

Afton Ball  
Afton.Ball@moultonbellingham.com

November 13, 2021

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

Re: Charles Brent Brooks, *Applicant for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship*

Dear Hannah Slusser,

Having the pleasure of knowing and working with Brent Brooks for more than eight years, I would like to recommend him to your office for the Judicial Vacancy of the Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County.

I met Brent early in my career, when he was the City Attorney of Billings. I have found him to be a valuable resource and mentor for me in my practice. His knowledgeable advice, legal reasoning, and detailed analysis have been incredibly beneficial when collaborating on a case or when I have been seeking a second opinion on another matter.

More than that, Brent is a class act. He has always demonstrated the kind of temperament a litigation attorney wishes to see in a judge: patient, thoughtful, considerate, and decisive, and appreciative of a little humor.

I hope you strongly consider Brent for the vacancy. He would be a great addition to the bench.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By Afton E. Ball

Gina Dahl  
Billings City Attorney  
Billings, MT 59101

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brentley Brooks (Brent Brooks) for District Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District

Please accept my comments regarding the application of Brent Brooks for the appointment of District Court Judge in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

I have only had the honor of knowing Brent Brooks for about five years but in that time, I have learned much about his character. I worked closely with Brent for almost four years before he retired from the Billings City Attorney's office. He taught me much during this time and I learned many valuable lessons from him.

Brent is extremely knowledgeable about the law and has an amazing memory that astounds almost everyone who has worked with him. As a City Attorney, it is important to be well-informed in various areas of the law, even the most esoteric topics one wouldn't expect to come up in the practice of a municipal attorney. Brent has an impressive collection of knowledge as well as a thorough understanding of areas of the law that many attorneys will never approach in their careers.

He is one of the most thorough attorneys I have ever known and never acts without careful consideration. My observations of his behavior have confirmed he has the utmost respect for others regardless of their stature in life. These qualities along with his professionalism prove he has the temperament to be an excellent judge.

Brent has had a lengthy career as a public servant, first as a law clerk for Judge Battin, then as a Deputy Yellowstone County Attorney, followed by his 22 years as Billings' City Attorney. His experience with both civil and criminal practice make him well suited for the bench. His career path has shown his dedication to the community and his desire to serve that community. Brent has the intelligence and skills necessary to be an effective District Court Judge and this community would be well-served by more judges with the qualifications Brent possesses.

Sincerely,



Gina Dahl  
Billings City Attorney

MARK D. PARKER  
CASEY HEITZ  
SHAWN P. COSGROVE  
GEOFFREY T. CUNNINGHAM  
MICHAEL L. DUNPHY

401 North 31st St., Suite 805  
P.O. Box 7212  
Billings, MT 59103-7212  
(406) 245-9991  
FAX (406) 245-0971

November 12, 2021

**VIA: Email and Facsimile**

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)  
(406) 444-4151

Re: Application of Charles Brent Brooks for District  
Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

Dear Ms. Slusser:

We write to unequivocally support Brent Brooks' application for the vacant District Court Judge position for the Thirteenth Judicial District. Throughout our legal careers, we have had the opportunity to work with Brent in the capacity as law clerks, Deputy County Attorneys, and as private-practice attorneys. Brent always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and competence during these interactions.

Brent has the necessary experience and temperament to do the job very well. His experience and past track record includes: (1) Deputy Yellowstone County Attorney; (2) Billings City Attorney; and (3) private practice attorney. Brent's past experience will no doubt allow him to be an effective District Court Judge.

We have known Brent for a long time and have witnessed his fairness, competence and professionalism on many occasions. Brent would do a terrific job as District Court Judge and thus, we unequivocally support Brent Brook's application for appointment as District Court Judge.

Very truly yours,



Casey Heitz



Shawn P. Cosgrove



**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Floberg Real Estate

November 10, 2021

Honorable Governor Gianforte,

I respectfully submit this letter in representation and support of Attorney CHARLES BRENTLY BROOKS for the vacancy in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judgeship in Yellowstone County.

My initial acquaintance with Mr. Brooks began in 1980 during his tenure as Judicial Law Clerk for Chief Judge James F. Battin. This opportunity resulted from my position as an Investigator for the Billings Police Department.

The professional relationship with Mr. Brooks expanded when he became the Yellowstone Deputy County Attorney and City of Billings Attorney.

Mr. Brooks has become a very accomplished and recognized Attorney within the City of Billings and throughout the State of Montana. My observation of his professional and personal conduct extends beyond the courts having knowledge of his committed engagement in the community.

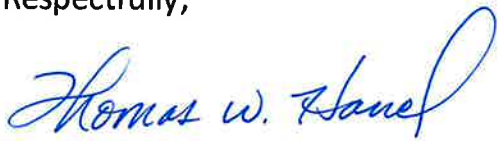
My experience in law enforcement career allowed me the opportunity to work very closely with Judges on various levels, many occasions testifying as an expert witness. Situations where professional demeanor and fairness are extremely important and an influential element within the court system. In my professional opinion Mr. Brooks possesses the character and skills necessary to fulfill the position of a District Court Judge.



I would highly recommend consideration for CHARLES BRENTLY BROOKS for the vacancy of the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and confident that he will serve the State of Montana and citizens with distinguishment and dignity.

I wish you and the First Lady Susan the absolute best, thank you for all you do, we continue to pray for you.

Respectfully,



Thomas W. Hanel, Managing Broker Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices

Ret. LT., Billings Police Department

Former Mayor, City of Billings and Big Timber, MT

[Tom@tomhanel.com](mailto:Tom@tomhanel.com)

406.690.4448





## Cole Law Firm

PLLC

November 12, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Charles Brent Brooks

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I write in support of the application of Brent Brooks for appointment to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District.

It was my pleasure to work with Brent for more than 10 years while he was the Billings City Attorney, first in my role as an attorney for various clients who had business with the city and then, beginning in January 2018, as mayor of the City of Billings.

