

From: [Judy Trenka](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] OPEN THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL JUDGE POSITION/ Thomas Pardy
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:38:48 PM

TO: KAITLIN PRICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RE: OPEN THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL JUDGE POSITION

Dear Governor Gianforte,

Please consider appointing Thomas Pardy for the thirteenth district court judge position.

When Tom spoke at the Big Tent Dinner in Billings I was very impressed. I know he would serve the court with honor, integrity and heart.

Thank you,
Judy Trenka

From: [Denise Johnson](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Thomas Pardy
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:30:24 PM

I am writing in support of Thomas Pardy for the judge position in the 13th Judicial District. Thomas is an outstanding man of principles who has served his country and his community. He has high moral standards and a compassion for helping others. He is fair and objective while recognizing that the law isn't something to be developed from the bench but rather enforced from the bench.

Thomas Pardy would do an excellent job of serving the citizens of Yellowstone County. I hope that you will give him careful consideration and select him to fill this vacancy.

Sincerely,
Denise Johnson
(406) 545-9381
34 Twin Pines Ln
Billings, MT 59106

BRUCE E. LEE

Attorney at Law

208 North 29th Street, Suite 221

P.O. Box 1222

Billings, Montana 59103

Phone (406) 200-4247

blee.attorney@gmail.com

April 13, 2023

Office of the Governor
Judicial Nominations

Re: Thirteenth Judicial District Appointment

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please strongly consider Mr. Thomas Pardy for appointment to the district court bench.

I've known Tom for many years and had the pleasure of sharing an office with him, in the practice of law, for several years in Billings, Montana. Tom is a conservative, well-reasoned and fair-minded individual. I've always found Tom to be enthusiastic and hard working. He has a fine legal mind. I believe he would have a judicial demeanor and temperament appropriate for the seat.

Tom would be a great choice for the appointment, and I highly recommend him.

Sincerely yours,



BRUCE E. LEE

Randal & Wanda Spaulding
803 1st Street West
Roundup, Montana 59072
(406) 323-1481
E-mail: randal@midrivers.com

April 12, 2023

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing in support of attorney Thomas Pardy's appointment to the soon to be vacant seat of the Hon. Michael Moses in Montana's Thirteenth Judicial District. I am the current district judge for Montana's Fourteenth Judicial District where I have served for some 22 years. I first met Thom when I was in private practice in Roundup and came to know him as a man of honor and integrity. When my former law partner and I closed our firm, Thom and his then partner, Phillip Oliver, kindly agreed to accept the customer client files that we had and see that they were properly attended to. We would not have trusted the files to just anyone but were completely comfortable with Thom and Phillip seeing to them.

Thom has served honorably for years in the Montana National Guard, both here and abroad. He has mastered leadership and teaching skills, two important traits for a district court judge. Thom has represented numerous civil and criminal clients over the years and currently serves the citizens of Yellowstone County in the Human Resources Department for the City of Billings. His knowledge of the law is diverse and rounded, other very important traits for a good judge.

Finally, I have always known Thom to be a gentlemen, caring, compassionate, and fair. Again, very important attributes for a good judge.

I whole heartedly support Thom's bid for the judgeship and know that he would faithfully and dutifully serve the citizens of Montana and Yellowstone County for years to come. Please consider Thom's appointment and feel free to call me should you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further.

Sincerely

Randal I. Spaulding.

From: [Jim Graves](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for Thomas Pardy
Date: Monday, April 17, 2023 1:06:46 PM

April 17, 2023.

I'm writing to recommend Thomas Pardy to replace the Hon. Michael G. Moses on the bench in the 13th Judicial District, Yellowstone County.

I have known Tom since approximately 1998. I became acquainted with Tom when he was a civil attorney working in a private Billings law firm.

I never had any difficulties working with Tom. Tom was always extremely professional and knowledgeable. Tom never took anything personal. Actually, it was a pleasure working and speaking with Tom. This is not always the norm in Billings.

Tom took time off for active military service. When Tom returned to practice law, we were reacquainted.

Tom accepted a position as a Billings City Attorney.

I have never heard another attorney complain about Tom, which is normally unusual in Billings.

