



P.O. Box 3905
Bozeman, Montana 59772
(406) 600-2500
katharine@hamiltonlawmt.com

November 13, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter in Support of Audrey Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte:

By way of introduction, my name is Katharine Hamilton, and I am an attorney in Bozeman, Montana. I write in strong support of my colleague, Audrey Cromwell, for the District Court Judgeship vacancy for the Eighteenth Judicial District. As an attorney who has resided in Bozeman since 2014, I can attest that Audrey is well respected among the legal community. She has earned the reputation as being an attorney who is trustworthy, kind, ethical and competent in a variety of practice areas. Audrey is forward thinking and strives to improve the practice of law as well as access to justice. She demonstrates good judgment, moral character, and implements technology in her practice, all of which are required for an effective district court judge.

I have known Audrey since 2014, mostly in her capacity as a family law attorney, as that is where our practice areas overlapped. When I think of Audrey, I think of how she was one of the leading attorneys who brought collaborative divorce to Montana, and how she continued to keep the doors open to the Community Mediation Center. She has already shown a commitment to public service in her private practice, indicating that she will thrive in a judicial position.

I sincerely recommend that Audrey be appointment for the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I cannot think of anyone more qualified and deserving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine E. Hamilton".

Katharine E. Hamilton

November 13, 2021

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

Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Governor Gianforte,

My name is Jason Armstrong. I am an associate at Cromwell Law, PLLC; the firm that Audrey founded. Previously, I wrote a letter in support of Audrey's appointment to the District Court for the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have sent that letter of support along with this one. Those sentiments remain the same and I respectfully incorporate them into this letter. It is important, however, that I add some information for your consideration.

Since that time, the pandemic and some very specific issues regarding our community's mental health have deeply impacted the practice of law in Gallatin County. These issues have created new problems and exacerbated others. The solutions to these problems require compassion, problem solving skills, and leadership.

Audrey incorporates compassion, problems-solving skills, and leadership into her daily routine. My experience with Audrey as a leader reveals the ability to decide on a course of action, derived from her compassion and problem-solving skills, even when those decisions are difficult or may not comport with what one party seeks. Audrey applied all of these skills during these times and lead our firm during the pandemic, implemented policies to address difficulties our community faced, and remained engaged with the people around her.

This set of skills, in my opinion, results in an excellent judicial disposition. Which is exactly what you seek. Audrey has the skills and the constitutional wherewithal to remain true to the law, compassionate to parties and counsel who appear in court, all while maintaining the honor of the bench.

Thank you for considering Audrey for the bench in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

Jason Armstrong

/s/ Jason Armstrong

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is a great honor to write to you today and nominate without reservation, my friend and colleague Audrey Cromwell, to be appointed to the vacancy that currently exists in Gallatin County in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known and worked with Audrey since I began working in the Office of Veteran Services in 2016.

As the director of Veteran Services, it is my responsibility and mission to serve veterans as they are transitioning out of the military and back into our communities. I believe caring for those who have served when they come back home is one of the most sacred responsibilities we have in this country. Much of that work includes assisting veterans as they learn how to navigate different civilian systems that are unfamiliar to them, how to handle conflict outside of the military, and sometimes how to connect with legal resources. I cannot tell you how comforting it is to be able to refer student veterans to a knowledgeable and compassionate resource like Audrey should they need legal advice. As a military spouse and an active legal advocate to veterans and service members, Audrey understands the complex issues that veterans can face during their readjustment periods, and these are the skills we need on the bench in the state of Montana.

Montana has one of the highest rates of veterans per capita in our nation. This is a statistic that Montanans are incredibly proud of and it speaks to the spirit of service in Montana. This also means that as a judge in Montana, you are certain to encounter veterans and their family members in your courtroom. When an individual finds themselves in front of a judge, the feeling is that it will be an adversarial encounter with a high likelihood for conflict. It is my feeling though that judges have an incredible opportunity and responsibility to correct behavior, empower a person to get their life back on track, and reduce rates of recidivism. Fair, firm, compassionate, informed rulings are what is best for veterans, families, and for Montana. Having a judge on the bench that understands the issues veterans face will not only improve the likelihood for positive outcomes for all involved but can quite literally change the trajectory for entire families. Audrey has shown through her vast legal experience that she understands the many nuances of the human condition and what it means to be a veteran.

While there are statistics we can be proud of in Montana, there are several that continue to plague our communities: high rates of substance abuse, drinking and driving, and mental health issues including

suicide, which is usually an unfortunate category where we rank as having one of the highest rates in the nation. These are all issues that veterans face just the same as any other Montanan, and they can be exacerbated by service-connected issues such as TBI, PTSD, moral injury, and difficulty transitioning from the military. Audrey has shown that addressing these issues and keeping them in mind as she navigates legal processes is a priority for her. It has been my experience that veterans are some of the most diverse people in our state with incredibly complex and wonderful backgrounds. In a state like Montana that is home to so many veterans, it would be my hope that all judges have the experience and knowledge that Audrey possesses. When you serve veterans and have a working knowledge of the issues they face, you can better serve other diverse populations in our state.

When I refer a student veteran to Audrey, I know that they will be met with respect and dignity, they will receive knowledge and tools to improve their circumstances, and they will be better equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead. I can only imagine the good she will do when elevated to a position to better serve veterans on a larger scale. With Audrey serving in this position, perhaps we can start to change those statistics and improve outcomes for those who have served and for all Montana families. If I can provide any more information as to why Audrey is the right person for this appointment, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,

Joseph Schumacher
Director: Office of Veteran Services
Travis W. Atkins Veteran Support Center
Montana State University
josephschumacher@montana.edu
406-994-3661

*The views expressed in this letter are my own and not those of Montana State University.

November 9, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Michelle Justice, a 20 year veteran of The Boeing Company and currently a Supply Chain manager there. I write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell and her appointment as a Montana District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

I have the honor and privilege of calling Audrey a lifelong friend. We first met in our parochial elementary school, attended the same church/youth group through high school and continue to stay invested in each other's lives today.

Audrey was, and continues to be, a person who is firm in her beliefs. Having been raised with a religious background, Audrey understands the importance of living by a set of standards and values, having the courage to make hard decisions that may be unpopular and not being swayed by peer or social pressures. Even so, her religious background also instilled the importance of *respect* and *integrity*. She does not judge others for being different than her, whether that be beliefs, race, sexual orientation, etc. Instead, Audrey understands that all people have been created equal and she actively seeks to understand other's perspectives and differences.

In addition to attending the same church and school, Audrey and I also competed in gymnastics together. Gymnastics is a unique sport in that – while you may take first place – you are ceaselessly pursuing that perfect score. Similarly, Audrey is not complacent in her pursuit of furthering her growth as a lawyer, mother and community leader. She is self reflective, looking back on situations and seeking feedback on what she could have done better. Similarly, Audrey isn't afraid to ask questions and seek input from others as part of her internal processing and contemplation prior to making critical decisions.

For the reasons mentioned above, I emphatically recommend Audrey for Judge. She stands for what is right, continuously seeks to gain understanding and is wholeheartedly invested in her community.

Respectfully,

Michelle Justice

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is David Cromwell, and I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's nomination to district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am currently a Counsel at the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Seattle, where my practice focuses on technology transactions and intellectual property. Born and raised in Montana, like most expatriates, I have maintained close ties to the state; particularly to Gallatin County, where my sister-in-law Audrey, brother, and nephew live.

I have seen Audrey's abilities as an attorney first hand by working with her clients on niche litigation and intellectual property matters. Cromwell Law and my firm have collaborated on numerous occasions, and every time I have felt the heavy burden of living up to Audrey and her firm's pre-existing reputation.

Given this experience, I feel confident in endorsing Audrey. Of the many reasons to nominate her, Audrey's commitment to impartiality as a judge separates her from the field. She is one of few attorneys who has experience in such diverse areas of law (e.g., public defender, civil litigator, mediator, judge *pro tempore*). This wide-ranging awareness has made her understand the importance of impartial judges in our justice system as well as anyone. And, of course, Audrey has already shown this impartiality and intellectual rigor serving as judge *pro tempore*.

The fact Gallatin County voted her best attorney and Cromwell Law best law firm—despite the inherently messy nature of family law (e.g., one side or both sides often feeling like they “lost” the divorce proceedings)—speaks to her talents. People on both sides of the divorce come away respecting Audrey's command of the law, the facts, and ability to communicate those two facets.

Gallatin County would be lucky to have her.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Cromwell', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Cromwell

October 17, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Norris Blossom, and I serve as the Student Body President of Montana State University. I write in strong support of Audrey Cromwell for the District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

I've had the pleasure of working with Audrey through our student government for the past two years. She has dedicated herself to serving students at Montana State University through a myriad of challenges. Her breadth and depth of knowledge in a variety of legal disciplines has been clear in the work she does so well. From one-on-one consultations with students facing conflicts with their landlords, to working with our entire student senate on more large-scale projects, Audrey can do it all. She creates a friendly and welcoming environment for students even when discussing a strenuous topic. Audrey is a dream teammate for us at MSU.

This variety of experience and knowledge is crucial to her ability to serve as a District Court Judge. Beyond, Audrey has served as a Judge Pro Tempore, giving her valuable relevant experience. All that combined with an unmatched work ethic makes Audrey a stellar candidate for this position.

Audrey's knowledge, experience, and passion for law will serve her excellently in this position. I highly recommend Audrey Cromwell for the District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

Respectfully,

Norris Blossom

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am very excited to share my support and recommendation of Audrey Cromwell for appointment to the 18th Judicial District Judge position in Gallatin County, Montana.

I first met Audrey through the Billings West High's Trading Card program. Trading cards were a select group of students that excelled in academics, sports, and who were involved in school clubs/groups. The goal of the trading cards program was to be great role models to younger students through several involvement opportunities. Even though Audrey was several years older than me, it was very clear that she was a leader among her peers and a model student.

Nearly 15 years later I got the opportunity to play on the same city league sports team with Audrey for several years in a row. Through that interaction on and off the field it was still clear that she maintained her high standards. Audrey is intelligent, kind, thoughtful, genuine, and tenacious. She is exactly the type of person everyone wants on their team.

I am confident that if appointed, Audrey Cromwell will make a great judge. Gallatin County would do very well to have her on its team.

Respectfully

Logan Eaton

November 13, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Kylar Clifton and I am a newly licensed attorney in the State of Montana and also a fifth generation Montanan. Prior to my completion of law school at the University of Montana, I served as the Student Body President at Montana State University while an undergraduate student. Through this role, I was responsible for managing our low-cost legal services program that the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) offered to all students.

During my time in Bozeman, I was fortunate to have the opportunity and truly privilege to work with Audrey Cromwell through the ASMSU Legal Services program. Whenever I would see Audrey work with students whether on a criminal, family, housing, or other area of law, I was always impressed by her compassion and her level headedness. Audrey approached each situation and each legal issue with an even temperament and advised her clients not based on her own beliefs or desires but on her own knowledge and the situation of her client. In addition, Audrey always took the time to listen to every concern a student had regardless of whether or not it had an impact on their legal issue. Audrey not only has the acumen to be an incredible judge but the compassion to improve her community. Her compassion and skill lead to the ASMSU Legal Services Program nearly doubling in the number of clients served as more and more students became comfortable seeking help. That trust and strength in the program was no easy feat.

No matter the legal issue, I have never seen a more compassionate, level-headed, and trustworthy steward of the law than Audrey. Audrey truly is an incredible role model for new attorneys like myself and as I start my legal career, I hope to live up to the standard she sets every day for professionalism and compassion. There is no doubt in my mind that Audrey would do an incredible job as a judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. She cares deeply not only about her profession and the quality of her work but about the greater Gallatin County community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kylar Clifton', written in a cursive style.

Kylar Clifton, Esq.

November 12th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

As a Gallatin County and Montana-born resident, I fully support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Judge position. I had the pleasure of working alongside Audrey during my time at Montana State University-Bozeman in her role as the Co-Director of the Associated Students of Montana State University's Student Legal Services. During that time, I witnessed Audrey's ability to connect with people beyond their legal issues and meet individuals where they were at. Ms. Cromwell didn't stop at merely giving legal advice and guidance, but also worked to help students with other barriers they may be facing and getting them to the resources they needed.

Her varied experience both inside the courtroom and out makes her a perfect fit for this position. As someone who works in the mental health field, I have full faith she will bring compassion, understanding, and fairness to her role. While someone will be entering her courtroom for a legal issue, she understands that every person brings their own circumstances and past with them that may have caused or complicated their legal situation. I know she will be a fierce advocate for individuals to get the resources and help they need to prevent recidivism, which is a benefit to our whole community. I have great confidence she will balance upholding the law, being fair, neutral, and respectful while advocating for the needs of the community members that she engages with.

Audrey has proven herself to be compassionate, collaborative, driven, organized, efficient, respectful, and fair. Her commitment to public service and Montana is commendable and we would be incredibly lucky to have her serve in this role.

Respectfully,



Mandy St. Aubyn
Gallatin County Resident
mandystaubyn@gmail.com

November 13, 2021

James Reavis
207 N. Broadway #CO-10
Billings, MT 59101

I support Audrey Cromwell to be selected as district court judge. Audrey is one of the nicest people you'll ever meet. She has a passion for the law and for life. Her vast experience in both criminal and civil law is a rare find. The justice system in Bozeman would be greatly enhanced with a kind, passionate person like Audrey on the bench.

Sincerely,

James Reavis

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

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: Audrey S. Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

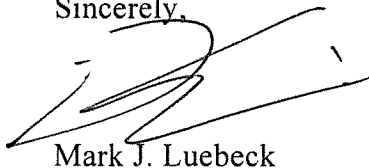
I am writing in support of Audrey S. Cromwell's appointment to fill the judicial vacancy for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County.

I have known Audrey for several years in her capacity as an attorney and Judge *Pro Tempore*. I have referred numerous clients to her and her firm for her expertise as a codirector of the Associated Students of Montana State University Legal Service. I have heard nothing but positive feedback from my clients. Through Ms. Cromwell's interactions with my firm, I know her to possess a keen intellect and impeccable legal skills that would serve her well as a district court judge.

Most importantly, Ms. Cromwell has valuable experience and a proven track record of being a neutral and objective arbitrator of the law. Most of my professional interactions with Ms. Cromwell have been in her role as Judge *Pro Tempore* for the Gallatin County Justice Court and the Bozeman Municipal Court. I have appeared before Judge Cromwell with clients numerous times in the past seven years and I have found her to be a fair and impartial judge. Her judgments have been well reasoned, objective, and just.

I ask that you please take this letter into consideration when making the difficult decision of whom to appoint for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court judicial vacancy. Ms. Cromwell would be an excellent choice to fill such an important position.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Luebeck

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

Erin Keenan
16829 Thornburg Way
Missoula, MT 59808
erinlundekeen@gmail.com

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: Letter of Support for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte,

My name is Erin Keenan, and I serve as the development director at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. I am honored to support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position.

Since 2019, I have worked closely with Audrey through her role as one of the members of our School of Law Board of Visitors. In her role as a board member, I have been consistently struck by Audrey's leadership: she has an ability to listen deeply to diverse perspectives, present creative solutions to difficult issues, and communicate thoughtfully and with compassion – all qualities that would make her an outstanding judge. As one of her many contributions to the community, Audrey also volunteers her time to encourage undergraduate students to pursue law school, and in this role, I have seen how deeply she cares about the future of the legal community throughout Montana and beyond.

Throughout her career, Audrey has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public service. That commitment, along with her strategic leadership, would make her an outstanding judge.

I encourage you to appoint Audrey Cromwell to the bench for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Thank you for your consideration,

Erin Keenan

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helen, MT 59620-3005
Via Email to: lmenzies@mt.gov
mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am Jason Armstrong, an associate at Cromwell Law, PLLC. I began practicing law in Montana, Gallatin County, in 2005. I started working as a card-carrying member of the bar as Judge Mike Salvagni's law clerk. After working with Judge Salvagni, I transitioned to the Public Defender's Office and eventually went out on my own. I have practiced in Montana, North Dakota, and California. A year ago, Audrey and Charlie gave me the opportunity to work at the firm that Audrey founded. Assuming you've read the letters of support, what I am about to tell you is nothing new. But let me briefly tell you why appointing Audrey to the 18th Judicial District Court bench is in Montana's best interests.

Audrey cares about the legal issues that face students at MSU. The issues that students face are myriad and often complicated. Audrey navigates these legal issues with special attention on the personal needs of the students. Because she cares, she's tuned into the person for whom she is providing advice. I find this attribute to be uncommon and is a product of her caring nature.

Because Audrey is a lawyer who cares about process and being able to see a need and craft a remedy, Audrey helped to create legislation necessary to develop the collaborative divorce process. This is what good lawyers do, they see a problem and then seek and implement a remedy. Imagine the good she has done by helping people navigate the difficult and often traumatic experience of dissolving their marriages through a less adversarial process.

Audrey does not get bogged down by side issues or become derailed from her task because of outside influences that may distract her. She is focused, relies on appropriate procedure to implement a remedy, and pursues her task like a force of nature. Audrey is patient and observant. Audrey is detail oriented.

Audrey is an athlete. While this may seem a little silly to tell you, what it means to me is that Audrey has a mastery of the self, has a high pain tolerance, and overcomes the adversity that athletes experience. She is disciplined.

The only reason that Audrey should *not* be appointed to the bench is purely selfish; I want to keep working with her. I seek her advice and counsel on legal issues. And when, as often happens in family law specifically and the law generally, those legal issues are being influenced by emotional or personal issues on either mine or a client's behalf, I seek her calm advice and counsel so I can return to the problems at hand and provide a necessary remedy. She is wise and approachable. And if she is appointed, I will miss that.

However, all of Montana will be better off.

Audrey's caring nature, her attention to detail, her discipline, and her wisdom will serve Montana for years to come. Good luck with your decision.

Sincerely,
Jason A. Armstrong
Bar #8034

Slusser, Hannah

From: Nolan Campbell <nolan@bozehome.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 13, 2021 4:46 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support for Bozeman District Court Judgeship

Governor Greg Gianforte
C/O Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support for Bozeman District Court Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte,

It's an absolute honor to present you with this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell regarding the vacant 18th Court Judgeship. I have had the pleasure of working with Audrey in a professional capacity for many years now, and more recently, personally, as our families have become very close friends and neighbors.

In terms of professional capacity I have yet to encounter any legal advisor that has achieved the level of detail, professionalism, and wisdom that Audrey possesses. Having chaired several professional standard and ethics committees, I find her ethical and moral standards inspirational.

Thank you for considering this letter in your decision regarding this vacancy. I truly believe that by appointing Audrey you will directly help to solidify the continuing legacy of the great state of Montana.

Nolan S. Campbell

Principal Broker
bozehome + Co. Real Estate

1 E Main Street Suite 205
[\(406\) 209-2386](tel:4062092386) direct
bozehome.com

November 11, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte

I am Tom Wagner a retired Security Forces Chief Master Sergeant that was stationed in Montana for 8 years. I am currently fully retired due to disabilities sustained while serving. I have known Audrey and her husband since 2012. They helped me on two separate occasions; to adopt my oldest daughter and a recent divorce. Last year, when presented with divorce papers Audrey was my first stop for representation. I knew I would get fair and balanced representation, with the piece of mind that someone had my best interest at heart. It was the best choice I could have made as she not only ensured that I was not taken advantage of, but also protected me from myself. I suffer from several medical conditions, one of which is PTSD with anxiety and depression. Audrey's calm and cool demeanor, along with her knowledge of family law and the military put me at ease. She showed me care and concern beyond that of a lawyer/client relationship, with a disposition that ensured my mental and physical health were at the forefront of all of our proceedings. I could not be more adamant that Audrey has the exact skillset, knowledge and temperament to serve honorably as Judge. If you have any questions please contact me at (330) 406-6115.

/// signed, thw November 11, 2021 ///

Respectfully

CMSgt Thomas Wagner, USAF, Retired

November 13, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Josie Ray, and I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the appointment of District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District. Audrey is a skilled and knowledgeable attorney with a passion for helping others while upholding the law which makes her uniquely qualified for the position of District Court judge.

I first met Audrey in the Spring of 2020 when I was a law student at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. In the Fall of 2020 Audrey became one of my law school clinic advisors for the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) in Bozeman. Montana State University, through ASMSU, provides students with an opportunity to meet with legal counsel for a small fee. Audrey and Charlie, her partner, are co-founders of a highly respected law firm in Bozeman and their firm was selected to provide the legal services to the students. Students of all backgrounds are able to receive legal advice on criminal and civil matters. I had the pleasure of working with Audrey on all types of criminal matters. Audrey provided students with competent and sound legal advice with compassion and sympathy. Her deep understanding of the law and passion for helping others is inspiring and it was truly a pleasure to learn from her.

At that time Audrey was also acting as judge *pro tempore* for the Gallatin County Justice Court. I had the privilege of watching Audrey on the bench and she was fair, just and impartial to each defendant she saw. Audrey followed and upheld the law in each hearing and decision that she made. She was open-minded, patient and courteous to each person who sat before her. Her judicial temperament was unparalleled.

Audrey is an exceptional attorney with all the qualities necessary for the position of District Court Judge. For these reasons, I strongly support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell for the vacancy in the 18th Judicial District.

Respectfully,


Josie M. Ray

Missoula Legal Solutions, PLLC

Helia Jazayeri
helia@406law.com

Travis Dye
travis@406law.com

November 13, 2021

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

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment regarding the Gallatin County district court vacancy. We write to express our support of our friend and colleague, Audrey Cromwell. Over the last decade, we have witnessed Audrey excel professionally. We have been fortunate enough to collaborate with Audrey on legal and legislative issues along the way. Based on our personal knowledge of her character and abilities, we are confident that Audrey will be an exceptional addition to the bench.

The wide-ranging list of accomplishments identified on Audrey's application demonstrate she is uniquely qualified to serve as Gallatin County's next district court judge. She is the rare candidate with substantive experience in the civil, criminal, and judicial arenas. Additionally, Audrey is a trained and skilled mediator. Having significant experience in mediation means that she has already honed the most important characteristic of a judge---neutrality. The breadth of her experience in these pertinent areas afford her a diverse perspective that will benefit the court, litigants, and the community alike.

Without question, Audrey possesses the requisite legal acumen, writing skills, and work ethic to serve as a competent and accomplished member of the judiciary. In addition to these proficient technical skills, Audrey is patient, kind, and deeply empathetic. Despite her impressive professional success and prominent stature in her community, she remains down to earth and humble.

127 NORTH HIGGINS AVE, STE 302
PO BOX 7667
MISSOULA MT 59807
T (406) 540-1626

Audrey also has the expertise to competently serve in the administrative role of a judge. She has the leadership skills to support and collaborate with court staff. She is technologically savvy. Audrey's entrepreneurial spirit and forward-thinking perspective will undoubtedly translate to increased efficiency and modernization of the administrative arm of the court.

We recommend Audrey Cromwell, without reservation, and respectfully urge you to select her as Gallatin County's next district court judge. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Helia Jazayeri



Travis Dye

November 13, 2021

Ted & Susan Loomans
241 Burlington Avenue
Billings, MT 59101
Email: loomans95@msn.com

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Today we are contacting you in support of Audrey Cromwell for the judicial vacancy of the 18th Judicial District Court. Ted is a commissioned minister/teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, and Susan is the treasurer at the MT District LC-MS office, both located in Billings. We have known Audrey since 1995, and think she would make an excellent appointment to this position.

We first met Audrey when she was a student at Trinity Lutheran School in Billings. We continued to have consistent contact with her into adulthood, through teaching her in Sunday school, leading with her in Youth Group, and spending time on a personal level with her family. Of course, as she has advanced into adulthood, college, marriage, relocation, and the like, our contact has naturally been less frequent, but Audrey has remained constant. Through the years that we have known her, we have recognized her to be a person of exceptional character. She has shown from a young age the determination to examine what is right and to execute that instead of being swayed by friends or peers. Audrey has also repeatedly shown compassion to those around her, even when others were focused inwardly. Having a keen mind, Audrey is well suited to wrestling with difficult and multifaceted conundrums with the same intensity we have seen from the beginning of our experiences with her. Observing these truths about Audrey as a routine constant throughout the years, we wholeheartedly support Audrey as a candidate for appointment to the vacancy.

Knowing that Audrey will bring these essential character traits and uncommon skills into her service to Montana gives us confidence in the increased strength of our judiciary with her addition to it.

Respectfully,

Ted and Susan Loomans



October 17, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We enthusiastically support Audrey Cromwell for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court position located in Gallatin County!

As retired United States Air Force officers, we have worked with and observed judges, military and civilian, across our Nation – and Audrey is one of the best young legal minds we have seen. Since our arrival in Montana, we've had the privilege of working closely with Audrey on personal and corporate matters, as well as observed her impressive work with the community. She is EXACTLY the kind of forward-thinking, fair and honest professional we need on the Bench.

We could write for pages about Audrey's qualifications and capabilities and the themes are consistent – she's passionate about the law, embraces challenges, and loves helping people. Bottomline – she represents the best of our great State.

Audrey Cromwell as your next District Court Judge is a huge win for the citizens of our judicial district and the People of Montana. Please appoint her as soon as possible!

Respectfully,

Digital signature/ECC/13Nov2021
ERIN C. CLUFF, Col, USAF (Ret)
Chief Executive Officer
SOAR BEYOND, LLC
erin@soar-beyond.com
406-624-7282

Digital signature/JRC/13Nov2021
JAMES R. CLUFF, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret)
Chief Operating Officer
SOAR BEYOND, LLC
james@soar-beyond.com
406-624-7283

NIQGUHG#DHJDO#BOOF#

bbbbbbbbb #

#

Governor Greg Gianforte
C/O Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT59620
Fax: (406) 444-4151
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Governor Gianforte:

I came to know Audrey first when I served as a clinical attorney for ASMSU Legal Service and then as an associate attorney for Cromwell Law. I am now privileged to call Audrey both a friend and indispensable professional mentor. I am confident that Audrey will be an outstanding judge and am pleased to offer my highest support for her appointment to the 18th Judicial District Court.

Audrey embodies countless qualities I admire, none more than her unfailing commitment to her community. Over the years, I have observed as Audrey takes on one professional challenge after another, each resulting in a marked improvement in the Gallatin County Community. Audrey's work has exponentially expanded access to legal services for thousands of MSU students, broadened low-income citizens' access to critical family law mediation services, and introduced innovative mediation and collaborative family law processes to families across Western Montana, reducing stress on our district courts and providing healthier, holistic legal care and support for Montanan families.

Audrey takes on each challenge with grace and humility and her genuine compassion drives her actions. Audrey's resume speaks for itself. While I cannot speak highly enough of her intellect, innovation, and efficiency, it is her innate compassion that I know drives her desire to serve Gallatin County as a district court judge and what makes her the best choice for this position. The citizens of Gallatin County and Montana as a whole will be well served with Audrey on the bench.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Layla Turman

LAYLA TURMAN | layla@kindredlegalpllc.com

November 8, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

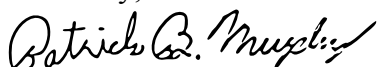
I sincerely hope, for the sake of Montana and the rule of law throughout this great country, that you appoint Audrey Cromwell to the Eighteenth Judith District Court in Gallatin County. Her knowledge, moral compass, talent, hard work, and reliability make her the ideal candidate for this position.

I know Audrey from a business professional perspective, rather than the law side. While Audrey advised us in Bozeman at an entrepreneurial start-up, she was known for her ability to make hard decisions, but with absolute compassion. She also ensured that the teams that she worked with never compromised their values for the sake of budget, profit or faster progress. Without her, at times we would have pushed to hard in a direction that we would have regretted in the future. This ability that she has to assist people in staying on their correct moral azimuth is special and should be recognized.

Working with Audrey was also extremely fun. I realize that judges are not usually known for being fun or entertaining, but I can assume that their staff and co-workers will absolutely appreciate that about her. When we worked together, we had a great time that made it possible to stay inspired in a job that had frequent setbacks and large amounts of uncertainty. This incredibly important skill of being able to have fun with coworkers in difficult circumstances will undoubtedly help the staff at the District Court in Gallatin County.

In conclusion, Audrey has all the skills, experience, compassion, knowledge and persona to be appointed a judge in Montana. I have zero doubts that she would care for everyone who experiences the justice system in Gallatin country with lawful, thoughtful, and humane practices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick B. Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" being more prominent.