Brent came to his position as city attorney with substantial courtroom experience. After clerking for the Hon. James F. Battin in Billings, Brent served as Deputy County Attorney in Yellowstone County for many years. He then served as city attorney for more than 20 years, during which he supervised a team of government and private lawyers who were responsible for thousands of criminal prosecutions and civil cases brought by and against the City of Billings.

I worked with Brent very closely in my role as mayor for more than three years, and during that time I observed that Brent has an unflagging work ethic and the highest level of honesty and integrity. Brent keeps a cool head even when confronted with tight deadlines, intense public scrutiny, and unpleasant personalities, leading me to believe that he would demonstrate a confident and competent judicial temperament.

Brent is fair-minded, even-tempered, intelligent and hard-working. Those ingredients are essential for a good judge, and I highly recommend him for this position.

Very truly yours,

William A. Cole

**William A. Cole**

Tel (406) 294-5700 • Fax (406) 294-5702 • bcole@cofirm.com

3860 AVE B • STE C WEST • BILLINGS, MT 59102-6273



**Slusser, Hannah**

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**From:** Ryan M. Sullivan <sullivan.ryan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 13, 2021 11:21 PM  
**To:** NominateJudges  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Application of Charles Brentley Brooks

November 13, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte

Judicial Advisory Committee

Office of the Governor

Attn: Hanna Slusser

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brentley Brooks

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in favor of an appointment for Mr. Brent Brooks for District Court Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District in Yellowstone County, Montana. I worked with Mr. Brooks when I was a member of the Billings City Council (2016-2018), and I can tell you that he is incredibly fair, even tempered, and well versed in the law, and would make a fantastic addition to the bench.

What makes Mr. Brooks stand out from the field of candidates is his depth and breadth of knowledge, acquired over the years from his experiences with the City of Billings. Managing the largest city in Montana's legal department meant Mr. Brooks not only had to navigate a busy and difficult municipal caseload, but he also had to represent the City in several high-profile civil suits, and then also work with a diverse group of council members to provide the very best, well researched, and unbiased legal advice possible. Given that there were several hot button topics on a council that, in my two years, was ideologically homogeneous, you can only imagine the work that Mr. Brooks has given to the city during his tenure with the City of Billings.

Mr. Brooks will be an excellent addition to the bench, and his forty years of service to the State of Montana, Yellowstone County, the City of Billings, and a multitude of charitable causes, prove that he's a winner and looking out for what's best in his community. Choosing him for the bench will put an excellent community leader and jurist in a role where he will not disappoint.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

Ryan M Sullivan, PE

Former Councilmember

Billings City Council



November 12, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Letter of recommendation for Charles Brentley Brooks for District Court Judge

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I have known Charles "Brent" Brooks for over twenty years, first as a deputy Yellowstone County prosecutor, then as Billings' City Attorney. Throughout his career, Brent has exhibited excellent judicial character and self-discipline, all while maintaining an excellent sense of humor.

Throughout his career, Brent has displayed a sharp legal mind and consistently demonstrated his ability to analyze complicated legal issues and provide solid advice. He thoroughly researches all sides of an issue, applies common sense, applicable law, and makes decisions and recommendations that are appropriate. Although I would expect this from one's counsel, I find it admirable that Brent takes the opposing party's point of view into consideration as well, always looking for an amicable solution.

As a judge, I know Brent will be just, fair, impartial, and unbiased. I have seen Brent in some very tense and critical situations. He always remained calm and patient and seems to be at his best with things are most hectic.

Brent Brooks has all the credentials, experience, and wisdom to be an outstanding District Court judge. I am positive that he will dedicate himself to the bench as he did to his other positions and apply himself to provide thoughtful deliberation and the highest judicial standards. Accordingly, I support the nomination of Charles Brentley Brooks for District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rich St. John'.

Rich St. John  
Chief of Police

P.O. Box 1554  
Billings, MT 59103  
P 406.657.8460  
F 406.657.8417

Rich St. John  
Police Chief

Jeremy House  
Assistant Chief

E bpd@billingsmt.gov  
billingsmt.gov

**Parker, Heitz & Cosgrove, PLLC**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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401 North 31st St., Suite 805  
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November 12, 2021

**VIA: Email and Facsimile**

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)  
(406) 444-4151

Re: Application of Charles Brent Brooks for District  
Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

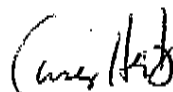
Dear Ms. Slusser:

We write to unequivocally support Brent Brooks' application for the vacant District Court Judge position for the Thirteenth Judicial District. Throughout our legal careers, we have had the opportunity to work with Brent in the capacity as law clerks, Deputy County Attorneys, and as private-practice attorneys. Brent always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and competence during these interactions.

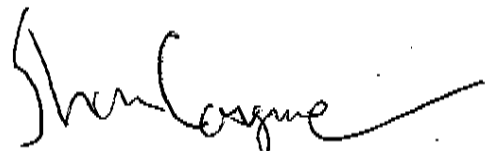
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We have known Brent for a long time and have witnessed his fairness, competence and professionalism on many occasions. Brent would do a terrific job as District Court Judge and thus, we unequivocally support Brent Brook's application for appointment as District Court Judge.

Very truly yours,



Casey Heitz



Shawn P. Cosgrove

Gina Dahl  
Billings City Attorney  
Billings, MT 59101

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brentley Brooks (Brent Brooks) for District Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial District

Please accept my comments regarding the application of Brent Brooks for the appointment of District Court Judge in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

I have only had the honor of knowing Brent Brooks for about five years but in that time, I have learned much about his character. I worked closely with Brent for almost four years before he retired from the Billings City Attorney's office. He taught me much during this time and I learned many valuable lessons from him.

