

April 19, 2022

(Sent Via Email Only)

Governor Greg Gianforte
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please accept this as my letter of support for Kathryn McEnery's appointment to the position of district court judge for the Montana Twentieth Judicial District for Sanders and Lake Counties. Kathy is ideally suited to assume this role for a variety of reasons.

First, district court judges encounter and must have the ability to decide a wide range of complex legal issues. Kathy has a broad range of practical experience in handling both complex civil and criminal cases of the type that a district judge must address on a daily basis. Kathy's intellect and experience in both private law practice and as a county attorney have prepared her to take on the position of district court judge without having to learn entirely new areas of law.

Second, as the Powell County Attorney, Kathy works hard to ensure that her cases are well-prepared and ready to take to trial in a timely manner. She will bring that organization to the bench, which will translate into prompt and fair adjudication of the cases that come before her. From my 26-year career litigating civil cases, one of the biggest problems I've encountered is the lengthy period of time it often takes to get a case from start to finish, with civil cases often taking at least one to two years to resolve. Having a district court judge who moves cases to resolution either by trial or motion practice is critical to ensure the smooth functioning of our system of justice. Kathy understands and will fulfill that duty in a faithful manner.

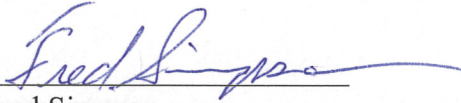
Next, a district court judge must be prepared to make hard, yet fair decisions based upon the law as established by the Legislature and binding case law precedent. Kathy knows and respects the limits of judicial authority, and will decide the cases that come before her in an impartial manner that will instill confidence in the public that its cases are being fairly decided.

Finally, Kathy has the calm but confident demeanor required of a district court judge (no one likes to appear before judges who are short-tempered or apparently apathetic towards their case). I have no doubt that Kathy will treat all parties that appear in her court with dignity and respect.

Governor Greg Gianforte
April 19, 2022
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Please appoint Kathy to be the next district court judge for Sanders and Lake Counties as the public deserves someone of her high caliber.

Sincerely,


Fred Simpson

FS/mlc

April 19, 2022

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-203005

RE: Kathryn McEnery

Dear Judicial Committee:

I am writing this letter of reference on behalf of Kathryn McEnery for consideration for appointment as the Twentieth Judicial District Judge, created by the retirement of the Honorable Judge Manley.

As a preliminary matter, I am Paul Ryan, born and raised in Missoula, Montana. My formal education consists of a Business Administration degree from the University of Montana in 1988, and a Juris Doctorate from Gonzaga School of Law in 1993. I worked for Boeing Commercial Airlines in Seattle prior to entering Law School. I was a partner and owner of the law firm of Datsopoulos, MacDonald and Lind in Missoula. I was with this firm for 14 years. In 2007, I opened my own law firm and practice in the area of Civil and Criminal litigation, while continuing to reside in Missoula. I also act as a Justice of the Peace and handle criminal and civil matters as a Judge in the Missoula community. During my years of practice I have had the opportunity to work closely with many practicing attorneys in the State of Montana, including Kathryn McEnery.

I have known Kathryn for several years, during that time, I have had the opportunity to observe her character traits and her work habits. With this background, I feel qualified to have objective opinions concerning her character and potential capabilities.

Kathryn has worked very hard, most recently as the County Attorney in Powell County. She is a talented lawyer and has committed herself to a career in the legal profession. She is honest, ethical, thorough and professional in all aspects of her personal and professional life. In addition to her work skills she has an incredibly likeable personality. She is very well rounded, stable, and responsible. In addition to her hard work ethic and intellect she is extremely thoughtful. She is not hindered by any negative habits. Her reputation, throughout the community, is that she is honest, fair and diligent in her work. She can be tough when she needs to be, yet balances that toughness with the empathy and fairness to properly deal with all issues of a case.

Paul Ryan & Associates, PLLC

April 19, 2022

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I have been litigating both civil and criminal cases for over 29 years in various Montana Courts, I am in Court almost every day, often multiple times a day. I have taken the time to analyze what I believe the characteristics of an effective and quality Judge. I believe Kathryn exceeds all the requirements necessary to be a fair, competent and impartial Judge. She has the proper temperament and superior legal skills to be a very good Judge. She is a long time Montana resident and is fully in touch with the issues in this State.