Patrick B. Murphy
Lieutenant Colonel
United States Army Reserve

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Steven Brown, I have been in the customer service industry for over twenty years as a District Manager. I would like to recommend Audrey Cromwell for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. I've been acquainted with Audrey Cromwell as an attorney. Through my encounters with her I know she would make an excellent judge. The judicial system could use a woman like her to uphold the standards of Gallatin valley.

Speaking as a lifelong Montanan and someone who has worked with Audrey through some very trying times, I am confident she will be a fair and partial judge and uphold Montana's standards. I am very excited to see what she is capable of with the opportunity to do more. I've seen her work and know her passion for whatever she is doing is unrivaled. She is extremely knowledgeable and thorough in all she does. She follows guidelines and rules while being creative and compassionate.

Audrey would make an amazing judge because she is always learning and bettering her skills. Her Communication is excellent, she is very passionate about her work, and Gallatin valley would be lucky to have her.

Respectfully,



Steven Brown

GEISZLER STEELE, PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write in strong support of Audrey Cromwell's appointment to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court of Montana. Miss Cromwell possesses an embodies the highest ethical standards and is well respected not only by the attorneys and judges with whom she works, but within her community. Miss Cromwell's good judgment, equanimity and kind nature make her the most qualified and able to meet the demands placed upon a District Court judge.

Miss Cromwell is qualified to be District Court judge. Since graduating from the Montana School of Law, Audrey has maintained a highly regarded civil practice. She is widely regarded not only as an exceptional attorney, but also a leader in the profession. Audrey's leadership created the Uniform Collaborative Law Act, which was successfully passed by the Legislature. Ms. Cromwell's service as a public defender, her service on a drug court team in the Montana 13th Judicial District, as a leader of the Associated Students of Montana State University Student Legal Services Program, and as a Pro Tempore judge in the Gallatin County Justice Court all reflect her commitment to serving the public and populations that are generally underserved in our justice system. Without reiterating the exceptional qualifications and experience Ms. Cromwell has set forth in her application, I would respectfully ask that you carefully consider her *curriculum vitae*.

However, it is not only Audrey's broad legal experience and superior intellect that make her so well qualified to serve as a District Court Judge. Ms. Cromwell is also highly respected by the attorneys and judges with whom she works. As an attorney who practices primarily in western

TIMOTHY D. GEISZLER | geiszler@lawmissoula.com DAVID J. STEELE II | steele@lawmissoula.com

TERRACE WEST, SUITE K 619 SOUTHWEST HIGGINS MISSOULA, MT 59803 | 406.541.4940 | 406.541.4943 (FAX) | LAWMISSOULA.COM

Montana and who serves in a leadership capacity with the State Bar of Montana*, I speak with attorneys often and I am familiar with the reputations of many. Ms. Cromwell's reputation is among the best. When I hear her name mentioned in conversation, the words "smart," "diligent," "hard-working," "ethical," "even-tempered," and "kind" are soon to follow. These adjectives would also describe my own experiences working with Audrey. I am unequivocally confident that Audrey will provide the parties appearing before her with informed, unbiased, fair, thoughtful, and efficient decisions.

As you know, Ms. Cromwell is also engaged in the community and serves, or has served in various capacities including as Interim Director for the Community Mediation Center and as a Family Readiness Group Leader for the 6th Legal Operations Detachment of the U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command. Although she has achieved remarkable professional success and recognition, these achievements have not come at a loss of her Montana roots. Having grown up in Billings, Audrey continues to maintain ties with not only the attorneys and judges throughout Montana, but also the everyday citizens across our State. Audrey's longtime connection to our State, its citizens and heritage, make her uniquely qualified to serve as District Court Judge.

I sincerely appreciate your consideration of Audrey Cromwell in her appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court of Montana. If I can provide additional information, or if you would like to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,


David J. Steele II

*The opinions expressed in this letter are my own personal opinions and not the State Bar of Montana.

SUDDUTH LAW
— PLLC —

1050 East Main Street, Suite 3
PO Box 507
Bozeman, MT 59711-0507
406-272-2390
benjamin@sudduthlaw.com

November 12, 2021

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

Re: *Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support*

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It with sincere pleasure that I submit this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell's application for judge in Montana's 18th Judicial District Court. Having worked with Audrey professionally on the Board of Directors for the Community Mediation Center ("CMC"), I can personally attest that Audrey is an ideal candidate the 18th Judicial District's vacancy.

When I joined the CMC Board in 2019, Audrey had already been on the Board for several years. In those years prior, Audrey took the reins of an organization that was adrift and swiftly guided it back to course. Her affinity for leadership and her temperament complement one another, and together they make Audrey an extraordinarily effective leader and lawyer. Her ability to guide CMC back to stability additionally evidences her strong moral character and compassion.

I know that Audrey will serve this community with the best of her ability, and Gallatin County deserves to have an Audrey Cromwell on the bench. Audrey has no fear of making difficult decisions. When she was the Executive Director of CMC, she made several. Audrey's experience as Judge *Pro Tempore* for both the Gallatin County Justice Court and Bozeman Municipal Court also uniquely qualifies her for the district court role. Add in the fact that Audrey is compassionate, and you have a judge that makes the necessary and difficult decisions but also strives for creative solutions to challenging problems.

I sincerely recommend that you choose Audrey Cromwell for district court judge of Montana's 18th Judicial District Court. Please feel free to contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or would like to hear more.

Sincerely,



Benjamin S. Sudduth

HEDGER FRIEND, PLLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MICHELLE T. FRIEND
BEN RECHTFERTIG

2800 CENTRAL AVE, SUITE C
BILLINGS, MT 59102
PHONE: (406) 896-4100 FAX: (406) 896-4199

JOEY BREITENBACH *^
DENNIS NETTIKSIMMONS

*Also Admitted in Wyoming
^ Also Admitted in Wisconsin

OF COUNSEL:
JEFF HEDGER *

November 11, 2021

Sent Via Email Only

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Joseph Breitenbach. I am a litigation attorney at Hedger Friend, PLLC, in Billings, Montana, and it is my honor to write this letter in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the District Court Judge vacancy in the 18th Judicial District.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Audrey for the last fifteen years. As such, I can say with absolute confidence that you will not vet or interview another candidate for this position that is more competent or committed to the legal profession and the people of Montana that she is seeking to serve. Audrey and I attended the University of Montana School of Law together, and aside from being one of the nicest and most accepting individuals I met during my tenure in Missoula, I was immediately impressed by her dedication and determination not only to succeed, but to make a positive impact on those around her. As you already know from her application, she served as Co-Editor of the Law Review and was an impeccable student. But just as important, Audrey was someone whom you could always count on to treat everyone with respect, a quality that has continued into her professional career and one which will serve her well on the bench.

One of the biggest issues facing ordinary Montanans today is affordable access to justice, and we need more judges who are willing to take up active roles on the issue. Audrey's commitment to these issues, and to serving the underrepresented, is commendable and likely unmatched in the field of candidates you are considering. From working at the Office of the State Public Defender, to representing students through ASMSU Legal Services, to being at the forefront of the implementation of collaborative family law in the State of Montana, Audrey has

demonstrated an unwavering desire to represent and serve Montanans regardless of their societal or financial background. Her commitment leaves little doubt in my mind that Audrey possesses the temperament required to treat every individual who comes before her with fairness, impartiality and respect, regardless of age, race, sex, economic status or political affiliation.

Finally, as a litigation attorney practicing in courts across Montana, I cannot stress enough how important I believe it is that you appoint a candidate that has tried cases and possesses well-rounded experience in several areas of law. Audrey is that candidate. Unlike many lawyers in Montana, Audrey has actually tried cases. Moreover, her experience is not limited to one specialized area of law. She possesses extensive experience in civil, criminal and domestic matters, making her the ideal candidate for this position. Not only that, her experience as a Judge *Pro Tempore* sets her far apart from the other candidates when it comes to actual experience on the bench. In Audrey, you have a highly qualified candidate who will be ready and able to hit the ground running as soon as she is appointed.

The 18th Judicial District is one of the busiest jurisdictions in the state, and it needs a Judge like Audrey who can competently and effectively manage a courtroom from day one. Unlike many newly appointed Judges, Audrey understands and has extensive experience with each of the Rules of Civil Procedure, the Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Rules of Evidence. And she hasn't just memorized them. She has spent the last decade putting them to practical use every day. There will be no learning curve with Audrey. Any lawyer who enters Audrey's courtroom will do so with the confidence that he or she will receive evidentiary and other rulings that are fair, thoughtful and well-informed.

In closing, I cannot recommend Audrey enough to fill this vacancy, and I urge you to appoint her as the next District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this recommendation, and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Breitenbach

Joseph L. Breitenbach
Bar No. 11246

Sather Law, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

2301 Montana Ave., Ste. 202
P.O. Box 1115
Billings, MT 59103
Phone: 406-294-1700
Fax: 406-794-0673
ben@satherlawfirm.com

November 8, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Ben Sather, an attorney practicing in Billings. I graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2006. I was a law clerk for the Montana Supreme Court for one year and have been practicing civil litigation in Billings for the last fourteen years. I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell's application for the 18th Judicial District Court judicial vacancy.

I have known Audrey since 2010, when I met her shortly after she graduated from law school at the University of Montana. Audrey was a new public defender in Billings when I came to know her. From the start, her passion for the law and her clients was evident. It was clear to me that Audrey was intelligent, driven and focused. I heard nothing but good things from my colleagues in the Yellowstone County Bar about Audrey and her dedication to her clients and the practice in general. I also learned Audrey was a big part of the Yellowstone County drug court, which has done so much good for so many people.

Given Audrey's work ethic and passion, it was not a surprise to me she moved on to start her own firm with her husband, Charlie. Even more, it has not been a surprise to see Audrey flourish as a law firm owner in Bozeman all while providing valuable representation to students at Montana State University.

Audrey's qualifications for the bench are clear from her application. What is even more important -- which cannot always be seen from a resume -- is Audrey's temperament and character. Audrey treats people with respect and care. I have come to experience this as both a peer and a friend of Audrey's over the last 10 years. Audrey will bring that same attitude to the bench. The attorneys and parties who will appear before her in Gallatin County will be fortunate to have their problems heard by an individual who genuinely cares for others.

Audrey possesses the attributes I believe necessary to be an effective District Court Judge. She is smart, hard-working and compassionate. Audrey will improve the court experience for both litigants and attorneys and I support appointment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Sather", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ben T. Sather

November 9, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge position. I have known Audrey personally and professionally for 10 years as a member of the Bozeman community and through Montana State University.

Over the past 13 years I have worked in a variety of roles at Montana State University, including as an advisor and instructor. Working closely with students, I hear about the legal challenges that students encounter. Whether a student is in a situation that is a result of a personal choice or an unfortunate circumstance, I refer students in need of legal services and advice to Audrey without hesitation. I am confident that when students go to Audrey they will be met with accurate, fair, and nonjudgmental advice and services. Audrey genuinely cares about people and has worked hard to educate and better serve students over the past eight years.

In addition to our time at MSU, I have had the opportunity to get to know Audrey through a community Ultimate Frisbee league. The co-ed league attracts community members from a wide range of ages, socio-economic statuses, and political affiliations. Despite differences, Audrey is inclusive, personable, and fair whether she is a teammate or opponent. While Ultimate Frisbee teammate is not a high-ranking honor, it further demonstrates that everywhere Audrey shows up, she is kind, nonjudgmental, and has the even temperament that has made her a valuable community member, talented lawyer, and would make her a great judge.

As an educator and a community member, I highly recommend Audrey Cromwell for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge position.

Respectfully,

Anna Greenberg

The views expressed in this letter are my own.

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Colin Rubich. I am licensed attorney and member of the state bar in Montana. I have practiced criminal law as a defense attorney in state court, a prosecutor and defense attorney as a Judge Advocate in the United State Army, and as a prosecutor in Federal Court. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as a judge in the 18th Judicial District. I strongly believe Audrey possesses the ethical integrity, intellectual capacity, and legal acumen to become one of the finest jurists in our state.

I have known Audrey for many years, both while she was studying to become an attorney and as a practicing attorney. We both graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2009 and, after this, we both began our careers as defense attorneys with the Office of the Public Defender in Billings. I regard Audrey as among the finest attorneys I have worked with in any of the various courts I have practiced in. She is extremely intelligent and thoughtful with a grasp of legal nuance that surpasses most attorneys I have worked with. She possesses an innate belief in justice and the rule of law. Audrey is the sort of attorney for whom the law is more than merely a way to make money. She passionately believes in the law and its force to better the world.

Because of my varied practice, I have had the opportunity to practice in front of many judges in a variety of courts. In that time, I have seen a few truly outstanding judges whose dedication and legal talent insured that a just outcome was always likely in cases brought before them. Given the chance, I strongly believe Audrey would be such a judge. The integrity and decency of the judicial system heavily depends upon those attorneys we elevate to the bench. By elevating Audrey to such a position, I know that our courts and our profession would be significantly improved and enlivened for years to come.

Respectfully,



Colin M. Rubich
Attorney at Law
Bar # 11230

November 11th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position.

As of August 2021 I am an associate attorney at Cromwell Law of which Audrey is a Managing Partner. I have known Audrey for over a decade now, first as a classmate at University of Montana School of Law, next as a colleague in the Bozeman law community and now, most recently, as my boss at Cromwell Law. During this time she has been a kind and compassionate friend and someone whom I've always had the highest respect for as an attorney.

Audrey is the example of a professional, hard working and passionate attorney. Her skill set is broad and multifaceted, which is a direct result of the variety of legal experience she has sought out over her career. She has represented criminal defendants as a defense attorney for the Office of the State Public Defender, litigated and mediated complex family law cases in her private practice, and sat on the other side of the bench as a substitute Judge in the Bozeman Municipal Court and the Gallatin County Justice Court. Through this experience she has shown composure under pressure and the temperament becoming of a judge. She is extremely empathetic and has the ability to understand and demonstrate compassion for both sides of a legal issue.

All of these qualities make Audrey an exceptional candidate for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position and I strongly recommend you appoint her to the District Court.

Respectfully,

Evan O. Moppert, Attorney

November 11th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am an attorney for Gallatin Valley Land Trust, a trails and land conservation non-profit serving Gallatin and surrounding counties. Prior to working for Gallatin Valley Land Trust, I worked for Oracle and Crowley Fleck.

I first heard Ms. Cromwell's name several years ago. I am often asked for referrals, and when I asked around to friends who are practicing, her name was repeatedly mentioned. Other attorneys had overwhelmingly positive things to say about her and her work. I finally met her in person a couple years ago when our sons were in the same kindergarten class at Longfellow Elementary. She quickly became a parent I could rely on for support and camaraderie during our children's first year in the public school system.

In my experience, Ms. Cromwell treats all people with whom she interacts with respect and dignity. She possesses a calm demeanor, as well as the ability to listen well and intently. I anticipate she would bring these characteristics to the bench and they are part of why I am writing this letter of support on her behalf. I also believe that her experience will be an asset as a district judge. Her understanding of the types of cases she will adjudicate will serve our county very well.

Respectfully,

Kristin Bjella How

Bill Souba
1210 Alder Creek Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as the next District Court Judge in Gallatin County.

I have known Audrey since 2014 and have worked with her in my capacity as a lender with Bank of Bozeman since that time. She is a person of high integrity and unimpeachable character. All of my interactions with her have been professional and honest in every way imaginable. She possesses the intellect, level-headedness, and even temperament that will allow her to render decisions in a fair and impartial manner. I whole-heartedly endorse her for the position of District Court Judge of Gallatin County and believe that the court and the citizens will be well served with her on the bench.

Respectfully,


Bill Souba

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write to you today to express my deepest support for Audrey Cromwell.

I am a family physician, local business owner, and Instructor for the University of Washington. I have had the great pleasure of knowing Audrey and her family for the past 8 years. I have come to know Audrey both personally and professionally during this time.

Audrey has always possessed a striking equipoise and wisdom – even in our first years of acquaintance. I have universally experienced her as paced, thoughtful, and the consummate professional - even in emotionally charged situations. However, in the midst of this impressive presentation of professionalism, is an equally impressive warmth, humanity, and delight. It is indeed rare to find such all-encompassing balance... and Audrey possesses it in spades.

Professionally, I find myself exhaling in relief when a patient tells me they are working through a high-conflict experience with the legal assistance of Audrey Cromwell. I know not only are they in good hands, they are in the best hands. Her gift of mediation is a rare jewel, and an art form in itself. In our current climate we need her skill set and mindset now more than ever. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leah M.K. Anderson, M.D.

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

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Professionally, I find myself exhaling in relief when a patient tells me they are working through a high-conflict experience with the legal assistance of Audrey Cromwell. I know not only are they in good hands, they are in the best hands. Her gift of mediation is a rare jewel, and an art form in itself. In our current climate we need her skill set and mindset now more than ever. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Leah M.K. Anderson, M.D.

November 9, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell's candidacy to fill the 18th Judicial District Court Judge vacancy. I am a proud, 15-year resident of the Bozeman area and 32-year resident of Montana. I have worked at Montana State University for 10 years, where I have had the pleasure of working closely with Audrey in former roles on campus in her capacity as MSU students' attorney within the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU).

Audrey has a sincere interest in supporting MSU students and their success. As lead attorney for MSU students, Audrey has met with thousands of MSU students seeking support on various issues such as landlord-tenant, alcohol and drug related criminal charges, business and non-profit, family law, and immigration. As you can imagine, it can be intimidating for students to seek legal advice. Audrey's warm welcome, genuine nature, and strong interpersonal skills helped thousands of MSU students feel comfortable and supported during times of struggle and uncertainty.

Audrey has grown the MSU student attorney program significantly since her time at MSU. Prior to her arrival as lead attorney, not many students knew about the legal services available to them. Through meaningful outreach and awareness, including partnerships with MSU residence life, orientation, and university police services, Audrey grew the awareness of this important service for our students. The increase of volume of student visits since her arrival is a testament to her outreach efforts. Beyond supporting students seeking legal advice, Audrey developed an internship program that encourages MSU students who are interested in learning more about law to apply to be an intern with MSU student legal services, helping our students gain hands-on experience in the field.

Personally, Audrey is an exceptional person. She is warm, kind, caring, objective, and a well-respected citizen in the Bozeman community. Audrey's professional and personal disposition attest to her ability to be a successful District Court Judge. Our community and the people of our community will agree. I highly support Audrey's appointment of this position.

Respectfully,



Dr. Chelsey Wilson
Director of Development
Montana State University Alumni Foundation
chelsey.wilson@msuaf.org
406.994.4178

November 11th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am honored to write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell being appointed the 4th Judge in the 18th Judicial District Court.

I am Jenny Berger, a community member who has been involved with numerous nonprofit organizations within Bozeman for the past two decades. I was the high school math teacher at Bridger Alternative and volunteered with the Legal Advocate for Haven. I worked for five and a half years as the Adaptive Sports Assistant Director at Eagle Mount and am the current Volunteer Manager at Bozeman Health. I also hold an MBA from the University of Scranton.

Audrey Cromwell was our mediating attorney while navigating a complex divorce in Bozeman. She was always professional and did a great job of communicating our legal rights, options for moving forward, and things she's seen work well in the past. She worked hard to assist us while making important decisions for the future of our family. It was obvious that she truly cares for the people she helps and wants the best possible outcome for everyone involved.

Audrey is extremely knowledgeable, competent, and caring. She does a great job of listening to the facts, asking crucial questions, and deciphering between the most essential aspects. Her legal experience, caring demeanor, excellent communication, integrity, and knowledge would make her an outstanding Judge in the 18th Judicial District Court.

Respectfully,



Jenny Berger



Andrew C. Clegg
Attorney at Law

137 Stillwater Lane
Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 239-1861
andrew.clegg23@gmail.com

November 4, 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: Audrey Cromwell Recommendation

Dear Governor Gianforte:

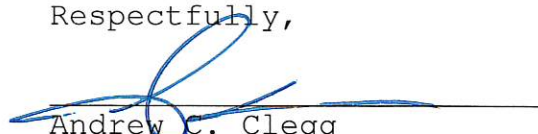
I am writing to you to offer my support for Audrey Cromwell who is seeking to be appointed to the District Court Judge position currently available in Gallatin County. I have had the privilege of knowing Ms. Cromwell both personally and professionally for over 12 years.

In that time I have learned she is highly intelligent, extremely hardworking, and a tenacious jurist. I believe it is those qualities that earned her the Bozeman Daily Chronicle's "Top Lawyer" Award. Ms. Cromwell has a wide range of experience from prosecutor to defense attorney, and petitioner to respondent, and finally, judge *pro tempore*.

As a practicing attorney I can tell you Ms. Cromwell possesses perhaps the most important characteristic for a Judge - fairness. Ms. Cromwell can see both sides of the argument, and understand each position because she has been there. Ms. Cromwell's neutrality and objectivity, together with her understanding of the law, is what truly sets her apart from other candidates.

Ms. Cromwell's appointment to the District Court would serve Gallatin County and the State of Montana well. Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter.

Respectfully,


Andrew C. Clegg
Attorney at Law

November 10th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am the owner of Woodham Property Management in Bozeman and grew up in Four Corners. I'm happy to call Montana home and be a part of its growth and change. I'm the son of a builder, a computer science graduate of MSU, and am raising two young daughters.

I have witnessed Ms. Cromwell's keen emotional intelligence as she navigated a mediation which I was party to. She impressed me with her ability to drive resolution in the disagreements which arose by keeping in mind the motivations and intentions of each side. She accessed emotions and connected with each side while maintaining an unbiased position during the mediation.

From my limited legal perspective, I'm sure there are many factors which make a good judge. This observation stands out to me for enabling good decisions, with a cool head, for the betterment of this community.

Thanks for your consideration, with respect,

Ryan Woodham

November 8th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to strongly support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as the 4th Judge for District Court. I have personal experience in working with Audrey during mediation on revised child support and parenting plans with my ex-husband. Audrey was warm and caring for both parties and able to stay neutral through out the process so that my ex-husband was able to come to the table for a negotiation that saved us from the more expensive process of going through the court. I was amazed at Audrey's ability to put my ex-husband at ease and to negotiate a child support and parenting plan on behalf of our children that was truly for the best interest of the children. My ex-husband trusted Audrey enough that we went back a 2nd time and he agreed to go back to mediate with Audrey.

As mental health therapist and addiction counselor I have clients who have gone to Audrey for help with their divorce. My client's always spoke very highly of Audrey's professionalism, warmth, and ability to negotiate on their behalf in a way that allowed them to settle their divorces without going to court.

Audrey is clearly able to work with people from many different backgrounds and show respect, care, and dignity. Audrey is also fiercely intelligent and able to communicate complicated issues in terms that anyone can understand. Audrey is dedicated to her mission of helping people by supporting an amazing model of collaborative divorce, making divorce accessible to people from all socio-economic backgrounds reducing the trauma of divorce on the family and reducing the burden of on family court. Audrey's commitment to a just legal system will make her an excellent judge for District Court.

Respectfully,

Lori Morgan, LCSW LAC
1017 Powers Blvd
Belgrade, MT 59714



A&E Design
124 N 29th St. Suite 100
Billings, MT 59101

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Dusty Eaton and I am the CEO of A&E Design, a regional architecture and design firm in Montana. I recently had the distinct pleasure of designing the Norm Asbjornson Hall and your "Gianforte Auditorium" within that building at Montana State University. Your support of education in Montana will have a profound impact for generations to come. It was an honor to work on such an impactful project.

I have been fortunate to know Audrey Cromwell since we attended Trinity Lutheran School in Billings together as middle school students. Audrey has always been a strong leader, exhibiting integrity and honesty in every aspect of her life. Audrey was raised in a family where service was always put above self. Those early childhood lessons of leadership and service are characteristics she exhibits in her personal and professional life today. She has always been open-minded, trustworthy, empathetic, and an incredibly driven leader.

As a friend who has personally known Audrey for over 25 years, I am honored to recommend her for the Eighteenth Judicial District Judge position. Audrey's desire for public service is fitting to qualities she demonstrates everyday - seeking truth, being fair, and putting service above self. Audrey would be an incredible asset to the Eighteenth Judicial District and serve the great state of Montana with dignity.

Simply put, I cannot more highly recommend Audrey for this distinct position.

Sincerely,

DUSTY EATON

AIA, LEED AP
CEO | Principal

ae.design

November 10, 2021

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

Regarding: Audrey Schultz Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

It is our pleasure to support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell for district court judge to the Montana 18th Judicial Court.

Our names are Bill and Charlotte Crago. We currently own a business in Billings, MT, The Executive Group, that specializes in human resource consulting and recruiting. We deal with both large and small corporations throughout the U.S.A.

We have known Audrey from the time her family moved to Billings when she was a young child and still see her occasionally in a nonprofessional role. She and our youngest daughter became friends in school and have maintained this friendship throughout the years.

Audrey has always impressed us with her compassion, loyalty, and dedication to school and sports. She is very intelligent and self-motivated. No matter what she was involved in she always put forth her best effort. We found her to be a natural leader among her peers.

Audrey attended Trinity Lutheran School in Billings, MT. Her parents were active church members and instilled in Audrey a strong base of Christian values and principles. She has taken this foundation and matured into a very successful and admirable wife, mother and lawyer. We feel she would be a strong addition to the court system as a judge.

Respectfully,

Bill and Charlotte Crago

November 1, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

As the Director of the Office of Student Engagement at Montana State University, I have had the pleasure of serving, in both professional and nonprofit roles, with Audrey for seven years. I am pleased to offer my highest recommendations for Audrey Schultz Cromwell. She is a dedicated public servant, an adept problem solver, and a laudable leader. I am confident that she will be an outstanding District Court Judge for the State of Montana.

At Montana State University, Audrey is well known for her professionalism, intellect, and discernment. In 2014, the Associated Students of Montana State University created an innovative partnership with Audrey's law firm, Cromwell Law, to revolutionize our student legal services program. Through her ingenuity, problem-solving, and leadership Audrey established a 'limited scope' legal representation program which offer affordable legal services to MSU students that is a model for higher education across the state and the nation. This inclusive, accessible, and affordable program supports students with legal advice through a wide range of issues, including alcohol charges, landlord-tenant issues, and business and family law. The program was successful in its initial year and has grown 400% since its founding, now supporting approximately 500 each year.

Audrey's commitment to justice and public service is deeply personal. She has demonstrated long-term engagement with diverse students across campus and in our community. The cumulative summary of her achievements is impressive, including a breadth of expertise across multiple disciplines, that will be an asset to the District Courts. One of her characteristics that I admire most is her

**Office of Student
Engagement**

SUB 221 & 222
P.O. Box 174200
Bozeman, MT 59717

Tel 406-994-2933
Fax 406-994-6911

commitment to access, inclusion, and justice for those typically underserved in our community. At MSU, Audrey observed that many of the students seeking legal services needed immigration advice that is rarely available in Montana. Audrey recognized the need, secured funding, identified professional certifications, researched institutional best practices, and coordinated attorneys to participate in intensive professional trainings. Due to her initiative and on-going commitment, international students now have unprecedented, affordable access to legal support. Montana needs more leaders like Audrey.

In addition to her role at MSU, I have also had the pleasure of working with Audrey during her several years of leadership with the Community Mediation Center. She has served as Executive Director and subsequently on the Board of Directors. As a mediator, Audrey has a reputation of providing quality, affordable conflict resolution education and services in small claims cases, low-income divorce cases, family disputes, landlord-tenant issues, neighborhood conflicts, land-use disputes, victim-offender mediations, and conflict resolution education in schools.

Audrey embodies her values with remarkable intelligence, integrity and impartiality. She authentically listens. She genuinely cares. She makes well-researched, ethical choices. These are inspiring qualities, but maybe more impressively, she has consistently demonstrated her acumen for creating collaborative legal solutions with diverse stakeholders while accommodating the unique needs and capabilities of individuals and institutions.

I have confidence in Audrey's character, judgement, and work ethic. I would like to offer my highest recommendations for Audrey Schultz Cromwell.

Respectfully,



Marianne Brough
Director, Office of Student Engagement
Strand Union Building 221
Bozeman, MT 59715
marianne.brough@montana.edu
406-994-2933

2000 S 3rd Ave, Unit A
Bozeman, MT 59715

Tel: 406.586.8700
justin@becklawyers.com

November 10, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write in support of Audrey Cromwell because I believe she would be a great judge here in Gallatin County.

