

James H. Goetz
J. Devlan Geddes
Trent M. Gardner
Kyle W. Nelson
Jeffrey J. Tierney
Katherine B. DeLong
Braden S. Murphy
Henry J.K. Tesar

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November 12, 2021

Via U.S. Mail and e-mail

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Public comment on Eighteenth Judicial District Court vacancy - Breuner

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Eighteenth Judicial District Advisory Council,

Please accept this letter in support of Judge Andy Breuner's candidacy for Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Judge Breuner's standing in the community, and his unimpeachable track record as Belgrade City Court Judge, prove that he is well-equipped to serve the emerging needs of Gallatin County and the State of Montana. During his time on the bench, Judge Breuner has earned a reputation as an efficient administrator and a skilled, sagacious and even-handed jurist. He is a dedicated public servant who actively pursues the betterment of his community both in and out of the courtroom. He is known for his candor, humility, and his respectful treatment of all who appear before him, whatever their station or circumstance.

We will not belabor Judge Breuner's qualifications to handle the voluminous and hugely important criminal and family law matters that will, assuredly, be the biggest part of the job. Others have already written about that based on their positive first-hand experiences and Judge Breuner's deep well of professional experience, as both judge and practitioner, speaks for itself

Relevant to our practice as civil litigators, we believe Judge Breuner is also suited to the job of handling Gallatin County's considerable civil docket. The hardworking judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District have long carried the weight of a disproportionately large civil caseload. These cases are often complex and fraught with messy discovery disputes. Judge Breuner's prior experience representing civil plaintiffs and defendants, giving him familiarity with civil discovery and trial practice, is a credit to his application. Judge Breuner is not a "one-

November 12, 2021

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trick pony” but a versatile workhorse who can perform all aspects of the job and meaningfully share the burdens of Gallatin County’s incumbent judges.

In summary, Judge Breuner has diverse experience and a proven track record. Most important, he has demonstrated a judicious temperament and an unwavering commitment to justice. He would be an exceptional addition to the bench of the Eighteenth Judicial District and, undoubtedly, would ably serve the people of Montana for many years to come.

Sincerely,

GOETZ, GEDDES & GARDNER, P.C.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Devlan Geddes".

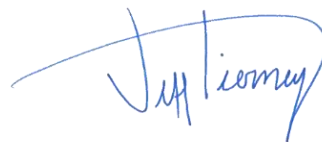
J. Devlan Geddes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trent M. Gardner".

Trent M. Gardner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle W. Nelson".

Kyle W. Nelson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey J. Tierney".

Jeffrey J. Tierney

T LAW OFFICE OF
KIRSTEN MULL CORE, P.C.

ASPEN PROFESSIONAL CENTER
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November 15, 2021

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620
Via email

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Judicial Selection Committee:

It is with unwavering confidence, and a pleasure, to write in support of Judge Andrew Breuner for the position of Gallatin County District Court Judge.

I have known Judge Bruener for over eighteen years, having met him shortly after he started practicing law in Montana. In the intervening years, I have gotten to know Judge Bruener personally, and can say that I have not met a kinder, more thoughtful, and considerate individual. Judge Bruener is well-liked and respected by all that he encounters. He has never hesitated to make himself available to his community and colleagues when he is asked or sees a need. Judge Bruener has brought those characteristics to his private practice and to the bench as the Belgrade City Court Judge.

While his focus was on private practice, I had numerous opportunities to observe (the now) Judge Bruener in Court. I cannot recall a time that I thought that his position was not well-reasoned or researched. His clients had the benefit of a dedicated advocate, who would passionately argue their positions and appropriately counsel them as to the best path forward.

As the Belgrade City Court Judge, Judge Bruener treats all persons appearing before him with dignity and respect. It is easy to discount the job of a city court judge as being somehow less significant than a district court judge; however, what may seem insignificant and small to some, is the most important thing at that moment to those appearing before him. Never once, despite some particularly challenging interactions, have I witnessed Judge Bruener disregard their grievances as unimportant. He takes the

November 15, 2021

Page 2

time to listen, to explain the process and his decision, and thoughtfully consider feedback. The importance of Judge Breuner's ability to communicate with those appearing before him that they are heard, and part of the process, cannot be underestimated.

I also know Judge Bruener to be a tireless worker who can adeptly manage the volume of matters before him, and challenges of our growing community with objective, timely and careful consideration. I do not think he will hesitate to seek improvements to make our judicial system function to better serve the community.

I thank you for your consideration of this applicant.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Mull Core

November 13, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Andrew Breuner Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

My name is Alex Jacobi. I have been practicing the criminal law in Bozeman for the last ten years. In that time Mr. Breuner has been The Example of a diligent, honest, moral , and brilliant attorney. I have looked up to, and endeavor to emulate Mr. Breuner in my own pursuit of excellence. I write to emphatically endorse Mr. Breuner as the next judge in Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District.

As a backbone to a precise and comprehensive legal knowledge, Mr. Breuner brings significant charisma and moral stability. Mr. Breuner has a strong sense of right and wrong. He has a passion for the law and the self confidence in himself to evenly address the complicated moral issues he faces daily. As an attorney and a jurist, Mr. Breuner is a fair man who has consistently shows diligence, demonstrates fundamental fairness, and shows impeccable discretion in his practice of the law.

Mr. Breuner has a strong foundational knowledge of Montana's criminal law, and a dedicated work and study ethic, keeping him abreast of novel and changing rules of law. As a professor of legal procedure and a busy judge in Belgrade, Mr. Breuner continues to update and hone his legal knowledge. As a judge in Belgrade for the last six years I appreciate that Mr. Breuner has greatly expanded his study of the law from the criminal law that he knows so well, to all aspects of the law a district court judge would be expected to consider. I have always found Mr. Breuner's application of the law to be precise. I've always been impressed by Mr. Breuner 's ability to handle many cases while proving a high professional level of service. It is clear from my observations that Mr. Breuner handles his difficult work without compromising his diligence to his clients. I have had numerous opportunities to work with and around Mr. Breuner. Without exception, Mr. Breuner always maintains a calm, professional, and thoughtful demeanor.

I have also submitted a letter of recommendation for Benjamin Refling. Though Mr. Refling is an excellent attorney, and is an excellent choice for this position, Mr. Breuner has more experience as an attorney, and as a judge.

Without hesitation I heartily endorse Mr. Breuner as the best candidate to be the next district court judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Alex Jacobi
406-539-3527
ajacobi@mt.gov

November 11, 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte,

It is my pleasure to write this letter on behalf of and in support of Mr. Breuner for the new, fourth district court judge seat for Gallatin County.

I have lived in Gallatin County for nearly thirty years. I graduated from Montana State University, have raised my family here, and had the privilege of owning and running my own businesses in the design and construction industry in the capacity of a licensed professional architect and a licensed general contractor. I am deeply committed and invested in this community both at a personal level and a professional level.

It is over this time and with my involvement in our community that I have had the privilege to come to know Andy both personally and professionally. I have had the pleasure of watching his deep commitment to the people of our county grow and flourish through his own legal practice, his involvement with and on several community organization boards, and as the city court judge for the City of Belgrade. Most recently, I have enjoyed watching Andy pass on his deep knowledge of the judicial system to the next generation through his teaching at Montana State University.

As I have come to know Andy and his commitment to the people of this county, I have found him to be one of the most principled, ethical, knowledgeable persons I know. He has a deep commitment to family, to community and to adjudicating a fair, balanced approach to the judicial system. Due to these characteristics, along with his deep moral character and a strong understanding of and belief in the values of Gallatin County and the great State of Montana I fully support and advocate for Mr. Bruener to fill the new, fourth district court judge seat for Gallatin County. I humbly ask for your support of Mr. Breuner as well.

Thank you for taking the time in considering my support of Mr. Breuner.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Miller

Annie DeWolf
anniedewolf@gmail.com

November 12, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Andrew Breuner

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please accept this letter in support of Andrew Breuner appointment for the judicial newly created vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

I have been a practicing attorney in Gallatin County at the Office of the State Public Defender for the past 12 years. I had the distinct privilege of working with Andy (now Judge Breuner) on a high-profile case about 7 years ago. Andy was an incredible mentor to me and I still try to emulate or incorporate his trial skills into my own practice.

Since Judge Breuner has been on the bench in Belgrade, I have also had the opportunity to appear before him as a judge. Although I have not always been successful in my arguments, I know that I have always been treated fairly and with respect. The same is true for my clients – even if the outcome was not what they wanted, or even if the outcome was expected for their actions, Judge Breuner has been fair to them; given my clients appropriate consequences for their actions. He has treated every single person that appears before them with dignity and with civility. The City Court of Belgrade has been a wonderful place to practice both for new and old attorneys.

Judge Breuner is very intelligent and thoughtful. His orders are conscientious, consistent, and appropriate. Judge Breuner has already demonstrated how he would be on the bench and would be an excellent district court judge for Gallatin County.

Sincerely,



Annie DeWolf

Slusser, Hannah

From: T.J. Lynn <sixls.tj@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 6:32 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner for Gallatin County District Court

Governor Gianforte,

I would like to take the time to thank you for this opportunity to speak well of a dear friend and Gallatin Valley community member.

I have known Andy Breuner for 12 years now as a friend and neighbor. From our humble beginnings in Gallatin Gateway MT to be an amazing neighbor. I would work out of town on occasion and we would get snowed in with young kids and my wife at home. Andy would always be on the weather watch for us and be there to help us out every time. It always seemed like he would be there if there were any needs. Our family was not the only family on the long list of people he would be willing at any time to help in the community. Andy has been our rodent exterminator, snow removal and all encompassing neighborhood who has been a blessing to us in every way.

Andy is a man of high moral standard and character. I have had the privilege of speaking with community members that have been involved with legal handlings in the past with Andy. Rarely have I experienced any one individual have negative things to say about Andy's handlings or fairness. These standards Andy holds for his life are the most obvious in his family life. Andy is a dedicated husband and father to his wife Susan Beth and Jansse. I have had the honor to spend time with the Breuner family on many occasions, and it has always been a pleasure.

All things considered in the years of knowing Andy, I could not think of another person in our community with the character qualities to be our Gallatin County district court judge. I know that he will serve with fairness and respect for our laws that make us the country and state we have all grown to love. Please consider Andy Breuner for Gallatin County District Court Judge.

--

T.J. Lynn
2775 Baxter Ln
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-539-6293
[sixls.tj \[sixls.tj\]@gmail.com \[gmail.com\]](mailto:sixls.tj[sixls.tj]@gmail.com)

Slusser, Hannah

From: Kimberly Durham <kimberly@whitefishlawyer.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 9:26 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Nomination for Andy Bruener

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to nominate Andy Bruener for the District Court position in Gallatin County. I have been practicing in front of Judge Bruener as a defense attorney for the past year and I have personally seen his practice to be fair, impartial, compassionate, dedicated, and intelligent. He is exactly what is needed in Gallatin County. I have had many conversations with Judge Bruener and I have found him to be straightforward and kind. I think he would treat the citizens of Gallatin with the respect and dignity that we all deserve. In addition to treating defendants and counsel with respect, he also seems to always treat his staff members well and that is commendable in today's world.

I hope you do not miss this opportunity to select Judge Bruener to serve in this important position. He is one of the best.

Thanks,

Kimberly Durham, Attorney

Slusser, Hannah

From: Emma Buescher <emma@eblawoffice.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 6:26 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judge Breuner Public Comment to the Governor's Advisory Committee

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Emma Buescher, Esq. and I have had the opportunity to appear as an attorney in front of Belgrade City Court Judge Andrew Breuner dozens of times. He is the best candidate for the new district court judge position.

Judge Breuner has a reputation in the Bozeman and Belgrade legal community as being enjoyable to appear in front of. I look forward to working with him. He runs the courtroom with fairness, ease, and intelligence, without being rude or overbearing. It brings me great joy to tell my clients each time before their hearing in front of him that, "this judge is really nice, so don't be nervous." Clients leave his courtroom with faith in the justice system because they feel that, despite their sentence, they have been treated fairly and respectfully.

As a young attorney - I'm in my fifth year of practice - I was heartbroken each time a district court judge beat me down for things that should have been addressed to me in a firm, yet kind manner. Judge Breuner is warm and welcoming. He has tact. He helps me maintain faith in the legal profession.

I recently had Judge Breuner follow the book on alcohol monitoring for a waiver of a drivers license suspension for a DUI third offense. None of the four lower court judges in Bozeman had ever followed the book before. Understanding the nuances in the law and administrative rules in Montana, as well as the patience to implement them correctly, are mandatory qualities for a judge. Judge Breuner has served us well as Belgrade City Court Judge and I encourage you to select him for the district judge position.

