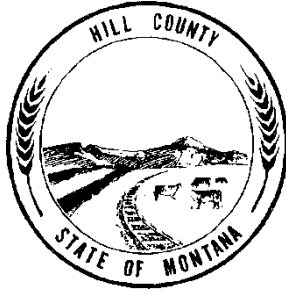


NominateJudges

From: Mike Dominick <mikedominick464@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2025 5:32 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lake/Sanders County District Court Judge / Letter of Support

Lacy Lincoln is an outstanding choice for District Court Judge in Lake and Sanders County. I worked with Ms Lincoln for 4.5 years at the Missoula County Attorney's Office and witnessed her outstanding work ethic as well as her compassion for victims and fairness to defendants. As a Prosecutor and County Attorney she has seen the changing landscape in Montana's rural communities and will be a stable, impartial, and objective Judge. I started my 29 year career in law enforcement at Lake County, I would have been proud to go before a District Court Judge that has the values, and hard working Montana attitude that Lacey Lincoln will bring to the Court.

Mike Dominick
retired Captain, Missoula County Sheriff's Office
retired Investigator, Missoula County Attorney's Office
former Deputy Sheriff, Lake County Sheriff's Office



Hill County Superintendent of Schools

315 4th Street
Havre, Montana 59501
(406) 265-5481 Ext 2312
(406) 357-6560

January 22, 2025

Governor Gianforte
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Lacey Lincoln, 20th Judicial District Judge

Impressive! That is the description given by a potential juror in a case served by Lacey Lincoln, Hill County Attorney. Though this person was not chosen as a juror, she was extremely captivated by the manner in which Lacey directed the proceedings.

But beyond the community comments such as above, Lacey is an amazing county attorney who is ready for the next challenge in her career path as a district judge. As the Hill County Superintendent of Schools working through the complex, ever-changing educational legal dynamics, Lacey is my clarity. On numerous situations she has assisted my office with very sensitive matters and in doing so she also explained the nature of the law and how it applied to any of these given situations and guided me through the processes.

Beyond this, Lacey is honest, courageous, and determined to create an improved scenario for those needing her assistance. It continually impresses me her love of the law, love of learning, use of knowledge, and her willingness to train those around her to be better at their jobs. Quite frankly, she shares that gift with anyone who comes to her for assistance.

She is firmly compassionate with her clients as she secures the law but also guides these people back into their lives. I truly appreciate how she has helped in my office's legal issues regarding truancy and child-neglect cases and with her help the legal processes were carefully planned, compassionate and orchestrated according to the law! She is also very keen on the school budgeting processes often isolating potential fiscal problems.

As a leader, she spearheaded the intricate, month's long HVAC renovation project at the Hill County Courthouse. This project required many offices to move to other locations and some off campus and she was the catalytic energy creating a smooth transition while integrating the needs of personnel and community members.

You will find no better candidate for this judgeship than Lacey Lincoln. Please don't hesitate to contact me so we can visit more regarding her far-too-many accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Dicki Proctor

Victoria (Vicki) Proctor
Hill County Superintendent of Schools
proctov@hillcounty.us
406-254-5481, extension 2312
406-357-5650

NominateJudges

From: Michale Beck <michalebeck87@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 9:26 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lacey Lorene Lincoln

Good Morning,

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Lacey Lincoln. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Lincoln since January 2022 at the Hill County Attorney's Office. Ms. Lincoln hired me to join her staff as a legal secretary. I did not have any experience in a legal office but Ms. Lincoln took a chance on me and it has been an amazing learning experience.

She is an amazing attorney to work with and for, and her knowledge that she shares with our office and community is outstanding. I

I believe Ms. Lincoln will make an outstanding District Court Judge. In the short time we have worked together I have witnessed her professionalism in the office as well as the courtroom. I also believe that even though she is currently a prosecutor, she is able to be extremely fair and unbiased, which is important in the position of a District Court Judge.

While Ms. Lincoln will be greatly missed in Hill County, Lake County and Sanders County will benefit greatly having her ruling in the Twentieth Judicial District Court.

