

February 18, 2026

Shiell Anderson

PO 424

Clyde Park, MT 59018

Governor Greg Gianforte

State Capitol, Room 204

PO 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

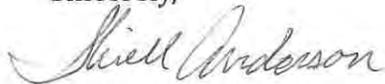
Dear Governor Gianforte,

I write today in support of Rebecca Swandal, to fill out the term for the retiring Judge Brenda Gilbert in the 6th Judicial District. I have known Rebecca since she was young, and she brings an admirable work ethic and an impressive legal pedigree to the table. Her father Nels was a county attorney, and our district court judge for many years. Her grandmother, Bonnie, was also a practicing attorney for many years in Livingston. Rebecca has been practicing law in Livingston since 2009, after having graduated with honors from the University of Montana law school.

Rebecca is well-respected and has a reputation as a no-nonsense advocate and mediator. She would bring a healthy balance to the job of district court judge. Rebecca is also very personable and approachable.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shiell Anderson".

Shiell Anderson

406.220.1265

Bryan F. Aylstock (FL, AL, MS)*
Justin G. Witkin (FL, MS)*
Douglass A. Kreis (FL)*
Neil D. Overholtz (FL)* (1972-2022)
R. Jason Richards (FL, CO)*
Bobby J. "Brad" Bradford (FL, AL)*
Stephen H. Echsner (FL)*
Daniel J. Thornburgh (FL, MN)*
E. Samuel "Sam" Geisler (FL, IL)*
Jennifer M. Hoekstra (LA)*
E. Mary Liu (CA, FL)*
Chelsie R. Warner (MT, NV, WA, WY)*
Samantha M. Katen (FL, NC, CO)*
J. Christopher Klotz (AL, DC, FL, MS)*
W. Eric Stracener (MS)*
Caitlyn P. Miller (FL, AL, DC)*
Hannah R. Pfeiffer (FL)*



AYLSTOCK WITKIN KREIS OVERHOLTZ, PLC

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Maury S. Goldsrein (FL)*
Alexandra B. Echsner-Rasmussen (FL)*
Reagan Charleston Thomas (LA)*
Catherine A. Mitchell (AL)*
Savannah Green (FL)*
Jonathan Aylstock (FL, MN, MD)*
Emily Gardella (WA)*
Kimberly Tanner (MD)*
Pauls Toma (MI)*
Jean Martin (NC)*
Christopher Pollack (DC, IL, MI)*
Francesca Burne (FL, PA)*
Nathan C. Bess (FL)*
Hillary M. Nappi (NY, NJ, PA, U.S. Supreme Court)*
Madeline G. Theophilus (NY)*

* ATTORNEY WHOSE FORTNEY IS LICENSED TO PRACTICE LAW

7 OF COURSE

February 12, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to offer my full and enthusiastic support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court.

I have had the privilege of knowing Rebecca since we attended law school at the University of Montana School of Law beginning in 2006. Even in law school, her intelligence, work ethic, and integrity distinguished her from the start. Even then, she demonstrated the qualities that define an exceptional jurist: thoughtful analysis, respect for differing viewpoints, and an unwavering commitment to fairness.

Throughout her legal career, Rebecca has consistently exhibited sound judgment, professionalism, and a deep respect for the rule of law. She approaches complex legal issues with clarity and discipline, and she treats colleagues, clients, and opposing counsel with dignity. These traits are essential for a judge entrusted with making decisions that profoundly affect individuals, families, and communities.

Beyond her legal skill, Rebecca possesses the temperament that is critical for the bench. She listens carefully, evaluates facts objectively, and applies the law faithfully. She understands that a judge's role is not to advocate, but to ensure justice is administered fairly and impartially.

Our courts require judges who are principled, diligent, and committed to equal justice under the law. I am confident that Rebecca will serve with distinction and honor, and I strongly encourage your support of her candidacy.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Chelsie Warner

February 17, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

My name is Kent Hanawalt. I've been a resident of Montana for 53 years, and of Park County for 29 years. I hold a BS in Health Care Administration from College of Great Falls and an MBA from University of Montana. I've been licensed as a Nursing Home Administrator in Montana for 30 years.

I have known Rebecca Swandal personally for 28 years, and professionally for 16 years.