Brent is extremely knowledgeable about the law and has an amazing memory that astounds almost everyone who has worked with him. As a City Attorney, it is important to be well-informed in various areas of the law, even the most esoteric topics one wouldn't expect to come up in the practice of a municipal attorney. Brent has an impressive collection of knowledge as well as a thorough understanding of areas of the law that many attorneys will never approach in their careers.

He is one of the most thorough attorneys I have ever known and never acts without careful consideration. My observations of his behavior have confirmed he has the utmost respect for others regardless of their stature in life. These qualities along with his professionalism prove he has the temperament to be an excellent judge.

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Sincerely,



Gina Dahl  
Billings City Attorney



# SCARLETT & CROLL, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
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201 NORTH CHARLES STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-4110

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(410) 468-3100  
TELEFAX (410) 332-4026

ROBERT B. SCARLETT\*  
ANDREW M. CROLL

\* ALSO ADMITTED IN D.C.

[RScarlett@ScarlettCroll.com](mailto:RScarlett@ScarlettCroll.com)

VIRGINIA OFFICE:  
2331 MILL ROAD  
SUITE 100  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

November 10, 2021

Nominate Judges  
ATTN: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Charles Brently Brooks

Dear Ms. Susser:

Please consider this a letter of recommendation on behalf of Charles Brently Brooks' application to be a Judge with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. Please also consider this letter the highest recommendation that I can give to an individual for this position.

I have known and worked closely with Mr. Brooks for well over a decade. We both volunteer our time to provide legal services and advice to the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. ("NSP"), a non-profit corporation. The NSP is the preeminent education organization training ski patrollers throughout our country. NSP is composed of approximately 32,000 individuals who provide first responder medical care for skiers and boarders who are injured at ski areas throughout the country. It is also the only civil organization that has formed a division of the US Army, being the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, which fought in the Italian Alps during World War 2. For the organization's service to the American public, the United States Congress awarded NSP a federal charter making it one of the very few national charters corporations in the country.

For the past 12 years Mr. Brooks and I have been on the Legal Committee guiding this organization on legal matters. The NSP Legal Committee is made up of about 12 lawyers from though out the county who volunteer their time and skills to help legally guide the NSP. I was the National Legal Advisor and Mr. Brooks was an integral part of the Legal Committee. Working together, Mr. Brooks and I, with the other members of the committee, successfully guided the NSP on numerous difficult legal matters. What Mr. Brooks brought to this task and the Committee was his wealth of legal knowledge and, most important, his "common sense".

Nominate Judges  
ATTN: Hannah Slusser  
November 10, 2021  
Page 2

It is simply an honor and a privilege to recommend Charles Brentley Brooks for Judge with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

Very truly yours,

SCARLETT & CROLL, P.A.



Robert B. Scarlett

RBS/akr

cc: Charles Brently Brooks, Esquire (via email)

# CHRISTENSEN FULTON & FILZ, PLLC

19 36<sup>th</sup> Street West, Suite 3, Billings, Montana 59102-4303

John R. Christensen  
Timothy A. Filz\*  
Angus B. Fulton\*  
Patience A. Llewellyn\*

Direct 406-869-4472  
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[filz@cfflawfirm.net](mailto:filz@cfflawfirm.net)

\*LL.M. Taxation

November 8, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Charles Brentley Brooks

Dear Ms. Slusser:

It is indeed an honor and a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Charles Brentley Brooks ("Brent") as a District Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.


I dealt with Brent on numerous occasions during his tenure as City Attorney. I always found Brent to be approachable and to consider with an open mind the positions raised by all parties. His approach was always measured and non-partisan.

Some of the matters I handled came before the City Council and were relatively straight forward. Others such as the resolution of the opposition to the construction of the FedEx Ground facility on Hesper and Gabel roads in Billings, Montana were highly charged. Brent facilitated discussions between the developers and the opposition group and ultimately a compromise was reached with satisfied the parties and the facility was constructed. Without Brent's involvement, I am not certain we would have reached a successful compromise.

On a personal note, when my significant other passed away and I wanted to have a bench placed in a city park we frequented in her honor, Brent was instrumental in getting the bench approved and installed in time for a planned memorial service. I mention this because I believe empathy is an important trait for a judge to have. Brent clearly passes this test.

Brent is well qualified and, if appointed, will serve with honor, integrity, and fairness and I strongly recommend Brent for the appointment as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Filz

TAF/jg

November 7, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte  
Judicial Advisory Committee  
Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brentley Brooks

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a privilege to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Charles Brentley Brooks, who is an applicant for a Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judge position. Mr. Brooks, who was Billings City Attorney for 22 years, was a colleague for two years when I was Billings Assistant City Administrator and then reported directly to me for 11 years when I was Billings City Administrator.

Mr. Brooks will bring to the bench an extensive history in both civil and criminal legal work. While with the City of Billings, he supervised a staff of 15 civil and criminal attorneys, and supporting staff in providing all aspects of the city's legal activities. Prior to his time with the city, he was a law clerk for James F. Battin, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, District of Montana. He became a Deputy Yellowstone County Attorney who tried criminal cases ranging from minor misdemeanor matters to deliberate homicide for more than 10 years. He then was appointed Chief Civil Deputy, advising the Yellowstone County Board of County Commissioners and elected county department heads on civil matters. Subsequently, he was selected competitively as City Attorney. Now in private practice, he has handled civil cases including business litigation. He also serves part-time as the City Attorney for Roundup, MT.

In addition to his administrative duties at the city, Mr. Brooks was the chief advisor on legal matters to me, the City Council and the city department heads. His activities in that area were similar to the kind of decisions and rulings judges must make, often under pressure. He attended weekly City Council meetings, where his legal opinions were requested on matters before the governing body. Some of those were written opinions, presented after he was able to devote the time needed for thorough research. But other opinions were requested without prior notice during public hearings, based on his general knowledge of city ordinances, and of state and Federal statutes. Mr. Brooks also responded several times a week to inquiries from me and the department heads on issues raised by citizens and outside counsel. In all these matters, he was thoughtful, clear and prompt in his response.

