William K. VanCanagan
Rebecca L. Summerville
David B. Cotner
Darla J. Keck
▲ Terance P. Perry
Molly K. Howard
• Phil McCreedy
Trent N. Baker
Peter F. Lacy
Nathan G. Wagner
• Del M. Post
Joseph R. Casillas
George H. Corn
Kyle C. Ryan
• Brian M. Lebsock
◦ Jason A. Williams

February 25, 2015

Ronald B. MacDonald (1946-2002)

- ▲ Also admitted in Massachusetts
- Also admitted in North Dakota
- * Also admitted in Arizona
- Also admitted in Washington
- Also admitted in Idaho

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my highest recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as Fourth Judicial District Court Judge to fill the vacancy which will be created by the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean. I have known and worked with Leslie for over fifteen years.

I am an attorney who regularly practices in front of Standing Master Halligan. I also had the opportunity to work with her in her capacity as a County Attorney. In both positions, Leslie has demonstrated the highest degree of ethics. My primary interactions with Leslie during her tenure as a County Attorney were in the area of guardianships and Youth Court. Practicing in these areas require great compassion and empathy. I most admired Leslie in those cases for her calm, even demeanor, and her equal respect for everyone involved.

Leslie is highly regarded in the local bar and judiciary. She has jumped into her current Standing Master position with both feet. I have tried multiple cases in front of her during

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

February 25, 2015

Page 2

her tenure in this position, and had many contested hearings. She has consistently demonstrated a good grasp of the legal issues. She is strong on evidentiary issues and even handed in her application on the law.

Leslie has approached this position with energy and enthusiasm, and works hard to help parties and their attorneys resolve their issues. She has made it a priority to allow parties quick access to the Court to address their issues. This has been to her personal detriment at times, as she has extended herself to meet with parties on weekends and evenings in order to allow them access to her, when their schedules would not otherwise permit it.

I am far from unbiased in my recommendation of Leslie for this position. There is no question that she will use her skills and personal attributes to further promote justice in this position as District Court Judge. I strongly, unequivocally and without reservation strongly recommend Leslie for appointment as District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

DATSOPOULOS, MacDONALD & LIND, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Molly K. Howard', written in a cursive style.

Molly K. Howard

Harrison Law Office

FRANK RANDALL HARRISON
(406) 721-7210
FAX 721-7364

210 NORTH HIGGINS AVENUE
HIGGINS BUILDING, SUITE 336
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59801

February 26, 2015

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

Re: *Nomination of Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court
Judge*

Dear Commission Members:

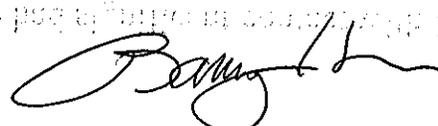
I would like to recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ed McLean. I have known Leslie for more than Thirty (30) years and have the highest regard for her both personally and professionally.

As a family law practitioner, I have had significant contact with Leslie since her appointment as a District Court Standing Master. In her capacity, as Standing Master, I have found Leslie extremely thorough and professional.

It is my pleasure to strongly recommend Leslie's appointment to fill Judge McLean's vacancy.

Sincerely yours,

HARRISON LAW OFFICE



Randy Harrison

and professionally.

more than thirty (30) years and have the highest regard for her both personally
vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ed McLean. I have known Leslie for

I would like to recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan to fill the

RH/al

BOB BROWN

333 Cougar Trail
Whitefish, MT 59937
406-862-6656
bobbrownmt@gmail.com

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

Dear Commission Members:

When I heard Leslie Halligan was under consideration for the position of District Court Judge in Missoula, I immediately inquired about writing this letter in strong support of her appointment. While many letters you will receive as references for Leslie will attest to her legal knowledge and skills, I would like to address the equally important qualification of character.

I've known Leslie for over 30 years through a friendship that began in legislative service with her husband, Mike. Over the course of that time I have been a guest in the Halligan home countless times. I have watched their sons Mike, John and Ryan grow from infants to adulthood. Along the way, I've even become acquainted with Leslie's parents.

I know Leslie Halligan well. She is deeply and exceptionally intelligent. She has a thoughtful, low-key demeanor that would serve her well on the bench. She is also an astoundingly adept multi-tasker, which I'm sure comes from a strenuous life of managing a household of rambunctious boys (including her husband), while simultaneously pursuing a frequently demanding and widely varied career as a lawyer.

From decades of friendship, I personally know Leslie to be brilliant, wise, kind, calm, caring, organized, practical, patient, eminently fair, and when necessary, firm. She will go the extra mile, and then some, to complete a project, and do it right.

Her character attributes are all, I think, those of a great judge, which I'm certain she would be. I could not more strongly commend Leslie Halligan to you for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Bob Brown

Bob Brown
Whitefish

Sue Talbot
69 Brookside
Missoula, MT 59802

March 1, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for more than 20 years. For several years I was a member of the Citizen Review Board, appointed by District Court Judge John W. Larson. In that role I observed Leslie as an attorney and was greatly impressed by her skill and patience in those often difficult family cases.

Leslie and I are members of the same church and I have taught her children in confirmation class. Her fine skills as a parent were evident in my work with her children. I believe those skills are also evident in her work, and make her a strong advocate in family and juvenile law.

Leslie demonstrates good character and possesses an even temperament. It is clear she has a strong work ethic and is a good listener and problem-solver. It is those qualities that I believe would make her an excellent judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Sue Talbot

PAUL RYAN & ASSOCIATES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

March 2, 2015

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

RE: Leslie Halligan

Dear Judicial Committee:

I am writing this letter of reference on behalf of Leslie Halligan for consideration for appointment as the Fourth Judicial District Judge, created by the retirement of the Honorable Judge Ed McLean.

As a preliminary matter, I am Paul Ryan, born and raised in Missoula, Montana. My formal education consists of a Business Administration degree from the University of Montana in 1988, and a Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga School of Law in 1993. I worked for Boeing Commercial Airlines in Seattle prior to entering Law School. I was a partner and owner of the law firm of Datsopoulos, MacDonald and Lind in Missoula. I was with this firm for 14 years. In 2007, I opened my own law firm and practice in the area of Civil and Criminal litigation, while continuing to reside in Missoula. I also act as a Justice of the Peace and handle criminal and civil matters as a Judge in the Missoula community. During my years of practice I have had the opportunity to work closely with many practicing attorneys in the State of Montana, including Leslie Halligan.

I have known Leslie for over 20 years, during that time, I have had the opportunity to observe her character traits and her work habits. With this background, I feel qualified to have objective opinions concerning her character and potential capabilities.

Leslie is an incredibly hard worker, she is a talented lawyer and has committed herself to a career in the legal profession. She is honest, ethical, thorough and professional in all aspects of her personal and professional life. In addition to her work skills she has an incredibly likeable personality. She is very well rounded, stable, and responsible. In addition to her hard work ethic and intellect she is extremely thoughtful. She is not hindered by any negative habits. Her reputation, throughout the community, is that she is honest, fair and diligent in her work. She can be tough when she needs to be, yet balances that toughness with the empathy and fairness to properly deal with all issues of a case.

218 EAST FRONT STREET, SUITE 210
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802
PHONE: (406) 542-2233 FAX: (406) 542-7012
PRYAN@PAULRYANLAW.COM

Paul Ryan & Associates, PLLC

March 2, 2015

Page 2

I have been litigating both civil and criminal cases for over 20 years in various Montana Courts, I am in Court almost every day, often multiple times a day. I have taken the time to analyze what I believe the characteristics of an effective and quality Judge. I believe Leslie exceeds all the requirements necessary to be a fair, competent and impartial Judge. She has the proper temperament and superior legal skills to be a very good Judge. She is a long time Missoula resident and is fully in touch with the issues in this community.

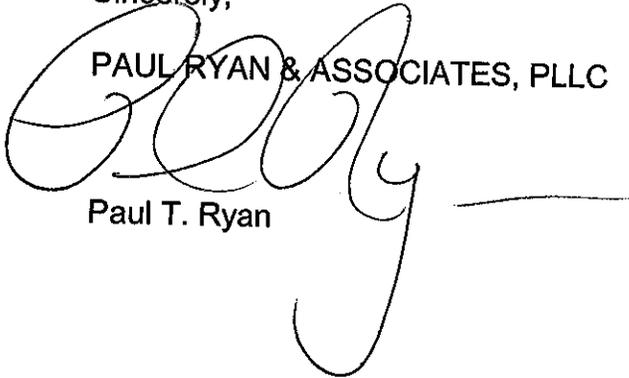
I hope you will consider all the above information and many other factors, in making your decision. I without hesitation believe Leslie Halligan has the characteristics, professionalism and personality traits that should afford her the opportunity to be considered a strong candidate for appointment as the Fourth Judicial District Judge opening.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Paul T. Ryan



PTR/lk

STATE OF MONTANA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MISSOULA AND MINERAL COUNTIES
DEPARTMENT 4



MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292
(406) 258-4774

KAREN S. TOWNSEND
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

March 2, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for many years, and worked professionally with her since she began work as a Deputy County Attorney with the Missoula County Attorney's Office in 1991. Leslie's contribution to that office is truly immeasurable. She brought professionalism and innovation in the way that the office handled both mental health commitments and juvenile prosecutions. She was active in the Youth Drug Court, the Co-Occurring Treatment Court, and spear-headed work on the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). During my years in the County Attorney's Office I found her a colleague that I could trust and rely on, valued her judgment and her work ethic. How she got the time to do all that she did I still cannot understand.

After having the great privilege to assume the position of District Court Judge in 2007, I first observed her continued excellence as a Deputy County Attorney in my Court, and then when the position of Standing Master became available found her to be the obvious choice to fill that slot. I have now worked with her as my Standing Master for two and on-half years. Her work as a Standing Master includes conducting early intervention hearings in Dependent and Neglect cases that has helped to resolve these contentious matters expeditiously. She has also been assigned approximately one-half of the family law cases assigned to Department 4, and in only two of those cases, have her orders been appealed to me. Clearly she understands the law in these matters, is a good listener and problem solver, and has been able to demonstrate the patience, even temperament, decisiveness, and compassion that these cases demand. Not once

have I heard a complaint that she has treated the litigants, attorneys or members of the public with anything but respect.

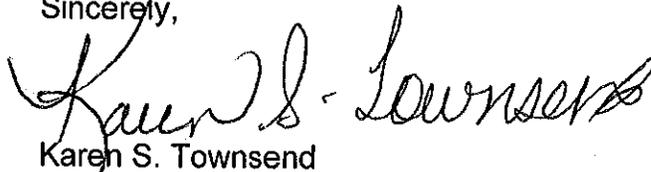
During Leslie's career, she has not only successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas, demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation in her work as a Deputy County Attorney and Standing Master, but she has also taught as an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of Montana School of Law in the areas of Juvenile Justice and Child Advocacy.

Leslie has likewise demonstrated leadership by advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law, by demonstrating effective management of court cases involving self-represented litigants, and by serving as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana. She has also taken upon herself the task of gaining additional knowledge in her relatively new role of Standing Master by participating in training programs at the National Judicial College. In addition to serving the legal community, she has also served the broader Missoula community by serving on the Boards of Big Brothers and Sisters of Missoula, Missoula Aging Services, and the Missoula Federal Credit Union.

The bottom line is that Leslie possesses the necessary experience, the calm, professional demeanor and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail, work ethic, and organizational skills, to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen S. Townsend". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Karen S. Townsend

District Court Judge for the 4th Judicial District

MYRA L. SHULTS

1790 ELISON LANE, APARTMENT 3

MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802

406-544-3390

E-MAIL ADDRESS: mshulst@aol.com

March 3, 2015

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I am a retired attorney who dealt with and know many judges, their demeanor and their success (or not) on the bench. I am pleased to recommend that you appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

Leslie, Mike and Leslie's mother have all attended 8:00 communion at Holy Spirit Parish (Episcopal) with me for years and years. Leslie's mother sits in front of me and I adore her. I can understand why Leslie is such a wonderful person based on her parentage. Until Leslie asked if I would write this letter of recommendation and provided to me her resume, I had no idea how talented and committed to the law and the community she is!

As we have visited over the years Leslie has demonstrated that she is a very hard worker and devoted to the jobs she has had, both in the County Attorney's office and most recently as a Standing Master. Her resume says it all: amazing scholastic background, impressive work experience and dedication to bar associations and to the community of Missoula. It will be hard to find a more qualified candidate for this vacancy.

Furthermore, Leslie's experience with family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law will be of great value to the Fourth Judicial District, not only as a judge, but also as a leader in the legal field. I have every reason to believe Leslie will be a fair and conscientious addition to the Fourth Judicial District bench and strongly urge you to appoint Leslie to fill Judge McLean's vacancy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Myra L. Shults

BOGGS & FOLEY LAW OFFICE
William Boggs and Kathleen Foley
P.O. Box 7881/9452
720 Milton; Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 728-3088

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

March 3, 2015

Dear Commission Members:

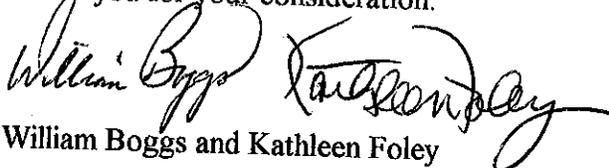
We are writing to support Leslie Halligan as Judge McLean's successor in Department 1 of the Fourth Judicial District Court. We believe Leslie is the best candidate for this position, and will be an excellent judge.