I write this email in support of Tom's appointment for a position on the District Court. I believe Tom understands the workings of the Court and the work of the attorneys that regularly appear before the District Court.

Simply, many successful attorneys want to complete their legal career as a jurist, without any experience in the courtroom or representing actual litigants. I believe the majority of attorneys actually have no real day-to-day understanding of the judicial system, the incredible workload and stress upon the court and, understanding of the practice of attorneys that go to court regularly. I have found that big firm attorneys are rarely in court. Most large firm cases are settled at mediation prior to litigation.

The bulk of a District Court Judge's work in Billings is family law and criminal law. Most attorneys do not have any significant experience in family law and/or criminal law. Tom has experience in both family law and criminal law, representing people in hearings and trials.

Many big firm attorneys consider themselves litigators, and when pressed on the

number of court appearances they have made they normally set forth they litigate in discovery. That is distinctly different than being a courtroom practitioner.

I believe it is very important District Court Judges understand the requirements placed upon attorneys that appear regularly in family law matters and criminal law matters.

I know Tom has the ability to handle complicated business cases and causation cases. Tom has been a civil attorney for the City of Billings. Therefore, Tom understands the Billings business community. Tom, while in private practice, handled personal injury matters, family law matters, criminal law matters, etc., in District Court, which are the bulk of the matters before the court.

I do not want to take away anything from any of the other qualified candidates. However, I believe Tom has the most extensive legal experience in understanding the job requirements of a District Court Judge and the attorneys regularly appearing before the Judges.

Please consider my recommendation of Tom Pardy to replace Judge Moses as a District Court Judge in the 13th Judicial District for Yellowstone County. I make this recommendation without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Graves
State Bar of Montana #1720

From: [Rob Stephens](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tom Pardy nomination for 13th judicial district judge
Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 10:38:26 AM

I have known Tom as a practicing lawyer for a number of years. He has demonstrated a good knowledge of the law and is above reproach for his civility and ethical standards. I believe he would make an excellent District Court Judge.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. Sincerely, Robert Stephens esq.

From: [John Walker](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vacant 13th Judicial Judge Position
Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 8:57:56 PM

From: John Walker

To: Nominate Judges

Date: Thursday, April 13th, 2023

TO: Kaitlin Price, Office of the Governor

Re: Open 13th Judicial Judge Position

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing this letter in support of Thomas Pardy. I've known him for more than a few years, and he's always been intelligent, forthright, hard-working, and a man of honor. I have complete faith in him to be an impartial judge, and a shining example of what it truly means to wear the robe... a complete commitment to legal justice for ALL Montanans, regardless of race, creed, political or other affiliations. I fully believe that Tom will serve the citizens of Montana with excellence and integrity.
Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

John E. Walker

From: [Linda Fielding](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] urge appt. of Pardy or Roth
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 5:56:03 PM

Gov. Gianforte,

As an ordinary “Jane Q. Public” female resident of Billings, I urge you to appoint either Thomas Pardy or Alexander Roth to be the next Thirteenth Judicial District judge. I have researched their bio information and was especially impressed by their choosing to serve our country in the armed forces. My family has a long, strong commitment to military service dating back to the Spanish-American War of 1898, when my grandfather fought in both the Philippines and Cuba. My father and his brother were in WWII, with my uncle being in the first wave of Marines to attack Iwo Jima. My son retired from the Air Force in 2015 after 21 years as a pilot, including numerous war deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. I am a dedicated & active conservative voter, and was proud to have voted for you, and am eager to do so again.

Thank you for all of your hard work and efforts on behalf of all Montanans to make this state better in all respects.

Linda Fielding
Billings MT 59102

From: [Jeff Turner](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Statement of recommendation for Thomas Pardy
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:18:06 PM

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing this letter regarding the qualifications of Thomas Pardy to serve as District Court Judge in the 13th Judicial District Court.

Thom and I attended law school together during our third year. Thom transferred in from the University of South Dakota, but I did not hold that against him. After graduation, Thom started in Civil practice while I was clerking for the Hon. Susan P. Watters. Upon leaving my clerking position, I joined Thom in working at Oliver and Associates for several years. During that time, I leaned upon Thom to learn the ropes of civil practice. Thom was a general practitioner at that time. I always found Thom to be practical and to employ common sense to complex legal problems. Thom was cognizant of the real-world effects upon our clients and especially the costs of litigation. I found him to have integrity and to be ethical. I learned a great deal from Thom while we practiced together.