Additionally, Mr. Brooks was active on the city's behalf at the state level. He represented the City of Billings on the claims committee of the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA), a member-owned organization that provides self-funded employee benefit, liability, property and workers' compensation coverage to Montana towns and cities. In times when


Charles Brentley Brooks—Page 2

MMIA-appointed attorneys were handling significant litigation on behalf of the city, he coordinated the city's assistance in trial preparation and often attended the trials as a resource to the litigators. He conducted several arbitrations as the city's representative. He also testified on the city's behalf at the Montana Legislature.

Mr. Brooks is intelligent, and calm, listening to and considering all sides of an issue before providing an opinion. As someone who has worked with legal departments for more than 30 years in city and county governments, I believe he is a dedicated public servant with integrity and a "judicial temperament". He would be a tremendous asset to Yellowstone County, the District Court, and the State of Montana.

If there are any questions, or additional information is needed, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Christina F. Volek

3214 Horton Smith Lane

Billings, MT 59106

(406) 652-3500

Cc: Charles Brentley Brooks



*David P. Legare*

P.O. Box 1080  
Billings, MT 59103-1080  
(406) 294-9450  
Fax (406) 294-9451

[dplegare@legarelaw.com](mailto:dplegare@legarelaw.com)

November 10, 2021

**VIA Email**

Hannah Slusser  
Governor's Office  
PO Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

*Re: Charles Brent Brooks, Applicant for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship*

To: Hannah Slusser

I have known Charles Brent Brooks (Brent) since I started working with him at the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office in 1995. Based on his strong intellect, extensive legal experience, and unquestioned ethics, he is uniquely qualified to assume the responsibilities of District Court Judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

His strong intellect is evidenced by his clerkship with the Honorable Chief Judge James F. Battin in the United States District Court, District of Montana directly after Brent's graduation from law school. His analytical skills are also demonstrated by his ability to excel in challenging areas of both criminal and civil law. Over Brent's 41-year career, he has tried violent crime cases to a jury and litigated complex civil cases at the highest level in Montana. Frankly, after he moved to the position of Billings City Attorney, I marveled at how Brent fielded spontaneous questions at City Council meetings on topics ranging from constitutional matters to liability issues. In short, Brent's intelligence combined with his diverse legal background make him well qualified to serve as a district court judge.

Further, as a trial attorney, I want a district court judge with experience in the courtroom. I want a judge to know the rules of procedure and evidence. I want a judge who knows how to apply the rules to secure a just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of a case. We are fortunate in the Thirteenth Judicial District, because the judges are generally qualified with significant courtroom experience. Similarly, Brent possesses significant courtroom experience. He has spent years solving problems in a courtroom. His experience will serve everyone well in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Finally, a judge's ethical qualifications should be impeccable and unquestioned. Brent's ethics meet this extraordinarily high standard. Since 1995, I worked cases with Brent and against him. During all those years, I always found Brent to be direct, honest, and compassionate. His focus

is to get to the truth and solve the problem, but he is not afraid to fight for the rule of law. These qualities are the qualities of a great judge. I respectfully urge Governor Gianforte to appoint Brent as judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David P. Legare". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent.

David P. Legare

DPL/djs



Gerry P. Fagan  
Gerry.Fagan@moultonbellingham.com

27 North 27th Street  
Suite 1900  
P. O. Box 2559  
Billings, Montana 59103-2559  
Phone (406) 248-7731  
Fax (406) 248-7889

November 10, 2021

Submitted by email: [nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Governor Greg Gianforte  
Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slussen  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to you to comment on the application of Brent Brooks for the position of District Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County, Montana. I recommended Brent and urge you to consider his application strongly. Brent is well suited to become a capable and reasoned Judge.

I have worked with and known Brent for over fifteen years in conjunction with his duties as the City Attorney for the City of Billings. Brent accomplished much for the City of Billings and served its citizens well. The City Attorney position was very challenging and required a broad range of legal skills and knowledge. Brent also had to employ his legal skills to serve a broad range of interested parties, from concerned citizens to City Council members to City Administrative staff. He also had to organize and manage the City Attorney Department. Brent is also unfailing polite and respectful to all, even in difficult situations. Brent has also gained valuable experience in criminal law and in civil law, including in private practice.

Brent's skills and experience will serve him well as a District Court judge. He is extremely experienced and knowledgeable. Brent is an excellent choice for the position, and his appointment would allow him to continue his long service to local citizens. I respectfully urge you to consider Brent's application closely.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Vice President and Shareholder,  
Moulton Bellingham PC

# Crist, Krogh, Alke & Nord, PLLC

Attorneys at Law



Harlan B. Krogh  
[hkrogh@cristlaw.com](mailto:hkrogh@cristlaw.com)  
Telephone (406) 255-0400  
Facsimile (406) 255-0697

The Securities Building  
2708 First Avenue North, Suite 300  
Billings, Montana 59101

November 11, 2021

Via Email Transmission and  
U.S. Mail

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Application of Charles Brently Brooks for District Court Judge

Dear Ms. Slusser:

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Brent Brooks for the selection of District Court Judge for the Montana Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County. I have known Brent for over 30 years and I submit this letter with my highest recommendation.

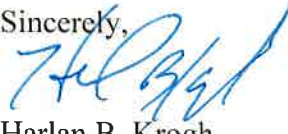
Brent's legal career is one that is marked with honorable public service. He served for many years as Deputy County Attorney for Yellowstone County where he prosecuted numerous criminal felonies and other crimes. Brent's skills were quickly noticed and coveted as he was promoted to Chief Deputy Civil Attorney where he provided sage advice and legal analysis for the benefit of the Yellowstone County Commissioners. He served in that senior position until the City of Billings needed his expertise. Brent served as the City Attorney for Billings with distinction for approximately 22 years. Brent is highly regarded by other City Attorneys for his knowledge and experience of local governmental issues. He is a great resource for many of his colleagues and I know they rely upon his advice. After his brief retirement, Brent seamlessly transitioned to private practice where he has provided his superior legal skills for his clients in the private arena.

