

Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to provide my highest recommendation for Thane Johnson to serve as District Court Judge in the 20th Judicial District.

I have been fortunate enough to work with Thane defending the constitutionality of Montana's laws at the Montana Attorney General's Office.

Thane's skill as an attorney is unmatched. A multiple generation Montanan and Montana attorney for over 30 years, Thane has been in any and every situation imaginable. He has impressive expertise in litigation and the law generally but also specialties such as Indian law. His legal prowess would be an asset to the bench.

Thane's thoughtfulness would also distinguish him among other judges. He would put care into every single case, however small. Thane has a remarkable knack for efficiency at the same time as his thoughtfulness — another skill that would serve him and the people of the 20th Judicial District well.

Thane also has the perfect disposition for a judge. He is calm and composed, but also delightful to be around. Thane treats everyone with dignity and respect. He always has a smile on his face. Everyone would look forward to their hearings in front of the Honorable Thane Johnson.

Thane is an absolute standout when it comes to one of the most important qualities of a good lawyer and judge — ethics. He is a lawyer of the highest integrity, respected by all.

I consider myself lucky to work with a lawyer and person of Thane's caliber.

Thane would be an excellent judge and I urge you to give him the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Alwyn Lansing

FOSTER FUNERAL HOME(S) & CREMATORY. INC.

216 PROJECT DRIVE - ST. IGNATIUS, MONTANA 59865

(406) 745-6789 24 HR # * OFFICE PHONE (406) 745-4037 * FAX LINE (406) 745-2121

January 11, 2025

Greg Gianforte, Governor of Montana
Governor's Office - Helena, Montana

Governor;

I am writing to recommend Thane Johnson for the District Court Judgeship for the district that I live and conduct business in that was recently left vacant by recent discoveries. Upon asking to see if he could represent me in a contractual manner that is in relationship to Utah and the Blackfeet Reservation Jurisdictions I found out that he might be appointed to fill the position for Lake and Sanders Counties.

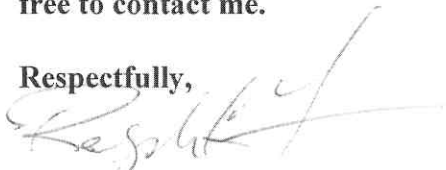
As the Republican Candidate for House District 15 for the last two elections I have nearly upset the heavily favored Democrat candidate winning all the precincts in Lake & Flathead County but was unable to win the two in Glacier County. I am a former deputy coroner in Sanders County, & funeral consultant for Blue Stone. Since 1996 I have been an owner/mortician of Foster Funeral Homes. Having 3 former judges (Moran, Donohoe, & Bear Don't Walk) serve as my attorney prior to Thane becoming my legal counsel in 2011. He has been my legal counsel up until when he started serving under Austin Knudsen in the Montana Attorney General's Office and in my opinion was one of best attorneys I have encountered in my 27 year career as an owner.

He is knowledgeable in regards to Tribal Jurisdictions and law and how it interacts with Montana rules, Regulations and Code. He has represented my firm in actions with State licensing, Contracts, Property rights, Funeral law as well as keeping me out of disputes between families and inadequate coroner and her mistakes. And I have been a resource for him in matters regarding funeral related matters.

He is a Montana boy who was raised around the reservations in Montana, his kids have went to college here and he is good fit for our area with opinions and views that are consistent with those that live here. I consider him a good friend and colleague and feel that a better appointment could not be made.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Ralph C. Foster

Carl C. Pepion
(406) 407-5196
judgecpepion@yahoo.com
Browning, Montana

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Helena, MT 59601

Re: Thane Johnson Application

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing this letter to provide my highest recommendation for the appointment of Thane Johnson for the position of District Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District. I am truly honored to be writing this letter. I have known Thane Johnson since he started practicing law in the Blackfeet Tribal Court in 1993. I am a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and a former Tribal Court Judge where I served over the course of two decades. I served as a Tribal Court Judge with Thane from approximately 2003-2006. I also presided over several matters including a civil jury trial where Thane represented various clients including several members of the Tribe. Throughout this time, I found Thane to be an excellent Judge and an excellent attorney. He understands the law and is always prompt and prepared.

Thane is very much respected in the Native American community, not only for his legal skills, but for his respect for the Native American people and the Blackfeet Tribe itself. He is considered one of the few experts in Indian law. He has represented Native Americans across the State and has appeared in all Tribal Courts in the State. Because of his experience and knowledge of Indian law and his uncanny ability to relate to the Native American people, he would be an excellent fit as a trial judge in counties that serve the Salish and Kootenai people.

