FLAHERTY || GALLARDO
LAWYERS

Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
Paul Gallardo
1026 First Ave. South
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Phone: (406) 727-8494
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Judicial Nomination Committee
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

June 22, 2021

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Nomination

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing this letter in wholehearted support of David Grubich to be the Eighth Judicial District Court Judge to replace the Hon. Gregory Pinski. I am a third generation Great Falls native. I have practiced law in excess of forty-years and have experience before City, County, District and Federal the Court Judges in this county.

I said to David Grubich the only thing I wanted from him if he becomes the new Judge is to be fair. He told me that is what he would do. In the several hearings and trials I have had before him as Standing Master, I have found him to be an excellent jurist. He is prepared, knows the law and renders fair and educated judgments. He treats people with respect and this community would be well served by a person of his quality. He is a family man and has a sense of humor and brings a decent sense of humanity to the bench.

Sincerely,

/S/ PATRICK F. FLAHERTY
Patrick F. Flaherty
Attorney at Law

pat@greatfallsfirm.com daniel@greatfallsfirm.com paul@greatfallsfirm.com
greatfallsfirm.com

Joseph C. Engel III, P.C. Attorney at Law

600 Central Plaza Suite 428
P.O. Box 3222
Great Falls, MT 59403
E-mail attyjce3@mt.net
Phone: 406.727.0121
Fax: 406.727.9069

June 14, 2021

Greg Gianforte
State Capitol
Executive Office
P.O, Box 200801
Helena. MT 59620-0801

RE: Mr. Dave Grubich for Distict Judge of the 8th Judicial District

Dear Gov. Gianforte;

I am writing at the request of Mr. Grubich in regard to the vacant judge position to which he requests appointment. I am a sole practitioner in Great Falls with over 47 years experience practicing in this state.

Mr. Grubich has served this judicial district well as a Standing Master. I had occasion to appear before him and was impressed by his command of the courtroom, and his courtesy to the litigants and counsel that he displayed. I believe he would be a good appointment to this position.

Sincerely,

Jos. C. Engel III

Joseph C. Engel, III

MAXON R. DAVIS
GREGORY J. HATLEY
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN
JOSEPH M. SULLIVAN*
STEPHANIE A. HOLLAR
TRAVIS A. CUSHMAN
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

*Also admitted to practice in Oregon & Washington

LAW OFFICE OF
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FILE NO.

June 29, 2021

Sent Via Email

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

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Position

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of Dave Grubich to fill the judicial vacancy in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court.

I have known Dave since he moved to Great Falls and began practicing at the Ugrin firm. I have appeared before Dave in his position as Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District Court and was impressed with the way he handled his courtroom. I appeared in front of Dave on Law and Motion day so the courtroom was full and he had a large number of cases to address. The number of cases did not seem to phase Dave. He gave each of the parties appearing in front of him adequate time to present their matter and did not make anyone feel rushed or that their matter was not important. The Standing Master position is a difficult one as Dave routinely deals with matters where emotions are high. Dave has demonstrated that he has the personality, work ethic and judicial demeanor to be a successful district court judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephanie A. Hollar

Slusser, Hannah

From: Brad Davey <braddavey@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 10:21 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Applications to the vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District

Governor Gianforte, first I Would like to thank you from my wife and myself for the great job you were doing for the state of Montana. Last week I saw on the news that Montana was ranked number one in the nation for being the most patriotic state. I believe your leader ship is one of the main reasons we scored so high.

Secondly, I want you to know I am a conservative and I strongly support David Grubich for the Judge vacancy in the eighth judicial District Court. David is currently our court standing master. I've worked with David he is a very hard-working man. I believe David Grubich would be an excellent Judge for Cascade County. He would judge according to the law.
Respectfully, Brad Davey 64 Serenity Lane Great Falls Montana 59404 Sent from my iPhone

Laurie Andreen Grygiel
531 Upper Luther Road
Red Lodge, MT 59068

June 28, 2021

nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Candidate David Grubich

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I know David Grubich as a fellow Standing Master. I am one of two Standing Masters in the Thirteenth Judicial District and I also cover the Twenty Second Judicial District. I strongly support Dave's application to fill the district court vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District.

In my interactions with Dave, I have found him to be thoughtful and professional. With regard to legal issues we have discussed, he is able to distinguish the wheat from the chaff. His demeanor is calm and even-handed, the type of temperament appropriate for the bench.

Dave's personal and professional history show that he is a person whose actions match his words. His military service, law enforcement background and involvement in the community demonstrate his commitment to his fellow citizens. As a former Legal Services attorney, I am confident that Dave will work to ensure all Montanans have access to justice.

Sincerely,

Laurie Grygiel

Laurie Andreen Grygiel
531 Upper Luther Road
Red Lodge, MT 59068

June 28, 2021

nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Candidate David Grubich

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I know David Grubich as a fellow Standing Master. I am one of two Standing Masters in the Thirteenth Judicial District and I also cover the Twenty Second Judicial District. I strongly support Dave's application to fill the district court vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District.

In my interactions with Dave, I have found him to be thoughtful and professional. With regard to legal issues we have discussed, he is able to distinguish the wheat from the chaff. His demeanor is calm and even-handed, the type of temperament appropriate for the bench.

Dave's personal and professional history show that he is a person whose actions match his words. His military service, law enforcement background and involvement in the community demonstrate his commitment to his fellow citizens. As a former Legal Services attorney, I am confident that Dave will work to ensure all Montanans have access to justice.

Sincerely,

Laurie Grygiel

The Law Firm of

Falcon, Lester & Schaff, P.C.

Randall C. Lester
Tonja Schaff Kostelecky
Shelby B. Stover

Stockman Bank Building
25 – 5th Street North, Suite 202
Great Falls, MT 59401
VOICE (406) 727-5740
FAX (406) 727-9415

June 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Office of the Governor
Governor Gianforte
Attn: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position for District Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Advisory Committee:

I am writing to communicate my support for the appointment of David J. Grubich as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court. Our community requires a Judge who is qualified, impartial, and dedicated to the community of Great Falls and Cascade County. Mr. Grubich has demonstrated his ability to fill this important role.

While I am a new attorney in the community, Great Falls has always been my home. I have worked in this community both in the legal sector and otherwise. I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Grubich in his role as the Standing Master both while I was interning in Great Falls prior to graduating from law school and during the early moments of my career as an attorney in Great Falls. During those times, I have observed Mr. Grubich treating litigants and attorneys with respect and I have observed Mr. Grubich utilizing his skills and knowledge to issue fair and well-reasoned opinions.

I know from my observations of Mr. Grubich in his capacity as the Standing Master and from reviewing Mr. Grubich's application that he is qualified for this position. In addition to being qualified, Mr. Grubich has demonstrated his dedication to our community—evidenced by the multiple local organizations he is involved in and by his nomination and acceptance of the Robert T. Goff Pro Bono Award. It is my opinion Mr. Grubich's dedication to our community combined with his experience as the Standing Master make him an excellent choice for District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Although I am at the very beginning of my legal career, I expect to be practicing law in Great Falls for many years to come. As a new attorney, I would be very honored to

try cases in front of Mr. Grubich. Importantly, before I was an attorney in Great Falls, I was a member of the community. In my capacity as a member of this community, I can say with confidence Mr. Grubich would serve it well and this community would be fortunate to have Mr. Grubich on the bench.

Accordingly, it is with no hesitation that I recommend Mr. Grubich as District Court Judge—even amongst a field of many qualified applicants.

Sincerely,
FALCON, LESTER & SCHAFF, P.C.

By: Shelby B. Stover
Shelby B. Stover

Mark F. Higgins
387 Carol Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

June 28, 2021

Via Email nominatejudges@mt.gov only
Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
Helena, MT 59620

Re: David Grubich/Eighth Judicial District Court Judgeship

Dear Judicial Advisory Council Members:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Cascade County Standing Master David Grubich's application for appointment as a State District Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. While I know that there are other fine, qualified candidates for this demanding position, I sincerely believe that Dave's unique background and skill set make him extremely well suited for this challenge. His distinguished service over the past several years as our Standing Master make him a strong candidate who could unquestionably step right in and help address the serious backlog faced by our existing three judges.

I have spent over thirty years as an active litigator in state and federal courts throughout Montana, and have come to expect both high competence and absolute fairness from our Judges. They are expected—required, really--to put in long hours of hard work. Everything I observed during the eight years that Dave and I worked together at the Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins law firm gives me considerable assurances that he has both a strong work ethic and a keen sense of fairness, in abundance. He has been, and will continue to, I am sure, analyze and apply the law as it is written, regardless of his own personal beliefs.

I am sure you will take a thorough look at Dave's professional background. Obviously, his current experience as the Standing Master in this very Court has not only acquainted him with the inner workings of the local judiciary, but has earned him the trust and confidence of the other local judges with whom he would be working. I know our existing judges over here quite well, and if any of them did not have considerable confidence in Dave, they would not be using him as actively as is the case. He has been very busy, and I have heard nothing but positives from those who spend more time at our local courthouse than I. I also think Dave's prior experience as a police officer is an obvious asset given the nature of the cases that would come before him. Finally, I have

seen Dave in action, exercising calm and sound judgment, assets that will serve him well if he is fortunate to move on to this vital judgeship.

Certainly this selection process requires each of you to make some difficult judgments. I have complete confidence that all members will make decisions based upon a sound belief that they are in the best interests of our great state. Whatever you decide, I appreciate your willingness to serve in this important role, and hope that Dave's submission will be given serious consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further. Thank you.

Mark F. Higgins

June 28, 2021

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

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position--David Grubich

Dear Ms. Slusser,

I unequivocally endorse Judge David Grubich for appointment to the judicial vacancy In Cascade County and this letter is in support of his appointment.

My name is Donna Gass and I am the office administrator at the Cascade County Law Clinic (CCLC). The CCLC is a small non-profit located in Great Falls, Montana. Our mission is finding pro bono attorneys for low-income individuals in family law and tenant/landlord issues.

My interactions with Judge Grubich include his previous role as board member with the CCLC and as the current Standing Master in Cascade County District Court. CCLC could always count on Judge Grubich to accept a pro bono client When Judge Grubich became the Standing Master, I continue to observe his legal knowledge, empathy towards pro se litigants and continued efforts to improve the courts.

Judge Grubich, William Bronson, (CCLC Executive Director) and I are collaborating on a Parenting Orientation Forum for the Eighth Judicial District. The Parenting Orientation Forum is a court ordered program that applies to people who file parenting plans or guardianships. Judge Grubich volunteered and became the liaison between our committee and the judges. He presented our proposal, outline and handouts to the other judges. He proofed all the paperwork and he inserted the different judges' opinions and thoughts. Without Judge Grubich bringing together many different people's opinions and wishes, this program could not have moved forward. He worked efficiently with all personalities and opinions to make this program a reality in our court district in the future.

Family law issues are always acrimonious. Judge Grubich recently presided at a hearing for one of our clients, who appeared *pro se.* The action was a parenting plan modification, possibly resulting in immediately relocating a child out of state. After the hearing, the client reported the Judge's thoughtfulness. He declined to issue an Order from the bench, easing all parties concerns for immediate removal of the child. Judge Grubich considered the best interests of the child. He possesses the commonsense approach to administering the law.

Judge Grubich is an outstanding example of what all *pro se litigants* think a good judge should be.

Our clients at CCLC are *pro se* litigants until they are given a pro bono attorney. Our clients are extremely fearful/ anxious about going to court without legal representation. CCLC clients believe a judge is going to take their child away, throw them in jail, or they will upset the court by being inexperienced. Judge Grubich is understanding, fair, and nonjudgmental to all CCLC *pro se* litigants. Clients have commented to his fairness and kindness even if the outcome may have not been in their favor.

After a hearing date, one client said: "[Judge Grubich] was fair, kind, understanding, empathetic, and spoke so I could understand what was happening."

The fallout from Covid-19 and one less District Court Judge has left the courts extremely back- logged. Judge Grubich, having only a part time judicial assistant and no law clerk, has helped by accepting a variety of cases with diverse legal issues that expand beyond family law. Judge Grubich runs his courtroom extremely efficiently and resolves long standing matters which lets people get back to their lives.

I strongly encourage you to consider Judge David Grubich for the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge position. To those of us who are outside the legal community, Judge Grubich has been a wonderful example of what we think a Judge should be: kind, compassionate, empathetic, and knows the law. Judge Grubich will continue to affectively alleviate the current back-log.

Thank you for considering Judge Grubich for this position, which he so richly deserves. Judge Grubich has worked diligently as a Standing Master and will continue to be just as diligent as the new Eighth Judicial Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Donna Gass
736 32nd Avenue NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

Slusser, Hannah

From: Steve Fitzpatrick <steve.fitzpatrick@mtleg.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 10:30 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Eighth Judicial District Judge Position

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

Dear Hannah:

I am writing in support of David Grubich for the position of judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court. I met David many years ago when he first started practicing law at the Ugrin law firm. David is smart, ethical, highly prepared, and a good listener. I think he has all of the qualities that make a great judge. Moreover, I can tell you he is highly respected in the legal community. Although I have not practiced before him, I have frequently heard he does an outstanding job as the standing master and is fair and impartial and treats everyone with respect. David is the most qualified person for the position and his experience in the military, in law enforcement, and as a practicing lawyer in Cascade County makes him well suited for the position. David is an outstanding choice and I highly recommend him for the position of judge in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court.

Steve Fitzpatrick

Legislators are publicly elected officials. Legislator emails sent or received involving legislative business may be subject to the Right to Know provisions of the Montana Constitution and may be considered a "public record" pursuant to Montana law. As such, email, sent or received, its sender and receiver, and the email contents, may be subject to public disclosure, except as otherwise provided by Montana law.

MAXON R. DAVIS
GREGORY J. HATLEY
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN
JOSEPH M. SULLIVAN*
STEPHANIE A. HOLLAR
TRAVIS A. CUSHMAN
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

*Also admitted to practice in Oregon & Washington

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E-Mail
joe.sullivan@dhhtlaw.com

June 28, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

To Whom It May Concern:

I provide this letter in support of David J. Grubich's appointment to fill the judicial vacancy on the Montana State District Court for the Eighth Judicial District.

I am also providing a letter of support for Michele Reinhart-Levine. I am offering letters in support of both Michele and Dave because they are both highly qualified and I see my role as providing the Governor and his staff with all the information necessary to make a well-informed decision.

I have known Dave throughout the time he worked as an attorney in Great Falls and, more recently, during his service as the Eighth Judicial District's Standing Master. Dave has proven himself to be of the highest integrity and dedication. Dave's experience, both in private practice and on the bench, has prepared him for the role as District Court Judge. Further, his demeanor will instill confidence in the judiciary and providing a sense of fairness.

Thank you for your consideration of Dave for this position.

Very truly yours,

DAVIS, HATLEY, HAFFEMAN & TIGHE P.C.

/s/ Joseph M. Sullivan
Joseph M. Sullivan

JMS:

MAXON R. DAVIS
GREGORY J. HATLEY
PAUL R. HAFFEMAN
JOSEPH SULLIVAN
STEPHANIE HOLLAR
TRAVIS CUSHMAN
* * *
DENNIS J. TIGHE (Retired)

LAW OFFICE OF
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FILE NO.

June 27, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

To Whom It may Concern:

Please accept this letter of support for the appointment of David Grubich to fill the judicial vacancy on the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court.

I have known Dave for more than a decade, during which time I served with him for several years as a Board member of the Cascade County Law Clinic, which arranges pro bono legal to be provided to those of limited means. From that experience, it became obvious to me that Dave is very dedicated to public service. That dedication further reflected itself in his decision to accept the appointment to the position of Standing Master for Eight Judicial District Court, instead of continuing to work in more financially lucrative private practice. That Standing Master position is a difficult one, but from personal experience representing litigants appearing before Dave, I have seen that he is up to that task, and could handle much more, including serving as a District Court Judge. He has the experience, the work ethic, and the affable personality which could well serve the needs of Cascade County long into the future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/Paul R. Haffeman
Paul R. Haffeman

PRH:

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

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Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur
Attorneys at Law

June 26, 2021

Ms. Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL [nominatejudges@mt.gov]

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position of District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I write to endorse the selection of David Grubich to fill the vacancy for Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I supported Mr. Grubich previously in 2020 and I am pleased to support his candidacy again through the current selection process. Mr. Grubich has a broad-based background and the temperament to be an exceptional District Court Judge. He has served his country through the U.S. Air Force and has served his community as a member of law enforcement. He has been a business owner. His varied background affords him valuable insight to the needs of the community that he is currently serving in the position of Standing Master. He is doing a great job as Standing Master, and if selected as District Court Judge, will continue the exceptional service to Cascade County.