Sincerely,
Emma Buescher, Esq.

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Emma S. Buescher
Law Office of Emma S. Buescher
101 East Main, Suite F
Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: 406-414-6581
eblawoffice.com [eblawoffice.com]

This email may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, immediately delete this copy and notify Emma S. Buescher by calling (406) 414-6581.

IB Inheritance Builders

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."
Proverbs 13:22*

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Sent VIA:
Electronic Mail

November 10, 2021

RE; Andrew Breuner - 18th Judicial District Court

Greetings Governor Gianforte,

Thank you for your service to Montana. What a refreshing breath of freedom you've brought. Keep up the great work, those of us native to the region appreciate it!

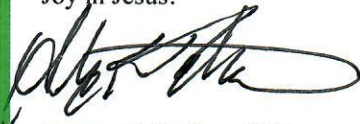
I established this financial advisory firm in 2004 and serve many Montanans. In my frequent visits to your great state and discussing issues with clients, it is apparent the caseload in Gallatin county is in dire need of assistance. I commend you on bringing this position to fruition.

I'm privileged know the honorable Andrew Breuner for more than 25 years. I know of no greater person to fill the vacancy of this new seat. I testify to you of Andy's unwavering capacity to balance justice with liberty, doing so with amazing insight and uniformity. Judge Breuner is a humble man, a rarity in today's age, who also exemplified the confidence required to respectfully stand for truth as is often needed.

He's never met a stranger and has shown himself to be the best questioner and listener I know. He has an uncanny way of making someone feel they're the most important person in the room. This character has allowed him to lead a productive court where everyone serves well and feels valued.

Responsibility, integrity, consistency and honesty are displayed by this man's impeccable character. This country will be a better place if people like yourself do right by placing men like Andrew Breuner into positions of increasing influence for the sake of bettering Montana.

Joy in Jesus!



Jeremy S. Becker, CKA

Jeremy S. Becker • 60 Douglas Drive, Cody, WY 82414 • (307) 586-5449 •
www.inheritancebuilders.com • inheritancebuilders@gmail.com

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WY Ins. License # 275511
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CA Ins. License # 0E53238

November 11, 2021

Email

Attn: Brooke Stroyke
Office of the Governor Greg Gianforte
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: *Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship*

Dear Ms. Stroyke:

I am writing to recommend Andrew Breuner for District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have practiced law since 2012, and in the Gallatin Valley since 2014.

Since 2015, Judge Breuner has served as the City Judge for Belgrade City Court. Judge Breuner has a calm, thoughtful and reasoned demeanor in the courtroom, making him well suited for this position. He is known to address disputed issues while maintaining relationships and decorum. In addition to this, Judge Breuner has extensive experience in criminal law from his time in private practice, which is a necessity for the District Court position, given the potential consequences and interests for those in our criminal justice system.

Judge Breuner has a proven track record in remaining neutral and making educated decisions in the courtroom, which is what Gallatin County needs in a judge. Please recommend Judge Breuner to Governor Gianforte for the nomination of Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

BLACKFORD CARLS P.C.



Sherine D. Blackford

November 12, 2021

Via Email

Governor's Advisory Committee

nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Judge Andrew Breuner for over 15-years and am grateful to call him a friend and colleague. Judge Breuner is a smart, kind man. He is a pleasure to appear before. Judge Breuner has a keen ability to resolve disputes. It is difficult for clients to be involved in the court system, but Judge Breuner finds the right balance to understand all parties to reach the just result. District Court Judges lead our community by resolving the most important disputes in our community. The values and perspective that Judge Breuner will bring to this office will serve Gallatin County well.

Judge Breuner's legal intellect is well suited for the District Court. I have observed Judge Breuner's knowledge and experience in criminal law. Judge Breuner is a criminal law expert, importantly understanding it from both the perspectives of the prosecutor and defendant. Judge Breuner's criminal expertise importantly will protect the interests of all those involved in the criminal justice system. Judge Breuner has thrived as Belgrade City Court Judge, which is a good predictor for his future service at the District Court. Judge Breuner's perspective, style, and intelligence are well suited for the District Court.

Judge Breuner is also well respected in Gallatin County. Before he became Judge for Belgrade City Court, I had the great pleasure often being in court with him. Judge Breuner has positive relationships with nearly everyone in the courthouse, a feat achieved by few lawyers. To me this reflects his true dedication to our community and improving the lives of anyone he has the opportunity to impact. Judge Breuner brings this dedication to his personal life. Judge Breuner has been an exceptional example to me of how to support friends in their greatest times of need. Judge Breuner, and his family, freely and openly welcome friends into his home whenever they need help.

I hope that you recommend Judge Breuner to Governor Gianforte to be nominated as Gallatin County District Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Cordially,

BLACKFORD CARLS P.C.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hillary P. Carls". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H' and a distinct 'C' at the end.

Hillary P. Carls



SANDERS COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Hon. Douglas S. Dryden

Justice of the Peace

November 9, 2021

Governor's Advisory Committee
District Court Judge position for Gallatin County

Dear committee members,

I'm writing to bring attention to the fine work that Judge Breuner has accomplished as the Belgrade City Court Judge over the past 6+ years. I know Judge Breuner personally and always look forward to interacting with him at our Court of Limited Jurisdiction trainings held each spring and fall. Andy is a fine example of what we need as a District Court Judge for the people of Montana.

I believe that Andy would make an outstanding District Court Judge for Gallatin County. His 28 years as a practicing attorney, experience as the Belgrade City Court Judge as well as his personal life and faith provide him with a solid foundation to manage the District Court cases and to make wise decisions as a District Court Judge. I admire Andy and hope that you will come to see him as a great choice to pass on to Governor Gianforte for his consideration as the new District Court Judge for Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

/s/ Douglas S. Dryden
Sanders County Justice of the Peace

Jeff Lundberg
Court Clerk

Tamra Weltz
Court Clerk

Carl Marquardt
Court Clerk

BREWER LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.
1700 West Koch Street, Suite 9
Bozeman, Montana 59715
(406) 570-6664
ebrewer@bridgeband.com

November 12, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620

VIA EMAIL: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Andrew Breuner, District Court Judge Nomination for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County

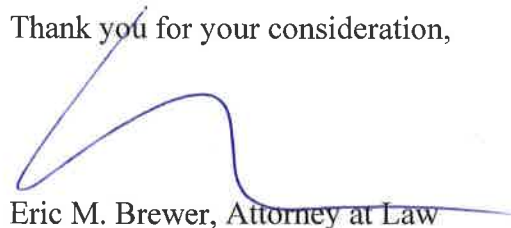
Dear Governor Gianforte:

I recommend the appointment of Andrew Breuner as judge to the vacant seat on the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. I have practiced primarily criminal defense law for approximately 17 years in Southwestern Montana. I have known Andrew Breuner for almost that entire time, initially as a colleague and more recently as the Belgrade City Court Judge.

In my experience with Judge Breuner, he treats all who appear before him with respect, dignity, and fairness. He is a patient judge who listens to all who appear before him. What most impresses me about Judge Breuner is his ability to make litigants know they have been heard. He takes what he has heard and applies it fairly, always being respectful both sides. More times than I can count, clients have told me that of all of the judges they have appeared before, regardless of the sentence imposed, they know they have been treated fairly by Judge Breuner. To me, when both sides feel they have been treated fairly, justice has been done. This is what Judge Breuner consistently accomplishes at the Belgrade City Court and what he will accomplish if appointed to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

I strongly recommend you appoint Andrew Breuner as judge to the vacant seat on the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

Thank you for your consideration,



Eric M. Brewer, Attorney at Law

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 :: BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 :: PHONE 406-586-1926 :: FAX 406-585-7654

November 12, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Fax: (406) 444-4151
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Andrew J. Breuner Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

The purpose of this letter is to encourage you to appoint Andrew J. Breuner for the district court judge opening in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County.

I have known Judge Breuner since 2005 when I became a law clerk for the Hon. Sam E. Haddon, U.S. District Court Judge. I was first introduced to Judge Breuner's work when he appeared in the U.S. District Court several times during my tenure. I found him to be a skilled litigator, superb writer, and gifted advocate.

In 2006, I joined the Office of the State Public Defender in Bozeman, MT. At the time, Judge Breuner practiced civil and criminal law. It was through his work as a contract public defender that I got to know him best. Our office routinely contracted cases to private lawyers, and Judge Breuner was always willing to lend us a hand, even with cases that were complex and fraught with difficult issues. As a result of his impeccable work, Judge Breuner was at the very top of my list of attorneys to recommend challenging cases to. He has a unique ability to put his clients at ease even in cases where others have failed to do so. I am aware of multiple cases in which Judge Breuner achieved favorable outcomes on behalf of public defender clients. Judge Breuner believes strongly in the cause of assisting indigent clients with their legal needs and has frequently prioritized these cases over the more lucrative areas of law. Given his experience in this area, and the specific needs of pro se litigants in Montana, Judge Breuner would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

In March 2015, Judge Breuner became the Belgrade City Court Judge. Since that time, I have appeared before him in numerous criminal law cases. Judge Breuner has always proven to be an objective and neutral arbitrator of the law. I have yet to have heard a single criticism in the legal community in regards to his judicial temperament or judgment.

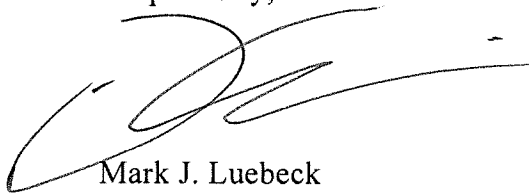
MARK J. LUEBECK :: DANIEL P. BUCKLEY :: TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR :: RYAN D. MCCARTY :: ERIC K. GOLDWARD

-RETIRED-

CHRISTOPHER R ANGEL :: MICHAEL C. COIL :: WILLIAM A. BARTLETT :: BRIAN FAY
CHARLES F. ANGEL III 1932 - 2005

I ask that you please take this letter into consideration when making the difficult decision of whom to select for the vacancy. Judge Breuner would be an excellent choice for Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Luebeck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Luebeck

1902 W. Dickerson St.,
Ste. 103
P.O. Box 682
Bozeman, MT 59771

KAREM LAW FIRM, P.C.
Integrity–Strength–Intelligence

Phone: 406.586.1986
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www.karemlaw.com

November 5, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Andrew Breuner
Montana 18th Judicial District Court, Gallatin County

Greetings Gov. Gianforte:

I recommend the appointment of Andrew Breuner to the vacant district court judge position in the Montana 18th Judicial District Court Gallatin County.

Years ago, I served on the Gallatin County Mental Health committee with Mr. Breuner working on developing mental health services for our community. Since Mr. Breuner took the bench for the City of Belgrade, I've had the pleasure of appearing before him. In every instance, Mr. Breuner was courteous, conscientious, and professional.

Judge Breuner is respectful and fair to clients and counsel alike. He maintains humility and dignity in the discharge of his duties on the bench. His opinions are careful and reasoned. It is a pleasure to practice before his court.

I admire any practitioner willing to give up private practice to serve publicly. Public service as a judge is both a place to preserve the rule of law and, at the same time, a difficult and thankless position. Mr. Breuner has committed his life to public service.

I have confidence that Mr. Breuner will be diligent and competent in serving the Gallatin Valley community.

Respectfully,
/s/ Thomas Karem
President
thomas@karemlaw.com

Slusser, Hannah

From: Jackie Robin <jackierobin99@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 9:39 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for Andy Bruener

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Advisory Committee,

I would like to take a moment to add my support to the selection of City of Belgrade Judge Andy Breuner for the open position of County Judge in the 18th District of Gallatin County. I have lived in Gallatin County for almost thirty years and have known Andy and his family personally for over twenty years. I know Andy to be devoted to his family, his community and to his chosen career as an attorney and for the past six years as Belgrade Ciity Judge. Andy is completely dedicated to fairness and the rule of law. His character is beyond reproach. I have absolutely no doubt he will bring those qualities and more to this important position.

Please include my recommendation for Judge Andy Breuner as the next Gallatin County District Judge.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jackie Robin
Big Sky, MT

--

Please note I have a new email address.

jackierobin99@gmail.com

From: Carrie Chestnut <carrie.chestnut@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:34 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Andy Breuner for District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Governor's Advisory Committee,

I am writing in regard to Andy Breuner's recent application for District Judge for Gallatin County.

First, a little about me. My husband, Scott (a 4th generation Montanan), and I grew up in Billings, graduated from MSU, moved away to pursue careers and returned to the Gallatin Valley 23 years ago to raise our children. We have been active in the public school systems, MSU, art, theatre, group sports, skiing, hiking, HRDC, and church and faith group organizations.