Michale Beck

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Michale

NominateJudges

From: Ron & Pennie Broyles <asotincreek@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2025 10:12 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lacey L. Lincoln

Dear Hannah Slusser,

I am writing to offer my highest recommendation for Lacey L. Lincoln for the position of District Court Judge of Lake and Sanders county. I can attest to her exceptional qualifications, and deep commitment to fairness. I believe these qualities are essential for a role in the judiciary. Lacey has consistently demonstrated a profound sense of integrity throughout her career. She has earned the trust and respect of colleagues as well as members of the community through her honest and ethical approach to every case. In an environment where impartiality is paramount, she is always guided by the principle of justice above personal or external influences.

I am confident that Lacey would bring the same dedication, wisdom and ethical rigor to the bench that she has shown throughout her career.

The legal community and public would be well served by Lacey L. Lincoln's appointment to the District Court.

Sincerely,

Ron Broyles

Retired Cowlitz County Deputy Sheriff

PO Box 31, Asotin, WA 99402

Alexander Chilelli
Attorney-At-Law
P.O. Box 231
Carter, MT 59420

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

Re: Application of Lacey Lincoln for Appointment to the 20th Judicial District Court

Governor Gianforte,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Lacey Lincoln's appointment to Montana's Twentieth Judicial District in Lake and Sanders Counties. Mrs. Lincoln currently serves as the Hill County Attorney in Havre, Montana where I practice against her on an almost daily basis.

I have known Mrs. Lincoln for a little over a year in my capacity as a Public Defender in the Twelfth Judicial District in Hill County and have nothing but good things to say. Mrs. Lincoln possesses an extraordinary knowledge of the law, a gentle and understanding demeanor when dealing with victims and practices law in a fair and just way with the goals of protecting the public as well as rehabilitating the Defendants.

Mrs. Lincoln deserves this appointment over other applicants because of her ability to keep the criminal justice system in Havre moving in a way that benefits the general public as well as the people involved on all sides of cases. Her interactions with the public, her experience with hundreds of jury trials, great relations with the local Tribal community, overall demeanor and stability make her a perfect candidate for this appointment.

We live in a time of tension and stress between the Judicial and Legislative branches of government within the State of Montana. If appointed, I am highly confident that Mrs. Lincoln will put politics aside and interpret and apply the laws and precedent of Montana as they are written, not as an activist from the bench and she will apply the law impartially and fairly to all.

The Twentieth Judicial District is in dire need of long term stability. Lacey Lincoln brought that stability to Havre as the County Attorney and her appointment will bring long term stability to the Twentieth Judicial District. This letter is in no way intended to be disrespectful to the other fantastic candidates that have applied, I just believe personally that Mrs. Lincoln is the correct person for this job due to her local and familial connections to the region, a fantastic work ethic, showing up to work everyday with a positive attitude and her over the top legal knowledge and exceptional ability and potential as a Judge. I ask that Lacey Lincoln be appointed to the position of Judge of the Twentieth Judicial District.

Very Truly Yours,

Alexander R. Chilelli

Alexander R. Chilelli
Attorney-At-Law
P.O. Box 231
Carter, MT 59420
Phone: (406) 770-8320
a.chilelli@icloud.com

HILL COUNTY HUMAN RESOURCES
Brittany Stygles, Personnel Clerk
315 4th Street • Havre, MT 59501-3923
Tel: (406)400-2308
Email: styglesb@hillcounty.us



February 7, 2025

Governor Gianforte
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Lacey Lincoln, 20th Judicial District Judge

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Lacey Lincoln's nomination as Judge of the 20th Judicial District. As a personnel clerk within the Hill County Attorney's Office, I have had the distinct privilege of working under Lacey's guidance for the past three years. During this time, Lacey has proven to be not only an exceptional leader but also a trusted mentor, and I believe her qualifications and character make her the ideal candidate for this esteemed position.

Lacey has consistently demonstrated a profound understanding of the law and an ability to navigate complex legal matters with fairness, empathy, and professionalism. Her leadership goes beyond simply directing work; she empowers those around her to grow professionally and personally. I have seen firsthand how Lacey fosters an environment where others feel supported and encouraged to excel. She is always approachable and offers thoughtful guidance, ensuring that each of us feels valued in our roles, and has helped me develop my own skills within the office.

One of the key qualities that sets Lacey apart is her ability to remain calm, composed, and impartial even in the most challenging situations. In instances when difficult or sensitive cases have arisen, Lacey has approached them with a level-headedness that is both reassuring and inspiring. Her dedication to upholding the law while treating others with dignity and respect is one of the many reasons I believe she would be an outstanding judge.