I have been in private practice working in Great Falls since 1996. I am familiar with Mr. Grubich's excellent work at the Ugrin Alexander Zadick law firm. Mr. Grubich handled a variety of civil matters in various venues and proceedings, many involving complex issues. He is a person of integrity, always diligent, well-prepared and has a great work ethic. His current position of Standing Master has prepared him well for the position of District Court Judge.

Moreover, Mr. Grubich has an exceptional temperament and disposition for handling the daily rigors of being a District Court Judge. He is amiable and personable, easy to talk to and has the social skills to handle a variety of matters involving people of all backgrounds and walks of life. He has led our local bar organization. He is a leader among his peers. Our community will be well-served to have him as District Court Judge.

It is with much enthusiasm that I support Mr. Grubich's application for this important position.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC

/s/ Stephanie Oblander
Stephanie A. Oblander

June 25, 2021

TO: Advisory Council for Judicial Appointment for Montana 8th Judicial District Court
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
Sent via EMAIL to: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Advisory Council Members,

I write this letter in support of the application of David J. Grubich for the Cascade County District Court Judgeship. I have known David Grubich as a fellow Standing Master. I have found him to be intelligent, thoughtful, and considerate and I value his input on various issues facing Standing Masters. Prior to his appointment as Standing Master, David demonstrated an impressive commitment to community service and pro bono work, going above and beyond what would be expected of any attorney.

David's background of both law enforcement and the Air Force have given him a solid foundation when working with people in stressful situations. His comments about litigants who appear in his Court show a level of compassion and empathy, even when making hard decisions. His respectful and measured approach to people and problems will serve him in good stead as a District Court Judge.

David's application shows that he has broad legal experience, including both civil and criminal work, involvement in Veteran's Court, and dedicated volunteer service to those less fortunate in his community. With David's past work and current position as Standing Master, I have no doubt that he would be able to transition to the role of District Court Judge without difficulty.

Thank you for your consideration of him for this important appointment.

Sincerely,

Amy S. Rubin
Standing Master, 4th Judicial District Court of Montana
P.O. Box 8342
Missoula, MT 59807

June 25, 2021

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

E-Mail: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Members of the Commission;

I write in support of Dave Grubich, applicant for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District, filling the current vacancy.

My name is Terry Potter and I am employed with U.S. Bank as a credit analyst in the Wealth Management division. I have had the pleasure to work with Dave on the board of Eagle Mount Great Falls, a non-profit organization which provides therapeutic and recreational activities for disabled adults, children and veterans. We've also worked together on a community committee/board for The Russell, Exhibition and Sale for several years.

Drawing on the strengths and expertise of community members is invaluable to non-profit organizations. In regard to the Eagle Mount Board of Directors, Dave provided important legal advice as the Board tackled organizing employee policies and board of director by-laws. I found Dave to be an attentive listener and one who could gather the information and disseminate it to everyone's understanding. He has a strong work ethic, balancing the demands of his professional life while still balancing family and community service. For this, I am truly grateful to have someone of Dave's caliber working tirelessly for the betterment of our community.

Working on the community board for The Russell, Exhibition and Sale, each member undertook the organization of a portion of the renowned art event. Despite his demanding work schedule, Dave (along with his wife, Valerie), worked tirelessly to help create an art event the community is proud to host.

I strongly support Dave Grubich as district court judge. In addition to his skills in law and public service, he brings a demeanor of patience, level-headedness, fairness and a high moral ethics.

Sincerely,

Terry Potter

Terry Potter
dt999498@msn.com
406.453.5368

Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

May 12, 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte:
I am writing to highly recommend Michele Reinhart Levine as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Michele since she moved to Great Falls in 2012. Most recently, she represented my children and me with our claim for death benefits through Worker's Compensation after my husband's death in February 2019 from occupational cancer while serving as a firefighter. Michele works tirelessly for the individuals and families that she represents. She is honest and fair, as well as compassionate. In her recent tenure, she has also demonstrated herself to be an excellent judge.

In March 2019, I was referred to Michele from another attorney who was assisting me with settling my late husband's estate. Michele set up an appointment right away to discuss the possibility of filing a claim. She educated me on the process and timeline and ensured that I was fully informed before I consented to having her firm represent our family. I immediately felt at ease and had a good understanding of what would be involved. No easy feat in the depths of early grief. In addition, she assisted me in researching other benefits that my children would quality for, including a college tuition waiver for children of parents who have died in the line of duty, and the Kid's Chance Scholarship for my college-age daughter. Michele consistently goes beyond expectations for her clients. With her dedication and strategic thinking, we were able to settle our claim in six months, as opposed to the typical twelve to eighteen months for death claims. She is efficient and incisive. In fact, I have highly recommended her to other families in the fire department who have experienced occupational injuries and illnesses.

In addition to her work as an attorney, I have known Michele through her community involvement, including Junior League, CASA-CAN and Kairos Youth Services. She is a strong leader, and passionate about public service and making our community a better place for all people. Her experience, especially through her work with youth in foster care, will continue to serve her well as a District Court Judge.

For these reasons, I highly recommend Michele Reinhart Levine for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Jill Baker

1100 46th Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404
Jill.BakerMT@gmail.com

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte and members of the Advisory Council:

I submit this letter in support of David Grubich for appointment as Eight Judicial District Court Judge. I have practiced law in Cascade County for over twenty-five years. I am a solo practitioner, and I opened Rossberg Law Office, LLC in July of 2000.

I have known David Grubich for over twenty-five years. David's wife, Valerie Grubich, and I have been friends since we met in kindergarten at Longfellow Elementary School in 1974.

David conducts his personal and family life in a manner that is above reproach. I admire his tireless commitment to his wife, young son, and even Valerie's mother. David assists in helping his mother-in-law, such as taking her to doctor and other needed appointments. David recognizes the importance of family. I know David has made personal decisions that put the happiness and well-being of other family members above his own. He is an extraordinarily kind and caring individual.

Before moving back to Great Falls, David was a police detective in Harvard, Illinois. He and Valerie also owned and operated a coffee shop. David is a hard worker. His venture in the coffee business provided him with personal experience in owning and operating a small business. This gives him insight when encountering business owners who will appear before the Court.

No doubt David's law enforcement experience helped him develop his calm but commanding presence in the Courtroom. I have appeared before David Grubich over fifty times in his role as a District Court Standing Master. His courtroom is run efficiently, in almost an effortless manner.

David Grubich has a keen eye and can quickly read a room. Sometimes emotions can run high in a Courtroom, and situations can erupt quickly. Court bailiffs are not always in every courtroom. I am confident, because of David's background and from what I have seen, that he could quickly defuse or address any potentially dangerous situation. I am aware of one situation at the Courthouse when David Grubich assisted a sheriff's deputy trying to stop a fleeing, fighting criminal defendant. Upon seeing the deputy struggling to get the combative individual under control, David Grubich jumped in without hesitation to help prevent his escape and any further danger to the deputy or the public.

As a detective, who was regularly involved in obtaining search warrants and investigating crime, David Grubich has a particular acumen for criminal law that one cannot develop by just reading case law or sitting in a classroom. A vast majority of cases in Cascade County are criminal, and they increase every year. Many search warrants and arrest warrants need to be signed quickly, and David Grubich is not only well versed in the law but has the experience to properly assess a situation and make an expedient and thoughtful decision when reviewing such warrants.

I am aware that when Judge Parker took the bench, he was conflicted out of many criminal and Youth in Need of Care (YINC) Cases due to his prior employment at the Cascade County Prosecutor's Office, which went on for several months. I imagine that judicial candidates Michele Reinhart Levine and Matthew Robertson would also be conflicted out of many criminal and YINC cases for the same reason.

Because of the backlog of cases due to Covid-19, being short the Department A judge for much of the past year, and the ever-increasing number of YINC and criminal cases, this County cannot afford to have a new judge who will be conflicted out of numerous criminal and YINC cases. David Grubich has no such conflicts.

The people of Cascade County deserve a Judge who can be up and running. Judge Grubich could easily transition from a Standing Master to a District Court Judge.

As a Standing Master presiding over numerous family law cases, David Grubich is known for his swift justice and well-reasoned opinion. He is a quick study, and his decisions accurately reflect the factual basis before the Court. Even in cases where I disagreed with the outcome, I did not disagree with his research and reasoning.

David Grubich's strengths as a trial judge are that he is a good listener who gives each litigant the opportunity to present their case. His police training shines through. He has a unique way of handling pro se litigants. He communicates in a manner that is easy to understand, and he is patient throughout the proceedings. David is not readily riled and has shown himself to be even-tempered.

If appointed, David Grubich will face an election in 2022. David has overwhelming support from the Plaintiff's Bar and Defense Bar and is easily electable. With the tremendous backlog of cases this County is facing, it is imperative to ensure that further disruption in the court docket is avoided in the future. To that end, whoever is appointed must be able to garner the support of Cascade County voters in the 2022 election and stay on the bench. David is the best candidate to do just that. His experience is a major strong point in Cascade County.

David and Valerie are very involved in the Great Falls Community. They support a broad range of local causes. For example, in June 2021, they received an award from NeighborWorks Great Falls for their work renovating a dilapidated and empty home which improved the neighborhood and provided a family with affordable housing. David cares about this community, and voters will see that.

For these reasons, I highly endorse David Grubich as Cascade County's next District Court Judge.

Sunday Z Rossberg

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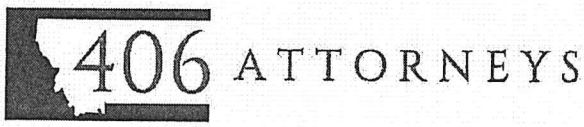
ATTORNEYS:
Neal P. DuBois
Eric D. Mills



DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC
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June 24, 2021

Governor's Office
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Fax: (406) 444-4151
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: 8th Judicial District Judge Position;
Support for David Grubich

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of the application of Judge David Grubich for the appointment to the vacancy left by Judge Pinski in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County.

Like, most good lawyers, Dave has always shown the ability to see both sides of a case which he was litigating. It seems he always took it as a duty to his client to understand the other side while advocating for his client. In that sense, I see him being a benefit to both Plaintiff's counsel and Defense counsel in civil litigation matters.

Dave is a thoughtful person who is committed to neutrally analyzing all positions of the parties. His background in law enforcement has allowed him the ability to render fair decisions with thoughtfulness and temperament that all citizens of this county deserve.

He has also presided over numerous matters I have litigated. He does a superb job explaining the system to pro se litigants. He gives the parties the ability to present their argument and asks poignant questions. In one instance, there was a gentleman who was not being truthful with the Court while Dave was on the bench as the Standing Master. Instead of becoming irate, he calmly explained to the gentleman that he did not feel he was being truthful and probably feels bad about how a certain situation transpired. The gentleman acknowledged that he was untruthful and took steps to get help. It was quite beautiful.

Because Dave does things right and does not overlook details, he won the Most Improved Rental Property from Neighborworks Great Falls this month. He has also volunteered as my mentor for Leadership Great Falls. I have no doubt, if given the opportunity, he will do a wonderful job for this community.

Very truly yours,
DUBOIS MILLS, PLLC

Eric D. Mills
Attorney at Law

6/24/2021

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Brian Crosby and I am a teacher and coach at CM Russell High School in Great Falls, MT and I write this letter in support of David J. Grubich and his candidacy for 8th Judicial District Court Judge. I have known Dave for several years through my wife, Jordan Crosby, who was a co-worker with him at Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick.

Dave is one the most genuine and sincere people I have ever met. His ability to connect with people and make them feel comfortable is something I have admired about Dave for years. Over the past decade plus I have met many amazing attorneys and judges. One common thread with the best is their ability to connect with people and how empathy drives their daily lives.

Dave is thoughtful, compassionate and giving of his time and energy to others. Most of my time spent with Dave was working with him on charitable events. To me the best judges and lawyers I have met are ones who are connected to their community outside of their jobs. Their job title does not define who they are, instead it allows them the ability and access to make a real difference in their community. Dave volunteers and serves with Cascade County Law Clinic, President of the Cascade County Bar and works with the Veterans court.

Dave's life experiences are varied and impressive and I believe will him help to be an excellent judge. I believe he will represent our community well and continue a long tradition of excellent judges in this district. From serving our country to law enforcement to working in the very difficult and emotional area of family law, those experiences are qualities that will make Dave an excellent candidate for this position.

In closing, I know Dave to be a tremendous family man who is greatly involved in his community. The many attorneys I know all speak very highly of his ability as a lawyer and standing master. I whole heartedly recommend Dave Grubich to fill the position of 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Brian Crosby
brian_crosby@gfps.k12.mt.us

(406)781-1701

GREAT FALLS COLLEGE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Susan J. Wolff
CEO/Dean
406-771-4310
susan.wolff@gfcmsu.edu
www.gfcmsu.edu

June 7, 2021

ATTN: Hanna Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to support the application by David J. Grubich for the Eighth Judicial District Court Judgeship. I have known David since I moved to Great Falls in 2012. We were fellow classmates in the Great Falls Chamber's Leadership Great Falls program for 10 months in 2012-13. He and I had many conversations during that time related to his legal work. My brother is an attorney which led to my interest in David's professional work. David also led a community project for Eagle Mount that year where his passion for serving those with disabilities became very evident and continues to this day.

As a board member of United Way Cascade County and Board Chair for a year, I was always impressed with David who came to the allocations meetings to support the requests for funding of the Cascade County Law Clinic that provides pro-bono family law services for low-income people and families.

David is uniquely qualified to serve as District Court Judge in the Eighth District. He served in the Air Force, was a law enforcement officer, is an attorney, and has been the standing master in the Eighth Judicial District Court for two years. In that role, he assisted Judge Pinski with Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court from which I have seen so many people successfully reengage with their lives and families in positive ways.

With his work with the Cascade County Law Clinic, his work with Judge Pinski, his experience as an airman at Malmstrom Air Force Base, and in law enforcement, David stands to provide excellence in legal and judicial service supporting the law, educating people, and relating to those who live in the district.

Sincerely,

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

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Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur

Attorneys at Law

June 23, 2021

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: Honorable David J. Grubich

Dear Ms. Slusser:

This letter is easy to write. As an attorney who has practiced in Montana for many, many years, I have been asked to support judicial candidates more times than I can remember. Often, I feel obliged and occasionally I refuse.

In this case, though, I offer my *wholehearted* support for Standing Master Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. This application is the proverbial "no-brainer." There is no other candidate with Judge Grubich's standing to earn this position.

I have known Judge Grubich since shortly after he arrived in town. Our first significant contact, as I recall, was when I served with him on the Board of Directors of the Cascade County Law Clinic in 2012. He immediately struck me as earnest, honest, and hard-working. Of course, these are all traits required of a judge.

I have considered him a friend since that time. I will not suggest that we socialize frequently, but we have on a few occasions. We do not always agree politically, but we have always been able to discuss things in a calm polite fashion, and he can use his disarming smile to great effect.

When I learned that he had been appointed as our Standing Master, I was *extremely* supportive, because he has the perfect demeanor for a judge, he is calm, measured, respectful and treats everyone with dignity and respect.

There are a number of traits that he has that I believe will serve our community well as a District Court Judge. First, he is as smart as they come. I have had the good fortune to discuss many legal issues with him, and he is always right on top of them.

Second, he works hard. A common problem in Montana's civil practice is delay, delay, delay. There is no question that Judge Grubich will be diligent and fast, always mindful of the motto that "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Third, he is fair. I think too many judges bring a bias to the bench and, while I admire their efforts to shed that bias, a career's worth of positions can be hard to avoid. I have no doubt that Judge Grubich will bring his wide and varied background to bear without leaning one way or the other.

Fourth, he has the perfect temperament for a judge. Busy lawyers and litigants do not need to be scolded and talked down to by judges. If you spend five minutes with him, you will know that will never happen, and he will treat everyone with kindness, dignity, and respect.

My wife and I had the good fortune to work with Judge Grubich and his wife, Valerie, on the CM Russell Art Auction several years ago. He throws himself into every task with passion and good cheer (as does Valerie!). We consider them lifelong friends and when he asked if I would support him in his efforts to land this position, I did not hesitate for a second.