Upon leaving the firm, Thom went on to pursue other legal interests and in turn, gained other legal experience. Thom's experience encompasses nearly all civil matters as well as criminal matters. I believe his varied legal experience would be a great asset on the bench.

Socially, Thom and I played on a softball team together. We also have been social friends for over twenty-five years. The two qualities that are most prevalent with Thom are his high energy level and his sense of humor. He will have no problem commanding a courtroom in a way that makes most people feel comfortable and respected.

I believe all the qualities above would serve Thom well should he be selected as District Court Judge.

Jeff A. Turner

April 30, 2023

Attn: Hannah Slusser, Judicial Nominations
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 20081
Helena, MT. 59625-0801

I am writing this letter in support of Thomas Pardy to replace the Honorable Michael Moses as a State District Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District of Montana. I have been a Federal Defender with the Federal Defenders of Montana for twenty eight years after eight years of civil trial practice. I retired at the end of 2021.

I have known Thomas since 2004 after he had been selected to be a member of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel of defense attorneys for the United States District Court in Billings. At the time I was the Branch Chief for the Billings Federal Defender Office. CJA attorneys were selected and approved by the sitting United States District Court Judge for the Billings Division. It was a small and select group of attorneys—about six or seven most of the time. The purpose of the CJA Panel of attorneys was to represent federal criminal defendants in cases where the Billings Federal Defender Office could not represent a defendant due to a conflict of interest or other significant circumstance. The Billings Federal Defender Office helped monitor the CJA Panel in Billings and conducted periodic Certified Legal Education (CLE) sessions for the panel attorneys.

In my position I became familiar with the CJA Panel attorneys representing federal criminal defendants and certainly Thomas. Like the other CJA Panel attorneys Thomas was in private practice and had a civil case load in addition to his CJA criminal law practice. These CJA attorneys were versatile and busy. Thomas was on the panel for five years at which time he became employed as a staff attorney for Mountain West Bank in Helena. He came back to Billings in 2013 and was welcomed back on the panel until he joined the City Attorney's Office in 2015 as a Deputy in the Civil Division.

I came to know Thomas as a forthright, engaging person with enthusiasm for his representation of federal criminal defendants. Thomas always made himself available to take on conflict clients as needed. He handled his cases effectively and demonstrated a high degree of motivation and compassion for his clients. He was noted to have successfully defended a defendant utilizing, for her great benefit, a nationally renowned false confession expert and obtaining a hung jury verdict. Utilizing such an expert was not favored by the U.S. District Court in Billings prior to this case. Thomas, however, was able to convince the Court of the necessity of doing so and used him effectively

My experience with Thomas during these years was very positive. He was well regarded and had a reputation for being an honest, hardworking advocate for his criminal defendants. There were no issues with his CJA vouchers as he was quite sensitive to submitting very fair accounting of his work. I believe that during this same time period he also litigated a few civil claims in the United States District Court in Billings, although I was not familiar with them.

In my view Thomas represents several qualities necessary to be an effective State District Judge in Montana. First he is honest and has conducted his affairs with integrity. He is, therefore, trustworthy. A more valuable trait for a judicial officer there could not be.

Second, he has gained experience in a wide variety of legal areas. He is presently a Deputy City Attorney which has made him familiar with state substantive law and procedures concerning municipalities—specifically the city of Billings. He has had his own law firm and engaged in various areas of civil practice. He has practiced criminal law in federal court as a CJA Panel attorney. He has delved into federal bankruptcy law and state law governing issues in real estate and contacts during his tenure with Mountain West Bank of Helena. This varied practice background will aid him in addressing the eclectic issues which face a state district court judge.

Third, Thomas is personable, respectful, thoughtful, and has leadership abilities—all of which would be most helpful in successfully engaging the citizenry of Billings and surrounding counties in the serious affairs of lawsuits, Court, and reaching fair results as a state district trial judge.

