

FAURE HOLDEN
attorneys at law pc

Jean E. Faure • Jason T. Holden • Katie R. Ranta

May 1, 2022

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

Re: Heather Perry

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Thank you for this opportunity and your consideration of my comments in support of Heather Perry as an applicant for the Montana Tenth Judicial District judicial seat. In many ways this is both the easiest and hardest letter I have ever written. It is the easy because Heather has all the attributes and abilities of a district court judge. It is hard because words cannot do justice.

I have known Heather as an attorney in Stanford, Montana since 2010; she would consult with or refer employment-related matters to me from time to time. But I became particularly close to Heather in April 2017 when she became a member of the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Practice. I have had the good fortune in my education and career to work with some very bright people. Heather easily ranks among the finest. As a Commission member, she distinguished herself as earnest, talented and hard-working. She undoubtedly will bring this same commitment to the bench.

In many challenging disciplinary hearings, I have watched Heather achieve the delicate balance of tenacity with temperance. I do not practice criminal law but know that Heather's service as County Attorney is remarkable. She is not afraid of hard work or hard cases. Although the matters she handles are emotionally charged, and often hotly contested, she treats counsel and their clients with respect and dignity. She has the discernment, attitude, and decorum we need in a District Court Judge.

Heather was raised with a huge respect for ethics; this is the foundation by which she lives. Her respect for others and her respect for ethics allows her to hold true to a perspective despite external pressure or personal agendas. As a judge, Heather surely will seek the legally correct result, irrespective of personal feelings.

Finally, Heather is the lawyer you seek out to quietly and effectively handle the unsolvable. For the problems or issues which seem inscrutable, Heather often is the one to whom I turn. I seek her out not only because of her intellect and experience, but

FAURE HOLDEN attorneys at law pc

PO BOX 2466 GREAT FALLS, MT 59403 • 1314 CENTRAL AVE. • GREAT FALLS, MT 59401
PHONE: 406.452.6500 • FAX: 406.452.6503 • www.faureholden.com

Governor's Office
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because of her fairness and common sense. In this role, her humility and commitment to others shines through.

Our state would be extremely well-served with Heather as the Judge in the Montana Tenth Judicial District.

Very truly yours,

FAURE HOLDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C.

By: Jean E. Faure
JEAN E. FAURE

JEF/tbm

From: [Nels Swandal](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Heather Perry
Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:08:59 AM

I support the selection of Heather Perry as the next judge for the 10th Judicial District. Her breadth of experience, her agricultural background, and her intelligence will be a great asset to the district. In addition, I believe Heather understands the importance of doing her job and giving the legislature and executive branch the deference to which they are entitled.

--

Wm. Nels Swandal, Esq.

Swandal Law PLLC

305 E. Lewis Street

Livingston, MT 59047

Phone: 406.222.3301

Fax: 1-888-966-0213

nswandal@gmail.com

www.SwandalLaw.com [swandallaw.com]

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BUEHLER LAW OFFICE

APR 29 2022 AM 11:09

CRAIG R. BUEHLER

224 WEST MAIN ST., SUITE 414 • LEWISTOWN, MONTANA 59457

April 27, 2022

Governor Gianforte
Montana State Governor's Office
Room 204
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

RE: 10th Judicial District Judge

Honorable Governor Gianforte,

I have learned that Heather Perry, the current County Attorney for Judith Basin County, is the applicant for the position of District Judge for the 10th Judicial District.

I have practiced in Montana since 1978 and have appeared before courts in almost all of the districts around the state in my time practicing. I have lived in Lewistown since 1979 and have had the pleasure to practice in front of the judges here since 1979. Heather Perry has had experience in private practice and as the County Attorney in Central Montana following her time as a district court judge clerk. She started practicing in the Hubble Law Firm in 2005.

I have worked with Heather both in private cases and in her position as the County Attorney. She is both professional and articulate in her grasp of the case she is working on. I have met with Heather regarding this position and discussed the full scope of the job that it entails. As the County Attorney she is well aware of the time constraints and efforts required by the position of a District Judge.

I would heartily recommend her for the temporary position of District Court Judge following the retirement of Judge Oldenburg. She knows she will be running for reelection in a few years and is willing to do just that. Thank you for your consideration and hopefully her appointment as the new 10th Judicial District Judge.