We have worked with Leslie professionally for several decades, first in her capacity as deputy county attorney, as well as in her capacity as adjunct law professor and more recently as standing master of the Fourth Judicial District Court. We have been particularly impressed with her measured, courteous and fair approach in all of these venues.

Certainly one of the most difficult aspects of being a judge is balancing the exercise of authority with the respectful treatment of litigants and their attorneys. Leslie, by temperament and experience, already achieves this balance.

Leslie has amply demonstrated her legal acumen across the breadth of her professional career as an attorney. She also believes in hard work. The combination of her knowledge and dedication makes her an ideal candidate.

Thank you for your consideration.


William Boggs and Kathleen Foley



STATE OF MONTANA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
MISSOULA AND MINERAL COUNTIES
DEPARTMENT 2
March 5, 2015

ROBERT L. DESCHAMPS, III
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

MISSOULA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802-4292
(406) 258-4772
ddeschamps@mt.gov

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

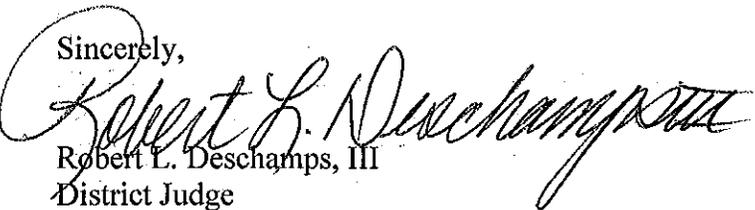
Re: Leslie Halligan

Although there are several strong applicants for nomination to fill the upcoming vacancy being created by the retirement of Judge Ed McLean I believe the best choice is Leslie Halligan. Leslie worked for me as a law student intern in the Missoula County Attorney's office in the 1980's and I hired her as a deputy in the office in 1991 where she continued to serve for me and my successor until she was hired as a Fourth Judicial District Standing Master in 2012. In the period of time between my retirement as the County Attorney in 1998 and my appointment to the bench in 2006 I was the managing attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Prosecutor's office. There were several occasions when I hired Leslie to take a leave from the County Attorney's office to help me when I needed to find an outside attorney with expertise in Indian child dependency matters and the federal Indian Child Welfare Act. Since Leslie was hired as a Standing Master she has graciously helped my department whenever I have requested it even though her primary assignment is to other departments.

Throughout my long experience with Leslie I have been consistently impressed with her abilities to manage every undertaking from raising a family, to volunteer work, to a broad array of professional responsibilities and callings, with competence and success. She often volunteers and never refuses to help. Nothing fazes her. Every task presented her is skillfully accomplished and fairly resolved. Litigants recognize and appreciate these qualities. Indeed, although she is assigned to other judges the reason I have frequently called upon her as a Standing Master is because litigants and attorneys request that their cases be assigned to her. You know she has what it takes to be a good judge when both sides ask for her by name!

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Deschamps, III
District Judge

March 6, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court-Department 1

Dear Commission Members:

Leslie has an impressive resume but I would like to share with you what I know about Leslie from the real world of the practice of law.

I am the District Judge who employed Leslie from May 1987 to January 1990. She has presented cases in my court multiple times over her legal career. My step-daughter is an attorney practicing in Missoula and has appeared before Leslie in her capacity as a Standing Master. Leslie's manner of handling cases and treating lawyers and pro se litigants who appear before her has been a topic of conversation in which I participated and overheard.

When Leslie worked for me she was very new at the practice of law. Somewhat hesitant at first, Leslie soon learned to respond to my challenges to her research by either getting it right the first time or thinking about our discussions and returning with her, and usually better, version of a different approach to the issue. The value of her manner of responding to challenges demonstrated her ability to listen carefully to what others say, go beyond just the words being spoken and think through to a response both appropriate and palatable.

As a practicing lawyer, Leslie came to court prepared for the task at hand. She was respectful to the court, waited for her turn to speak and didn't waste time. She never played courtroom theatrics and always kept her clients under control. Leslie was not one to be bullied by opposing counsel and never let her response become dominated by angry reaction. All of her courtroom behavior became predictable to attorneys and the court. It was appreciated.

Acting as a Special Master, Leslie is known for several traits. First, and most important, she treats all parties with respect and listens with genuine understanding. Attorneys particularly like appearing before Leslie because, regardless of the outcome of the case, their clients universally comment something to the effect "...that judge actually listened to me. Finally, I've had my day in court..."

Second, Leslie likes her courtroom to be user friendly to all parties. This is particularly important for pro se litigants. New lawyers appreciate Leslie's relaxed demeanor and their learning curve mistakes are not pointed out in front of their clients. However, they are reviewed later at a more appropriate time.

Third, Leslie keeps control of the court. On the rare occasion when a litigant goes beyond acceptable behavior, usually domestic cases with a litigant accustomed to using dominating

control of situations, Leslie quickly makes it clear that such bad behavior must immediately stop. Lawyers appreciate Leslie's measured but firm courtroom control.

What is very important in the appointment of a judge is the level of predictability about what kind of judge will develop from the person appointed. We are fortunate that Leslie has shown us her judicial demeanor while acting as a Special Master. What I see of equal value is that Leslie the Special Master is simply a continuation of Leslie the Law Clerk and Leslie the practicing lawyer.

Life is easier for lawyers if a judge is predictable. The lawyers like working with Leslie and that relationship will continue if she is appointed. Litigation is never easy for the parties but it gets easier if they have a fact based belief that their case was heard and thoughtfully considered. Upcoming litigants will benefit from Leslie's courtroom demeanor and solid judicial temperament.

I recommend Leslie for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas G. Harkin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Douglas G. Harkin
District Judge (retired)



101 N. Rodney • Helena MT 59601
406.442.9081 TEL • 800.745.5546 TOLL-FREE

Montana Credit Union League | League Service Group | Montana Credit Unions for Community Development

March 5, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

I am delighted to provide this letter of recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for more than 13 years in her capacity as a volunteer board member at Missoula Federal Credit Union.

During this time, I have interacted with Leslie on many occasions both in Montana and in D.C. and have watched her deftly advocate for cooperative credit. She is a passionate volunteer, excellent listener, and quickly assimilates new information. I am always happy when she accompanies me on Hill Visits as her calm demeanor and concise communication can diffuse even the most intense situations.

In 2006, Leslie was honored with the Mitch Reed Credit Union Volunteer of the Year Award; this is our highest volunteer distinction bestowed and is given to only one recipient per year. The dedication needed to be a financial industry board member is tremendous: continuing education, understanding regulations, setting policies, and determining strategic vision...now, imagine doing all of this as a volunteer. With no profit motive, credit union volunteers maintain a commitment to the credit union principle of "People Helping People" and truly provide an important service to their community. Leslie is a shining example of an extraordinary credit union board member.

With her exceptional people skills, strong intellect, commitment to community, and impressive professional history, Leslie has the personality and aptitude to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracie Kenyon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail.

Tracie Kenyon
President/CEO

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

March 2, 2015

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for 25 years, both personally and professionally. I believe that she would be an excellent choice to fill this position.

Leslie demonstrates the qualities that one expects in a good judge. She is even tempered, has an incredible work ethic, she is respectful both of the law and of the people she works with and serves. She not only has good academic credentials but she has shown over the years of hard work that she has good common sense and can work with others to solve problems.

I have had the privilege to work with Leslie during most of my career as an attorney in private practice, generally in the area of adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. She is always professional and able to successfully resolve challenging cases in this difficult area.

Leslie has been a leader, not only at the local level but State wide, serving as a trustee to the State Bar of Montana. She has continued to seek education and advancement so to best serve the people of Missoula County. She has worked to advance changes in public policy in the family, juvenile and dependency and mental health laws.

Leslie possesses the calm, professional demeanor that is needed in a District Court Judge, as well as the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills. Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Cynthia H. Shott
336 Connell Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

SNAVELY LAW FIRM

P.O. BOX 16570
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59808

E-Mail: snavely@montana.com
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February 24, 2015

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

Re: *Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan for District Judge,
Fourth Judicial District, State of Montana*

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

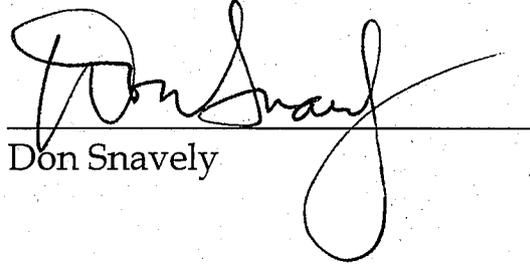
I am sending this letter to highly recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan to serve as a District Judge of the Fourth Judicial District, upon the retirement of the Hon. Edward P. McLean.

I have actively practiced law, primarily as a civil litigator, in the Fourth Judicial District since 1979. I have known Leslie for more than two decades, both professionally and personally. She has always demonstrated a calm, thoughtful temperament, and willingness to listen to both sides of every issue regardless of how controversial the issue might be. She has considerable experience in serving in judicial positions, including most recently as a Magistrate with the Fourth District Court, but also as a hearings officer for the State of Montana. She has a keen intellect and the ability to quickly comprehend the substance of legal issues. She also brings an extensive and unique background on pressing legal issues to the bench. Most importantly, I am confident that she will approach all cases neutrally, without letting her personal feelings interfere with the judicious administration of justice in the cases before her.

Ms Lois Menzies
February 24, 2015
Page 2

I would trust Leslie with the most significant matters in my life, and highly recommend Leslie's appointment as District Judge unequivocally and without reservation.

Sincerely,



Don Snavely

DVS/ds

March 6, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Lois and Commission Members:

I am honored and pleased to recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

While it seems I have known Leslie forever, I came to know and respect her professional knowledge and skills while she worked for the Missoula County Attorney's office and I served as a Missoula County Commissioner, and subsequently as Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer.

During that period of time Leslie was a trusted advisor to the Board of County Commissioners and to me personally. Leslie is certainly smart, articulate and devoted to her work, but in addition she successfully steered the County through the complex, mixed-jurisdiction (federal/state and local) world of youth and specialty treatment courts, mental health commitments, child abuse and neglect cases and adult protective services. Leslie always worked collaboratively and gave sound, dispassionate and visionary advice as the County worked through the multitude of issues surrounding these subjects.

Because Leslie is an accomplished attorney, educator, leader and public servant, it came as no surprise when she was selected by Judges McLean and Townsend as Standing Master in the Fourth Judicial District. Her experience, work ethic, strong academic credentials, ability to address complex legal issues and complex litigation respect made her the perfect choice.

With no reservation and based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District. She will make an excellent District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Ann Mary Dussault

Former State Legislator, Missoula County Commissioner, and Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer, among other things!



School of Law
The University of Montana - Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59812
Phone: (406) 243-4670
Fax: (406) 243-2576

Date: March 5, 2014

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

From: Klaus D. Sitte

Re: Leslie Halligan
Applicant, Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

This letter is in reference to Leslie Halligan and her application for the District Court Judgeship in Missoula County. I have known Leslie since her law school days in the mid-80s. I am confident I know Leslie well enough to provide informed information about her abilities as a District Court judge candidate.

Lawyers and citizens alike have differing perceptions of the qualities which make a good judge. Patience ranks high on my personal list. Leslie's calm and even temperament, despite many difficult cases and heated discussions, make her an ideal candidate for the District Court judgeship. In her early career as a Deputy County Attorney, we would often face each other in dependency and neglect proceedings. Those cases are among the most emotionally demanding in the court system. While others would have been tempted to "turn it up a notch," Leslie strove to resolve those cases with her self-composed and tranquil presence. She not only employed her legal skills, but her "people" skills as well. She was able to navigate the fine line between advocacy and being adversarial with composure and a sense of serenity. Clearly, the ability to remain tranquil came from her preparedness, planning and thoroughness - characteristics which bode well for a career on the bench.

Leslie's experience as a Deputy County Attorney and a Standing Master is significant. That broad and directly applicable background already illustrates a high degree of proficiency in areas where a District Court judge does substantial work. Especially in her Standing Master position, she has earned a reputation for fairness, persistence and competence. Obviously, several District Court judges have relied upon Leslie's skills, judgment and common sense. She earned their trust by her efforts every day.

As Montana citizens, we should demand judges who are knowledgeable and experienced, of course. Leslie clearly qualifies. We also need judges who enjoy the work. In today's busy court system, we cannot afford judges who are not fully committed to service. Both in her employment experience and in her civic activities, Leslie has demonstrated a commitment

to public service above and beyond what is expected, as her Questionnaire answers indicate. Fourth Judicial District residents will be proud to have her serve as judge.

We all know that being a District Court judge is incredibly hard work. Leslie brings an extraordinary dedication serving Montana's citizens. Leslie's past work life is evidence of what we can anticipate from Leslie in the future. We can expect Leslie to be an outstanding Fourth Judicial District Court judge.

February 28, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie since October 2000 when I began working at the Missoula County Attorney's Office. I have been in awe of her ever since. I often call her superwoman when I describe her to others. She can successfully manage a heavy workload, a full family schedule, community service and numerous other responsibilities and never lose her cool. In watching her at County Attorney's Office, she was always compassionate to those she served. I respect her strong work ethic and appreciated that she was always willing to listen and assist in problem solving.

During Leslie's career, she has demonstrated leadership by advancing many positive changes in public policy for family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law. She understands all aspects of the legal system. She is very knowledgeable in many areas of law, which is essential for a judge to be effective. She has the ability to creatively solve problems and to think outside the box when necessary.