I first met Andy while participating on the Gallatin County Love INC board, where I was a member for 6 years, 2 of which I served as Board President. Scott later met Andy at a local men's Bible study.

Andy and I served on the same sub-committee at Love INC, so worked together closely on a monthly basis for several years, in addition to monthly board meetings. Love INC is an organization of 50+ member churches in the Gallatin County bridging the gap between the help that churches can offer and the clients in the County who are in need of that help. There are personnel dynamics and fiscal responsibilities in addition to helping clients on a very personal basis with financial, spiritual, physical, emotional, and relational needs. The sheer number of churches in addition to the large number of people that need spiritual and pragmatic help means there is a very broad variety of interpretations and approaches to faith and response that can be complex. There's a lot of room for confusion and division. What stands out to me about Andy from the many meetings we had together, besides being pleasant to work with, unceasingly kind, and a "uniter," was that while most of the committee was focused on pragmatic problem-solving of whatever issue was at hand, Andy, while having clear advice on the issue, would also have a quiet, re-focusing comment about addressing the real need of person behind the issue. He frequently reminded us there were real people that would be affected by decisions we were making and he would be focused on healing and going forward. His thoughtful comments would usually make me think, "hmm, we should have started here (at Andy's thought) first." He did this in a way that was additive, not critical, and it often resulted in a more full, more layered response to the need.

I'm sure you will have many qualified, good candidates to choose from. Having worked with Andy, I've seen him approach issues with the primary goal being human dignity, and so I believe Andy would be the excellent choice. As we all are aware, the Gallatin County has been historically a very generous, positive and safe community but we are on the precipice of great change that will need to be managed adroitly at all levels.

I cannot think of a better candidate to be at the helm of this position in the rapidly expanding region of the great state of Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer thoughts and experience.

Sincerely,

Carrie and Scott Chestnut
Bozeman, Montana

Slusser, Hannah

From: rob@montanahuntingcompany.com
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 7:49 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Andy Breuner endorsement for District Judge of Gallatin County.

I am writing to heartily endorse Any Breuner for Gallatin County District judge. I have known Andy and his family for at least 20 years. He is a conservative Christian man that speaks badly about no one. He is the fairest minded man I have ever met. Currently he is a city judge for Belgrade, so is involved with the process and understands it intimately.

When you look at his qualifications I believe his overwhelm the rest of the applicants. He is a licensed attorney, judge, family man, conservative, fair minded Christian and in my mind just the type of folks that should be sitting in position of a district judge!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best Regards,

Rob Arnaud

Montana Hunting Company

406-585-9051

www.montanahuntingcompany.com [montanahuntingcompany.com]



Slusser, Hannah

From: Anne Bentz <annebentz68@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:30 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner

To the Governor and his Advisory Committee,

I was pleased to hear that we are getting a new and much needed district court judge for Gallatin County. I am honored to write a short recommendation for Judge Andrew Breuner. Andy has almost 30 years of experience as a lawyer and currently a city judge (in Belgrade). I have been acquainted with Andy and his family for the last 16 of those years. During that time, I have had multiple opportunities to see how he has represented himself and others in the legal system. Andy cares about his community and the individuals that make up this great place that we get to live in.

Just one example of his approach:

A friend of mine was struggling with substance abuse and got into some trouble. He represented her and helped her get the counselling and services available to help in her recovery. This is a single incident to keep this letter brief; however, I believe it paints a broad picture of someone who would be an effective and dynamic district judge. Andy is a man of integrity and dedication to his family, colleagues, community and the justice system. He is highly qualified for the position of district court judge and would be a valuable asset to Gallatin County.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne Owens Bentz

Slusser, Hannah

From: Eric Gilbaugh <ericgilbaugh@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 9:18 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andrew Breuner

Dear Gov. Gianforte,

greetings from Belgrade, and I hope that you and Susan are enjoying Helena, a beautiful community where I lived on-and-off for twelve years. Perhaps the Helena Valley isn't as spectacular as the Gallatin, but the good people there go a long way towards bridging the divide!

Judge Andy Breuner let me know that you were accepting input on him as a nominee, and so I hope I'm not too late in offer a few thoughts for your consideration. I have known Andy for a number of years now since I've been pastor in Belgrade, and am very impressed with the man. While I do not know him well, I do think that I've encountered him in enough situations to speak to his good character. These include watching him counsel juveniles who have gotten into trouble and found themselves before him in court, discussing social and legal concerns with him in his office, seeing him at weekday Masses on his lunch break, and just chatting with him over lunch. Andy strikes me as a very even-keeled man of high personal integrity, sound judgement, humility in office, and personal faith. He is refreshingly free of any "chip" on his shoulder or ego, which unfortunately often comes with his profession. I think that he would be an outstanding candidate for higher positions, and I'm glad to hear that you're considering him.

If I may be of any further assistance, please let me know.

God bless you! Thanks for all you do to serve us as governor; I know it's a real sacrifice and I appreciate that you are generous enough to make it.

Sincerely, your friend down the road

Fr. Eric Gilbaugh



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November 1, 2021

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

SENT VIA:
Electronic Mail

RE: Andy Breuner – 18th Judicial District Court

Dear Advisory Committee:

I submit this correspondence to provide insight into my observations of Andy Breuner's character and performance on the City of Belgrade bench. I had the privilege of observing Judge Breuner on the bench in Belgrade on numerous occasions. I found his approach to be contemplative, yet efficient. He understood that his case load required expediency but also careful consideration. In my opinion, he ensured that everyone appearing before him had a sufficient and fair opportunity to be heard while keeping the cases moving forward. Although an issue was complex and required involved analysis, his explanation for his decisions were concise and clear enough to allow lay parties to understand what he had decided and why.

I consider Judge Breuner to be one of the premier legal minds in Montana and believe that he would be ideal for the open judge position in the 18th Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Rabb

Slusser, Hannah

From: New Day Bakery <newdaybakerymt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:16 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District court

Greetings:

I highly recommend Andy Breuer for a position as district court judge. I have had a business in Belgrade for more than 20 years and know Andy to be a man of integrity dedicated to human integrity fairness and justice. He has done so much for Belgrade handling over 7,000 filings and instigating a new court management software system that is cutting edge. Our court system Never closed for business when the first restrictions were made in March of 2020. Neither did our business ever close during this time, as well.

He has my full support and I highly recommend him for this important position.

Respectfully ,

Marjii Wronko
Owner/ manager
New Day Bakery

Slusser, Hannah

From: Ron Lindroth <rlindroth@centralvalleyfire.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 5:09 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner as Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I would like to take a moment of your time and recommend City of Belgrade Judge Andy Breuner for the open position in Gallatin County District Court. I have known Judge Breuner for many years and have found him to be a man of high moral character, committed to fairness and the rule of law, and dedicated to the community he serves. When a judge is willing to donate time to a local Christian school to serve as a custodian, it is clear to me that ego does not enter into his thought process.

Well I cannot speak to the other candidates credentials, I do believe Judge Breuner to be an excellent candidate for Gallatin County District Court.

Kind regards,



Ron Lindroth MS, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief
Central Valley Fire District
P 406.388.4480 / C 406.581.4308
rlindroth@centralvalleyfire.com
215 Wings Way Belgrade, MT 59714

Slusser, Hannah

From: Mick Maierle <mickmaierle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:48 AM
To: NominateJudges
Cc: 'Mick Maierle'
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ANDY BRUENER GALLATIN COUNTY DISTRICT JUDGE APPLICATION

Importance: High

Dear Advisory Committee,

We have known Andy & his family well for more than 20 years. We have interacted with Andy on both a personal & professional level & at all times his character & humble demeanor has been very consistent. We have shared both in life's celebrations & challenges with the Breuner family &, as a result, have seen Andy "up close & personal" in his overall approach to life. To us, it speaks of a man who at his very core is strongly principled & guided! One of the many character traits we admire in him is his dedication to human dignity. Andy's application in his passion for human dignity is demonstrated in his fair & just approach that he takes in his position as Belgrade's city judge. He has gained much wisdom & discernment in his many years of judicial experience. These character traits are to be admired & frankly are not seen that often in all areas of our current society! A man of his stature is desperately needed in positions such as what Andy is applying for!

We, without any doubt whatsoever, highly recommend Andy for this position. In fact, we would say a man of his character & reputation is greatly needed in this important position to help navigate our society's current challenges of honesty, integrity, & accountability in all levels of government! Please strongly consider Andy for this critical judgeship position. Thank you for the privilege of sharing our personal thoughts & feelings.

Respectfully,

Mick & Kate Maierle
288 Arrow Trail
Bozeman, MT 59718

Slusser, Hannah

From: David Loia <david@loia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 1:28 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner

Hello! These are exciting times of transformation for Montana and Gallatin County. As your team does the important work of considering applications for judgeships, it is a pleasure to communicate my direct knowledge of character and capabilities that make Andy Breuner an excellent choice for Montana.

As our family came to Montana 20 years ago, we have known Andy and the Breuners as long as we have known Greg and the Gianfortes, and have been profoundly shaped by both in our joint experiences of raising families in Montana, building successful businesses, and supporting the growth of vibrant communities. This direct observation affords us a great perspective from which to comment on Andy's unique qualification. Over the decades and through the inevitable challenges of life, of providing for and raising a family, caring for others, and actively contributing to the better of our rapidly growing community, both have won my admiration for the character, thoughtfulness, and sound judgement we have witnessed.

Of course, Andy has the requisite decades of experience in criminal, civil, business law, as I imagine most, if not all, candidates do. With respect to Andy's good character and judgement, they are unimpeachable, as I could also imagine all finalists would be. His moral foundation and worldview is rooted in family and faith, again as I could imagine many finalists would as well.

However, Andy possesses additional invaluable knowledge and experiences important to the continued growth of the county and Montana as a whole. Andy has invaluable operations experience as a judge. Not only judging cases, but the experience of operating a courthouse efficiently. I say invaluable because, as you know, the experience citizens have with the justice system is profoundly affected, positively and negatively, by how effective judges are at operating the judicial system efficiently. There is no other way to learn this other than by actually doing it.

Also, while a Montanan through-and-through, Andy is cut from the cloth of silicon valley- an important rarity to the continued growth of Montana on the global stage. Geography is not important. Mindset is. Consider that spirit of innovation, on a scale that has an impact on all of humanity. Humankind has been on a wave of innovation lasting generations, dwarfing any other in prior human history, almost predominantly driven from silicon valley. Again, geography is coincidental, like-mindedness however is extremely important. Ephemeral concentrated in that small corner of CA, and being replicated to a varying degree of success in many other parts of the USA and the world. If Montana is to be a leader in this wave of innovation for the next multi-generational cycle, promulgating that spirit of innovation in Montana is essential.

Andy possesses excellent background and experience, good character, and sound judgement necessary in any finalist. Andy's unique experience as a successful judge as well as possessing the spirit of innovation important to the continued growth and success of Montana on the global stage, makes him (and Greg by the way) an excellent choice.

Please send our regards to Greg.

Sincerely,

David, Patricia, and Alex Loia



WWW.RMRGROUP.NET

November 2, 2021

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

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Judicial Nominating Committee:

I am writing in support of Andrew Breuner for District Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District. As a long-time owner/operator of my own construction business in Big Sky and surrounding areas, I have known Andy for over 15 years. In my experience, Andy has always been forthright, dedicated, and thoughtful: he consistently acts with integrity in all he does. Andy has considerable experience as a lawyer and judge in the Gallatin Valley and community is always at the center of all he does.

Andy has proved himself to be fair, dedicated, and hardworking. Andy's demeanor and communication strongly and consistently convey his understanding that being a judge is far more than sitting on the bench dispensing opinions and/or punishment and requires caring and respectful attention to the big picture

I strongly urge you to give Judge Andy Breuner your utmost consideration for this very important position. I can think of no one better suited for this role in our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Rothacher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chad Rothacher

Slusser, Hannah

From: Gerrit VanOmmen <gvoalacrity@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:53 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Bruner

My family have known the Breuner's family for about 15 years. He has been a fantastic judge for Belgrade and he has applied for the nomination for district court judge in Bozeman, whole heartedly recommend him for the position. I know governor Gianforte is nominating based on your committees recommendation, I just want to assure you that Andy's nomination would be well received here in Bozeman. Thank you for allowing the public have input into this decision.

Sincerely,
Gerrit VanOmmen
107 Zaide Ln
Bozeman Mt 59718

October 29, 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Advisory Committee,

I am writing you today in faith that you will highly consider Andy Breuner's application for District Court Judge knowing that he is a great fit to make a greater impact on our judicial system in Gallatin County.