Sincerely,



Craig R. Buehler



2 Railroad Square, Suite C • P.O. Box 1525
Great Falls, Montana 59403-1525
P: (406) 268-1000 • F: (406) 761-2610
email@marralawfirm.com • marralawfirm.com

April 27, 2022

VIA EMAIL TO: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

RE: Tenth Judicial District Court, Judicial Candidate Heather Perry

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I am pleased to support Heather Perry for appointment as District Court Judge for the Montana Tenth Judicial District. I believe Heather has all the qualifications to be an excellent Judge for all Montanans.

I have worked with Heather in several cases throughout the years and am familiar with her work in private practice in Judith Basin County. Throughout her career, I have found her to have superior analytical skills, sound judgment and considerable abilities in problem solving.

I have also found Heather to be extremely helpful as the Judith Basin County Attorney in a particularly sensitive matter for clients of mine. Her skill set as the County Attorney was unsurpassed.

I sincerely urge Governor Gianforte appoint Heather Perry as the new District Court Judge of the Tenth Judicial District.

Very truly yours,

Marra, Evenson & Levine, P.C.

Kirk D. Evenson

ATTORNEYS AT LAW Barbara E. Bell (of counsel) • Kirk D. Evenson • Amber Henning • William J. Levine • Antonia P. Marra •
 Joseph R. Marra (1924-2015) • Thomas A. Marra • Tyler Waite

PARALEGALS Roxie Halter • Sara A. Jacobs • Brenda McGee • Donna M. Osterman

LEGAL ASSISTANTS Vicki Evjen • Sharon E. May

ACCOUNTS Connie Manning

MALCOM & PIERS PLLC

May 4, 2022

Via Email Only: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Heather Perry for Tenth Judicial District Vacancy

Dear Governor Gianforte and
Members of the Tenth Judicial District Advisory Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for the appointment of Heather Perry to the bench in the Tenth Judicial District. I remember being impressed by Heather's drive and dedication to serve the law and her family long before we actually met in law school. Being a year apart in school, our class schedules didn't coincide, but our social circles overlapped, and I got to know her a little as time allowed.

I'd heard that Heather returned home to Utica every weekend, more than 4 hours each way, to care for her husband and preschool-aged son and their ranch while she pursued her law degree, so I respected her tenacity long before getting to spend any time with her. She didn't have time for much beyond class and studying, but in casual conversation, it was easy to see she possesses a curious and unprejudiced mind, a keen wit, and a gracious temperament. Over the years, I've had a handful of occasions to run into her and catch up.

As a former federal law clerk to Judge Sam Haddon, Heather is attuned to the rigors of administering a busy docket. She also assisted in complex discovery disputes, evidentiary arguments, and their considered resolution. She comes to the bench prepared for its pressures.

After her tenure with Judge Haddon, Heather focused on building a practice serving the estate planning needs of other Montanans. I recall running into her not long after she'd returned to Utica and joined the Hubble firm in Stanford and Lewistown. She was in high demand and frequently flew out of state in service to her clients. Heather is professionally and personally well-versed in the legal complexities of small business owners, agri-business, and family-owned businesses. In private practice, she was also called on by the court to investigate the facts surrounding abused and neglected children and report her unbiased opinion of what the court should do to

protect a foster child's best interests. Her knowledge and experience with civil law is complimented by her tenure as a prosecutor.

Several years into her private practice, Heather accepted the responsibilities of serving as the Judith Basin County Attorney, initially a part-time position that has evolved into a full-time job. Over a lifetime of working on the ranch and as a lawyer, Heather has made time and found energy to volunteer in a number of capacities. I visited with her briefly a few years back while she was volunteering with the What the Hay Bale Trail, the summer event that draws Montanans from across the state to raise funds for Hobson's school. She's always been active with 4H. Most recently, we visited while volunteering at a legal clinic with Adult Protective Services to provide free preparation of end-of-life planning documents for the elderly in Lewistown. Heather also continues to dedicate herself to the cultural maintenance of an ethical Montana bar that practices law with integrity.

Heather is very humble, earnest, hardworking, extremely capable, and blessed with a gracious temperament. Her tremendous drive doesn't appear to have subsided in nearly twenty years. Heather is eminently well-qualified to preside and will be well-supported by the community and her colleagues in her election campaign. I look forward to seeing her on the bench.