I hope you will consider all the above information and many other factors, in making your decision. I without hesitation believe Kathryn has the characteristics, professionalism and personality traits that should afford her the opportunity to be considered a strong candidate for appointment as the Twentieth Judicial District Judge opening.

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

Sincerely,

PAUL RYAN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

Paul T. Ryan

PTR/ik

From: [Long Law Office, P.C.](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Kathryn McEnery
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 11:17:07 AM

To whom it concerns:

I had occasion to represent clients in CPS cases in which Kathryn was attorney for other involved parties and also at least a couple cases wherein Kathryn represented Hot Springs. I found her to be sharp, good natured and professional in all instances. She appeared to enjoy being an attorney and solving legal problems for her clients. She would be an asset to the bench and a worthy successor to Judge Manley.

Robert J. Long
Long Law Office P.C.
201 4th Ave. E.
Polson, MT 59860
883-1363



RYAN HOLLOWAY & MILLER
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

April 20, 2022

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Kathryn McEnery

Dear Judicial Committee:

I am writing this letter of reference on behalf of Kathryn McEnery for consideration for appointment as the Twentieth Judicial District Judge.

My name is Angie Miller and I am an attorney in Missoula, Montana. I grew up in Colorado and made my way to Montana for college and have been fortunate enough to stay in this wonderful state. I graduated from The University of Montana's law school in 2020. After graduation and passing the bar I began working full time at Ryan, Holloway & Miller. My work as an attorney provides me with the opportunity to aid clients in criminal defense and personal injury litigation.

During my criminal defense work I have had the privilege to work with Kathryn. I have had the opportunity to observe her work ethic and character. With this background, I feel qualified to have objective opinions concerning her capabilities and character for acting as a District Judge.

Kathryn has been dedicated to her position as the County Attorney in Powell County. She is a talented attorney with vast knowledge of Montana's laws. She is honest, ethical, and thorough in her work. From my experience working with her, I know she is thoughtful and diligent when analyzing cases. Kathryn is a well-rounded person who is responsible and kind. She is easy to talk to, understanding, and well spoken. I feel like her reputation as an honest and fair attorney is an accurate representation of who she is. She is well versed in seeing both sides and capable of balancing information. She is open to discussions even when they may be hard to have, and she is through in her decision making. Kathryn has the qualities and characteristics of an effective and qualified Judge. From my experience working with her and in the legal system, I can honestly say she exceeds the requirements necessary for a fair, competent, and impartial Judge. She is well versed in the issues affecting Montana and the applicable laws. I have no doubt she would use her legal skills to help advance the legal system will serving as a Judge.

I hope you will consider all the above information and many other factors when making this decision. I am confident in Kathryn's abilities and know she has the characteristics and professionalism a Judge should have. I support her and believe she is a strong candidate for appointment as the twentieth Judicial District Judge.

218 East Front Street, Suite 210
Missoula, Montana 59802
Phone: 406.542.2233 Fax: 406.542.7012
contact@rhmattoorneys.com

Ryan Holloway & Miller, PLLC

April 20, 2022

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

Sincerely,

RYAN HOLLOWAY & MILLER, PLLC

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

Angie L. Miller

J&S Jenks & Simpson, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

JACK JENKS

FRED SIMPSON

JJENKS@JENKSSIMPSON.LEGAL

FSIMPSON@JENKSSIMPSON.LEGAL

1821 SOUTH AVE. W., SUITE 204
MISSOULA, MT 59801

TEL: 406-549-2322
FAX: 406-549-2707

April 24, 2022

(Sent Via E-Mail Only)

Governor Greg Gianforte
State Capitol, Room 204
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my pleasure to write in support of Kathryn McEnery for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District. I have known Kathy for many years and believe that she would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge.

As you can tell from her application, Kathy would bring a broad range of legal and practical experience to the bench. Her legal experience includes time in private civil practice, experience as a public defender, and most recently, as the County Attorney for Powell County. As the County Attorney, she deals with civil and criminal matters on a daily basis on behalf of the citizens of Powell County. Kathy has a broad legal background that fits nicely into the range of cases found in district courts.