Leslie has a judicial temperament. She is always thoughtful and calm. She listens to all parties with respect and consideration. She considers all relevant information before making a decision. Her passion and dedication will make her an excellent District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Clark

Assistant Chief Criminal Deputy, Missoula County Attorney's Office



Missoula County Sheriff's Office
200 W. Broadway
Missoula, MT 59802

**T.J. MCDERMOTT
SHERIFF**

**Missoula County Sheriff's
Office**

(406) 258-3312

(406) 531-0301

e-mail: tjmcdermott@co.missoula.mt.us

FAX: (406) 721-8575

March 9th, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I started working with the City of Missoula as an officer in 1998 and shortly thereafter was introduced to Leslie Halligan. I have worked with her on numerous cases during my years at the City of Missoula as an officer and after that as a Deputy/Detective Sgt. with the Missoula County Sheriff's Office.

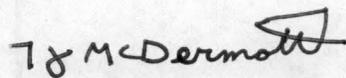
It is with great pride I lend my name in support for District Court Standing Master Leslie Halligan to be our next District Court Judge in Missoula's 4th Judicial District. Mrs. Halligan is widely respected throughout Montana and especially Western Montana for her dedication to social and legal issues involving people of all social status. She has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation. She has served as a Deputy County Attorney for more than twenty years and taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years.

Leslie has demonstrated leadership by advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law. She also has established effective management of court cases involving self-represented litigants. She has served on various boards such as a trustee for the State Bar of Montana, Missoula Federal Credit Union and Missoula Aging Services.

Leslie has proven to be a very admired person among her peers and beyond. Her reputation is one of unparalleled regarding her honesty, integrity, common sense and excellent communication skills. Other strengths that stand out are her very even low keyed temperament, maturity and professionalism.

Leslie is a proven person in the field of law and a natural to be district judge. It is because of this I pledge my support for Mrs. Halligan. I would strongly recommend her appointment as District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T.J. McDermott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T" and a prominent flourish at the end.

T.J. McDermott
Sheriff



GARY L. EVANS

Juvenile Unit Manager
Missoula County Detention Facility
2340 Mullan Road, Missoula MT 59808
(406) 258-4056, Fax 258-4082
E-mail to gevans@co.missoula.mt.us

TO: Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies

DATE: February 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court
Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I eagerly recommend Leslie Halligan be appointed to fill the Fourth Judicial District Court Judge vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Ed McLean. I have worked with Leslie for close to 15 years. I have been impressed with her work ethic, her drive to see that justice prevails, and her relentless dedication to resolve problems, hold violators accountable, advocate for restitution to victims and safeguard the rights of all those involved in the justice system. Leslie truly embodies the values that have made our country great! She has never settled for anything less than the highest good.

I truly cannot think of anyone more suited, more qualified or more dedicated to this high court of the Fourth Judicial District than Leslie Halligan. From her graduation, with honors, from the University of Montana, School of Law to her prestigious history as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Montana, to her impressive work experience, Leslie has proven she is capable and prepared for whatever challenges may lie ahead of the Fourth Judicial District Court.

Having worked closely with all of the District Court Judges and the Standing Masters, this endorsement is freely given, without reservation. Leslie is one of those rare individuals that the longer you know her the more you appreciate and admire her. You will never regret having appointed her as Fourth Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary L. Evans".

Gary L. Evans
Juvenile Detention Administrator

PAOLI KUTZMAN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DAVID R. PAOLI
JOHN A. KUTZMAN*
PHILIP C. SHADWICK

257 WEST FRONT STREET, SUITE A
P.O. Box 8131
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802
PHONE: 406-542-3330
FAX: 406-542-3332

DAVIDPAOLI@PAOLI-LAW.COM
JOHNKUTZMAN@PAOLI-LAW.COM
PHILIPSHADWICK@PAOLI-LAW.COM

*Great Falls Office

March 11, 2015

Ryan Rusche
Judicial Nomination Commission
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

VIA E-MAIL: rusche.ryan@gmail.com

RE: Leslie Halligan – Fourth Judicial District

Dear Ryan:

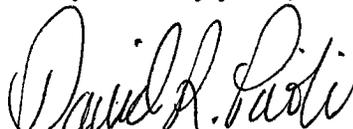
I write this letter with enthusiastic support of the Application of Leslie Halligan to become the next Judge of Department 1 of the Fourth Judicial District Court. I have known Leslie for over 30 years from when we first were law school classmates. I have followed her career in Missoula as she has served the public in various roles, most recently as the Standing Master in the Fourth Judicial District Court for Judges McLean and Townsend. Through these many years I have come to know the qualities she possesses that will be valuable to her as Judge, and to us as citizens and practitioners.

From my knowledge and many years of knowing Leslie, I believe she will be a wonderful District Court Judge and will serve the Fourth Judicial District and the State of Montana with distinction.

Leslie's personality and demeanor will provide her with an excellent judicial temperament. Her work already in the Fourth Judicial District has helped her achieve a level of understanding not only of the District Court, but of the individuals who appear before the Court and the types of cases, issues, and problems that the Judges of the Fourth Judicial District face.

Please, I ask you to look with favor on Leslie Halligan's application to the Judicial Nomination Commission for the position of Fourth Judicial District Court Judge. I am available at any time to discuss Leslie's significant qualifications further. Thank you very much.

Very sincerely yours,


David R. Paoli

CHRISTOPHER DALY
P. O. BOX 7684
MISSOULA, MT 59807

MARCH 10, 2015

JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
C/O LOIS MENZIES
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
P.O. BOX 203005
HELENA, MT 59620-203005

RE: LESLIE HALLIGAN

DEAR COMMISSION:

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A LETTER IN FAVOR OF THE APPLICATION OF LESLIE HALLIGAN FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE OF THE 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT. I HAVE KNOWN MS. HALLIGAN FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS AND BELIEVE THAT SHE WOULD MAKE AN OUTSTANDING DISTRICT COURT JUDGE.

MY PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS WITH HER HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS AND VARIED. I FIRST WORKED WITH HER WHEN I WAS LOCAL BAR PRESIDENT IN 1988-1989. DURING THAT PERIOD WE WORKED ON PUTTING TOGETHER PROGRAMS FOR THE LOCAL BAR AND OTHER BAR ACTIVITIES.

IN HER CAPACITY AS A MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR AND JUSTICE COURT PROSECUTOR , WE HAD CASES OPPOSITE EACH OTHER AND I ALWAYS FOUND HER TO BE PREPARED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ETHICAL. IN LATER YEARS, AFTER I BEGAN WORK AS A STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, I HAD CASES INVOLVING GUARDIANSHIPS AND ABUSE NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES. AGAIN, I FOUND HER TO PRACTICE AT THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL LEVEL AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATING COMPASSION FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE THAT ONE OFTEN ENCOUNTERS IN SUCH CASES.

GIVEN HER EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND IN MANY ASPECTS OF THE LAW AND PRACTICE IN OUR JUDICIAL DISTRICT, I BELIEVE THAT MS. HALLIGAN WOULD SERVE THE PUBLIC WELL IN THE CAPACITY OF DISTRICT JUDGE.

SINCERELY,

CHRISTOPHER DALY

WORKED ON PUTTING TOGETHER PROGRAMS FOR THE LOCAL BAR AND OTHER BAR ACTIVITIES
MUNICIPAL COURT PROSECUTOR AND JUSTICE COURT PROSECUTOR , WE HAD CASES OPPOSITE EACH OTHER AND I ALWAYS FOUND HER TO BE PREPARED, KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ETHICAL. IN LATER YEARS, AFTER I BEGAN WORK AS A STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, I HAD CASES INVOLVING GUARDIANSHIPS AND ABUSE NEGLECT AND DEPENDENCY CASES. AGAIN, I FOUND HER TO PRACTICE AT THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL LEVEL AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATING COMPASSION FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE THAT ONE OFTEN ENCOUNTERS IN SUCH CASES.

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

March 2, 2015

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to recommend the appointment of Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for 25 years, both personally and professionally. I believe that she would be an excellent choice to fill this position.

Leslie demonstrates the qualities that one expects in a good judge. She is even tempered, has an incredible work ethic, she is respectful both of the law and of the people she works with and serves. She not only has good academic credentials but she has shown over the years of hard work that she has good common sense and can work with others to solve problems.

I have had the privilege to work with Leslie during most of my career as an attorney in private practice, generally in the area of adult guardianship and conservatorship cases. She is always professional and able to successfully resolve challenging cases in this difficult area.

Leslie has been a leader, not only at the local level but State wide, serving as a trustee to the State Bar of Montana. She has continued to seek education and advancement so to best serve the people of Missoula County. She has worked to advance changes in public policy in the family, juvenile and dependency and mental health laws.

Leslie possesses the calm, professional demeanor that is needed in a District Court Judge, as well as the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills. Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Cynthia H. Shott
336 Connell Ave
Missoula, MT 59801

521 Hartman #10
Missoula, MT 59802
kemmisdaniel@gmail.com
(h-o) 406-549-3135
(c) 406-360-8906

Daniel Kemmis

March 9, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter in support of the appointment of Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for many years, beginning with my service in the Montana Legislature, during my own legal practice, through my tenure as Mayor of Missoula and for twenty years since then. I have observed her in many roles, both civic and legal, and on the basis of that familiarity, I enthusiastically endorse her for this position.

Nothing stands out more strongly in my mind when I think of Leslie than her strikingly even temperament. I have never seen her flustered or off-balance, even in very stressful and challenging situations. It's not just that she remains calm, but somehow the pressure seems to sharpen her mind and steady her judgment (which are remarkably sharp and steady to begin with.)

As one who cares very deeply about my community, I am aware of how profoundly dependent a community can sometimes be on the wisdom and evenhandedness of our judges. I can't think of anyone for whom I have higher regard in those terms than Leslie Halligan. She would make a superb addition to what is already an outstanding bench here in the Fourth Judicial District. I unequivocally endorse her appointment.

Sincerely,



Daniel Kemmis

March 7, 2015

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

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have worked with Leslie since 1987 when she started working for Missoula County as a Law Clerk.

During Leslie's career she has successfully resolved challenging cases in all her facets of her legal career. As the former Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer for Missoula County I have had the pleasure to work with Leslie on a professional level. As a Deputy County Attorney, Leslie advised the Clerk & Recorder and Treasurer functions for a period of time. She was thorough when providing an answer to our legal questions.

Also, Leslie worked for me as a Polling Place Manager for the past 12 years. Leslie is a quick study and demonstrated that she has a great deal of patience to deal with 24 aging election judges. Her people skills are excellent; she has a calming effect on stressful situations. Leslie demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and has exceptional organizational skills.

Based on Leslie's professional background and legal experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Vickie M. Zeier

Missoula County Chief Administrative Officer

Western Montana
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

Regional Administrative Offices
T-9 Fort Missoula Rd. • Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 532-8400 • (406) 543-4536 (FAX)

March 12, 2015

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for my entire professional career (1990-2015).

During Leslie's career, she has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation; served as a Deputy County Attorney for more than twenty years; taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years.

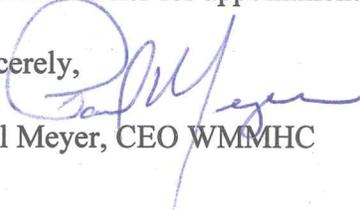
Leslie has demonstrated leadership by advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, chemical dependency and mental health law. Examples of her leadership with which I am personally familiar include the following:

- Assisted Missoula County implement a 24/7 emergency mental health professional team responding to community mental health crises. That team provides consistently uniform and high quality evaluations and dispositional alternatives to the district court system. That service approach has been replicated in Kalispell, Butte, Bozeman, Hamilton and Helena.
- Supported the development of the very first crisis facility for individuals experiencing acute mental illness. Crisis facilities and their counterpart of 24/7 MHP teams have become the gold standard for community mental health crisis care in our state.
- Founding board member of the Missoula Recovery Center, offering intensive inpatient services to individuals suffering from substance use disorders. That program now offers an alternative to individuals, families and employers previously unavailable before 2013.

Leslie demonstrates an even temperament; patience; respect for the rule of law; strong work ethic; decisiveness; possesses strong academic credentials; is a good listener and problem-solver; treats colleagues and members of the public with respect; she has a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills, to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,


Paul Meyer, CEO WMMHC

March 12th, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

I would like to add my voice of many in the support of Leslie Halligan to replace retiring Judge Ed Mclean. Mrs. Halligan has served the citizens of Montana and especially Western Montana with grace, yet with very effective measure in her accomplishments in the various positions she has held.

She is highly respected by her peers and the citizens of The 4th Judicial District. She possesses tremendous common sense, excellence communications skills, plus she is extremely intelligent with a tremendous common sense analytical mind. This along with her even keel temperament and maturity would well serve the residents of the 4th Judicial District.

Please accept this letter as a strong endorsement for Mrs. Halligan.

Thank you

Doug Chase
1421 Jackson St.
Missoula , Montana 59802

C.C. Leslie Halligan

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 5:38 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Halligan -- Public Comment

From: Judith Loring [<mailto:jaloring@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 10:35 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Subject: comment on judicial candidates

To Whom It May Concern:

I just wanted to comment on the field of candidates vying for Judge McLean's position in the 4th Judicial District. Of the six attorneys, I support Lisa Kaufman, Barbara Leslie Halligan and Brenda Desmond. I have had cases before both Ms. Halligan and Ms. Desmond and found both to be very knowledgeable, competent and fair. While I do not know Ms. Kaufman personally, I agree with her view that too many of our judges are former prosecutors. Being a defense attorney myself and having also represented parents in abuse/neglect cases, I have always wanted a judge on the bench who has had experience representing criminal defendants and parents rather than judges who have spent their careers prosecuting.