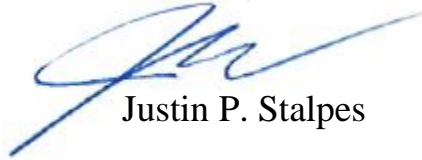
I have known Audrey for 14 years. We were classmates in law school and I came to know Audrey well. She and I served on law review together, with Audrey serving as co-editor. As co-editor, Audrey demonstrated a commitment to accuracy and detail. She worked long hours, and it was not uncommon to see her in the library or in the law review house late at night. Not insignificantly, she did all this while being incredibly well-liked. Audrey is engaging, funny, smart and charismatic. She is fair and open-minded. She is inquisitive and humble. I really do think that Audrey has the qualities to make a good judge.

Since law school, I have watched Audrey form and grow her own practice. Bozeman is a difficult place to start a practice that succeeds, but as a result of her relentless work ethic and high acumen, she has done just that. She has chosen to represent many clients who otherwise would not be able to receive legal advice as a result of her contract with the University, which is commendable. By virtue of the nature of her practice, Audrey has become proficient in the areas of law that a new judge in Gallatin County must know in order to avoid delay or overburdening our other two very busy judges and our magistrate.

On a more personal note, if anyone were to give me praise for anything, I would hope that it would be for being a good parent. I am happy to give that praise to Audrey. Audrey is a good parent for some of the same reasons Audrey would be a good judge. She is patient, humble, and works hard.

In my opinion, Audrey would be a valuable asset to our judiciary. I know her well, and she will be a good fit. She will be liked and respected by the bar. Her temperament, intelligence and work ethic will be well-received. If she is selected, when election time comes she will put in the work and she will have strong support.

Sincerely,



Justin P. Stalpes

JPS:kp



November 10, 2021

18th Judicial District Advisory Council

RE: Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Council:

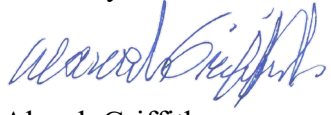
I am writing to support the nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to fill the new judicial seat in the 18th District Court. I have lived in this district all of my life (but for college and law school) and have practiced here since 2002. I was lucky enough to serve as Judge Mark Guenther's law clerk for the first two years of my practice. Because of the unique circumstances of that tenure, I was able to serve approximately 22 different district court judges from around Montana. Between that experience, and the subsequent 17 years of litigating across Montana, I believe that like many attorneys, I have come to an understanding of what makes a district court judge a good judge for our clients and community. This included a hard work ethic, integrity, ability to listen and a good sense of humor. Audrey has all of these qualities and so much more to give this position.

Audrey is obviously well qualified. She is thoughtful, well written and deeply committed to the rule of law. Last year, I was torn between two amazing applicants, Peter Ohman (now Judge Ohman) and Audrey. I am so very happy that Audrey has applied again. To have both her and Peter Ohman as two of our four District Court judges, along with Judge Brown and Judge McElyea, will make our district the envy of Montana. We will have four dedicated public servants. Knowing all four, I believe that not only will they work hard to see that the rule of law prevails in Gallatin County, but they will work together to not only ensure that needs for access to justice, victims services, drug court and other programs are supported, but that the four courts continue to share ideas, thoughts and plans to better our court system and our community. The Eighteenth Judicial Court has always been committed to our community, and Audrey will be a leader amongst them.

Thank you for considering my letter. I wish you all the best. Good luck in your consideration.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alanah Griffith', written in a cursive style.

Alanah Griffith

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Governor Gianforte:

My name is Bert Certain and it is my sincere pleasure to recommend Audrey Cromwell for District Court Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, in Gallatin County.

I am a lifelong Montanan, former attorney, and graduate of the University of Montana School of law. I currently work as an ICU nurse in Bozeman, Montana. Prior to my career in nursing, I worked as an attorney, first in Great Falls and then in Bozeman. I have known Audrey for more than a decade, first as a fellow law student, then as a colleague and friend.

During my litigation career I practiced law in state and federal courts across Montana. I have had the opportunity to practice before many fine jurists. I can say with confidence that Audrey possesses the qualities of an excellent judge.

Audrey's professional and volunteer experience demonstrate her steadfast commitment to the legal profession. She is well regarded by her colleagues and is a pleasure to work with. In addition to her many professional accomplishments, she is a devoted mother and wife.

Audrey exhibits a quality of character that will serve her well as a judge. She is a dedicated and hard working member of her community. Her many professional accomplishments speak for themselves. She exhibits the intelligence and thoughtfulness required to fulfill the difficult role of a jurist. Further, she has the compassion and empathy necessary to preside over very serious legal disputes in a fair, ethical, and impartial manner.

For all of these reasons, she would be an absolute asset to the Montana bench and would be a wonderful appointment.

Sincerely,

Bert J. Certain.

Jennifer Graf

4230 Brenden St. | Bozeman, MT 59718 | 406-320-0368 | jennifergrafgroneberg@yahoo.com

November 11, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I'm writing to offer my support for Audrey Cromwell to fill the 18th Judicial District Court judge vacancy. Unlike many of the other excellent letter-writers who have stepped up to share opinions on Audrey's behalf, I am not a lawyer or a clerk or a business owner. I'm a mom who has experienced a different side of Audrey's capacity for excellence, as a client.

She helped me and my family through the dissolution of our marriage, and as I was dealing with the very most challenging time in my life, she was able to be both professional and thorough, and at the same time, caring and empathetic.

Some of the difficult issues we worked through included providing for the care of our adult son who has Down syndrome. Audrey kept us all on track and mindful of good, fair solutions for everyone. She has a unique quality that brings people together over the common good.

I can't think of anyone you might choose who could better represent the ideals of the court than Audrey Cromwell.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Graf

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

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

I have been a licensed attorney in Montana since 2006 and have been practicing law in Bozeman since that time. I am currently a partner at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman. My current areas of practice 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 have known Audrey for approximately 8 years and first met her when I was prosecuting cases for the City of Bozeman and she was representing criminal defendants. I think very highly of Audrey and believe she is an excellent candidate for the position. Given her relatively young age I believe she would bring a fresh perspective to the bench that is welcomed. I know that she has experience in a number of areas of the law and is certainly a well-rounded candidate. Audrey and her husband Charlie have built a well-respected and successful law firm here in Bozeman from the ground up. Audrey always behaves in a professional manner, but is warm and engaging as well. I have no doubt that she possesses the appropriate temperament and demeanor for the bench and our community would benefit immensely from her intellect, talent and experience if she were to be appointed.

In sum I strongly believe Audrey would be a great District Judge and I wholeheartedly support her application.

Cordially,



Ryan D. McCarty, Attorney at Law

Slusser, Hannah

From: Elaine VanDyk <evandyk07@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 11:48 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Elaine VanDyk, and I am the receptionist and attendance secretary at Chief Joseph Middle School. From the Fall of 2012 until 2017, I served as the Peer Mediation coordinator for Chief Joseph Middle School. The Community Mediation Center (CMC) worked closely with the Bozeman schools to support the schools with the proper training needed to teach students how to mediate disputes between their peers. Students were taught tools to use, questions to ask, and ways to support their peers in handling conflict. It was an amazing program, and I was honored that I could be part of it. While serving in this position, I had the opportunity to meet many of the wonderful volunteers at the CMC. One of those people was Audrey Cromwell. In the Fall of 2017, I was asked to join the Board of Directors of the CMC and saw first-hand the many ways the CMC serves the community. I also had the privilege of getting to know Audrey better as I observed her lead and advise the CMC as the Executive Director.

Audrey Cromwell is an amazing leader. She listens attentively to others, yet isn't afraid to disagree. She does so in an affirming way which lets others know they have been heard and then carefully explains why she does not agree with that opinion. Audrey is wise. She is kind. She represents herself well and is well spoken. Audrey has integrity, she is honest and has strong moral principles. As a member of the Board of Directors for the CMC, we were confident in her abilities and trusted her to represent the CMC in an honorable way. She is trustworthy. Audrey cares deeply for people, and feels strongly that every person be treated equally, fairly, and respectfully. She is an extremely hard worker and does an incredible job of handling all her responsibilities. She does this all with grace and with a smile on her face. She gets things done, and she has fun doing it.

I am confident that Audrey Cromwell will be an extremely thoughtful, fair, disciplined, and compassionate District Court Judge. I look forward to her sharing her gifts and talents with the broader community and continuing to serve others and be a servant. She is a treasure!

Respectfully,

Elaine VanDyk

From: Rita Gallagher <ritag7@bresnan.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 3:58 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell ,Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

We are writing to you in support of Audrey Cromwell, who is running for the 18th Judicial District Judge in Bozeman. We have known Audrey's family for about 17 or more years, she comes from a wonderful ,hardworking, caring family. She has amazed us in all the things she's accomplished in her life, starting with being a great student,athlete,singer with Up with People, a Public Defender,where I witnessed her great work. She worked with the poor and downtrodden, all in a very professional manner. We've gotten to know her more the past few years . My Husband is now a retired Radiologist, and I am a retired R.N., and her parents were in the medical field. I have enjoyed getting to see her be a wonderful,caring mother,wife and daughter!

She is a very hard working,dedicated lawyer that not only has her own law practice, but she also works with students at MSU, and helps them for a very small fee, so they are given the right legal help, that they otherwise couldn't afford. She was chosen to be one of the top 20 under 40 in Bozeman, which is a big honor for young professionals! She also has been a Judge Pro tempore, which has given her more experience in the courtroom. We feel she would make an excellent Judicial Judge, from her varied background,her hard work ethic, and very smart, and knowledgeable! She attacks every challenge with amazing ease, which has helped her in all her various capacities in the courtroom. We hope you will appoint her to this position, as she's got it all!

Respectfully,

Rita and Mitch Gallagher

From: art lusse <artlusse@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 12, 2021 10:13 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judicial Nomination of Audrey Cromwell

To: Hannah Slusser
From: Katherine (Kitty) Lusse & Art Lusse
Re: Audrey Cromwell Judicial Application

Good morning Ms. Slusser

We could not be more honored than to send this letter on behalf of Audrey's application for a Judicial Appointment in Gallatin County. We have known Audrey since her second year of law school. I was a professor of law teaching mediation, family mediation, negotiation and the director of the school's Mediation Clinic. Audrey was a part of these classes and became proficient in mediation. (I say "we" because my wife Kitty, a professional mediator was integral to the teaching program and the clinic)

It is fair to say we had constant contact with Audrey as we did with other students.

We continued to stay in contact with Audrey and her husband Charlie over the years and followed their career's. Audrey has demonstrated her community involvement while pursuing her law practice. In particular we are aware of her involvement with the Community Mediation Center in Bozeman as well as being very active with MSU.

More and more we have noticed how important role modeling can be in developing lives, both young and old. The path Audrey and her family has chosen epitomizes the best of us and this is very important for a community to grow.

I (Art) want to close this letter by focusing on what I, after 50 years of being a lawyer know to be the superordinate trait a judge must possess: being a neutral. What makes mediation so popular today is that individuals can work with a professional who is "neutral". Audrey was a natural when it came to learning the role of the neutral and the litigants who would come before him could believe in Lady Justice, who proudly holds scales, which represent the weighing of evidence on its own merit, her blindfold represents our justice system being blind to a person's wealth, power, gender and race.

I have a post-script to this letter based on reading the many letters of support that have been tendered on Audrey's behalf. Once again, after 50 years of practicing law I was amazed at the cross section of citizens that have written on Audrey's behalf. To have cultivated the reputation and character espoused in those letters leaves no doubt about her capacity to be the next district court judge.

Should you desire to further discuss Audrey we can be reached at this email or at 406-839-3323.

Slusser, Hannah

From: Nick Ross <rosskitchendesign@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2021 8:56 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommending Audrey Cromwell

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.go

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I first met Audrey in the Spring of 2019 when I helped remodel their business at 1871 S. 22nd Ave Suite 2. She and her husband Charlie were professional and kind, yet firm about meeting expectations and deadlines. As the point of contact, Audrey was reasonable to work with and a great communicator.

That was a difficult summer for my family. My fledgling business was still getting off the ground & my daughters were ages 2 and 4. I couldn't help but wonder if I would be returning to Cromwell Law in the near future, with our roles reversed and me becoming the client. During the Fall of that same year 2019, my wife and I decided to dissolve our unhappy marriage. I asked that my wife have a consultation with Audrey Cromwell, whom I highly respected. We decided to work with her.

We trusted in her wholeheartedly during a contentious time in our lives. During Mediation, she helped us create a new road-map for the future, splitting up our assets. We spent most of our time in her office talking about the children and how to co-parent successfully. Exactly two year later, I can safely say the girls are exceeding all expectations, both socially and academically. I could not be more proud of my First Grader and Pre-K kiddos.

Audrey is one of the most amazing people you'll ever meet, and a treasured resource for our community. She was selected by the Bozeman Daily Chronicle as one of Southwest Montana's most accomplished professionals under the age of 40. That was five years ago. She wins people over with her kindness and intelligence, giving both sides the

opportunity to be heard. I hope you will consider her for the position of District Court Judge. She gets my highest recommendation!!

Thank You

Nick Ross, owner Ross Kitchen Design
1802 W Beall St. Apt D
Bozeman MT 59715

Ph: 406-579-2032

Email: rosskitchendesign@gmail.com

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Nick Ross



406.579.2032

www.rosskitchendesign.com [rosskitchendesign.com]

October 17, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with much respect that I give my highest recommendation and strongest support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position.

I have served in law enforcement for more than 35 years. I retired in 2013 as an Assistant Chief for the California Highway Patrol and subsequently as Chief of Police at Montana State University, retiring in June 2020. It was during my time at Montana State University that I first met Audrey Cromwell.

Audrey worked as an attorney for the Associated Students of Montana State University. I personally witnessed Audrey's support of a diverse student population on matters related to student code of conduct issues and criminal violations. She represented her clients zealously and provided sound legal counsel. Audrey also demonstrated the ability to bring law enforcement and students together to work collaboratively to solve problems and keep the community safe. She was trusted and could be relied upon to place others above self by showing grace and understanding to all.

One example of Audrey's ability to bring people together to solve problems was when she created and facilitated the first Montana State University DUI Wet Lab. The Lab was designed to educate students on the dangers of alcohol abuse. Student leaders learned from University Police officers, Bozeman Police Officers, Gallatin County Sheriffs Deputies, Montana Highway Patrol officers, prosecutors, addiction counselors, and representatives from the State Crime Lab how alcohol impairment impacts a person's ability to perform routine tasks. The program was a phenomenal success. Student leadership was able to share lessons learned with the general student population, greatly assisting the university's alcohol education program. The experience also built lasting relationships between student leadership and local law enforcement officers that remain strong to this day.

Based on my observations, I am confident Audrey has the experience and character to uphold the independence and integrity expected of the Judiciary. I have no reservations when I write, Audrey would respect and comply with the law while promoting confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. Her private interests would never influence her responsibilities. She would perform the duties of the office fairly, impartially, and diligently. She would serve with honor and uphold the integrity of the position.

As a career law enforcement executive, I encourage you to strongly consider Audrey Cromwell for the District Court Judge position. Audrey will make an outstanding judge and she will serve our community with distinction.

Respectfully,

Frank H. Parrish, Jr.

Frank H. Parrish, Jr.
Chief of Police, Retired
Montana State University

November 10, 2021

Via Email

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

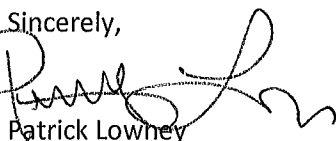
Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write in support of Audrey Cromwell in regard to her application to be appointed a District Judge for the State of Montana. I have known Audrey for approximately thirteen (13) years, and I have known her husband Charlie since we were children. We have spent a significant amount of time not only interacting socially over the years, but also discussing and debating our respective legal practices, and I know Audrey to be intelligent, compassionate, fair and a person of the utmost integrity.

While I grew up in Missoula, I spent my first twelve (12) or so years as an attorney practicing in Oregon, both as a county prosecutor and in a private firm dedicated to family law. Having moved back to Montana to raise a family in 2018, I now work again work as a prosecutor in the Missoula City Attorney's office. That is to say, I have had the occasion to appear before a great many judges in my career. Because of that, I can say without question that Audrey is an outstanding candidate to be appointed as a judge, both in temperament and experience. Her time spent in the criminal system and the family law system comprise the two highest-volume types of cases judges see. Additionally, she has civil experience and thus she will be prepared to handle a varied caseload adeptly.

I urge the committee to give Audrey's application careful consideration. Her addition to the Gallatin County bench would be to the benefit of all involved in the local legal system.

Sincerely,



Patrick Lowney
Deputy City Attorney
Missoula City Attorney's Office

John M. Van Atta

531 Hahaione Street #20B Honolulu, HI 96825
johnvanatta@gmail.com ■ 406-698-2350

November 12, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I enthusiastically support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacant judge position in the 18th Judicial District.

I am a former partner with a Billings law firm. While I now practice in Hawaii, I maintain a close connection with the Montana bar. I have known Audrey for several years both as a professional and as a member of my extended family, and I am confident that she would act as an honorable and valuable member of the judiciary.

Audrey's energy to serve and to improve the practice of law and access to justice is unparalleled. She not only founded and has managed a successful law firm, Cromwell Law, but along the way has made pioneering and innovative efforts to provide clients with high quality, affordable representation. Her legal experience includes experience from both sides of the bench and the negotiation table. She has practiced as a trial lawyer, served as a judge *pro tempore*, and has emphasized a collaborative approach to family law.

Audrey's contributions to the legal profession are only the beginning. As an individual, she is an active member of the community, a mother, and a beloved family member. She has a truly unique combination of intelligence, commitment, and humanity that I believe would prove valuable during times when so many question our system of justice.

Respectfully,



John M. Van Atta

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to you today in support of Audrey Shultz Cromwell for the judicial appointment to the Eightieth Judicial Court.

I have had the honor of being Audrey's client for the past eight years. When I first met Audrey, I was going through the biggest challenge of my life. I was recently divorced and needing to adjust my parenting plan. I was scared, overwhelmed, heartbroken and I had no understanding of the law. Audrey not only showed me kindness and compassion but was able to support me in understanding my rights as a parent. What I respect most about Audrey is she was able to help me stay focused on looking at my situation through the lens of my child. We were able to discuss what was best for him and write a plan together that supported his best interest and involved both parents. Over the past eight years I have sought counsel from Audrey on three separate occasions, and each time she has made me stronger.

Through my time spent with Audrey I was inspired by her genuineness, compassion for others and ability to hold up others who have experienced trauma, are in crisis, or emotionally dysregulated. She inspired me to want to give back to our community the way she gave me security and confidence in my own time of need. Soon after our first hearing closed, I enrolled at MSU Bozeman and four years later graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. By the time we met for the third time, I was on my way to gaining my master's degree in Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling. Over the past five years I have worked exclusively with children and families who have a history of trauma, addiction, and neglect. Through my work experience and client attorney relationship with Audrey, I can say with conviction that Audrey Shultz Cromwell will make an excellent addition to the 18th Judicial Court.

I am confident that Audrey will lead with fairness, compassion, and integrity. She is dedicated her clients and community. The residents of Montana will benefit greatly from her public service.

Sincerely,

Ellen G. VanDeKop, PCLC, ACLC

November 12th, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

When I saw that Gallatin County would be adding a new District Court Judge position, I immediately thought of Audrey Cromwell for the position. I have known Audrey for 8+ years both professionally and personally, and I cannot think of someone with more integrity, professionalism, or aptitude to be successful in this position.

I first met Audrey as she was helping launch the Montana Collaborative Divorce association. This organization helps families go through the divorce process with dignity, and keeps the families aligned even after their marriage has ended. I have worked with her through this process and can speak to her ability to get to the root of issues, her deep understanding of Montana law, and her willingness to really listen to all parties to ensure an equitable outcome.

I encourage you to take this opportunity to appoint Audrey Cromwell to the 18th Judicial Court in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

Alan Moore
24 E. Main St.
Bozeman, MT 59715
Email: alan@xyplanningnetwork.com

November 10th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Destini French, and I am honored to support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial Court Judge position. I am currently the owner and operator of Cultured Roots MT which provides a much needed service to the curly-coily hair communities in Montana. However, I met Audrey when I was ASMSU Student Body President and with the help of my Vice President, we made the decision to hire her and her husband as our ASMSU attorneys.

Audrey has a deep sense of community, justice, and reason. Audrey encompasses both the ability to apply the law to the facts and to understand how a judicial decision will affect the human beings appearing before the court. She displays the intelligence, ethics, courage and integrity that are essential qualities of a judge. Audrey displays a positive reputation in every professional and residential community and will continue to that if given the opportunity to become the 18th Judicial Court Judge and I fully support Audrey's desire and ability to serve this community in this incredible capacity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Destini French". The ink is a light grey or blue color.

Destini French

November 11, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I state my support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell for District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I have known Audrey in many capacities throughout the past several years – both adversarial and collaborative. In each instance, Audrey has consistently demonstrated her ability to be thoughtful, fair, and just. I have also had the honor of appearing in front of Audrey when she would occasionally judge *pro tem* in Gallatin County Justice Court; again, I remain impressed at her strength of character and her ability to remain thoughtful, fair, and just. More recently, I knew Audrey in her capacity as the Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center. Her passion for making collaborative problem solving accessible to all people is admirable and inspiring – the world could truly use more Audrey Cromwells.

Audrey's intelligence, kind disposition, and careful decision making combined with her wealth of experience will make Audrey a truly fantastic judge and a wonderful addition to the Eighteenth Judicial District. I recommend Audrey for this challenging opportunity without reservation and I look forward to continuing to see the difference she can make in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brittany Peters

Director of Operations, Thrive

November 11, 2021

VIA EMAIL (*nominatejudges@mt.gov*)

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the judicial seat in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court in Gallatin County. I was born and raised in Montana, and graduated from University of Montana School of Law in 2021. I am now an attorney with Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLC. I have known the Cromwell family for many years, but worked closely with Audrey during my third year of law school as a clinical attorney for ASMSU legal services. Audrey was my clinical supervisor and I developed a deep respect and admiration for Audrey and know she will be an excellent judge.

First, Audrey's leadership is palpable. As a clinical attorney for ASMSU, I had the opportunity to sit in with Audrey during negotiations for a criminal case. I observed Audrey to be a powerful and effective communicator. During the negotiations, I was struck by Audrey's professionalism and her ability to slice through to the heart of important issues. Audrey is also an excellent listener. During the same negotiations, Audrey did not hesitate to ask challenging questions of opposing counsel, but did so in a respectful and effective manner. Her questions moved the case forward for both parties. Her ability to communicate clearly, listen effectively, and the intangible feeling one has in her presence makes her an excellent leader and judicial candidate.

Second, Audrey's judgment and analytical skills are exceptional. During my time at ASMSU, we had a challenging issue related to a client and Audrey, as my supervising attorney, left no stone unturned as we talked through the legal and ethical implications associated with the issue. I was always impressed by her analytical ability and judgment calls. Now, as I grow into my role as a lawyer, I can see just how exceptional she is. Gallatin County would be lucky to have Audrey's mature judgment and focused legal prowess on the bench.

Finally, Audrey is authentic, smart, and compassionate. She is dedicated to serving her community and is the perfect candidate for the role of District Court Judge.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Respectfully,

Rachel L. Wagner

Direct Line: (406) 523-2561

Email: rlwagner@garlington.com

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Matthew Zabawa, and I am a business professional residing in Billings, MT. I write this letter in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the new judge position in the 18th Judicial District Court. I grew up with Audrey as a fellow member of Billings West High Class of 2000 and have maintained friends with her since then. I am very proud of the reputation she built in the Billings, Bozeman, and MSU community.

Audrey has always demonstrated personal integrity and care for individuals. She has clearly chosen to practice law in a way that allows her to work personally with her clients in the courtroom and negotiation table. It takes courage, empathy, and interpersonal skills to be on the front lines of law practice. All traits that I believe are necessary for a judge. I'm particularly impressed by the work she did to establish and practice Collaborative Law in Montana. I believe many families have been blessed by going with that approach to divorce settlement rather than the typical adversarial litigation process.

I ran into her a few years ago at MSU while I was attending a workshop. I was amazed to find out that she was providing legal services to students at the university. She showed true leadership in shaping that role at the university. I know that she inspired many students at MSU to pursue law as she advocated and advised them. Students by nature of their economic status and naivete are vulnerable when it comes to legal matters. Audrey saw a need and forthrightly jumped in to serve that community.

As a father of adopted daughter, I saw firsthand how important judges are to family court. We had a great experience finalizing our adoption with Judge Moses in Yellowstone County, and I know that Audrey would provide great of care to families at truly crucial moments. As her friend, I know that she is fair minded and passionate about the law. She has a truly diverse and well-rounded resume. I know that she will be fair and objective in the application of the law but handle her courtroom with a deft touch.

Respectfully,

Matthew Zabawa, MS MBA
VP of Product, WebBuy
Billings, MT

November 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

As co-founders of a Bozeman-based technology company, we are writing in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell as Gallatin County District Court Judge.

Our relationship with Audrey spans professional, personal, and as community members with a shared interest in supporting a thriving local economy with care and consideration for the wellbeing of all residents. We are currently the executive leaders of Tadpull, Inc., an eCommerce technology company here in Bozeman with 18 employees. We are also long-time residents of Bozeman, grew up here, and are always concerned about the Bozeman community's leaders and the impact they can have on its residents.

We have been clients of Cromwell Law since 2014 and have been friends with her and her spouse, Charlie, since 2012 (and we have known Charlie since the 1980s as competitive swimmers in the state of Montana). Throughout our professional interactions with Audrey, we have always been impressed with her thoughtful approach to challenging situations. Her willingness to consider the possibilities and desired outcomes from multiple perspectives with integrity and respect for each individual party involved is an admirable quality that would serve her well in the role of judge.

One of the best examples of this is in her collaborative family law practice in which she and two colleagues (representing legal counsel, financial advising, and clinical therapy) work to support the needs of the whole family throughout the divorce process. She embraced this novel method to better serve her clients and ensure the long-term success of everyone in the family. She has also worked within the university system to support the legal rights of students at Montana State University. This experience also represents her in-depth understanding of the rights of individuals while conscientiously applying the law as it relates to the university and broader community.

In the personal realm, as a friend and parent, Audrey conducts herself in a manner that reflects her ethics, strong moral compass, and accountability for her actions, even in casual interactions. This familiarity with her character is what gives us the confidence to fully support her nomination.

Thank you for your consideration and please don't hesitate to contact us if any further details are needed.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jacob" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cook".

Jacob Cook
Co-Founder and CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eulalie Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eulalie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cook".

Eulalie Cook, Ph.D.
Co-Founder & Chief Data Officer

November 8, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I strongly recommend you appoint Audrey Cromwell to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court in Gallatin County. She is an outstanding leader and would make an ideal Judge.

I am a member in good standing of the Montana Bar Association and a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy. I had the pleasure of meeting Audrey when we were both law students at the University of Montana School of Law. Audrey and I worked closely together while she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review. She was known for her passion, competence, and leadership abilities. In the years since we graduated, she still exhibits those same qualities. Having served as a lawyer and public servant for 12 years, I consider Audrey to be one of the finest lawyers I know.

The entire time I have known Audrey, she has been unafraid to take on difficult tasks and help her community. She believes every Montanan deserves affordable advocacy and she finds passion in supporting her clients. Her contributions have been felt throughout Bozeman and Montana, as evidenced by her success as Judge Pro Tempore in Bozeman Municipal Court. I believe Audrey is uniquely positioned to handle cases where veterans are named as parties, witnesses, or victims in cases arising out of Gallatin County.

In addition to being an attorney, Audrey is an incredible friend, wife, and mother. She has a proven history of success in whatever endeavor she undertakes. Audrey has the judicial temperament, judgement, and experience required of a District Court Judge. She is the perfect candidate to fill the new Judgeship.

In summary, Audrey Cromwell exemplifies the skills and character required of a Judge. Her potential is limitless. I strongly recommend you appoint Audrey to the District Court. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (407) 921-0871 or at prohlfig@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Rohlfig
Lieutenant Commander
United States Navy

Views expressed are my own and not the Department of the Navy's

November 8, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

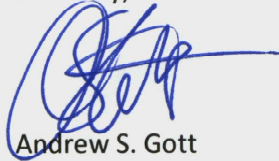
Dear Governor Gianforte:

As a Montana resident since the age of seven, I care deeply about this wonderful state. As such, I wholeheartedly support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District judge position. I have known Audrey for about 26 years and have experienced her as a person of strong character, integrity, and intelligence.