I know a number of candidates for this position, and Judge Grubich is clearly the best candidate, and he is the best by no small measure. I look forward to appearing before him for many years to come.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC

Gregory G. Smith

LISA SWAN SEMANSKY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PO Box 3267
Great Falls, MT 59401
Phone: (406) 771-1584 * Email: lsemansky@semanskylawfirm.com

June 23, 2021

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

Re: 8th Judicial District Court Judge
Application of David Joseph Grubich

Attn: Hannah Slusser:

I write in support of the application of David Joseph Grubich for appointment as an 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

I have appeared before David Grubich as the 8th judicial district standing master, a position he has held since 2018. As the standing master, family law matters are routinely heard by him rather than the judge assigned to the case. I had a particular case that was difficult, very aggravating, and seemingly never-ending. Twice I appeared with my client before him on different issues concerning my client's dissolution and custody matters. The first time the Respondent was represented by counsel. The matter was thoroughly briefed by both sides. Dave had read the briefs, reviewed the court file and the matter was heard in an orderly and efficient manner with both sides having an opportunity to be heard and voice their positions. Dave ruled verbally, followed by a written order in a timely manner. The second time this case came before Dave about a year later, the Respondent appeared without counsel. Again, Dave was prepared to hear the matter, having reviewed the court file, read the pleadings filed and gave each of us an opportunity to state our positions. The Respondent was very disrespectful to the judge, interrupting him and persisting in pursuing a course of argument that the judge advised him would not be considered. I was impressed with Dave's demeanor in this. Dave did not lose his temper and when the Respondent persisted, although Dave spoke with finality and stopped the Respondent, he did so respectfully and without offense.

Although I know that he, as standing master, does much of the family law matters that are filed with the court, I also know that he has sat for criminal and juvenile matters and other various legal issues. In my more than thirty years experience as a private practicing attorney, the qualities Dave displays as he sits the bench, to wit: patience,

attentiveness, and preparedness, are as important as knowing and correctly applying the law. Dave is familiar with the number of Cascade County's criminal and civil cases, how the Cascade County judges handle their case load and used to reviewing and writing rulings. His experience and expertise in having been the court's standing master for several years will give him the extra edge that will allow him to "hit the ground running" in a very busy judicial district. This is important to all, whether State attorneys, private attorneys, criminal defendants or civil parties, who have cases pending. Therefore, Dave brings a considerable amount of understanding and practical knowledge to the bench which would serve Cascade County well.

I have had other matters before Dave as standing master, and of course, when he has sat for the uncontested calendar cases. It has always been apparent that he is knowledgeable and confident in making his rulings. In short, he knows the law, understands the law and makes his decisions based upon that knowledge. Therefore, I believe David Joseph Grubich would be an asset to the Eighth Judicial Court and support his application to be appointed an Eighth Judicial Court judge.

Very truly yours,

SEMANSKY LAW OFFICE

Lisa Swan Semansky

Lisa Swan Semansky

c: David Grubich

g:...supportnomination.ltr

Slusser, Hannah

From: Carranza, Kylie <kylie.carranza@uprovidence.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 12:51 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Joseph Grubich - Public Comment

Hello,

My name is Kylie Carranza, and I serve on the Eagle Mount, Great Falls Board of Trustees with David Grubich. I would like to write in support of his application for judge. Given my experience working and watching his leadership for Eagle Mount, I believe that he would be a great fit for the role.

Sincerely,

Kylie

Kylie Carranza
Chief of Staff to the President
University of Providence
406.791.5305 |www.uprovidence.edu [uprovidence.edu]

Michael J. Flaherty
1128 20th Ave SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-799-6130

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

June 23, 2021

Dear, Governor Gianforte and members of the Advisory Council:

I am writing this letter to support the nomination David Grubich for District Court Judge.

I have known David since 2012 when we were both serving on The Fortnightly board of directors.

I have found David to be easy to work with, forward thinking and generally concerned with our citizens.

As a veteran, David understands the concerns of the veterans populous in our state. He is a former law enforcement officer having served as both a U.S. Air Force Security Specialist and a Police Officer, so he has a real understanding of boots on the ground.

Lastly, as a former small business owner, David understands the challenges business owners face daily and the dedication necessary to keep a business running.

David Grubich's broad experience will be a valuable asset to our community, so I urge you to appoint him as our next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Michael J. Flaherty

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

Re: Letter of Recommendation for District Standing Master David Grubich for Montana Eighth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Advisory Council,

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Advisory Council for District Standing Master David Grubich for Montana Eighth Judicial District Court Judge.

It is with great gratification that I witnessed District Standing Master David Grubich's growth and development over his time at the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County. Especially when he presided over Veterans Treatment Court, Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. District Standing Master David Grubich's care and attention to detail to help Veterans in the court really defined for me that he is not only an understanding human being, but that he is also a man of integrity, he is well-prepared, and has a stellar work ethic.

In my opinion, District Standing Master David Grubich has all of the credentials, experience, and wisdom to be a fine district court judge. His distinguished résumé as a practitioner and judge establishes his diverse jurisprudential competency. During his practice and current time on the bench, District Standing Master David Grubich has earned the respect and admiration of his peers in the legal community. Not only that, he is currently handling a variety of matters involving people from all walks of life at the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court, which also establishes that he is amiable and has the social skills necessary to continue presiding over matters as district court judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court. In other words, the community will be well-served to have him as district court judge.

Lastly, I know a number of candidates are suitable for the position of district court judge. However, District Standing Master David Grubich is the best candidate for the position, and he is the best by no small measure. I thank you for your consideration of District Standing Master David Grubich and for your service on the Advisory Council.

Regards,

Fernando José Terrones
June 23, 2021
State Bar of Montana No.: 33845504

Slusser, Hannah

From: Fehringer, Molly Rose
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 11:33 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: Comment in Support: David Grubich (8th District Judge Applicant)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of support for David Grubich, who is an applicant for the judge position in the 8th Judicial District of Montana. I believe he possesses the temperament, experience, and skills to serve the 8th Judicial District well as judge.

Mr. Grubich is a fellow Standing Master, hearing and mediating a variety of cases. As Standing Masters for the State of Montana, we periodically meet as a statewide group to discuss issues, cases, and further our understanding of legal issues. At these meetings, Mr. Grubich is always prepared for the discussion and adds salient points and information to the group. He clearly grasps a multitude of legal issues and takes the work he does seriously for the State of Montana. Further, he is a pleasure to interact with. He appears to have the right temperament for judicial work—calm, confident, efficient. Those qualities will allow him to seamlessly transition from standing master to judge.

Finally, a review of Mr. Grubich's application alone demonstrates he is an exceptional candidate for this position. His broad experience in the law and his pre-law experience all contribute to him being a knowledgeable, well-rounded future judge. Our state would be well served with Mr. Grubich as judge. The public would be able to count on Mr. Grubich taking their case seriously, no matter how seemingly minor; the bar would be able to count on Mr. Grubich being able to handle a caseload and effectively manage a courtroom from day one; and the judiciary would be able to count on him to follow the law and make sound decisions.

Based on the foregoing reasons, I offer my full support for Mr. Grubich's application for judge.

Sincerely,

Molly Rose B. Fehringer
Standing Master
13th Judicial District of Montana

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DARCY M. CRUM dba DARCY M. CRUM, PLLC
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RETIRED
SUSAN J. REBECK

TELEPHONE (406) 727-8400
FAX (406) 727-9895
EMAIL dcrum@mcn.net

June 23, 2021

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

VIA EMAIL: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: David Grubich, 8th Judicial District Judge Application

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am respectfully requesting you strongly consider David Grubich for the open Eighth Judicial District Court Judge seat in Cascade County. He has been the Eighth Judicial District Court Standing Master for the last two plus years. It is in that capacity that I know and have worked with him.

As Standing Master he has worked closely with all of our District Court judges. Practicing law for over 35 years and having appeared in front of others who have held the same position, I can unequivocally say he is the best at this job. I do a lot of adoption work and in ruling on my petitions I can report he is unfailingly courteous and professional, recognizes the importance of the matter on the individuals in front of him, treats parties with respect and takes time to recognize my clients on a personal level. Consequently they leave the hearing feeling confident in the judiciary. This is such an important quality to model to the public in today's environment.

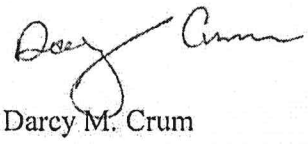
Dave has the utmost confidence of our district court judges. He has already been serving as a judge and could seamlessly step into the district judge position. He presides over criminal and family law matters. This requires him to be fair and impartial and in control of his courtroom. It also involves juggling several matters at a time. I have observed all of these qualities. Dave embodies the qualities we need as a District Court judge – intelligence, independence, decency and hard work. His temperament is exactly what we want as attorneys and citizens whose cases are being heard by the District Court. Being "in the trenches" at the Ugrin firm in Great Falls gave him exposure to a wide variety of matters. His work product and his demeanor with other lawyers translates into unbiased decisions and fairness to all litigants.

Dave is in touch with people outside the legal arena as well. He is not isolated. He knows the Great Falls community well. He has served tirelessly as a board member and officer of the Cascade County Law Clinic, as a police officer, a small business owner and a member of the Air Force. These

activities illustrate his time management skills and work ethic – also traits needed to be an effective District Court Judge.

Dave would make an excellent District Court Judge. Given his background and experience, you cannot go wrong with choosing him. I hope you select him.

Sincerely,



Darcy M. Crum

FLAHERTY || GALLARDO
LAWYERS

Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
Paul Gallardo
1026 First Ave. South
P.O. Box 1968
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

Judicial Nomination Committee
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

June 23, 2021

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Nomination

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of David Grubich in his application to fill the Eighth Judicial District Court's Judge vacancy. I have worked for the Flaherty Gallardo firm for four years and I have been able to witness firsthand the care and excellence that David Grubich brings to our community and to the bench as a Standing Master.

David exudes honesty and is fairness in all of his rulings. As someone who has recently graduated their undergraduate program and looks forward to attending law school and pursuing a career in law, David is a great person to look up to. I believe that David Grubich is the best choice for the vacancy in our community.

Sincerely,

/S/ ADAM J. GARDNER
Adam J. Gardner
Legal Assistant

pat@greatfallsfirm.com daniel@greatfallsfirm.com paul@greatfallsfirm.com
greatfallsfirm.com

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Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
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1026 First Ave. South
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Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

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

June 3, 2021

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Nomination

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing to give my personal recommendation for David Grubich. I base this recommendation first and foremost on David's character. He excelled in law school by serving others. He excelled in private practice by helping others. He has excelled as a Standing Master through his service to the community regarding the heavy work of family law. Service to the community is an essential core of being a judge. David has shown this. Even before law school, he served his country and community.

The Standing Master in Great Falls has a heavy emphasis in Family Law. However, Family Law usually transects many other areas - finances, civil claims, criminal behavior, and Youth In Need of Care. My recommendation is also based upon the numerous times I have been in front of Standing Master Grubich. I have yet to have a client criticize his demeanor, tone, or attention to detail - even if they disagreed with the ruling. I myself have appreciated the time he gives each case and also the efficiency with which he runs his Court. Emotions are often elevated during these hearings and his approach to serving the community is shown in how he treats these people in their time of crisis.

Standing Master Grubich knows the law, understands his role, and importantly works to improve the judicial process with his continued service. Great Falls and the 8th Judicial District would benefit greatly from his nomination.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Flaherty
Attorney at Law

pat@greatfallsfirm.com daniel@greatfallsfirm.com paul@greatfallsfirm.com
greatfallsfirm.com

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LAWYERS

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Fax: (406) 727-8537

Judicial Nomination Committee
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
Office of The Hon. Greg Gianforte, Governor
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

June 23, 2021

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Nomination

Dear Nomination Committee:

I am writing this letter in wholehearted support of David Grubich to be the Eighth Judicial District Court Judge to replace the Hon. Gregory Pinski. I am a third generation Great Falls native. I have practiced law in excess of forty-years and have experience before City, County, District and Federal Court Judges in this county and state.

I said to David Grubich the only thing I wanted from him if he becomes the new Judge is to be fair. He told me that is what he would do. In the several hearings and trials I have had before him as Standing Master, I have found him to be an excellent jurist. He is prepared, knows the law and renders fair and educated judgments. He treats people with respect and this community would be well served by a person of his quality. He is a family man who brings a human touch to the bench.

Sincerely,

/S/ PATRICK F. FLAHERTY
Patrick F. Flaherty
Attorney at Law

pat@greatfallsfirm.com daniel@greatfallsfirm.com paul@greatfallsfirm.com
greatfallsfirm.com

DUROCHER & WINTER, PC
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW
D&W
Roland B. Durocher | Jeffrey G. Winter

June 23, 2021
Via email ONLY to: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

RE: Support of David Grubich for Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Governor Gianforte:

It is my pleasure to again provide a letter of support for Standing Master David Grubich's appointment as District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. I supported Dave's application last year to fill the vacancy left by Hon. Gregory Pinski's resignation, and I continue to support him in this regard.

I know Dave primarily through his service as Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District. In my law practice, it is frequently necessary to seek Court approval of settlements and protective arrangements for clients who are minors or incapacitated. In that context, I have appeared at hearings over which Dave has presided on a number of occasions. Every time I have appeared before him, Dave has been professional and courteous, and prepared to fairly address the issues at hand. My clients have commented to me on how much they appreciated Dave's calm and professional demeanor, and how it helped them feel more at ease in an otherwise stressful situation.

As others have mentioned in their letters of support, many aspects of Dave's background and experience have prepared him well for the demands of serving as a District Court Judge. But Dave's competent and dedicated service as District Standing Master is what sets him apart. Dave has done an outstanding job as Standing Master, and has proven his ability to effectively manage an overwhelming workload of cases in the Eighth Judicial District. Through his service as Standing Master, Dave has become intimately familiar with the Cascade County court system, and the challenges faced by our District Court Judges. I have no doubt that Dave will handle these challenges competently and fairly.

406.727.4020 | fax 406.771.7319
118 6th Street South • P.O. Box 1629 • Great Falls, MT 59403 • www.mtlawyers.net

Thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of Standing Master David Grubich's appointment as District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

Very Truly Yours,

Jeffrey G. Winter
Durocher & Winter

Slusser, Hannah

From: coppertwt@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 10:54 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Nomination of David Grubich

Nomination Committee,

I am writing this letter in full support of 8th Judicial District Court Nominee, David Grubich. I had the pleasure of serving in the United States Air Force with David Grubich, and I was appointed as his first line Supervisor. I noted that he carried out all his assigned duties without hesitation, and was always willing to lend an extra hand in any given circumstance. After I was honorably discharged from the Air Force I embarked in a career on law enforcement and subsequently lost touch with David.

By chance my wife informed me that she had just met a Judge named David Grubich, and I informed her that I had been in the Air Force with someone by the same name as David Grubich some twenty five years earlier. As luck would have it while driving down the road my wife happened to spot David Grubich outside one of his rental properties at which time we stopped and I introduced myself only to find out that it was in fact the same David Grubich I had served in the Air Force with.

I explained to David that I had recently retired from from my career in law enforcement. David informed me that he had been a Police Officer in his home state of Illinois, then he moved back to Montana and obtained his law degree and he had then worked in private practice for a period of time.

Based on David Grubich's background of being a former Air Force service member, Police Officer, and Attorney, I would highly recommend him for the position of 8th Judicial District Court Judge without hesitation.

Sincerely,
Thomas Tighe

CARLSON LAW, PLLC

TREVOR CARLSON, ATTORNEY AT LAW

PHONE: (406) 750 - 0250
FAX: (406) 720 - 7919
EMAIL: TREVOR@CARLSONLAW406.COM

P.O. BOX 3703
600 CENTRAL AVE., SUITE 412
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

June 23, 2021

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Public Comment on 8th Judicial District Judge Applicants

To the Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Trevor Carlson, and I have been practicing law in Central Montana since 2013. I have a solo practice in Great Falls, Montana, that provides services for criminal defense, family law, landlord-tenant law, and civil litigation. I routinely appear in about a dozen counties around the area.

I have had the pleasure of appearing before Standing Master David J. Grubich since his appointment in August of 2018. In my practice of family law, I have appeared before him on several dissolution and parenting plan proceedings. I have also appeared before him on uncontested adoptions and guardianship/conservatorship proceedings. He has become one of my favorite judges to practice in front of, and I trust he would make an excellent District Court Judge.

I believe that a judge should have three qualities: 1) an ability to accurately and fairly interpret and apply the law; 2) an excellent work ethic; and 3) the proper temperament. Standing Master Grubich has all of these qualities, which is why I am writing this letter in support of his appointment.

In my cases, Standing Master Grubich has issued several orders over the last two years. His decisions have always been well-reasoned and in accordance with Montana statutes and case law. In trial, his rulings on evidentiary issues have been similarly sound. While

I have not always agreed with his rulings, I cannot say that they were wrong, and I have never felt a strong urge to seek an appeal after my cases have concluded before him.

I appreciate this adherence to black-letter law, as it brings predictability to the bench and helps me manage client expectations before going to court. It also saves my clients money by not having to appeal erroneous rulings. In reviewing his application for the Eighth Judicial District Court Judge position, I was not surprised to see he graduated from law school with honors, as he has consistently shown the intellect required for both academic performance and proper interpretation and application of the law.