Sincerely,

MALCOM & PIERS PLLC

By:

Chase Rosario

S. Chase Rosario

CHRISTENSEN FULTON & FILZ, PLLC

19 36th Street West, Suite 3, Billings, Montana 59102-4303

John R. Christensen
Angus B. Fulton*
Timothy A. Filz*
Patience A. Llewellyn*
Joseph L. Breitenbach**

Tel 406-248-3100
Fax 406-248-7908
christensen@cfflawfirm.net

*LL.M. Taxation
**Also admitted in Wyoming & Wisconsin

May 4, 2022

Via Email Only
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Tenth Judicial District Court
Application for Judge

Dear Governor:

I am writing to offer my support for Heather Marie Perry (“Heather”) relating to her application for the position of District Court Judge for the Tenth Judicial District to fill the seat to be vacated by the Honorable Jon Oldenburg. Having been a former District Court Judge as well as an applicant for a vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court, I am familiar with the process and understand the importance of honest and candid comments from the members of the Bar as well as the public.

First, patience together with a calm demeanor while on the bench, provides litigants with a sense that their case, whatever it may be, is important to the Court and the Judge is listening to their concerns. With the increase of pro se litigants, at times it will be difficult to remain patient and allow litigants to fully tell their story, especially when time is short. The highest compliment a Judge can receive following a contested hearing is when both parties feel that the Court listened to them.

The second characteristic which I believe a District Judge needs to possess is an ability to learn. No matter what area of the law an attorney practiced prior to assuming the bench, there are volumes of statutory law which the broadest of practices would not cover. Additionally, there is the case law developed by the Court including the Montana Supreme Court and the Federal Court system. Though many cases which come before a District Court are “routine” in the sense that the Court is familiar with the law being discussed, more often than not, there will be areas of the law with which the Court has no familiarity at all. In these cases, it is essential the Judge not only be a “legal scholar” but also have inherent intellectual curiosity. Beyond reading counsel’s brief, it may require the Court to independently research areas which the Court believes are relevant, but is not familiar.

I believe Heather has those qualities to serve as an effective District Court Judge. I first met Heather following her graduation in 1992 with an accounting degree. For a period of time, she worked with our law office (Christensen & Hubble) in Stanford, Montana as an Administrative Assistant while deciding her future path. Beyond being delightful, she was extremely knowledgeable for a young lady and very helpful with both accounting and business issues. Certainly, qualities which will benefit the Tenth Judicial District as the District Judge.

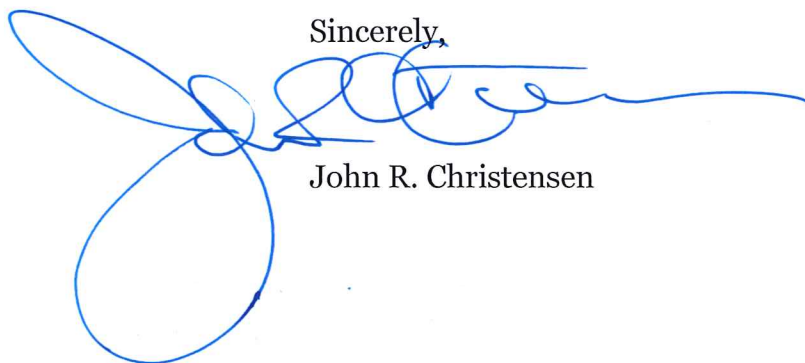
Fast forward, following her graduation from law school and her clerkship with Federal Judge Sam E. Haddon, she joined Hubble Law Firm and began the general practice of law. The Hubble Law Firm was historically a very busy and diverse law firm handling a multitude of different types of cases. In her practice, we crossed paths many times prior to her becoming a full time County Attorney for Judith Basin County. During those encounters, her demeanor was always professional, respectful, and thoughtful. Heather is not one to guess as to what the law should be, but takes the time to back up her positions with research and a full understanding of the issues in play. I believe her reputation as being diligent, forthright, and competent are the qualities she will carry over to the Judicial bench.

Heather epitomizes what I believe are the best qualities of a prospective Judge. She is knowledgeable of the law, she is experienced, she commands respect of the Judicial process and she maintains a professional relationship with all whom she deals. It is without hesitation I recommend and support Heather in her application for the position of District Judge for the Tenth Judicial District to fill the seat to be vacated by the Honorable Jon Oldenburg.

Should you have follow-up questions or concerns, please give me a call at (406) 248-3100.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John R. Christensen", with a large, stylized flourish extending downwards and to the left.