Thank you in advance.

Judith A. Loring
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 4
Stevensville, Montana 59870



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

KARL J. ENGLUND, P.C.

Attorney at Law

401 North Washington Street

Post Office Box 8358

Missoula, Montana 59807

[406]721-2729

FAX [406]728-8878

March 12, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

With great pleasure I write to recommend to you Barbara Leslie Halligan to be a district court judge for the Fourth Judicial District.

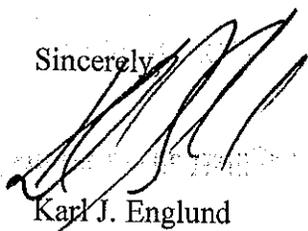
Ms. Halligan has dedicated her entire professional career to the effective and compassionate administration of justice. She has a keen mind, a great intellect and an even disposition. She is a thoughtful, hard working and dedicated public servant committed to the rule of law. Her honesty, integrity and ethics are above reproach.

Outside of work, in spite of a busy home and family life, she had given a significant amount of time and her varied talents to a host of endeavors for the benefit of our community.

In sum, Ms. Halligan has extensive experience in which she has demonstrated the abilities necessary to be an excellent trial court judge. Her record shows that she will dedicate herself to the job, she will be thoughtful and conscientious, she will be fair and clear in her decisions, and she will be respectful to all who appear before her. She will be fine addition to our state's judiciary. We are fortunate that she is willing to serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karl J. Englund

Mary VanBuskirk
1020 Park Avenue
Whitefish, MT 59937

March 12, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

By this letter, I have the honor to recommend the appointment of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

Over the past 22 years, I have worked with Leslie through the Montana Bar Association and its Women's Law Section. Throughout this time period, Leslie has evoked a calm and self-possessed manner with a respectful attitude towards all who come into contact with her. Leslie has proven academic credentials and a breadth of work experience helpful to her nomination, but I believe her even temperament and sense of fairness makes her uniquely qualified for the appointment.

Leslie's background helps explain her respect and empathy for all members of the public, whether rich or poor, lucky or unfortunate. Leslie's parents both worked for the Great Northern Railroad, then the Burlington Northern Railroad. Her mother, Phyllis Curry, is Lebanese and from Havre. Her Father, Les Vining, was raised in Whitefish. Although Leslie was born in Glasgow, her family was transferred several times by the railroad. Even so, Leslie studied hard and excelled in academics throughout her education. As an attorney, she has addressed difficult legal issues and taken tough assignments as a Deputy County Attorney to help the impoverished, the young victims of child abuse and neglect, the elderly through adult protective services and individuals with mental health and other disorders. She has exemplified her excellent writing skills and decisiveness as a clerk to a district court judge, deputy city attorney, deputy county attorney, and standing master for the Fourth Judicial District Court.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, the public will be well-served if Leslie is appointed to fill the vacancy. I recommend her for appointment without qualification as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Mary VanBuskirk

EVONNE SMITH WELLS *Esq.*
Also admitted in Arizona
JAMIE J. MCKITTRICK *Esq.*
TORIAN DONOHUE *Esq.*
SHAWN E. ROSSCUP *Esq.*
Also admitted in Indiana
TAL M. GOLDIN *Esq.*
Also admitted in Washington

MICHELLE SURRETT *Legal Assistant*
DENISE REEP *Legal Assistant*
BETTY GRIGSBY *Accounting*

WELLS & MCKITTRICK, P.C.
Attorneys at Law

March 13, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept my recommendation to appoint Standing Master Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie since 1983 as we were classmates at the University Of Montana School Of Law. We have both worked in Missoula since our graduation in 1986. As a family law attorney, I have had the opportunity to work with Leslie both while she worked at the County Attorney's office and in her role as the Standing Master for the Judge McLean.

Starting in law school and continuing throughout her illustrious career, Leslie at all times shows good judgment, common sense, impeccable character and patience. She is conscientious in her application of the rule of law. As a standing master, I have witnessed not only her incredible and tireless work ethic but her ability to be decisive and fair. She listens keenly and has a tremendous ability to solve problems and her opinions, orders and directions strongly show that ability. Leslie has always been a strong legal thinker and writer. She devotes a tremendous amount of time to teaching and mentoring law students at the Law School. She understands mental health issues and is able to communicate her opinions and orders in a very positive way even to those challenged with mental illness and other infirmities.

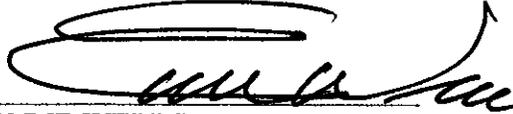
Leslie has demonstrated her leadership abilities in a number of ways. She has been instrumental in advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law and has served as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana. She has been an adjunct professor at the University of Montana for 10 years. She manages her huge caseload and pro se litigants in an efficient manner. She gives her cases the time they deserve.

Very truly yours,

Michelle Surrett
Legal Assistant

Leslie has the perfect temperament to be a District Court Judge. She is respectful of all who come into the court, whether they are attorneys or pro se litigants. She is a model of civility in the courtroom. I highly recommend Standing Master Leslie Halligan for appointment of Fourth Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evonne Wells", written over a horizontal line.

EVONNE WELLS

EW

7365 Old Grant Creek Road
Missoula, MT 59808
March 15, 2015

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

*Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court
Judge*

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to support your recommending and the Governor appointing Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for over two years, since joining the Missoula Federal Credit Union Board in 2013. As the dean of the Board, she commands the respect and admiration of all other board members and management for her expertise, knowledge and judgment. She provides a rare combination of empathy and understanding of people with a strong grasp of the financial objectives of the Credit Union. She regularly demonstrates sound judgment in balancing these often conflicting concerns. She is a good listener, treats colleagues with respect, and quickly grasps the points made by management and other board members, and is an excellent problem solver, bringing together different points of view. Overall, she is a calm and well-organized and demonstrates good judgment. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the last two years.

Leslie has an impressive legal resume, as a Standing Master, as a prosecutor in the county and city attorneys' offices, as a professor in the UM School of Law, as a law clerk, and as a defender. Given this sterling resume, I am confident that the qualities described above will make her an excellent district court judge, and I unreservedly recommend her for that position.

Yours sincerely,



Anthony R. Boote



RUBIN & RIES LAW OFFICES, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

406.541.4141 • office@rubinrieslaw.com

P.O. Box 8364 Missoula, MT 59807

March 13, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of Barbara Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing in support of the nomination of Leslie Halligan as district court judge to fill the vacancy in the 4th Judicial District (Missoula/Mineral Counties).

I first had the honor of working with Leslie Halligan in 1988 when I was a teaching assistant in a law school clinical program and she was in a supervisory role in the clinic. From the very first, I admired the way she treated everyone fairly, was concerned with meeting the client's needs, and how she was able to steer and guide us, encourage us, and reprimand us, as was necessary in that role.

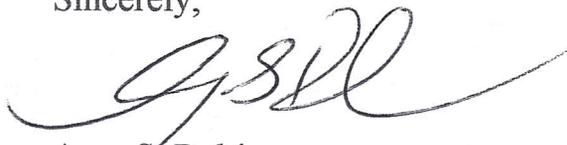
Since that time I have seen how she deals with the general public when she was in the county attorney's office. Again, her strengths of character and integrity showed as she treated everyone calmly and with respect in challenging and emotionally charged situations. Now that she has been serving as Standing Master, I see her exercising sound judgment, issuing carefully crafted well-reasoned opinions, and again treating litigants who appear before her with patience and respect. These are all the qualities that we want in a district court judge.

I recently was able to attend a hearing and observe Leslie Halligan in the role of Standing Master conducting a family law hearing with pro se litigants on both sides. She was clear, firm, pragmatic, and helped guide the family through the hearing to the best result possible under the circumstances.

We would be well-served as a community with Leslie Halligan as a district court judge.

I hope that you will be able to support her nomination for this position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASR', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Amy S. Rubin
Attorney at Law



March 17, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my confident recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Ms. Halligan for over 10 years in my capacity as the Clinical Services Director of Western Montana Addiction Services, and currently as a recent member of my board for Recovery Center Missoula.

In my time of knowing Leslie, she has demonstrated many qualities I seek and appreciate in a Judge. Her character is stellar, she is patient, has a strong work ethic, is decisive, and has demonstrated through her academics and work history that she is highly intelligent and stays the course. I have observed Ms. Halligan consistently treating her colleagues and all those with whom she interacts with respect and kindness, while maintaining fairness and appropriate boundaries. I am especially impressed with her ingenious ideas she brings to the table for problem solving, and equally impressed with her ability to remain calm in the face of a storm.

During Leslie's career, she has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation; served as a Deputy County Attorney for more than twenty years; taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years; and of course currently serving as a standing master. In all arenas she has served unwaveringly dignity and keeping the spirit of the law intact.

Leslie has demonstrated leadership by advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law; by demonstrating effective management of court cases involving self-represented litigants; by serving as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana. In her services to the board of Recovery Center Missoula, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the effects of substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and co-occurring disorders and how they affect a person's behavior. She supports rehabilitation while assuring citizens are held accountable for their actions of adverse consequence to the community at large.

It is without hesitation that I can say that Leslie possesses a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills, to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly and confidently recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TV Nauts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Tammera V. Nauts, LCSW, LAC
Executive Director



**Missoula Federal
Credit Union**

(406) 523-3300 / www.missoulafcu.org

March 16, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this email correspondence as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for approximately two years now. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Missoula Federal Credit Union (FCU), where I serve as the Chief Executive Officer. Missoula FCU is a \$410 million financial institution with approximately 45,000 members.

I met Leslie during my recruitment process and was struck immediately by her commitment to volunteer service and her ability to draw out of me an honest description of how I saw my own role and responsibility as a not-for-profit leader. Once I arrived in Missoula Leslie was especially gracious and supportive. She made herself available to aid my orientation and she helped me to build important relationships throughout the community.

Now that we work together regularly and in a more formal way, I have come to see Leslie as a model of consistency, even temperament and fairness. She deals very effectively with people expressing divergent opinions. She knows how and when to drive toward decisions when a process of deliberation gets bogged down and loses steam. Leslie always has an eye to the implications of our decisions on the people that the credit union was founded to serve. She is a highly intelligent and compassionate person.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Jack Lawson
President/CEO
Missoula Federal Credit Union

Downtown
126 W. Spruce
Missoula, MT
59802

Reserve
2610 N. Reserve
Missoula, MT
59808

Russell
1775 S. Russell
Missoula, MT
59801

Southside
3600 Brooks
Missoula, MT
59801

Stevensville
107 Main Street
Stevensville, MT
59870

University
First floor UC
Missoula, MT
59801



CITY OF MISSOULA

Police Department

"Honor, Valor, Pride"

March 19, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to support the selection of Barbara (Leslie) Halligan's application to the Judicial Nomination Committee for referral to the Governor for consideration as a District Court Judge. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial Court.

I have worked with Leslie for over twenty years and have witnessed her strong work ethic, good character, and even temperament in all of my dealings with her.

During her career, Leslie has successfully resolved challenging issues in a wide array of legal areas including assisting law enforcement officers in our interactions with citizens of our community who have mental health challenges. She has been respectful, knowledgeable and always took into consideration what was best for the person as well as the community as a whole. She has also advanced changes to public policy in family and juvenile dependency law as well.

Leslie possesses a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary skills needed to be an effective District Court Judge. I fully support Barbara (Leslie) Halligan in her endeavor to be appointed as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Brady".

Mike Brady
Chief of Police

BOONE  KARLBERG P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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
MARY CILE GLOVER-ROGERS
ZACHARY A. FRANZ

March 17, 2015

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

Re: Leslie Halligan

Dear Commission Members:

I'm sorry that I have not sent in a letter of recommendation for Leslie Halligan as I have been on vacation. I am pleased to be able to send a letter of recommendation on Leslie Halligan's behalf for her application for the appointment to the Fourth Judicial District Court judge position. As to my background, I am a practicing attorney in Missoula, Montana, and have been practicing nearly 50 years.

In my work as an attorney in Missoula, I have come to know Leslie Halligan primarily through guardianship matters that she was involved in for Missoula County of which were referred by Adult Protective Services. While we have some disagreements about some matters in that area early in my working with Leslie, I became a great fan of hers and sought her advice on numerous occasions in areas in which she was working through the Missoula County Attorney's office. I came to respect her wise counsel and her demeanor in handling these matters as she always took into consideration the best interest of the people that were involved in the proceedings. I respected her ability to be able to come to a decent resolution of difficult matters.

Leslie's work however has not been limited to those matters in the Missoula County Attorney's office but she has been very active in her legal work for District Court

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March 17, 2015

Page 2

Judges Edward McLean and Karen Townsend, as a hearings officer and as an instructor in both the University of Montana School of Law and Missoula Vo-Tech.

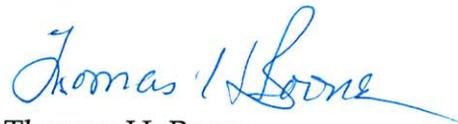
Leslie also has a wide and varied background in her work experience both from the standpoint of working in the County Attorney's office and in working for several of the District Court Judges. She has tried cases and served as a mediator on many matters, all of which will serve her well as a judge.