As a health care administrator I have been responsible for the hire of numerous health care professionals, up to and including administrators. I learned to hire - not based on licenses, certifications and years of experience - but rather according to **Attitude, Aptitude, Motivation, and Credibility.**

Attitude: Rebecca demonstrates an attitude of public service, a respect for the dignity of everyone, and a commitment to Rights, Justice, and the best interests of the Public.

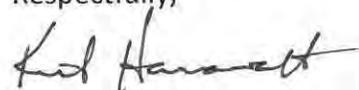
Aptitude: The Law seems to be in her DNA. Her grandmother practiced law in Park County. Her father practiced law here, served as the District Court judge, and was elected to the Montana State Senate.

Motivation: Rebecca is driven toward excellence by a fire from within. That drive is supported by her family history in the district.

Credibility: Rebecca presents with the quiet confidence of her personal accomplishments, and her family history. Her integrity is unimpeachable.

It is my honor to recommend your appointment of Rebecca Swandal as a judge in Montana's 6th Judicial District.

Respectfully,



Kent Hanawalt

February 15, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

We express our strong support for the appointment of Rebecca Swandal to the 6th Judicial District Court. We believe she has the fairness, professionalism and dedication necessary to serve the community of Park County.
Rebecca has the integrity, legal expertise and a commitment to justice.

Respectfully,

Sammy Berenato
Paul Berenato

I hope you are well, I am probably one of your biggest supporters here in Park County.

I have read in the newspaper today the recent resignation of our District Court Judge. I want to be clear that it would be detrimental to our community if Rebecca Swandel were to even be considered. Her office is fraudulent, dishonest and extremely corrupt.

I am fully unsupportive!

Thank you for your time, please ask any questions you might have. I am fully willing to be upfront.

Thanks

Callie Carroll

Calliejohnerson@gmail.com

(406) 570-5367"



Governor's Office
PO BOX 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

RE: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment to the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

We are writing in strong support of Rebecca Swandal's appointment to the 6th Judicial District Court. We have full confidence that her extensive legal knowledge and professional experience make her exceptionally qualified to handle the challenges of this prominent role.

Over the years, the Swandal family has served this community through a highly diversified law practice, consistently delivering fair, justified, and common-sense outcomes. We recommend Rebecca for this position with the utmost confidence and believe she is the ideal candidate for the appointment.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of Rebecca Swandal.

Respectfully,

James T. & Dana McNamara

LAW OFFICES
HUPPERT, SWINDLEHURST & WOODRUFF, P.C.

ARNOLD HUPPERT, JR.
(1931-2011)
JOSEPH T. SWINDLEHURST
STEPHEN E. WOODRUFF

420 SOUTH SECOND STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 523
LIVINGSTON, MONTANA 59047

TELEPHONE: 406-222-2023
FACSIMILE: 406-222-7944
Email: joe@hswlegal.com
Email: steve@hswlegal.com

February 23, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

**Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal's Appointment
as 6th Judicial District Court Judge**

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Rebecca Swandal. I believe she will make an excellent judge to serve the people and legal community of the 6th Judicial District.

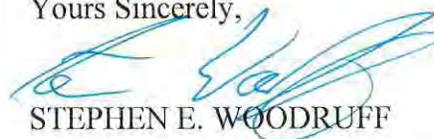
I have worked on a variety of matters with Rebecca during her years in practice, primarily in the areas of real estate transactions, estate/trust matters, and business matters. She is consistently prompt and reasonable in all dealings. She is collegial, but never at the expense of advocating for her clients. She has an excellent grasp of the law, and also the practicalities of legal decision-making.

Like her father Nels (who I practiced in front of for many years, and for whom I have a great deal of respect), I believe that Rebecca will be a fair, prompt and decisive judge. Issuing timely rulings has been a hallmark of practice in our court throughout my 25+ years in practice, and I am confident that Rebecca will continue that tradition (which is certainly not a given in other Montana District Courts).

Rebecca is a kind and friendly person who will treat litigants as human beings. She understands that the function of the legal system is, ultimately, to resolve disputes, and I am confident that she will be a problem-solver on the bench.