You see, Andy and I's story started long before we ever knew who each other really were. At the time, I was a young college student with roommates. My roommate had been avoiding his court dates and was scheduled for his last one before a warrant was set out for him. I convinced my roommate to go and "just face the judge". We went together and as we walked in, my roommate was beading sweat so bad, he really thought the judge was going to throw the book at him and his life was "over". Well, he didn't. The judge looked at the charges my roommate had and looked at him for a bit and asked the guy what he did (already knowing what he did). My roommate was honest and told him the truth. That judge looked at him and said, "I was a kid your age one time, I had friends your age, we do stupid things, but we must own up to those actions and bear the consequences and I thank you for being very honest". My roommate nodded. The judge asked him how long he had been out of a driver's license, my roommate replied for about a year. The judge asked about his job status and his ambitions in life. My roommate let him know that he has just gotten a new job with Kenyon noble and that I was driving him to and from work all the time and how much it was a pain in the butt. The judge looked at him and said "if you can pay to get your license back today, I'll grant you that. You agree to stay sober, work your 40 hours a week and repay this young lady for driving you around and I'll drop this to a misdemeanor charge". My roommate agreed and they shook hands. When we got in the pickup, my roommate said "I'm not sure what I did to get such a kind judge but I hope that man knows he was a blessing today"...

Well, his kindness repaid him 2 years later as Andy came to my home care agency looking for help to care for his parents and we have stayed in contact ever since then. Helping care for Andy's parents and watching their family dynamics shine with grace and dignity are something that people strive for every day. I know that I can personally say that Andy and his family treat every single person with dignity, respect, love, and compassion and to be able to call them friends is a true honor.

With 28 years beneath his belt of being an attorney and being the last 6 of those as a Belgrade City Judge, I believe Andy has the wisdom and character to serve our county as district judge. I know the impact he can make on people and especially the youth as you previously read with my roommate.

I pray that you highly consider Andy for the district court position, and I look forward to watching his success in our county.

Thank You,

Lindsey Klebenow

Slusser, Hannah

From: Frederickson, Holly
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 7:17 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: Nomination of Andrew Breuner for District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Judicial Nominating Committee:

I am writing in support of Andrew Breuner for District Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District. As a sitting Justice of the Peace, I have known Andy since he became the Belgrade City Judge. As the Chief Training Judge for the Limited Courts, I have the opportunity to observe many of the Limited Court Judges as to their demeanor, attitude, legal knowledge and willingness to learn.

Andy has shown himself over time to be a skilled jurist with a good balance of legal knowledge, understanding it's application as well as a compassionate human being. During our semi-annual training, Andy has good comments and thought-provoking questions. Andy has also taken a couple leadership roles with the Montana Magistrates' Association.

Personally, Andy is a man who seems to live out his personal convictions. He definitely understands that being a judge is far more than sitting on the bench dispensing opinions and/or punishment. While Andy definitely understands that the correct application of the law is of utmost importance as a judge, he also seems to be able to look at the circumstances and the big picture in a case. He is a man of both conviction and compassion.

I urge you to give Andy Breuner your utmost consideration for this very important position.

Thank you!

Holly Frederickson
Liberty County Justice of the Peace
PO Box 161
Chester, MT 59522
Telephone: (406) 759-5213
Fax: (406) 759-5473
Email: hfrederickson@mt.gov

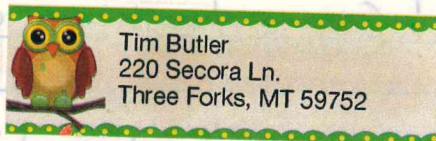
Also "Governor Greg"

I would like to have **Andy Breuner** as Gallatin County Judge.

I have worked as a custodian with Andy several years and we have talked much. He is a believer in Jesus and the constitution. But, He is a little messed up on the age of the earth. I hope to change that. Andy is very honest and very moral. He has ~~through~~ a tuff backbone and never backs down from right principal. I have watched him with liberal bullies and he always executes truth and is not intimidated. He is also able to re evaluate his own perspective!

Thank You Governor Greg!
for all that you do!

Tim Butler



Slusser, Hannah

From: Garrett Heide <gdheide@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 3:48 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Andrew Breuner for Gallatin District Judge

Greetings to Governor Gianforte and his Advisory Committee:

I am writing to comment on Andrew Breuner's application for the new District Judge position in Gallatin County.

My wife and I have personally known Andy for roughly eight years now, and I can say with utmost confidence that he is the best choice for this new position. He has always been a kind, generous person who cares about the people and community around him, but more importantly he has a clear vision and mind for what is right. He strives to always be filled with integrity, whether at home or in service to the community of Belgrade. I would find it hard to believe that there is a better candidate for District Judge for Gallatin County.

Please consider his application fully and know that his appointment would certainly be the best choice for the county and its communities, both big and small.

Respectfully,

Garrett and Andrea Heide

WATSON | LAW

WATSON LAW OFFICE, P.C.

HERMAN A. WATSON, IV
Trial Lawyer

Herman A. Watson, III
Herman A. Watson, IV
Megan M. Moore

101 E Main Street, Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59715
T: (406) 586-4707

October 25, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Andy Breuner – Letter of Support

Sir,

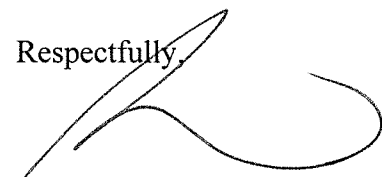
It is my pleasure to recommend Hon. Belgrade City Court Judge Andy Breuner for the position of Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court in Gallatin County.

Judge Breuner has a finger on the pulse of his community. I know of few judges, and can count them on one hand, who are more well-liked and respected by the folks who stand in front of him than Judge Breuner. Unsurprisingly, the respect and consideration Judge Bruener holds for the people he sits before and works alongside runs deeply mutually. Indeed, I have often thought that we would all do well to follow his lead in showing clear and unwavering compassion for each other, as he does even in the more challenging moments of issuing judgment.

“In the robes”, Judge Breuner has ruled consistently and with aplomb. His rulings boast an extraordinary attention to clarity with an appropriately considerable amount of time taken to edify his courtroom in a common-sense manner. I believe this practice offers a personal touch that both is understood clearly and encourages precisely the kind of improvement that he intends, which underscores a long-sighted judicial economy.

My family has known Judge Breuner for decades. He is a good man and a good judge. As this letter touches briefly on his many great qualities, please feel free to contact; I would be happy to further elaborate on my experiences practicing before Judge Breuner and how he exemplifies the virtues and characteristics of a District Court Judge.

Respectfully,



Herman A. Watson, IV
Watson Law Office, P.C.

- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers • Montana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers •
- National College of Criminal Defense • DUI - Standard Field Sobriety Testing Certification •
- Gallatin County Bar Association - President •

Slusser, Hannah

From: magoode <magoode@3rivers.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:00 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Andrew Breuner

Dear Governor Gianfore,

I am a resident of Gallatin County, I am concerned about the fair administration of justice in Gallatin County. I support Belgrade City Judge Andrew Breuner to fill the new district judge seat.

Thank you.

Marie Goode

Slusser, Hannah

From: Bryan Clark <bryan@trinitybozeman.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:04 PM
To: NominateJudges
Cc: Bryan Clark
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for 18th District Judicial Advisory Council

To the 18th District Judicial Advisory Council:

I'd like to recommend Andy Bruner for your consideration.

I've been family friends with the Bruners for years, and I can personally attest to his character. We got to know him and his family 15 years ago through Ash's Okinawan Karate.

Andy has been an attorney for 28 years. He served as Belgrade's city judge over the last 6 years. He has accomplished so much, including the handling of well over 7,000 filings, construction of expanded court facilities, hiring new staff (and advocating for more competitive compensation for the clerks).

It impressed me that he kept the city court open for business and without closure since the first restrictions went into place in March 2020. And he did this in full compliance with changing COVID protocols.

But most important of all, he is a man of character and integrity. I know this firsthand as I have watched him work through some personal and professional struggles.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bryan

Bryan Clark
Pastor, Trinity Church
406.580.4110
bryan@trinitybozeman.org
trinitybozeman.org [trinitybozeman.org]



Slusser, Hannah

From: debbie@andysglassofmontana.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 8:26 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I/WE nominate Judge Andrew Bruener for District Judge for Gallatin County

To whom it may concern

On behalf of myself, Debra Briggs and my husband Andrew Mitchell, we nominate Judge Andrew Bruener to be our next District Judge. As business owners and longtime residents of Gallatin County we have come to know Judge Bruener on several levels, as a Judge, Lawyer, Father, Husband and friend. He has helped our community greatly with his dedication to the law and to our community. Judge Bruener has a servants heart and truly cares about the future well being of the people of Gallatin County.

Please consider him to be our next District Judge for Gallatin County.



Debra L Briggs
Andy's Glass, Inc.
406-388-1487

Terry and Linda Schooley
460 Mountain Lion Trail
Bozeman, MT 59718

October 27, 2021

Governor Gianforte's Advisory committee

We met Andy when our sons went to karate class. And then our families would caravan to tournaments out of state, and we became friends. I remember when Andy watched karate practice and how other individuals would greet and chat with Andy, and that a variety of persons wanted to say hello. And this was before he became a judge. Andy has an easy way about him that makes others feel comfortable and drawn to him.

I worked as a court reporter in Gallatin District Court for Judge Joe Gary and Judge Larry Moran, and I've seen district court proceedings over the course of seven years and how seriously the judges take their responsibilities, knowing the impact it has on lives. I've seen the respect the judges hold for the judicial system and the decorum of the courtroom that was evident in the proceedings. I remember the reliance on their staff at times to keep the calendar running smoothly. I know Andy has the skills to work with others to meet the demands of this job. I have seen him in the Belgrade City courtroom. He treated the public and his staff with respect. He provided information necessary for lay people, parents and youths to understand what was happening.

I know my husband feels the same, and we highly recommend Andy Breuner for the position of Gallatin District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Terry and Linda Schooley



WASSERBURGER LAW^{PLLC}

Carrie R. Wasserburger
1700 W. Koch Street, Suite 10, Bozeman MT 59715
p. 406-624-6629 | f. 406-624-6300 | crw@wasserburgerlaw.com

October 27, 2021

Via Email Only

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Public Comment for 18th Judicial District Court Judicial Position

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am an attorney actively practicing in the Eighteenth Judicial District. In my eleven years of practice, I have acquired experience in many areas of law including without limitation Civil Litigation, Family Law, Criminal Defense, Dependency and Neglect, Estate Planning, Real Estate, and Business formation and transactions.

Although I respect each of the attorneys that have applied for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District, I believe Andrew Breuner is the most qualified for the position and would like to express my support on his behalf.

I have practiced alongside Mr. Breuner in dependency and neglect cases, observed him in court proceedings, and have appeared in front of him as the presiding judge in Belgrade.

Not only does Mr. Breuner have many years of experience as an attorney and judge, but he is a class act. He is intelligent, reasonable, respectful, and extremely thoughtful in the legal positions he takes on behalf of his clients and/or as a judge. When he has something to say, the Court and his colleagues listen. Suffice to say, I have never had any concerns or doubts about him as an attorney or judge and believe he would be an excellent district court judge whom I would be honored to practice in front of.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this essential position. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you have regarding my support for Mr. Breuner.

Sincerely,

Carrie R. Wasserburger

Slusser, Hannah

From: adventures@sunrisepackstation.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 1:00 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judge Breuner as a candidate for District judge.

Dear Advisory Committee Member,

I would like to say a few words on behalf of Judge Breuner. I am a local business man in Gallatin county, and am concerned with the recent growth. This growth has required a new District Judge position and I think Judge Breuner would be a the right person to fill this position. His honorable conduct as Judge over these last years, his personal character, and his impartiality and dedication to the rule of law all qualify him for this position. I would appreciate more Judges like him on the bench to adjudicate with honor and justice the laws of our state and county.

Thank you,

Shane McClafin
Sunrise Pack Station LLC
www.sunrisepackstation.com [sunrisepackstation.com]
(406) 579-9642

MICHAEL J. SAN SOUCI

4868 Itana Circle
Bozeman, MT 59718-2741

Telephone: (406) 224-5665
Email: mjsansouci@aol.com

October 27, 2021

JUDICIAL NOMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Re: Andrew J. Breuner

Dear Committee Members:

Please consider this a strong personal reference and letter of support for Andy Breuner's potential appointment by Governor Gianforte to the newly created district judge position in Gallatin County.

Although I am very recently retired from the active practice of law, I have had the pleasure and good fortune of knowing Andy both personally, and professionally, for more than 20 years – 10 years of which were spent sharing office space in our respective practices. Throughout our longtime relationship I have observed that his overall work ethic, honesty and integrity within the legal profession are of the highest standards and beyond reproach.

