

From: thomas@bulmanlaw.com
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] WCC Judge Candidate Steven Fletcher
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 4:18:08 PM

Governor Greg Gianforte
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena MT 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte

I definitely want you to select Steve Fletcher as the next Worker's Compensation Court Judge because he is fully qualified. He would do a great job for the people of Montana. He began his legal career in my office as a law school intern over 30 years ago, so I view him like a son. Why wouldn't I want to have my 'son' as the WCC judge? Some might say I have a bias. They can go to hell. What is wrong with bias? Bias is another name for experience. But when it comes to choosing a judge, there is much more to consider. All his career, Steve has fought the good fight for injured workers. He has fought long and hard. Never wavered. A real bulldog. That is what it takes to be a successful advocate for the injured in our legal system. Can he change his essence by putting on a robe? I wonder? That is why his selection would greatly disappoint the defense bar and insurance industry, but not as much as the selection of nominee Kelly Wills would disappoint those of us who represent injured workers. Why? Bias or at least perceived bias is the reason. Putting on a robe will not change the reality of this disappointment or the danger bias affecting the decisions of the court. Can you teach an old dog new tricks? Workers' Compensation law is practiced by a small number of lawyers. Each state has unique laws and regulations. Lawyers usually represent insurance companies or claimants but not both, so finding an attorney whose career is balanced is very rare. A choice must be made. Which "team" did the candidate play for? What is their reputation for getting along with other attorneys? I have read the recommendation letter of the Murphy Law firm for Morgan Weber. I agree with the comments. I have litigated cases against her. She knows the Worker's Compensation Act, regulations and case law. She is an effective advocate and a worthy, but cordial, opponent. Of the four candidates available for your selection, and considering all the intangible factors a governor must consider, Morgan Weber, seems to be, overall, the best candidate. In conclusion, if, for whatever reasons, you decide not to choose Steve, I urge you to select Morgan Weber as the next Worker's Compensation Judge for Montana.

Thomas C. Bulman AAL
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From: [Mitch Tropila](#)
To: [Slusser, Hannah](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Steve Fletcher - Worker's Compensation Judge support letter
Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 3:54:51 PM

August 3rd, 2023

Hannah Slusser
Board and Appointments Advisor
Scheduler for the Lt. Governor
Governor Greg Gianforte

Re: Steve Fletcher Worker's Compensation Judge support letter

Dear Ms. Slusser:

Please accept this e-mail as a letter in support of the Worker's Compensation Judge candidacy of Steve Fletcher.

I have known Steve Fletcher since 1982. We attended undergraduate studies at the University of Montana. Steve has been practicing worker's compensation law since 1988, and I know in my core being that he would be an open-minded, upright and constructive Worker's Compensation Judge.

Please contact me should you have questions regarding the above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mitch Tropila
Public Policy Officer
Easterseals-Goodwill Northern Rocky Mountain Inc.
425 1st Avenue North Great Falls, MT 59401
www.esgw.org [esgw.org]

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August 4, 2023

Hannah Slusser
Board and Appointments Advisor
Scheduler for the Lt. Governor
Governor Greg Gianforte

Re: Steve Fletcher Worker's Compensation Judge Letter of Support

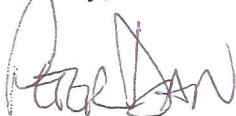
Dear Ms. Slusser:

Please accept this as a letter in support of the Worker's Compensation Judge candidacy for Steve Fletcher.

I have known Steve since 1978 as we were C.R. Anderson Wildcats, Capital High Bruins, and University of Montana Grizzlies together. He has a keen intellect and engaging temperament that would be ideal attributes as a Worker's Compensation Judge.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Peter Dan Sullivan

111 N. Last Chance Gulch Suite 3C
Arcade Building
Helena, Montana 59601

Phone: 1-406-443-6300
Toll Free: 1-877-443-6300
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Governor Greg Gianforte

State of Montana

Via Email only – nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: The application of Steve Fletcher for Montana Workers' Compensation Court Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to you today to express my support for Steve Fletcher's application to be a Workers' Compensation Court Judge. I have known Steve for the 8 years that I have been practicing law in Montana, and I have been impressed by his knowledge of workers' compensation law and his commitment to justice.

Steve understands that when a person is injured at work, workers' compensation insurance should pay for that injury. He also understands that workers' compensation insurance companies often try to deny claims that should be paid. Denied claims are not free. Someone always pays. Sometimes it is the injured worker and his or her family. Often it is the taxpayer when the government has to step in to provide assistance.

I respectfully submit that the Governor should appoint the most qualified applicant to be the next Workers' Compensation Court Judge. The Workers' Compensation Court regularly addresses highly technical and nuanced issues specific to the workers' compensation arena. Expertise in Montana's workers' compensation system is a prerequisite for making good decisions on those issues. A judge with workers' compensation experience will discourage litigation, which keeps costs down for all of us who pay for workers' compensation insurance.

I believe Steve has the experience, knowledge, and commitment to justice that this position requires. I fully support his application and I trust your administration will make the right decision for the working people and the taxpayers of the State of Montana.

Sincerely,



Lucas A. Wallace
643 Dearborn Ave.
Helena, MT 59601