Both my clients and I are grateful for Standing Master Grubich's work ethic and turnaround time on decisions. It is important for our legal system and society at large for citizens to feel they have been treated fairly and afforded their "day in court," or what we lawyers call "due process." It is not easy to explain to your clients – many of whom have little or no experience with the legal system – why a judge will "only" afford them a few hours for issues so near and dear to their hearts such as parenting time or property distribution. These are issues that will affect the client and those they love for years to come, and it is important for the integrity of our legal system that litigants feel their cases were afforded a proportionate consideration for what is at stake.

Standing Master Grubich has always accommodated my clients' requests for lengthy hearings, and in cases that unexpectedly exceeded their allotment, he has patiently allowed the parties to present their full witness testimony, evidence and arguments. He has always been attentive and interested in each piece of testimony and evidence presented. I can recall a hearing last summer that ran until 6:00 p.m. Both my client and I were grateful to have the time to present our case properly and fully to the Court.

When it comes to issuing written decisions, Standing Master Grubich has a very swift turnaround time. I know that it is not easy condensing hours of testimony into findings of fact and conclusions of law on top of an already full trial caseload. I have never asked him directly, but I suspect that Standing Master Grubich probably works nights and weekends to keep up with the litany of contested hearings that a Standing Master is assigned. He does not leave the parties wondering and waiting for the outcomes of their cases (and, in many family law cases, the outcomes of their lives) for weeks or even months on end.

In reading his application for this position, I was once again not surprised that he describes a lengthy history of public service, pro bono work, and a desire to improve the community through the legal system. I can tell you from my own observations that he personifies the devotion to public service that is described in his application.

Finally, it is my opinion that Standing Master Grubich has the proper temperament for a District Court Judge. I have witnessed him deal with unruly litigants, both *pro se* and represented, and at times, unruly attorneys as well. During these incidents, I have never seen him lose his temper. Instead, he maintains his composure in a very professional manner befitting of a judge. His courtroom demeanor is firm, yet equable, and he is a pleasure to practice in front of.

I hope this letter helps you in your decision for the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I strongly believe that Standing Master David J. Grubich would be an excellent addition to the bench here in Cascade County.

Sincerely,

Trevor Carlson
Carlson Law, PLLC

June 23, 2021

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Recommendation for David Grubich
For Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing in support of David Grubich for the appointment of Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I had the pleasure of working with David at the Ugrin Law Firm for 8 years.

I believe that with David's diversity and expertise in many different areas, including the current Standing Master, he would make a great District Court Judge. David has wore many different hats such as police officer, serving his country in the United States Air Force, business owner, and attorney, and he has exemplified outstanding qualities and achievements in each of these fields. David exhibits fairness, integrity, honesty and is just an all-around very nice person whom I'm happy to call my friend.

I believe David is the best and most qualified candidate to fill the position of District Court Judge and I'm proud to support him in this endeavor. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ronda Jolly

Ronda Jolly
Legal Assistant
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C.
406-771-0007
rkj@uazh.com

The Law Firm of

Falcon, Lester & Schaff, P.C.

Randall C. Lester
Tonja Schaff Kostelecky
Shelby B. Stover

Stockman Bank Building
25 – 5th Street North, Suite 202
Great Falls, MT 59401
VOICE (406) 727-5740
FAX (406) 727-9415

June 23, 2021

VIA EMAIL (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Governor Greg Gianforte
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Candidate David J. Grubich
Position for District Judge, Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Advisory Committee:

I would like to take this opportunity to submit my endorsement for David J. Grubich to be nominated and appointed as District Court Judge for the vacant position in the Montana Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. Filling the position will require a person that is fair, hardworking, dedicated and who has the ability to handle complex legal issues. From my review of the current applications for the position, and my general knowledge of the candidates, I believe that Mr. Grubich has the integrity, ability and work ethic to serve as District Judge.

I practice primarily family law in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County. I have been in practice in Great Falls since 1992. I have appeared before Mr. Grubich in his capacity as District Court Standing Master. Mr. Grubich is well-prepared, prompt, fair and has a temperament that serves him well as a standing master, and will also serve him well as a District Judge if he is appointed to that position. As a standing master, Mr. Grubich treats attorneys and self-represented litigants with respect and dignity. Mr. Grubich appears on the bench well-prepared. It is evident that he has read the file, is aware of the issues pending before him and is aware of the legal principles and law that he must apply. Mr. Grubich is confident and has the legal competence to serve well in the capacity as a District Judge.

I did not have the pleasure of working with Mr. Grubich in private practice before he became the standing master. When he was appointed standing master, I opined regarding what experience Mr. Grubich had with complex family law cases and how he would proceed in his capacity as standing master not being overly familiar with the area. Mr. Grubich has always appeared well-versed in the area. He is extremely intelligent and articulate, while at the same time being down to earth and not demeaning to any person in the courtroom.

Mr. Grubich has a varied background that will suit him well as a District Judge. During all of the times that I have appeared before Mr. Grubich, he has been very well spoken and his professionalism is impeccable. Mr. Grubich has managed his standing master calendar efficiently and does not appear to have a large backlog of cases. Mr. Grubich rules timely and fairly.

Mr. Grubich has a broad background and he has proven that he is not afraid to learn new areas of the law. With Mr. Grubich's background, I believe he will bring common sense and fairness to the District Judge position. If Mr. Grubich is appointed as District Judge, I believe that he will garner trust in the Eighth Judicial District and he will be able to successfully maintain the elected position through future elections.

It is with great pleasure, that I recommend David Grubich as District Court Judge, among a field of many qualified applicants.

Very truly yours,

FALCON, LESTER & SCHAFF, P.C.

By: Tonja Schaff Kostelecky

Tonja Schaff Kostelecky

cc: David J. Grubich

Cascade County Detention Officers Local 28 of the American Federation of State, City and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Endorses Standing Master Dave Grubich for the 8th District Judicial Court

The Officers of the Cascade County Detention Facility are proud to endorse Dave Grubich for the 8th Judicial District Court.

As the current Standing Master, Dave's workings with the Cascade County Sheriff's Department and the officers of the bargaining unit has demonstrated time and again his commitment to the law, ethics, and managing the complex workings of the justice system.

Standing Master Grubich has made himself available in his professional capacity to serve the County and immediate needs of the detention center and its officers and inmates. Dave Grubich has demonstrated a nuanced and deep understanding of Montana State Law, Montana's Constitution, and the Constitution of the United States.

Based on his years of professional conduct with the Cascade County Detention Center's Officers, and an interview with membership and the Executive Board, Standing Master Dave Grubich has earned Local 28's endorsement with a majority body vote.

The undersigned Officers of Local 28 submit this public comment endorsement with our best regards for Standing Master Dave Grubich appointment efforts.

Respectfully Submitted,

#28

AFSCME Local #28 President Darby Reardon

Judicial Nomination Commission

Attn: Hannah Slusser, Governor's Office,

PO Box 200801, Helena, MT 59620

Re: David J. Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am a Deputy Sheriff with the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, I was assigned as a Bailiff for District Court proceedings within the Cascade County Courthouse, where I have had the pleasure of working with David J. Grubich for the past two years. David and I have had many conversations due to his prior experience as a Police Officer in Illinois.

I would like to share a story about David and his willingness to help when he was needed. I was attempting to arrest a person wanted on a Felony Attempted Escape warrant. The suspect decided to try to flee from the courtroom, to stop him, I deployed my Taser. The Taser was effective for a brief time until the leads broke, and the subject began fighting with another Deputy and myself. During the struggle with the suspect, I noticed another person joined in and was assisting us. After we were able to gain control of the Subject, I realized the person helping us was David Grubich.

David gained my respect and trust from this incident, as I know if the situation occurred again, I could depend on him to help when needed.

I have also been present during several of his civil hearings as the acting Cascade County Standing Master. I have noticed David always gives each party the benefit of doubt and no matter the case he remains fair no matter what is in front of him.

David had worked his way from being a Police Officer to an Attorney and then to the Cascade County Standing Master position. I have noticed that David continues to work hard and tries to strive to excel in his position. Based on these reasons I believe David would be the best choice for the open 8th Judicial District Court Judge position.

Sincerely,

Travis G. Grove

1816 1st Ave N

Great Falls, MT 59401

June 22, 2021

Kathryn Whitt
Deputy Clerk of Court
415 2nd Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401
06/18/2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to endorse the selection of David Grubich to fill the position of Judge in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

My name is Kathryn Whitt and I have had the opportunity to work with Judge Grubich in my capacity as Deputy Clerk of Court for Department A. I clerk most of the criminal hearing in Department A. During the past year, I have clerked numerous hearings for Judge Grubich in his role as Standing Master. During the last few months David has put in a lot of time and work in order to help the court continue to run by presiding over hearings while we are minus a department A judge. One thing that stands out about Standing Master Grubich is his ability to maintain control in the courtroom without raising his voice or intimidating others. Watching him adjudicate, I have noticed that he is incredibly fair, respectful, and dignified in his role, all qualities needed in a good judge. Additionally, David Grubich values every person in the court, from lawyers to clerks. He is approachable, friendly, and always willing to answer any questions that come his way.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a recommendation in favor of David Grubich. I believe whole-heartedly in his qualifications and would be happy to continue my role as Deputy Clerk of Court for department A, with him as Judge.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Whitt

Scott, Tokerud & McCarty, P.C.
Attorneys and Counselors

Keith Tokerud
Jon S. McCarty

William M. Scott,
1946-2008

June 16, 2021

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

Re: Letter of recommendation for David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to you for David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County, Montana. I have practiced law in Cascade County for 29 years.

I have known David Grubich for 10 years, first as a lawyer when he practiced law as an associate attorney with the Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C., law firm in Great Falls, then while I have appeared before him as the Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County.

David Grubich would be a good choice for District Court Judge. He was a fine lawyer for eight years and was one of the most active members of the Cascade County Bar Association before he became Standing Master in 2018. While I have never appeared before him in a bench or a jury trial, I frequently have appeared before him on probate and guardianship matters. I have always found him to be well prepared and he has exhibited excellent judicial temperament. He is very effective in his present position as Standing Master. He was particularly effective in assisting former District Court Judge Gregory Pinski with the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court by serving as judge in those courts. He has varied interests outside the law, is involved in the local community and he is a devoted family man, all of which I believe are important when reviewing his qualifications.

I believe David Grubich is qualified to serve as District Court Judge and it is my hope that you appoint him to serve in that capacity.

Sincerely,

Jon S. McCarty

Jon S. McCarty

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JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER

ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

June 21, 2021

Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – David J. Grubich

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I am pleased to again offer a letter of recommendation for David J. Grubich as Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I recommended Dave when the position first came open last year, and I appreciated when the nominating committee forwarded its recommendation of Dave to the Governor then.

Dave is well qualified, and he easily could have been selected when the position first came open. Dave's varied education, knowledge, and experience well qualifies him for the position. Beginning with Dave's service in the military and later in law enforcement, as a business owner, family man, lawyer, and now a Standing Master, Dave has developed the needed perception, patience, pragmatism, and practice to effectively administer the characters and cases comprising a judge's docket. As has been demonstrated in his current position, Dave will conduct his courtroom with nothing more than the desire to do what the law requires or equity compels and do it in a way that is respectful to the parties and their counsel.

While employed with his firm, Dave and I routinely collaborated on matters. I can attest that he gained valuable experience ranging from personal injury and property damage claims, employment, wage, and discrimination disputes, and a host of other matters that will come before him as the Judge. At all times, Dave handled these matters with diligence, skill, and professionalism. Dave truly sought outcomes that were not only beneficial to his client, but fair for his adversary also. Separately, Dave was always willing to take cold calls to discuss options for a person troubled with a legal challenge, some which he ultimately agreed to represent. Similarly, Dave often agreed to provide services for organizations or individuals at reduced rates or without expectation of compensation.

If selected for the position, I am confident that Dave can successfully campaign for re-election. If appointed, he will have meaningful service as the Judge, in addition to his service as this District's Standing Master, and both should weigh heavily in his favor, including with those that may be concerned about the change in the nominating process. Relatedly, Dave is not beholden to any affiliation or interest group, and he should appeal broadly to the electorate. Dave can likely serve for as many terms as he desires.

Letters of recommendation by their nature necessarily tout a lot of the same virtues. Dave is well deserving of them. Most of all, Dave is genuinely a friendly, decent, and thoughtful person. Any attorney and party should be content drawing his name on their case.

Sincerely,

Roger T. Witt
rtw@uazh.com

R. HENRY BRANOM JR.
Attorney at Law
104 2nd Street South, Suite 301
Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 727-5328
(406) 727-4329 (FAX)

June 21, 2021

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

Re: David J. Grubich

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I write in support of David J. Grubich's application to the Eighth Judicial District bench. I have known Dave professionally and personally for over ten years. I believe he would make an outstanding judge.

I first met Dave when he interned for Faure Holden in 2009. I have had the opportunity to follow his career as he has developed into an outstanding attorney and now Standing Master. His performance as Standing Master clearly demonstrates he has the ability and temperament to be an excellent judge for the Eighth Judicial District. The Court would be fortunate to have someone with Dave's breadth of legal and life experiences on the bench. I am familiar with the Veteran's Treatment Court as I have had three clients graduate from the program. Dave contributes to the success of the program as Standing Master and will continue his involvement as a judge if appointed by the Governor.

Dave and his wife are members of the same church as my wife and me. We played together on the church's softball team. Dave has sung in the choir. Knowing Dave in this aspect of our lives outside of the legal practice reinforces my belief that he would be an excellent judge. All who would appear before him as a judge would receive a fair and impartial evaluation of their case. Cascade County would be fortunate to have Dave as a judge.

It is my pleasure to whole heartedly recommend David Grubich to you as a judge on the Eighth Judicial District Court. Please feel free to contact me should you need any additional information.

Very truly yours,

R. Henry Branom Jr.

R. Henry Branom Jr.

Slusser, Hannah

From: Jason Kunz <jason@speakingsocially.com>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:13 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich Judicial Application
Attachments: Grubich 8th Dist Judge Application.pdf; ATT00001.htm; PastedGraphic-4.tiff; ATT00002.htm

I am submitting this letter of recommendation for David Grubich for the position of District Judge of the 8th Judicial District. I have known David in a personal and professional capacity for many years. He is a great friend and father. In addition to being an active member of the community, he also does charitable work, volunteers for Eagle Mount, as well as many other small local groups that cater to the community. David's legal abilities speak for themselves, he has been a District Standing Master now for many years, an Associate Attorney, and lead counsel on many cases that have had a significant affect on litigation in Montana. While there are numerous other candidates for this position, I don't feel that any of them will be able to seamlessly integrate into the position as he would, let alone take on the job with the level of enthusiasm and professionalism that he would. The position would be a reward for a career that he has long strived for.

June 20, 2021

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 2000801
Helena, MT 59620

Members of the Commission,

This letter is in response to your request for public comment on the applicants for the vacant position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County). I am advocating for David J Grubich to fill this seat.

My name is Gaines McFadden, and I've been a resident of Great Falls, Montana since 1994. I was the Vice President of Deneuve Construction Services, based out of Boulder, Colorado. I retired in 2007, and have been a community volunteer in Great Falls, Montana since the late1990's.

My experience with David has been through the Board of Directors of Eagle Mount Great Falls. Eagle Mount Great Falls provides recreational and therapeutic activities for disabled children, adults, and veterans. I was a member of, and Chair of the board during the time period of 2008-2019. David provided pro bono legal services for Eagle Mount for a number of years, and in 2017, joined the board of directors. During the two years we served together on the Board, David provided invaluable legal and professional advice as we rewrote an employee handbook, and bylaws for the function of the board of directors. Both of these projects required significant time and energy to ensure all information and nuances of the organization were taken into consideration. David's experience in the legal field, his commitment to service to the community, and interest in furthering the mission of Eagle Mount were extraordinary, and our final product would not have been of the quality it was without David.

During David's tenure on the Eagle Mount Board, we developed a new program to provide services to Montana veterans experiencing the effects of PTSD. David's understanding of military service, as well as his experience in the courts, and his empathy for veterans, helped guide this project to fruition. During this time, David was a member of the Eagle Mount Board Personnel Committee, where he was instrumental in establishing fair and equitable guidelines for new processes and policies, relevant to employees and program participants.

As Board Chair, I relied on David's insight and advice to deal with employee and participant questions and issues, and was extremely grateful to have his level-headedness and intellect to draw upon. He was always willing to help, regardless of how busy his schedule might have been.

My description of David's qualifications for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District would include his dedication to service in our community, his ability to sort through information and distill it to the most pertinent factors, his written and verbal communication skills, his positive approach to problems, and his knowledge and experience in our legal system. I would be so proud to have him as our next district court judge.

Thank you.