In both his private practice, which extended chiefly to criminal law, but also encompassed civil law matters – as well as his more recent background and experience as Belgrade's City Judge – he has consistently demonstrated not only a passion for the justice system, but the kind of keen and contemplative legal acumen and even-keeled temperament which, I believe, makes him uniquely qualified to preside over and adjudicate the kind of complex legal issues that routinely come before the courts.

I can attest, without reservation, that Andy consistently has demonstrated a conscientious and hard-working advocacy for his clients, as well as his ability as a fair and impartial jurist dedicated to serving the letter of the law. If appointed, he can, and will, bring a well-reasoned, discerning and much needed perspective to the district court which inevitably will benefit our judicial system, those who practice within it and, more importantly, the citizens of Gallatin County. Accordingly, I do not hesitate to recommend him highly for the judicial appointment in question.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and, if I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very Truly Yours,



MICHAEL J. SAN SOUCI

MJSS:mw



Steve Anderson, PT, MPT
Denise Anderson, PT, ATC
Megan Hoover, PT, DPT

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT. 59620

Re. Letter of Support for 18th Judicial Court Judge Nominee- Andrew Breuner

21 October 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Judicial Nomination Advisory Council:

We are writing in support for Andrew Breuner to be appointed as an 18th Judicial District Court judge.

We have had the great pleasure of knowing Andy both personally and professionally for ~18 years. Over that time, he has consistently exemplified his passion for serving people and the law, while displaying great integrity and humility. We have observed direct interactions between Andy and a wide variety of people: confused high school students, angry parents, tenacious board members, zealous college students, and anxious families dealing with stressful legal situations. He is always eager to listen, to understand, and to create opportunities for people to succeed. He consistently treats people with respect and dignity as he strives to resolve situations.

As small business owners in Belgrade, we have received legal counsel and assistance directly from Andy. With these matters, Andy has been careful to communicate legal precedence and ramifications in an effective and timely manner. Although we have not had opportunity to observe him directly while acting as the Belgrade City judge, we have Belgrade residents who have reported their experiences. In fact, just the other day someone came to our office referring to his encounter in the Belgrade court- saying Judge Andrew Breuner is a true gift to the legal system.

After knowing Andy for 18 years, we are confident in our recommendation for him to become an 18th Judicial District Court judge. Andy possesses the personal temperament, professional experience, and overall integrity essential for the demands of district court judge. He would be an even greater asset to our community in this position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signatures of Steve and Denise Anderson. The signature for Steve is on the left, and the signature for Denise is on the right, written in a cursive style.

Steve & Denise Anderson

Slusser, Hannah

From: Larry Holle <hollelarry47@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 5:57 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Andrew Breuner

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Larry Holle** <hollelarry47@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 5:55 PM
Subject: Andrew Breuner
To: <nominatejudges@mt.gov>

I have known Andy for quite a number of years now and he is a very conscientious and carrying judge and would apply the law equally. In my opinion, he is well qualified to be a district judge.

Larry A. Holle

--

some of my photos at: www.morganholle.wix.com/larrys-photos [morganholle.wix.com] (double click on panoramas)

"Keep your nose into the wind, the [sun](#) at your back, your eyes on the skyline, and shoot straight!"

--

some of my photos at: www.morganholle.wix.com/larrys-photos [morganholle.wix.com] (double click on panoramas)

"Keep your nose into the wind, the [sun](#) at your back, your eyes on the skyline, and shoot straight!"

Slusser, Hannah

From: Holly Rainey <camparrowcreek@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 10:28 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on District Judge Applicants

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

It is my understanding that Andrew Breuner is seeking appointment as district court judge in Gallatin County for the upcoming open seat.

Allow me a few words on my history in the Gallatin Valley before I speak to Mr Breuner's nomination. I am a Montana native, born and raised in Bozeman. We have 5 generations, several of whom ran for office and held seats in office for this great state. I graduated from Montana State University with a degree in elementary education in 2000 and have worked, taught, and raised my kids here in Gallatin Valley where my family and I still reside.

My father was a custom home builder in the Gallatin valley for 50 years. He was active in the Gallatin county commission and was president of SWMBA for several of those years. As a local resident active in the community myself, and the daughter of a politically active father, I became very well acquainted with local civil servants and political figures in our community and our state. As business owners ourselves, and lifelong members of Gallatin County, we find comfort in solid leadership.

I tell you these things to lay the groundwork for my level of engagement with and understanding of our local community's personality and it's specific needs.

Enter Andrew Bruener into this picture. We have known Andy Breuner personally for 13 years. His son and ours attended the same school as youngsters. Andy stood out to us immediately as a leader among the school parents. What we noted about Andy right from the start was his ease in making sincere conversation, his integrity, and his genuine kindness and care for our family and for all of the families he came in contact with. He possesses a host of traits that one doesn't see every day. With Mr Breuner, his authenticity in these things seemed as natural as breathing air. As we got to know him on a more personal level over the years, and as many situations presented themselves for dealing with conflict--be it presenting important issues to the school board for consideration, working out conflict between kids/their families at school, or seeking his advice for negotiating business matters of our own--we came to see that not only is he the genuine article, but of even greater importance perhaps, that he thinks logically, clearly, and above all, fairly. He considers what is being said by all parties involved, allows them a place to be heard and not belittled or guilted/shamed, but rather notes what each parties experience before making a solid, fair, and logically sound statement that is concise, has a viable, lasting solution, and is not demeaning in its nature. He is highly intelligent and has empathy for the human experience all while considering the needs of a healthy, functioning society and upholding the laws that keep us all safe.

In addition to the years we have seen these traits displayed in Andy's interactions with members of the community, we have also seen him active in the courtroom. He knows the law in all its forms, rounded out with his recent years as a sitting judge. We've seen other local judges at work, and in that time, it has become apparent just how important a clear headed, logical thinker with compassion for people and a sense of justice are; to be able to strike that balance is critical. We need, as sitting Judge, someone who really understands the law outside of just practicing law. We need a balanced person who doesn't shame citizens at their worst moments, but rather holds them accountable, and commands respect because of their demeanor, someone who people feel they want to be better for, to make proud.

In short,

We need a mind, a personality, and experience like that of Andrew Breuner as a District Judge in Gallatin County. You will be hard pressed to find a more disciplined, genuine, authentic, empathetic, firm, fair, honest and decent man than Andy is. Andy is well respected, well regarded, and immensely capable of serving our community well. I ask that you consider him as the finest choice for this important position. We would be a better county for having him in this role.

I thank you kindly for taking your time to read these comments and to consider public opinion in these matters.

Most Sincerely,

Holly Rainey

Slusser, Hannah

From: Gale Bacon <gbacon@mtlib.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 5:42 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judge Andy Breuner

Advisory Committee:

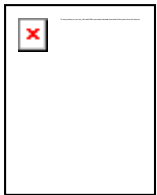
I would like to express my support of Judge Breuner for the new district court judge for Gallatin County. Andy is a passionate judge who displays fairness, wisdom and compassionate justice. He treats people with dignity. His goal is to help people find a way to rehabilitate, not bandage the problem. He is dedicated to his work and the community (county) he serves.

Andy has made incredible positive changes to the court system in Belgrade. By having the opportunity to reach a broader scope of people in Gallatin County, he will exhibit great dedication to serving all who work or are called to his court.

Compassion and dedication are the driving forces in Andy's career. He would serve our County honorably.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gale Bacon
Library Director
Belgrade Community Library



Gale Bacon
Director, Belgrade Library

A 106 N Broadway, Belgrade, MT 59714
P (406) 388-4346 **E** gbacon@mtlib.org **W** www.belgradelibrary.org [belgradelibrary.org]

 [\[facebook.com\]](#)

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ELISABETH
MONTROYA
P L L C

35 North Bozeman Ave. | BOZEMAN, MT
P: 406-585-3300 F: 406-794-0799
EMONTOYA.LAW@GMAIL.COM

October 20, 2021

Ms. Hannah Sulsser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Sent by email only to: Nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Application of Andy Breuner – 18th Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Ms. Sulsser,

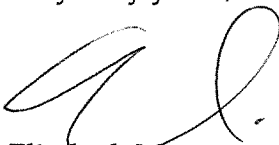
I urge Governor Gianforte to appoint Judge Andy Breuner to the bench of the 18th Judicial District Court.

I have been admitted to practice law in Montana since 2006. I have practiced almost solely criminal defense since 2011. I first met Judge Breuner during my early involvement in DN proceedings when I knew very little about this area of law. Judge Breuner struck me as being very knowledgeable, calm, and most impressively held the Department's feet to the fire. He immediately gained my respect.

Since then, I have regularly practiced in front of Judge Breuner in the Belgrade City Court. Judge Breuner is consistent, even, fair and kind. I sometimes do not agree with his rulings, but I always feel my client received a fair shake. Judge Breuner takes a thoughtful approach in administering justice from the bench. While I would hate to lose Judge Breuner presiding over the Belgrade City Court, I believe he would make an excellent District Court Judge. He possesses the intellect and judicial disposition the residents of Gallatin County deserve.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Elisabeth Montoya

LAW OFFICES OF
PAOLI & BROWN, P.C.

KEVIN S. BROWN, ESQ.
E-Mail: kevin@paolibrown.com

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
116 WEST CALLENDER STREET
LIVINGSTON, MT 59047
TELEPHONE: (406) 222-4420
FAX: (406) 222-1032

ERIN E. HARRIS, ESQ.*
E-Mail: erin@paolibrown.com

*Also admitted in Wyoming

Of Counsel:
JOHN BYORTH, ESQ.
E-Mail: john@byorthlaw.com

October 19, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Letter of Support—Andrew Breuner

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Judicial Nomination Advisory Council:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Andrew Breuner for the position of Eighteenth Judicial District Court judge.

During the past 18 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Andy in a number of different settings, as both colleague and adversary. Most recently, I have appeared before Andy in his role as Belgrade City Court judge. In each of these capacities, I have witnessed Andy conduct himself with integrity, professionalism, and utter dedication to his practice. He has a keen legal mind, a strong sense of justice, and an impressive depth and breadth of litigation experience. I cannot think of anyone better suited to fill the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court.

During his six-year tenure as the Belgrade City Court judge, Andy has expertly embodied the dichotomy between rigorously and decisively upholding the rule of law while still treating each individual who appears before him with sensitivity and respect. Andy is committed to fairly, consistently, and objectively applying the law. I have always found his decisions to be logical, well-reasoned, evenhanded, and incisive.

The other applicants for this position are successful and accomplished practitioners. However, from the standpoints of practicality and efficiency, Andy has a distinct advantage. He is the candidate in the best position to hit the ground running. His time with the City of Belgrade has familiarized him with the unique legal needs of our community; with the procedural and technological workings of the

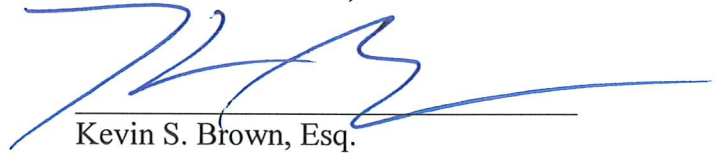
court system; with judges' budgetary, recordkeeping, and administrative duties; with managing a crowded docket; with inter-department and inter-agency relations; and with serving as a leader and mentor to court personnel. Andy has the requisite experience and know-how to begin serving the people of Gallatin County—and easing the considerable burden on Judges Brown, McElyea, and Ohman and their respective staff members—immediately. If Andy is appointed, I have no doubt his learning curve will be a very shallow one.

Andy is an exemplary member of our profession. He possesses the acumen, experience, temperament, and moral compass this position demands, and would be an asset to the judiciary and our community at large. I wholeheartedly recommend his appointment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

PAOLI & BROWN, P.C.



Kevin S. Brown, Esq.

Slusser, Hannah

From: Jim Keena <jkeena@yellowstonetheology.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:24 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner Recommendation

Greetings!

It is my pleasure to recommend **Andy Bruener** to be appointed as the **District Judge for Gallatin County**. I have known him for over 13 years. He is a man of character and is fully qualified to serve in this position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Jim Keena

--

Jim Keena
Professor of Pastoral Theology & Church Relations
Yellowstone Theological Institute
2030 Stadium Drive
Bozeman, Montana 59715
Office: 406-404-1600
Mobile: 406-451-4179

BOZEMAN OFFICE

3825 Valley Commons Dr.
Suite 2
Bozeman, MT 59718

BIG SKY OFFICE

235 Snowy Mountain Circle
Suite 6-3
P.O. Box 160669
Big Sky, MT 59716-0669

O. 406.577.2391
F. 406.551.7601

MATTHEW A. DODD
DILLON A. POST

October 19, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Andrew Breuner

Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to provide my wholehearted support for candidate, Judge Andrew Breuner. I have known Judge Breuner for many years and had the pleasure to appear before him in Belgrade Municipal Court.