As an attorney since 1993, I have practiced in front of a variety of state and federal judges. Two of the primary requirements of a judge are strong writing and analytical skills. As you can tell from Kathy's application, she clearly has those qualities. Other important qualities for a judge are the ability to approach a case in a fair and balanced manner and consider all aspects of an issue before rendering a decision. I know that Kathy has those attributes and would be an excellent District Court Judge. Finally, the citizens of Lake and Sanders Counties would benefit from Kathy's appointment as the District Court Judge for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration and I strongly encourage you to consider Kathy for the open vacancy on the Twentieth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely yours,


Jack Jenks

GREGORY G. SCHULTZ
305 South 4th Street East, Suite 100
Missoula, MT 59801
Telephone: 406.523.3600
Fax: 406.523.3636
E-mail: gschultz@crowleyfleck.com

April 21, 2022

By Email: (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

20th Judicial District Advisory Council
Polson, MT 59860

RE: Kathryn McEnery

Dear Members of the Advisory Council:

I write to voice my support for the appointment of Ms. Kathryn McEnery as Judge of the 20th Judicial District. I have had the pleasure of working with Kathryn throughout her career, both as a private practitioner in Sanders County and as the Powell County Attorney. In my experience with Kathryn as a practitioner, I have seen her deal with the full range of citizens, from isolated rural folk, to County Commissioners, to State and Federal officials. I have grown to have great faith in her professional competence and judgment. Her integrity and honesty are beyond question. She has always demonstrated a remarkably positive attitude about all aspects of the profession which, I think, is the essential attribute of a long stay on the Bench. I heartily recommend her appointment.

Sincerely,

CROWLEY FLECK PLLP


Gregory G. Schultz

GGS

From: [Beth Morgenstern](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public comment on Katheryn McEnergy
Date: Friday, April 22, 2022 2:57:39 PM

PO Box 1735
Trout Creek, Montana. 59874

April 22, 2022

Dear Governor and Judicial Committee:

I have known Katheryn McEnergy for many years. Though we had only casual contact early on, as my daughter babysat for her daughter, we later reconnected at the Flathead County Courthouse; I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children who have been removed from their parents due to abuse and neglect; she, as a new lawyer, was involved in a DN case.

A special warm, cousin-like friendship ensued; Kathy and I travel to see each other and have spent many weekends together and long sessions on the phone.

Kathy is one of the most community oriented, thoughtful people I've ever know. She takes her work very seriously, cares about all of the people around her, and she deeply values Montana. She is first in line to volunteer for community based projects and is an active participant in countless activities. She is physically active, healthy and strong. Her mind is wide-open; she is a good listener and a broad thinker.

A judge who truly understands life in her community would be very valuable to that community's citizens. This is why I write this letter in support of my friend, Katheryn McEnergy,

Sincerely,
Beth Morgenstern

--

Beth

Beth Morgenstern

From: [rmanix](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Nominee
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 7:53:01 PM
Importance: High

To the Honorable Governor Greg Gianforte:

I have know Kathryn McEnery since she became the Powell County Attorney & believe she would be a fair and impartial judge who would always uphold the law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ralph E Mannix JR

From: [Doug Crachy](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kathryn McEnery judge appointment
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 1:28:38 PM

Kathryn McEnery has applied for a judge appointment in lake/Sanders county. I think she has the experience to handle the job. She has learned a lot as county Attorney the last few years.

Doug Crachy
Powell county commissioner

From: [Paul Stelter](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kathryn McEnery
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 5:16:22 PM

I've known Catherine for 20 years. She was the city attorney for Hot Springs when I was on city council. She was fair approachable and consistent in her decisions. She has the experience in the private section also the public (city, county). She has experience working with government agencies, working both both sides of the aisle, prosecution and defense. In my opinion she would be a judge one would be proud of

Paul Stelter

Sent from my iPhone

26 April 2022

Dear Governor Gianforte:

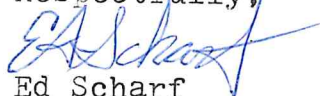
Please take this as a letter of support for Kathryn McEnery to be appointed as the next judge for Lake/Sanders County.

I have gotten to know and work with Kathryn on several matters over the past couple of years. She is very conscientious, thorough and dedicated to every aspect of the law and its ramifications.