I have found Leslie to be very thoughtful, intelligent, and one who has a very good grasp of the issues at hand. Her pleasant and caring demeanor would complement her legal abilities which are well suited for a judicial position.

Leslie Halligan is one of the more respected lawyers in Missoula, and would be a real asset to the Judiciary of Missoula County and the State of Montana. I have no hesitancy in giving an unqualified recommendation for Leslie as the replacement Judge for Edward McLean. I would recommend that the Commission submit her name as the candidate for that position.

If there is anything further that you need from me, please feel free to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Thomas H. Boone

THB/hh

March 17, 2015

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

Re: 4th Judicial District Candidate, Barbara "Leslie" Halligan

Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission:

I write because we all have great interest in maintaining the excellence of Montana's District Court judicial appointments. I join with those who think that Leslie Halligan is a superior candidate to put forth as nominee for the 4th Judicial District Judgeship opened by retirement of Judge McLean. Leslie is without question qualified and prepared to assume the bench as a trial judge take on the responsibilities of that position.

I have followed Leslie's career as an excellent Missoula lawyer for almost 30 years. During that time, she has been highly active with the UM School of Law at our invitation. She is a remarkable public servant who has a long history of teaching at the law school while balancing the demands of her professional life at Missoula County. As a lawyer, Leslie has displayed all the qualities one would look for in a State District Judge. She is exceptionally hard working and highly knowledgeable about court procedures and the law. In her work, she has always been involved with the Fourth Judicial District Courts and has been known for her great competence in navigating the courts on behalf of her clients. She exhibits a keen legal mind, superior analytical skills, and is an accomplished legal researcher and writer.

Leslie's skills and personal qualities are the reason she has long been invited to teach at the Law School. She has proven to be an excellent teacher and mentor to our students and is a selfless asset to them and a great public servant.

Leslie will bring judicial temperament and demeanor to the bench. She is a well known figure in Missoula public service and is the consummate lawyer we are looking for in filling judicial positions. She has the life experience, wisdom and judgment to join the Montana judiciary, and I am pleased to strongly advocate her nomination to the Fourth Judicial District position.

Sincerely,



Gregory S. Munro
Interim Dean
University of Montana School of Law

University of Montana **School of Law**
Missoula, Montana 59812-6552
Phone: 406.243.4311
Fax: 406.243.2576
Web: umt.edu/law

Jon Ellingson
Attorney at Law
141 North Ave. E
Missoula, MT 59801
406-546-9084
jonelling@gmail.com

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

March 19, 2005

Re: Nominations to fill the vacancy in the Fourth Judicial District Court- Leslie Halligan

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write to offer my enthusiastic support for Leslie Halligan in her application to fill the upcoming district court vacancy in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have been privileged to work with Ms. Halligan over a time period that spans decades. Specifically, I have worked with her during her tenure at the Missoula County Attorney's office and as she has handled cases in her capacity as Standing Master. These professional interactions have allowed me to observe her intelligence, diligence and judgment.

In each of these categories, Ms. Halligan has demonstrated superior abilities that will serve her well as a district court judge. In particular, I want to draw your attention to the quality that is perhaps the most important in a judge: judicial temperament. In my professional experience with Ms. Halligan, I have seen that this is a quality which she possesses in abundance. Her decisions have always been thoughtful, reasonable and filled with a good measure of common sense. Moreover she explains her decisions to both sides in such a way that both are left with a sense that their concerns have been fully heard, and respected even while one side must ultimately be disappointed. This is a rare quality that will be important and useful to her as a judge.

I close by reiterating my strong support for Ms. Halligan. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Yours truly,

/s/ Jon Ellingson

Jon Ellingson



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of Missoula

1520 South Russell
Missoula, MT 59801

T 406-721-2380
F 406-543-5082

info@bbbsmissoula.org
www.bbbsmissoula.org

March 19, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie since 1996 both professionally and personally through her volunteer work as a Board Member with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Missoula.

Leslie was an outstanding Board Member for 15 years and displayed her leadership qualities and skills through the numerous positions she held within the organization, be it President of the Board, the Vice President, Secretary or the chairperson of a board committee. She is a good listener and problem-solver, and always respects others viewpoints even when they differed from her own. Leslie has the ability to hear multiply sides of a discussion and then condense the information down to a few key points that the parties involved can agree to.

Ms. Halligan has the qualities to serve as a District Court Judge. Her legal experience has been vast, ranging from mediator, to prosecutor, to guardian. As a Standing Master she has presided over judicial cases referred by other district judges, such as domestic relations, child abuse and neglect, and many other miscellaneous issues the court system deals with on a regular basis. Leslie also possesses strong academic credentials, both as a student and as an adjunct professor.

There are many things that impress me about Leslie. Her strong work ethic, positive "can do" attitude and willingness to take on a challenge are attributes both refreshing and inspirational. She is someone who knows and understands the demands of the position having spent a career in the courtroom. In addition, the time she has spent working with Judge McLean and other judges gives her valuable insight as to what it takes to be an effective District Court Judge.



Think of the possibilities. **What will you start?**

start something

On a personal level, I have been honored to work with Leslie. She has always been available when I needed help or just wanted someone to vent to about the challenges of managing a non-profit organization. Her guidance, honesty and support have been instrumental in my commitment to this organization. Knowing that I can count on Leslie is very reassuring and valuable to me.

Leslie has the skills and demeanor to be an excellent District Judge. She will not only bring many years of experience and outstanding leadership skills to the job, but also energy, patience, compassion and many other fine qualities as well. I hope you will give her every consideration.

Sincerely,



Danette Rector

CEO

406-721-2380

drector@bbbsmissoula.org

March 17, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members

I am writing in support of Leslie Halligan's nomination to replace Judge McLean as the Fourth Judicial District Court Judge.

I have known Leslie for about 15 years. I have had the opportunity to work with her on several committees and as a Deputy County Attorney. She is one of those people you can always count on to calm a discussion with her demeanor and help a group focus on what is important and what is the role of the group. While she is a very compassionate person, she is adept at helping people make decisions based on facts rather than emotion.

Leslie is a very involved member of our community and her wealth of knowledge has been invaluable to the county as we have allocated limited dollars to local nonprofits to address the basic needs of our at risk population. Her experience and knowledge on complex legal issues will be an asset to Missoula and Mineral Counties.

Ms. Halligan has the legal knowledge, judicial expertise, trial experience and understanding of the psychological and physical demands placed on a Montana District Court Judge. She will also bring the ability to use technology and her attention to detail to the court system.

Sincerely,



Jean Curtiss
Missoula County Commissioner
1419 Howell Street (home address)
Missoula, MT 59802
406-721-1705



March 17, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my confident recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Ms. Halligan for over 10 years in my capacity as the Clinical Services Director of Western Montana Addiction Services, and currently as a recent member of my board for Recovery Center Missoula.

In my time of knowing Leslie, she has demonstrated many qualities I seek and appreciate in a Judge. Her character is stellar, she is patient, has a strong work ethic, is decisive, and has demonstrated through her academics and work history that she is highly intelligent and stays the course. I have observed Ms. Halligan consistently treating her colleagues and all those with whom she interacts with respect and kindness, while maintaining fairness and appropriate boundaries. I am especially impressed with her ingenious ideas she brings to the table for problem solving, and equally impressed with her ability to remain calm in the face of a storm.

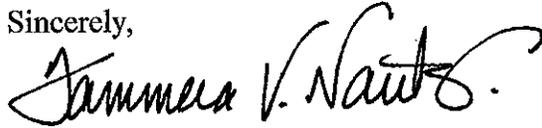
During Leslie's career, she has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation; served as a Deputy County Attorney for more than twenty years; taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years; and of course currently serving as a standing master. In all arenas she has served unwaveringly dignity and keeping the spirit of the law intact.

Leslie has demonstrated leadership by advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law; by demonstrating effective management of court cases involving self-represented litigants; by serving as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana. In her services to the board of Recovery Center Missoula, she has demonstrated a deep understanding of the effects of substance use disorders, mental health disorders, and co-occurring disorders and how they affect a person's behavior. She supports rehabilitation while assuring citizens are held accountable for their actions of adverse consequence to the community at large.

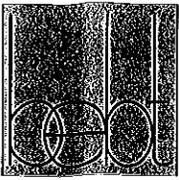
It is without hesitation that I can say that Leslie possesses a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills, to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly and confidently recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamera V. Nauts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Tamera V. Nauts, LCSW, LAC
Executive Director



Bohyer, Erickson,
Beaudette, & Tranel, P.C.

Jesse B. Beaudette
John E. Bohyer
Erin M. Erickson
Nathan A. Fluter
Katie C. Guffin
Ryan Heuwinkel
Paul N. Tranel

March 18, 2015

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

Re: Barbara "Leslie" Halligan, District Court Judge Applicant

Dear Commission Members:

I write this recommendation letter on behalf of Barbara Leslie Halligan for the vacancy that will be created shortly by the retirement of the Honorable Ed McLean of the Montana Fourth Judicial District in Missoula. I provide the recommendation with full confidence in Leslie's character abilities, and temperament, and I do so without reservation.

I have known Leslie for more than 30 years. We were law school classmates at the University of Montana, graduating in 1986. Since law school, I have remained in touch with Leslie, and become friends with her and her husband Mike Halligan. In my view Leslie will be a consummate judge — fair, even handed, tough when necessary, compassionate when she can be, hard working, a good listener, and a firm hand in the courtroom.

I met with Leslie just a couple of weeks ago to discuss her judicial philosophy and gauge her demeanor for this important job. I very much appreciated her willingness and ability to listen to the concerns I have with the process of litigating civil (not criminal) cases in the state courts of Montana. Because criminal and family law cases dominate the district courts' dockets, the remaining civil cases — property, insurance, water rights, contract, product liability, etc. — seem to take a back seat. As we discussed her philosophy regarding judicial construction of the law and the inefficiencies I currently perceive at work in the civil justice system, Leslie listened carefully. She expressed eagerness at helping to craft solutions if she becomes one of the judges in Missoula. I did not hear partisan rancor, justification for inefficiencies or argument from her. How refreshing!

Judicial Nomination Commission

March 18, 2015

Page 2

I am familiar with Leslie's leadership in public policy discussions, legislation, and judicial changes designed to understand and improve the law in the areas of family, juvenile, mental health and dependency law. She has a breadth of knowledge in those areas that will help her greatly as a district judge.

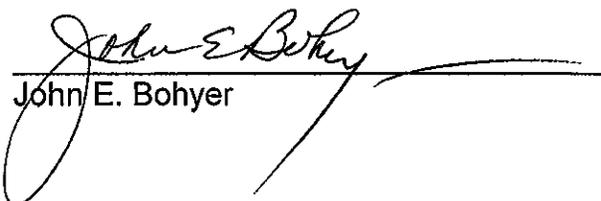
As a Standing Special Master, Leslie already has taken an important step in becoming a judge — rendering decisions in a wide variety of criminal and civil matters on behalf of Judges Ed McLean and Karen Townsend in Missoula. Leslie has done extremely well in that position and I am confident she will perform equally well as a district court judge. She is a tireless worker and very bright. She realizes the importance to litigants for her to render her decisions quickly so that justice can be done promptly for those who appear before her. Her organizational skills and attention to detail developed as a Standing Special Master will serve her well as a district judge.

Throughout her career and even as a student, I have observed Leslie treat the judicial system, her colleagues and her opponents in litigation with the utmost respect. She is a well-grounded individual, with roots in rural Wyoming and Montana. She did a remarkable job balancing her job as a lawyer with raising her children in Missoula, and she can confidently say that she has succeeded in the rough and tumble profession that is the law. She has served the profession well and admirably as a member off the State Bar of Montana Board of Trustees, a volunteer position that requires countless hours of time and much travel. Leslie has distinguished herself as a problem solver over the last 29 years as a lawyer, special master, volunteer and mother of three boys, and I am confident she will distinguish herself as a district judge for many years to come.

I urge you to give Leslie due consideration and a favorable recommendation for appointment as the next district judge in Missoula. I am happy to discuss these issues further if any of you wish to do so.

Sincerely,

BOHYER, ERICKSON,
BEAUDETTE & TRANEL, P.C.


John E. Bohyer

JEB/dlp

KALKSTEIN, JOHNSON & DYE, P.C.

P.O. BOX 8568
225 ADAMS
MISSOULA, MT 59807-8568
E-mail: office@kalksteinlaw.com

Gary Kalkstein
C. J. Johnson
Travis Dye
Helia Jazayeri
Jennifer Loobey,
Office Manager

(406) 721-9800
FAX: (406) 721-9896

March 20, 2015

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

Re: Barbara Leslie Halligan's District Court Judgeship Application

Dr. Ms. Menzies:

It is my great pleasure to write a letter in support of the candidacy of Leslie Halligan for consideration in filling the District Judge Vacancy in the 4th Judicial District.

I have known Leslie over the course of 30 years (since law school in the 1980's) and have followed her career with interest. Throughout the entirety of her career, she has developed a broad experiential base with many areas of the law from her work as a District Court Clerk, City Attorney, Deputy County Attorney and Standing Master for the 4th Judicial District. Her broad experience in these many different areas of the law put her in good standing to deal with the issues she would confront on the bench. Leslie has significant experience and facility in both civil and criminal law and her background as an educator will help her immensely in her contact with the public as she has the ability to make complex matters understandable to her audience whether comprised of lawyers or laypersons.