Each and every time I have visited his court, Judge Breuner's demeanor, attitude, and approach makes clear his desire to serve the law and the community. Judge Breuner treats all those around him with respect, including those charged with crimes and others who may be victims of those crimes. By doing so, Judge Breuner is able to directly connect with those appearing before him and create a cooperative engagement that is sadly lacking in some courtrooms.

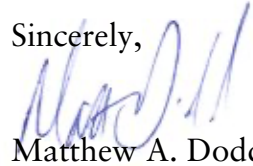
While Judge Breuner's ability to connect and empathize with those before him is reason enough for Judge Breuner to be appointed as a district judge in Gallatin County, that is not all that he will bring to that role. During his time as a judge in Belgrade, Judge Breuner has handled more than seven thousand filings, overseen the construction of expanded court facilities, hired new staff (and advocated for competitive wages for those staffers), and managed the court's transition to a court of record in one of the fastest growing cities in the state.

I have no doubt that Judge Breuner will continue to excel if he is appointed as a district court judge in Gallatin County. He will follow the rule of law and he will respect the rights of those before him. In a time when folks have stopped listening to each other and we daily see the erosion of our constitutional rights, Judge Breuner's willingness to understand and appreciate the issues before him will create fair outcomes for all those he serves.

Judge Breuner's life experience, legal career, and temperament make him an ideal candidate for a district court judge who will continue his mission to assist Montanans,

defend our constitutional rights, and act with the public good in mind. He will make a wonderful addition to the bench here in Gallatin County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dodd".

Matthew A. Dodd

Slusser, Hannah

From: Chris & Kate Forrest <tacticmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:25 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NEW DISTRICT COURT JUDGE for GALLATIN COUNTY

Dear Governor and Select Advisory Committee,

I would like to nominate Andy Bruener for the district judge position and to have him take the bench this coming January.

We have known the above incumbent for over 20 years and have found his character and his work ethic to be of the highest standards.

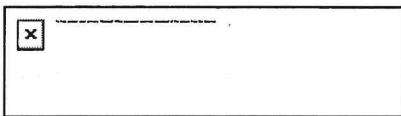
We have watched the Brueners handle stress, adversity and conflict with the utmost respect and wisdom as provided from their faith and the community we live in.

As a servant leader in the community you could find no better person to work alongside you and/or for the betterment of the people of this great state.

Please accept this email as our letter of intent to nominate Andy Bruener for the District Judge position.

Sincerely,

Kate & Chris Forrest
(406) 570-3291



Chris Forrest, M.A., former U.S. Navy SEAL
Kate Forrest
www.tacticmt.com [tacticmt.com]

Slusser, Hannah

From: Collins, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:13 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: Gallatin County District Court Judge Appointment

I HIGHLY recommend the appointment of Judge Andrew Breuner to the position of District Court Judge for Gallatin.

As a fellow judge in the Montana Limited Courts network, I have encountered and engaged Judge Breuner numerous times.

I have found his character to be honest, forthright, hospitable, and discerning.

Judge Breuner is a contributor and a supporter of the judicial system. He is conscientious and thorough, and very experienced.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me:

Judge Thomas Collins
City Court Judge of Plains, Hot springs, & Thompson Falls – Montana
Email: Thomas.collins@mt.gov
Mobile Phone: 406-529-0239

Slusser, Hannah

From: Benjamin Ohman <benohman7@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:26 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner for Judge

We were tenants living in the same house as Andy a few summers back. We spent evenings chatting and got to know him and his wife well. In our time living with them, both my wife and I know Andy to be a man of deep compassion and strong integrity. We feel he is an outstanding candidate for the new district judge for Gallatin County.

Ben Ohman

Slusser, Hannah

From: Hannah Ohman <hannah.e.ohman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:30 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner

Good morning,

I feel compelled to write a brief synopsis of my experience with Andy Breuner.

I lived with Andy Breuner and his wife SusanBeth for a summer and found Andy to be a compassionate and empathetic individual. He is fair and willing to converse (does not expect people to hold his opinions, and is willing and able to discuss patiently and respectfully) and in disagreement is good at staying calm and non-reactive. He doesn't have any desire to take advantage of people (though they could have charged more for rent!). He is very dedicated and passionate—keeping difficult hours to make his jobs work because both are super important to him.

He would make a great Gallatin County District Judge.

Hannah Ohman

Owner and Operator, Rowan and Larch, LLC Wedding floral design

Slusser, Hannah

From: William Hawley <wmhawley@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 8:30 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judge Andrew Breuner

I wanted to write a few lines in support of Judge Breuner upon hearing that there is an opening for a new district judge for Gallatin county.

I have known Mr. Breuner for many years and know him as a honorable, honest and humble man that is more than qualified for the position.

I have sat in his court, shared dinners and bible studies with him and have seen nothing less that respect and wisdom from him.

I am honored to know him and to be a friend as well.

I strongly encourage you to consider him for this appointment. A man with his character is so needed in our community especially now.

Thank you

Wm. Hawley

137 palette ct.

Bozeman, MT 59715

SUBJECT: Judicial Nomination for Andrew Breuner

October 18,2021

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I would like to nominate Andrew Breuner for the new district judge position for Gallatin County.. I have known Andy since 2004 when we met at a couples' church retreat near Bozeman. Our relationship has grown since then as friends and hunting partners. Andy is someone I have seen under joyful and stressful situations. We have shared many hours of conversation concerning life goals, family, politics, and people relationships.

Andy has demonstrated, over the years I have known him, excellent listening skills and a willingness to disagree with a point of view and not become angry. He is level headed and does not jump to conclusions. I graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1960, served 20 years as a Corps of Engineer officer, then 20 years as a Professor of Civil Engineering at Montana State University. From my experiences with many people over this time of working until now, I have only met a few people with the integrity I see in Andy Breuner. I cannot recall a time when he expressed hatred toward anyone or group of people. He possesses leadership and an ability to get along with anyone from any walk of life. He is a family man who has gone beyond expectations taking care of his father before he passed away from Parkinson's disease.

Andy is sensitive and does more than his share of work when participating in any activity such as hunting or just helping people get through a tough time. Being a family man, he understands people in a way that should make him an incredible district judge. I sincerely and hardily recommend Andy Breuner for appointment to the district court.

Glenn H. Lehrer
2130 Southbridge Drive
Bozeman, Mt 59718

Slusser, Hannah

From: Menager, William
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:57 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: Andy Breuner for Gallatin County District Court Judge

Governor Greg Gianforte:

As Justice of the Peace of Petroleum County, I have gotten to know Andy Breuner over the last 6 1/2 year. We were new judges at the same conference and ended up sitting near each other. As a result I have had a chance to get to know him. While visiting with him during meals and breaks and have found him comments both during sessions and during breaks to reflect a commitment to the letter of the law even when holding an unpopular opinions that goes against court practices but upholds the letter of the law.

Therefore, I believe Andy as the new Gallatin County District Court Judge will uphold the law to the best of his ability regardless of personal beliefs, or popular political trends contrary to the law that are destroying the integrity of the courts. He will not use his position to make the law but to uphold the law.

Andy's 6 1/2 years on the bench in the busy Belgrade City Court, and 40+ hours of training at the Court of Limited Jurisdiction Semi-Annual Conferences give him a great foundation in the day-to-day operations of the courts, an intimate familiarity of the law, and knowledge of the issues faced by all judges. His time on the bench will give him a distinct advantage over nonjudge applicants in setting up a new court he will not have to be learning the job of being a judge while training new staff and establishing his court.

I am therefore recommending Andy Breuner as the new Gallatin County district Court Judge.

Sincerely

William Menager

Justice of the Peace

Petroleum County

October 15, 2021

Sent via email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

The Honorable Greg Gianforte,
Governor of Montana
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620

Re: 18th Judicial District Judge Position - Applicant Andrew J. Breuner

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We strongly endorse Andy Breuner for the 18th Judicial District Judgeship vacancy. We practiced both criminal and civil law in the 18th Judicial District and throughout Montana for approximately three decades and are now retired.

We have known Andy since he began to practice law in Montana in 2003. We observed Andy working hard for his clients in the courtroom on many occasions. We have been adversaries in an emotionally charged and aggressively litigated court case. Nevertheless, we have maintained a courteous and respectful relationship, a testament to his professionalism.

More importantly for the current purposes, we have appeared before Andy in his capacity as Belgrade City Court Judge and have been very impressed with his judicial abilities. His judicial temperament is excellent, showing total respect to every litigant and attorney appearing before him.

We firmly believe a lawyer cannot be an effective district court judge without first having extensive and diverse litigation experience. Andy has that requisite experience. And he has the intelligence, sharp intellect, temperament, and legal skills required to be an excellent district court judge. For these reasons we commend Andy Breuner to you without reservation for appointment to the 18th Judicial District Judge position.

We thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Very truly yours,

Al Avignone
Lisa A. Banick
Bozeman, Montana

Slusser, Hannah

From: David Klem <headwatersrestoration@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:18 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] District Judge Seat

To the Advisory Committee,

I want to give my full support and recommendation to Andrew Bruener for the District Judge Seat. In all my interactions with Andy I have found him to be a man of strong integrity. His background in the legal world and as a judge, as well as his strong character make it very easy to support him for this position.

Best regards,

--

David Klem
Headwaters Restoration
406.570.9347



Virus-free. www.avast.com [[avast.com](http://www.avast.com)]
[\[avast.com\]](http://www.avast.com)

Slusser, Hannah

From: Chris & Kate Forrest <tacticmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:25 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NEW DISTRICT COURT JUDGE for GALLATIN COUNTY

Dear Governor and Select Advisory Committee,

I would like to nominate Andy Bruener for the district judge position and to have him take the bench this coming January.

We have known the above incumbent for over 20 years and have found his character and his work ethic to be of the highest standards.

We have watched the Brueners handle stress, adversity and conflict with the utmost respect and wisdom as provided from their faith and the community we live in.

As a servant leader in the community you could find no better person to work alongside you and/or for the betterment of the people of this great state.

Please accept this email as our letter of intent to nominate Andy Bruener for the District Judge position.

Sincerely,

Kate & Chris Forrest
(406) 570-3291



Chris Forrest, M.A., former U.S. Navy SEAL
Kate Forrest
www.tacticmt.com [tacticmt.com]

CITY COURT OF RED LODGE



1 PLATT AVENUE SOUTH, P.O. BOX 9, RED LODGE, MONTANA 59068

Judicial Nomination Advisory Committee

Attn: Hannah Slusser

Governor's Office

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Advisory Committee,

My name is Hon. Raphael J. He Does It. I am the City Judge of the Red Lodge City Court of Record. I was appointed to this position in 2018. The Hon. Andrew Breuner has been one of my mentor judges.

Since 2018, Judge Breuner has become a mentor for myself and many other within the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in Montana. Judge Breuner has been a reliable and professional advisor to all that seek his counsel.

Judge Breuner's knowledge, understanding, and application of law is invaluable for all in the Montana Judiciary.

It is, therefore, my privilege to write this letter in support of his appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court of Montana. His professionalism and character are undeniably exemplary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hon. Raphael J. He Does It
Judge of Red Lodge City Court of Record

406.446.4727



COURT@CITYOFREDLODGE.COM

Elizabeth T. Musick
Karolina G. Tierney



MUSICK & TIERNEY, PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

P.O. Box 726
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 235-1456
www.mtlawpllc.com

November 10, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
Sent via email at nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: *Andrew Breuner, Applicant for the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge*

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Advisory Council:

I would like to recommend Belgrade City Court Judge, Andy Breuner, for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge vacancy. As the only applicant with judicial experience, I believe that he is by far the most qualified for the position. I also believe that his character, integrity, honesty, and humility are unparalleled in comparison to the other applicants.

It has been my pleasure to practice in front of Judge Breuner since 2015, and I have worked as a substitute Judge for the Belgrade City Court since Fall 2020. Working as a substitute Judge for the Court has given me unique insight into how Judge Breuner handles his Court's case load. He cares deeply about each matter before his Court, whether it is civil or criminal. When training me to act as a substitute Judge in his Court, Judge Breuner discussed with me at length the difference in the role that one must play as a Judge rather than an attorney and advocate. He takes care to ensure that each person before the Belgrade City Court is treated fairly, impartially, and with the greatest respect. I know that if he is selected for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judge position, he will do the same for each plaintiff or defendant.