Lacey's leadership extends beyond the office, as she consistently promotes open communication and cultivates a culture of transparency and mutual respect within her staff. Her approach to mentorship and her ability to build trust among co-workers and the community are qualities that would serve her well on the bench. I have learned a great deal from Lacey's example, particularly in the areas of fairness, communication, and conflict resolution. Her strong ethical foundation and her commitment to integrity are qualities I know will make her an asset to the judiciary.

I wholeheartedly endorse Lacey Lincoln's nomination for Judge of the 20th Judicial District. Her legal expertise, commitment to fairness, and demonstrated leadership make her more than qualified for the role. I have no doubt that she will bring the same level of excellence, dedication, and integrity to the bench that she has shown throughout her career in the Hill County Attorney's Office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brittany L Stygles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'B'.

Brittany L Stygles

Greg Arciello
Ann Garfinkle
120 N. Coloma Way
Bonner, MT 59823

February 10, 2025

I

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

We are writing in strong support Lacey Lincoln's application to fill the vacancy in the Twentieth Judicial District. We first met Lacey when she moved into our neighborhood in 2017. We have stayed in touch with her since. Although we have not worked with her in a professional way and have not served as a lawyer or a judge we know her character.

In her application for this judgeship, she cites her commitment to public service and her character traits of being impartial, being thoughtful and having integrity. As Montana citizens, these are things we also value in a judge. Her professional experience supports her claim of how important public service is to her. And, in our conversations and interactions with her over the past eight years she consistently illustrates the traits of being impartial while listening to a number of opinions while clearly stating what she thinks or believes. Further, we have seen her integrity in terms of the amount of time she gives to her job and the consistency between what she says she will do and what she does.

Therefore, it is through daily interactions with her when she is not "on the clock" that we see the true character of Lacey. We know it is her character and work ethic that will make her a wonderful judge.

If we can provide any other information, please feel free to contact us.

Thank You,
Greg Arciello and Ann Garfinkle

COMMUNITY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Mailing Address: 200 West Broadway
Physical Address: 317 Woody St.
Missoula, MT 59802-4292

P: 406.258.3830 TF: 866.921.6995 | F: 406.258.3295
www.missoulacounty.us/CJD



February 11, 2025

Governor's Office
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to support the application of Lacey L. Lincoln for appointment to the Twentieth Judicial District Court of Montana. I have served Missoula County in various professional capacities, ranging from law enforcement to grants management during the past fifteen years, and I was privileged to work as Ms. Lincoln's paralegal as the Missoula County Attorney's Office navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Special Victims Unit prosecutor, Ms. Lincoln demonstrated an unrivaled zeal for justice, public safety, and an orderly, high functioning office environment. Under her tutelage, I learned to handle a large caseload in dynamic court conditions. Ms. Lincoln's approach to prosecution was a balance of defendant accountability and dignity for victims and families. As a prosecutor, Ms. Lincoln was driven to find the right outcome for the individuals involved and the greater community.

As the Hill County Attorney, Ms. Lincoln's professional acumen has expanded from criminal to civil law. She manages a department and its staff, works with elected officials, and is an active member of the Havre community. Ms. Lincoln's intelligence, tenacity, and leadership make her an ideal and effective public servant, and her professional record and personal values are beyond reproach.

Although our employment paths have diverged, she and I remain friends, and I am grateful for her steady insight into legal and personal topics. Ms. Lincoln embodies Montana values and will be a fair, firm, and just presence on the bench of the Twentieth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,



Chelsea Wittmann

Justice Initiatives Coordinator II

Community Justice Department

406.258.3838

cwittmann@missoulacounty.us

missoulacounty.us

NominateJudges

From: cepatch@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2025 11:34 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Lake/Sanders County District Court Judge - letter of support for Lacey Lincoln

It is with great pleasure I submit my public comments in support of Lacey Lincoln for District Court Judge.

I am a recently retired Victim/Witness Coordinator formerly employed by the Missoula County Attorney's Office. I worked closely with Lacey for almost five years. Lacey prosecuted cases assigned to the special victims' unit. She excelled in this role while managing a high caseload and didn't shy away from challenging cases.