Leslie has proven herself to be an accomplished attorney who despite a full work load, has continued to be an active and involved member of the Missoula community. Leslie has a strong sense of intellectual curiosity and civic responsibility which manifests itself in her efforts to learn and be facile in important aspects of

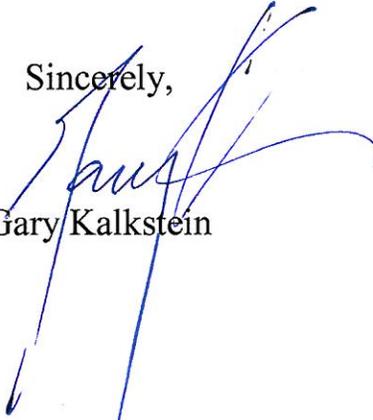
all matters entrusted to her. Another quality possessed by Leslie is her eagerness to be exposed to, and understand, perspectives different from her own, even when they may be outside of her zone of experience and comfort.

Over the course of my 28 years in the practice of law, I have had the good fortune to work with some very talented lawyers; Leslie is unquestionably included in that select group. She is a self-starter who expertly and efficiently addresses matters entrusted to her. Not only does Leslie bring her keen intellect to whatever activities she engages in, she also brings her good humor, positive personality, extraordinary work ethic, and broad legal experience. Leslie's common sense approach to life, in combination with her varied experiences give her a deep and broad experiential base from which to draw upon in any given situation. If selected as the next Judicial District Court Judge, she will without question bring these exceptional qualities to the court to the benefit of those of us who live and work in the 4th Judicial District.

Leslie is exceptionally well-equipped to handle the rigors of the judiciary. Over the course of my career, I have encountered few attorneys who possess Leslie's ability, drive, determination, personality, and common sense approach to life, these qualities will enable her to not only succeed, but excel in any situation in which she finds herself. In light of the foregoing, I respectfully recommend Leslie Halligan for your strong consideration to fill the upcoming judicial vacancy in the 4th Judicial District Court.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gary Kalkstein

Jim Wheelis
P.O. Box 291
Libby, MT 59923

March 11, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation that you nominate Leslie Halligan to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for at least 30 years. When I was a judge in the Fourth Judicial District (I was Ed McLean's predecessor), she appeared before me. I was impressed with her character, intellect, and ethics from her very first hearing before me. She was a law clerk with another judge in that district when I stepped down from the bench, and I knew that she did her research and drafting with care and reliability. Some years later, when I was with the appellate bureau of the Montana Attorney General's office, I worked with her on appeals in her cases. She was with the Missoula County Attorney then, and her assignments included cases in mental commitment, youth court, dependent and neglect matters, and adult protective services. She was always the same—measured, careful, diligent, and caring. She was able to recognize the other sides of issues—how the circumstances of parents' lives could make it difficult to take care of their children, for instance. She never treated anyone with disdain or contempt.

Since I've been on the bench in Lincoln County, she has appeared regularly when I've been substituted from a case or have recused myself. I know from what I have read of her decisions that she is careful and diligent, and the clerks report that she is uniformly courteous and patient. (They have rather pointedly suggested I could learn from her.)

Please feel free to call if you have any questions.

Jim Wheelis
Cell 406-422-8709
Home email jwheelis@frontier.com

March 23, 2015

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

RE: Barbara Leslie Halligan's Application for District Judge in the Fourth
Judicial District

Dear Judge Simonton & Members of the Commission:

As the retiring Judge of the Fourth Judicial District, I would like to send you some insight as to the qualifications of Standing Master Halligan. As Judge Simonton can attest, the Fourth Judicial District is one of the busiest judicial districts in the state.

I first met Leslie Halligan through her then-fiancé, Mike Halligan, who I worked with in approximately 1984, while she was attending law school. Shortly after graduating from law school, she entered public service, and I have known her both professionally and personally since that time. I can attest to her high ethical standards, family values and professional conduct. I, quite simply, could not offer to you a person of more exemplary standards or quality.

As a result of the individual caseload, the position of Standing Master was created to handle domestic relation matters, and later expanded to conducting intervention hearings on dependent and neglect matters. I have never encountered an individual with more patience in giving the litigants

their day in court, or one willing to issue Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law with more consideration of the parties. Leslie, simply, has the patience and expertise in the area of domestic relations, and dependent and neglect matters that is crucial to the handling of the majority of matters that are now coming before the courts. Leslie constantly impresses me with her expertise and patience in dealing with pro-se litigants.

I am certain that you have a copy of her resume, and I will not consume your time in repeating it, other than to note that her academic credentials are simply outstanding, and give her the foundation to be an excellent Judge. Her experience in handling the volume of cases as a Standing Master, positions her for a smooth transition to the District Court bench. Her work experience in domestic relations matters, which consumes an inordinate amount of time of a District Judge, necessitates a degree of patience found in very few people. Leslie Halligan is one of those individuals. I would like to think that one of the main accomplishments during my tenure is having family matters involving young children resolved as soon as competently possible. Leslie Halligan has shown the expertise, and extraordinary patience in family law, to accomplish that.

Leslie also has intervened in dependent and neglect matters, bringing the parties together and reaching an agreed-upon resolution without the need for a contested hearing, where no matter what the outcome, there is dissension and distrust among the parties. She has an unbelievable record in being able to have the parents and the Department of Family Services work together as a team, rather than as opposing parties, who are distrustful of each other.

The reason I emphasize the above two matters in this letter of recommendation is that I believe that they take the majority of a Judge's time.

In addition, Leslie spent several years in the County Attorney's office dealing with juvenile and criminal matters, mental disorders and commitments and is one of the most knowledgeable attorneys in the Fourth Judicial District concerning those matters.

Leslie, also, has been exposed to the civil area and would have minimal time in adjusting to that area. If I were to look at the duties of a Judge, I would say that Leslie is on top of the game in over 80% and has very little of a learning curve on the other 20%.

I have not observed a more qualified applicant during my tenure on the bench, and would respectfully request your consideration and approval of her application.

Sincerely,

Ed McLean
District Judge

EM/kaq

March 19, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this correspondence as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie since moving to Montana in 2009 and have been quite impressed with her in both work and social settings. Leslie always presents herself in a very professional, confident, and courteous manner and I have observed her thoughtful consideration and interaction with numerous individuals. Her intelligence, problem-solving skills, patience, and even temperament are qualities that I have appreciated, especially when dealing with difficult issues. She has that keen ability to listen to both sides of a story before speaking out on issues, especially those that are controversial.

During Leslie's career, she has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and complex litigation. She has served as a Deputy County Attorney for more than twenty years and has taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years.

Leslie has proven her leadership in many ways, most notably in advancing changes to public policy in family, juvenile dependency and mental health law. In addition, she has been effective in management of court cases involving self-represented litigants and serving as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana.

It is with great honor and my privilege to submit this letter and my strong support for your consideration to appoint Leslie Halligan as a District Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Respectfully,

Monica Weisul
Former Louisiana State Representative
(2003-2008 - Monica Walker)

March 20, 2015

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

To the members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I cannot imagine another person of my acquaintance more qualified to be a Montana District Court Judge than Leslie Halligan. I have known Leslie for 30 years and am convinced she has the intelligence, ethics, compassion, temperament and work habits to make her an exceptional judge.

I was introduced to Leslie while she was an undergraduate at the University of Montana and I was one of her journalism professors. It quickly became apparent that Leslie was a careful listener and a thoughtful interviewer who showed keen judgment in sorting through an array of facts to choose those most important. She was then, and is, an excellent writer who can cut to the heart of arguments and express her conclusions clearly and concisely. It's a skill that has served her and the judicial system ever since.

Perhaps what stands out most clearly to those who know Leslie, however, is her calm demeanor, even under great stress. In her work with dependent and neglected children and on mental health cases I frequently had occasion to hear her take calls after hours and calmly work with police officers or social workers to provide the legal advice necessary to solve the issue at hand. I never one time saw any suggestion that she resented intrusions into her after-hours work life, nor saw even a hint of impatience.

Leslie is also unusually compassionate. Not only did she and her husband, Mike, raise three boys, but they also were foster parents to two girls and a boy. It was their long-standing commitment to these young people that I know made a real difference in their lives.

Though I, of course, have not worked with Leslie in the legal community, I know from others who have worked with her that she always takes more than her share of the load and works uncomplainingly. She has also given generously of her time to the Missoula community, serving for many years on the boards of the Missoula Federal Credit Union and Big Brothers and Sisters, among many others.

I am certain that Leslie Halligan will make an exemplary judge, just as she has been a particularly effective standing master in the Missoula judicial court. I hope you'll

give the citizens of Missoula County the opportunity to let her continue to serve us by recommending her appointment to the bench.

Sincerely,

Carol Van Valkenburg
Professor Emerita
School of Journalism
University of Montana

March 20, 2015

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

Re: Nomination of Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I strongly recommend Leslie Halligan for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

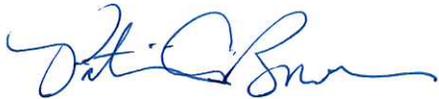
I met Leslie approximately 10 years ago when I started working at the Missoula County Attorney's Office. In her capacity as a Deputy County Attorney, I watched Leslie handle an extremely large caseload in a very competent and professional manner. I also observed her demonstrate a comprehensive grasp of the legal and ethical issues lawyers face on a daily basis. As a prosecutor for more than 20 years, Leslie has had the unique opportunity to become intimately familiar with the way the bench operates.

Leslie possesses all of the necessary requirements for being a judge and more. She is fair, honest and displays dignity and patience under stress. Her good judgment will help her make well-reasoned and tough legal decisions.

While Leslie has many remarkable qualities, her ability to listen is the one that stands out to me the most--as being a good listener is crucial when attempting to gather facts from the bench. Her patient and even-keeled nature will help attorneys and pro se litigants feel comfortable when telling her the facts and making their arguments. I am confident she will resolve disputes between individuals or individuals and their government according to established laws.

Leslie has always been extremely polite and professional. Her vast legal experience, leadership abilities and commitment to public service will serve the Fourth Judicial District well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia C. Bower".

Patricia C. Bower



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

412 West Alder Street • Missoula, MT 59802
P.O. Box 7433 • Missoula, MT 59807
Phone: (406) 542-1208 • www.casamissoula.org

CASA OF MISSOULA

3/18/2015

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have worked with Leslie during her time as a Standing Master.

I am the Program Manager for CASA of Missoula. Our program trains and supervises community volunteers to advocate for kids in court who have experienced abuse or neglect. Our CASA volunteers and staff attend all hearings and intervention conferences. A majority of the intervention conferences I have attended have been led by Leslie Halligan.

In all of my interactions with Leslie she has been very calm, intelligent and practical. She relates well to the parties and families that she works with and has an ability to make even the most stressful situations of family crisis seem manageable and calm. Leslie demonstrates patience, leadership and respect. She is also a good listener and problem-solver.

Leslie possesses a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and organizational skills to be an effective District Court Judge.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

P. MARS SCOTT, P.C.
LAW OFFICES

P. Mars Scott
Ryan A. Phelan

2920 GARFIELD, SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 5988
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806
TELEPHONE: (406) 327-0600
FAX: (406) 728-0948
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Ruth Anderson Hammill
Tiffany A. Nunnally

March 20, 2015

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

Re: Judicial Nomination

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I support Leslie Halligan for appointment to the Fourth Judicial District Court judge position to replace Judge McLean. I have practiced law in the State of Montana for 35 years during which time my areas of practice have included criminal defense, plaintiffs' work, workers' compensation for plaintiffs and defendants, water law, insurance defense, commercial transactions, real estate and family law. I also represented a bank for a number of years. For the last ten years, my practice has focused on family law. I find family law cases to be the most complex and stressful of all areas of the practice of law, and therefore the most challenging but also the place where an attorney can do the most good if the cases are approached professionally. Excellent judges are indispensable if these types of cases are to be disposed of in an equitable and fair manner.

In the past, I have stated that I would never support a candidate for district court judge who had only been a government employee and had never experienced the stress of handling multiple clients, organizing and preparing cases while trying to keep costs down, and running a private law practice. Leslie Halligan is an exception to my proclamation.

During my practice, I worked with Ms. Halligan on criminal matters, guardianships, and juvenile cases. In every instance, I found her to be thoughtful, straightforward, understanding and judicious in her approach to dealing with resolution of the issue at hand and in recommending a proposed punishment for the infraction. I never found her to overreach, be vindictive, or not willing to patiently listen to the other side of the story -- all important traits for a district court judge and important traits for a judge hearing a family law case. I have appeared before her as Standing Master, and even though I may sometimes disagree with her ruling, I always understand her rulings

P. MARS SCOTT, P.C.
Judicial Nomination Commission
March 20, 2015
Page 2 of 2

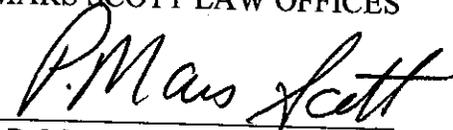
because she is clear in her findings and reasoning. I'm impressed with her organization, thoughtfulness, and attention to detail. Ms. Halligan always has an excellent understanding of the legal principles involved in the pending issues.

In my opinion, the Commission would make the right choice in recommending Leslie Halligan to the Governor for this appointment.