She has demonstrated a willingness to take on hard issues, not shying away from difficult topics or situations. Moreover, she seeks to build relationships wherever she is, lifting others up and improving the quality of the communities she invests in. Audrey is a person of substance who goes the extra mile, even when it is not directly beneficial to her.

That Audrey has done so many things well is not a surprise to me. She embraces excellence and maintains high standards of performance and commitment. Audrey and I share a love of Montana, and it is clear to me that we would all be even better off with her as a district judge for our great state.

Sincerely,



Andrew S. Gott
Billings, MT

November 7, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the judicial seat in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court in Gallatin County.

In my practice, I have been fortunate to meet many bright lawyers while at Stanford Law School, while working within the capital markets group of a large, global law firm, and most recently, while in-house at a fast-growing Bay Area technology company; however, Audrey stands out as one of the greatest legal minds. I have known Audrey for over a decade, as a friend, sister-in-law, and colleague, and through our conversations, it is evident that she possesses the rare ability to parse through complicated legal matters while never losing sight of the big picture, as she continually questions the broader implications of such matters and how they may affect precedent.

Audrey is also one of the most purposeful, intellectually curious, and hard-working people I have ever met. From attending immigration clinics to learn how to fill a gap that may exist within her community, to pioneering a collaborative mediation approach to often-contentious family law cases, she constantly strives to better herself and her practice for the benefit of her community. She is frequently juggling several projects simultaneously, but she does so with an unwavering work ethic, and all the while, with a level head.

The legal community would be greatly enriched if there were more lawyers with the strong sense of citizenship that Audrey possesses, and I am confident that she would be a fantastic judge.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly Kim', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kimberly Kim

November 5, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Dillon Haskell, and it is my distinct pleasure to write to you and recommend my friend and colleague, Audrey Cromwell, to become a District Court Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, Gallatin County. I am a lifelong Montanan, a 2015 graduate of Montana State University, and a 2018 graduate of the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. I have known Audrey and her husband, Charlie, for over seven years: first as an undergraduate student, then as a law student, and now as an attorney.

I first met Audrey and Charlie in 2014 when I was a student Senator for the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU). After a highly competitive process, Montana State University and ASMSU selected Cromwell Law to provide full and limited scope legal services to MSU students. Frankly, it was the best decision ASMSU has made in the past decade. Audrey and Charlie brought new life to a Legal Services program that had laid dormant for many years. After orchestrating a highly-effective marketing and awareness campaign to students, their services were soon in high demand, and they have helped thousands of students since. Beyond that, they settled easily into a role as mentors and advisors for student leaders. ASMSU Legal Services previously held an ill-defined role, but Audrey and Charlie quickly transformed it into a cornerstone program, all through their excellent management, organizational, and leadership skills.

I first witnessed Audrey's legal prowess on full display not through my position in ASMSU, but as a client. At the time, I was part of a student organization with several constitutional law questions. I met with Audrey, and I was immediately struck by her passion and excitement for the law. She listened intently to my concerns, and she enjoyed working through the legal issues. Where she needed to follow up with additional research on specific topics, I could tell she was eager to learn the answers. Audrey produced a thorough research memo just a couple weeks later, and she helped me find and meet with a local attorney who could provide full scope legal services. She even attended the meeting herself. Thus, I witnessed Audrey's depth of legal knowledge and outstanding work ethic, both of which are illustrated by her application packet. But I also witnessed her passion and zeal for legal work—additional qualities I believe all great jurists share. In fact, working with Audrey at the time was a major inspiration for my applying to law school.

Years later, as a third-year law student, I was required to complete a clinical program before graduation. I was fortunate to be selected as one of the very first clinical interns for the Cromwells' newly-minted clinical program through ASMSU Legal Services. The program provided me with extensive practice in legal research, writing, and analysis, and it exposed me to the day-to-day work of an attorney. Better still, my work impacted real clients, and I learned how to navigate one-on-one client meetings—a truly rare experience for third-year law students and even new associates working for private firms. The clinical program allows Audrey to mentor and teach aspiring attorneys, and it is only one of many examples of her desire to give back to her community.

In her application packet, Audrey states that judges must have integrity and legal courage, and they must be efficient. I could not agree more. After graduating law school, I served one-year terms as a law clerk for Justice Laurie McKinnon of the Montana Supreme Court and Judge Susan Watters of the United States District Court, District of Montana. Without a doubt, both these amazing jurists possessed the qualities Audrey listed. I saw their integrity and legal courage on display whenever the law mandated unpopular outcomes—occasionally to the chagrin of *both* parties. They left their personal biases at the door and held fast to the principle that a judge's duty is foremost to soberly interpret, analyze, and apply the law. They also strongly believed in efficient justice. They each meticulously tracked the cases they were assigned and were willing to work long hours to ensure their decisions were not only thorough and well-founded, but timely. They believed our legal system should afford the parties in any case an efficient decision, even though the outcome is typically unfavorable for one.

Audrey possesses the qualities that lead to a successful judge. She understands what is required of her, and she is more than capable of stepping up to the plate. She will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to her courtroom. She volunteers, and she gives back to her community. She will represent the judiciary with professionalism and class. She is hard-working, organized, and efficient, so she will deliver timely decisions and maintain an efficient docket. She enjoys learning and is passionate about the law, so her decisions will be well-researched and thorough. She has integrity and legal courage, so she will ground her decisions firmly in the law.

I am confident Audrey Cromwell will be an outstanding addition to the bench. The citizens of Montana will benefit enormously from her public service. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Dillon T. Haskell
1607 17th St. W—Apt. 236
Billings, MT 59102
Ph: 406-860-9839
Email: Dillon.haskell1@gmail.com



P.O. Box 698
Gallatin Gateway, Montana 59730
(406) 763-4159

Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Letter of Support for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Ms. Slusser,

I am a Wyoming attorney living in the Gallatin valley since 2008. I do not practice law here in Montana but I have been a mediator since 1998, which is how I came to meet Audrey. She was the executive director of the Bozeman Community Mediation Center and we met to discuss mediation possibilities through the CMC. I found Audrey to be extremely pleasant and willing to take time out to speak with me. She had many great ideas for ways to make the CMC more accessible to a wide variety of community members who could benefit from alternative dispute resolution, as well as plans for how to expose more people to mediation as a better way to ameliorate their challenging situations. She was extremely passionate about finding ways to help people learn to enhance their communication skills to improve their lives.

I own a small photography business here in the Bozeman area and recently contacted Audrey about a business matter. We hadn't been in contact for several years as our paths had diverged but she returned my call promptly and was willing to provide the referral information I needed to resolve my issue.

While I can't claim to know Audrey well, what I have seen of her work and personality in my own experience and through comments from those who know her better than I, convinces me that she would make a competent and thoughtful judge. I served as a magistrate for the Circuit Court of the 2nd Judicial District in Wyoming and also worked closely with District Court, Circuit Court and municipal judges in 5 different counties as a prosecutor, defense attorney and career law enforcement officer so I have experienced a wide variety of judges. I believe Audrey's broad experience, temperament, wisdom and compassion would make her a very successful judge and I hope the governor will give serious consideration to her appointment to the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District here in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

Stormy Barton, J.D.
(Stormy@BartonMediation.com)

Haley Jackson
125 Meagher Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718
connell.haley@gmail.com
406-396-7374

November 4, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Haley Jackson and I am an attorney with the appellate division of the Office of the Public Defender. I am honored to support Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judge position. I have known Audrey for several years and think she would make an outstanding judge.

When I first learned that Audrey applied for the position, my immediate thought was: "Audrey would be perfect." As an appellate attorney, my job primarily consists of dissecting district court proceedings and identifying where district court judges erred. I believe this has given me a strong sense of what qualities make a good district court judge: a sharp mind and keen understanding of the law; a commitment to justice; an ability to listen to and consider conflicting opinions; strong communication skills; and integrity.

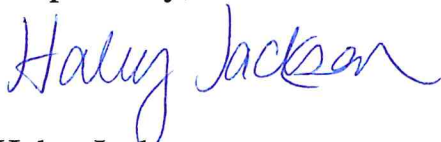
I can confidently say—and as reflected by her impressive resume—Audrey possesses all these qualities. Audrey's diverse background in the civil and criminal arenas has given her a wealth of knowledge in multiple areas of law and an acute ability to analyze complex legal nuances. As evident by Audrey's work at the Office of the Public Defender and ASMSU Legal Services, Audrey cares deeply about improving access to our legal system and helping marginalized people in our community. Audrey's expertise and success in collaborative family law demonstrates her impressive ability to truly listen

to different positions, problem-solve, and effectively communicate with parties to secure a just result. Perhaps most importantly, Audrey's outstanding reputation among lawyers and clients reveals that she is an attorney with great integrity and would make an honorable judge.

I have always marveled at Audrey's ability to successfully juggle so much. She is a mother, a wife, a lawyer, an active community member, and a friend and mentor to so many. She excels in each of these roles. The courts in Gallatin County carry a heavy docket and require a judge with a strong work ethic and ability to tackle multiple tasks at once. Audrey has proven she has the motivation and skillset to take on this challenging role.

I believe Audrey would be an asset to the judiciary, and I strongly support her for the judgeship position.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Haley Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Haley Jackson

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
Fax: 406.624.6891
www.karemlaw.com

November 4, 2021

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

Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: HON. AUDREY CROMWELL
Montana 18th Judicial District Court, Gallatin County

Greetings Gov. Gianforte:

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

In my fifteen years of practice, I've interacted with hundreds of attorneys and dozens of judges from the justice courts to the Ninth Circuit. In the course of my practice, I've observed the good, bad, and ugly of practitioners—from those that practice law to those that practice *ad hominem*. When I face an adversary that practices law, it strengthens my faith in the rule of law. Ms. Cromwell brings faith to the rule of law.

I don't know Ms. Cromwell personally but I've had the pleasure of knowing her and her partner, Charlie Cromwell, as adversaries. I say "pleasure" because they are practitioners of the rule of law. Despite our adversarial roles, their conduct has been graceful, courteous, and professional, and their high degree of intelligence and competence are refreshing.

I have confidence that Ms. Cromwell will serve the Gallatin Valley community with vigor, conscientiousness, and diligence. She will bring youth and fresh eyes to a community that for too long has been run by old political influences.

As a practicing attorney, Ms. Cromwell knows all too well (as do we all in the valley) the challenge that faces our district court—an overloaded docket and too few judges. Like our current judges, she knows that clearing the docket and entering timely orders and decisions is paramount to serving our community. I look forward to practicing before the Hon. Audrey Cromwell.

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



November 5, 2021

**Ambassadors
of
Reconciliation™**

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I support the appointment of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I have known Audrey since her childhood when she and my son were classmates in elementary school.

I am the founder and former President of Ambassadors of Reconciliation, a Montana non-profit organization equipping Christians around the world in biblical conflict resolution and reconciliation. In my current role as Senior Ambassador, I provide conciliation services, write, speak, and train people in Christian conciliation.

Since her youth, Audrey's character has reflected a strong work ethic, compassion, and integrity. She demonstrates a drive to serve people's needs where they are. She strives to find just solutions through collaboration professionally and personally.

Audrey demonstrates wisdom and discernment. Together with the characteristics noted above and her extensive experience, these all qualify her for serving as District Court Judge. As Montana citizens, we depend on wise, fair, and impartial judges to provide justice for our society.

I encourage you to appoint Audrey Schultz Cromwell to the bench for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Respectfully,

Ted Kober, D.Litt.
Senior Ambassador

November 4th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

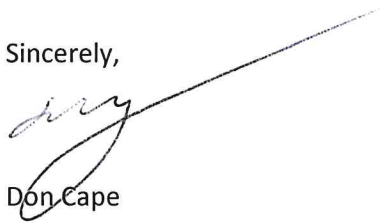
I appreciate the opportunity to submit this letter of support and to encourage you to select Audrey Cromwell for Gallatin County's new District Judge position. I had the pleasure of getting to know Audrey during a two hour conversation to discuss her sincere interest in this judgeship. As you already know, Shavon and I are heavily invested both personally and in business here in Bozeman so we maintain a deep appreciation for the quality of the judiciary in Gallatin County.

The single most compelling characteristic of Audrey's that motivated me to write this letter was her empathy for the human impact associated with the variety of cases she has been involved in. She has a clear recognition that all cases have a human component to them. I suspect that this is a result of her extensive background with family and criminal law. It is my opinion as well that Audrey will bring a pragmatic perspective to business disputes based on her experience and background in real estate and landlord tenant laws.

I also appreciated some of her forward looking aspirations on ways to enhance and streamline the judiciary process through better leverage of technology and alternative dispute resolution tools. Not surprisingly, I learned a great deal from Audrey on this topic. I anticipate that her work ethic and intellect will empower her to endure the large and varied case loads that District Court Judges face.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter and hope that you find Audrey to be as compelling of a candidate for District Court Judge as I do. She struck me as a remarkable woman with a great legal mind that is balanced by both pragmatism and empathy for the human impact of all issues that appear in the legal system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Cape", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Don Cape

November 1, 2021

Via-Email

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

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to you to express my support of Audrey Cromwell for the judicial vacancy in the 18th Judicial District Court. I have known Audrey for 15 years and believe she would be an excellent selection to serve as a State District Court Judge.

I first met Audrey in the orientation program at the University of Montana School of Law and it was immediately apparent that she is intelligent, hardworking, even keeled, compassionate, and kind. Since that time, my initial impressions have been proven correct. Not only is Audrey a zealous advocate for her clients, she is committed to problem solving and working toward commonsense and practical resolutions to disputes as evidenced by her groundbreaking work in collaborative family law.

While Audrey is a demonstrated advocate, her commitment to public service and the community is equally impressive. Audrey's work as a public defender, her service on a drug court team in the Montana 13th Judicial District, as a leader of the Associated Students of Montana State University Student Legal Services Program, and as a *Pro Tempore* judge in the Gallatin County Justice Court reflects her commitment to serving the public and populations that are generally underserved in our justice system.

November 1, 2021

Page 2

Finally, Audrey's experience and work as an attorney make her well suited to take the bench. When considering the types of cases that make up the bulk of a District Court's docket, Audrey is uniquely qualified due to her experience in both criminal law and family law matters.

Audrey would be a welcome addition to the 18th Judicial District and I fully support Audrey's desire to continue her service to her profession and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eli J. Patten', with a stylized, flowing script.

ELI J. PATTEN

Kirsten K. Madsen

703 Eighth Ave. • Helena, Montana 59601
MadsenKirsten@aol.com • 406.459.8685

November 2, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hanna Slusser
Governor's Office
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my pleasure to offer my continued support for the nomination of Audrey Shultz Cromwell to serve as the newest judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I am currently legal counsel for the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Office of the Montana State Auditor. For the first half of my career, I was honored to serve as Senior Law Clerk to now-retired Judge James P. Reynolds, First Judicial District, and before that as the first law clerk to now-retired Judge John C. McKeon, Seventeenth Judicial District.

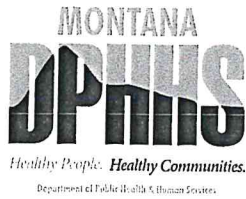
I have known Ms. Cromwell for over a decade, including throughout our time together in law school. As you have no doubt seen from her application materials, Audrey is a high-achieving self-starter. In my experience as a law clerk for two judges, I am familiar with the demanding scope of cases faced by Montana's district courts and I believe wholeheartedly that she has the intellectual capacity, the energy, and the firm kindness necessary to tackle the monumental and diverse workload. Her resume reflects the many new challenges she has willingly taken on in her legal career. Off paper, I have seen her tackle these challenges by objectively assessing her existing capacity, determining what else she needs to learn or do, devoting reasonable time to develop or create the tools needed, and then executing her choices to move on to the next step. Watching her perform the last step over and over again in her professional life is one of the things that gives me the confidence to say Ms. Cromwell has that intangible, essential quality needed to serve as a judge—a healthy respect for the weight of making decisions, but also the ability to make them.

Audrey is an inviting, warm person with an infectious laugh and a whip-smart head on her shoulders. She has not only the technical foundation and experience to perform the brass tacks of the job, but also the good judgment, commitment to public service, and belief in public good required to engender the trust and respect of her community. I am honored to call Audrey a friend and proud to recommend that she be appointed to the bench.

Respectfully,



Kirsten K. Madsen



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Child & Family Services Division ♦ 220 W Lamme, Ste 2B ♦ Bozeman, MT 59715-3579 ♦

Phone: 406-585-9984 ♦ Fax: 406-585-7178

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Adam Meier, Director

November 2, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I want to extend my strongest support for Audrey Cromwell's appointment for the fourth 18th Judicial District, District Court Judge of Gallatin County.

As a Child Protection Specialist Supervisor for the Montana DPHHS-CFSD and an active member of the Family Justice Coordinating Counsel, I have had multiple opportunities to work with Ms. Cromwell. Ms. Cromwell has always presented as professional, knowledgeable and extremely capable. She has treated all parties at the table with the same respect, attention, and interest as the others. Ms. Cromwell demonstrates a genuine interest in family law matters and Dependency and Neglect (DN) proceedings.

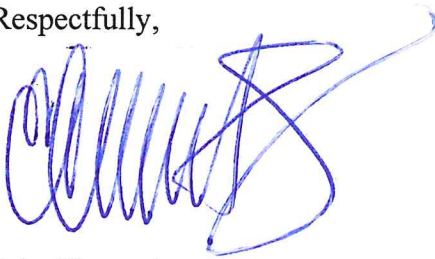
As DN proceedings are held exclusively in the District Court, it is imperative that the next appointee has the knowledge and experience of DN proceedings, family law, mental health, addiction, and criminal law as those factors are often converging and complicating the situation. It is also imperative that the next appointee practice in an informed, non-biased approach to the law.

Ms. Cromwell has had the opportunity to practice law and represent clients with extremely complicated legal challenges. I have observed Ms. Cromwell to be extremely well versed in DN proceedings, family law, mental health and addiction, and criminal law. I have never observed Ms. Cromwell to apply her own bias in cases but rather, she asked questions and gathered as much information as possible before

advising her client of the options. Ms. Cromwell also shared her knowledge about various approaches for conflict resolution, mediation, and cooperative engagement during meetings which was extremely helpful and informational.

I have worked with the DPHHS-CFSD for 10years and have experienced multiple judges in multiple jurisdictions and want to ensure the next appointee has an open mind about DN proceedings. I want to ensure that the DN proceedings are held to a high standard and processed with the best interest of the child in mind. Based on my professional dealings with and observations of Ms. Cromwell, I believe she is an excellent appointee for the new District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erin Clements', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Erin Clements
Child Protection Specialist Supervisor
Gallatin, Park, Sweetgrass
220 W. Lamme Suite 2B
Bozeman MT 59715
(406) 585-9984 main

October 24, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write in support of my friend and colleague, Audrey Cromwell. I am an attorney in Bozeman and have been practicing in the area of civil litigation since 2009. I have known Audrey for almost fifteen years. I believe that she would make an excellent district court judge.

Audrey has always impressed me in her ability to take on new professional endeavors and work hard to learn them quickly and thoroughly. She is not afraid to put in extra time to learn a new area of law or issue. I believe this is demonstrated by Audrey's wide range of legal experience in various areas of law, from civil to criminal, family law to alternate dispute resolution.

Audrey is also a person who values fairness and justice. I admire Audrey's work in her current position at Cromwell Law, where among other things, she helps MSU students who are in need of legal assistance, but may have little resources to do so. I also am impressed by her commitment to alternate dispute resolution theories in the area of family law. She is able to navigate difficult family dynamics and legal issues that arise in those contexts with skill and compassion for those involved. She is intelligent, kind and is guided by a strong sense of fairness.

Audrey impressed me with her ability to juggle so many things throughout law school and her legal career. I recall in law school how she gracefully led the Montana Law Review, made good grades, participated in clubs, played on a recreational sports team and also never seemed to miss a social event at the Law School. This ability to aptly manage so many responsibilities and areas of her life continues today as she continues to thrive in her professional career and family life. I have no doubt that Audrey would work hard to learn yet another area in the legal profession as a district court judge and I fully endorse her for that position.

Respectfully,



Lindsay Beck-Stalpes

Slusser, Hannah

From: Chris Decker <cdecker@boonekarlberg.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 10:29 AM
To: NominateJudges
Cc: Chris Decker
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for Audrey Schultz Cromwell - Eighteenth Judicial District Court

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the judicial appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. Audrey and I were classmates at the University of Montana School of Law. Both of us have practiced law in Montana since law school. Audrey has built a very innovative and successful law practice in Gallatin County. I am currently a Shareholder at Boone Karlberg, P.C., in Missoula, practicing civil litigation.

Audrey has all of the qualities required to be a successful judge. She is a natural leader, intelligent, self-motivated, and compassionate. She demonstrated these qualities throughout law school. Audrey was always prepared for class and contributed to class discussions with thoughtful analysis. She took on extra activities, such as Montana Law Review, demonstrating her work ethic. Audrey's selection as Montana Law Review Editor in Chief illustrated the confidence our classmates had in her leadership abilities.

Since law school, Audrey has developed a variety of experience that will assist her in judicial duties. She has worked in a broad range of fields, including criminal law, civil law, family law, alternative dispute resolution, and as a temporary judge. This broad experience will be invaluable to her as a district court judge. It also demonstrates that she is willing to immerse herself in new, unfamiliar areas of law – a necessity for judges.

Audrey will work hard and provide parties appearing before her with fair, thoughtful, and efficient rulings. The Eighteenth Judicial District will benefit from her ability to manage a docket and keep cases moving forward. It is exciting as a Montana litigator to see high-quality judicial candidates like Audrey. She has my full support.

Sincerely,

Chris Decker

Christopher L. Decker
Shareholder

BOONE  KARLBERG
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

201 West Main St., Suite 300
P.O. Box 9199
Missoula, MT 59807
Phone: (406) 543-6646

Sent Via Email Only

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Julie Rostad Patten, and I am a licensed attorney and member of the state bar of Montana. I have practiced criminal law as a state and federal prosecutor in Billings, Montana since 2011. I write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the new judge position in the 18th Judicial District Court. Audrey's breadth of experience, temperament, and legal acumen would make her an excellent District Court judge.

As a prosecutor, I have had the opportunity to practice before several outstanding judges. In my opinion, what sets those judges apart from the others is a strong work ethic, an even temperament, and an ability to make difficult, and sometimes unpopular, decisions while correctly applying the law. Audrey encompasses all those traits and more. Her experience in both criminal law and family law makes her well suited for the job of district court judge where those types of cases make up a significant portion of the District Court's docket. On top of that, her experience with treatment courts and collaborative family law makes her uniquely qualified.

Moreover, Audrey demonstrates integrity, both professionally and personally. She is kind, compassionate, and caring. She is dedicated to serving her community and making it a better place. It is with the utmost confidence I recommend her for the position.

Thank you,

Julie Rostad Patten
Attorney at Law
Billings, MT

November 3, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

Please accept my highest recommendation for Audrey Cromwell to fill the position of District Court Judge here in Gallatin County. I have known and worked with Audrey for over six years, primarily with the Montana Mediation Association and the Community Mediation Center of Bozeman.

As a retired U.S Air Force Brigadier General, I have had the opportunity to view many individuals operate and make decisions in complex and demanding environments. Audrey's temperament, character, and proven track record of critical decision making, combine to offer an exceptional example of what a good District Judge should be. Her experience as a public defender and collaborative family law attorney demonstrates her ability to work in multidimensional environments. Her work as the Co-Director of the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program speaks to her care and concern for our future leaders in Montana.

My work as Business Leadership Consultant and Certified Mediator has presented many opportunities to observe, listen and counsel leaders on how to do meaningful, collaborative work that achieves results. As citizens of our great State, we look to our District Judges for impartial, well studied decisions that honor the law. In this framework, leaders who recognize the value of collaborative environments that achieve win-win solutions for all, resonates well. Audrey is just this person. Her work in collaborative law also shows the value in interdisciplinary models and neutrality. She understands that a district court judge must remain neutral and be prepared to address nearly every type of dispute that can arise in our great state. Her proven experience as a founder of Cromwell Law PLLC, as well as a defense attorney on the 13th Judicial District Drug Court demonstrates the range and depth of her experience.

Audrey Cromwell possesses and demonstrates all the qualities of superior District Court Judge. She is fair, open-minded, competent, compassionate, and courageous. I can offer no higher recommendation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kendall Switzer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brigadier General Kendall Switzer, USAF (Ret.), MBA
Partner, Mission Development Center
Bozeman, Montana (406) 581-4990



Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Leigh Ripley, I am the Operations and Marketing Manager for Montana Ballet Company, a nonprofit 501©3. I am also the Co-owner of Media Mavens, LLC. Media Mavens publishes: *Montana Parent*, a monthly resource for families in southwest Montana; the Roots Collective annual *Wellness/Postpartum Resource Guide*; *Southwest Montana Summer Family Travel Guide*; and Bozeman Parks and Recreation Department's fall/winter and spring/summer program guides.

My primary takeaway in my capacity as both an employee in the nonprofit sector and as a small business owner specializing in family publications, is that Montana is an incredibly supportive community and undeniably a magical place to raise a family. That being said, not all families look the same.

When I made the difficult decision to dissolve my own marriage, I was referred to Audrey Cromwell. Emotions and rational thinking during such a turbulent event can best be likened to a tornado. At times still, and others out of control and destructive.

My divorce was not easy, it was a long process, and I had three children to think about. What was intended to be a collaborative process was unfortunately met with ineptitude and repeated absences from opposing counsel, thus creating an environment of insecurity and lack of understanding.

This situation could easily have left the conference room and moved to a courtroom if it were not for Audrey. She proved to be fair, to both parties, and creative with compromise and solutions while maintaining a high standard of ethical judgement.

She was patient, level and able to communicate effectively in times of heated debate. She was also clear and firm when needed.

I found Audrey's motivation to be not only her client, but the security of the people who were not in the room, the children. This ability to look beyond "he said, she said, what's fair and what's not," and share the bigger picture resulted in clarity for all and mutual resolution.

Audrey once told me, nobody wins in a divorce. And nobody won in ours. But the outcome was one that I have peace with.

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the position of District Judge. The state of Montana and its citizens can only benefit from her experience, disposition, humanity and ethics.

With best regards and much gratitude for your consideration ~ Leigh Ripley

Slusser, Hannah

From: Diane Black <diane.ffmt@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:38 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support

October 31, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to recommend Audrey Cromwell be appointed district judge in the 18th Judicial District.

I have been both a client of Audrey's and a colleague. As a client, Audrey provided me a clear understanding of my legal position and worked diligently to ensure the process proceeded in a timely manner. She was compassionate and understanding during a very difficult time.

I've also had the opportunity to work with Audrey on several collaborative divorce cases. I have been impressed with her compassion for her clients, her desire to ensure that her clients truly understand their position under the law, her willingness to tackle the difficult topics with her clients and her ability to work with her clients to create equitable property settlements.

Audrey is caring, thoughtful, diligent, smart and approachable. She would make an excellent judge.

Respectfully,

Diane Black
Bozeman, Montana

Slusser, Hannah

From: Richard Costello <rrcostello@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 4:24 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New District Court Judge position in Gallatin County

ATTN: Office of the Governor

To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this message is to support the candidacy of Audrey Cromwell for the new District Court Judge position in Gallatin County. I met the Cromwell family when Audrey's then future father in-law and I began law school some 40 years ago. During my litigation career, I practiced law with many lawyers in local, state and Federal Courts. Some were either appointed or elected as judges. The judges with strong legal skills, who were courteous and thoughtful, were respected. Those possessing a strong sense of family and who were deeply rooted within their community, understood the importance of temperament and impartiality. Audrey Cromwell, who exhibits all of these exemplary qualities and more, is especially capable for the opportunity, and I give her my full support.

Respectfully,

R. Richard Costello

US Patent Attorney (Retired)

Slusser, Hannah

From: Harrison, Justine <justine.harrison@aopa.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 31, 2021 4:35 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New District Court Judge position for Gallatin County

ATTN: Office of the Governor

To Whom it May Concern:

It is a pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation and support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell as she seeks appointment as a District Judge in Gallatin County. I currently serve as General Counsel for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and participate in litigation in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals and other Federal appellate courts on issues of importance to the association's more than 320,000 members. Prior to my current role, I was in private practice for more than a decade and previously served as in-house counsel for the official cancer institute of the State of Nevada.

Years ago, I had the pleasure of meeting Audrey Cromwell through her husband and our friendship also developed into a professional relationship. As I sought to modernize my law firm resources, she was generous in sharing advice and wisdom gained through experience with various technology platforms, workflows, and more. We also consulted each other on multiple matters involving issues in Nevada and Montana, and I have been consistently impressed by her combination of substantive depth and practical approach to a wide variety of legal scenarios.