Gaines McFadden
311 McIver Road
Great Falls, Montana 59404
406-788-8001

June 20, 2021

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 2000801
Helena, MT 59620

Members of the Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on behalf of David J. Grubich, applicant to fill the vacant position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade Country).

My name is Beth McFadden, and I've been a resident of Great Falls, Montana since 1994. I managed Contact Centers throughout the U.S. for a corporation based in Sterling, Virginia (N.E.W. Customer Service Companies, Inc.) from 2001-2014. We employed approximately 13,000 technical support and customer service representatives, with more than 600 of those located in Great Falls, Montana. From time to time, we'd have an employment law situation to deal with, and in Great Falls, we retained the law firm of Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C. David Grubich was assigned some of our cases in the 2010-2014 timeframe.

I found David to be exceptionally professional, well-informed, ethical, objective, and insightful when dealing with the situations for which we required his professional assistance. He was an extraordinary listener, had an amazing ability to retain pertinent facts, asked questions that most of us didn't think to ask, and was always willing to do whatever work necessary to resolve an issue.

I dealt with attorneys in many of our business locations, including Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Oregon, Florida and South Dakota, and felt David provided some of the highest quality counsel of all with whom we dealt. His thoroughness, sense of fairness, and responsiveness were second to none.

For the past three years, I've been a member of, and now Chair of the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors. Eagle Mount is a non-profit organization, providing therapeutic and recreational activities for disabled adults, children, and veterans. David also joined this board of directors in 2017, having provided pro bono legal advice to the organization prior to joining the Board.

David has been an invaluable member of the Board, and has become a "go to" person for the Executive Director and myself when difficult issues arise. David is known as a voice of reason, who gathers all of the facts, listens intently, and provides helpful, positive input whenever and wherever he can. He has been a very engaged board member, contributing expertise, energy and resources to further the mission of Eagle Mount. He finds time to participate in events, involves his family in the organization, and inspires other board members to do the same. We continue to be grateful for the time he has carved out of his busy professional and personal life to contribute to the success of Eagle Mount Great Falls.

In my estimation, David would be an excellent choice to fill the critically important position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District. My point of view is based on the David's qualities which I've observed in my interactions with him over the years. These include:

- Professionalism and objectivity exhibited at all times

- Adherence to highest ethical standards
- Excellent listener, gathering all facts before making recommendations
- Well-informed on subject matter, displaying thoroughness in gathering information
- Insightful and fair when bringing law into practical application
- Extraordinary ability to retain pertinent information and details
- Strong work ethic
- Commitment to service throughout our community
- Responsiveness and timeliness, whether for business or community service

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth McFadden
311 McIver Road
Great Falls, Montana 59404

406-788-1014

Robert F. James
332 Fox Drive
Great Falls, MT 5404

June 20, 2021

The Honorable Governor Greg Gianforte
State of Montana

The Advisory Counsel for Judicial Nominations
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: David Grubich

Dear Governor Gianforte and Members of the Advisory Counsel,

I retired from the law practice several years ago from the law firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, as a partner, where I specialized in civil trial litigation. Dave Grubich and I worked on many cases together and I observed him interact with clients.

Dave worked hard and had excellent people skills. He is one of the nicest people that I had the pleasure to work with in my career and I think he would be an excellent judge.

Many judges had a profession prior to attending law school and they had a diversity of life experiences. As lawyers, they handled different types of cases in their careers, and didn't specialize in one type of case. These wide-range of experiences helped them, in my opinion, evaluate cases. The same would be true for Dave.

In my forty plus years of practice, I found the best judges are fair, kind, patient, and are good listeners. In addition, they treat lawyers and the public politely, exercise common sense, have a good sense of humor, and can make a decision in a timely manner. A good judge is impartial, hard-working, and appreciates the importance that courts have in our society and how judges can significantly impact peoples' lives. Dave fits all of these qualifications.

What you see in Dave is what you will get if he is selected the district court judge. He's no chameleon and he will not change his principles to please others. Dave's experiences and personal standards will help him become an outstanding judge.

Sincerely yours,

Robert James

Robert F. James
406-868-8000

Slusser, Hannah

From: Eric Bailey <ebailey136@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 20, 2021 1:43 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of recommendation, David Grubich

Attn: Hanna Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT. 59620

Re: David Grubich, Standin
Master Jun
e 20th, 2021
Candidate for appointment to Montana Eighth Judicial District Court

Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter as a recommendation for the appointment of David Grubich to the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court. I first met Dave approximately two years ago when he was selected as the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District where I serve as Head of Security.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to observe his work from the bench and have found him to be fair, compassionate and equitable. I have found him to have the upmost respect for those appearing before him and his decisions are fair and balanced. As a former law enforcement officer, Dave has the experience in the criminal field that would enable him to be very effective in criminal court system. Dave has also demonstrated a strong work ethic and dedication to his work that I admire. I have served in law enforcement for approximately 20 years and considering the current situation we find ourselves in Cascade County, I believe David to be the best candidate for this current vacancy.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric J. Bailey
Deputy Sheriff,
Cascade County, MT.

Slusser, Hannah

From: Eric Borggard <puckman@bresnan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 22, 2021 8:01 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich Application for 8th District Court Judge

June 22, 2021

Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Attn: Hannah Slusser

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing with respect to David Grubich's application for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District (Cascade County). I am a Financial Advisor in Great Falls and I've lived and worked in the community since 1992. My association with David began with his involvement with Eagle Mount Great Falls, an organization dedicated to the advancement of recreational opportunities for disabled individuals. I was on the EMGF board for seven years until June of 2020.

Though David's formal involvement with EMGF began in 2017, he had been called upon to provide guidance to the organization's board and staff for some time before that. It was at this early juncture where David's objectivity and insight became apparent to me. It was clear that David's legal experience would be a tremendous asset to the organization but his compassion and civic-mindedness were attributes that made him a great fit for board involvement. He has contributed greatly to Eagle Mount's culture.

In the years that I've known David, I believe I've had the opportunity to witness how his assets could benefit the citizens of Cascade County. There are three specific attributes that I would like to highlight:

I have witnessed a man of integrity. He is a decent human being. David always kept the organization's mission squarely in focus and insisted on transparency and accountability at all times. I believe that his experience in the military and law enforcement may have helped to foster such keen ideals.

I have witnessed David's clarity of thought. His ability to analyze challenging problems and forge solutions is noteworthy. EMGF experienced some significant challenges in recent years and David's composure during stressful times provided great leadership.

Finally, I witnessed a guy who was willing to roll up his sleeves and get the dirty work done. He did not take responsibilities lightly, and whenever help was needed, David did whatever was necessary. I've seen board members shy away from the dirty work in the past, but David was the antithesis of such a person. His commitment to the EMGF mission was abundant.

The most useful way I could summarize my support would be this: if I were ever involved in a courtroom adjudication, more than anything else, I would want those charged with the execution of the law to be fair, honest and empathetic. In

my estimation, David exemplifies these traits and possesses a unique portfolio of personal and professional experience to illustrate that.

David has my wholehearted support in his application for district court judge.

Sincerely,
Eric Borggard
3404 Fern Drive
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 454-3790

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
#2 RAILROAD SQUARE, SUITE B
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JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER

ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

June 22, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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

RE: Eighth Judicial District Judge Position – David J. Grubich

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Standing Master David J. Grubich to be appointed as Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I believe Dave is uniquely qualified for this important position and request he be given strong consideration.

I have known Dave for over 10 years, not only as a colleague at Ugrin Alexander Zadick, PC, but as a board member on the Cascade County Law Clinic, and as a friend. In my experience, Dave approaches any task with 100% effort. As an attorney, Dave was respected by the court, opposing counsel and the parties in each case. He was prepared, well versed in the facts and law of the case, and approached every matter in a highly professional manner. Dave encouraged a team environment and his sense of humor brought much needed levity and perspective to us all.

In addition to Dave's dedication to his legal work, Dave's involvement in his community is unprecedent. In our work on the Cascade County Law Clinic board, I quickly learned Dave is an active board member who is always willing to step up to assist. Dave recognized the extreme importance of pro bono legal representation in Cascade County and in addition to serving on the board, volunteered his time to represent several clients in family law matters. This work was recognized by his peers when

he received the Judge Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award from the Cascade County Bar Association in February 2017.

Since Dave became Standing Master, I have witnessed Dave's growth and development. While I have not had the pleasure of practicing in front of him, I have spoken with other practitioners who have, and I was not surprised to learn how respected he is in the position. Dave is amiable and personable. He has a reputation for timely decisions and a calm demeanor. He is prepared and demonstrates a civility that is needed when dealing with contentious cases. His energy and regard for others is just what our judicial system needs.

Finally, Dave's love for his wife, Valerie, and son, Evan, is unmeasurable. He is truly a family man, who always places his family's needs above his own.

Dave's broad legal practice and recent service as Standing Master make him uniquely qualified for the position of District Court Judge. Dave's diverse life experiences, and commitment to the community, not only enhances his ability as a judge, but I also believe such experience will resonate with the voters of Cascade County in the 2022 election.

Dave has a great temperament, is conscientious, and hard-working. Dave will be compassionate, while still dispensing fair and just rulings. I believe his empathy, as well as his common sense and dedication to the pursuit of justice, makes him well suited for the job. I have no doubt our community will be well served to have Dave appointed as District Court Judge. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan Y. Crosby
jyc@uazh.com

3105 Kingwood Court
Great Falls, Montana 59404

June 21, 2021

Governor Greg Gianforte
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL TO: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I write this letter in support of Dave Grubich's application for appointment as Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. As City Attorney for the City of Great Falls, I recognize the magnitude and importance of your decision for the Great Falls community. I personally believe that if you appoint him, Dave will embody the temperament, intellect, dedication, strength and compassion required of an excellent and fair District Court Judge.

Dave has a diverse background which serves him well. Before entering the legal profession, Dave was a Security Specialist in the United States Air Force, a police officer, and a small business owner. Through these experiences he served our country honorably and gained valuable and varied experiences. These experiences suit him in his current position as standing master for the Eighth Judicial District Court and will help him in as a District Court Judge.

I first met Dave in 2010, at the start of his legal career. I have observed him commendably advocating for his clients while maintaining professional and civil relationships with opposing counsel. After leaving private practice and becoming District Court standing master, he has utilized his comprehensive experience with strident integrity, essential for a fair-minded judge.

Since first being stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in the 1990s, Dave has embraced the Great Falls community as his hometown. After returning to Great Falls in 2010, Dave devoted considerable effort and energy to the betterment of the Great Falls community, including volunteering at Eagle Mount and assisting citizens who needed pro bono legal representation through the Cascade County Law Clinic. As District Court Judge, he will continue to help keep Great Falls a safe and welcoming community.

I urge you to appoint Dave Grubich as the next Eighth Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Sara R. Sexe

Sara R. Sexe

David Grubich Recommendation Letter

Dear Sir, Mam

My wife and I have known David Grubich for 5 years. David first represented us in a messy employee unemployment claim. Since then we have grown to know David and his family. We have sought his advice numerous times over the years and grown to trust his impartial counsel. David has a real talent for sifting thru information to find the truth and its relevance to the law. We believe his level headed nonpolitical approach to the law would be a true asset to the 8th Judicial District Court.

Respectfully

Dale & Boungyob Yonkin

CHURCH HARRIS
JOHNSON & WILLIAMS P.C.
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Providing Legal Counsel Since 1911

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KAREN L. REIFF*
AMBER L. STENSON
RACHEL A. TAYLOR
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G.G. HARRIS (1883-1973)
BJARNE JOHNSON (1917-2007)
CARTER WILLIAMS (1916-2013)

OF COUNSEL:
E. EDWIN ECK
W. BJARNE JOHNSON*
GREGORY R. SCHWANDT*
JEANNIE YOUNG

ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

GREAT FALLS • HELENA

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June 21, 2021

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

VIA E-MAIL (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Recommendation of David Grubich – Montana Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in wholehearted support of David J. Grubich's application for the state district court position in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court for Cascade County. His broad professional and educational background uniquely prepare him to serve as a state district court judge. That multi-faceted background includes his current service as the District Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County (including assignments as a judge on the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court), his experience as an attorney and litigator in private practice, his service as a member of the U.S. Air Force and later as a policeman, and his experience as a business owner.

I have known Dave and his wife Valerie for ten years, and my wife and I are proud to count them as friends. I first got to know Dave while he was an attorney in the Great Falls law firm of *Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, & Higgins, P.C.* Dave is highly respected by his peers and in private practice enjoyed the reputation of being an intelligent, professional, hard-working and honest advocate for his clients. As an attorney myself who has practiced for forty years, I value fellow attorneys who are trustworthy, prepared, and ethical. Dave has those qualities in abundance. I know him to be a person of the utmost integrity. He is fair-minded, courteous, and thoughtful. He has a history of selfless service to his community and to others as is reflected by his receipt in 2017 of the Judge Robert T. Goff Pro Bono Award by the Cascade County Bar Association for countless hours spent in legal representation of low income clients while he was in private practice, and by his generous devotion of time to nonprofit organizations including the Cascade County Law Clinic and Eagle Mount.

Dave has the temperament, intelligence, and work ethic to make an excellent district court judge. His well-rounded experience in civil litigation while in private practice complimented with his experience in family law and criminal law matters while serving as the District Standing Master will suit him ideally to serve as a district court judge on a court of general jurisdiction.

I give Dave Grubich my highest recommendation for appointment as Cascade County's next district court judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Johnson
Attorney at Law

Magdalena C. Bowen
542 East Kagy Blvd.
Bozeman, MT 59715

June 17, 2021

nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Application of David Grubich for 8th Judicial District Court Judge, Cascade County, Montana

Dear Governor,

I have been a member of the judiciary as the Standing Master in the 18th Judicial District Court, Gallatin County for the last 10 years. As part of my duties I regularly communicate and interface with the other Standing Masters appointed throughout the state to assist the District Court Judges with their caseloads. During my tenure I have had the opportunity to work with David Grubich in his position as the Standing Master in Cascade County for the past three years. We have enjoyed sharing our expertise and insight into the cases we are assigned and adjudicate. Mr. Grubich is straightforward, sincere, thoughtful and a team player. He is guided by a strong work ethic and respect for the legal system and the litigants who appear before him. His personal and professional conduct instills confidence in our legal system.

Mr. Grubich has the even temperament for a judicial officer. He has the ability to listen carefully, to be guided by the law and logic, to craft a workable solution, and to diligently address difficult circumstances in an emotionally charged setting.

Mr. Grubich now desires to utilize his legal expertise in the role of Cascade County District Court Judge. He is an excellent candidate and I fully support his nomination.

Sincerely yours,

Magdalena C. Bowen

MONTANA FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA, MT 59802
gailb@mt.gov

PHONE: (406) 258-4728
FAX: (406) 258-4739

STATE OF MONTANA

GAIL BOURGUIGNON
STANDING MASTER

June 17, 2021

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

RE: District Court Judge Candidate David Grubich

Dear Governor Gianforte:

This letter is meant to offer my support for Standing Master David Grubich's application to fill the current judicial vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

My current professional role is as one of two Standing Masters in the Fourth Judicial District. Prior to assuming this role, I served families of Missoula as an advocate with the Office of Public Defender's Conflict Division. I have also served as Guardian ad Litem and Mediator for over a decade, assisting primarily with Family Law and Child Welfare Matters.

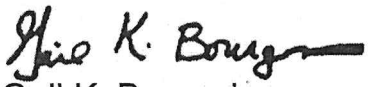
District Courts preside over a diverse array of legal issues. Dave's legal career thus far equips him to meet that challenge on day one. While in private practice, he gained extensive and broad experience through diverse civil litigation. During his nearly three years serving as Standing Master, he has complemented this civil experience by presiding over a caseload dominated by Family Law cases. Dave has embraced this responsibility and has quickly become not only competent, but a valuable statewide Family Law resource to both the Bar and the Judiciary. Dave has also gained valuable experience with Criminal matters. He demonstrates an insightful perspective on challenging issues facing our communities at large, as well as those more unique to the criminal justice system.

In my current position, I have the privilege of counting David Grubich as a colleague and a mentor. My observations of Dave are that he is diligent, thorough, and approachable. He takes his responsibility to the community seriously and

gives thoughtful attention to any matter brought before him. As a colleague, he is generous with him time and expertise. His process of listening, analyzing an issue and visualizing strategies and solutions is ideally suited to the role of District Court Judge.

In brief, I believe that David Grubich is an optimal choice to fill the vacancy in the Eighth Judicial District and would surely prove himself to be one of Montana's finest examples of professional and compassionate administration of justice.