I commend Rebecca to the bench, and appreciate your consideration of this letter of support.

Yours Sincerely,



STEPHEN E. WOODRUFF

February 26, 2026

Governor's Office

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras,

It is with immense and genuine enthusiasm that I recommend Rebecca Swandal for appointment to the 6th Judicial District Court.

Having shared over four decades of life's milestones with Rebecca—celebrating joys like weddings and births, as well as offering mutual support through life's challenges—I can say with absolute certainty that Rebecca embodies the kind of fairness, integrity, and profound commitment to justice that our judicial system needs.

Rebecca is not merely a competent professional; she is a beacon of ethical clarity. She carries a keen sense of justice that is evident in every facet of her career. I am confident that her wisdom and dedication will enrich the Montana judicial system as she steps into this role. Your consideration of her appointment is a step toward strengthening our courts with someone whose character is as impeccable as her legal mind.

With respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William J. Adamo", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William J Adamo

2677 Bunkhouse Place

Missoula, Montana 59808

425-442-1665

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2026

Kendra K. Lassiter
424 West Clark St.
Livingston, Montana 59047
(406)223-9428

Governor Greg Gianforte
Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras
c/o Hannah Slusser
P.O. Box 200801
Helena MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca R. Swandal

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I write this letter to express my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Rebecca R. Swandal to the position of District Court Judge for the Montana Sixth Judicial District Court.

I have known Rebecca since she was 10 years old. In the ensuing decades subsequent to that time I have watched her grow academically, professionally, and as a wife and mother of four. We have been law partners and an integral part of one another's families, so I believe I have a unique insight into her character and work ethic, both of which are impeccable.

Although I, obviously, have a personal affinity for Rebecca, as a member of the Bar I believe deeply in the importance of the Judiciary, and can honestly say I would not endorse her appointment if I had any doubt that she would serve dutifully and ethically. As her former law partner I know she cares deeply about her clients and served them well. She always gave clear eyed legal advice, adhering to the rules of ethics.

Her application for appointment highlights her academic and professional achievements, which speak for themselves. What isn't apparent in her application materials is her strong moral conviction and commitment to family values. These qualities are embodied in her happy and healthy children.

Rebecca has the strongest work ethic of anyone I know and even with the responsibility of being a mother of four children she has always managed to meet her professional responsibilities in a timely manner. I am confident she would display the same standard of practice as a Judge, should she be appointed. We have had many conversations about the importance of issuing Opinions in a timely manner and I am confident this would be a priority for her.

My endorsement of Rebecca's appointment is given without any reservation, whatsoever, and I encourage you to consider her application favorably.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



KENDRA K. LASSITER

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2026

March 17, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I have known Rebecca Swandal for close to two decades. I write to recommend Ms. Swandal's appointment as the next Sixth Judicial District Court judge. She would be an outstanding judge for Park and Sweet Grass Counties.

Rebecca and I were college and law school classmates. Through the years I've come to know Rebecca to be a person of not only honor and integrity but also compassion and fair-mindedness. And that is what leaders and role models do: they lead by example.

District judges are the ultimate role model in the legal profession. Litigants, attorneys, jurors, and the community at-large look to them for guidance and leadership. They stay above the fray. They are patient, compassionate and understanding. But most importantly, they are fair and strive to ensure equal justice for all. Rebecca's community standing and commitment to public service demonstrate she is capable, and ready, to take the next step and continue to serve her community and the state of Montana. She has the right mix of professional legal experience to be a great judge. Rebecca has experience in criminal litigation, trusts and estates, family law, mediation, contracts and property law, and, of course, civil litigation. Rebecca also has the right temperament. She does not rush to judgment but is patient and listens. She also gives back to her community through extensive pro bono services. Finally, Rebecca is fair. Rebecca's experience, temperament and intellect have her ready for this next step, but her commitment to fairness will carry her through the challenges ahead.

I encourage you to select Rebecca Swandal to serve as the next district court judge for Park and Sweet Grass Counties. Rebecca already possesses the virtues of a good district court judge. I believe she is now ready to prove it.