Every judge (appointed or elected) comes to the bench with a unique background, personal philosophy, social and cultural impacts, and complex life experiences. Audrey Cromwell has dedicated her career in furtherance of the justice system and in service of the public. The legal world is increasingly becoming sub-specialized, so her decision to pursue a general practice is one which provides an increasingly rare breadth of experience that spans civil and criminal matters, individual and corporate clients, transactions, mediation and litigation. I have been particularly impressed by her dedication to providing legal access to low and middle income clients, and to MSU students who are at a pivotal stage of life where their actions and decisions can disproportionately shape their future opportunities.

In both personal and professional interactions, Audrey has been approachable, personable and had a very calm and steady temperament, even when discussing difficult situations and topics with high stakes outcomes. She has a gift for communicating in a very direct, concise and clear manner to both colleagues and

laypersons. She is able to navigate difficult dynamics and constructively diffuse heated interactions that can serve as obstacles to reaching substantive progress on foundational issues. These skills and attributes will serve her well on the bench.

It has been a pleasure to watch Audrey Cromwell's practice and career grow and flourish, and I wholeheartedly recommend her for the position of District Judge. The public and the legal community would be well served and fortunate to have her as a member of Montana's judiciary.

Respectfully,

Justine A. Harrison

General Counsel

p: 301.695.2206

a: 421 Aviation Way, Frederick, MD 21701

www.aopa.org [aopa.org]



October 29th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I grew up in Billings, and am now Executive Director for a wildlife conservation nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California. I write in strong support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to a District Court Judgeship. I have known Audrey for over 20 years. We attended Billings West High School together, and she became part of my family when our siblings married over ten years ago. She has been a close friend for many years, and I have sought her professional advice on several matters.

Audrey clearly has the technical skills and experience to fulfill this position, but I'd like to speak specifically toward her character. Audrey has a strong moral compass and adheres to her core values. She exemplifies a strong Montana woman. She has the ability to understand different walks of life with empathy and respect. She has lived in rural Mexico and Washington DC, is an incredible musician and a great mother. I have watched her career blossom over the years, and she is fair, solid, transparent, and compassionate in her legal work.

Our American democracy is strong, but only as strong as the individuals upholding our constitution. I have no doubt that Audrey would add unique perspective and wise insight into any role into which she is appointed. Please consider her for this opportunity.

Respectfully,



Anne Middleton
Executive Director, ECOLIFE Conservation
amiddleton@ecolifeconservation.org
619-559-8960

October 29, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the newly created district court judge position in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey as a member of Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ in Bozeman. As her minister, I asked both she and her husband Charles to undergird a new ministry program at Pilgrim called Pilgrim Connect. This program sought to reach out to the community and direct new people to Pilgrim. Audrey volunteered immediately and along with the team provided support and counsel for the new director.

Audrey is a highly intelligent, compassionate, and dedicated individual. Her professional life since graduating from Carlton College has followed a sure trajectory. She is the consummate professional whose clear mind would enable her to make fair and balanced judgments on the bench. I am not surprised that as a managing partner of Cromwell Law in Bozeman she has received the endorsement of her fellow colleagues. Audrey was recently voted "Top Lawyer" in Gallatin County in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle's community choice awards!

Audrey wears many hats. As a lawyer and wife and mother she plays her many roles with grace. Professionally I am greatly impressed with her work in mediation. I have not failed to notice also that as a mother she finds time and energy for her young son. She is a complete person who would bring depth of character and mind to this position. I recommend her without reservation and am delighted that she is rising to this opportunity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Glover Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Glover Wagner, Minister (retired)
340 SW Homestead Ave.
College Place, WA 99324
(406) 595-3321
gloverbw99@gmail.com

October 29th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Kimberly Hartman, and I am a Certified Financial Planner™ in Bozeman, Montana. I strongly support Audrey Cromwell for appointment as judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Audrey as a financial neutral in the collaborative law process. We began working cases together in 2016, when the process was relatively new to our state. Her commitment to professional ethics, her diligence, and her commitment to the best possible outcome for clients elevated the practice standards for collaborative law in the state of Montana. Her creative and persistent problem-solving skills encouraged the entire team of professionals and we all benefited from her presence at the table. Her standards for professional and personal accountability are exceptional and inspire those around her to rise to those same standards.

She is always prepared, educating herself on matters well outside her areas of expertise, asking informed questions, and improving processes and systems. She remains calm while processing opposing or even adversarial positions. As a result, she remains caring, fair, and communicates with clarity, deescalating conflict and expediting resolution.

Audrey Cromwell is an excellent candidate for this appointment, she would serve this position with the same integrity that she brings to all of her personal and professional relationships. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Kimberly Hartman, M.S., CFP®
kimberly.hartman@msuaf.org
(406)580-0939

QUINN CAPITAL

November 1, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing today to express support for Audrey Cromwell's appointment as District Court Judge in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey for 10 years. We have been part of an informal group of small business owners who run professional firms as husband and wife teams in Bozeman. During this period, I have been extremely impressed with her commitment to serve the community in Gallatin County while growing a successful law practice and raising her son. Her professional and volunteer experiences demonstrate her commitment to fair representation for all, regardless of social or economic background. Her accolades as "Top Lawyer" in Gallatin County exhibit the public recognition she deserves for her skill and service. In addition to professional admiration, I admire her as a hard-working, devoted mother and wife. She is a top professional and delightful to work with.

Audrey represents Montana well. She is an excellent role model, and especially for women. I believe our court system would be well-served with the appointment of Audrey Cromwell.

Respectfully,



Emmy Chuck
Managing Partner
Quinn Capital LLC
emmy@quinnccm.com

P.O. Box 1182
Helena, Montana 59624
United States of America

7 W. Sixth Ave, Suite 40
Helena, Montana 59601



Phone: (406) 457-5494

abby@mtwaterlaw.com
office@mtwaterlaw.com
www.mtwaterlaw.com

October 28, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am Abigail R. Brown, managing attorney and founder of ARB Law Group located in Helena, Montana. I write in support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). Audrey is well-qualified for the position through her experience, education, temperament, dedication to public service, and active engagement with Montana's legal community.

I first met Audrey at the University of Montana School of Law when we were both law students. I later reconnected with Audrey as colleagues in Bozeman in 2012. From 2012 through 2018, I got to know Audrey well through our work at the Community Mediation Center (CMC), a Bozeman non-profit dedicated to providing free or reduced fee mediations to the Bozeman community.

Keeping this letter brief is difficult because there are so many reasons why Audrey is extremely well-suited to be a district court judge, and why the Montana judiciary would be fortunate to name her among their ranks. As I believe Audrey's work, temperament, and dedication to serving Montanans will undoubtedly speak for itself throughout this process, I will focus my comments on Audrey's time as CMC's interim Executive Director where she skillful modernized an organization that was struggling to keep pace with a rapidly changing Bozeman community.

Audrey and I both volunteered as family mediators at CMC, but she and I worked most closely during her time as CMC's interim Executive Director from 2017-2018. In the fall of 2016, only months after Audrey joined CMC's Board of Directors, CMC's executive director abruptly resigned. This was a period when CMC was financially unstable as it struggled to find its footing in a town that was rapidly changing on all fronts. When Audrey heard the executive director quit, Audrey resigned her Board

seat and took on the task of interim executive director. Audrey's goals as interim executive director were to return CMC to solid financial footing with focused, effective, mission-driven programs and to develop a nimbler organizational structure that could keep pace with Bozeman's growth and change.

I was the Vice President and then President of the CMC Board of Directors during Audrey's tenure as interim executive director. With a shoestring budget, minimal staff, and several pressures on her time (she was still a practicing attorney at her firm and with MSU), Audrey accomplished both of her goals in just 18 months. She returned CMC to solid financial footing, grew CMC's community of donors and volunteers under mission-driven programs, and poised CMC to grow as an organization in sync with Bozeman's growth. Accomplishing these goals include making hard decisions such as pausing or discontinuing favored CMC programs for the sake of the organization's long-term health. Audrey approached these difficult moments with a gentle firmness that skillfully acknowledged the disappointment some organization members felt when a program was discontinued, while also affirmed the necessity of the change through a well-reasoned and thoughtful analysis. When Audrey and the Board felt CMC was stabilized and poised to grow, she presented the Board with transitional plan to move CMC to a full-time executive director.

Some of the characteristics I observed during Audrey's time as CMC interim executive director that make her particularly suited to join the Montana judiciary were her: steadiness of temperament; skillfulness at holding space for multiple perspectives and interest during difficult conversations; exceptional problem-solving skills; ability to communicate clearly and directly, even when delivering difficult or unpleasant news; exceptional organizational and writing skills; and ability to be kind but firm when the law or facts lead to a particular conclusion. As a fellow attorney, I know Audrey to be an extremely talented legal mind and a pleasure to work with professionally.

In sum, Audrey is an exceptional candidate for the position district court judge for the 18th Judicial District and recommend her without reservation. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Abigail R. Brown

Abigail R. Brown
Attorney at Law
ARB Law Group

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Over the years, I have worked at the direction of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 13th, and 18th District Courts of Montana. As a facilitator of pre-hearing conferences in abuse and neglect (DN) cases, I work at the direction of the Montana Supreme Court. I have also served on the boards of the Montana Mediation Association and the Community Mediation Center of Bozeman (past president).

This experience has allowed me to meet, work with, and observe many District Court judges. My respect for judges and the job they do is extraordinarily high; so also, is my respect for principled attorneys who intelligently work to serve the best interests of their clients in and out of courts.

Audrey Cromwell is one of the most community-minded attorneys I have met. Her generosity in volunteering her expertise and time as a mediator with the Community Mediation Center puts her on a pedestal above just about any other attorney in the state. I believe that she is open-minded, respectful, fair, compassionate, and courageous.

Ms. Cromwell has my highest recommendation for the new much-needed District Court Judge position in the 18th District. She will be an excellent judge if she is appointed.

Sincerely,



Christopher P. Hahn, Ph.D.
Mediator, Court Appointed Facilitator, & Guardian ad Litem

**TARLOW
STONECIPHER
WEAMER & KELLY PLLC**

ATTORNEYS

1705 WEST COLLEGE STREET
BOZEMAN, MT 59715-4913

PHONE (406) 586-9714
FAX (406) 586-9720
www.LawMT.com

October 26, 2021

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

Via Email
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Matthew Haus and I am a partner with Tarlow Stonecipher Weamer & Kelly in Bozeman, Montana. I am writing to support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell for the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Audrey possesses the characteristics necessary for the position – she is a skilled lawyer and willing to consider the position of others.


Audrey is also the founder and managing partner of a well-regarded law firm in Bozeman. Her experience in founding and managing Cromwell Law is an important skill for a district court judge. In addition to managing the court room, a district court judge supervises the judicial staff. I am confident our local community would be proud of the atmosphere that Audrey would create amongst the judicial staff and lawyers practicing in her court room.

Over the years, I have had the opportunity to speak with Audrey regarding her vision for a district court judge. She is committed to working hard to address the challenges presented by the extraordinary case load that each judge is required to manage in the Eighteenth Judicial District. A strong work ethic will be necessary to address the backlog of cases in our county.

Finally, as a fellow parent of young children, I believe Audrey deserves tremendous credit for her roles of a working mother and wife while her husband, Charlie, serves in the U.S. Army Reserve. In speaking with Charlie over the years, he has frequently been required to travel outside of Bozeman for his military commitments. I am certain that Audrey has dealt with additional stress from managing Cromwell Law and raising their son while Charlie was absent due to his service in the U.S. Army Reserve. However, I have never seen that stress impact her work. Audrey's experience as a member of a military family will undoubtedly benefit her as a judge.

For those reasons, I strongly support the appointment of Audrey for the vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Cordially,


Matthew A. Haus

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: Audrey Cromwell – Letter of Support

Sir,

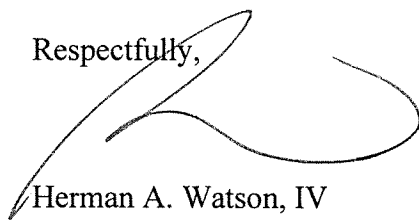
It is my pleasure to recommend Audrey Cromwell for the position of Judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District Court of Gallatin County.

As a third-generation criminal defense lawyer and with nearly a decade of practice myself, I can say with assurance that very few attorneys exemplify the expertise, virtue, and compassion that Audrey does. She is a skilled and knowledgeable colleague, deeply respected by her peers. On several occasions, I have had the honor in collaboration and consultation to appreciate the depth of her experience and knowledge displayed by on-the-spot critical thinking and problem-solving, exemplifying the kind of seasoned efficiency required of our judiciary.

As a pro tempore judge for Gallatin County Justice Court and Bozeman Municipal Court, she has demonstrated a natural aptitude for thoughtful and fair decision-making. When I bring a client in front of her, I know that her decision is made prudently, balancing the requisite considerations for sentencing under the Montana guidelines. This is the kind of consistency demanded by the bench and deserved by our community.

In short, Audrey is an invaluable colleague and friend, whose lofty visions for the County I strongly support. As this letter touches briefly on her many great qualities, please feel free to contact me; I would be happy to further elaborate on my experiences working with Audrey and how she 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 •



October 25, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Greg Gianforte,

We heartily support Audrey Cromwell for appointment as Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge, Gallatin County.

My husband, Bill Neubauer and I are co-owners and operators of Fresco Café, Inc and SWN Creekside, LLC in Bozeman, MT. We are involved in our community both as business owners and have served on various local boards over our 28 years in the Gallatin Valley.

We have known Audrey primarily as a friend and neighbor. We have interacted with her as parents of our children of the same age. We can tell you that she shows compassion and integrity in all aspects of her life. She is a warm and engaging person, enabling her to calmly mediate any disagreements that arise. She is organized and fair-minded, and is as dedicated to her family, as she is to her career.

Audrey's career speaks for itself, she is amazingly accomplished, yet humble. We know that her breadth of experience in multiple aspects of law, from drug court to divorce is an asset to a judge who will be overseeing a variety of cases. We feel confident that she is exactly the type of humane professional that we need to impartially listen to each case with an intricate knowledge of the law and a level head to see the individual aspects of all sides of a case.

Audrey Cromwell is precisely the kind of person that we need on the bench in our great state of Montana. We hope you will nominate Audrey Cromwell to be our newest District Judge in Gallatin County.

Sincerely,

Susan and Bill Neubauer

**317 East Mendenhall, Bozeman, mt 59715
406.586.6826 frescocafe317@gmail.com**

October 26, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We write in support of Audrey Cromwell's application for a District Court Judgeship in the Eighteenth Judicial District. We are neighbors of Mrs. Cromwell, so we see how she interacts with us and other neighbors on a day-to-day basis. She is always respectful, kind, and even mannered. Audrey was able to help one of us with a small notary issue. We could tell she was busy with much more important matters at the time, but she still took time out of her day to assist us with this very small matter, all with a smile on her face. We can think of no better person to fill the District Court Judgeship role and have no doubt that Mrs. Cromwell is the one for the job.

Respectfully,

Sarah Sloan and Neil Litzen



Louis C. Villemez, Director
lou.villemez@mso.umt.edu

October 25, 2021

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am the Director of ASUM Legal Services which provides low cost legal assistance to students of the University of Montana. Nearly my entire 30 year legal career has been dedicated to non-profit and pro bono work improving access to our legal system. It is from this perspective that I enthusiastically support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell for 18th Judicial District Court Judge.

I have worked with Audrey in her capacity as Co-Director of ASMSU Legal Services, and have reviewed her thoughtful and candid District Court Judge application. Audrey exhibits extraordinary insight into the challenges of our court system; the personal and professional as well as systemic and societal challenges. In her application she provides ample indication of her strategic consideration of those challenges; intellectual, objective, compassionate and considerate. She is passionate about the critical role that Courts, Judges and attorneys serve in our society, and her altruistic approach to those roles is exemplary. She brings impressive intellectual insight to our profession while continuing to recognize the importance of sympathy and empathy for all those involved in the justice system. Her character and work ethic will be an asset to the Bench.

Therefore I strongly recommend Audrey for the position of District Court Judge. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

The views expressed in this letter are my own and not of the University of Montana.

October 17, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Heather Webster, and I write you to state my support for Audrey Cromwell in her application for the 18th Judicial District Court judicial vacancy. I am a Senior Deputy County Attorney at the Yellowstone County Attorney's Office in the child dependent/neglect (DN) division, and previously served as an attorney guardian *ad litem* in Yellowstone County's DN cases, while maintaining a private solo practice primarily focusing on domestic relations.

I met Audrey in Missoula while she was in law school and became much more familiar with Audrey while she was living in Billings, working as a public defender. I was so impressed with Audrey's passion for her work and her ability to handle such a heavy work out right out of law school. I continually heard positive reports from others in our Yellowstone County Bar regarding Audrey, and all were disappointed when she made the decision to relocate to Bozeman.

The past years that Audrey has been in Bozeman, I have followed her accomplishments and continued to be very impressed with her commitment to justice, as well as her drive to provide improved outcomes for the litigants in cases she handles. I so admire her work at her firm, at student legal services, and her work over the years to change the dynamics in family law through collaborative mediations and through limited scope representation. Audrey's ability to treat others with respect, kindness, and care, is quite impressive.

Audrey is smart, hard-working, and respectful, and her even temperament makes very well-suited to serve in the role of District Court Judge. The attorneys and parties who will appear in front of her will be lucky to have their matters heard by such a compassionate, caring, thoughtful individual. I fully support her in her application. Thank you.

Respectfully,

/s/ Heather Webster
Senior Deputy County Attorney
Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

Mark Han-Ku Kim

dad2nktk@gmail.com • 1103 N. Lancashire Lane, Liberty Lake, Washington 99019 • (509) 844-2280

October 25, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I support the appointment of Audrey Cromwell to the 18th Judicial District Court judge position in Gallatin County, Montana.

I am a U.S. Administrative Law Judge in Spokane, Washington, and a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve. Prior to my service on the bench, I was a Washington state administrative law judge for 11 years and an attorney in private practice for 7 years. Additionally, I served on the Spokane County Superior Court and District Court bench as a pro tem Court Commissioner and Judge for several years.

I have known Audrey since 2012 when she took on the difficult role as leader of my Army Reserve unit's Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. Audrey revitalized my unit's SFRG, attended time-consuming trainings around the country, and traveled to Washington to provide much-needed support to our unit and its families during a time when we had multiple mobilizations and deployments. Audrey's tenure was very successful. She was well-liked and respected by my commander, his staff, my fellow judge advocates, and their families. We have encountered each other multiple times since her time as FRG Leader – both in social and Army JAG settings. In all of my discussions and professional interactions with Audrey, she struck me as highly intelligent, thoughtful, and possessing the character and dedication to public service a community should hope for in its judicial officials.

My experience as a Federal and State ALJ has allowed me to understand what characteristics and traits are needed to be a good judge. It is my opinion that Audrey Cromwell embodies the best of what is needed, and I highly recommend appointing her to the bench.

Respectfully,



Hon. Mark H. Kim

October 25, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am submitting this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for appointment to the 18th Judicial District judgeship vacancy.

I am a certified public accountant (CPA) and shareholder at Amatics CPA Group, a Bozeman public accounting firm. Over the past 10 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Audrey in numerous capacities. I had the opportunity to provide accounting and consulting services to Audrey in her role as the Executive Director of the Community Mediation Center in Bozeman. During a time of transition for the organization, Audrey modernized its processes and expanded its funding sources, allowing the center to more efficiently and effectively fulfill its mission of collaborative problem solving and restorative justice. Additionally, I have worked with Audrey on the accounting side of starting and operating the Cromwell Law, PLLC firm, as well as sharing a number of mutual clients in her role at that firm. In all of those interactions, Audrey is consistently clear, kind, and effective.

Audrey possesses a depth of character that allows her to act with the same integrity in every situation, whether the decisions are easy or difficult. Her commitment to service is commendable – within our community and within the legal profession. She is both courageous and measured, decisive and patient. I am thankful our county is adding a fourth judgeship as our community continues to grow. The challenges and issues brought before the court will require compassion, impartiality, decorum, and respect. These are all qualities I have seen Audrey exhibit time and again.

I strongly support Audrey Cromwell for the position of District Court Judge. Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully,



Morgan Scarr, CPA
3317 Fieldstone Drive West
Bozeman, MT 59715

ANDERSON & VOYICH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW P.L.L.C.

Kellie A. Voyich, Esq.

104 East Callender, Suites 2 & 3
P.O. Box 1409
Livingston, MT 59047

Vuko J. Voyich, Esq.

office@andersonandvoyich.com
(406) 222-9626
(Fax) (406) 222-5628

October 25, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support, Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Position

Dear Governor Gianforte:

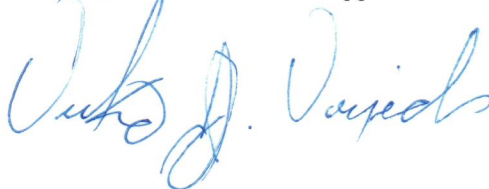
Please accept this correspondence as our joint letter in support of Audrey Cromwell becoming the fourth district court judge in Gallatin County, Montana. We have known Audrey in a professional capacity for approximately the last 10 years. During this timeframe, Audrey has consistently shown herself to be a compassionate and well-reasoned advocate. In our 27 years of practice, we've had the opportunity to work with a myriad of other attorneys and seen a spectrum of personalities and professionalism levels. From the onset, Audrey was, and is, one of those professionals whom we see advocate for her clients, while at the same time recognizing the human/emotional element, and the need to fashion a path forward which ideally benefits all parties involved. Added to this, Audrey is organized, intelligent, timely, and polite. These qualities, in our opinion, are hallmarks of a good attorney.

If Audrey becomes the newest judge in Bozeman, Montana, she will undoubtedly bring these positive (and needed) qualities to the bench. Her compassionate and level personality is what all individuals in a court room should be entitled to experience. She also has a multi-layered background which will serve her, and those who come in front of her, well. This includes her being a: local business owner; employer; mother; military spouse; experienced collaborative lawyer; and advocate for students (through her work at Montana State University). Her strong family law background will be an additional major benefit to being a judge.

Audrey's temperament and professionalism, along with her legal and advocacy experience, make her the ideal choice for this position. If you have any questions about our support, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us. Your consideration in this decision is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Kellie & Vuko Voyich



DAVID ARONOFSKY
3909 Lincoln Road Missoula MT 59802
406-531-6857 aronofskyd@mso.umt.edu & aronofskydavid@gmail.com

October 24, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support for Bozeman District Court Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am especially pleased to recommend Audrey Cromwell for the vacant 18th Judicial District judgeship. I have known Audrey for many years. She was an outstanding law student of mine in multiple courses when I taught at The University of Montana Law School, and I knew then she would likely join the bench. I mentored her both in law school and after she graduated, and I have enjoyed following her successful career which continues to flourish. Audrey has exceptional interpersonal skills which every judge needs to be effective, along with a great work ethic, a keen legal mind, excellent writing skills, a very strong set of professional ethical principles, and an overall sense of what our legal system is intended to be in terms of providing even-handed justice for all. Among the many Montana law students I taught, I rate Audrey at the top in terms of what I hope to see in our judges. Thanks for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



David Aronofsky, J.D., Ph.D.
The University of Montana General Counsel & Law Faculty (Retired)
Montana Bar No. 3386

October 22, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Paul Meier. I am a practicing radiologist in Bozeman and have lived here for 10 years. I have known Audrey for 9 of those years, primarily as a friend and neighbor. I think Audrey would make an excellent district judge. Although I cannot speak to her professional competence, I think her application speaks for itself. I can speak to Audrey's thoughtfulness and consideration of others. I often see Audrey in our neighborhood picking up her child after school. Despite what I know has been a busy day at work, she takes time to stop and check in to see how I am doing. This is not merely a cursory greeting, but a genuine inquiry into my wellbeing. The commitment to our community exhibited in Audrey's record extends beyond her professional life. Despite her busy career and a child of her own, she brought a meal to our family during our firstborn's early weeks as we adjusted to life with a newborn. Audrey exudes trust, competence, and compassion, all of which are qualities I would like to see in a district judge.

Respectfully,

Paul Meier

Slusser, Hannah

From: Inukshuk - Gilbert <gilbert@inukshukinvestments.com>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 11:40 AM
To: NominateJudges
Cc: Gilbert Geoff
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Geoff Gilbert, I am a financial professional, and owner of Inukshuk Investments, LLC. I would like this email to reflect my support for Audrey Cromwell for appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge, Gallatin County.

I have worked with Audrey on a professional interdisciplinary team for collaborative divorce cases. I find her attention to detail and even temperament to be foundational characteristics for a judicial seat. She is organized, insightful and has the experience to bring the highest level of integrity to the position.

Audrey Cromwell will be a judge that ensures procedures are followed, that successfully manages her courtroom during hearings and trials, and instills public confidence in our judicial system. Montana will be a better state with Audrey Cromwell as a District Judge.

Respectfully,

Geoff Gilbert, CFA

Geoff Gilbert, MS,CFA, Owner, Portfolio Manager
Inukshuk Investments, LLC, Missoula, MT 59802
T: 406.207.6561 gilbert@inukshukinvestments.com | www.inukshukinvestments.com [[inukshukinvestments.com](mailto:gilbert@inukshukinvestments.com)]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this e-mail are confidential. This email is sent by Inukshuk Investments, LLC for business purposes to the intended recipient and is intended only for the use of the intended recipient identified herein. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are hereby notified that any further use, review, distribution, copying or dissemination of the information contained herein is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact us immediately and then delete

the email from your computer system. Information received by or sent from Inukshuk Investments is maintained and stored. It will be subject to review and may be produced to regulatory authorities or persons with legal rights to such information. Thank you.

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Over the years, I have worked at the direction of the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 13th, and 18th District Courts of Montana. As a facilitator of pre-hearing conferences in abuse and neglect (DN) cases, I work at the direction of the Montana Supreme Court. I have also served on the boards of the Montana Mediation Association and the Community Mediation Center of Bozeman (past president).

This experience has allowed me to meet, work with, and observe many District Court judges. My respect for judges and the job they do is extraordinarily high; so also, is my respect for principled attorneys who intelligently work to serve the best interests of their clients in and out of courts.

Audrey Cromwell is one of the most community-minded attorneys I have met. Her generosity in volunteering her expertise and time as a mediator with the Community Mediation Center puts her on a pedestal above just about any other attorney in the state. I believe that she is open-minded, respectful, fair, compassionate, and courageous.

Ms. Cromwell has my highest recommendation for the new much-needed District Court Judge position in the 18th District. She will be an excellent judge if she is appointed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Hahn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher P. Hahn, Ph.D.
Mediator, Court Appointed Facilitator, & Guardian ad Litem

October 21, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my support for Audrey Cromwell in her bid for district court judge of the Eighteenth District.

I am a 35-year Montana resident who resides in Bozeman and am fortunate to call Audrey a friend. For roughly 15 years I worked as a journalist, a majority of that time as a reporter for newspapers in Missoula and Great Falls. While working for *The Great Falls Tribune*, I covered the police and justice beat, spending time reporting on cases in both the district and federal courts. I have a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montana and a Master of Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, I work for The Wilderness Society, directing communication strategy and media relations in the Northern Rockies.

As a Bozeman resident and lifelong Montanan, I want to ensure that my community has a fair and impartial judicial system. A strong judiciary is, in part, reflective of a strong community. It is important that Gallatin County residents who find themselves before a district court judge are treated fairly and with respect. Knowing Audrey and her temperament and general demeanor, I am confident that she would show both compassion and toughness, patience and fairness. She is pragmatic and respectful of others but would also quickly quash actions outside of judicial decorum.

An ideal candidate is someone with legal experience that matches the wide variety of cases that come before the district court. Someone with a generalist's background can render verdicts with all parties in mind and without prejudice. Audrey's background in family law, experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, mediator, substitute judge in Gallatin County Justice Court and her plaintiff's work makes her well suited to render verdicts in civil, criminal, family law cases, oversee both bench and jury trials, and all other kinds of cases that a district court judge presides over.

Ultimately, a district judge is a public servant – someone refereeing community disputes and ensuring the public receives quick, decisive and fair verdicts. Audrey has proven her dedication to public service time and again from her representation of Montana State University students, to her limited-scope legal practice, to facilitating public events such as Law Day panels at MSU. She

would serve the Eighteenth Judicial District faithfully and fairly and would bolster public trust and confidence in Gallatin County's judiciary. I encourage you to select Audrey to fill the vacant judgeship.