Being a County Attorney by itself would bring a vast and varied amount of cases your desk. Kathryn, also happens to be the County Attorney for Powell County where the Montana State Prison is located. This alone, should set her above her peers in matters of the law and its enforcement for all citizens.

Hopefully, Kathryn will be nominated and selected as the next judge for Lake/Sanders County, Montana.

Respectfully,



Ed Scharf

Resident of Montana

Retired U.S. ARMY

Retired State of Montana Employee

P.S. Kathryn McEnery is also a GOOD PERSON

APR 29 2022 AM 10:58

John Rhodes
7265 Old Grant Creek Road
Missoula, Montana 59808

May 1, 2022

Governor Greg Gianforte
nominatejudges@mt.gov

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Governor Gianforte:

I urge you to nominate Kathryn McEnery for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District (Lake and Sanders County). I have known Kathy since shortly after she became County Attorney for Powell County.

To introduce myself, I am a federal public defender in Missoula, where for over twenty years, I have represented federally criminal accused individuals in dozens of trials and hundreds of appeals. Before I became a public defender, I worked for Dorsey & Whitney for a little over four years. I typically appear in court every week, sometimes nearly every day. Montana is blessed to have high-quality federal judges. Those judges have shown me the qualities that make a great trial judge.

Kathy is hard-working, fair, conscientious, reasonable, smart, and judicious. Her breadth of personal and professional experience perfectly suits her for being a district court judge. In private and public practice, she has litigated the exact cases a district court judge adjudicates. Borrowing a political phrase, she has represented parties on both sides of the aisle. That experience is particularly important today to maintain the integrity of the judicial process, which is fundamental to the rule of law and thriving and respectful communities.

I know how serious Kathy takes public service. She cares. Professionally and personally, she is community oriented, as demonstrated by her volunteer work and community focused personal life.

Her work ethic shines. And that same work ethic will help her “move the docket,” a necessary aspect of being a successful trial judge.

Kathy's intellect will serve Lake and Sanders County well. She has litigated both complex civil and criminal cases, which is crucial experience for being a successful district court judge.

Kathy's temperament is perfect for a judge. She is calm, contemplative, reflective and articulate, while willing to make tough decisions. She will treat all litigants with the respect and humanity that our legal system requires to maintain its integrity.

Thank you for your public service. I highly respect your commitment to Montana and the work you are doing.

Please nominate Kathryn McEnery for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District (Lake and Sanders County).

Sincerely,

/John Rhodes/

John Rhodes

From: [Kathleen Jenks](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 20th Judicial District Court applicants
Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 6:59:16 PM

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to express my thoughts on the upcoming appointment to fill the vacancy in the Twentieth Judicial District Court. It is important for Judges to have a wide legal background before taking the bench. The best candidate should have experience with both prosecution and defense, and both criminal and civil law. In my experience, a judge must be able to understand both sides of an argument and must understand the perspective of both sides. Just as the least effective attorney is the one who has spent their career only advocating for one side, the most effective judge has a background on all sides.

In looking at the candidates for this position, the candidate with the broadest legal background as well as the support of bar members from the most diverse backgrounds is Kathryn McEnery. I would encourage her appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judge Kathleen Jenks, Missoula Municipal Court, Retired.

Chuck and Terry Stephens
93 Roosma Rd.
Hot Springs, MT 59845

May 3, 2022

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Kathryn McEnery Nomination

Dear Judicial Committee,

We are writing to give our support to Kathryn McEnery for appointment as the Twentieth Judicial District Judge.

We ranch in the Hot Springs valley and have gotten to know Kathryn on a personal level for about the last 4 years. We have always found her to be honest, fair and considerate. These are characteristics that we feel would carry well into a position as a judge. We feel that she would rule in an impartial manner.

We hope you will consider her for the position of District Judge.

Sincerely,

Chuck and Terry Stephens

Frank J. Joseph, P.C.

Attorney at Law

2801 South Montana, Butte, MT 59701
Tel. (406) 782-0484 Fax: (406) 782-7253

Frank J. Joseph
frankjosephpc@gmail.com

Liza L. Dennehy
ldennehypllc@gmail.com

May 4, 2022

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59520-203005

By Email: (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Kathryn McEnergy

Dear Judicial Committee:

I am writing in support of the judicial appointment of Kathryn McEnergy for the Montana Twentieth Judicial District. I have only had the pleasure of working with Ms. McEnergy for a few short years but I have found her to be very intelligent, informed about the facts of the cases I have defended against her, fair minded and reasonable in her application of the law.