Respectfully,



Kyle W. Nelson

February 26, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of
The 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

It is truly my pleasure and honor to write this letter of support on behalf of Rebecca Swandal. I have known Rebecca since she was a baby and have followed her youthful activities, scholastic endeavors and legal career for many years. Our families were lifelong friends. My late husband Mark Guenther and I were at the University of Montana School of Law in the 1970s with Rebecca's father, Nels. When Mark and I married, Nels was one of Mark's groomsmen and when Nels and Debra were married the following year, we flew to Medford, Oregon, to sing for their wedding. Mark was an Air Force JAG and Nels was an Army JAG, but we saw each other regularly in those early years as we were blessed with our respective children and family life as we followed our own personal career paths.

Rebecca Swandal's convictions and moral fortitude provide the backbone for an amazing young woman. She represents the values we hold dear: Love of God, Love of Country, Love of Family, Love of Friends and Community and a good strong work ethic. Rebecca recognizes the importance of public service and of giving back to the community and her constituency. Rebecca has learned from the masters, her Grandmother, Bonnie Swandal, her father Nels, and her mother, Debra. Their stellar example of service provided her the roadmap she has followed much of her life. Rebecca notes she "exceeds the minimum requirement of pro bono hours each year as she recognizes many of the pro bono hours are helping family law clients who do not have the resources to obtain legal counsel." She does this not to get recognition from the State Bar, but "because it is the right thing to do and because so many people need help that they cannot afford."

Rebecca Swandal will be very comfortable in the courtroom as the spectrum of cases she has worked on include criminal cases, dissolution of marriages, family law, probates, guardianship and/or conservatorship cases, and federal, state, and city litigation. Rebecca encourages mediation whenever possible because she recognizes the importance of resolving cases before they clog the district court.

The Swandal family and the Guenther family have shared some of the happiest moments in our lives, as well as incredible grief, which indeed will give Rebecca a unique perspective when approaching litigants in the throes of grief and dealing with estate issues. Rebecca referenced the death of her only two brothers and the loss of her mother

Debra in 2024. When my late husband, Mark Guenther, was losing his battle to pancreatic cancer, his fellow District Court Judge, Nels Swandal, traveled to Bozeman to oversee cases in Mark's court and to ensure court cases and decisions were made in a timely manner.

I introduced my husband, Terry Anderson, to the Swandal family 20 years ago, when Nels Swandal officiated our wedding. We have such confidence in Rebecca's legal skills and innate friendship with our 5 adult children, and blended family, we have asked her to serve as our Successor Trustee for our MT Marital Trust.

Rebecca Swandal will serve and represent the Montana Judicial District Court system with distinction, competence, and integrity. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica Lane Guenther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monica Lane Guenther
269 East Hodgeman Road
Bozeman MT 59718
406-581-1596
monica.hodgeman@gmail.com

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2026



24 February 2026

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

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Rebecca Swandal Appointment as Judge in the 6th District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

It is a pleasure and honor to write this letter recommending the appointment of Rebecca Swandal as Judge of the 6th Judicial District Court of Montana. She comes to you with my highest recommendation.

I have known Rebecca for more than 15 years, but my first professional interaction with her came in 2009 when, as president of the University of Montana Federalist Society, Rebecca invited me to speak to the Society regarding the economics of property rights. The fact that she mustered a sizeable audience to listen to an economist speak on a legal topic speaks to the respect she had from her peers. Her leadership of the Federalist Society also indicates her willingness to go beyond law school courses to delve into alternative ways of thinking about, rather than making, law.

The breadth of Rebecca's impressive practice experience will serve her well as a district court judge. Having stood on the front side of the bench, she understands the authority a judge has and the importance of using that authority to interpret rather than make law.

Rebecca's application for judgeship emphasizes her passion for public service. That service goes beyond occupying the judge's bench; it will be impartially judging alternative arguments and interpreting them in accordance with legal precedence. Though Rebecca is young, her ability to be an impartial judge goes well beyond her years.

The combination of her family upbringing, her scholarship, her business experience, her law practice, and, perhaps most importantly, her common sense will make her a public servant judge of whom we will all be proud. Appointing Rebecca Swandal to serve as a judge in the 6th District Court of Montana will ensure that justice will be served.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry L. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" being particularly prominent.