Sincerely,



Gail K. Bourguignon
Standing Master, 4th Judicial District Court

Kim Morris

DEPUTY CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
415 2ND AVENUE NORTH, ROOM 200A
GREAT FALLS MT 59401

June 17, 2021

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

Dear Governor, Gianforte:

This letter is to support your nomination of David J. Grubich for the open position on the Eighth Judicial District Court.

My Name is Kim Morris I have worked as a deputy clerk for 1 year and I have had the pleasure of working with Standing Master David Grubich.

Let me start off by saying I have never worked in the court system before.

The Standing Master has been very patient, understanding, helpful. He has made this a great Experience and enjoyable one.

He is well respected by all in the courthouse, Lawyers, staff, petitioner's/plaintiff's, and defendants/respondents.

I have personally seen him in court he is very much in control and is understanding, caring, and listens. He handles himself in very professional manor.

I am very happy to work with the Standing Master David J. Grubich, He has taught me a lot and help me understand the court room.

He handles large case load with no stress.

He is very fair and consistent in the way he deals with individuals in the court room.

Mr. Grubich is highly respected in the legal community in Cascade County.
He would be an excellent choice for district court judge. He will be a credit to the bench.

More fundamentally I see Mr. Grubich as a loving husband and father. He is well mannered, polite, well spoken, understanding, fair. He would be my first choice as District Court judge.

Sincerely,
Kim Morris

June 17, 2021

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Recommendation for David Grubich For Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my honor to recommend David Grubich for a position as District Court Judge. I have known him since 2012 as I have had the opportunity to work as his legal assistant for 6 years. David Grubich is an excellent choice to fill your vacancy. He is honest, fair and has a remarkable work ethic and yet makes time to be involved in many aspects of the community he lives in.

Dave's background as a military member, small business owner, volunteer and Standing Master to name a few, make him the perfect choice to serve as a District Court Judge. His compassion for others is evident in many of his life experiences.

I am confident that he would do an outstanding job serving Cascade County as a District Court Judge. If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please feel free to contact me at your convenience via the contact information below. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Smith
Legal Assistant
Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C.
406-771-0007
mas@uazh.com

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

JORDAN Y. CROSBY
KEVIN C. MEEK
ANDREW T. NEWCOMER

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Website http://uazh.com

ROGER T. WITT
GARY M. ZADICK
JAMES R. ZADICK

June 16, 2021

Via Email Only: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

Re: Eighth Judicial District Court Judicial Opening – David Grubich

Dear Members of the Council:

I am writing in support of the application of David Grubich for the Eighth Judicial District Court vacancy.

David has judicial experience as a Standing Master. David also has a solid background of civil experience which will also be valuable and allow him to hit the ground running in a very busy judicial district.

Judicial temperament is at the top of my list of qualifications and David has displayed very good judicial temperament in his capacity as a Standing Master. He is also committed to serving the Eighth Judicial District Court for the long term which is also an important consideration.

I appreciate your time and attention and recommend David Grubich to you for appointment to the position.

Sincerely,

UGRIN ALEXANDER ZADICK, P.C.

Gary M. Zadick

Gary M. Zadick

CHURCH HARRIS
JOHNSON & WILLIAMS P.C.
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Providing Legal Counsel Since 1911

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ADMINISTRATOR:
SCOTT A. RUBINO

*LL.M. (Taxation)

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June 16, 2021

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

VIA E-MAIL (nominatejudges@mt.gov)

Re: Recommendation of David Grubich – Montana Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in wholehearted support of David J. Grubich's application for the state district court position in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court for Cascade County. His broad professional and educational background uniquely prepare him to serve as a state district court judge. That multi-faceted background includes his current service as the District Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County (including assignments as a judge on the Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Treatment Court), his experience as an attorney and litigator in private practice, his service as a member of the U.S. Air Force and later as a policeman, and his experience as a business owner.

I have known Dave and his wife Valerie for ten years, and my wife and I are proud to count them as friends. I first got to know Dave while he was an attorney in the Great Falls law firm of *Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, & Higgins, P.C.* Dave is highly respected by his peers and in private practice enjoyed the reputation of being an intelligent, professional, hard-working and honest advocate for his clients. As an attorney myself who has practiced for forty years, I value fellow attorneys who are trustworthy, prepared, and ethical. Dave has those qualities in abundance. I know him to be a person of the utmost integrity. He is fair-minded, courteous, and thoughtful. He has a history of selfless service to his community and to others as is reflected by his receipt in 2017 of the Judge Robert T. Goff Pro Bono Award by the Cascade County Bar Association for countless hours spent in legal representation of low income clients while he was in private practice, and by his generous devotion of time to nonprofit organizations including the Cascade County Law Clinic and Eagle Mount.

Dave has the temperament, intelligence, and work ethic to make an excellent district court judge. His well-rounded experience in civil litigation while in private practice complimented with his experience in family law and criminal law matters while serving as the District Standing Master will suit him ideally to serve as a district court judge on a court of general jurisdiction.

I give Dave Grubich my highest recommendation for appointment as Cascade County's next district court judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Johnson
Attorney at Law

Agamenoni & Frank Court Reporting

Dear Commission Members:

June 16th, 2021

My name is Joanie Agamenoni. I am a free-lance court reporter in Great Falls, Montana. I have seen my share of attorneys, their style, their strengths, their weaknesses over my 30-plus year career. So when Dave Grubich informed me he would be applying for the vacated seat of Judge Gregory Pinski in the Eighth Judicial District Court, I wanted to take an opportunity to share my thoughts about Dave.

I first met Dave informally in 2009 when he interned for Faure Holden, but I really came to know Dave when he became an associate with the firm of Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick & Higgins. When reporting a deposition for Dave, I knew it would be a good day. Dave was always prepared and very well organized. His even temperament; respect for others; strong, but calm, caring demeanor helped make the depositions run smoothly.

As I got to know Dave over the years, I came to know his eclectic background. I think this background from service to our country, law enforcement, small business owner, to civil litigation attorney has served him well and adds to his wealth of knowledge about so many different areas. But it is his current job as standing master that truly stands out as the natural transition to serve as the next judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

Dave's work ethic and caring ways are truly highlighted in his involvement in the Cascade County Law Clinic, serving on the board of directors and the pro bono work he has done over the years. Dave's commitment to ensuring citizens who cannot afford an attorney are fairly represented in the court system earned him the Robert P. Goff Pro Bono Award by the Cascade County Bar Association in 2017.

Devotion to community is also a value Dave possesses, which can be highlighted by his many volunteer positions, serving as President of the Cascade County Bar Association, and becoming involved in the Veterans Court.

But if you really want to see Dave's face light up, ask him about his family, his wife and son. Dave is truly a family man.

Hard worker, fair, devoted, caring, organized, respectful, well-rounded, knowledgeable are just a few of the characteristics I see in Dave that make a great judge. So it is without hesitation I ask you to nominate David J. Grubich to serve as our next Eighth Judicial District Judge.

Sincerely,

Joan P. Agamenoni

410 Central Avenue • Suite 603 • P.O. Box 3008 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3008 • Phone 406.727.7272 • Fax 406.454.0360
courtreporting@strainbld.com

Sandy Webb
3500 Coyote Lane
Great Falls, MT 59404

June 16, 2021

Governor's Office
ATTN: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Dave Grubich for District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District, Cascade County. I supported Dave in his prior application for this position, and I still strongly believe he is the best and most qualified candidate.

I am a paralegal and bookkeeper and have worked in the legal field for almost 40 years. I worked with Dave at the Ugrin Alexander Zadick firm here in Great Falls for eight years and came to know him and his family pretty well.

I believe Dave is the best candidate for this position for many reasons, including

- His legal knowledge. Dave is an excellent attorney, knowledgeable and was focused on the best outcome for his client. He will follow the law and not let other matters cloud his judgment..

- His employment history. Dave's background in the military, law enforcement, as a lawyer, and as a Standing Master gives him vast experience in dealing with civil and criminal matters, as well as issues regarding family law, youth, and veterans. He's worked in the public sector and private sector. He is well qualified for this position.

- His moral and ethical standards. Dave is honest, fair, and hard-working. He always treated his clients, other attorneys, and co-workers with respect. He can be firm and direct in making a decision, while getting his point across in a respectful manner. He was always cognizant of adhering to the Rules of Professional Conduct and his ethical standards are second to none.

- His demeanor. Along with knowledge and experience, Dave also has common sense, and he stays calm and level-headed in the midst of dealing with conflicts

between parties and attorneys. His manner puts people at ease and he communicates well with people.

- For all the above reasons, Dave is well-known and respected in this community. His involvement in various organizations in Great Falls for many years now shows me his commitment and the integrity he would bring to the judiciary in Cascade County.

I strongly urge you to appoint David Grubich as the next District Court Judge for the 8th Judicial District in Cascade County.

Thank you.

Sandy Webb

Sandy Webb

June 16, 2021

Governor's Office
Attention: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing in support of David J. Grubich, who has applied for the position of district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

My name is Kelly Maki, and I am a retired elementary principal with Great Falls Public Schools. I am currently on the Board of Directors with Eagle Mount Great Falls. Eagle Mount Great Falls is a nonprofit organization which provides therapeutic activities for disabled children, adults, and veterans. I met David when he joined the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors in 2017.

While serving on the Board with David, I have been impressed with his dedication to the organization and his experience and knowledge with veteran and personnel issues. David has been a tireless supporter of Eagle Mount Great Falls and the program participants. He brings many skills to the table, and his commitment to our community is evident.

David's strengths, which I have witnessed through our work with Eagle Mount, are many:

- He is an excellent listener and has an ability to organize and synthesize information quickly.
- David is very professional and respectful of those with whom he is working.
- He is approachable, sincere, and easy to talk to.
- Obviously a hard-worker and very organized, David always lends a hand and supports the goals and activities that have been established.
- David has enthusiasm and energy. He is a positive thinker and influence on the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors.

I feel that David is an excellent choice for district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to share my support of David.

Sincerely,

Kelly Maki
3008 Dawn Court
Great Falls, MT 59404
(406) 868-8614

Slusser, Hannah

From: Bob Pfennigs <bpfennigs@jardinelaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:30 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Dave Grubich

I would like to express my wholehearted support for Dave Grubich as the next Cascade County judge. I have practiced law in Cascade County for nearly 33 years. I have had experience with Dave both in his capacity as a private attorney representing clients and as the standing master for the Eighth Judicial District. I have always found Dave to be hard working, level headed, impartial and fair.
His dual experience both inside and outside of the courtroom make him well suited for the position. He is more than capable of hitting the ground running and is also more than capable of tackling the diverse caseload he will be faced with.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Bob Pfennigs

The e-mail message above is intended to be a private, privileged and confidential communication from an attorney, intended for the named addressee only. If it has reached some other person, please destroy the message and notify the sender, identified below, of the misdelivery:

Bob Pfennigs
Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett & Weaver, P.C.
300 Central Avenue, Seventh Floor
P.O. Box 2269
Great Falls, MT 59403

tel: (406) 727-5000
direct: (406) 731-5546
fax: (406) 761-4273
bpfennigs@jardinelaw.com

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

June 15, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter in support of Standing Master David Grubich's candidacy for District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have practiced criminal defense as an Assistant Public Defender for five years in six different Montana counties and I currently represent felony Defendants in all four departments of the Eighth Judicial District.

Standing Master Grubich has been an enthusiastic supporter of the collective passion for public service in the law which shows us he has the right intentions for the job. Though Standing Master Grubich's prior lengthy career as law enforcement may give me some pause as a defense attorney, my decision to support Standing Master Grubich boils down to three qualities I value most in a judge: judicial temperament, impartiality, and scholarship of the law. Above all, I believe he will be most fair to both sides of the aisle.

First and foremost, I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses a level-headed temperament that no other candidate rivals. I have appeared before Standing Master Grubich at initial appearances and have come to know him as thoughtful, calm, and an astute balancer of statutory factors to strike the right balance on bail. I have never seen Standing Master Grubich lose his temper and he has always treated every person appearing in his Court with respect.

I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses a strong ethical compass and commitment to impartiality. Standing Master Grubich employs analytical reasoning of Montana law and matters of fundamental fairness. Standing Master Grubich will provide the Court with the essential rationale and skillset to be a fair and impartial judge. Though my experience with family law matters before Standing Master Grubich are extremely limited, I know him to be a considerate and concerned referee in a field where emotions often run high. I believe his experience adjudicating family law matters leave him well-equipped to manage and decide equally sensitive matters involving abuse and neglect cases – of which Cascade County has no shortage.

Finally, I believe Standing Master Grubich possesses the hunger for knowledge and scholarship necessary to tackle challenging cases. Grubich is studious and will not "shoot from the hip," so to speak, when it comes to issuing a legal ruling on its merits. I also believe that he will not be a "rubber stamp" for the State and will hold the government accountable. I have faith that Grubich will research the issue, study the law, and apply the law justly. I believe his desire to serve the public uniquely position Standing Master Grubich to provide the necessary leadership and composure befitting of a District Court Judge.

My personal philosophy of what makes a great attorney and/or judge involves the following characteristics: knowledge, skill, and integrity. Standing Master Grubich's professional reputation supports the contention that he exhibits all these characteristics and more in the courtroom and beyond. Therefore, I submit my humble recommendation for Standing Master David Grubich to fill the vacant bench of Montana's Eighth Judicial District.

Sincerely,

/s/ Claire Lettow

Claire Lettow
Attorney at Law

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

RE: Public Comment on 12th Judicial District Court Judge- Letter of Support for David Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing this letter in support for David Grubich for the 8th Judicial District Court Judge. The Cascade County community has a long history of having independent district court judges that possessed the right temperament, value and integrity so the rule of law was respected in an ever-changing legal environment. David Grubich will be able to continue that legacy.

I had the pleasure to write to this Commission two years ago regarding the Hon. Kaydee Snipes-Ruiz in the 12th Judicial District Court. I currently work at the Montana State Office of Public Defender, Region 3, in Great Falls, Montana as an attorney. I represent clients in felony criminal cases, dependent neglect cases, juvenile and involuntary commitment cases in the 8th Judicial District Court. As a practicing attorney in 8th Judicial District Court, I feel I have an obligation to write this even if it has negative repercussions on my practice because of the importance this position has.

Why in support of David Grubich:

I have had the pleasure of practicing in front of David Grubich in his capacity as the Standing Master for the 8th Judicial District Court. I have always been impressed with Standing Master Grubich's judicial temperament. Standing Master Grubich never gets too high or too low with the parties. He does not let prejudice, passion or anger rule his thought process. Standing Master Grubich takes the facts and the rule of law to decide his decisions. I will admit that the first time practicing in front of Standing Master Grubich during an initial appearance, I was skeptical that his previous experience with law enforcement would slant his thinking and not give my client a fair shake. I found the opposite to be true. I have personally witnessed him treat attorneys on both sides of a case with respect. If he is chosen for the position, I know he would carry that same mentality as a district court judge.

Standing Master Grubich truly understands the Cascade County community. His experience handling family law and dependent neglect cases is going to be a real benefit in those caseloads. As this Commission is probably aware that Cascade County has one of the highest filings per capita of dependent neglect cases in the State of Montana. Those cases typically have families that face systematic barriers to achieve an amicable resolution. Standing Master Grubich is the person that already has a pulse on the hurdles Cascade County families face.

Standing Master Grubich also has the requisite experience to handle the Cascade County civil litigation case load that often gets puts on the back burner. Standing Master Grubich will not ignore these cases and will be able to effectively handle complex civil litigation. His years of experience working at Ugrin, Alexander and Zadick, P.C. gave him a wealth of experience of handling broad array of civil litigation issues. I have the utmost confidence he will be able to handle these types of cases as judge.

The other real benefit to Standing Master Grubich being the district court judge is that he already regularly assists the other district court judges and appears to have a good working relationship with all of them. I believe he will be able to effectively work with the other judges on calendaring, logistical, local rules and other issues that arise when multiple judges are in a district. As a litigator that is often in Court four days a week in all four departments it would be frustrating to me in recent years when the judges would appear to be in squabbles over certain issues. It would negatively affect my legal practice because when the judges would be in disagreement, I would be in a difficult position of either having to be in two places at once or not truly understanding what trial had priority when they both were scheduled for the same day. Standing Master Grubich will collaboratively work with the other district court judges to avoid these issues.

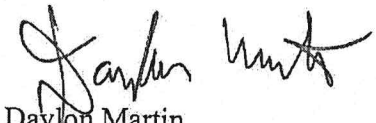
Judicial candidates that give me pause:

As a public defender, I work with under privileged people. In most of my cases, I am representing the underdog. Nothing is more frustrating for me as an attorney when it has felt judges are not being even handed in their rulings. It is frustrating when judges appear to have obvious bias. It is frustrating when a judge does not truly understand my client's socio-economic struggles. I believe the committee should consider staying away from candidates that have been career prosecutors or became prosecutors for political reasons. Not only does it cause a huge pause on the criminal calendar because the conflict of interests, but it can give an appearance of impropriety. I believe it to be a better choice for the Governor to stay away from that and go with someone more even handed.