Judge Breuner has also worked as an Adjunct Professor for Montana State University for several years, teaching pre-law courses in the Sociology Department. I have been honored to substitute teach for him on several occasions. He is well-loved by his students, and he takes his work as an educator very seriously. Through his teaching, Judge Breuner has shaped the minds of the future generation of lawyers, law enforcement officers, and law-makers in Montana, an act for which we will all be thankful when they join us in their careers.

I believe that Judge Breuner's experience as a private practitioner, City Court Judge, and beloved Adjunct Professor all make him the best fit for the judicial vacancy in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District Court. He would be sorely missed by the Belgrade community, especially by his Court staff, all of whom are fiercely loyal to him, but I believe that the benefit that he can provide the Gallatin Valley as a District Court Judge will outweigh the cost of losing him as the Belgrade City Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth T. Musick
Musick & Tierney Law

IB Inheritance Builders

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."
Proverbs 13:22*

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Sent VIA:
Electronic Mail

November 10, 2021

RE; Andrew Breuner - 18th Judicial District Court

Greetings Governor Gianforte,

Thank you for your service to Montana. What a refreshing breath of freedom you've brought. Keep up the great work, those of us native to the region appreciate it!

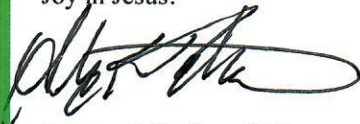
I established this financial advisory firm in 2004 and serve many Montanans. In my frequent visits to your great state and discussing issues with clients, it is apparent the caseload in Gallatin county is in dire need of assistance. I commend you on bringing this position to fruition.

I'm privileged know the honorable Andrew Breuner for more than 25 years. I know of no greater person to fill the vacancy of this new seat. I testify to you of Andy's unwavering capacity to balance justice with liberty, doing so with amazing insight and uniformity. Judge Breuner is a humble man, a rarity in today's age, who also exemplified the confidence required to respectfully stand for truth as is often needed.

He's never met a stranger and has shown himself to be the best questioner and listener I know. He has an uncanny way of making someone feel they're the most important person in the room. This character has allowed him to lead a productive court where everyone serves well and feels valued.

Responsibility, integrity, consistency and honesty are displayed by this man's impeccable character. This country will be a better place if people like yourself do right by placing men like Andrew Breuner into positions of increasing influence for the sake of bettering Montana.

Joy in Jesus!



Jeremy S. Becker, CKA

Jeremy S. Becker • 60 Douglas Drive, Cody, WY 82414 • (307) 586-5449 •
www.inheritancebuilders.com • inheritancebuilders@gmail.com

Jeremy Scott Becker is an Investment Advisor Representative for Jeffery C. Welch and Associates, Inc. Securities offered through JCW&A, registered with the State of California as a Registered Investment Advisor, 805.461.1209. System response and access times may vary due to market conditions, system performance, and other factors. Privacy policy is available upon request. Corporate address is: 1727 Via Rojas, Templeton, CA 93465; phone (805) 461-1209.

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MT Ins. License # 3000108459
CA Ins. License # 0E53238

IB Inheritance Builders

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."
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Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Sent VIA:
Electronic Mail

November 9, 2021

RE: Andrew Breuner - 18th Judicial District Court

Greetings Governor Gianforte,
Thank you for your service to Montana. What a refreshing breath of freedom you've brought. Keep up the great work those of us native to this region appreciate it!

I established Inheritance Builders, a financial advisory firm, in 2004 serving many Montanans. In my frequent visits to your great state and discussing issues with my clients, it is apparent the caseload in Gallatin County is in dire need of assistance. I commend you on bringing this position to fruition.

I'm privileged to have known the honorable Andrew Breuner for more than 25 years. I know of no greater person to fill the vacancy of this new seat in the Judicial District Court of Gallatin County. I solemnly testify to you that Andrew Bruener has an unwavering capacity of balancing justice with liberty, doing so with amazing insight and uniformity. Judge Breuner is an humble man, a rarity in today's age, who also exemplifies the confidence required to respectfully stand for truth as is often needed.

Judge Breuner has uniquely positioned himself to stay in touch with the entire society he serves in Gallatin County. Being birthed to a family of means, one usually sees themselves above others in society, but few cross the chasm of status to fraternize with others outside one's typical social circle. Yet, this amazing man serves his local school community by helping clean the facilities of a private Christian school while sitting on it's board of directors. This shows his willingness to serve the community needs and the fact he's not afraid to get in the trenches alongside others to serve.

He's never met a stranger and has shown himself to be the best questioner and listener I have ever had the opportunity to meet. He has an uncanny way of making someone feel they're the most important person in the room. This character has allowed him to lead a productive court where everyone serves well and feels valued.

Responsibility, integrity, consistency and honesty are displayed by this man's impeccable character. This country will be a better place if people like yourself do the right thing by placing men like Andrew Breuner into a position such as this. In his 28 years practicing law in this country, he has always been willing to take the lowest place and serve quietly doing right each step of the way. It's time He be given the opportunity to broaden his sphere of influence for the sake of Montana.

Joy in Jesus!



Jeremy S. Becker, CKA

Jeremy S. Becker • 60 Douglas Drive, Cody, WY 82414 • (307) 586-5449 •
www.inheritancebuilders.com • inheritancebuilders@gmail.com

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WY Ins. License # 275511
MT Ins. License # 3000108459
CA Ins. License # 0E53238

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

125 WEST MENDENHALL ST., STE 201 :: BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715-3544 :: PHONE 406-586-1926 :: FAX 406-585-7654

November 11, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Fax: (406) 444-4151
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Andrew J. Breuner Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

The purpose of this letter is to provide comment regarding Andy Breuner's application to serve as District Judge in Montana's Eighteenth Judicial District.

I graduated from Montana State University and the University of Montana School of Law and have been licensed by the State Bar of Montana since 2006. I have spent the entirety of my legal career practicing law in Bozeman. I am currently a partner at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman. My areas of focus include criminal defense and personal injury. My prior employment experience includes prosecuting for the City of Bozeman, being a public defender for the Office of the State Public Defender, and working as an associate at Redmon Law Firm.

I've known Andy since my time at the Office of the State Public Defender, which began in 2008. Since one of Andy's practice areas over the years was criminal defense, I had the opportunity to see him in action in court on a consistent basis in all of our local courts. He also represented a number of clients in cases that I prosecuted while working for the City of Bozeman. Andy has always struck me as a passionate and prepared advocate for his clients and he has always displayed the appropriate level of respect and demeanor in the courtroom.

I have also had the opportunity to practice in front of Andy in his capacity as Belgrade City Judge. I have found him to be a consistently fair, prepared and thoughtful Judge. Andy treats every defendant and attorney that appears in front of him with dignity, patience and respect.

In getting to know Andy on a more personal level over the years I've had nothing but positive interactions with him. I find him to be a man of firm values, integrity and honesty. I also believe he has the right disposition to be a District Judge, as he is unflappable and not one to lose his patience or make rash decisions.


I believe Andy would be a great District Judge and I wholeheartedly support his application.

MARK J. LUEBECK :: DANIEL P. BUCKLEY :: TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR :: RYAN D. MCCARTY :: ERIC K. GOLDWARD

-RETIRED-

CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL :: MICHAEL C. COIL :: WILLIAM A. BARTLETT :: BRIAN FAY
CHARLES F. ANGEL III 1932 - 2005

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan D. McCarty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "R".

Ryan D. McCarty, Attorney at Law



92 E Cameron Ave
Belgrade, MT 59714
406-388-4711
belgradeseniorcenter@gmail.com

November 9, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
C/O Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte,

This letter is to recommend Andrew Bruner for the vacant district court judge position in the Montana 18th Judicial District Court of Gallatin County.

We had not had the honor of personally meeting Andrew until recently, but his proven character and integrity has served the Belgrade community well for many years and his reputation preceded him. As a person, he is kind and courteous. He has shown a genuine interest in our senior population and frequents the Senior Center often to share a meal with us.

We have complete confidence that Andrew would serve in the capacity of district judge humbly and consistently and we stand behind his recommendation fully.

Sincerely,

Dave & Lisa Beedy
Kitchen Manger & Executive Director
Belgrade Senior Center

November 9, 2021

Via Email Only

nominatejudges@mt.gov

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Andrew Breuner

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my sincere pleasure to provide this letter of support for Andy Breuner for the position of Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge.

As an attorney who has practiced in Bozeman since 2003, I have known Andy for many years, and as a result know that he possesses all the qualities necessary to be a great district court judge. I have found him to be an incredibly hard worker. I also know and that he is smart and fair, and will listen to all points of view with patience and open-mindedness. Moreover, he possesses common sense and a great temperament. His legal experience is quite varied, and in particular I feel that his background in criminal law makes him a great candidate. His long-time service as Belgrade City Court Judge will allow him to hit the ground running.

I also know Andy to be a dedicated family man, and his devotion to his family speaks highly of his character and integrity. I have no doubt he seeks this position for the right reason, wanting to continue to serve the public fairly, impartially, and justly. Finally, he is an active member of the local community, which I feel is important for a person who seeks this position. The citizens of Gallatin County would be well-served to have such a fine person filling this important position. Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding Andy's qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,



Dennis L. Munson

Slusser, Hannah

From: Doug Samsel <doug@gocmt.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 9:43 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Andy Breuner's Nomination

To Whom it May Concern,

I want to write and let you know of how much I believe Andy Breuner would be a terrific district court judge. I have known Andy for almost 7 years and have been so impressed with his wisdom, compassion, desire for justice and reformation, and legal knowledge.

If there is anything I can answer or do to further support Andy's nomination please reach out.

Sincerely,
Doug



Doug Samsel

Executive Director

Great Oaks Counseling Center

p: (406) 530-6234

f: (406) 219-1789

a: 141 Discovery Dr. - Suite 212
Bozeman, MT 59718

w: www.gocmt.org [gocmt.org] **e:** doug@gocmt.org



[[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)]

Great Oaks Counseling Center seeks to comply with all State and Federal Laws including HIPPA. Therefore, if you are a client of a therapist employed at Great Oaks, we need to inform you that: (1) e-mail communication is not a secure method of communication, (2) any e-mail that is sent to you or by you may be copied and held by various computers through which it passes as it goes from sender to recipient, (3) persons not participating in our communication may intercept our communications by improperly accessing your computer or my computer or a computer unconnected to either of us through which the e-mail passes. We are communicating to you via e-mail because you have consented to receive communications via this medium. If you change your mind and want future communications to be sent in a different fashion, please advise Great Oaks and your therapist AT ONCE.

Sweet Grass County Justice of the Peace/ Big Timber City Judge

Jessie Connolly
P.O. Box 1432
Big Timber, MT 59011

Phone # (406) 932-5150
Fax # (406) 932-5433
e-mail: jconnolly2@mt.gov

Governor Gianforte
Judicial Advisory Committee

RE:
18th Judicial District Court Judge

November 10, 2021

Dear Governor and Judicial Advisory Committee,

I am privileged to support two of the candidates applying for the new 18th Judicial District Court judge position. This letter is in support of Judge Andy Breuner who I am proud to call my colleague.

Judge Breuner has served as City Judge in Belgrade for almost seven years. I regularly communicate with him at our mandatory biannual judge trainings. I learned to know Judge Breuner even more from his involvement with the Montana Magistrates Association (MMA) where I serve as President.

Judge Breuner is not just present in these venues. He actively participates. He engages in the training process by asking questions and being attentive. He is actively involved with MMA meetings and business. He currently serves as the editor of our MMA newsletter and produces a quality document twice each year.

Judge Breuner is a life-long learner who exemplifies hard work and common sense. Coupled with his respect for humanity, he serves his limited court well. His efficient style will compliment any court. The limited courts' loss will be district courts' gain if Judge Breuner serves as the new 18th Judicial District Court judge.

I submit to you that Judge Breuner is an advocate for justice and is a quality choice for district court.

Sincerely,



Jessie Connolly
President MMA

Slusser, Hannah

From: Kimberly Durham <kimberly@whitefishlawyer.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 9:34 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Nomination for Judge Andy Bruener

Dear Selection Committee for the 18th Judicial District:

I am writing to encourage you to select Andy Bruener for the new district court position in Gallatin County. I have been working as an attorney for 13 years – 8 of these years as the County Attorney in Meagher County from 2010-2018 and most recently as a defense attorney. I took on a stack of public defender cases in the Bozeman/Belgrade area over the past year and I have had the chance to work closely with Judge Bruener in the Belgrade City Court. I feel like I have a good point of view from which to write this recommendation. He is truly a judge for the modern era. As practicing attorneys, we need judges to be accessible and understanding and work with people to resolve their matters, not against them, and Judge Bruener certainly accomplishes this.