Throughout his career, I have worked closely with him and I have had the pleasure to observe his remarkable commitment and dedication to the task at hand. Brent has exhibited excellent legal skills in developing and presenting evidence, writing legal arguments, analyzing complex legal strategy, and delivering clear and cogent arguments. He has handled many challenging legal issues and disputes during his career. His strong work ethic would serve well as a judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Brent is also well respected throughout the local bar association. His integrity and character have been a foundation to who Brent is as a person, and as an attorney. He is a man of honor and one that strives to see that justice is served. Brent's professionalism is outstanding. He has treated legal counsel and all litigants with dignity and respect throughout his distinguished career. I believe that Brent would have the appropriate judicial temperament to serve honorably as a district court judge for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Please consider this letter as my recommendation that Brent Brooks is highly qualified for the position of district court judge.

Sincerely,



Harlan B. Krogh

HBK/ckr

November 9, 2021

Office of the Governor

Attn: Hannah Slusser

PO Box 200801

Helena MT 59620

RE: Charles Brentley Books

Dear Ms. Slusser:

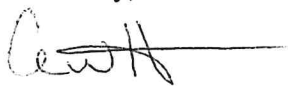
It is both my honor and privilege to write this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Brent Books to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. I have known and worked with Brent for more than two decades, and know him to be a person of character, intelligence, and integrity.

In my capacity as the CEO of the Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA), I came to know Brent 20 years ago when he left the Yellowstone County Attorney's office to become the City Attorney for the City of Billings. Working with Brent in my professional capacity, I have come to know Brent to be an extremely talented attorney with a broad scope of knowledge and understanding of very complex legal issues. He has served as a mentor to other municipal attorneys over the years. The MMIA utilized him often to facilitate and present at continuing legal education seminars that we conducted for municipal attorneys over the years. He has researched and presented on difficult topics such as how to regulate medical marijuana at the local level after the Montana Legislature legalized marijuana for medical purposes and legal issues concerning homelessness, panhandling and transiency, and various other municipal law issues.

Brent also served as an astute and valuable member of the MMIA claims committee assisting in evaluating civil claims for liability and valuation. In this capacity, Brent demonstrated a calm, even tempered demeanor in his approach to evaluating the facts and legalities of each case. Brent was often looked to by his peers on this committee for his thoughtful and well-reasoned analysis. Through the years he participated in several court-ordered mediations as a MMIA Claims Committee representative and in Federal cases had ultimate settlement authority.

It is my personal opinion that his knowledge, experience, integrity, work ethic and temperament will all serve to make Brent an exceptional District Court Judge, and it is my privilege to provide this recommendation for his appointment the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan W. Hulse", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan W. Hulse

November 4, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brently Brooks for District Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

It is my pleasure to be able to add my comments to support the application of Brent Brooks for the upcoming vacant District Judge position in Yellowstone County.


I have known Brent as a fellow attorney for approximately forty years, since his beginning his law career by clerking for the Honorable James Battin, U.S. District Judge. Most recently, for the eight years I served on the Billings City Council, ending in 2020, I had the opportunity to work closely with Brent in his position as City Attorney. Without hesitation it is my opinion that Brent has the qualities necessary to be a great trial judge. Brent knows Montana well, and he additionally has an evenness of temperament that will serve the citizens of Montana well on the bench.

Having practiced law in Montana for over fifty years, I have become familiar with the reputation of many Montana lawyers. I know that Brent has continually enjoyed the reputation of being a skilled litigator and a lawyer with whom other lawyers are pleased to interact because of his honesty and trustworthiness. As City Attorney, Brent had the awesome responsibility of being beholden to many "bosses," including the City Administrator, a City Council of eleven, and over 100,000 residents. My observation is that Brent managed to be a skillful lawyer, an effective advocate, and a talented mediator.

It is important to note that Brent's experience comes from his work in many various aspects of the law, including both civil and criminal. This is an essential requirement for an effective district judge.

Perhaps more important, however, is the fact that Brent displays intelligence, common sense, and compassion in all aspects of his life. These are traits that will make him a credit to the Montana judiciary, and to the State of Montana as a whole. I can think of very few persons who would be more qualified to be a Montana District Judge.

Sincerely yours



Brent R. Cromley



Douglas H. Cornelius, M.D.  
4212 Pine Cove Rd.  
Billings, MT 59106  
406-698-8607  
November 3, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Charles Brent Brooks (Brent Brooks)

Dear Ms. Slusser:

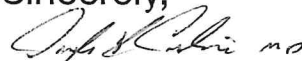
It is my privilege and pleasure for me to write this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Brent Brooks to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

As a retired anesthesiologist, I have no direct knowledge of Brent's professional accomplishments or experience. I am, however, able to comment on his character—in my mind the single most important thing to consider in appointing a judge.

I have known Brent for approximately two years in the context of a weekly men's group/Bible study. He is, first and foremost, a man of strong faith who lives his life according to Christian principles. He is thoughtful, articulate, considerate, fair, and has a great sense of humor. He has a tremendous work ethic and gives considerable time to the community (e.g. volunteer ski patrol for many years). I have never known him to say an unkind word about anybody. I really think that all of these attributes would make Brent an exceptional judge.

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

Sincerely,



Douglas H. Cornelius, M.D.