Fourth, his career has spanned well over 20 years and he has gained not just knowledge and familiarity with many areas of the law but also both life and practice experience in and out of the courtroom. During his career he has served this country in the military with several overseas assignments. He is well suited to being in charge of a courtroom and a caseload.

I highly recommend Thomas Pardy for this position. He has earned it and deserves it. He will serve the Thirteenth Judicial District well.

Mark S. Werner

From: [Pam Purinton](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on 13th Judicial District Judge
Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023 8:41:54 PM

I have known Thom Pardy for almost 10 years and know him as a constitutional conservative in his philosophy of the law. As a Billings City Council I am familiar with the work that Thom does as a city attorney. He has worked in all areas of the law, civil and criminal throughout his career, including his long military career. I firmly believe that this Court needs a judge who will rule according to the Constitution and not legislate from the bench. I humbly ask for your consideration of Thom Pardy as 13th Judicial District Judge. Thank you,

Pam S Purinton
Billings, MT

From: [Bard Middleton](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thomas Pardy
Date: Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:23:54 AM

I am writing in support of Thomas Pardy to fill the vacancy in the 13th Judicial district. I have practiced law in Billings for almost 40 years and I have known Mr. Pardy for at least 20 years. For approximately 8 years I shared office space with Tom. He has handled a wide variety of cases ranging from family law matters, debtor-creditor cases, to prosecuting and defending criminal cases. For the last few years, he has worked at the Billings City Attorney's Office, handling a wide variety of matters for the City. His experience uniquely qualifies him for the position of District Court Judge.

Mr. Pardy is a very hard worker and a person of high integrity. He has the unique ability to quickly grasp the crux of any legal argument and separate the wheat from the chaff. He also has a tremendous sense of public duty as demonstrated by his 30 plus year service in the Montana National Guard. These traits will serve the public well in the busiest judicial District in the State.

Bard G. Middleton
Middleton Law Firm P.C.
2937 Rimview Drive
Billings, MT 59102
(406)-670-0118

WILLIAM E. HUNT, JR.

PO Box 569
201 Main Street
Shelby, MT 59474

Attorney at Law

406-434-3900 Phone
1-866-868-8943 Fax
huntlaw@3rivers.net

May 4, 2023

State of Montana

Attn: Hannah Slusser

SENT VIA EMAIL

Governor's Office

PO Box 200801

Helena MT 59620

Email nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Tomas Pardy
Thirteenth Judicial District Judge Appointment

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I support Tomas Pardy for appointment to fill the vacancy of district court judge in the Thirteenth Judicial District. I don't believe you can do better than Tom as a district court judge.

I first met Tom in 1997 when he finished his third year of law school at U of M. As it turned out, we were both Soldiers in the Montana Army National Guard and ended up in the same unit while in Missoula. Over the next 20 years, our paths crossed often in the Guard finally ending when we both retired from our military careers as senior leaders at about the same time.

Tom and I practiced the same types of law on different ends of the State. Coincidentally, we both became municipal attorneys. I often call Tom for advice on private and municipal matters.

We also got to know each other pretty well outside of the military and law.

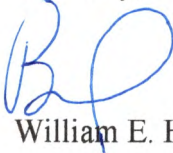
I can't speak highly enough of Tom. He will make a fine judge. He cared deeply about the Soldiers he worked with for almost 30 years, the clients he represented while in private practice, the City of Billings and its citizens, his friends, and even persons with whom he briefly interacts. He listens to people and treats them with respect. He is knowledgeable about the law, experienced with people, experienced with holding people accountable when needed, a quick thinker, and looks for solutions.

May 4, 2023
Pardy Judicial Letter of Reference
PAGE TWO

One of the characteristics that has always impressed me about Tom is his ability to talk with anyone about nearly anything and treat them with respect. I've observed him engaging with other Soldiers of all levels, doctors, other lawyers, wait staff at restaurants, convenience store clerks, etc. For me personally, Tom and I disagree on many social, political, and life issues. He has always treated me and my opinions with respect whenever we got into such conversations. I also admire his ability to recognize the strengths and weaknesses of both sides of an argument on a practical, real-world level.

I believe that he will bring these characteristics of hardwork, commitment to whatever he is doing, patriotism to the United States and Montana, understanding, accountability, wisdom, and temperament to the judicial bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. E. Hunt, Jr.', is written over the typed name.