Terry L. Anderson
Professor Emeritus, Montana State University
John and Jean DeNault Senior Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
406-581-3815

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2026

February 18, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment to the Sixth Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Greg Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras:

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for Rebecca Swandal's appointment to the Sixth Judicial District Court. I have known Rebecca since childhood, and over the course of many years and in many different settings, I have had the privilege of witnessing her sincere character, steady professionalism, and deep commitment to the principles of fairness and integrity.

Later in life, Rebecca and I lived together while she pursued her law degree and I completed my master's degree in speech-language pathology. During that time—and in the years since—I observed firsthand her dedication, discipline, and genuine respect for the legal system she serves. Rebecca is both loyal and honest, and I am proud to call her a lifelong friend.

Rebecca is not only highly knowledgeable and well respected within the legal community, but she also balances her professional strength with an inviting kindness and compassion toward others. Her roots in the Park County community are deep, and her dedication to upholding the law there is clear and unwavering.

As I have become a mother, I have also had the joy of watching our children grow and play together. Through this shared stage of life, I have come to deeply respect Rebecca's parenting, her sound judgment, and her fairness—qualities that translate naturally to the bench. I am confident she would serve as a thoughtful, balanced, and widely respected judge.

It is with great confidence and admiration that I recommend Rebecca Swandal for appointment to the Sixth Judicial District Court. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Emily Berendts Anderson, M.S., CCC-SLP

(406)220-3410
emilyberendts@gmail.com

RECEIVED
MAR 19 2026

February 13, 2026

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

Re: Rebecca Swandal – Letter of Support for 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte:

My name is Tina Lipski, and I have had the distinct privilege of serving as Rebecca Swandal's paralegal for the past nine years.

I began my legal career at Venable LLP in Baltimore, Maryland, where I worked as a paralegal for fourteen years. During my time there, I gained valuable experience; however, I can confidently say that I learned more from Rebecca in my first year working alongside her than I did in the entirety of my previous tenure. Her depth of legal knowledge, analytical skill, and commitment to justice are truly exceptional.

Rebecca possesses extensive knowledge and experience in estate planning, in addition to her work in family law. She demonstrates a thorough understanding of legal matters and approaches estate planning with the same precision, care, and foresight that characterize all aspects of her practice. Her ability to guide clients thoughtfully through significant life decisions reflects both her technical expertise and her compassion.

I have personally observed Rebecca's remarkable patience and composure when working with clients, particularly in the highly emotional and complex matters that arise in family law. She approaches each case with empathy, professionalism, and unwavering ethical integrity. Her interactions with opposing counsel consistently reflect respect, diligence, and a steadfast commitment to the highest standards of the legal profession. Rebecca is among the most dedicated and hardworking attorneys I have encountered. She is consistently well-prepared, detail-oriented, and proactive in every matter she undertakes.

In addition to her demanding legal practice, Rebecca demonstrates an extraordinary ability to balance her professional responsibilities with her personal commitments. As a devoted mother of four children, she remains actively involved in their lives while also managing a successful real estate business and overseeing property management responsibilities. Her ability to maintain high quality across these multiple roles reflects her exceptional organizational skills, discipline, and commitment to both her family and her work. She embodies balance not as a compromise, but as a standard of excellence in all areas of her life.

Rebecca is a proud Montanan who has continued her family's distinguished legacy in the legal field, following in the footsteps of both her grandmother and father. She honors that legacy through her integrity, service, and commitment to her community.

Her dedication extends beyond her practice. She serves as a board member of the Wilsall Foundation and currently holds the position of President of the Park and Sweet Grass County Bar. Rebecca is also deeply committed to ensuring access to justice. She frequently reduces her fees or provides pro bono services to individuals who would otherwise be unable to obtain legal representation.

On a professional and personal level, Rebecca is one of the most influential individuals I have had the honor to know. I hold her in the highest regard for her character, leadership, and integrity. She has been not only a mentor and colleague, but also a trusted friend.