Respectfully,

Chelsi Moy

October 22, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I enthusiastically support Audrey Cromwell's nomination to fill the judicial vacancy in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Audrey's legal experience, intelligence, and temperament will make her an excellent judge.

I first met Audrey in law school in 2008, and she was my editor-in-chief while serving on the Montana Law Review. I have always been amazed at Audrey's ability to do so many different things well. She was always prepared for meetings and ran them efficiently—no easy task when managing a room full of opinionated law students. She was a good leader and treated everyone on the Law Review fairly and with respect. These skills; listening to and managing people fairly, while still maintaining efficiency, are crucial to being a successful judge.

Like Audrey, I currently serve as a Judge Pro Tempore for Justice Court and Municipal Court, but in Missoula instead of Bozeman. I also am the Director of Career Development at the Blewett School of Law at the University of Montana. Prior to this position, I clerked for two federal judges for a total of four years and ran my own law firm for six years. Working for two excellent judges, and now serving as a substitute judge occasionally, has taught me a lot about what it takes to be a successful judge. I believe Audrey has what it takes.

Audrey's breadth of legal experience will serve the people of Gallatin County very well if she becomes their judge. She has worked on both sides of criminal cases—in the County Attorney's Office as well as for the Office of Public Defender—so she has a complete view of the criminal justice system which is somewhat rare among Montana's sitting district court judges. She currently practices family law and alternative dispute resolution, so she has the background knowledge to competently adjudicate family law cases, which are some of the most contentious and emotional cases that bring litigants to court. She has also worked on dependency neglect

cases, which are extremely important to the many children and families involved in Montana's foster care system. Audrey's excellence as an attorney has recently been recognized by being named as Gallatin County's Best Lawyer for 2021 and through the Alumni Spotlight at the Law School. My high opinion of Audrey is shared by many.

Serving as a judge is one of the highest forms of public service a lawyer can do to give back to their community. It is hard and emotionally taxing work. Judges decide some of the most important issues for Montanans appearing in front of them. Audrey's dedication to public service throughout her career has prepared her well to serve as Gallatin County's next district court judge.

Sincerely,

Katy Stack



NEILSON SWANSON DIETRICH
NORTHWEST LAW FIRM

October 20, 2021

Sent by email to: Governor Greg Gianforte (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We write in support of Audrey Cromwell's application for a District Court Judgeship in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Mrs. Cromwell is personally and professionally well respected by us and the larger legal community in Montana. We know her well as she, like us, graduated from the University of Montana School of Law. Mrs. Cromwell graduated in the same class as two of the members in our law firm (Dustin Swanson and Christian Dietrich), and a class ahead of the other member in our firm (Aaron Neilson). Mrs. Cromwell is fair minded, hard-working, and well respected with a broad array of experience in civil matters that regularly come before the bench, including family law, business/corporate law, wills, trusts, estates, and probates, civil litigation, and much more. She also regularly volunteers her time to expand affordable access to legal services in Montana, which is shown by her and her law firm running The Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) on MSU's campus.

If you are looking for a judge who will treat all who come before the Court with dignity, respect, and fairness, Mrs. Cromwell is perfect to don the robe.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Neilson Dustin Swanson Christian P Dietrich

Aaron M. Neilson Dustin R. Swanson Christian Dietrich

TITLE	Ltr to Gov. Gianforte re Audrey Cromwell.pdf
FILE NAME	Ltr%20to%20Gov.%2...ey%20Cromwell.pdf
DOCUMENT ID	c3806d3526b9f424a855fe205a8dd6cae0edc399
AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT	MM / DD / YYYY
STATUS	● Completed

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Document History



SENT

10 / 20 / 2021

14:42:57 UTC

Sent for signature to Dustin Swanson (dustin@nsdlawfirm.com), Christian Dietrich (christian@nsdlawfirm.com) and Aaron M. Neilson (aaron@nsdlawfirm.com) from aaron@nsdlawfirm.com
IP: 69.145.153.84



VIEWED

10 / 20 / 2021

14:43:41 UTC

Viewed by Aaron M. Neilson (aaron@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 69.145.153.84



SIGNED

10 / 20 / 2021

14:43:56 UTC

Signed by Aaron M. Neilson (aaron@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 69.145.153.84



VIEWED

10 / 20 / 2021

14:48:46 UTC

Viewed by Christian Dietrich (christian@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 205.207.148.62



SIGNED

10 / 20 / 2021

14:48:56 UTC

Signed by Christian Dietrich (christian@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 205.207.148.62

10 / 20 / 2021

15:20:23 UTC

Viewed by Dustin Swanson (dustin@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 24.21.229.158

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FILE NAME	Ltr%20to%20Gov.%20...ey%20Cromwell.pdf
DOCUMENT ID	c3806d3526b9f424a855fe205a8dd6cae0edc399
AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT	MM / DD / YYYY
STATUS	● Completed

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10 / 20 / 2021
15:20:38 UTC

Signed by Dustin Swanson (dustin@nsdlawfirm.com)
IP: 24.21.229.158



COMPLETED

10 / 20 / 2021
15:20:38 UTC

The document has been completed.

October 14, 2021

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

Regarding: Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation and support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell in regard to her application to be appointed a District Judge for the State of Montana. Having served two terms as a District Judge in the Seventh Judicial District many years ago, I am familiar with the obligations she would assume and services she would be expected to provide. I am confident that she would perform with the highest degree of competence and integrity, and with correct judicial temperament and evenhandedness.

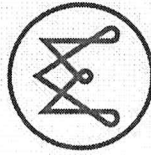
I first met Audrey when she spent almost one and a half years working in the Billings office of the Public Defender. During that first year I worked closely with her as supervising attorney and mentor. I found her to be a very intelligent, hardworking individual whose attention to detail was evident in every case she handled. She is also a most pleasant person with whom to work. During the last months of her stay there she worked independently on misdemeanor and felony cases, felony probation revocation cases, and was very involved in the Thirteenth Judicial Drug Court, doing a fine job in all areas.

Since moving to Bozeman she has expanded her practice and gained valuable experience in other fields of law so that she would ascend to the bench with much needed knowledge, but also with the drive to ever increase her understanding of the law in more areas.

Audrey would be an excellent addition to the Montana judiciary and I highly recommend her to you.

Respectfully,


Richard G. Phillips



ELEMENT
LAW GROUP, PLLC

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District judge position. I have known Audrey for close to 15 years and she is highly qualified and would be an outstanding fit for this position.

Audrey and I attended law school together and went on to work closely together for eight years as we joined forces to bring a healthier divorce option, Collaborative Divorce, to Montana. In the early days of our efforts, Audrey and I worked alone on helping families part ways. We have spent countless hours on dozens of cases trying to problem solve and move families through conflict.

Audrey and I also served on the Montana Collaborative Professionals board together and helped bring a number of Collaborative trainings to Montana. Because of these experiences, I feel I am qualified to comment on the appropriateness of her application for this position.

It is a challenge to keep this letter brief as Audrey's character, work ethic, intellect and compassion are so easy to champion. Simply stated, **Audrey would be an outstanding District Court judge**. She is honest, clear and kind. She is highly intelligent, fair and an expert problem-solver. She learns quickly and has the unique ability to hold space for both sides of an issue while working to promote the best possible outcome.

Audrey is an outstanding practitioner. She has a remarkable breadth and depth of experience. She is highly detail oriented, incredibly hard working, and is very competent in her representation of clients. She is of the rare set of practitioners I would send a family member to should they need representation.

I have also watched her use these skills to develop and/or rehabilitate several integral programs and make them flourish. Her work on Montana Collaborative Professionals, the Bozeman Community Mediation Center and MSU's student legal services program has been nothing short of exceptional. Her record here gives me deep confidence in her role as a public who is servant tasked with working within an often-challenging judicial system.

Audrey is also a fast and highly capable learner. She is exceptionally bright and has an enviable tenacity for getting things right and producing high quality work product. I have always been relieved to have her in the room and know her contributions yield an unparalleled polish to our projects. She possesses a work ethic that is second to none.

Finally, working so closely together on a passion project like Collaborative means that I have seen Audrey in her best and worst days. Throughout it all, she is the consummate professional. She is always brilliant. She is always kind. She is always true to her word and hard working. She is the example we want to set for an officer of the court. She would maintain decorum, earn respect, and be very well received by the people of the 18th Judicial District should she be named as judge. Of the named candidates in the running at this time, there is no doubt in my mind that Audrey rises to the top as the most qualified for the position.

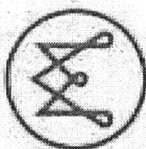
Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Respectfully,



Katie Mazurek

Element Law Group, PLLC





COLLINS LAW PLLC

October 18, 2021

Sent via Email Only to: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

Re: Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge—Public Comment in Support of Applicant
Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I enthusiastically write in support of applicant Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the newly created fourth Eighteenth Judicial District Court Judge position. As a former Montana Supreme Court Law Clerk and a former Water Master at the Montana Water Court I am familiar with the qualities necessary that make a “good judge.” It is my sincere belief that Audrey has the experience, temperament, integrity, and intelligence that are required to be a District Court Judge.

I know Audrey both personally and professionally through interactions in her capacity as ASMSU legal counsel and working directly adverse to her in our private practices. In regard to my personal knowledge of Audrey, I have had the good fortune to know the Terry and Mary-Glynn Cromwell family for the past twenty-five years. There are few families where all family members equally possess qualities of unimpeachable integrity, intelligence, perseverance, strength of character, and service to others, all while maintaining an unparalleled zest for life—all Cromwells, including Audrey's husband Charlie, have these qualities. It is not hard to imagine that joining such a family would be intimidating to say the least. I can say that I observed Audrey join the Cromwell family seamlessly, and not only match their qualities every step of the way but be a true complement to Charlie and his extended family. Professionally, though working directly adverse, Audrey presented her client's well-reasoned positions and was willing to work together to produce the best outcome for both of our clients' needs under the circumstances. As a family lawyer, she understood the importance of resolving the current dispute while keeping a working family dynamic in place for the parties' young family.

Audrey's demeanor is enviable. She is calm and considered, thoughtful and thorough, poised and confident—these qualities, amongst others, make her an excellent candidate for any judgeship. As shown through her work and life experiences, Audrey possesses an internal drive to accomplish tasks and goals no matter how big or small with precision and creativity. She very clearly has the ability to manage multiple responsibilities at once, whether it's as a mother, business owner, military wife, executive director, judge *pro tem*, boss, community servant, or lawyer with a full caseload. While Audrey's work experience is impressive and encompasses

many areas of law over which she would preside as a judge, she will no doubt be challenged with complex and unfamiliar areas of law. I am confident that Audrey will meet any unfamiliar area of law with diligent research and preparation in order to render measured and careful decisions.

Of the qualities I most admire in Audrey are her good humor, kind spirit, and respectful listening of others, even in the face of frustration and hardship. While for sure she is strong and convicted, it is her listening skills, kindness, and sense of humor that will be invaluable as a judge. When often facing individuals at their lowest points in life, I believe a good judge makes her decisions, especially the hardest decisions, with compassion, kindness, humanity, and even with a sense of humor—and I have no doubt that is exactly what Audrey will do in her decision-making as District Court Judge.

I believe leadership is essential for a District Court Judge. It is important to continue to further the judiciary so that it can best serve society. Audrey has shown herself to be a true leader who is innovative, willing to take on challenges, efficient, and accountable. I believe she will be a genuine asset to the State of Montana and Gallatin County residents, and work within the system to bolster what is working and to take a hard look at anything that is not working and help to facilitate necessary change.

Finally, I note that for nearly the past two decades Hon. Judge Holly Brown presided over water disputes for the Eighteenth Judicial District. These proceedings are vital in an agricultural community. I am not aware of any of the applicants' prior experience in water law, but as a former Water Master I cannot emphasize enough how important this responsibility will be for the incoming judge, along with the current sitting judges. Based on my knowledge of Audrey's abilities and her approach to the practice of law, I believe that Audrey is the right applicant to help the Eighteenth Judicial District fill Judge Brown's enormous shoes in this critical area of law.

For the above reasons, I do not hesitate to support Audrey Schultz Cromwell as District Court Judge. If you should have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,
COLLINS LAW PLLC



[electronically signed]
Andrea Collins

October 17, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter of support for Ms. Audrey Schultz Cromwell as a candidate to fill the 18th Judicial District Court judge vacancy. I have worked closely with Ms. Cromwell during the past eight academic years in her capacity as the lead Students' Attorney with the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU).

I cannot be more pleased with the advocacy Ms. Cromwell has offered our students during her time on campus. At the beginning of Ms. Cromwell's service, the Students' Attorney program struggled with a lack of awareness and credibility among our students. Because of Audrey's passion to support underserved individuals from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the reputation of our program rapidly improved. Now, students often rave about the level of care and attention to detail from Audrey during their interactions. I know that our student government could not be more pleased with how the program is being managed and operated.

Beyond her strengths with offering legal advice to clients, Audrey is a program innovator. Her county and state-wide relationships with various law enforcement agencies are one of the reasons we have been able to offer multiple "wet-labs" on campus. These programs have provided our students a hands-on opportunity to learn how alcohol impacts reaction time and driver safety. And, as you can imagine, providing alcohol to students, even in a highly controlled environment, is a provocative program idea in some administrative circles. Audrey's leadership and drive were necessary to bring this controversial and worthy idea into reality.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that I've very much enjoyed getting to know Audrey on a personal level during the past seven years. She a well-respected citizen in the Bozeman community, and a devoted mother and wife.

Audrey has the professional temperament and the type of values that will guide her in becoming the type of District Court judge that we need in our local community. I highly support her appointment to this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can answer any questions you may have about her qualifications for this position.

Sincerely,

Matthew R. Caires, dean of students
Montana State University – Bozeman

The views expressed in this letter are my own and not that of Montana State University

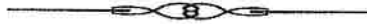
**Office of the
Dean of Students**

174 Strand Union
P.O. Box 174220
Bozeman, MT 59717-4220

Tel 406-994-2826
Fax 406-994-5931
deanofstudents@montana.edu

Crist, Krogh, Alke & Nord, PLLC

Attorneys at Law



Eric Edward Nord
enord@cristlaw.com
Telephone (406) 255-0400
Facsimile (406) 255-0697

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

October 18, 2021

VIA EMAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of support for Audrey Cromwell for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County).

I have had the distinct pleasure to observe Ms. Cromwell's law career from its very beginning. While still a college student, Ms. Cromwell came to me to inquire about law school. I immediately found Ms. Cromwell to be an engaging and articulate person who made decisions based upon the facts that were presented to her. I was not surprised to hear that she excelled at the University of Montana Law School and was co-editor of the Law Review.

The exceptional talents exhibited by Ms. Cromwell are matched only by her desire to seek justice. She established her law firm to focus on providing Montanans with access to quality, affordable legal care. To that end, she provides Montana State University students with legal assistance through its Legal Services Program.

I believe Ms. Cromwell has also shown that she has the proper judicial temperament by serving as a Substitute Judge *Pro Tempore* in Gallatin County Justice Court. As such, she hears criminal matters, rules on motions and orders, and is involved in related judicial and administrative matters.

Governor Greg Gianforte

October 18, 2021

Page 2

In my view, Ms. Cromwell has exhibited a clear and decisive intellect for the law, a strong work ethic, and a passion to serve the best interests of her clients as well as justice generally. I strongly support Ms. Cromwell for the position of district court judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Nord", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric Edward Nord

October 18th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Brian West. I am a practicing attorney in Missoula, Montana. I write to support Audrey Cromwell to be appointed as judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have been personally acquainted with Audrey for over 15 years, extending back before law school when we were growing up in Billings, through attending school in Missoula, and professionally through our respective practices.

Audrey's commitment to the law and passion for securing a positive result, coupled with her sense of justice, are the exact criteria I believe make for respected judges. As you know Montana's District Courts face a broad range of legal challenges. Her prior experience in criminal defense for indigent clients, her dedicated work in family law, and her practical experience growing her own law practice cover the range of skills needed in a District Court Judge. She is experienced, knowledgeable, and - I think most important - fair minded.

I can give no higher recommendation than when my own firm needed to refer our clients to counsel in the Gallatin County area, Audrey was our first thought. I sincerely believe that the citizens and participants in the Eighteenth Judicial District would be well served with Audrey on the bench. You could do no better than to appoint Audrey for the benefit of the Eighteenth Judicial District and I encourage you to do so.

Respectfully,



Brian J. West

October 21, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Honorable Gov. Gianforte:

I am writing to support very strongly the appointment of Attorney Audrey Cromwell to fill the vacancy on the 18th Montana Judicial District Court. I know Attorney Cromwell because she and her firm assisted me in the past, and I know her outside her practice as a community member as well. I have recommended her and her firm to several friends, and her performance is always outstanding. She has recently voted "top lawyer" in the Bozeman Chronicle's community choice awards, showing the high respect she has gained in the community.

I believe Attorney Cromwell's career has shown an outstanding dedication to public service in ways that exemplify the temperament as well as the legal viewpoints that will make her an excellent judge.

Attorney Cromwell's application details much relevant legal experience: judge pro tempore in both the City of Bozeman and Gallatin County, as a trial attorney, in the Public Defender's office in Billings, the prosecutor's office as a law student, in drug court, and as the founder of the Cromwell Law firm, which has grown significantly since its founding. She has also done pro bono work for ABA military project. The firm was chosen from a competitive process to establish a low-cost legal consultation service with Associated Students of MSU. Attorney Cromwell supervises that service, including a student intern from UM Law School, and organizes and conducts legal education outreach events. Currently, the heart (by 'heart' I mean both the center of the content as well as the emotional center) of Attorney Cromwell's legal practice is collaborative law and interest-based mediation, processes that can help minimize emotional pain for clients and maximize positive outcomes for all parties. Make no mistake – mediation and interest-based problem solving require exemplary consideration of all sides of an issue, the complex legal contexts of the issues, as well as great patience and depth of thoughtfulness. Attorney Cromwell embodies these characteristics.

The legal viewpoints Attorney Cromwell expresses in her application show a very rich texture and extraordinarily deep understanding of nuances of judicial contexts: a) external focus on facts, law, plus assuring all parties are actually heard, b) internal focus on analysis in legal context, while setting aside possible influences of one's own or litigants' personal backgrounds, and c) a measured and deeply thoughtful approach in applying previous case law to current cases. Her educational background is outstanding, including study of criminal justice on Native American reservations, and serving as Co-Editor in Chief of the Montana Law Review. She will undoubtedly continue to learn and develop as a legal scholar and jurist.

As Attorney Cromwell says in her application, judicial decisions often alter life trajectories, for civil litigants and for criminal defendants as well as criminal case victims. From the bench, I have very high confidence that Attorney Cromwell will work to the benefit of all Montanans.

Sincerely,



Colleen F. Moore, Ph.D., Professor Emerita
University of Wisconsin—Madison

Affiliate Professor and former Psychology Dept Chair
Montana State University

617 S. 6th Ave., Bozeman, MT 59715, cfmoore72@gmail.com

**ATTORNEYS:**

ERIC B. BIEHL
JAMES P. CAREY
STEVEN M. JOHNSON
GRANT R. KELLY
MARIN W. KEYES
RON A. NELSON
KAREN L. REIFF*
AMBER L. STENSON
RACHEL A. TAYLOR
HANNA WARHANK

FIRM FOUNDERS:

I.W. CHURCH (1884-1972)
G.G. HARRIS (1883-1973)
BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
CARTER WILLIAMS (1916-2013)

OF COUNSEL:

E. EDWIN ECK
W. BJARNE JOHNSON*
GREGORY R. SCHWANDT (Retired)*
JEANNIE YOUNG

ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

GREAT FALLS • HELENA

P. O. BOX 1645 • GREAT FALLS, MT 59403-1645 • 114 3RD STREET SOUTH • PHONE 406.761.3000 • FAX 406.453.2313 • www.chjw.com

October 15, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I strongly support the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the pending vacancy in the 18th Judicial District Court. I believe Audrey will make an excellent district court judge because of her sound decision making, compassionate and fair temperament, and her diverse legal background.

I am an associate attorney at Church, Harris, Johnson & Williams in Great Falls. Before graduating from the University of Montana's law school in 2019, I was a clinical intern with the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Legal Services Office. Audrey was one of the program's co-directors and directly supervised me during my time there.

At ASMSU I had the opportunity to work with Audrey representing clients and planning events. Her representation of clients focused on achieving livable solutions, demonstrating immense compassion and keen understanding for the underlying personal issues impacting legal issues for everyone we assisted. I also partnered with Audrey to on MSU's Law Day, where Montana Supreme Court Justices hear oral arguments on campus, and ASMSU's Wet Lab, an education program for student-leaders about the dangers of driving under the influence. Both Law Day and the Wet Lab required Audrey to coordinate with numerous stakeholders and to plan creatively for various

contingencies. From planning to execution, Audrey modeled thorough decision-making and ensured the events' successes.

Audrey is a superb supervisor and mentor. Her directives and advice to me were always clear and kind, with an eye toward serving our clients as well being a leader in the office. Audrey is a very well-respected member of the Bozeman and Montana legal communities. She has the ideal temperament for a judge and will show all parties appearing before her respect and fairness. Her mediation background and ability to find creative solutions to problems will serve her and all parties well. Finally, her experience in both criminal and civil law makes me confident she is the perfect candidate to fill the pending judicial vacancy.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions: (406) 761-3000 or gkelly@chjw.com.

Sincerely,

CHURCH, HARRIS, JOHNSON & WILLIAMS, P.C.

BY: 
GRANT R. KELLY

KATHRYN KEISER



FAMILY LAW

October 15, 2021

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

RE: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Kathryn Keiser, and I am a family law attorney in Bozeman, Montana. I have been practicing law since 2011, and I have worked as a solo practitioner since 2014. I write this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District Court Judgeship. I believe Audrey's experience, education, courage and integrity make her an excellent candidate for a judge in Gallatin County.

I have personally known Audrey since 2008. Audrey was a third-year law student during my first year at the University of Montana School of Law, and Audrey consistently provided guidance and mentoring to the classes below her in an attempt to assist all students towards success. Audrey was always looked up to with respect from her lower-classmen, and advice and support was always provided by Audrey when needed. Throughout law school until the present, Audrey has presented herself as a leader to colleagues, clients and the public at large.

I have worked professionally with Audrey in the family law arena since 2012. Audrey's professional attributes have shown brightly through her work as a litigation attorney, collaborative attorney, mediator and mentor to all people who are lucky enough to come into contact with her. Audrey is incredibly knowledgeable in all aspects of the law, as her extensive lawyering experience has exposed her to many different types of law in Montana. I have been opposing counsel with Audrey many times, and I have also collaborated with her on many occasions in regards to complex legal issues we have faced in different cases. Being very open-minded, Audrey is an excellent resource to peers regarding many issues in the family law and other legal arenas. Audrey has extensive experience in settling cases both as a mediator and working with opposing counsel and clients to reach resolutions that are in a client's best interest.

I would describe Audrey's lawyering style as "ethical" and "courageous," as Audrey is willing to do what the law requires even if such action is not the popular choice. Audrey also possesses integrity, which is evidenced by her always choosing to do the right thing for her clients and the Rule of Law, and always adhering to the Rules of Professional Conduct in all aspects of her profession.

I know from personal experience that Audrey has the temperament necessary of a judge. She is patient, open-minded, courteous, tactful and firm. Audrey is understanding of clients' needs, and she exhibits compassion and humility in the work she performs. Audrey is known by her peers for her good work habits and her ability to set priorities. Through her work, Audrey consistently keeps deadlines, honors appointments, and always respects the time of clients and the court. All of these traits exhibited by Audrey are many of the reasons she has succeeded in her work as an attorney in Gallatin County.

Based upon the foregoing, it is with great pleasure that I support Audrey Cromwell in her pursuit of becoming a Judge in Gallatin County. Please do not hesitate to contact me should any questions arise regarding the information contained herein.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Keiser

October 14, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I'm delighted to submit a letter of recommendation for Audrey Cromwell who is applying to fill the vacancy on the bench which now exists in Gallatin County in the Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Audrey for 24 years and wish to comment on her school-age years development as she was in early preparation for community leadership roles such as this judgeship.

As Principal of Billings West High School during Audrey's high school years I observed in Ms Cromwell four distinctive traits that might be key to success as a judge: intellect, compassion, integrity and tenacity.

Intellectually Audrey was top of her very competitive class taking the most challenging course work. She was interested in learning for learning's sake and constantly curious and challenging the how and why of the materials. Her teachers spoke highly of her commitment to academic excellence. She exhibited similar success in college and law school.

Audrey possesses strong emotional intelligence. I recall her organizing support projects for other students in need. While she was a very popular student with the top students she had strong relations with all groups of students including those who were intellectually challenged or economically disadvantaged. Audrey grew up in a family where a societal greater good was emphasized and lived by daily action—this continues to be evident in the scope of her law practice. Her altruistic efforts won her the admiration of an incredible cross section of the BWHS student body.

While empathy is a strong personal trait, Audrey's commitment to doing the right thing is a 'true north' attribute. In Audrey one could never doubt her integrity. She is honest, forthright and willing to stand her ground when the right thing is questioned. She would be appropriately flexible taking many factors into account while staying true to her values and precedents of the law.

Lastly Ms Cromwell's trait of tenacity leads me to believe you'd have a workhorse on the bench if selected. I recall the look on Audrey's face as she participated in competitive sports. I remember her "game face" as she was challenged academically....I thought at the time, "This is a girl who is not to be denied."

I realize 20 years of history has passed since her high school days and I assure you I've kept track of her personal and professional progress during that time. Each has been a predictable success. As we age and grow traits learned early in life continue to come to roost throughout our years and I hope my comments assure you that this woman, like her early past has a bright future in the law as a trusted judge. Please carefully consider Audrey's application. Feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

David A. Irion
3133 Ben Hogan Place
Billings, Montana
406.855.5385

GREGORY S. MUNRO
ATTORNEY AT LAW
3343 Hollis Street, Missoula, MT 59801
(406)493-5361

October 13, 2021

Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Re: 18th Judicial District Candidate, Audrey Cromwell

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I highly recommend attorney Audrey Cromwell for the new judicial position in the Eighteenth Judicial District. Audrey's personal qualities, high professional competence and breadth and depth of relevant experience make her an exceptional candidate to assume the bench in Montana.

I have known Audrey for fourteen years, having first taught her as a student in classes during her three years at the law school. I observed that Audrey demonstrated excellent interpersonal skills. She likes people, as is reflected in the respect she shows others and their affinity for her. In law school, she proved to be impeccably diplomatic and tactful and mature beyond her years. She has excellent judgment.

Audrey demonstrated high intelligence and keen analytical skills which assured that she was always on the mark in classroom discussions and work. She has excellent verbal and written communication skills. She was co-editor of the Montana Law Review and I can attest that her skills in oral presentation are also superior.

Even as a student, Audrey was disciplined, hard working, organized and efficient. She was also highly active in student life and events at the school, and is exceptionally well rounded in her life.

I have watched Audrey's career as a practicing lawyer for the last thirteen years, and my prior observations also hold true in her professional life. Her practice experience beginning when she interned in law school has included criminal prosecution with Missoula County, representation of indigent people at Montana Legal Services Association, civil litigation practice with Montana's largest corporate law firm, criminal defense with the Office of Public Defenders, 13th Judicial District Drug Court, and legal counsel to students at ASMSU. Always an innovator, she has developed a successful law firm specializing in quality affordable legal care.

Audrey has had exceptionally broad experience in the very matters Montana State Courts of general jurisdiction address. Moreover, she clearly has stayed at the forefront of development of collaborative family law and alternatives to the system's adversarial litigation methods. Audrey's application reflects the deep thought that she has put into what it means to be an engaged, creative innovator as a State District Court judge.

I have no question that Audrey could have elected to practice in lucrative corporate law firms and admire the fact that she chose a public service trajectory that naturally lends itself to

being a judge in a court of general jurisdiction.

Audrey is exactly the kind of lawyer and person Montana should put on the bench. She will be an asset to the Eighteenth Judicial District, the Montana judiciary and the people of the State. Governor Gianforte could take pride in her appointment, and I highly recommend it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Munro", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Munro

Professor Emeritus

UM Alexander Blewett III School of Law



October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We are the owners of several popular Bozeman restaurants, including Dave's Sushi, Jam, and Revelry. Our various business interests have been an important part of the Bozeman community for nearly 2 decades and we employ over 200 Gallatin County residents.