James Kohles  
17 Stanford CT  
Billings, MT 59102

November 10, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

SENT VIA EMAIL and REGULAR: [nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Application of Charles Brentley Brooks for District Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

Dear Ms. Slusser:

It is my sincere honor and pleasure to write this letter of support and recommendation of Brent Brooks for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judge vacancy that will occur upon District Judge Greg Todd's retirement later this year.

Brent and I became acquainted with each other as members of a weekly Bible study group four years ago. During our time together Brent and I have had numerous personal conversations about our backgrounds and our views on various issues. Because of these conversations I have been able to know Brent well and I have found him to be an outstanding individual. Brent is honorable, respectful and most of all trustworthy. These characteristics make one an honorable man.

I retired from the Billings School District as a high school administrator, and I have been a resident of Montana for seventy-one years and a resident of Billings the last forty-five years. During that time I have met and become acquainted with many Billings residents, two of those have been District Judge Mike Moses and District Judge Greg Todd. Although we do not always agree on every issue, I admire and respect each of them as Judges. Both men are outstanding and dedicated judges, and I have no reservations in stating that Brent Brooks would be equal to these two men in dedication and in character.

Not ever being involved in the judicial system, I know little about the daily demands of a District Judge. However, what I do know is that Brent Brooks has demonstrated to me that he is an upright Montana resident with high moral character, and I feel he would be an outstanding individual in this Judicial position. I highly recommend him.

Thank you for considering my thoughts and support for Brent.

Sincerely yours,

  
Jim Kohles



**BILLINGS OFFICE**  
**Billings, Montana**

P.O. Box 81210  
Billings, MT 59108

PHONE (406) 656-0605  
FAX (406) 656-0824  
[www.hertzbillings.com](http://www.hertzbillings.com)



Keith McNally  
[kmcnally@overlandwest.com](mailto:kmcnally@overlandwest.com)

November 10, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, Mt 59620

Re: Charles Brent Brooks

To Whom it May Concern:

It is a great privilege to send this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Brent Brooks for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship. Brent is a man of integrity, honesty, and the utmost character.

I have had the honor of knowing Brent for the last nineteen years. While my business association has been limited, as the General Manager of a local business in Billings, Brent is known in our community as a hardworking, and honest man who represents the best of what mankind has to offer. He stands for the highest of values and has acted accordingly to everyone he has dealt with, regardless of social bias.

While a person's life away from work may not always reflect the character they portray in the workplace, Brent is the picture of "what you see is what you get". He lives out the integrity he uses in business, in his personal and family life. His calm demeanor, and problem-solving skills in critical matters allow him to make the most difficult decisions with wisdom.

As an individual who cares about the community, and its leadership, as well as a man who is looking to support the best of who we are as people in Montana, I urge you to appoint Brent to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Keith McNally', is written over a large, loopy flourish that extends to the right.

Keith McNally

November 10, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte  
Office of the Governor  
Attention: Hannah Slussen  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

RE: Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write on behalf of Charles Brent Brooks, an applicant for the open judgeship in the Thirteenth Judicial District here in Billings.

After 40 years of practicing law in Montana (I just retired), I am very well acquainted with the function of our local district courts and the role judges play in them. I have primarily represented individuals, businesses, and entities of the State of Montana government (such as MSU and other state departments) when they were sued for torts, employment discrimination, or breach of contract in civil cases. Over the years that I have practiced in this State, the Montana Supreme Court has gone through periods where plaintiffs were favored, and periods when the scales of justice were more evenly balanced. So having faced a biased court on occasions, I feel strongly that a judge should not tip the scale one way or the other, and judges should enforce the law the legislature writes without injecting any personal or political program or preference.

Brent Brooks served for many years as the City Attorney for the City of Billings, and in the last few years I worked closely with Brent on several cases for the City. I got to know Brent's philosophy about the law and the Montana court system. I am confident that Brent would provide excellent service to the Thirteenth Judicial Court communities with a fair and unbiased approach to the job of judge and would carefully and conscientiously follow the law without injecting any personal bias. Brent would make an excellent judge, and I appreciate his willingness to serve.

Sincerely,



W. ANDERSON FORSYTHE

# SCARLETT & CROLL, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
SUITE 600  
201 NORTH CHARLES STREET  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201-4110

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(410) 468-3100  
TELEFAX (410) 332-4026

ROBERT B. SCARLETT\*  
ANDREW M. CROLL

\* ALSO ADMITTED IN D.C.

[RScarlett@ScarlettCroll.com](mailto:RScarlett@ScarlettCroll.com)

VIRGINIA OFFICE:  
2331 MILL ROAD  
SUITE 100  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

November 10, 2021

Nominate Judges  
ATTN: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Charles Brently Brooks

Dear Ms. Susser:

Please consider this a letter of recommendation on behalf of Charles Brently Brooks' application to be a Judge with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. Please also consider this letter the highest recommendation that I can give to an individual for this position.

I have known and worked closely with Mr. Brooks for well over a decade. We both volunteer our time to provide legal services and advice to the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. ("NSP"), a non-profit corporation. The NSP is the preeminent education organization training ski patrollers throughout our country. NSP is composed of approximately 32,000 individuals who provide first responder medical care for skiers and boarders who are injured at ski areas throughout the country. It is also the only civil organization that has formed a division of the US Army, being the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, which fought in the Italian Alps during World War 2. For the organization's service to the American public, the United States Congress awarded NSP a federal charter making it one of the very few national charters corporations in the country.

For the past 12 years Mr. Brooks and I have been on the Legal Committee guiding this organization on legal matters. The NSP Legal Committee is made up of about 12 lawyers from throughout the country who volunteer their time and skills to help legally guide the NSP. I was the National Legal Advisor and Mr. Brooks was an integral part of the Legal Committee. Working together, Mr. Brooks and I, with the other members of the committee, successfully guided the NSP on numerous difficult legal matters. What Mr. Brooks brought to this task and the Committee was his wealth of legal knowledge and, most important, his "common sense".