I firmly believe that Rebecca's depth of legal knowledge and courtroom experience, both as an attorney and as a pro tem judge, would serve the 6th Judicial District Court with distinction. She would bring fairness, sound judgment, integrity, and a commitment to ethical service to the bench. Rebecca understands that timely decisions are essential to public trust in the judiciary, and she will never allow unnecessary delay to impede the fair and efficient administration of justice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Tina Lipski



WILLIS B. JONES
(1918 – 2007)

EMILY JONES
EMILY@JONESLAWMT.COM

JUSTIN OLIVEIRA
JUSTIN@JONESLAWMT.COM

February 16, 2026

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
c/o Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov

**Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal
for Appointment to Sixth Judicial District Court**

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Rebecca Swandal to the Sixth Judicial District Court, serving Park and Sweet Grass Counties. I have known Becca—both personally and professionally—since 2002. I can say without reservation that she possesses the character, intellect, judicial philosophy, and dedication that this position demands.

Becca comes from a rich heritage in the legal field and in Park County. Her roots in the community run deep, and she carries a genuine understanding of the people, the values, and the way of life that define this part of Montana. She is someone who has built her career and her life in that district, and who is deeply invested in the fair administration of justice for her neighbors.

As an attorney, Becca is talented, thorough, and principled. She approaches the law with rigor and compassion, and she has earned the respect of her colleagues and clients through her dedication and the quality of her work. She takes every matter seriously and holds herself to the highest professional standards. I know Becca is committed to the principle of judicial restraint—an essential quality in any judge who seeks to honor the rule of law. Becca understands that the judiciary's role is not to legislate from the bench or to substitute personal policy preferences for the will of the people as expressed through their elected representatives. She respects the separation of powers, recognizing that each branch of government serves a distinct and vital function within our constitutional framework. Rather than reaching

beyond the scope of the cases before her, I am confident Becca will approach legal questions with discipline and humility, grounding them in the text of the law, established precedent, and the original understanding of constitutional provisions. This measured approach reflects a profound respect for democratic self-governance and an understanding that judicial legitimacy depends on the court's willingness to stay within its proper institutional boundaries.

What sets Becca apart—and what I believe makes her exceptionally well suited for the bench—is her character. Over the more than two decades I have known her, I have watched her face adversity with strength and grit. She does not bend under pressure, nor does she harden. She meets difficulty with resolve and grace, and she comes through it with her integrity intact. That steadiness is exactly what a judge must bring to the courtroom.

Becca is also kind. She treats every person she encounters with dignity and respect, regardless of their circumstances. She listens before she speaks. She is fair-minded and thoughtful, and she possesses a strong sense of justice that is grounded not in abstraction but in genuine care for people and for doing what is right.

The Sixth Judicial District would be well served with Rebecca Swandal on the bench. I respectfully and wholeheartedly urge you to appoint her. She will bring honor to the position and serve the people of Park and Sweet Grass Counties with the same integrity and dedication she has demonstrated throughout her career and her life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

JONES LAW FIRM, PLLC

By: 
EMILY JONES

February 26, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

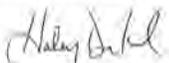
I am honored to write this letter of support for Rebecca Swandal regarding her consideration for appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court. Rebecca and I grew up together and are still very close friends. Our family ranches neighbor each other in Wilsall, Montana. We traveled, played basketball, attended youth group activities, and had family parties together. I am confident to say that I know Rebecca Swandal extremely well. I would describe her as compassionate, inspired, intelligent, and honest.

Rebecca Swandal is an extremely driven, selfless, and resilient individual. She is and always has been very internally motivated. She was the valedictorian of her high school class and continued to be academically determined in college and throughout law school. After law school she has strived to represent clients with integrity and dependability. Rebecca is extremely honest with her clients. She is selfless in the fact that she will recommend a different lawyer if the case is out of her specialty. She genuinely wants what is best for her clients and is quick to provide a network of support in all instances. Rebecca demands the best from herself and is an inspiration to those around her to achieve success. Because Rebecca has been so prosperous, one would not guess that she has endured many tragedies in her personal life. She is the definition of resilient. From life's tragedies she can revel in the present, while still planning and organizing for the future.

