

From: [Kevin Sweeney](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 13th Judicial District - Judicial Nominees
Date: Saturday, September 13, 2025 6:29:28 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for giving the opportunity to weigh in on the ultimate selection of lawyers to fill the two new seats created in Billings for District Judges.

I write to add my voice in support of Laurie Grygiel for District Judge.

I have known Laurie in my role as a practicing attorney in Billings, working to resolve cases together in the job of civil practitioner. I have been honored to work with Laurie now as Standing Master. From her years of work, she has impressed all in Billings both as a fierce and dedicated advocate for her clients while in private practice, and now as a fair, impartial and smart Judge.

The job of District Court Judge in Billings is difficult. The job of a Standing Master in Billings and the 22nd Judicial District, moreover, is more than difficult. It is more than a full-time job to do the job right. Laurie has shown that she has the stuff to do the job right. She does the hard work well.

Laurie Grygiel is an excellent choice to serve as District Judge.

Certainly, if anyone working on this matter has any questions for me, please do not hesitate to respond to this endorsement.

--Kevin Sweeney

From: [Benjamin Cherland](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter of Support for Laurie Grygiel, candidate for District Court Judge
Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025 10:49:09 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Benjamin Cherland and I am Laurie Grygiel's pastor. I am writing this letter in support of her as a candidate for a District Court Judgeship in the 13th District.

Laurie is an active member of the church and consistently leads in a context where few step into service roles. She is a strong and quietly faithful Christian who's trust in God supports her work in this congregation and as a judge. Laurie has enriched the life of this church as a measured voice with a keen perspective based in her observation of this community and her own sense of integrity.

Laurie is an excellent candidate for a District Court Judgeship in the 13th District. I am convinced she would be effective in this role because of her work ethic, diligence and personal integrity. She would be as beneficial to the 13th District as she has been to the communities she has served so well, including this one.

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Cherland, Pastor [\(he/him\) \[mypronouns.org\]](#)
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Virus-free. www.avast.com [\[avast.com\]](#)

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Moirra Murphy Law Office, PC
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Governor Gianforte
Attn: Hannah Slusser

Via email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: 13th Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County, Montana
Application of Laurie Grygiel

Dear Governor:

This is a letter of support for Standing Master Laurie Grygiel's nomination for District Court judge in Yellowstone County.

As a family law practitioner, I have practiced before Standing Master Grygiel for 5 ½ years. Standing Master Grygiel has presided over dozens of my family law cases in Billings, Hardin, Columbus, and Red Lodge. She is always well prepared and ready to address whatever custody case or dissolution case is set for the day. Standing Master Grygiel is equally able to explain issues to a person representing themselves or an experienced attorney. She treats everyone with the same respect. She has a great courtroom temperament. Standing Master Grygiel is a consummate professional who makes solid evidentiary rulings. She issues timely, well-thought-out decisions that look out for the best interests of children.

Standing Master Grygiel has spent decades in public service and would make an excellent addition to the District Court bench.

Very Truly Yours,

Moirra Murphy
Attorney at Law

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2722 3rd Ave. N
Suite 240
Billings, MT 59101

September 16, 2025

Dear Governor Gianforte,

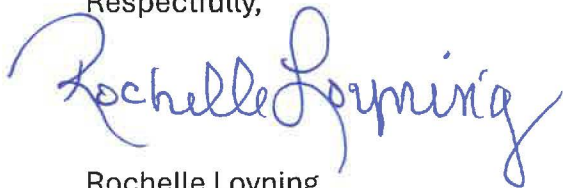
I am writing this letter in support of Standing Master, Laurie Grygiel.

I am the Clerk of District Court in Carbon County (Red Lodge). I have been in office since 2005. I work with Standing Master Grygiel, on a regular basis, she is top notch. Our Judge, Matthew J. Wald, relies on her for all our disputed Domestic Relation cases along with Orders of Protections. She also resides over our criminal and civil Law & Motion Calendar once a month, to assist with the caseload of Judge Wald's.

Ms. Grygiel is nothing but professional, respectful and patient when she steps onto the bench. I am very impressed by how she keeps the cases moving forward.

In my opinion, Ms. Grygiel's character speaks for itself, and she would be an outstanding choice for the position of the 13th Judicial District Court Judge appointment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rochelle Loyning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rochelle" being more prominent and the last name "Loyning" following in a similar style.

Rochelle Loyning
Clerk of District Court