Nominate Judges  
ATTN: Hannah Slusser  
November 10, 2021  
Page 2

It is simply an honor and a privilege to recommend Charles Brentley Brooks for Judge with the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

Very truly yours,

SCARLETT & CROLL, P.A.



Robert B. Scarlett

RBS/akr

cc: Charles Brently Brooks, Esquire (via email)

Brent R. Cromley  
Brent.Cromley@moultonbellingham.com

November 4, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brently Brooks for District Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

It is my pleasure to be able to add my comments to support the application of Brent Brooks for the upcoming vacant District Judge position in Yellowstone County.

I have known Brent as a fellow attorney for approximately forty years, since his beginning his law career by clerking for the Honorable James Battin, U.S. District Judge. Most recently, for the eight years I served on the Billings City Council, ending in 2020, I had the opportunity to work closely with Brent in his position as City Attorney. Without hesitation it is my opinion that Brent has the qualities necessary to be a great trial judge. Brent knows Montana well, and he additionally has an evenness of temperament that will serve the citizens of Montana well on the bench.

Having practiced law in Montana for over fifty years, I have become familiar with the reputation of many Montana lawyers. I know that Brent has continually enjoyed the reputation of being a skilled litigator and a lawyer with whom other lawyers are pleased to interact because of his honesty and trustworthiness. As City Attorney, Brent had the awesome responsibility of being beholden to many "bosses," including the City Administrator, a City Council of eleven, and over 100,000 residents. My observation is that Brent managed to be a skillful lawyer, an effective advocate, and a talented mediator.

It is important to note that Brent's experience comes from his work in many various aspects of the law, including both civil and criminal. This is an essential requirement for an effective district judge.

Perhaps more important, however, is the fact that Brent displays intelligence, common sense, and compassion in all aspects of his life. These are traits that will make him a credit to the Montana judiciary, and to the State of Montana as a whole. I can think of very few persons who would be more qualified to be a Montana District Judge.

Sincerely yours

Brent R. Cromley

Brent R. Cromley  
Brent.Cromley@moultonbellingham.com

November 4, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Application of Charles Brently Brooks for District Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

It is my pleasure to be able to add my comments to support the application of Brent Brooks for the upcoming vacant District Judge position in Yellowstone County.

I have known Brent as a fellow attorney for approximately forty years, since his beginning his law career by clerking for the Honorable James Battin, U.S. District Judge. Most recently, for the eight years I served on the Billings City Council, ending in 2020, I had the opportunity to work closely with Brent in his position as City Attorney. Without hesitation it is my opinion that Brent has the qualities necessary to be a great trial judge. Brent knows Montana well, and he additionally has an evenness of temperament that will serve the citizens of Montana well on the bench.

Having practiced law in Montana for over fifty years, I have become familiar with the reputation of many Montana lawyers. I know that Brent has continually enjoyed the reputation of being a skilled litigator and a lawyer with whom other lawyers are pleased to interact because of his honesty and trustworthiness. As City Attorney, Brent had the awesome responsibility of being beholden to many "bosses," including the City Administrator, a City Council of eleven, and over 100,000 residents. My observation is that Brent managed to be a skillful lawyer, an effective advocate, and a talented mediator.

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Perhaps more important, however, is the fact that Brent displays intelligence, common sense, and compassion in all aspects of his life. These are traits that will make him a credit to the Montana judiciary, and to the State of Montana as a whole. I can think of very few persons who would be more qualified to be a Montana District Judge.

Sincerely yours

Brent R. Cromley

## Slusser, Hannah

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**From:** Marilyn & Richard Deines <rmdx4345@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 8:38 AM  
**To:** NominateJudges  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Charles Brent Brooks (13th District Judge Applicants)

Dear Ms.Slusser,

I am against the consideration of Mr. Brook's for the position of 13th District Judge due to his past performance as City Attorney in Billings Montana.

I had an incident (7-28-2019) whereas a Tree Trimming Contractor had trespassed on my residential (rental) property with it's equipment and piling of debris. I was notified by neighbors of the incident and immediately went and ordered the Contractor and the adjacent property owner off my property,of which they refused to comply stating City ordinance allowed them to be there(this Ordinance doesn't exist) After they refused to leave the property I called the Police,and took pictures to clearly show the continued trespass of both perpetrators, equipment, and debris.After a long response time, the Police arrived, but refused to cite the trespassers without a Warrant request form the City Attorney (Brooks). I proceeded to request a Warrant (#2020-55347) from Brooks but was told by his assistant Gina Dahl that because my property was NOT posted they could not proceed with the Warrant.I referred Dahl to MCA 45-6-201, and MCA 45-6-203 of Montana Codes that clearly explains when a simple trespass turns into a criminal charge and requested all the information and pictures be sent to Brooks for his review and why the reluctance to follow State Law. I NEVER received a response from Brooks .I received correspondence from Gina Dahl stating she felt even with all the photo's of the damage to my lawn and the debris pile in my backyard, she would have difficulty in convincing a jury that I actually ordered the Contractor and his Client off my property.

Montana NEEDS people within OUR Judicial System that are cognisant of the Laws of Montana and can interpret them in the same intent as they are created, and I feel Brooks, from past experience, is NOT quite up to the task.

I have copies of ALL correspondence, pictures, police reports, involving this situation, and willing to discuss specifics if anyone is interested.

Richard Deines  
1033 Ave C  
Billings, Mt 59102  
1-406-259-2317





Brian L. Taylor  
taylorb@hallevans.com  
(406) 969-5231

October 18, 2021

Nominate Judges  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
PO Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

**SENT VIA EMAIL and REGULAR: [nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)**

*Re: Charles Brent Brooks – Applicant for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship  
(Yellowstone County)*

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my recommendation for Charles Brent Brooks (Brent Brooks) for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship (Yellowstone County). It is truly my privilege and pleasure to recommend Brent Brooks for this open Judge position.