Concluding Remarks:

I appreciate the time the Commission took to read my public comment on these two candidates. I truly believe that David Grubich is the right person for appointment as the 8th Judicial District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Daylon Martin
Attorney of Law
Office of the State Public Defender

LUINSTRA LAW OFFICE

ATTORNEY AT LAW

14 FIFTH STREET SOUTH
P.O. BOX 3169
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403

GREGORY A. LUINSTRA

PARALEGAL:
MARY P. LUINSTRA

PHONE: (406) 761-4800
FAX: (406) 761-4804

June 14, 2021

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

Re: *David J. Grubich Application for District Judge, Cascade County, Montana*

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I am writing in support of the application of David J. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County, Montana.

I have known David for the last ten years while he was in private practice in Great Falls. He is currently serving as Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court. My connection with Mr. Grubich is in his capacity as the Standing Master, rather than as a lawyer. My practice areas were different than his as a private litigator. I do know he enjoyed a great reputation among his colleagues.

Dave had a broad scope of legal experience as a litigator for the Ugrin firm in Great Falls, in different sectors, in complex cases and with numerous parties. His trial experience will be a great asset to the judicial system. I believe his legal and life experiences before he was a lawyer will serve him well in handling the many and varied issues that courts now need to address. He has handled numerous types of cases as Standing Master. He is well suited to and understands the needs of the Court. He can step right into the shoes of a district court judge.

David is a considerate person, wise, with a good judicial temperament. David will be a good complement to the judges in the Eighth Judicial District.

I heartily endorse his application for the Judge position.

Very truly yours,

LUINSTRA LAW OFFICE

Greg A. Luinstra

GAL:mpl

cc: David J. Grubich

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

Re: Candidate David J. Grubich
Vacancy for District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District

June 13, 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I write to offer my full support for David J. Grubich to be appointed District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial District. I have had the pleasure of working with Dave for the past two and a half years and I can undoubtably say that he is the best fit candidate to fill the vacancy for Cascade County's District Court Judge. I acknowledge that there may be other qualified individuals applying for this position, but what sets David Grubich apart from the rest is his exceptional ability to maintain a calm disposition. For a District Court Judge I believe it is crucial to remain levelheaded and patient because most of the time we are dealing with Pro-Se litigants who have little to no knowledge of the court system. And despite the rigorous case load and the everyday stresses that come with his position as Standing Master, he has demonstrated on numerous occasions that no matter the case presented in front of him, he is able to set aside any personal biases he may have and make fair, impartial rulings.

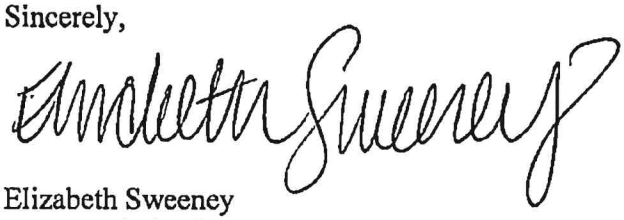
Having worked with Dave as my position of Deputy Clerk of District Court, I can personally attest to his ability to treat not just myself, but also our fellow court staff, attorneys, and Pro-Se litigants with respect, compassion, and understanding. This has created a pleasant work environment because even as mistakes are made, he does not admonish us for our errors

but rather guides us on how to correct them. These are especially important qualities for a Judge to possess when handling family law cases because an open-minded, compassionate individual is who you would want overseeing matters that involve children.

In conclusion, David Grubich has been both successfully and exceptionally fulfilling his role as Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District and I truly believe that if given the opportunity, he will succeed as a District Court Judge and surpass any and all expectations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Sweeney
Deputy Clerk of Court

Slusser, Hannah

From: Faye McWilliams <civilfaye@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2021 11:43 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich

Hello,

I'm writing on behalf of David Grubich to strongly recommend that the Judicial Nomination Committee appoint him as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District in Cascade County.

I had the pleasure of working with Dave when he was hired in 2018 as the Standing Master, up until my retirement as Cascade County Clerk of Court in January of 2019. My career in the Clerk of Court Office spanned 18 years, so I also knew Dave when he was a practicing attorney.

Dave hit the ground running when he was hired as a Standing Master and was not deterred by the huge caseload. The position had previously been vacant and our office had been inundated with calls concerning domestic relation cases. It didn't take Dave long before he had the caseload up to date. Dave was always available when needed and I especially appreciated his experience and expertise whenever I reached out to him.

I can't express enough what a pleasure it was to work with Dave. It's people like him that I miss since my retirement. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide additional information regarding Dave's ability to successfully serve Cascade County as District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Faye McWilliams

Sent from my iPhone

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

June 11, 2021

Dear Governor Gregory R. Gianforte,

I am writing to highly recommend David J. Grubich to become the next Eighth Judicial Judge for Department A. I have been employed with the Eighth Judicial District Courthouse since 2015. I started as a Deputy Clerk of Court for the Honorable Judge Gregory G. Pinski for two years and then I worked for the previous Standing Master Kathleen D. Jensen as her Judicial Assistant for one year. I have had the pleasure of working with Standing Master David J. Grubich since he began his journey as the Eighth Judicial District Standing Master in 2018. There are several characteristics I have observed that make me believe he is the best candidate for Eighth Judicial Judge for Department A.

Firstly, as we began working with one another, we were able to create a system that works for us as a team. Throughout that process he was very patient and understanding. He is a joy to work with because he sets a positive and engaging work environment every day. David Grubich is always open for new suggestions to improve the working process. David Grubich's commitment to his work is impeccable. He is efficient and organized in executing every well thought out order in a timely fashion.

As the Standing Master of the Eighth Judicial District he mainly presides over family law. Although, he is always at the ready when the Eighth District Court Judges call upon him as they require assistance with juvenile detentions, initial appearances, arraignments and answers, youth in need of care, and has also acted as mediator for other family law cases. I always observed positive relationships and interactions between Standing Master Grubich and the Eighth Judicial District Judges. David Grubich treats every courthouse staff member with the utmost respect and with dignity.

Finally, David Grubich has shown his ability to handle the most difficult family law cases as the Standing Master. He has the willingness to do what the law requires even though the course he must follow may not necessarily be the popular one. David Grubich maintains order in his courtroom at all times. He communicates with counsel, witnesses, and parties calmly, courteously, and clearly. He demonstrates his open mindedness with every matter, looking at every possible angle which some angles I would never have thought of.

I am very fortunate to be working for such a humble, dedicated, reliable, and compassionate person. David Grubich has already been a great addition and asset to our community as the Standing Master. He will only excel and succeed for our community further as the next Eight Judicial District Court Judge. For the above characteristics, I confidently recommend David Grubich becoming the Eighth Judicial District Judge for Department A.

Sincerely,

Mersady Gondeiro
Judicial Assistant to the
Honorable District Standing Master

Slusser, Hannah

From: Michael Doggett <mike@doggettlawoffice.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 8:34 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Recommendation for Michele Levine and David Grubich
Attachments: image001.jpg

To whom it may concern,

Below, please find letters of recommendation for David Grubich and Michele Levine that I previously submitted. I think that the comments in the letter still apply and I wholeheartedly endorse both of them for district judge:

> "Dear Judicial Nomination Commission,
>
> I am writing to provide my endorsement for both Michele Levine and David Grubich as nominees forwarded by the Judicial Nomination Commission to the governor for the district court position in the 8th judicial district.
>
> Michele Levine has distinguished herself as an effective advocate and someone who genuinely cares about the struggles of everyday Montanans. Michele has developed such an expertise in personal injury law that I often ask her questions about specific doctors or medical professionals practicing in Great Falls and Helena. Prior to law school, Michele was a legislator and has a diverse background that will serve the court well. Michele has the temperament required to be a district court judge.
>
> David Grubich would make a good judge. David is a veteran of the air force and a former police officer. He has the practical experience necessary to take over Judge Pinski's veteran's court. David is competent and also has a great temperament that will serve the Court well.
>
> Ultimately, it will be up to the governor to decide who will serve [as judge] but Michele and David should be among the names for the governor to choose from."

Michael C. Doggett
DOGGETT LAW OFFICES, P.L.L.C.
2120 S. Reserve St., #130
Missoula, MT 59801
(406) 442-1160 (Tel)
(406) 350-7856 (Fax)
mike@doggettlawoffice.net

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FLAHERTY || GALLARDO
LAWYERS

Patrick Flaherty
Daniel Flaherty
Paul Gallardo
1026 First Ave. South
P.O. Box 1968
Great Falls, MT 59403
Phone: (406) 727-8494
Fax: (406) 727-8537

June 10, 2021

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter in Support for David Grubich

Dear Judicial Nomination Committe

I strongly support David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Mr. Grubich since his early years in private practice. Throughout those years, and into his tenure as a Standing Master, he has kept the same public image – intelligent, good-natured, humble, reasonable, fair, and hard-working. In private practice, Mr. Grubich worked for Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, P.C., one of the most well-respected firms. Even while working on complicated matters and maintaining a full case load, he was known for helping others less fortunate through pro bono work, and received public recognition for his pro bono efforts. And now as a Standing Master, he is known for treating those before him with respect, ensuring litigants and attorneys are heard, and providing well-reasoned analysis into his decisions.

Like myself, David Grubich served in the United States Air Force. I can attest that he still embodies the Air Force core values of Excellence, Integrity, and Service Before Self in his everyday life. I have no doubt he will continue exhibiting these values as our newest District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Paul Gallardo

pat@greatfallsfirm.com daniel@greatfallsfirm.com paul@greatfallsfirm.com
greatfallsfirm.com

CHAPTER 13 TRUSTEE
ROBERT G. DRUMMOND
P. O. BOX 1829
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA 59403
TELEPHONE: (406) 761-8600
FAX: (406) 453-4663
E-MAIL: Trustee@MTChapter13.com

June 7, 2021

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

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I have practiced law in Great Falls for over 30 years. Based on my experience, I am convinced that David J. Grubich is the best candidate for the open position on the Eighth Judicial District Court. Mr. Grubich's experience in state court as an attorney representing clients in private practice as well as a Standing Master make him well suited for the position. Mr. Grubich has a breadth of practical knowledge that lends depth to his experience including a patrol officer and investigator for a police department. His breadth of experience in both criminal and family matters is well suited to the state court bench.

More fundamentally, Mr. Grubich is a good husband, father and family man. He is fair and impartial. I am certain he will be a credit to the bench.

Very truly yours,

CHAPTER 13 STANDING TRUSTEE

Robert G. Drummond

RGD:tmf

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

June 5, 2021

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I would like to submit this letter of my support for David Grubich for the position of district court judge for the Eight Judicial District (Cascade County).

I first met David Grubich after becoming a Volunteer for Veterans Treatment Court, 8th Judicial District. Dave was coined and sworn in as a mentor for the participants. As a volunteer for Veterans Treatment Court, under Judge Greg Pinski, I was honored to take photos and write stories of support for some of the participates and post them when they successfully completed the program.

I have worked with Veterans Outreach over 25 years in our Great Falls area and was married to a Vietnam Veteran. I was the secretary of our first CIT Advisory Board in Great Falls; Secretary MHA, for almost nine years, Great Falls; Secretary for the State Mental Health Executive Board for three years; 12 years with the Vets4Vets 5 years as their secretary and working year-round with our veterans on the streets of Great Falls and Cascade County. I also was a past volunteer, DAV, at the Great Falls Vet Center when it opened working on the front desk.

It takes special hearts on a team working with persons overcoming the invisible wounds of war. It is something you feel in your heart, and it is more a calling than it is a job or position. Not everyone could do this type of work. Their stories can haunt you; their needs are deeply rooted in their stories and traumas. They need time, they need patience and they need to know that someone truly cares about what happened to them, while, at the same time holding them fully responsible for their actions and involvement in the program through successful completion. They need to know that they can trust the person/s working with them. Trust is a big issue.

While working with Judge Pinski and David Grubich, I was able to witness the respect between them and the other members of the Veterans Treatment Court Team and Administrator. The therapists, Parole and Probation staff, clergy, mentors, volunteers, plus, City, State, and Federal Agencies all working together doing their best to enable these Veterans to return home healed and on a healthy personal road. It is a gentle but firm balance and David Grubich was a part of this important team.

I have seen this highly professional team work with all their hearts for the common goals, Veterans and their families back together, some going back home for the first times in years.

I cannot imagine any other person taking on this position other than David Grubich. He's been there with the team, he knows inside out how it works, he is respected and gives respect to everyone, watched it and participated in all the team building, that to me is so important. He has

built the trust and most of all he cares. He wants everyone coming into the program to succeed, and I am sure that would be across any program he touches bringing families and community together through hope, trust, and his commitment to this position. It seems the natural flow and the best for the well-being of the program for David Grubich to step into this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hampton
Great Falls, Montana

PAMELA A. LURU
3112 CENTRAL AVENUE
GREAT FALLS, MT 59401
(406) 453-2881 (HOME)
(406) 727-5740 (WORK)

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR STANDING MASTER, DAVID J. GRUBICH FOR EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

June 8, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY TO nominatejudges@mt.gov
Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Re: Letter of Support for David J. Grubich for appointment of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County, Montana

Dear Ms. Slusser,

I am writing to you regarding the open position in filling Court A for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court, Cascade County, Montana. I have been practicing law for 35 years in Great Falls, MT and am a paralegal for the law firm of Falcon, Lester & Schaff, P.C. Our firm has practiced law before the Honorable Standing Master Grubich since he filled the position for Standing Master. As one can see from reviewing Standing Master Grubich's Application for District Court Judgeship, you come away with a man that has the utmost experience to be the best District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Cascade County.

Standing Master Grubich has impeccable knowledge to fill this position and would only prove that the scales of justice are fair and equitable. I have found from practicing law before Standing Master Grubich that he is a fair Standing Master; a Standing Master who has empathy, but will not be partial in his character or feelings when passing down his ruling for whatever the scenario may be. Standing Master Grubich is well liked and well respected in our legal community. He is a fair and impartial person that still has humanity as his first priority. Our legal community would hugely benefit by having such a fine human being to preside as our District Court Judge and by choosing Standing Master Grubich to be our District Court Judge.

Lastly, I have great respect for the other candidates that have applied for this position, however, it is my opinion, and I have great belief that Standing Master David J. Grubich would be the best candidate to fill this position. After broad review of his

application and his supporting letters submitted to you, please consider hiring the Honorable Standing Master David J. Grubich to fill this highly prominent and important position.

May the scales of justice always guide our country towards the straight and narrow path of fair, non-bias and very important judicial decision making that our entire society would all benefit from!

Respectfully submitted

Pamela A Luru

Pamela A. Luru

LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.

RICHARD J. MARTIN
J. KIM SCHULKE
STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN
MICHELE REINHART LEVINE
MEGAN L. MILLER

WAYNE E. LINNELL, Of Counsel
NORMAN L. NEWHALL, Retired

Attorneys at Law
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Great Falls, MT 59403
(406) 454-5800
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PARALEGAL STAFF:

KINDRA MARTIN
BRITTNEY ROTHROCK
ANGIE WHITEMAN

OFFICE MANAGER:
TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MI018-002

June 8, 2021

VIA EMAIL ONLY – nominatejudge@mt.gov

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

Re: David J. Grubich, Esq.
Candidate for appointment to Montana Eighth Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte:

Please accept this correspondence as a recommendation for the appointment of David J. Grubich to the Montana Eighth Judicial District bench. I have known Dave for several years and believe he would be a great choice to fill this position.

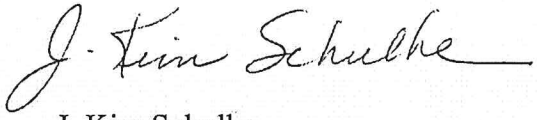
I have practiced law in Montana since 1981, first in Helena, and then, starting in 1987, in Great Falls. My practice has included administrative law, criminal law, civil litigation and workers' compensation.

Dave and I became acquainted when we served as officers of the Cascade County Bar Association. We also served together as officers of the Board of Directors of the Cascade County Law Clinic, which is an entity providing pro bono legal services to our citizens who cannot otherwise afford legal representation. During our tenure on that Board, the Clinic developed a strategic plan, to include the pursuit of additional funding sources and expansion of services, which have helped to ensure the continued operation of the Clinic. Dave was instrumental in that process. He is a skilled leader, who is considerate of the opinions of others. He is kind, patient and resourceful. In addition to serving on the Board, he provided many, many hours of excellent pro bono service to clients through the Clinic.