John R. Christensen

BROWN LAW FIRM, PC

Michael P. Heringer
Guy W. Rogers
Scott G. Gratton
Kelly J.C. Gallinger*
Jon A. Wilson
Seth M. Cunningham
Shane A. MacIntyre
Adam M. Shaw
Brett C. Jensen*
Nathan A. Burke
Alex J. Ames
Erik M. Anderson
Anthony P. Reed
Zachary A. Hixson

Of Counsel
Robert L. Sterup

Retired
Rockwood Brown
John Walker Ross
Margy Bonner
John J. Russell

**also licensed in
North Dakota*

315 N. 24th Street | PO Drawer 849 | Billings, Montana 59103-0849
Phone: 406.248.2611 | Fax: 406.248.3128

May 5, 2022

VIA E-MAIL AND U.S. MAIL

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

Kelly J. Gallinger
kgallinger@brownfirm.com

RE: Heather Perry – Application for District Court Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please consider this letter to you my recommendation of Heather Perry for appointment as a District Court Judge in the Tenth Judicial District. I have had the pleasure of knowing Heather since she was appointed as a Commissioner to the Montana Supreme Court Commission on Practice in 2017. Heather immediately dove into the matters pending before the Commission on Practice; asking incisive questions and sharing her unique knowledge and experience as a prosecutor. Heather is a consummate professional.

In the Commission matters that Heather and I have served on together; I have been impressed by her acute attention to detail and her willingness to continue asking questions of counsel and of the parties until there is a full factual record before the Commission. Heather does not shy away from the tough questions and she does not hesitate to take the lead on any inquiry. Heather's contribution to the Commission's deliberations has been invaluable. Her experience as a prosecutor and her time in the court room in the Tenth Judicial District have given her a unique perspective that no other Commissioner can offer. I truly value and look forward to her input and her observations while we are deliberating Commission matters. Heather carries herself with discernment and authority and will treat each person before the Court with empathy and compassion, while also upholding and enforcing the law and doing what is necessary to keep the judicial process moving.

Heather has a sharp legal mind and, in my experience, relishes the task of dealing with complicated and complex legal arguments. She is well-versed in the nuances of the law and will be able to hit the ground running as a District Court Judge. Heather also has a strong work ethic

and understands the unique lifestyle and challenges of the agricultural community in Fergus, Judith Basin, and Petroleum Counties. The years of hard work and effort she has put into her personal family ranch only elevate her credibility and authenticity within the community she will serve. Finally, Heather is respected among her fellow attorneys in the bar, and I have no doubt this respect will extend to an appointed position on the bench.

In sum, Heather Perry would be an excellent choice for appointment to the Tenth Judicial District Court: she has the intellect, work-ethic, and integrity to be a first-rate Judge. If selected, Heather will be an invaluable addition to the Tenth Judicial District Court and to the Montana Bench.

Sincerely,



KELLY J. C. GALLINGER



JUDITH BASIN COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Hon. Jon Schmitt
Justice of the Peace

PO Box 339
Stanford, MT 59479
(406)566-2277x117

May 18th, 2022

Governor Greg Gianforte
Montana State Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena MT 59620
Via Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Heather Perry

Honorable Greg Gianforte,

I would like to express my support for Heather Perry and her application for the position of the Tenth District Judge.

I have had the honor of working with Judith Basin County Attorney Heather Perry for the past several years. I was the Sheriff until last May and was the State's witness for many of her cases. I saw firsthand how hard she worked on cases. Her dedication, knowledge of the law, research ability and intelligent application of the law was evident. I see the same commitment from her as Justice of the Peace.

Heather will make a fine 10th District Court Judge and has my wholehearted support. Most important, she has the support of her community and her colleagues, and that speaks volumes.

Thank-you for your time.

Jon Schmitt, Judith Basin Justice of the Peace

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jon Schmitt".

GARY A. RYDER

Garfield County Attorney

P.O. Box 33 • 417 MAIN ST. • JORDAN, MONTANA 59337 • TELEPHONE (406) 557-2480 • FAX (406) 557-2595

May 11, 2022

REC'D MAY 16

Governor Greg Gianforte
State Capitol
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Letter of Support – Heather Perry

Dear Governor and his Staff:

I wish to offer support for Judith Basin County Attorney Heather Perry for the opening in the 10th Judicial District.

One strength of the Montana legal communities is the ability and independence of County Attorney's to share information and advice with other similarly situated County Attorney's. I find Heather to be a good example of that. It was always a pleasure to consult with Heather, as she was always open-minded and helpful.

In the last two years, Garfield County was approached concerning a tax abatement for a Wind Farm development in our County. Heather was extremely helpful in sharing documents and considerations to take into account, before Garfield County made it's final agreement with wind farm company.

The importance of judicial independence will be upheld with Heather's appointment to the bench.

Thank you in advance for giving consideration to this letter of support .

Sincerely,



Gary Ryder
Garfield County Attorney (Part-time)
GR/cm