Since moving to Billings in January 2013, from Great Falls, it has been my pleasure to get to know Brent Brooks both personally and professionally. Brent Brooks possess a professional background that is ideally suited for the rigors and diversity of issues that a State District Court Judge faces every day. First, he served as Judicial Law Clerk for Chief Judge Battin in the United States District Court for the District of Montana for three (3) years. This provided a unique opportunity to see a variety of different civil and criminal matters. This also allowed Brent Brooks to experience firsthand what a Judge must handle every day.

Second, Brent Brooks served as a Deputy County Attorney for about fifteen (15) years in Yellowstone County. Given that a large portion of the cases before a State District Court Judge are criminal matters, this experience of handling criminal matters for that length of time is invaluable to any Judge.

Brent Brooks also has experience with criminal matters from his time as the City Attorney for Billings. However, it is also important to have experience in with civil matters. In this regard, Brent Brooks served as the City Attorney for Billings for over twenty (20) years. That position provided vast experience and exposure to civil matters. Those matters involved all sorts of civil litigation against the City of Billings but also included advising the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator and various City Departments. As one would expect, this included what can only be described as high-profile issues and often involved contentious City Council meetings over those years. As is often the case, no matter what the City Council and City Attorney decide or recommend, there are many Citizens that disagree with those decision and many of those individuals are less than polite in the voicing of their opinions. This is very similar to what a State District Court Judge must deal with literally every day. Frankly, I often joked with Brent Brooks that he had the worst legal job in the State for just these very reasons. While I joked about that,

the reality is that this provided Brent Brooks with exceptional background and perspective for serving as a State District Court Judge.

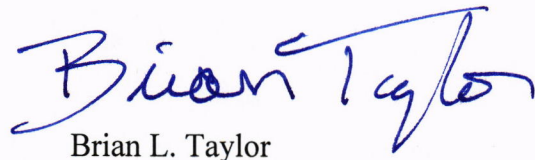
Brent Brooks also has the added experience of practicing in Private Practice which provided additional insight and experience to various legal issues and the challenges that face both Judges and practicing attorneys.

These experiences have provided Brent Brooks with the legal and practical experiences to serve as a State District Court Judge. On top of that, any effective Judge must have the proper temperament for the position. Brent Brooks possess that temperament.

Therefore, it is truly my privilege and pleasure to submit this letter on his behalf. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

HALL & EVANS LLC



Brian L. Taylor

Doug James  
Doug.James@moultonbellingham.com

October 15, 2021

Office of the Governor  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
P. O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Charles Brentley Brooks

Dear Ms. Slusser:

It is a privilege and a pleasure for me to write this letter of recommendation for the appointment of Brent Brooks to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court. Brent has the character, integrity, temperament, intelligence, experience, and skill to be an exceptional and consequential judge. I give him my highest recommendation.

Over the past decades, I have come to know and respect Brent as a talented attorney and friend. Brent served as the City Attorney for the City of Billings for more than two decades. In his capacity as City Attorney, Brent handled a large and exceptionally diverse portfolio of legal matters. He acted as an advisor and counselor to the City Administration. He has also been involved with the Municipal Court which handles both criminal and domestic relations matters. He has been extensively involved in municipal liability cases, contract cases, and matters involving statutory interpretation. I have been privileged to work with Brent on many of those matters. Without exception, I have found Brent to be exceptionally knowledgeable and studious. Brent is both a scholar and a gentleman.

After law school, Brent worked as a law clerk to United States District Court Judge James F. Battin in Billings. There is a reason that the Federal Building in Billings is named after Judge Battin. He exemplified what we need and expect in our federal judges – professionalism, legal knowledge, and a judicial temperament. I believe that Judge Battin was a major influence on Brent Brooks because I find so many similar qualities in Brent. He is well regarded by members of the bar. He has demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism and ability. Brent's temperament would make him a good judge. Like Judge Battin, Brent is an example for all attorneys. We need more judges like Judge Battin. I can think of no attorney better suited to become a judge and more likely to follow Judge Battin's example than Brent Brooks. Judge Battin was a consequential



October 15, 2021

Page 2

judge. If appointed to the bench, I believe that Brent will be a consequential judge in the tradition of Judge Battin. He will help restore confidence in our independent judiciary.

Brent is an exemplary public servant. He has a heart for public service. I have never known Brent to have an agenda. Although I have known Brent and have worked closely with him for many years, I have no idea what his political philosophy or leanings might be. When we have disagreed, I have found Brent's analysis to be thoughtful and compelling. I have tremendous respect for his integrity and his abilities.

The fact that Brent served more than two decades as the Billings City Attorney is a remarkable accomplishment. Brent succeeded in a highly charged political environment where City Council members and administrators often disagree. Despite those challenges, Brent distinguished himself as a wise counselor. He is universally respected for his knowledge, his calm demeanor, and his good advice.

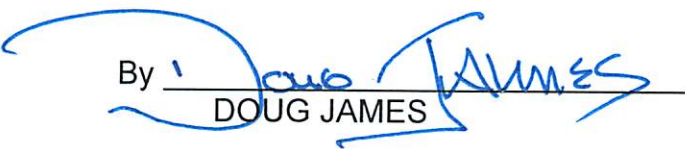
Brent has the professional skills, experience, and demeanor to be an exceptional District Court Judge. He has also demonstrated the highest ethical behavior to which all attorneys and judges must aspire. Brent demonstrates the absolute highest degree of professionalism that I have ever encountered in our profession. He is not just another good attorney; he is truly a role model for all attorneys.

Brent Brooks will be an exceptional District Court Judge. I give him my unqualified recommendation. We need more attorneys and more judges like Brent Brooks.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By

  
DOUG JAMES

DJ/jc

4817-0822-6047, v. 2