Sincerely,

P. MARS SCOTT LAW OFFICES

By:



P. Mars Scott

PMS/jeg



Smith & Stephens

- P.C. Law Offices -

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john@smithstephens.com

COLIN M. STEPHENS, Esq.
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BRIANA E. KOTTKE, Esq.
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CAROL E. SMITH, office manager
carol@smithstephens.com

20 March 2015

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

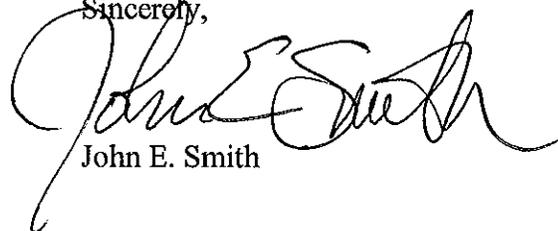
Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie since meeting her while we were both in law school. She was in the class ahead of mine. Leslie had encouraged me to seek admission to the Defender Project clinical during my third year of law school under the tutelage of Professor John McDonald. I was accepted and Leslie stayed on as Professor McDonald's legal assistant following her graduation. The work of the Project was to assist Montana State Prison inmates prepare memoranda in support of their petitions for sentence review and then to appear before the Sentence Review Board to argue their case. Leslie worked very hard teaching us how to write more compelling briefs when good facts were often scant. She drove the UM van to and from Deer Lodge on the long days we spent there arguing before the Board. I often sat up front with her to tell her about my ideas for my next case and to listen to her often sage advice. Though the days were long I was insatiable and Leslie never seemed too tired to answer my questions and patiently give me her reasoned thoughts.

My entire career has been spent in Montana's Fourth Judicial District as my home base. Since my early years, I have many times worked with Leslie in Missoula courts; as a young public defender appointed to represent children or parents in dependency neglect cases, and later in private practice representing young people involved in the youth court system. I recall many times, during the course of a dependency/neglect proceeding, we would have meetings with the numerous people involved in the case to confer about the plan, its implementation, and if we were achieving our goals. There were times when the parent or parents whose child had been removed to foster care would lash out verbally - directed especially at Leslie - because she represented the big, bad Department that had taken their child and was meddling in their lives. From her calm demeanor through to her well-thought-out words Leslie's response always tended to calm rather than exacerbate, to reassure not further confound, even those irate parents. Leslie did this while still pressing her message to the parents that the ultimate responsibility for their child's welfare resided with them. Her explanation of the process, their part in it, and the reason for the Department's involvement in their lives, aimed to empower them to be better parents, not demean them for their past misdeeds. Leslie's way of handling this and the many other difficult situations we face every day in litigation has been consistent throughout her years of practice.

Leslie's personal and professional background and experience speak volumes about her character and ability to handle the important work of being a District Court judge. Without hesitation and with great vigor I recommend her for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John E. Smith

BOONE KARLBERG

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

P. MATTHEW B. HAYHURST
SCOTT M. STEARNS
NATASHA PRINZING JONES
THOMAS J. LEONARD
JULIE R. SIRRS
TRACEY NEIGHBOR JOHNSON
CHRISTOPHER L. DECKER
RANDY J. TANNER
MARY CILE GLOVER-ROGERS
ZACHARY A. FRANZ

March 20, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for your work in considering candidates to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. Please accept this recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as the next District Court Judge in Missoula.

I have known Leslie my entire professional life and had the pleasure of working with her when I started at the Missoula County Attorney's office in 1997. As a fellow Deputy County Attorney, Leslie was a problem solver, team player, and skilled advocate. She always treated colleagues and members of the public with respect, even in the most trying of circumstances. She was also a valuable mentor to me as I first started in the practice of law.

Leslie is thoughtful and inquisitive. She possesses a keen intellect coupled with a firm grounding in common sense. I am convinced she will fairly apply the law in the most challenging, complex civil litigation cases, as well as many other types of cases that come before a Montana State District Court. Leslie's broad and varied experience provides her unique insight to effectively deal with matters involving civil law, criminal law, family law, juvenile justice issues, mental health and dependency issues, as well as dealing with the challenges presented by *pro se* litigants.

Given her unique skill-set and tremendous legal experience, I give Leslie my highest recommendation for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Stearns

March 12th, 2015

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

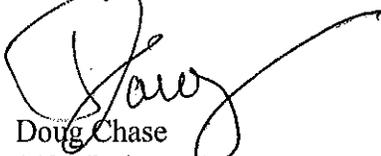
Dear Commission Members:

I would like to add my voice of many in the support of Leslie Halligan to replace retiring Judge Ed Mclean. Mrs. Halligan has served the citizens of Montana and especially Western Montana with grace, yet with very effective measure in her accomplishments in the various positions she has held.

She is highly respected by her peers and the citizens of The 4th Judicial District. She possesses tremendous common sense, excellent communications skills, plus she is extremely intelligent with a tremendous common sense analytical mind. This along with her even keel temperament and maturity would well serve the residents of the 4th Judicial District.

Please accept this letter as a strong endorsement for Mrs. Halligan.

Thank you



Doug Chase
1421 Jackson St.
Missoula , Montana 59802

C.C. Leslie Halligan

Andrée Larose
401 N. Last Chance Gulch
P.O. Box 557
Helena, MT 59624

March 21, 2015

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

Submitted electronically to MTsupremecourt@mt.gov

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter in strong support of Leslie Halligan's appointment as Fourth Judicial District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by Judge McLean's retirement.

I am an attorney who has practiced regularly in front of Leslie Halligan in her capacity as administrative hearing officer and mediator for the Montana Office of Public Instruction for many years. Leslie conducts hearings and resolves disputes between families and school districts regarding the student's right to special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. She is excellent in both roles.

Most striking is Leslie's calm judicial temperament, setting the tone for the hearing and modeling for the attorneys how to act civilly and professionally. Although softspoken, she is firm and does not tolerate bullying or unprofessional behavior. As an attorney who represents parents of disabled children and sees how emotionally difficult these legal proceedings can be, I appreciate Leslie's demeanor even more. She puts parties at ease and keeps the focus of the hearing on the needs of the child and the school district's legal obligations towards the child. She is sensitive, patient and compassionate in her approach, but also nobody's fool. Her judicial demeanor and deft handling of adversarial proceedings will be an asset if she is appointed to this position.

Just as important as demeanor are Leslie's fine legal skills. She has a firm grasp of evidentiary matters and her rulings are fair. Her substantive decisions are thorough, clear and well-written. She is able to apply the law to complex facts, as well as have a real world understanding of how her rulings impact people's lives.

Finally, Leslie has the breadth and depth of legal and life experience that will make her a fine judge. She has the wisdom that comes from such experiences and will use it to the advantage of the community, individual litigants, co-workers and attorneys practicing in front of her. Her legal work is intellectually rigorous and she is one of the most hard-working attorneys I know. Her stamina in traveling around the state for these special education mediations and hearings has always impressed me. Leslie has the character, fortitude, and temperament to be a very fine judge. I wholeheartedly endorse her appointment and hope the Commission will appoint her. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



Andrée Larose

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 6:48 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Halligan -- Public Comment

From: Linda E.Hom [<mailto:homkress@montana.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2015 10:53 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Linda E. Hom
Subject: Nomination of Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this email correspondence as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the

Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for over twenty years and feel she would make an excellent District Court Judge. She is extremely smart, competent, reliable, and an excellent problem solver.

She always displays a strong work ethic and treats colleagues, family, friends, and members of the public with the upmost respect. I feel her calm and professional demeanor demonstrates

the necessary attention to be an effective District Court Judge.

I strongly recommending Leslie for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,
Linda E. Hom

March 25, 2015

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

Re: Fourth Judicial District Judge Position---Barbara Leslie Halligan

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

We have the luxury of having at least three highly qualified candidates to complete the term of Hon. Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I encourage you to forward the name of Barbara Leslie Halligan to Gov. Bullock for consideration.

Leslie's commitment to public service as a way of life has stood out at least since her days as an undergraduate at the University of Montana. I followed Leslie on the board of a major local youth services provider, and her quiet leadership continued to have a positive influence when I "termed out" eight years after Leslie had left. In her legal career she has been a tireless advocate for children and disabled persons who are not able to stand up for themselves. I have handled matters with Leslie, against Leslie, and in front of Leslie as a standing master. She is always well prepared, vigorously analyzes the legal issues, zealously advocated when appropriate, compassionate, humble and fair.

I'd also like to share some insight into Leslie Halligan, the person. While raising three funny, well-adjusted and accomplished boys, and each working full-time-plus, Leslie and her husband made the time to serve as foster parents. Without fanfare, but with a lot of love, Leslie's family gave the new experience of living in a wonderfully-functioning home to some children who otherwise may have never known such places exist.

Leslie Halligan's intelligence, work ethic, level headedness and compassion would make her an excellent judge.

Sincerely,



Dirk A. Williams
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 7099
Missoula, MT 59807

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Forth Judicial District Court Judge

545 E. CENTRAL
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan to the sea vacated by District Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for 15 years as a colleague and friend.

Leslie is a person of impeccable character, very open minded and loyal to the Rules of Law, as so openly demonstrated during her work in the lawyer arena. She has demonstrated also an appropriate judicial temperament.

Her personality provides a highly respectful treatment of the public and practically than with whom she works.

During Leslie's career she has been a most credible standard bear for the judicial and legal profession. In this area she has done the following:

Standing Master, Forth Judicial District Court, Missoula. Preside over judicial cases referred from District Court Judges Mclean and Townsend related to domestic relations, child abuse and neglect and miscellaneous proceedings. Full-time, September 2015 to present.

Missoula County Attorney's Office, Missoula, Montana. Deputy County Attorney; focus on prosecution of juveniles in Youth Court; Youth treatment court; mental health commitments; treatments court for individuals with co-occurring disorders; child abuse and neglect cases; adult protective services (guardianship, conservatorship, exploitation). Full time, Match 1991 – September 2014.

Adjunct Professor, University of Montana School Of Law, instructing on Child Advocacy Law, January 2004 to present, Juvenile Justice, Fall 2014.

Hearing Officer, Office of Public Instruction, Helena, Montana. Assigned for mediation and hearing involving special education due process complaints. Case-by-case basis, March 1993-2014.

Missoula VoTEch Instructor, Missoula, Montana. Instructor for Trail Preparation and past instructor for Legal Writing III, Paralegal program. Spring Semester, 1990 and 1992.

Missoula City Attorney's Office, Missoula, Montana Deputy Attorney; prosecution of misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses: civil cases; supervision of interns: work with city government units. Full-time, January 1990- February 1991.

Fourth Judicial District Court, Missoula, Montana. Law Clerk of District court judge; legal research, drafting of court opinions and legal documents. Part-time, May 1987- January 1990.

Montana Defender Project, Missoula, Montana. Legal Assistant for law school clinical program working with inmates at the Montana State Prison; assign and supervise student work; preparation of legal documents, correspondence, interviews. Part-time, May 1986- May 1990.

Jan 2014 she served as Chair of State Bar Trustees. Leslie has been very involved in civic and community affairs.

Leslie possesses a calm, professional demeanor, and demonstrates the necessary attention to detail and the high intellect necessary to serve on the District Court.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly recommend her name for appointment to the Fourth Judicial District Court to fill the vacancy created by Judge McLean's retirement from the bench.

Respectfully Yours,

R. H. Robinson

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Halligan -- Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:44:04 PM

From: Alex P. Apostle [mailto:apapostle@mcps.k12.mt.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 3:49 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Recommendation for District Court Judge-Fourth Judicial District

Alex P. Apostle, Ph.D
Superintendent
Missoula County Public Schools
215 South 6th West
Missoula, MT 59801
728-2400 Ext. 1022

March 25, 2015

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

Dear Commission Members,

Please accept this email correspondence as my recommendation to appoint Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District.

I have known Leslie for seven years and she continually demonstrates outstanding character, even temperament, patience, respect for the rule of law, a strong work ethic and is a community member that upholds the best interests of all citizens regardless of the situation or circumstances involved.

Leslie, of course, has vast experiences in the field of law, which includes Standing Master, Fourth Judicial District Court, Missoula which presides over judicial cases related to domestic relations, child abuse and neglect. She has also served as Deputy County Attorney focusing on the prosecution of juveniles in Youth Court including Youth treatment court. During Leslie's career she has successfully resolved challenging cases in a wide array of legal areas and has demonstrated that she has the high intellect to address complex legal issues and

complex litigation.

Leslie is a scholar, having graduated from the University of Montana, School of Law with honors and taught as an Adjunct Law Professor for ten years. She is also highly dedicated to her profession and community serving as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Montana and also serves as a board member for the Missoula Aging Services organization.

During my tenure as Superintendent of the Missoula County Public Schools, Leslie has been highly dedicated and supportive of our school district. She continually volunteers to serve on a variety of committees and initiatives, from supporting our endeavor as a school district to unify the entire community to our highly successful Graduation Matters Missoula program. Leslie has always been an outstanding advocate of doing what's right for our community's children.

Based on Leslie's compassion and commitment to her community and people in general and Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I would strongly, without any reservation, recommend her for an appointment as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex P. Apostle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex P. Apostle, Ph.D

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Halligan -- Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:42:03 PM

From: Fred Van Valkenburg [mailto:fvanvalkenburg@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 11:17 AM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Leslie Halligan

To: Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing to ask you to select Leslie Halligan as one of the nominees to the Governor for the position of District Judge of the Fourth Judicial District.