Finally, and maybe more important than anything else, Thane Johnson is a good person and a good family man. His roots are in Montana. He is dedicated to serving Montana. Thane Johnson has the experience and the knowledge to serve Lake and Sanders County as a distinguished District Court Judge. I am honored to provide this recommendation to my friend and colleague.

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

Sincerely,



Carl C. Pepion



INSURED TITLES

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Missoula, MT 59801
Phone (406) 728-7900
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Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

As a Lake County resident and private business owner, I am proud to endorse Thane Johnson for the appointment to the position of District Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District. I have personally known Thane for over 40 years. He exemplifies the qualities our community needs in a judicial leader: integrity, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

With a proven track record of over 35 years of legal experience across the state of Montana, Thane has demonstrated exceptional legal acumen and a deep understanding of the law. He is dedicated to ensuring that every person who steps into the courtroom is treated with respect and impartiality.

Beyond his professional achievements Thane has shown a genuine commitment to serving our community. As a Montana native, he is well respected across the state, and a beloved family man of high moral character.

I believe Thane will bring wisdom, empathy, and a steady hand to the bench. He will be an asset to the Lake and Sanders County judiciary.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitmann
Manager
Insured Titles, LLC

Dan Wilson
P.O. Box 2181
Kalispell, MT 59903

January 8, 2025

Governor Greg Gianforte
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Application of Thane Johnson for appointment to 20th Judicial District Court

Governor Gianforte,

I write in support of Thane Johnson's appointment to Montana's Twentieth Judicial District Court in Lake County. Thane is now serving as Assistant Attorney General, Senior Counsel.

I have known Thane for almost 35 years, since our law school days, and he possesses all of the background, work ethic, experience, ethical standards, and devotion to the rule of law which are the essential qualifications of any trial court judge.

Thane has represented clients across the full spectrum of cases in both state and federal courts. He has represented the state as a prosecutor as well as persons accused of crimes. He's represented clients in civil disputes of all kinds, large and small. Always devoted to his clients and the rule of law, Thane is the consummate generalist, able to become expert on the law in any case.

Thane comes to court fully prepared to present his client's case and argue it effectively. There are few attorneys I've had the pleasure to work with over the years who could demonstrate the same breadth of experience as Thane, and I am confident that he will manage a large caseload and a courtroom with the courtesy and demeanor of a seasoned professional.

I could count on one hand the number of attorneys I would recommend for this appointment as wholeheartedly as I recommend Thane Johnson. And he may very well be first among them.

Respectfully,



Dan Wilson,
District Court Judge

211 Main Street • Polson, MT 59860

January 10, 2025

Governor Gianforte,

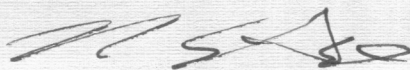
My name is Ryan Gage, and I am writing this letter of support for Mr. Thane Johnson regarding the open judge position in the 20th Judicial District Court. I grew up in Cut Bank, MT and had the good fortune of moving back to the Big Sky State about twelve years ago. I live in Polson, MT where I work for Gage Accounting, P.C. as a CPA. Through my time working here, I have come to know Mr. Johnson. We have had several common clients, and I have found him to be a very valuable asset to the communities which he has practiced law. I have found Mr. Johnson to be an honest man with high morals and integrity. It is due to these characteristics that he is very well respected.

It is my opinion that the position of judge must be filled by someone who is fair to the facts and circumstances of each case and will perform this duty with honor and integrity. I believe that Mr. Johnson can be trusted with this responsibility. He works hard and has gained the respect of individuals and business leaders in the communities in which he has lived.

It is my opinion that Mr. Johnson would not judge based on the background or circumstances of individuals but has a deep desire to follow the law and deliver justice that is fair and equal to all people that he serves. As someone who is respected professionally for his understanding of the law, who is fair and unbiased, and who has a sense of being a contributor in the community, Thane Johnson has my support for his appointment to the open judge position in the 20th Judicial District Court.

I appreciate you considering Mr. Thane Johnson for the position of Judge in the 20th Judicial District Court. If you have any questions or would like to follow up with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 406-883-4368 or ryan.gage@gageaccounting.com.

Sincerely,



Ryan S. Gage, CPA