First: Judge Bruener treats everyone in the courtroom: defendants, counsel and support staff alike, with respect, courtesy and fairness, even when it's been a grueling day. Belgrade is a busy municipal jurisdiction and we have encountered some exhausting clients, trials and matters. In my experience in his courtroom, Judge Bruener's patience literally never waivers. I, for one, have truly appreciated this because it's often been my clients who are the cause of some difficulties! However, Judge Bruener never takes anything out on attorneys, defendants or his staff. He is just extremely pleasant, despite difficult scenarios. As a case in point, I once had a client of mine barge into a full open court with her emotional support chihuahua (she was not on the calendar) demanding to be heard on something trivial. I was mortified. I thought I was finally going to see Judge Bruener's temper because I wanted to lose my temper. However, he was absolutely kind to her. He did not make one mention of her obnoxious animal and he stopped all proceedings and just found a time slot when she could next be heard and was even extremely nice about the entire disruption, as she obviously has a mental health issue, which he could see. He takes everything in stride and just moves on or possibly makes a joke about things, if the situation warrants it, which makes everyone else comfortable, and breaks the ice, in spite of the situation.

Second: Judge Bruener is flexible about the way that things are in the real world and he is isn't caught up in the formalities of the past, which can be helpful, especially when there is a lot to do. For example, he understands that people cannot always get child care to get to court. If people show up with children in tow, he immediately points out that he understands that this was probably not what they had planned on this day, but that it is absolutely fine – it's more important that they SHOWED UP. In Judge Bruener's courtroom, people do not have to be uncomfortable or leave the area just because they have a child with them or happen to be wearing their work clothing. Some judges in other jurisdictions are actually still inflexible about simple issues like this that people may have no control over. These antiquated attitudes hurt access to justice and Judge Bruener's attitude is extremely helpful and a huge relief to people. People with limited financial resources are not able to get to court if they are restricted from taking their child with them or do not have time to change out of their work clothing and they do not need to be belittled for it. Judge Bruener is very accommodating to people and I appreciate that and so do all of my clients and you might be surprised to know that it is rare.

Judge Bruener is understanding of real people and their issues and this should be praised because the court deals with real people with real problems, like poverty and mental health. The 18th Judicial District Court will not always, or even often, be dealing with the issues of the wealthy, and will certainly have to encounter people who do not have it all together, such as accommodating people who do not have child care on the day of court and accommodating work schedules, so they don't lose their jobs and become homeless. Judge Bruener has made the Belgrade Court completely user friendly to the people who need it and welcoming and it's extremely helpful. The job of judge is first and foremost

about public service. We have to move into a modern era that accommodates, not frustrates. Judge Bruener has definitely made that clear in Belgrade – he is a true public servant and that is the role of judge.

Third: He has gained the respect of nearly everyone that has come into his court. I have had several Belgrade clients decide to simply own up to their crime because they “didn’t want to disappoint Judge Breuner” or “waste Judge Bruener’s time” by taking something to trial that they know that they did. This was initially quite mind-boggling to me as their legal counsel, but quite a testament to the effect a judge can have on repeat offenders. He is incredibly well-respected in his community because he is fair and decent and he is actually a good person and it shows. The people who come before him have good reason to trust him. He never goes “off shift” on a defendant simply because he is having a bad day. I can’t say this about the other courts. I can completely trust that my clients will get fairness when the time comes and we can trust that Judge Bruener won’t pull a fast one on sentencing because he doesn’t like them or is in a bad mood that day. This means a lot!

I’m taking the time to write this because Judge Bruener has had an effect on me as an attorney, as well. I came back to practicing law after taking some time off from the practice. After returning to work, I agreed to take cases in about 10 different jurisdictions. After getting a great deal of experience in these different courts, I will say that I like to practice in Judge Bruener’s court the most. Because of this, I have recently tried to limit my cases to only his court because I do not enjoy practicing in some of the other judge’s courts because, frankly, some of them are actually openly unpleasant or unkind to criminal defendants. Criminal defendants are largely suffering from poverty, mental health issues and lack of education. The system needs change, but until it changes we need to work together to reduce crime through other means. Judges who choose to berate and belittle these individuals need to be removed from their posts and kept far away from positions of power because they do so much more harm than good. Judge Bruener cares about people and wants to help them get their lives on track so that crimes are in the rear view mirror for them. Obviously, jail is sometimes a component of the sentence, but you can always hear in the sentence that he actually cares about people and the defendants can tell. Overall, this is the most important quality in a judge.

As a district court judge, I realize Judge Bruener will have other responsibilities outside of the criminal realm, however, the criminal docket will be significant, I imagine. Since that it my experience with Judge Bruener, that is all I can speak about. But, I can say that he is very intelligent and honest and has a sense of humor so I am quite sure he will handle all of the aspects of the position with high quality and integrity.

It is imperative that you choose people like Judge Bruener for these important positions because he has a proven track record of treating all people with fairness, tolerance, respect and compassion. Without a doubt, these are the traits that you should be seeking for your judicial posts and I sincerely hope that you choose Judge Bruener.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck with your decision!

Kimberly Durham, Attorney

DESCHENE & SWANDAL PC

Missoula Office

319 West Pine #2

Missoula, MT 59802

White Sulphur Springs Office

201 W Main

P.O. Box 809

White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Phone: 406-544-6180

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Slusser, Hannah

From: Elizabeth Loretto <ekloretto@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 1:40 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Character Reference for Andy Breuner, applicant for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship

11/11/2021

Governor's Office

Attn: Hannah Slusser

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

Via email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Character Reference for Andy Breuner, applicant for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte and the Governor's Advisory Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to consider Andy Breuner for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship, I am writing today to share a character reference on behalf of Andy. I have known Andy for over twenty-five years, he is my brother-in-law.

I am thankful to know Andy as my brother-in-law, but I have also been fortunate to work with Andy and see his approach to his work with the law and his respect for human dignity firsthand. Early in my own career, Andy gave me the opportunity to provide office support to the criminal defense clinic at Santa Clara University. The demeanor that he modeled in that work environment guides me in my continued professional life. He was always fair in his approach with everyone; his colleagues, the students he was leading, and the clients they were representing.

As I have moved through my career, I have sought counsel from Andy on tough decisions because I knew I could trust him to be honest and objective. I'd like to provide some context about my own career now. I am the Human Resources Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. I follow Andy's model of bringing fairness and an emphasis on the human experience to this agency and the employees I serve. As a California Special District government agency, we work to conserve the natural environment of Santa Clara County, surrounding the urban interface of Silicon Valley. We

strive to balance the preservation of natural resources, wildlife, and watersheds with creating opportunities for the public to connect to the many benefits of nature through hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian activities.

Our family is very proud of Andy, his care for people, his respect for the law, and his fair approach to everything he does. As I was reviewing his application, I noticed that there isn't much explanation for why Andy hasn't been formally involved in the community as much since 2012. I'd like to take the opportunity to share a little about what I know that Andy has done during that time, which he is maybe too humble to share for himself.

In the last 9 years Andy has been very busy with family and business matters. He had to increase the level of care provided to his aging parents, both of whom had Parkinson's Disease. They also lived in California at the time, Andy had to regularly travel out of state to care for them, arrange for their medical care, and manage their financial affairs. In 2018 Andy's parents were able to relocate to Montana, which allowed Andy to participate in their day-to-day care. Ultimately Andy's father passed away in 2019, since then Andy has administered his father's estate and supported his mother in her activities, including helping with her financial affairs, coordinating her in home care, taking her to church and helping with her regular errands and shopping needs.

Andy has always been an incredibly supportive and involved father to his son. For four years this included supporting his son in a competitive traveling karate season for 6-months of the year. Travelling on weekends across the western states for tournaments and clinics. Unfortunately, his son developed a serious autoimmune disease in 2016, which ultimately required intense medical care at the Mayo Clinic. Over the last four years, Andy accompanied his son through multiple surgeries and hospitalizations in Bozeman as well as in Rochester, MN.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak on behalf of Andy as you consider him for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judgeship. If selected Andy will serve Montana and the law well.

Elizabeth Loretto

San Jose, CA

Slusser, Hannah

From: Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability <bart@mtscoja.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 3:11 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] judge appointment

[Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability](#)

2300 North Harris P.O. Box #6563 Helena, MT. 59604

Good afternoon Governor Gianforte,

We are pleased to come to you to make our recommendation for the new position of district court judge in Gallatin County which was approved by the 67th legislature last Spring. Our board of directors urge you to make the appointment, to the 18th judicial district court, to Mr. Andrew Breuner. We are confident that Mr. Breuner will fullfill the necessary requirements of that position and serve the citizens of not only Gallatin County, but all of Montanans, in a professional and respectful way.

Best Regards,
Bart J. Crabtree
President
Montana State Council on Judicial Accountability, Inc.
2300 North Harris P.O. Box #6563
Helena, Montana 59604
406.868.4555 (personal cell)
406.318.9556 (google voice)
www.mtscoja.org [mtscoja.org]
[facebook/mtscoja](https://facebook.com/mtscoja)

Slusser, Hannah

From: Chris Gibson <taz4rbl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 12:09 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner Nomination

To whom it may concern

My name is Chris Gibson, I am a retired Air Force Veteran and the owner of NorthGate Barber Shop in Belgrade. I am writing to endorse Andy Breuner for Gallatin County District Judge. I have known Andy and his family for over 12 years as a client and consider him a good friend. Andy is a dedicated family man and Christian that is always willing to help when needed. As an Attorney along with his tenure as Belgrade City Judge this has prepared him to be an excellent District Judge. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Chris Gibson

Any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at 4065481731

Slusser, Hannah

From: Suzanne Nellen <nellen@nellenlaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:04 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Andy Breuner 18th Judicial District Court Position

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to comment on Judge Breuner’s application for District Court Judge. I have known Judge Breuner for as long as he has practiced law in Gallatin County as well as in his current position as Belgrade City Judge. I also am a Judge and an attorney I have personally witnessed his timeliness, preparedness, and passion for the law. I have appeared before him for my clients. He has demonstrated judicial demeanor, fairness and most importantly, respect for the parties appearing before him.

His experience and desire to be a District Judge is admirable and I strongly recommend him as the top candidate for the position due to his experience as a judge. He has accomplished many improvements at the Belgrade City Court and I believe he can step right into the position of District Court Judge and would be an asset to the 18th Judicial District.

Sincerely

A. Suzanne Nellen

A. Suzanne Nellen, Attorney at Law, PLLC
PO Box 668
Sheridan, MT 59749
Phone: (406) 587-4427
(406) 579-3877

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Elizabeth T. Musick
Karolina G. Tierney



P.O. Box 726
Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 235-1456
www.mtlawpllc.com

November 10, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Via Email to nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Judge Andrew "Andy" Breuner – 18th Judicial District Court Nomination

Governor Gianforte:

Please find this letter as strong support for Judge Breuner for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position.

I have had the privilege of practicing in front of Judge Breuner for almost the entirety of my seven-year career as a criminal defense attorney. When I first started at the Office of Public Defender, I was assigned as attorney-of-record for half of all of the assigned cases in that court and continued in that position for several years. I now continue to practice in his court as a private attorney.

Over the years and through my almost 400 cases in his court, Belgrade City Court has always been a pleasure to practice in. Judge Breuner's demeanor and judicial approach has fostered an environment where defendants understand the severity of their actions but are treated as human beings. It is clear that Judge Breuner listens to all sides: prosecutorial, defense, victims, and defendants. He is fair, humble, and consistent, and I have not seen politics or personal beliefs affect his rulings. I have also witnessed first-hand his ability to manage the court and cases as Belgrade has grown quickly and the docket has increased substantially over the years. Judge Breuner was also instrumental in making Belgrade City Court a court of record. He is well-respected by his peers, community, and those involved in the cases over which he presides. As the sole candidate with judicial experience, and with his impeccable track record, he would be an asset to our community and the State of Montana.

My partner, Elizabeth Musick, and I have also had the privilege of being substitute judges for Belgrade City Court and have been guest speakers in Judge Breuner's classes at Montana State University for the past couple of years. This has provided me with some more insight into his judicial process and analysis. Combined with his varied experience as a jurist, in criminal defense, family matters, and civil practice, I believe that he would greatly benefit the Gallatin County community at large in the role of District Court judge.

While it would be a loss to the Belgrade City Court for Judge Breuner to be appointed to the current vacancy of the newest 18th Judicial District Court Judge, I highly support his application.

Sincerely,

Karolina Tierney
Musick & Tierney Law, PLLC