Dave was appointed Standing Master of our judicial district more than two years ago. While I have not personally appeared before him, I know he enjoys an excellent reputation in that capacity. I would expect nothing less of him.

I have no reservations in recommending Dave for this position. He would bring intellect, enthusiasm, energy, common sense and integrity to the bench in Cascade County.

Sincerely,



J. Kim Schulke
kschulke@fairclaimlaw.com
(406) 454-5804

JKS/mp
cc: David Grubich

Slusser, Hannah

From: Jeffrey Ferguson <Jeff@FergusonLawGF.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 8:42 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] David Grubich applicant for 8th Judicial District Court Judge

To whom it may concern:

I have had the pleasure and the honor to appear in front of Standing Master David Grubich numerous times after his appointment to that position in the Cascade County, 8th Judicial Court. Judge Grubich has proved to be extremely knowledgeable and fair when it comes to the often difficult situation involving family law cases. I think Judge Grubich would continue to display those attributes as a District Court Judge here in Cascade County and we would be lucky to have him serve in that capacity.

Thank you for considering my input.

Jeffrey S. Ferguson
Attorney at Law

Tina Henry
Clerk of District Court
Cascade County
415 2nd Ave N
Great Fall, MT 59404
(406) 454-6787
thenry2@mt.gov

June 3, 2021

Dear Governor Greg Gianforte,

I am writing in support of David Grubich for District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court.

I first met David Grubich when he became the Standing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court approximately 3 years ago. When David joined us at the District Court, he walked into an office with a serious backlog of cases. David fearlessly hit the ground running and soon had the caseload caught up to a manageable state.

In addition to his own caseload, David never hesitates to fill the seat or offer his assistance when one of the District Court Judges is away. David has, on many occasions, assisted with initial appearances and arraignment and answers in the District Court and has also presided over the various Drug Treatment Courts in our District.

As Clerk of District Court, I have had several opportunities to be in the courtroom with David. I have always found him to be fair and consistent in the way he deals with individuals and in his rulings. It is apparent that David has a clear knowledge and understanding of the law. As Standing Master, David presides over matters that are often contentious and does so with grace and dignity.

In an office setting such as the one we find ourselves; David brings with him a welcomed sense of calmness and comradery along with a natural ability to unify.

David Grubich has been a definite asset to our Judicial District as Standing Master and there is no doubt in my mind that David will be an excellent addition as District Court Judge in the Eight Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,

Tina Henry

City of
HARVARD
POLICE DEPARTMENT
201 West Front Street • Harvard, Illinois 60033
815-943-4431 • 815-943-4432 • Fax 815-943-2321
Web Page www.cityofharvard.org

MAYOR
Michael Kelly

ADMINISTRATOR
David Nelson

CHIEF OF POLICE
Mark Krause

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

June 7, 2021

Judicial Nomination Commission,

I have had the pleasure of being associated with David J. Grubich for twenty six years, having worked with David during his tenure as a City of Harvard police officer.

It is with great gratification that I have witnessed David's growth and development over this time. I first met David when we were newly minted probationary police officers with the Department and I have had the pleasure of working closely with David until he moved to Montana and started law school; we have kept in touch since.

I have always enjoyed working with David, regardless of the environment or context. Throughout his time, David earned a solid reputation as a diligent, ethical and compassionate civil servant. As a small police department, David's knowledge, skills and abilities afforded him rare opportunities; he quickly segued into investigations and was able to showcase his discipline, dedication and drive. David's warm, and affable,

personality drew his peers to him. I've always felt a sense of ease and comfort whenever I worked with David, a solid testament to not only his competency but his sense of teamwork and devotion.

I proudly recommend David J. Grubich for consideration as District Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit; he is an outstanding candidate who brings an incredible amount of professionalism, knowledge, skill and ability; I am confident he will prove himself an asset to the district.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Krause
Chief of Police

odegaard kovacich snipes | TRIAL LAWYERS

Paul D. Odegaard
Mark M. Kovacich
Ben A. Snipes
Andrew J. Miller
Ross T. Johnson

Lucas A. Wallace*
Paul C. Collins
Greg E. Overturf
Leanora "Lea" Coles
Benjamin J. Langford

Of Counsel:
Tom L. Lewis
J. David Slovak
Jay P. Dufrechou

June 4, 2021
Sent via email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Advisory Counsel for the Eighth Judicial Court Judge Applications, 2021

RE: Eighth Judicial District Court Vacancy

Dear Advisory Counsel:

I am writing to lend my voice to the process of seating the current judicial vacancy for the Eighth Judicial District Court. Although I cannot endorse this process from a constitutional prospective, I am able to confirm the high competency and qualifications of two applicants. Hon. Michele Reinhart Levine and Standing Master David Grubich each have unique experience and professional attributes that would be of great benefit to Montana's judiciary and bar. By this letter I am incorporating and reiterating my prior endorsement for each of these applicants. My prior letters of support to the Judicial Nomination Commission are attached hereto as Exhibits A and B.

It is most important to maintaining law and order to have a fourth judge actively participating in the judicial process in Cascade County. My hope is that a fair and impartial judge can be established so as to ensure the constitutional and legal rights of Montana citizens and litigants in Cascade County are properly served.

Thank you for your selfless efforts in determining those appropriate to wear the robe here in Cascade County.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ben A. Snipes

BAS:mcw
Enclosures

mtlawyers.com
T: 406.222.2222
F: 406.259.3232

Billings
550 N. 31st Street, Ste 200
Billings, MT 59101

Great Falls
21 3rd Street North, Ste 301
Great Falls, MT 59401

Helena
845 Great Northern Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601

* Also licensed in Wyoming and North Dakota

Slusser, Hannah

From: jason stephenson <jasons8166@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 4, 2021 6:37 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Judge nomination 8th district

After looking over each of the applicants, I believe non of them are what Montana needs in our judges. We don't need more criminal lawyers & specially don't need more prosecutors as judges. We need individuals that understand not just the law, but the state & federal constitution, & non of these have that. If we are to protect Montana's individual liberties & the great strides we have made towards that in the last 6 months, then these applicants should not be affirmed. Judges are expected to be impartial, but considering that these individuals have represented the government in it's defense or as it's lawyer representing it in prosecution of citizens, no reasonable person would expect them to be impartial. I believe because of their service in government that there would be a conflict of interest, leaning in favor of the government rather it be in criminal matters or civil matters. It would be more beneficial to the citizens to leave the set open, then to affirm any of these to this high position of power.

Sincerely
Jason Stephenson

MARCIA BIRKENBUEL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
410 CENTRAL AVENUE
SUITE 613, STRAIN BUILDING
GREAT FALLS, MT 59401

TELEPHONE: 406-761-1932
FAX: 406-453-5901
E-MAIL: mbrknbl@strainbld.com

June 4, 2021

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

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to encourage the appointment of David J. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Montana Eighth Judicial District Court here in Cascade County. I have practiced law in Cascade County for over 40 years, and I have appeared numerous times before him in the last three years that he has served as our District Standing Master. I am very impressed by his knowledge of the law and civility in dealing with what are frequently very contentious cases. He was faced with a substantial backlog of cases when he took the Standing Master position, and he has very efficiently and expeditiously operated his court to deal with the backlog and to keep his current cases moving. He brings an energy and respect for others that is a very positive direction for our justice system today.

David J. Grubich is a highly respected member of our legal community here in Cascade County, and I am confident that he will continue to contribute excellent service if he is given the opportunity to serve as our District Court Judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia Birkenbuel

Marcia Birkenbuel
Attorney at Law

Eagle Mount Great Falls
P.O. Box 2866
Great Falls, MT 59403

(406) 454-1449 * Fax: (406) 454-1780
eaglemountgf@gmail.com
www.eaglemount.net

June 3, 2021

Governor's Office
Attn: Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Dear Governor Gianforte,

With great enthusiasm, I recommend David Grubich for the position of District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

My name is Deb Sivumaki, Executive Director of Eagle Mount Great Falls. In 2017 David joined the Eagle Mount Great Falls Board of Directors. Over the years, I have had many opportunities to work with him. David is a board member that I seek out for guidance in difficult situations that may arise within our organization. He is an excellent listener and communicator. Even with his demanding work schedule, he finds the time to fulfill his board commitment. David has many admirable qualities. He is honest, humble, reliable, level-headed, compassionate, and always professional. Eagle Mount is proud to have him serve on our board. Great Falls and Cascade County is fortunate to have David and his family in our community.

I believe that David's real-life experiences and education have given him the qualities and qualifications necessary to be a fair and well-grounded District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Deb Sivumaki

Deb Sivumaki
Executive Director
Eagle Mount Great Falls

Eagle Mount Great Falls
P.O. Box 2866
Great Falls, MT 59403

(406) 454-1449 * Fax: (406) 454-1780
eaglemountgf@gmail.com
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June 3, 2021

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

RE: Candidate David Grubich for District Court Judge of Eighth Judicial Court, Cascade County.

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I met David Grubich in 2015 through our board of directors. He assisted us with setting up our Veteran's Program and other organizational policies and procedures. In 2017 he came on to our board and has been an active and crucial member of our team ever since. I have worked for Eagle Mount Great Falls for almost 27 years and have met and worked with many different community members. David stands out among those community members and working with him for the last five years has been an honor. He has incredible interpersonal skills that draws out the best in people and his dedication and passion to better this community is genuine and admirable.

I highly recommend David Grubich for consideration of District Court Judge of the Eighth Judicial Court in Cascade County. His devotion, ethics, knowledge, background, and all-around character are just what this judicial system needs and makes him the best candidate for the position.

Sincerely,

Heather Martin
Coordinator of Operations
Eagle Mount Great Falls

Michael Rausch
1706 Third Ave. No.
Great Falls, MT 59401

June 3, 2021

Attn: Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
nominatejudges@mt.gov

Sent via US Mail and e-mail

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR APPLICANT DAVID GRUBICH FOR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, CASCADE COUNTY

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of David Grubich's application for District Court Judge in Cascade County. I have known Dave since he first started practicing in Great Falls. He has always been very professional and has demonstrated excellent legal analysis and application both in his private practice and in his rulings as standing master. He has the temperament and work ethic to take on the work of the District Court in Cascade County.

I have two basic qualifications for applicants for this position: first, I want a judge who will show up and work hard; and second, I want timely rulings for my clients. As they say, justice delayed is justice denied. In my opinion, Dave not only meets these minimum qualifications but will far exceed our expectations in all areas. I look forward to having him on the bench and practicing in front of him. I can trust, as can you, that when he renders a decision, it will be based on the law, not on extraneous factors, politics, or personal bias. I don't expect to win every case in front of him, but I am very comfortable in saying that whatever decision he renders, I will have complete confidence that the decision will be based on the law.

I highly recommend that you appoint David Grubich. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 406-403-0041. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael Rausch
mike@bkbh.com

c: David Grubich, davidgrubich@gmail.com
Brett Doney, bdoney@gfdevelopment.org
Shane Etzwiler, setzwiler@greatfallschamber.org
Brion Lindseth, blindseth@klbbusinesslaw.com
Ron A. Nelson, ronnelson@chjw.com
Kristy Pontet-Stroop, kpontet-stroop@allianceforyouth.org
Jennifer Quick, jquick@cascadecountymt.gov
Ruth Uecker, ruth_uecker@gfps.k12.mt.us

VETERANS MENTORING

VETERANS PROGRAM

June 3, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Joe Parsetich, and I am writing regarding David Grubich. I am the past Mentor Coordinator for the 8th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court in Great Falls, Montana, serving under District Judge Greg Pinski, who was the presiding Judge at that time. I have worked very closely with Mr. Grubich, who was the "District Standing Master" at the time, and we utilized him a lot in Veterans Treatment Court for over six (6) years. He first volunteered as one of our Mentor's, while he was still in private practice with his law firm. He did an outstanding job mentoring the veteran that I had assigned to him. He showed a high level of compassion and encouragement, which helped his veteran stay motivated and focused throughout the program. After he accepted his appointment to serve on the Bench, he of course had to terminate his role as a mentor because of the conflict of interest. I continued to have the honor of working with him, since he filled in for Judge Pinski from time to time. He has done an outstanding job in that role, still showing compassion, while dispensing fair and just rulings in a highly professional manner bringing honor and respect to the Bench.

I would highly recommend that you consider Mr. Grubich for the position of District Court Judge, as he would bring honor, fairness, integrity, professionalism and a superior knowledge of the law to the Bench. He would be an asset to our County by imposing fair and just rulings and would thus be a great addition to the other honorable Justice's that are currently serving.

I have known Mr. Grubich, and his wife Valerie personally, for over 10 years, and I'm proud and honored to call this couple friends of my wife and me. They are a happily married couple, who interact socially within the community of Great Falls. They have a beautiful son for which they provide an extremely healthy and stable environment.

Sincerely,

Joe Parsetich

Joe Parsetich, DAV National 1st Jr. Vice Commander
Mentor, Veterans Treatment Court 8th Judicial District
(406) 788-2335

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

June 3, 2021

Re: David Grubich

It is an honor to comment on David Grubich's judicial temperament and qualities that will serve the community well should he be appointed to the District Court vacancy in the 8th Judicial District. I have had the privilege to serve with David on the Cascade County Law Clinic Board. He is civic minded and understands and cares about the administration of justice in our legal system.

It is important for the new judge in the 8th Judicial District to be able to step in quickly with knowledge of process and already to have a positive working relationship with staff and other judges. As the current Magistrate for the 8th Judicial District, I find him to be thoughtful and considerate of the opinions of others. He listens carefully and applies sound legal judgment to disputes. He is respected by the members of the Bar and parties that come before him understand the reasoning behind his rulings. He has a solid moral core which is necessary for someone serving as a judge.

His appointment as Magistrate for the 8th judicial district has shown him to be a person who is able to handle a large caseload efficiently. His orders are clear, well-reasoned and come out in a timely manner. He has a varied legal career spanning civil and criminal law that will serve the community well in handling the breath of cases to come before the court.

Deborah Kottel

Deborah Kottel
6470 Heaven's View Ln.
Great Falls, Mt. 59404

CONNER, MARR & PINSKI, PLLP
Dennis Patrick Conner
Keith Douglas Marr
Gregory Gerard Pinski
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Kitty Agostinelli, Legal Assistant
Clari Davis, Legal Assistant

June 3, 2021

Sent via email to: nominatejudges@mt.gov

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

RE: Letter of Support for David J. Grubich

Dear Ms. Slusser:

I am privileged to write a letter of support on behalf of Dave Grubich. I strongly urge the Advisory Council and Governor Gianforte to appoint Dave to the Eighth Judicial District Court.

Dave has a diverse professional background. He served his country in the United States Air Force, the citizens of Illinois as a police officer, and the citizens of Cascade County as a private practice attorney, community volunteer, and Special Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court. In his capacity as Standing Master, Dave works closely with the judges of the Eighth Judicial District on family law matters, juvenile proceedings, criminal proceedings, and civil cases. He has also worked with the judges in furtherance of Veterans and Drug Treatment Court matters.

Dave's background has helped mold the approachable, yet thoughtful, disposition he brings to every encounter. He has a calm demeanor and a sharp legal mind. These attributes have earned Dave the respect of his peers. And all of these admirable qualities make Dave well suited to be a trial court judge in Cascade County. As such, I highly recommend that you consider him for the position.

I am happy to speak with you further about Dave's qualifications should you wish to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith D. Marr

Smith Oblander & Meade, PC

A Professional Corporation

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Gregory G. Smith
Stephanie A. Oblander
Matthew T. Meade
Kaitlyn J. McArthur

Attorneys at Law

June 3, 2021

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

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Re: David Grubich

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Advisory Council:

I write to again offer my support for Standing Master David J. Grubich's application for the District Court Judge position in the Eighth Judicial District, Cascade County.

As a newer attorney, what struck me most about Mr. Grubich is his dedication to community involvement, specifically, the small community of attorneys who call Cascade County home. It is a rarity for Mr. Grubich to miss a county bar meeting. Mr. Grubich is highly respected and well-liked. He is approachable, thoughtful, and kind; all qualities which would serve him well on the bench. Mr. Grubich is a refreshing example of how the adversarial nature of the practice of law is not an impediment to cordiality. I certainly consider Mr. Grubich a role model in that regard.

From a review of Mr. Grubich's application, it is apparent that his dedication to community involvement has echoed throughout his entire career, whether it be his time in the military, law enforcement, and even owning a coffee shop. Mr. Grubich's experience in the private practice of law, and as Standing Master, uniquely qualify him to immediately swing into action as a District Court Judge on both civil and criminal matters, and to alleviate pressure caused by the backlog of cases in Cascade County.

Without hesitation, I offer Mr. Grubich my complete support.

Sincerely,
SMITH OBLANDER & MEADE, PC

Kaitlyn J. McArthur