William E. Hunt, Jr.

WEH/s

From: [Scott Aspenlieder](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for Thomas Pardy - 13th Judicial District Vacancy
Date: Friday, May 5, 2023 9:22:37 AM

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support for Mr. Thomas Pardy for appointment to the judicial vacancy in Judicial District 13. Mr. Pardy's extensive professional experience in wide range of law make him well suited for the bench. That experience in combination with his 32 years of service in the Army National Guard demonstrate that he has the character, dedication, and service mindset needed to be a fair and impartial judge for our District. I have no doubt that Mr. Pardy will make an excellent judge, following the rule of law and not legislating from the bench. Thank you for your consideration.

Scott Aspenlieder, PE
Principal
scott@performance-ec.com
Office: 406.384.0080
Mobile: 406.461.8392



608 North 29th Street • Billings, MT 59101
www.performance-ec.com [performance-ec.com]

May 5, 2023

Submitted by email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

Re: Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship

Dear Governor Gianforte:

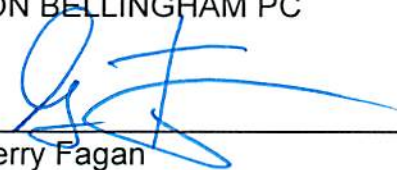
I am writing to you to comment on the application of Thomas Pardy for the position of District Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County, Montana. I have known Thomas since law school at the University of Montana. Thom has a very strong legal background with experience in many areas of law, including family law, criminal law, personal injury, municipal law, and banking. He has represented a broad range of Montanans, including many individuals, businesses, and a City government. He is also a veteran with a distinguished record of service.

Thomas is ideally suited to be a very competent and reasoned Judge. He is experienced, smart, and has the right temperament. I recommend Thomas strongly and respectfully urge you to appoint him. He is an excellent choice for the position.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By: _____


Gerry Fagan
Vice President and Shareholder,
Moulton Bellingham PC

May 8, 2023

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

Re: Application of Thomas Pardy for District Court Judge, Thirteenth Judicial District

Dear Ms. Slusser:

It is an honor to submit this letter in enthusiastic support of Thomas Pardy for appointment as District Court Judge in Montana's Thirteenth Judicial District.

Over the past several years before and continuing into my private practice I have been privileged to know and work with Thomas on a variety of legal issues as well as observing his courteous, respectful and collegial communications with other attorneys, witnesses, Judges and staff and the public. In all of these interactions Thomas has been unfailingly forthright with a very thorough, scholarly and reasoned approach to legal issues. He is a very disciplined, efficient, punctual and structured person with an engaging and warm personal communication style which are skills so crucial to a successful District Court Judge. He is quick to adapt and apply his experience to novel and seemingly unsolvable issues and always welcomes discussion, debate and reflection on them with peers and colleagues. He is not concerned about nor constrained by the politics of the moment or fleeting social trends in analyzing a legal problem or providing advice, rather, his focus remains on adherence to the current status of the law.

What sets Thomas apart and underscores the high merit of his application is his extensive experience in civil, criminal and public law which he briefly summarizes in his application. As we all know, the caseload of a District Judge is immense, relentless and encompasses an extraordinarily wide array of civil and criminal responsibilities, some not often realized by the public. Every possible efficiency is required to manage the daily rigors of the position with legal competence and personal respect to all who come before the Judge.

Thomas has all of these crucial personal and professional skills combined with a remarkably diverse, depth and breadth of experience through years of seasoned legal practice and military discipline that are superbly suited to the daily demands inherent in being a District Judge.

Finally, Thomas has a genuine desire, concern for and ability to maintain respect, civility, humility and decency in all aspects of his personal and professional life. These are traits which

can be overlooked or underappreciated in the clinical analysis of a candidate's application, skills and abilities.

It has been a distinct honor to know and work with Thomas. We can all be positively impacted and affected by those we come to know personally or professionally in our lives and there are many opportunities to learn and improve ourselves from these relationships. Thomas is one of those individuals. We need more attorneys, Judges and people like Thomas. He would be an outstanding jurist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'B'.

Brent Brooks
Partner, Axilon Law of Montana