One of the most unique characteristics Rebecca has is her compassionate, non-judgmental treatment of others. Everyone is equal in her mind. She will help anyone that asks and will go above and beyond to check on someone who may need assistance. She has a very active role in her community. Rebecca has friends everywhere. She has the largest social network of anyone I have ever known. These are not just superficial acquaintances, she is extremely gifted and personal with everyone, and they would all call her a close friend. Anyone that knows Rebecca would say that she is an excellent listener because she pays attention to details and has a gifted sense of humor. When Rebecca enters a community event, for example her son's basketball game, she will interact with more people than anyone else. Everyone wants to talk to her. A smile or a wave from Rebecca is uplifting and genuine.

Rebecca Swandal is brilliant and even tempered. She has a commanding presence that brings out excellence, integrity, and honesty in others. She has a unique blend of self-deprecating humor and determination. Rebecca will excel as a judge because she is an extraordinary listener who is fair, professional, resilient, and committed to justice and excellence.

Respectfully,



Haley Dunkel, PhD
Microbiology and Cell Biology, Montana State University

March 9, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I have known Rebecca Swandal for close to two decades. I write to recommend Ms. Swandal's appointment as the next Sixth Judicial District Court judge. She would be an outstanding judge for Park and Sweet Grass Counties.

Rebecca and I were college and law school classmates. Through the years I come to know Rebecca to be a person of not only honor and integrity but also compassion and fair-mindedness. And that is what leaders and role models do: they lead by example.

District judges are the ultimate role model in the legal profession. Litigants, attorneys, jurors, and the community at-large look to them for guidance and leadership. They stay above the fray. They are patient, compassionate and understanding. But most importantly, they are fair and strive to ensure equal justice for all. Rebecca's community standing and commitment to public service demonstrate she is capable, and ready, to take the next step and continue to serve her community and the state of Montana. She has the right mix of professional legal experience. Rebecca has experience in criminal litigation, trusts and estates, family law, mediation, contracts and property law, and, of course, civil litigation. Rebecca also has the right temperament. She does not rush to judgment but is patient and listens. She also gives back to her community through extensive pro bono services. Finally, Rebecca is fair. Rebecca's experience, temperament and intellect have her ready for this next step, but her commitment to fairness will carry her through the challenges ahead.

I encourage you to select Rebecca to serve as the next district court judge for Park and Sweet Grass Counties. Rebecca already possesses the virtues of a good district court judge. I believe she is now ready to prove it.

Respectfully,



Kyle W. Nelson

February 12, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor, Juras:

I am honored to be writing this letter of support for Rebecca Swandal for the Sixth Judicial District Court Judgeship. While her father, the Honorable Nels Swandal, was the District Court Judge, he and I worked together to establish CASA of Park and Sweet Grass Counties. That was over 20 years ago.

I got to know the Swandal family in the late 70's when we first moved to Park County. And I've known Ms. Swandal since her early childhood. Ms. Swandal was always a very good student throughout her school years in Park County and then eventually attending Law School in Missoula. She grew up surrounded by a family that was deeply rooted in Montana Law, the Court System and the Montana State Legislature. She is very versed in Montana's legal system as well as being born, raised and educated in Montana. She knows Montana and its citizens to the core. That's important for a District Court Judge.

Ms. Swandal is a very research driven individual. You can be sure that she will be diligent in reading all the files before her on every single case. She has experience in legal research while working for the Montana Supreme Court. She has experience of how to run an office efficiently and get the most from her employees. Through her mediation work she learned essential people skills to be able to negotiate through difficult situations. Her estate work with families, divorce and parenting plan exposed her to the many nuances of Family Law. Her work as County Attorney in Meagher County exposed her to a variety of criminal cases. Her background in the legal profession has spanned every sector of the law.

Within her work and her personal life, she has shown empathy for the downtrodden and victims of injustice. She will follow the law and bring justice to each case that is brought before the bench. Because of all these qualities and her experience, it is with confidence that I support Ms. Swandal's appointment to represent the citizens of Park and Sweet Grass Counties as their District Judge.

Respectfully,



Ann Schilling
Founder/ Program Director
CASA of Park and Sweet Grass Counties

406-220-0259
Email: ann@casajd6.org

February 11, 2026

Cassie Coburn
PO Box 757
White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to offer my strong support for Rebecca Swandal in her application to serve as a District Court Judge for the Montana 6th Judicial District Court. I am writing both as a fellow business owner in Meagher County and in a personal capacity, having known Rebecca and her family for years. She brings a strong Montana legal foundation, with family ties to the profession through her grandmother, Bonnie Swandal, and her father, Judge Nels Swandal. Importantly, Rebecca's own career reflects the experience and temperament this position requires.