Ms. McEnergy is a tough advocate for the State and takes her oath and the responsibilities of her office as a prosecutor very seriously. However, she still maintains the ability to listen to and fairly consider the arguments and circumstances of the defendants and their attorneys. She is approachable, and human, yet understands her role as county's legal representative.

In short, I believe her to be intelligent, fair, honest and loyal and I believe she would serve any county well as a judge. I remain,

Very truly yours,


FRANK J. JOSEPH
Attorney at Law

*Debra J. Achatz
21 Dead End Rd
Trout Creek, MT 59874
406-827-3973*

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

May 5, 2022

Re: Kathryn McEnery, Candidate for District Court Judge, 20th Judicial District

Governor Gianforte:

It is with great pleasure that I contact your office regarding Kathryn McEnery. Kathryn and I have been acquaintances for approximately ten years. I had the pleasure of working with her on several projects during her time in private practice in Sanders County and as Hot Springs City Attorney.

Although mostly retired now, I was a legal assistant for over twenty years, a Certified Montana Mediator for twelve, and served as substitute Justice Court Justice of the Peace (under the Hon. Donald Strine) for four years.

While doing work for and with Kathryn, I found her to be a very bright, pleasant person. She exhibited a good listening ear; a quality extremely necessary for being a just and fair judge.

I also found Kathryn to be detail oriented and very organized, creating a work product that is precise and thorough.

Without hesitation, I offer my support for this very qualified nominee. Kathryn would be an excellent addition to the Montana Judiciary process.

Most Sincerely,

Debra J. Achatz

Ron Snow
406 Mitchell Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
ron@rockcreekcattlecompany.com
Cell: 406-422-2786
(Sent Via Email)

May 8, 2022

Governor Greg Gianforte
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I write to you today to express my support of Kathryn McEnery's appointment to the position of District Court Judge for the State of Montana's Twentieth Judicial District for Sanders and Lake Counties.

I have known Kathy since October 6, 2018. We were introduced by then Powell County Attorney, Lewis Smith. Lewis was outgoing, and Kathy was on her way in to fill that position. We were all in attendance at a community fundraising event in Deer Lodge. Since that time, I have gotten to know Kathy on a personal level and professionally.

Personally, she is always kind, courteous and caring. I see her often out and about in support of our community. She is always ready to lend a helping hand.

Professionally, I have worked with her on a few projects in Deer Lodge, including the Old Yellowstone Trail. Part of that trail runs through Rock Creek Cattle Company, which I help manage. Kathy was part of the team, along with our County Planner and others, that helped explain the trail to us at the ranch and was instrumental in discovery and implementation of favorable aspects that would allow the trail and the ranch co-exist for the benefit of all.

On another occasion, while I was testifying in court on behalf of the ranch, during a property damage case Kathy, in her role of Powell County Attorney, questioned me in the courtroom. She was thorough and well prepared. She is confident and performs with the highest level of integrity.

Please accept this letter of my support without reservation, that Kathy be appointed to the position of District Court Judge for the State of Montana's Twentieth Judicial District for Sanders and Lake Counties.

Sincerely,



Ron Snow

City of Thompson Falls



Mayor

Mark Sheets

Ward I

Larry Lack
Raoul Ribeiro

Ward II

Katherine Maudrone
Earlene Powell

Ward III

Hayley Allen-Blakney
Shawni Vaught

May 9, 2022

Honorable Greg Gianforte

Governor State of Montana

RE: Appointment of Kathryn McEnery to 20th Judicial District Court Judge

Kathryn was the City Attorney for the City of Thompson Falls when I was appointed Mayor. In my time working with her, she always treated the public in a very professional manner. She always maintained a calm demeanor, even in some very stressful situations. Kathryn treated everyone with respect, both the City employees and the public she prosecuted in City Court.

I would recommend Kathryn to be appointed Judge of the 20th Judicial District Court. She has all the attributes of a good judge.

Sincerely,

Mark Sheets

Mayor of Thompson Falls