Audrey Cromwell and her firm, Cromwell Law, have supported us not only as individuals, but she and her firm have also effectively assisted our businesses and our employees with their legal needs for years. Over the past decade we have come to know Audrey as a reliable, highly competent attorney and as a friend.

Audrey is a respected member of the community and her appointment to the bench would be incredibly welcome in these difficult times.

We think Audrey would make a wonderful district court judge here in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Weiss'.

Dave Weiss
Founder – Dave's Sushi
Owner - Jam
Founder - Revelry
(406) 570-9158
dave@daves-sushi.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Parker'.

Aaron Parker
Owner - Dave's Sushi
Owner - Jam
Owner - Revelry
(406) 595-5059
aaronparker5@icloud.com

85 Brookside Way
Missoula, MT 59802
October 12, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell, Applicant for Eighteenth Judicial District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write this letter in support of Ms. Audrey S. Cromwell's application.

I am a lawyer who practiced in Bozeman for several years and appeared before former several Eighteenth Judicial District judges, including the Honorable W.W. Lessley and the Honorable Thomas A. Olson. I later served as a professor at the then University of Montana School of Law for more than 30 years, 14 years of which I was dean of the School. While serving as dean, I met Audrey Schultz in 2006 when she enrolled in the School and became well acquainted with her work during the next three years.

In law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated that she possessed the abilities essential to being an excellent student and to becoming an excellent judge. Her research and writing skills led to her selection to the staff of the Montana Law Review. Her fellow staff members recognized these skills, as well as her leadership ability, by selecting her to serve as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the publication. During her co-editorship, she and her co-editor were willing to undertake thoughtful innovations that resulted in increased subscriptions to the Review.

While in law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated her belief that the law is about serving the people. Not only did she display respect for her professional associates including her student colleagues, her professors, and the many lawyers and judges who participated in the life of the School, she worked hard to advance law for ordinary Montana citizens. She organized a Judge Browning Symposium on rural law and public lands. She arranged panels that included ranchers, fishermen, Montana legislators, the then-Governor, members of Congressional staffs, employees from the Department of Agriculture, as well as academic leaders. She reached out to the public and scheduled sessions at times when everyday citizens could participate. And, thanks to her, the public did participate in record numbers.

As you know, judges are required to be competent many areas of the law. When Ms. Schultz was a law student, she successfully completed the school's heavily-required curriculum, which introduced students to a broad array of legal topics. She was an excellent student in all of her courses. Outside her class work, she demonstrated her ability to become competent in several areas of law. She was a student prosecutor in the Missoula County Attorney's office. She served as a clinical intern with Montana Legal Services and helped students with their family law, landlord-tenant law, and consumer protection law

problems. During one summer, she clerked for a large Montana law firm. I understand that she wrote memoranda on topics including estates, property, insurance, and oil and gas law. She also helped with a variety of litigation matters. Ms. Schultz is not intimidated by an area of law that is new to her. She has proven she knows how to develop competence in any area of law.

I think one might legitimately wonder whether the views of a former dean about a former student concerning events occurring more than ten years ago are relevant to your commission. Respectively, I suggest they are. A law student arrives in school with values and habits she acquired at her home, in her prior studies, and at the workplace. In law school, Ms. Schultz demonstrated a very strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn about new topics, a willingness to innovate, and a desire be a thoughtful, contributing member of a community. Those habits and values were predictive of Ms. Schultz's practice. I think they will be predictive of her work on the bench.

In short, I urge your nomination of Audrey Schultz Cromwell to the district court. Just as I am proud that she was once an outstanding student at the University of Montana School of Law, I think you will be pleased with her performance as a judge. I think she will serve in the tradition of Judge Lessley, Judge Olson, and the many other distinguished judges of the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Thank you for your consideration of her.

Respectfully,



E. Edwin Eck

ANGEL, COIL & BARTLETT

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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

October 7, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to offer my unqualified support of Audrey Cromwell's application for the position of District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District. I am an attorney and a partner at Angel, Coil & Bartlett in Bozeman. I practice primarily family law.

I became trained as a Collaborative Divorce attorney nearly five years ago, and then began taking Collaborative cases with Audrey, who was one of the leaders in bringing Collaborative Divorce to Montana. I call her the "Queen of Collaborative." To date, we have completed at least five Collaborative cases together.

I have spent dozens of hours over the last three years in conference rooms and on Zoom with Audrey and our clients working through all the issues that arise in divorces: parenting disputes, allegations of mental illness, child support and alimony, and splitting up assets and debts (including family businesses and even a family ranch). Audrey is, without a doubt, one of the compassionate, intelligent, and sophisticated attorneys with whom I have ever practiced. She is relentless and tenacious in finding solutions to seemingly intractable problems. She advocates for her clients without becoming positional and she is unfailingly polite and cordial to opposing counsel and opposing parties. I respect her abilities and her calm demeanor immensely.

I also serve with Audrey on the board of directors of Montana Collaborative Professionals, so I have observed her in a non-advocacy role, too. She brings the same passion and commitment to the board as she does to her law practice. In the fall of 2019 she was instrumental in organizing a state-wide, four-day interdisciplinary Collaborative training for attorneys, financial professionals, and mental health professionals. It was one of the best CLEs I have ever attended.

· MARK J. LUEBECK · DANIEL P. BUCKLEY · TIMOTHY P. HAMMAR · RYAN D. MCCARTY · ERIC K. GOLDWARG ·
· CHRISTOPHER R. ANGEL - RETIRED · MICHAEL C. COIL - RETIRED · WILLIAM A. BARTLETT - RETIRED ·

I expect that the weakness of Audrey's application will be her relative lack of experience with civil litigation. I am not worried in the least about this issue. Unlike criminal law and family law, civil litigation is so broad and encompasses so many disciplines—from personal injury to contract disputes to environmental litigation—that no practitioner is a master of the entire field. Attorneys and judges must learn the intricacies of that particular area of law with each new case. I have no doubt that Audrey can learn those intricacies as well as any other judge.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Goldwarg', with a stylized, flowing script.

Eric Goldwarg

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of my support for Audrey Cromwell's appointment for the District Court Judge position in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey since attending law school with her at the University of Montana, School of Law. During that time, Audrey was highly respected by our classmates and the faculty as a very hard working, energetic and compassionate student with an unmatched level of character and integrity. I am not surprised to see that she has developed into a highly qualified attorney and has been able to maintain her strong work ethic, compassion, character, and integrity.

I am currently a partner at the law firm of Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP. During my twelve years of practicing law here in the great state of Montana, I have worked with and against a very diverse group of attorneys. I have also represented clients in civil matters across the entire state, mainly representing employers and businesses. From this experience, I have learned the best attorneys and judges possess a strong work ethic, an enthusiasm for attention to detail and an unbiased opinion. Audrey possesses all these skills as an attorney, and I have no doubt she would make an extraordinary Judge.

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

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey B. Smith
Direct Line: (406) 523-2585
Email: jbsmith@garlington.com



Big Sky Bravery 215 Quail Run Rd STE A Bozeman, MT 59718

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Josh McCain, and I am the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Big Sky Bravery, a Bozeman-based nonprofit for active-duty Special Operations personnel. I am writing on behalf of Audrey Cromwell, regarding the position of 18th Judicial District Court Judge.

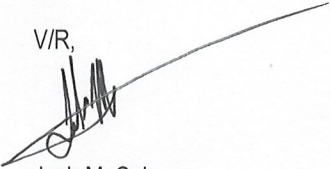
When I first dreamed up the idea of Big Sky Bravery, Audrey selflessly jumped in, taking on the arduous process of assisting in starting a 501(c)(3) organization. Without knowing me personally, Audrey dedicated countless hours of her time and knowledge in service of our overall mission: to help America's most elite fighting forces. She did so willingly, selflessly, and with great passion. Due to Audrey's sacrifice, Big Sky Bravery began with a strong foundation that continues to serve us to this day. I will forever be grateful for the vital role she played in helping this dream becoming a reality. As a result of her hard work, over 265 Special Operations personnel have found restoration and newfound hope.

Since the beginning of Big Sky Bravery, I have also worked with Audrey on multiple other issues that have arisen over the past 6 years. Her level of care and professionalism has never wavered. I am continuously impressed by her skill, hard work, and dedication to those that serve our great country.

I wholeheartedly believe that Audrey's experience, professionalism, work ethic, and temperament, should excel her to the top of the list of candidates for the 18th Judicial District Judge in Bozeman, Montana.

I write this letter with overwhelming support of all Audrey has accomplished and will undoubtedly continue to accomplish in the future. I have no doubt that she will uphold the values of this incredible state for years to come.

V/R,



Josh McCain
Founder & Chief Executive Officer
Big Sky Bravery
Bozeman, MT
"Our Heroes, Our Responsibility"



BRYAN LAW FIRM, PC

Justin M. Bryan, JD, LLM
Dash DeJarnatt, JD, LLM
Jordan E.G. Feddes, JD, LLM
Mark A. Bryan, JD (Of Counsel)

11 East Main Street, Suite D
Post Office Box 1371
Bozeman, MT 59711-1371

Telephone: (406) 586-8565
Facsimile: (406) 586-3968
Email: blf@bryanlawpc.com

October 8, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for Audrey Schultz Cromwell

Dear Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to express my support for Audrey Cromwell's application for the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am a local attorney who primarily practices estate planning, trust and probate administration. I was born and raised in Bozeman, Montana and have practiced in Gallatin County since 2011.

Professionally, I have only worked with Audrey on premarital agreement negotiations. Audrey is always timely and responsive. She is a fair to deal with and a great advocate for her clients. I have the impression she takes great care ensuring her clients understand the complex legal concepts contained in such agreements (such as the spousal elective share). In all my communications with Audrey, she has been reasonable to work with and it is clear she has a very good understanding of the law. My impression from other local attorneys who have worked with Audrey more regularly than me in the family law sector is that they enjoy working with her for similar reasons.

I did attend law school at the same time as Audrey, however we were not in the same class year. It is my impression that she was well liked by fellow students and would always go the extra step and help those that were struggling. Her past efforts with the Community Mediation Center and the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program highlight her commitment to public service and providing affordable legal services in our community.

In addition to the abundance of relevant experience contained in Audrey's application, the attributes illustrated in my letter describe a person who I respect and would be proud to have adjudicating matters in Gallatin County. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would be happy to discuss this letter with you.

Respectfully,



Justin M. Bryan, J.D. LL.M. (Tax)

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation and support for Audrey Cromwell in regard to her application to be appointed a District Judge in the 18th Judicial District of the State of Montana. I have known Audrey since the November of 2016 when she joined the board of the Community Mediation Center, where I was serving as Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

In November of 2016, Audrey came on to the Board of an organization entering troubled waters, and courageously offered to take the helm. She promised to stay long enough to right the ship, and she delivered exactly what she promised. In just under two years in charge, Audrey left the CMC with 293 days operating cash on hand, compared to a desperate low in FY2016 of less than 20 days operating cash on hand – a time when we were deferring her executive salary and thinking about closing the business.

After years of actual deficits and eroding reserves, Audrey gave the CMC two years of extraordinary surpluses; a half-decade long trend of missed revenue estimates and overrun costs had been cancelled by the favorable budget variances Audrey delivered on both sides of the equation. She brought our cash expenses per day down from \$365 to \$184 while surpassing service levels produced by larger past budgets. She left CMC leaner than it had ever been, and with a higher share of technology expenditures, lending efficient, scalable processes. Most of all, she was a pleasure to work with – always optimistically and enthusiastically pursuing her rather enlightened vision.

I encourage you not to miss this opportunity to have such an asset serving as a District Judge for the State of Montana.

Respectfully,

Keith Wilson, CGFM
1801 W Olive St Apt 12
Bozeman, MT 59715

October 14, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I offer my support for Audrey Cromwell and recommend that she be appointed the next district judge in Gallatin County.

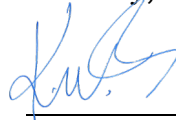
I am a partner at the Bozeman firm Goetz, Baldwin & Geddes, P.C. I met Audrey over a decade ago on our first day of law school. She was the first person in a sea of strangers to say hello. Her small act of kindness has encouraged me to be more inviting, more welcoming. That is what role models do: they set the example.

District judges are the ultimate role model in the legal profession. Litigants, attorneys, jurors, and the community at-large look to them for guidance and leadership. They are above the ruckus of the courtroom drama. They are patient, compassionate and understanding. But most importantly, they are fair and strive to ensure equal justice for all.

Audrey Cromwell is ready to be our next role model in the Eighteenth Judicial District. She has the right mix of professional legal experience. She has served as both prosecutor and public defender (as well as a substitute justice of the peace). Her private practice offers aid to university students, families working through separations, and, notably, families working through our complex immigration system (not to mention traditional civil and contractual matters). She also has the right temperament. She does not rush to judgment. She is patient and listens. Audrey is also fair. She plays by the rules and expects others to do the same. Finally, Audrey is exceptionally bright. Her experience has her ready to go on day one, but her drive to learn more—and to learn quickly—will carry her through the challenges ahead.

I encourage you to select Audrey Cromwell to serve as the next Gallatin County district court judge. She already possesses the virtues of a good district judge. The time is right to give her the chance to prove it.

Sincerely,



Kyle W. Nelson

October 13, 2021

VIA EMAIL (*nominatejudges@mt.gov*)

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

Re: Audrey Shultz Cromwell / Letter of Support

Dear Hon. Gianforte:

I have been licensed to practice law since 2006 and have been licensed to practice in Montana since 2016. I have known Audrey Shultz Cromwell since moving to Montana in January 2015 and I have both personal and professional relationships with Audrey. I consider myself lucky to call Audrey both a friend and colleague. I can state with utmost confidence that she has impeccable character and overwhelming qualifications to serve the role of District Court Judge.

Our families lived next door to each other for nearly two years. While our children had backyard play dates, I came to know Audrey as a wonderful mother, neighbor and friend. Coincidentally thereafter, we shared the same professional building for our respective law offices. There I came to know Audrey as a passionate and driven attorney, dedicated to helping others and solving problems. Audrey approaches her practice of law with a heartfelt yet results-oriented drive that most other attorneys envy.

Aside from her legal experience, Audrey will provide much needed youth, energy and technological advancement to the Eighteenth Judicial District. Our District's judicial staff is overworked resulting in a community which is underserved. While our public waits for more judges and new facilities, Audrey has the desire and practical solutions to increase our District's productivity. Technological advancements and alternative procedures, proven effective in other venues, can help our judiciary. Audrey is motivated to address these issues while providing new ideas to ease the strain on our dockets.

It is with great pleasure and confidence that I submit this endorsement for the Committee's consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Respectfully,



Matthew I. Sack

----- **Michael P. Talia** -----
434 Chert Place, Helena, MT 59602

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

October 8, 2021

RE: Appoint Audrey Cromwell District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I recommend Audrey Cromwell be appointed district judge in the 18th Judicial District. I practiced law in Great Falls for many years and am now a government lawyer in Helena. I have known Audrey for more than a decade, since we were in law school together in Missoula. Her husband and I served together in the Montana Army National Guard. Our families remain personally connected in addition to our professional connections.

Audrey has a unique breadth of experience that is hard to find among Montana practitioners. This experience aligns well with the needs of a district judge. Audrey has also demonstrated a commitment to a collaborative practice that benefits courts and litigants alike by enabling a more economical resolution of disputes.

Audrey knows what it takes to build a business, which is rare among lawyers and rarer among judges. She successfully managed the business end of her law practice, and grew that practice, while providing excellent service to her clients. She has a demonstrated history of good judgment and both the temperament and presence needed for a judge. Audrey is all the things we should hope a district judge will be. The last administration missed a great opportunity to appoint Audrey to the bench. I hope you can correct their error.

Please appoint Audrey as district judge in Gallatin County.

Sincerely,

Mike Talia

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

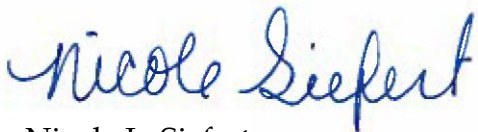
Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am a lawyer in Missoula at the law firm of Rhoades, Siefert & Erickson, PLLC. I went to law school with Ms. Cromwell and graduated with her in 2009. I heartily recommend Audrey Cromwell for appointment as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District.

In law school, Ms. Cromwell excelled as a student and a peer. She was involved in a vast array of activities, was always willing to lend a hand, and stood out as a student. Ms. Cromwell was always prepared, brought insightful and thoughtful discussions to class, and was not afraid to kindly but firmly speak a dissenting opinion. It was a pleasure to be a classmate with Ms. Cromwell and I have always valued her as an esteemed colleague and friend.

While geography has separated us, I have followed Ms. Cromwell's career. Her wide range of experience is what is needed on the bench. As a trial attorney, I value practicing in front of judges who have both criminal and civil experience, both defending and prosecuting client's rights. Ms. Cromwell has done all of these, all while managing her business and being a wife and mother. Her obvious intellect, familiarity with many different subject matters, and her calm but firm demeanor will serve the bench well. I only wish I practiced in the 18th Judicial District more often so I could appear before Ms. Cromwell.

Sincerely yours,
RHOADES SIEFERT & ERICKSON PLLC



Nicole L. Siefert
NLS/llt



October 12, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620
Email: mtsupremecourt@mt.gov

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write to you in support of Audrey Cromwell for the Montana 18th Judicial District Court position. Audrey is highly capable and qualified for this position and she would excel at being a Montana State District Court judge.

I know Audrey as a colleague and former office-mate, as my attorney, and as a friend. I have known Audrey since at least 2013 and I have known her husband and law partner, Charlie Cromwell, since 2011 or before. My practice and Cromwell Law were co-located for approximately four and a half years, until May 2019. In 2015 and 2016 Audrey handled a personal legal matter for me. Having observed and interacted with Audrey on nearly a daily basis and working with her to handle an emotional and somewhat complicated legal matter for me, I feel I am very qualified to speak to her capabilities and temperament.

Working in the same office and interacting with Audrey, I observed her to be very diligent, focused, efficient, disciplined and hard working. Audrey juggles numerous client matters, job functions, and practice related administrative duties efficiently and without turmoil. I observed that she dealt with client and business matters very timely. Audrey is very productive and has excellent time management skills and effectively uses the resources she has. I also observed that her staff and co-workers delighted in working with Audrey. I personally found Audrey a very pleasant person with whom to share office space.

I have first-hand experience with Audrey's legal skills and temperament in dealing with clients and adverse parties. Audrey handled my marital dissolution. For me it was emotional and presented challenging financial issues. Audrey managed the process with a very even, business like, yet fair manner. She effectively steered me to handle the process with a rationale approach. Audrey's manner was such that she earned the full trust of the adverse party (my former wife), which allowed us to navigate the dissolution process efficiently, without contentiousness, and with both parties feeling like the outcome was fair. In a process that can easily cost tens of thousands of dollars, Audrey handled it such that the cost was a small fraction of what it could have been. Based on my experience, there is no question Audrey has the temperament to deal with challenging and often difficult litigants and attorneys.

The dissolution process also gave me a view into Audrey's technical, legal skills. Audrey is very thorough and diligent in her approach to learning, understanding, and applying the law. During the process I felt great confidence in her legal abilities. She communicated with confidence backed by concise and complete explanations of the applicable legal issues and governing law. I never had cause to question her legal conclusions or advice. This made me very comfortable with how she handled my matter and with the outcome.

I worked for two years as a judicial law clerk in the Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court (Judge Robert Holmstrom) and I experienced first-hand what is needed to effectively manage a busy, over-full district court. I can say with absolute certainty that Audrey has the skills to be district court judge and manage a department in the critically overloaded Eighteenth Judicial District. Given the caseload of this district court, I believe it is critical to have someone with Audrey's skills and temperament placed into that position.

Lastly, I attended the University of Montana School of Law, was admitted to the State Bar in 1995, and have practiced in Bozeman since 2004. With this background and familiarity of the justice system and the local bar, I firmly believe the Gallatin County Bar would greatly respect Audrey and would quickly see that Audrey will fairly, efficiently, and with compassion and alacrity, advance the cause and system of justice in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,



Paul Grigsby



October 7, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter to urge you to consider nominating Audrey Cromwell as the next District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District. I am an attorney with a practice based in Bozeman, Montana with a focus in family. Through this, Audrey's path has crossed paths mine on numerous occasions. I consider her not only a colleague, but also a friend, mentor, and worthy adversary.

Audrey has many admirable traits as she is organized, motivated and highly intelligent. As an attorney, Audrey is well-versed in the law, and is adept in her abilities to research complex legal issues and apply the legal authority to facts.

Two traits particularly stand out when considering traits that would serve a judge: empathy and creativity. Audrey has an amazing ability to listen, to understand people's perspectives even when it may be far from her own experience and an ability to express empathy for all people she encounters. Audrey also brings creativity to any problem she is working to solve. I have observed Audrey assist parties stuck in a gridlock overcome and creatively find solutions that meet the needs of all involved. I am confident that Audrey would use these skills to better the lives of the individuals who participate in her courtroom.

There is much more to Audrey than listed here and her strong record speaks for itself. I highly recommend Audrey for the next District Court Judge.

Sincerely,


Angie Cavallini
Attorney

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am the Municipal Court Judge for the City of Helena. I have known Audrey since our first year of law school in 2006.

I was proud to hear she was applying for the new position for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court. Over the past twelve years since we graduated from law school, I have watched her excel in her practice and community service. Even recently being named the top attorney in Gallatin County.

Audrey has always been a conscientious and dedicated attorney. Her drive for her clients is evident in the resolution of her cases. She is thoughtful, creative, and even tempered. All qualities that are needed to maintain the integrity of the court.

It is my honor to support Audrey as a candidate for appointment to the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Thank you for your time, please do not hesitate to call or email with any questions

Respectfully,



Judge Anne Peterson
Helena Municipal Court
anpeterson@helenamt.gov
406-447-8465

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell for the 18th Judicial District judge position in Bozeman. I have worked side by side with Ms. Cromwell in dozens of Collaborative and mediation cases here in Montana. Over the years I have witnessed her incredible skill, compassion, dedication, and attention to detail in our work and on behalf of her clients.

I practice as a Licensed Clinical Therapist and specifically as a mental health neutral professional in Montana Collaborative family law cases. Ms. Cromwell's service to her clients, understanding and implementation of the law, and incredible empathy and ability to connect with the clients and professionals on both sides of the table is remarkable. I am also the co-founder of Parent Team, an online resource for parents and co-parents who are going through divorces or restructuring. Audrey was instrumental as a guide, motivation source, and inspiration in this project – as there is great need to change the landscape of divorce and separation for families in Montana and she is the one who will do this.

In addition to my professional work with Ms. Cromwell, I also know her personally as a mother, wife, sister, friend, daughter and an active citizen of our growing community. Her ethical values, steadfast character, and her passion for helping others is inspirational. I wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Cromwell for the judge position, and I believe our Judicial District would greatly benefit from her leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandyn Roark Caires', with a stylized, cursive script.

Brandyn Roark Caires, M.S., LCPC

Mind Matters PLLC, Parent Team LLP



389 S. Ferguson Ave. Ste. 204
Bozeman, MT 59718
Ph: 406-577-2277
www.blackmorefinancialsolutions.com

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I have had the privilege to work with Audrey in a couple of capacities and it is with great honor to suggest her for the role of a District Judge.

Audrey is incredibly competent when it comes to professional and business matters. Her attention to detail is flawless and her ability to listen and implement is excellent. Her follow through on tasks is timely, professional, and thorough.

Audrey would be an excellent addition to the Montana Judicial system and it is with great pleasure to make that recommendation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brock Schimbeno', is written over the typed name.

Brock Schimbeno

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am honored to support Ms. Audrey Cromwell for the new Gallatin County District Court Judge position.

I have worked closely with Ms. Cromwell since 2018 as first a volunteer and then as a board member of the Bozeman Community Mediation Center. We share a deep commitment to public service and collaborative processes. For the past 25 years, I have helped public and private companies, non-profits, tribes, and academic institutions develop processes and cultures that enable constructive, mutually beneficial resolution of conflict. I am founder and CEO of Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Services and teach Negotiation in the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University.

For the entire time I have known her, Ms. Cromwell has been a model of integrity, service, and humility. She competently analyzes the nuances of complex situations and balances compassionate insight with practical, outcome-based approaches. She displays an authentic, calm professionalism and deep awareness in all circumstances. I am aware that I am not the only person who holds this opinion, as many people have commented to me on their high regard for Ms. Cromwell.

Ms. Cromwell's experience, temperament, and character make her an excellent choice for this position. She would be an asset to the district and I highly support her for this position.

Respectfully,



Kate Stewart, MA, MBA, PhD
CEO, Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Services
Former Board member, Community Mediation Center
Faculty, JJCBE, MSU

Mary E. Peterson

5330 Eclipse Drive, Bozeman, Montana 59715 | 406.581.1812 | marypeterson.montana@gmail.com

October 8, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is a pleasure to write in support of **Audrey Cromwell's** application for the position of district court judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District, Gallatin County.

I met Audrey shortly after she assumed the role of executive director of the Community Mediation Center (CMC). I assisted her with fundraising strategies for the CMC, which was desperately in need of funds to continue its work. We worked together intensively for a period of several months, and Audrey's efforts were ultimately successful. She was so committed to this cause that she worked without pay until the CMC's finances were stabilized.

My own background involves several decades of service in the nonprofit sector, raising funds for MSU's College of Nursing, the Museum of the Rockies, and Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter before becoming executive director of Eagle Mount Bozeman. I retired in 2017 but have remained active, consulting with nonprofit organizations across the state.

Here's why I think Audrey would be a great addition to the bench. She doesn't mince words. She's a clear thinker and communicator. She's able to maintain perspective in the middle of complicated, emotionally laden situations. She comes across as both kind and fair. She doesn't lack for courage – she took the CMC job knowing it was in desperate shape, and she worked without pay for several months while she got it back on its feet.

This may sound corny but working alongside Audrey literally changed my view of the legal profession. As we were drafting a fundraising appeal, she introduced the phrase "legal care" in the text. To me, that was an oxymoron, and yet I came to understand that that one phrase says it all: employing knowledge of the law for the benefit of the people. I finally got it, thanks to Audrey.

Audrey was just voted Gallatin's Greatest Lawyer 2021, and her firm, Cromwell Law, was also voted Gallatin's Greatest Law Firm 2021. I cite those awards not because this appointment has anything to do with popularity, but because the awards represent **a vote of confidence – and trust – from the community**. Audrey has earned that trust, and it would translate into respect for the bench.

She'll be a terrific judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary E. Peterson

October 12, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
Office of the Governor % Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Support - Audrey Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte:

We are co-founders and executive leaders of commonFont LLC, a Bozeman-based technology services company that employs 34 Montanans and a total of 40 people across the country. Cromwell Law, PLLC, helped commonFont with the legal and regulatory filings that established our company back in 2013, and they have advised commonFont on legal matters related to state and local law ever since. We have worked with Audrey both for personal and corporate legal matters through our roles as co-founders and co-owners of commonFont, and we have known her as a personal friend for many years.

In our professional and personal interactions with Audrey, we have found her to be of the highest integrity, trustworthiness, and thoughtfulness. We trust and value both her formal and informal counsel, though we place an especially high premium on her guidance related to matters of conflict resolution, communication, and mediation. As business leaders, we've found that binary outcomes—in which one party wins outright and the other party loses outright—are transitory and ultimately unsatisfactory to all involved. Most situations that lead to dispute and conflict have contributing forces that do not conform to simple classifications of "wrong" and "right". Business operates this way, and life does, as well.

We cannot think of more important qualities for a judge than an appreciation for nuance, an objective and thoughtful perspective, and an instinctive desire to seek durable, effective outcomes for all parties involved. Audrey possesses and demonstrates those capabilities on a daily basis in her personal and professional interactions, and she has our strongest recommendations for nomination to the open district court judge position in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,



Abby Schlatter
CEO and Co-Founder
commonFont LLC

PO Box 1830
Bozeman, MT 59771
Email: abby.schlatter@commonfont.com



Matt Fulton
Managing Director and Co-Founder
commonFont LLC

14176 Kelly Canyon Road
Bozeman, MT 59715
Email: matt.fulton@commonfont.com

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I've had the pleasure to know and work with Audrey Cromwell over the last eight years.

While out on assignments as a former staff photographer for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, I would go everywhere in the community to tell the stories of the town. More often than not, I would see her not only at the courthouse but also out with her family cheerful, smiling, and participating in varied events throughout the community.