I worked in the criminal justice field for over 20 years, including working with three separate county attorney's and their deputies. I have a good understanding of what this position entails. I have spent many hours in the courtroom and have observed Lacey handle herself during trials, bail arguments, motions, and sentencing hearings. Lacey is of high ethical caliber and well respected by her co-workers, defense attorneys, and the judiciary.

Lacey spent many hours working on her cases to achieve a fair outcome for all involved. She made herself available for crime victims and spent time explaining the often-confusing legal system to lay witnesses and victims.

Lacey possesses the character, work ethic, analytical skills, and knowledge of the law needed to preside as a judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl E. Patch

NominateJudges

From: Shari Arthurs <shari.arthurs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 1:38 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter in Support of Lacey Lincoln's Candidacy

February 12, 2025

Hon. Greg Gianforte
Montana Governor's Office
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Letter in Support of Appointment of Lacey Lincoln as 20th Judicial District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte and Ms. Slusser:

I am writing in support of Lacey Lincoln's application to serve as District Court Judge for the 20th Judicial District. I have worked in the Hill County Attorney's Office for the past ten years, and Lacey has been my boss since her 2021 appointment and later election to the position of Hill County Attorney.

My forty-year background in the legal field, as well as my first-hand knowledge of Lacey's work ethic, integrity, efficiency, and legal knowledge, allow me to make this unqualified recommendation for her appointment as the next District Court Judge for Lake and Sanders Counties.

Lacey grew up in a small town and practiced law in a small town in Washington before moving to Missoula and then Havre with her husband, whose family homesteaded north of Rudyard, Montana. Small town values are ingrained in Lacey with the added rare ability to understand and use "fancy big city" technology. In fact, her technological expertise has played an important part in the improvements Lacey has made in the Hill County Attorney's Office -- so much so that she has streamlined the operation of the office to function at maximum efficiency with minimal available resources.

Lacey is one the most well-organized, well-prepared, and hard-working attorneys I have worked with. When Lacey was first appointed as the Hill County Attorney, the office had experienced several turnovers resulting in a backlog of more than 300 criminal cases. Despite being the sole attorney in the office (where historically there had been one county attorney and two deputy county attorneys), Lacey has whittled that 300-case backlog to less than 30 criminal cases while keeping abreast of the current caseload. Lacey achieved this significant reduction in the criminal case backlog while handling District Court, Justice Court, Treatment Court, and spearheading the Hill County Children's Advocacy Center, in addition to providing civil assistance to the Hill County Commissioners, elected officials, and county employees.

One of Lacey's most important contributions to Havre and Hill County while serving as the Hill County Attorney is the re-establishment of the Hill County Children's Advocacy Center. Havre was lacking a "CAC" to provide services and referrals for medical and mental health treatment to child victims of abuse

and their families. Lacey spearheaded the CAC by obtaining donated office space and furnishings and setting up a safe and child-friendly space in which to conduct forensic interviews. She organized CAC volunteers from law enforcement and the medical community into a multidisciplinary team to coordinate services for the reduction of trauma to victims and increase the likelihood of successful prosecution of offenders. She also played a significant role in obtaining grant funding for operation of the CAC.

Lacey was instrumental in coordinating Hill County's part in the establishment of the Bullhook Butte hiking trail on the outskirts of Havre. She oversaw the legal intricacies involved in the County's role in providing public access easements, working in conjunction with private landowners and non-profit organizations to achieve a successful outcome for all parties involved.

In addition to her impressive ability to organize and run an office while handling a large caseload, Lacey has significant trial experience. Her ability to navigate complex legal issues in both criminal and civil matters make her particularly well-suited to serve on the bench. Lacey also has experience in working with the tribes of the Rocky Boys and Fort Belknap reservations.

Lacey's sense of justice and fairness, applied with impartiality and thoughtfulness, are attributes only the best judges possess. Her commitment to upholding the law is unparalleled. Her resolve to leave the place she is a better place when she leaves has been amply demonstrated during her tenure in Havre.

Thank you for considering Lacey Lincoln's candidacy for District Court Judge. I believe she will be an asset to the Montana judiciary and will serve the people of Lake and Sanders Counties well.

Sincerely,

Shari Arthurs
1327 11th Street
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 400-2309