As you may already know, I have practiced law in Missoula for nearly 42 years and recently retired from the position of Missoula County Attorney after serving 16 years in that office and an additional preceding 13 years as a deputy county attorney. For a very significant portion of that time, Leslie worked both with and for me as a deputy county attorney. Further, I have been friends with both her and her husband, Mike, since the early 1980s.

I can tell you without reservation that Leslie is a person of the highest character. She is an incredibly hard worker. She has an excellent reputation both within the bar and the community at large. Her work for the past two years as a Standing Master has prepared her for a significant portion of the work of as a district judge. In that job, she has clearly demonstrated that she has the proper judicial temperament, intellect, compassion and decisiveness to be an outstanding judge.

You cannot go wrong by choosing Leslie Halligan as one of your nominees for this position. If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please call or write me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Fred Van Valkenburg
112 University Ave
Missoula, MT. 59801
406-728-7094

From: [Menzies, Lois](#)
To: [Cook, Kevin](#)
Subject: Halligan -- Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:44:43 PM

From: Dwight Schulte [mailto:dwight@jschultelaw.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 4:57 PM
To: MT Supreme Court,
Cc: 'Dwight Schulte'
Subject: Judicial Nomination Commission - Fourth Judicial District - Leslie Halligan

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,

I write to voice my support for Leslie Halligan. I first met Leslie while I was an intern for the Missoula County Attorney's Office in 2007. Leslie immediately struck me as someone that was very intelligent and had a calm and collected personality, traits that will serve her well on the bench.

Since Leslie was appointed as Standing Master, I have appeared in front of her numerous times. Leslie issues timely well reasoned opinions, runs her courtroom in an efficient manner, and engages my client's in a positive and thoughtful manner regardless of the facts being presented.

Leslie has the intelligence, experience, and temperament necessary to be a fine Montana judge. I support her nomination as the next judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Dwight J. Schulte
Schulte Law Firm P.C.
2425 Mullan Road
Missoula, MT 59808

Telephone: 406.721.6655
Facsimile: 406.543.5023
Email: dwight@jschultelaw.com

***** Email Disclaimer *****

The information contained in this e-mail, and in any accompanying documents, may constitute confidential and/or legally privileged information. The information is intended only for use by the designated recipient. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of the message to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying, or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance on this e-mail is strictly prohibited.

If you have received this e-mail communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message from your system.

THIEL LAW OFFICE, PLLC

327 WEST PINE
P.O. BOX 8125
MISSOULA, MT 59807
(406) 543-1550
www.thiellaw.com

MATTHEW B. THIEL, ESQ.
matt@thiellaw.com

March 25, 2015

Sent via Electronic Mail to:

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

RE: Letter on Behalf of Leslie Halligan

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter in support of Leslie Halligan's application for appointment to fill the vacancy in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie for many years, first through my involvement with community activities in the 1990's and later during my law practice in Missoula beginning in 1993 when Leslie served as a Deputy County Attorney for Missoula County. During this time I worked with Leslie on a number of conservatorships and guardianships.

More recently I have had the opportunity to serve and work with Leslie as a State Bar of Montana Trustee for the Missoula area. Leslie was elected as a Trustee in 2010 and in 2014, was elected by her fellow Trustees to serve as Board Chair. In this capacity I have served with Leslie as a member the State Bar Executive Committee. This has given me further opportunity to know Leslie and to witness her strong sense of integrity, professionalism and her ability to respond to stressful and complex issues with sound judgment. I have appreciated how Leslie is a careful listener and a quick study of complex issues; she makes an extra effort to thoroughly understand an issue before offering an opinion or proposed solution. These qualities have made Leslie an effective leader in the State Bar and make her an excellent choice for appointment as District Court Judge.

Leslie's legal career also makes her uniquely qualified to fill the vacancy in the Fourth Judicial District. As an Assistant City and County Attorney Leslie has significant experience working in the civil areas of estates, conservatorship and guardianships, elder and child protection issues, as well as criminal prosecutions; all matters that represent a significant part of the court docket in Missoula County. Importantly, Leslie has served as the Standing Master for District Court Judges McLean and Townsend in a full time capacity since 2012. In this regard, Leslie has been assigned to hear cases involving domestic relations, child abuse and neglect, and a range of other civil matters, all of which include handling contested case hearings, resolving evidentiary and discovery matters and preparing orders. In this regard Leslie has the well-rounded experience in the law and as a sitting judge to make a valuable contribution to the Fourth Judicial District.

Leslie is genuine and humble; she is hard-working and sincerely strives to improve the workings of the District Court, where possible, to better serve the people of Montana. Leslie's high standards of professionalism and her thoughtful and compassionate approach to issues make her well suited to work with the parties who appear before the District Court to ensure they are treated fairly and receive carefully considered, sound judgment.

I respectfully request that you include Leslie Halligan on the list of candidates forwarded to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely,

THIEL LAW OFFICE, PLLC



Matthew B. Thiel



Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

LAW OFFICES | EST. 1974

Missoula Offices

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201 W. Main Street, Suite 201
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Milton Datsopoulos

- Dennis E. Lind
William K. VanCanagan
Rebecca L. Summerville
David B. Cotner
Darla J. Keck
Terance P. Perry
Molly K. Howard
Phil McCreedy
Trent N. Baker
Peter F. Lacny
Nathan G. Wagner
Del M. Post
Joseph R. Casillas
George H. Corn
Kyle C. Ryan
Brian M. Lebsock
Jason A. Williams

March 20, 2015

Ronald B. MacDonald [1946-2002]

- Also admitted in Massachusetts
Also admitted in North Dakota
Also admitted in Arizona
Also admitted in Washington
Also admitted in Idaho

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

Re: Nomination of (Barbara) Leslie Halligan to Fourth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of the appointment of Leslie Halligan as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable District Court Judge Ed McLean in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known Leslie since we were in law school together. She is intelligent, hard-working, and even-tempered. Because she is also a good listener and unfailingly respectful of others, she has been very effective in all aspects of her professional career and has earned the high regard of her peers. As an advocate Leslie has successfully advanced changes to public policy in family, juvenile, dependency and mental health law. As a standing master, she has effectively managed court cases. And as a Trustee to the State Bar of Montana, she exemplifies the highest standards of our profession and is respected for her integrity, conduct and public service.

Based on Leslie's personal and professional background and experience, I believe that she will be an effective District Court Judge and urge you to appoint her as a District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District.

Very truly yours,

DATSOPOULOS, MacDONALD & LIND, P.C.

Handwritten signature of Rebecca L. Summerville
Rebecca L. Summerville

RLS/dm



Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

LAW OFFICES | EST. 1974

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Milton Datsopoulos

Dennis E. Lind
William K. VanCanagan
Rebecca L. Summerville
• David B. Cotner
Darla J. Keck
▲ Terance P. Perry
Molly K. Howard
• Phil McCreedy
Trent N. Baker
Peter F. Lacny
Nathan G. Wagner
• Del M. Post
Joseph R. Casillas
George H. Corn
Kyle C. Ryan
• Brian M. Lebsock
◦ Jason A. Williams

March 25, 2015

Ronald B. MacDonald (1946-2002)

- ▲ Also admitted in Massachusetts
- Also admitted in North Dakota
- Also admitted in Arizona
- Also admitted in Washington
- Also admitted in Idaho

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

Re: Leslie Halligan

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am providing this correspondence in support of Leslie Halligan's application for the position of District Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District of Montana. I have practiced law in Missoula since 1968 and started my own firm in 1974 working primarily in the area of general litigation, including but not limited to personal injury, medical malpractice, felony criminal cases, and business litigation matters. I have also practiced in many jurisdictions throughout the state of Montana during my 45+ years litigating cases and have observed and/or worked with many trial judges during this time period.

During this period, I have been a member of multiple nominating committees, primarily federal benches, and appreciate the seriousness of the responsibility entrusted to you as a member of the Judicial Nomination Commission.

Based on the foregoing, I feel compelled to provide my thoughts concerning the qualifications of applicant Leslie Halligan whom I've observed practice law as a member of the County Attorney's Office of Missoula County for an excess of 20 years. I am supporting Leslie with great enthusiasm after observing her perform as a lawyer inside and outside of the court

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

March 25, 2015

Page 2

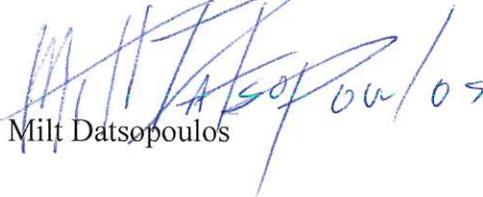
room. It is clear from her personal resume that Leslie is gifted intellectually but more importantly, in my perspective, a judge must have judgement and compassion. I have observed all the qualities that I've mentioned in Leslie as an attorney and as the Standing Master in the Fourth Judicial District Court of Montana. She also possesses a temperament that can control and keep order in court without being dictatorial or intrusive in the litigation process.

In my view, if you were given the responsibility of creating a profile, Leslie Halligan would be the individual that would serve as an example of the perfect qualities to serve the public with her intellect, integrity, compassion and judgement.

If any members of the Commission have any individual questions, I'm available via phone and my law office. I can be reached at (406)728-0810. I have been out of town much of the past month on legal matters and therefore apologize for submitting this letter of support at the last moment. Thank you for considering my thoughts on this important decision.

With A Handshake, I Remain,

DATSOPOULOS, MACDONALD & LIND, P.C.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Milt Datsopoulos', is written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping lines.

Milt Datsopoulos

MD/sgm

JAMES PARK TAYLOR
ATTORNEY AT LAW

MARCH 25, 2015

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

Re: Application of Brenda Desmond for District Judge, Fourth Judicial District

I am writing to the Commission to express my support for Brenda Desmond, and also for Leslie Halligan, in their applications for the position of District Judge in the Fourth Judicial District. I have known both of these attorneys both personally and professionally for more than two decades, and the Montana bench would be well served by either of these excellent individuals.

Brenda Desmond: Brenda has worked as an attorney, a law professor, a tribal judge, and finally as a Standing Master in the Fourth Judicial District. Brenda possesses all the characteristics of a good judge, experience, integrity, professional competence, an extremely even and fair judicial temperament, and a sincere commitment to justice. Brenda has previously campaigned for the position of district judge, and also understands what is necessary to win election if she is appointed. Brenda has worked with both the Flathead and Fort Peck Tribes as an appellate judge, and has authored many important opinions in those jurisdictions. I have had the opportunity to interact with Brenda many times on a professional level, and she is an excellent critical thinker and writes extremely well. Her work in Veteran's Court, Treatment Court, the Board of Crime Control, and throughout Indian Country demonstrates that she put her values into action. She would be a judge Montana will be proud of. My family and I are also friends with Brenda and her family, and we have the highest respect for her.

Leslie Halligan: Leslie has worked as a prosecutor, and a Standing Master, and has also taught courses at the University of Montana Law School. Leslie also possesses all the characteristics of a good judge, experience, integrity, professional competence, an extremely even and fair judicial temperament, and a sincere commitment to justice. I have also had the opportunity to work with Leslie on a professional basis, and she handles remarkably difficult cases with aplomb. In the work I have done with Leslie, she was working in the Missoula County Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in civil commitments, juvenile delinquency cases, and dependent and neglect cases, while I was on the defense side. Leslie always was fair, and never took the back and forth of the courtroom personally. Leslie, like Brenda, has also done some work in Indian Country. My wife and I also know Leslie and her husband, and we have the highest respect for her as well. Leslie would be a judge Montana will proud of.

717 Hiberta Street, Missoula, MT 59804
Ph: 406-880-6159
Email: jim@jptaylorlaw.com

Lois Menzies
Judicial Nomination Commission
Page Two

You have a great slate of candidates to choose from, and I wish you the best in the selection process. From my perspective, I don't think you could go wrong with either Brenda Desmond or Leslie Halligan. They are both great lawyers, and quality people, and would make excellent judges. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPT', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

James Park Taylor

Tom Stockburger

4865 Jeff Dr.

Missoula, Montana 59803

(303) 850-0638

Tom.Stockburger@gmail.com

March 23, 2015

TO: Montana Judicial Nomination Commission

RE: Barbara "Leslie" Halligan

As you consider making your final recommendations to the Governor for filling Judge of Department 1 of the Missoula and Mineral County District Court, I wanted to express my support for one of the applicants, Leslie Halligan.

Briefly, I am a native Montanan born and raised in Billings and a graduate of the University of Montana where I was active in a wide range of community activities including being elected as the President of the Associated Students of the University of Montana. Recently, I returned to home to Missoula after spending 27 years in the Denver area.

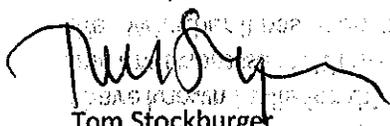
I have known Leslie for thirty (30) years. I have followed her career from its early beginnings and am impressed with many things about her including her ability to successfully balance her life. Whether it has been raising her (3) sons, being a foster parent to many kids, working as a prosecutor, teaching at the Law School, serving as a board member of one of the most well respected Missoula financial institutions or now in her current role with the Court, Leslie has always put her best foot forward and succeeded with a smile on her face even during some difficult times.

Leslie is a person who makes a positive difference in the lives of the people she serves in her Court role with Missoula and Mineral counties. As Judge, she will continue to do so, I have no doubt.

Her years' of choosing a profession dedicated to public service bodes well for how successful she will be as District Judge. She has the personal integrity, values, education, training and experience that, as a citizen I expect.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of placing Leslie's name before the Governor. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Tom Stockburger