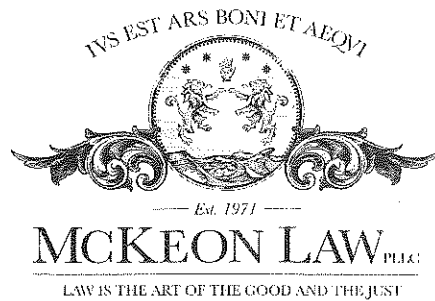
Every we time we visit, it always strikes me just how much this woman cares for and gives back to the community she loves. She has a genuine kindness that stems from a selfless place of service and the betterment of those around her.

She is such a thoughtful, kind, fair, driven, intelligent soul with a wonderful sense of humor.

I cannot think of a better-suited individual to serve as our next 18th Judicial District judge here in Bozeman.

Respectfully,

Mike Greener
Greener Visuals Photography
mike@greenervisuals.com
406-531-5961



600 DEWEY BLVD POST OFFICE BOX 3329 BUTTE, MT 59702
TEL 406.494.8890 THE MCKEONLAW.COM FAX 406.494.7066

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

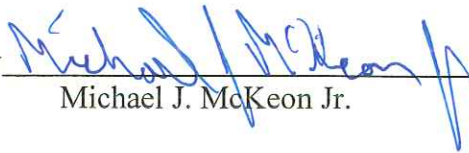
It is my honor to support the application of Audrey Schultz Cromwell for the position of District Court Judge in the Montana Eighteenth Judicial District. I have known Audrey since law school. Over the course of those years, I was always impressed with her commitment to become an attorney, as well as her commitment to bettering not only the lives of her fellow students, but those who she assisted during her clinical time with the Montana Legal Services office, along with the clients she has so diligently served since that time.

Following law school, Audrey began her career as a law clerk with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee. She then joined the Office of the State Public Defender (OPD). During her time with the OPD, her dedication to the law and abilities to assist those in dire need of quality legal representation was unquestionable. After her time with the OPD, Audrey founded Cromwell Law, PLLC with her husband Charlie. Through that practice, Audrey has provided remarkable legal representation at an affordable cost to those who are less fortunate. Additionally, through her firm, she was selected as co-director of the Associated Students of Montana State University and has provided hundreds of students with high quality legal representation that they would not have been able to afford otherwise. Throughout her career, Audrey has provided exemplary representation. Her commitment to those less fortunate and providing them with high-quality representation is something all of us in the Montana legal community should aspire to.

Audrey is also dedicated to her family. She and her husband have a wonderful 7-year-old boy, who is growing up to be just as kind, compassionate and caring as his parents. Audrey's family is always at the forefront, but her commitment to her profession and those she serves never waivers. While Audrey leaving the practice will leave a significant hole in Gallatin County, it will be gaining a judge with the knowledge, experience, empathy and compassion that is so very needed of a District Court Judge.

Audrey will serve as a fair judge, who will make the right decisions in both the criminal and civil arenas. I believe Audrey to be the most experienced and qualified applicant for the position of the Eighteenth Judicial District Judge. I cannot stress any further how highly I recommend her and respectfully implore Governor Gianforte to strongly consider Audrey to fill the 18th Judicial District's new judge position.

Respectfully,

By 
Michael J. McKeon Jr.

John F. Haffey ‡
john@haffeyvap.com

Mitchell J. Vap ‡
mitch@haffeyvap.com

‡ Reg. Patent Attorney



101 E. Broadway St.
Suite 200, PO Box 8718
Missoula, MT 59807
P: 406-493-1617
F: 406-493-1196
admin@haffeyvap.com
www.haffeyvap.com

October 12, 2021

by email

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

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I strongly support Audrey Cromwell's nomination for the 18th Judicial District Court judge position. She is highly qualified and possesses all the attributes to be an excellent District Court judge.

I have known Audrey since 2006. We were law school classmates and I was fortunate enough to work with Audrey many times throughout law school. Audrey has always possessed tremendous legal acumen and appreciation for the nuance of law. She has always had the ability to understand and fairly analyze opposing positions. Audrey has always possessed an amazing work ethic. From law school, to her time with the Office of the Public Defender, to beginning her own law practice, Audrey has excelled. These attributes are the reason Audrey has had such a successful career and will be an outstanding judge.

On a personal note, our families have remained friends through the years and we have been fortunate enough to spend time with Audrey and her family away from work life. Audrey is always engaging, positive, humble, and she has a great sense of humor. She possesses all of the attributes necessary to engage colleagues and parties in the demanding District Court environment. It also bears noting that Audrey has made time to be a top-notch mom in addition to all her other accomplishments!

In conclusion, I highly recommend Audrey's nomination for the 18th Judicial District Court judge position. She will be an excellent addition to the bench. Thank you for considering my letter of recommendation. Please feel free to call me if you have any further questions.

//

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Sincerely,

HAFHEY VAP PLLC



Mitchell J. Vap



Made by US. Designed for the love of pets and the planet.™

1-800-443-5567
WestPaw.com

32050 Frontage Road
Bozeman, Montana 59715



Oct 10, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell to become a District Court Judge for the 18th Judicial District in Gallatin County.

I have known Audrey Cromwell for many years, after she and her family chose to attend the same church my family attends. She immediately got involved in the outreach work that is so important to help support others in our community. We are a small but dedicated group of caring people who believe in social justice. This demands not only thoughts and prayers but action, and Audrey jumped right in.

The majority of my interaction with Audrey has centered around our work together on the Young Adult and Family Ministry Team. She is a thoughtful, considerate, and determined team member. We were tasked with figuring out how to serve the youth and young adult population, both within our church and in the wider community. Through the challenges of building the team, aligning on the strategy, coupled with difficult conversations, Audrey held a steady presence and helped us ultimately craft a solution that continues to be successful today.

In my position as the founder and owner of West Paw, a manufacturing business that has thrived in Bozeman for over 25 years, I have interacted with many people from all walks of life. There are a rare few that strike me as having such a high level of integrity as Audrey. She is intelligent and empathetic, and holds herself with strength and fairness in conflict-ridden situations. Most importantly, it is apparent that she has found her true calling. I believe that Audrey would be an incredible asset to the District Court and I wholeheartedly support her nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Spencer Williams".

Spencer Williams
Owner & CEO

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Audrey Cromwell for the District Judge position in Gallatin County. I have known Audrey since 2006 when she started law school with my husband, Mitch Vap. We have spent several hours and weekends together over the years. I know her as a friend, fellow mother and Montana businesswoman.

For reference here is a bit about my background. I am a Physical Therapist. I own two companies in Missoula, Montana. The first, Alpine Physical Therapy is an established company since 2004 and employs just under 50 people. We pride ourselves on being an excellent employer and supporting our community in various ways. The second company is a start-up walk-in, cash pay Physical Therapy clinic. This company is a response to the detrimental effects of the rising cost of healthcare and resultant declining access to medical services for many individuals. I am also a mother of two young boys, ages 5 and 8. I love outdoor recreation and care deeply about the preservation of our world and the preservation and progress of human rights. I tell you these things, so you understand the values behind my support.

I know Audrey Cromwell would be an excellent judicial appointment to the District Court. I know this because she exemplifies integrity. I think of integrity as doing the right thing even when the right thing is hard to do. In the face of situations where the right thing is unclear, I believe integrity involves critical thinking and analysis before action is taken. To me this describes Audrey perfectly. I have seen these qualities in her through discussions around current affairs, decision making and problem solving within her family. She is very thoughtful and considers multiple perspectives before having those hard discussions with a friend or a family member that we all have in life. She is very thoughtful and intentional in her parenting and decisions around raising her son. While I am an outsider to the legal profession, I still see Audrey's high level of integrity in movements she has made in her professional life. A perfect example is her efforts in working beyond a traditional system of family law to use and progress models that encourage a collaborative environment. Another example is recognizing the lack of legal support for students in her community and choosing to do something innovative to address the issue.

Audrey is one of those rare individuals that will naturally shift the world around her toward a better horizon because of how she approaches the decisions she makes every day. This is a quality that will make her an excellent District Judge. I wholeheartedly support Audrey Cromwell for this judicial appointment.

Respectfully,

Angela D. Listug-Vap, DPT, FAAOMPT
2 Carriage Way
Missoula, MT 59802
Ph: 503-504-6600

BRENNAN LAW

& MEDIATION PLLC

BETH A. BRENNAN

The Millennium Building
125 Bank Street, Suite 403
Missoula, MT 59802

PHONE: 406.721.6768

FAX: 406.258.0735

Beth@BrennanLawandMediation.com

October 8, 2021

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

Re: Audrey Schultz Cromwell, Applicant for 18th Judicial District Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my honor and pleasure to support Audrey Schultz Cromwell for district judge in Gallatin County. Audrey embodies the essential qualities of an excellent jurist – intelligence, compassion, integrity, and a commitment to justice for all.

I have known Audrey since 2006, when she was a student in my Torts class. Since then, she has developed a law practice in Bozeman, helped to establish an entirely new way of practicing family law in Montana, become a mother, stepped in as the executive director of the Bozeman Community Mediation Center, and acted as judge *pro tempore* in Gallatin County Justice Court. In addition, she holds down the fort – at home and at the office -- while her husband is deployed.

The bulk of Audrey's law practice is comprised of family law and criminal law. She has tried several bench and jury trials. She is eminently qualified to take the bench and hit the ground running.

While legal expertise is essential for a district judge, though, it is never enough. A judge must also exhibit judicial temperament. According to the American Bar Association, a candidate with suitable judicial temperament is compassionate, decisive, open-minded, sensitive, courteous, patient, free from bias, and committed to equal justice. Audrey Cromwell is all of these things.

Finally, you may also consider a judicial appointee's ability to run for her seat and win an election. Audrey's connections to the Gallatin County community are evidence of her ability to inspire people from all walks of life. Her recent recognition as one of Gallatin County's Greatest in 2021 demonstrates the community's respect and support for her. I believe she would be an excellent candidate for district judge in Bozeman.

Audrey Cromwell is an exceptional applicant for this position. I encourage you to appoint her.

Thank you for your consideration.

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

Beth A. Brennan

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

October 14th, 2021

Re: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am an educator who lives in Bozeman, MT. I met Audrey at church when I was pregnant with my first son, five years ago. She introduced herself to me with a big smile. Every time I saw Audrey at church she checked in on my pregnancy and shared her own experiences. She also offered to lend me anything I needed for this new phase of life, as if I was her sister.

After the birth of our first child, Audrey brought a meal and checked in on us, offering comic relief and love through her presence. When I became pregnant with my second child, she gifted us with a car full of maternity clothes, baby items, kids clothes and toys. I know Audrey as a generous woman with a bright, bubbly spirit, yet not without challenges in life. Just a winning attitude about them.

Her commitment to her career, while maintaining family relationships, hobbies and working on her own resilience is admirable. I only wish I saw Audrey more often, because every minute spent with her fills my spirit with joy and warmth.

Audrey's interest in filling this demanding, yet prestigious position is a marvelous gift to our community. Because of people like her, we as a city can be proud about the way we care for one another, in both the big jobs of a courtroom and in the smaller moments that happen in one's living room.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Beverly Hosford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Beverly Hosford, MA

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am honored to provide a reference for Audrey Cromwell for the position of Gallatin County District Court Judge. As a community member, with a background and experience in primary through adult education, I have known Audrey since fall of 2016 when she joined the board of the Community Mediation Center. At the time, I was serving as the President of the Board. Audrey brought fresh perspective to the organization with her legal background and dedication to the mediation process. Audrey joined the organization at a time when we were struggling through a transition period of losing a long-time Executive Director combined with a financial setback.

When a newly-appointed Executive Director abruptly resigned, and the organization's future was at stake, Audrey asked the Board to take a chance by allowing her to resign from the board and to take on the role of Executive Director in the short term. Her promise was to right the boat – to put the organization on sound financial footing, to refocus the organization's mission, to rebuild relations with community partners, and to accomplish this in less than 2 years.

True to her word, Audrey did all of this and more while working for the organization only part time. I have never witnessed anyone with such clarity for what had to be done, and strategies for how to accomplish goals. She streamlined burdensome office practices, eliminated financial and logistic waste, set in place new guidelines, tapped into strengths of board members and key stakeholders, worked with partners to regain trust, and built new partnerships. She brought the board together with greater focus on short and long-term planning.

Her work with others is a testament to her understanding of human nature. Audrey exudes warmth, and sincerity while having the courage to take on challenging situations with grace, humor, and a humble attitude. Audrey's organizational skills are top notch. Her writing skills demonstrate clarity of thought and succinctness that targets the purpose of each communication.

Audrey holds herself to high standards and expects the same of others. Her integrity and dedication will serve the court and the community well.

Thank you for allowing me to share what I know of Audrey Cromwell.

Respectfully,



Janet Bender-Keigley



BLACKMORE
FINANCIAL
SOLUTIONS

389 S. Ferguson Ave. Ste. 204
Bozeman, MT 59718
Ph: 630-740-3561

www.blackmorefinancialsolutions.com

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I have had the privilege of working along Audrey for the last two years. Audrey and I came to know one another through our work within the Montana Collaborative Professionals. In that capacity I serve as a financial neutral while Audrey has helped represent her clients going through divorce.

What I appreciate about Audrey is her ability to remain professional in all situations. She is incredibly level-headed, methodical, and always exudes professionalism. Through the two years that I have served as a Financial Neutral I have gotten the chance to work with a number of attorneys here in Gallatin Valley. Her attention to detail and capacity to maintain an incredible level of work is quite amazing.

Although I am not versed in the technical skills that this opportunity would require, I do know that it takes a certain type of person to be successful and well respected. I feel confident in Audrey's ability and desire to serve in this capacity. One thing I admire about Audrey is that she does a great job at setting boundaries, and I think that it is a skill that would allow her to maintain an incredible amount of responsibility and maintain respect of not only her peers but also the community members that she would have the privilege of serving in this position as a District Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenifer Schimbeno'.

Jenifer Schimbeno



BRYAN LAW FIRM, PC

Justin M. Bryan, JD, LLM
Dash DeJarnatt, JD, LLM
Jordan E.G. Feddes, JD, LLM
Mark A. Bryan, JD (Of Counsel)

11 East Main Street, Suite D
Post Office Box 1371
Bozeman, MT 59771-1371

Telephone: (406) 586-8565
Facsimile: (406) 586-3968
Email: blf@bryanlawpc.com

October 14, 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: Letter of Support for Audrey Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to express my support for Audrey Cromwell's application for the open position of District Court Judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District (Gallatin County). I am a local attorney who primarily practices estate planning, trust and probate administration, and tax law. I have lived and practiced in Gallatin County since 2015. I look forward to continuing to live here with my husband and son, which is primarily why I am invested in your appointment.

Professionally, I have only worked with Audrey on premarital agreement negotiations. Audrey is always a straight shooter and I have the impression she takes great care ensuring her clients understand the complex legal concepts contained in such agreements (such as the spousal elective share). In all my communications with Audrey she is reasonable to work with, has a clear understanding of the law, and cares about the wellbeing of her clients. My impression from other local attorneys who worked with Audrey more regularly than me in the family law sector, is that they enjoy working with her for similar reasons. An acquaintance of mine is a previous client of Audrey's and speaks very highly of her professional and kind demeanor as well as her intellect.

I do not know Audrey well on a personal level, but Audrey's reputation as an advocate for affordable legal services precedes her. Her past efforts with the Community Mediation Center and the Associated Students of Montana State University (ASMSU) Student Legal Services Program highlight her commitment to public service and passion for providing affordable legal services in our community.

In addition to the abundance of relevant experience contained in Audrey's application, the qualities illustrated in my letter describe person who I respect and trust to adjudicate matters in Gallatin County. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would be happy to discuss this letter with you.

Respectfully,

Jordan E.G. Feddes, Esq.

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am most pleased to offer this letter in support of Audrey Cromwell in her application for appointment as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District. I have known Audrey nearly 15 years my 49-year legal career, most of which I spent at Montana Legal Services Association where Audrey served as a Legal Intern. I also worked with Audrey while an adjunct faculty and clinical supervisor at the Law School, again meeting and working with Audrey when she attended Law School.

During my five decades of practicing law, I have trained and mentored more than seven hundred interns and lawyers. Audrey stands out as among the memorable best. From the beginning of her legal career, I have watched her develop from a neophyte Legal Intern to a diversely experienced and extremely capable attorney.

Not only do we know each other as attorney colleagues but as trusted friends as well. When she was a Legal Intern at MLSA, we worked closely together on casework. When Audrey served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Montana Law Review, she and I spent considerable time refining and editing an article I authored. As colleagues representing student clients in the Montana University system, we shared similar interests and remain in close touch professionally and personally. I am very familiar with her character, disposition, and qualifications.

Letter to Gov. Gianforte
RE: Audrey Cromwell
October 14, 2021
Page 2

Audrey's impressive qualifications reflects her remarkable depth of experience: criminal law, family law, consumer protection, trial skills, supervisory skills, pro bono leadership, a variety of CLE presentations and more. Most attorneys hardly build such a complete CV in an entire career. Her résumé is replete with her commendable credentials. By Audrey's employment experience and through her civic/pro bono activities, Audrey has demonstrated a commitment to access to justice. Audrey has already been vetted by the lawyering community and the public; organizations consistently seek her leadership skills. Her latest accolade – chosen as Top Lawyer in Bozeman - is another tribute to her remarkable credentials.

One of Audrey's most important qualities is mindfulness. I have always been impressed by her thoughtfulness and patience. She thinks carefully about *how* to practice law. Her calm demeanor and patient temperament make her ideally suited for the judgeship. Clearly, she has given much thought to why she wants to be a judge. Audrey has an uncanny ability to balance the demands of her law practice and her family, an essential trait for this demanding new judgeship position.

Montanans want, and deserve, judges who are contemplative, introspective, and thorough. Audrey has exhibited those qualities throughout her career. Audrey's ever-present buoyant attitude brings out the best in those around her.

We know that the best indicator of future behavior is past action. We can predict that Audrey will devote her passion and her dedication to this new judgeship, just as she has in her practice and the profession. Audrey Cromwell will be a judge in whom we can all Montanans take pride.

Respectfully,

/s/ Klaus D. Sitte

Klaus D. Sitte

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Megan Makeever Ali, and I am writing this letter in strong support and encouragement of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 4th District Court judge vacancy.

I worked at Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ as the Director of *Pilgrim Connect*, a recently new branch of ministry that focuses on community outreach and innovative programming for young adults and families in Bozeman. Audrey and I served on a team of people that was in charge of brainstorming, visioning, and launching this new ministry 3 years ago. I can tell you that Audrey played a very important and fundamental role in the ministry's evolution and success because of her impressive skillset and characteristics as a person and lawyer.

Working with Audrey in this capacity and seeing her in dedicated and detailed action shed light on how level-headed, logical, compassionate, hardworking, and determined she is. This ministry was incredibly challenging to get off the ground to say the least. Our team comprised of various strong personalities and opinions that often conflicted with one another, and we started out with an incredibly muddy vision. Audrey was our saving grace when it came to conflict management, mediation, problem solving, and finally landing on a concrete and realistic vision. When everyone was about ready to throw in the towel, she modelled resilience as she gracefully pushed through challenges, professionally bypassed drama, and kept her eye on our goals. When conflicts arose while working out nitty gritty details, she calmly took everyone's opinions into consideration, always listening carefully and intentionally understanding every angle before proposing rational solutions. Once this ministry took off, she volunteered even more hours helping us with elements of this ministry that required expertise in law. She helped us compose safety waivers, liability forms, and made sure we covered all our bases legally before launching programs.

Outside of the team environment, I also have come to know Audrey as a friend and fellow church member at Pilgrim. She is a devoted mother and wife. She deeply cares for the equity, well-being, and justice for all people. She is humble, calm, and collected. I also have not mentioned yet that she is an excellent communicator, always delivering information clearly!

With this information I have imparted regarding Audrey Cromwell, I truly hope you consider her as a candidate for nomination to the district court judge vacancy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statements, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,
Megan Makeever Ali
Contact: meganmakeever@gmail.com (406) 599-5364

October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Abbey Holm and my husband is Ryan Holm. We are writing in support of Audrey Cromwell applying to become the District Court Judge of Gallatin County. We have known Audrey for 20+ years now and feel like her character, temperament and experience would make her a great fit for this position.

We have worked with Audrey's law firm in many instances now. My husband uses her firm for guidance and help with his job at Mystery Ranch Backpacks as the marketing director. They support Ryan and Mystery Ranch with legal requirements on web. Also, we have used Audrey and her firm to help us personally with our living wills and other documents related to that. They have been timely, professional, provide the upmost support, are incredibly knowledgeable in many areas of law, and prove to have vast experience in the field.

Another way I connect with Audrey and her firm is through Montana State University (MSU). At MSU, I am the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness, which is part of the Division of Student Success (DOSS). Cromwell Law is also helping a unit of the DOSS by advising the ASMSU student government and they represent students at MSU. I frequently see them on campus and hear about their work. All great things that are being said about them; they are so great to work with, represent MSU and students fairly, and have a positive impact on our MSU community.

Personally knowing Audrey since we are both from Montana and both went to the same high school, I can say that not only am I work colleagues with her but she is a good friend. I can attest that she is of great character: has good morals, easy-going, honest, very friendly, a great listener, and a high standard of integrity. Also, she is a good mix of temperament for this position: she is patient, open-minded, decisive, compassionate, and of course has common sense.

We hope that you highly consider Audrey for the District Court Judge in Gallatin County.

Respectfully,

Abbey & Ryan Holm
5704 Westmorland Dr., Bozeman, MT
406-570-5236
abbeykeene@gmail.com

October 8, 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: Letter of Recommendation for Audrey Cromwell

To Whom it may concern:

Today I have the honor of writing you to recommend the appointment of Audrey Cromwell, J.D., to the Montana 18th Judicial District Court, Gallatin County. I have known Audrey for over fourteen years, attending law school with her and working alongside her as a public defender. Audrey's capability for this position is not in question in my mind. She is dedicated to her work, her clients and her ethical responsibilities. I had the pleasure of working in close quarters with her during our time at the Billings Public Defender's Office and found her work ethic, research and writing capabilities beyond reproach. I write you here, however, to endeavor to convey Audrey's personal qualifications. I believe judges should be able to be firm as well as understanding, strict as well as thoughtful, as well as creative in their deliberations, orders and judgments. Audrey will indelibly fulfill these qualifications, and I encourage you to select Audrey for this appointment.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stephanie J. DeBoer

Greater Gallatin United Way

945 Technology Blvd., Suite 101F
Bozeman, MT 59718
Tel 406.587.2194

greatergallatinunitedway.org



October 14, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please consider this letter in support of the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to the fill the fourth judge position of District Court in Gallatin County. My respect and admiration for Audrey compel me to write this letter of support.

Audrey and I met through our shared service on the Board of Directors of the Community Mediation Center (CMC). She was always a committed, knowledgeable and valuable member of the Board. When the organization's Executive Director left abruptly with the organization facing some financial struggles, Audrey stepped up and stepped in as Interim/Part-Time Executive Director. She not only helped keep things going, she also cut expenses, moved years of paper files to digital storage, increased fundraising and set the organization up for a brighter future. All the while, she asked the tough questions, brought solid solutions to the table and considered ways forward for the organization. Her legal opinions and analytical approach to governance were vital to success. Her ability to write successful grants and hold meaningful meetings with donors helped the organization right itself.

During our time working together for the future of CMC we faced financial issues, employment disputes and all manner of organizational trials and tribulations. I have said more than once, if I have to go through difficult times on a board I would want to go through them with my fellow CMC board members and especially, Audrey. She handled every problem with a calm demeanor. She looked at all angles of the issue and provided solid, well thought out solutions. She was always interested in fairness but she could also be tough. Her application speaks to her qualifications. As I said, I respect and admire Audrey and fully support her nomination.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sylvia Drain". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sylvia Drain
Director of Donor Engagement, Greater Gallatin United Way
945 Technology Blvd., Ste. 101
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 587-2194 (office) 580-7338 (mobile)

October 14th, 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: Audrey Cromwell Letter of Support

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Quarney Ali, and I am writing this letter with enormous support for the nomination of Audrey Cromwell to fill the 4th District Court judge vacancy.

Audrey is the best and this is an understatement to say the least. Although I have not known her for a very long time, the time we spent has made me a big fan of her personality and character. She genuinely speaks while emanating care, compassion and understanding for the other person.

As an electrical engineering by profession, I was astonished at how easily and methodically she explained her field of work. Her passion and understanding of the justice system along with her ability to communicate is incredible.

I had the additional opportunity to work with her at Pilgrim Congregation Church as part of the outreach team. The dedication and knowledge she brought to the team added to the growth plus decision making within the team. She helped with all the legalities and made sure we were always on the right track. She was invaluable to the team. We were all very grateful for her time and expertise.

For me, it's an absolute honor to know Audrey Cromwell. She is a deep thinker who truly cares about the well-being and justice for all people. She is a wonderful human being and I strongly believe in her abilities to be an excellent district court Judge.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best Regards,
Quarney Ali
Email: quarney.ali@gmail.com
Phone: 4065995264

October 14th, 2021

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

Re: Letter of Support for Judicial Nominee Audrey Cromwell

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write in favor of appointment of Audrey Schultz Cromwell as a district court judge in the Eighteenth Judicial District, in and for Gallatin County. Ms. Cromwell will make an excellent jurist and her appointment will result in sound decisions as a jurist, as well as adding a talented leader to the greater court system.

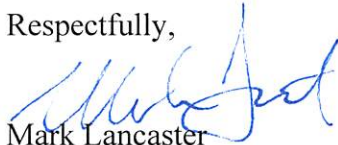
I graduated from law school with Ms. Cromwell and have interacted with her since then, particularly since she began her private practice in Bozeman. During law school, Ms. Cromwell first showed her talent and enthusiasm for understanding the law and applying it correctly, as well as a strong but friendly personality. Her legal talent, paired with her ability to maintain her assertiveness and understanding of the people with whom she interacts, make her an ideal fit for the unique demands placed on a district court judge.

In running her legal practice, Ms. Cromwell's talent, personality, and entrepreneurial spirit have fueled her success. I do not give client referrals lightly, and I have repeatedly found her to be a good referral for factually or procedurally complex cases. I have also relied on Ms. Cromwell as a "sounding board" for complex questions of substantive law, or to confirm that action is correct under an attorney's ethical standards. These experiences indicate she will be a decisive and pragmatic judge.

Other aspects of Ms. Cromwell's talents and experience militate in favor of judicial service. She has served in leadership roles with multiple nonprofits, developing skills that will translate well to the various commissions and other panels upon which a district judge is expected to sit.

For each of these reasons, and more, I encourage you to appoint Ms. Cromwell as a judge for the Eighteenth Judicial District, Gallatin County.

Respectfully,



Mark Lancaster
Attorney at Law
State of Montana Bar No. 11195

Slusser, Hannah

From: Vincent Pavlish <vinnie@judnichlaw.com>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 8:54 AM
To: NominateJudges
Cc: Audrey Schultz Cromwell
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Audrey Schultz Cromwell Nomination (ATTN: Hannah Slusser)

Governor Greg Gianforte,

I am writing to renew my support of Audrey Schultz Cromwell, applicant for the Eighteenth Judicial District Court bench in Gallatin County. I am a trial attorney in Missoula, working for the Judnich Law Office. I represent injured Montanans primarily in Missoula, but I have also appeared with them on criminal and civil matters throughout the state.

Audrey and I are both from Billings and attended different public schools there only a year apart. We also attended law school together at UM, which is where I started to get to know her more sincerely and develop an appreciation for the skill and thoughtfulness with which she conducts herself as a lawyer.

In school, we served at the Montana Law Review together both as staff and editors. In our third year, she was selected as one of the co-editor's-in-chief. She is a fine leader with hallmark conviction tempered by an openness to the ideas of others. I understand she has loaned these qualities to the Bozeman bar to develop a collaborative family law practice in that area. Family law--while outside my practice--is a plainly difficult business where the clients often seem to display the worst versions of themselves towards marginal gains. Working with them to understand a better way forward is a truly good thing for Montana and not just the handful of clients that any of us are able to meet and help in an individual practice.

I continue to believe that Audrey would be a fine addition to the Montana bench as she has been to the Montana bar. I recommend her to you without reservation.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my thoughts.

Vinnie

--

Vincent Pavlish
Judnich Law Office
501 S. Russell Street
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 721-3354
vinnie@judnichlaw.com