What stands out to me is her demonstrated commitment to public service and the orderly administration of justice. She has served in court-facing roles beyond private practice, including stepping in as Interim/Acting Meagher County Attorney when needed. That kind of service reflects a willingness to show up when communities need competent, steady leadership and it signals practical understanding of courtroom expectations, docket pressures, and the importance of timely decisions.

Rebecca's record reflects strong professional integrity and the judgment the public expects from the bench. She also takes access to justice seriously, with a demonstrated history of pro bono work for Montanans who cannot afford representation. Just as importantly, her stated priorities align with what communities deserve from a district court judge: fairness, competence, respect for litigants, and decisions made without unnecessary delay.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to give Rebecca Swandal your full consideration for appointment to the 6th Judicial District Court. I believe she has the temperament, experience, and commitment to serve the public with fairness and professionalism.

Respectfully,



Cassie Coburn, Partner
Jawbone Group, LLC

February 11, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I fully support Rebecca Swandal to take the position as the 6th Judicial District Court Judge upon Judge Gilbert's resignation. She is fair and will serve our district and Montana well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mary Catherine Lane
925 West Lewis Street
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-7166

February 12, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I would like express my support of appointing Rebecca Swandal to preside over the 6th Judicial District Court in Livingston. Rebecca displays the integrity and wisdom needed to effectively fill the seat and serve this community. Her legal background and intimate knowledge of this community set her apart from other candidates. There are no doubts that Rebecca will be able to preside in a manner consistent with the values of this state and will lead with fairness and justice. I have every confidence Rebecca will quickly become a pivotal part of the Justice system within this District.

Respectfully,



Sheriff Tad Dykstra

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it is not the same river and he is not the same man" -Heraclitus

*Park County Sheriff's Office
414 E. Callendar St
Livingston, MT 59047
406-222-4191*

February 13, 2026

Governor's Office
c/o Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am very pleased to support Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court Judge.

Rebecca has been my personal lawyer for some 13 years since I retired to Clyde Park in Park County from Bozeman. Rebecca is an outstanding lawyer, has an astonishing work ethic, powers through laborious issues, is timely to a fault, handles pressure, knows her way around a courtroom, and keeps a calm and engaging personality throughout.

In my own career I worked for 15 years for six excellent district court judges (Gary, Moran, Salvagni, Guenther, Brown and Brown) as a law clerk and court administrator, and I learned the meaning of a "judicial disposition". More than anything, it means the ability to calm angry waters, helping people understand it is "their" courtroom, being fast and firm in trials, and loving the law. Rebecca has all the makings for an excellent judicial disposition. One could lose in her courtroom, but still know you had your day in court.

Thank you in advance for considering Rebecca Swandal.

Dorothy Bradley

February 12, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

My name is Keldah Hedstrom, and Rebecca Swandal represented me in a divorce case that was exceptionally complex and challenging. The matter involved prolonged abuse and related criminal proceedings, which were later resolved through felony convictions. Throughout this difficult process, Rebecca demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, ethics, and dedication.

Rebecca consistently approached my case with thoroughness, organization, and timeliness. She communicated clearly and effectively, and I deeply appreciated her willingness to explain the legal process so that I could understand not only what was happening, but why—grounding each step in the applicable law and facts. This clarity and transparency were invaluable during an overwhelming and emotionally charged time.

Even in a highly contentious case, Rebecca demonstrated patience, treated all parties with respect, and maintained unwavering ethical standards. I observed her make difficult decisions grounded firmly in law and professional responsibility, regardless of external pressure from opposing counsel. Her judgment reflected both strength and restraint.

In addition, I witnessed Rebecca's interactions with court personnel and other legal professionals, and it is clear she is widely respected for her leadership, professionalism, and fairness. Her demeanor consistently reflected respect for the court, the rule of law, and the people impacted by the judicial process.

I offer my strongest support for Rebecca Swandal's appointment to the Sixth Judicial District Court and am confident she will serve with integrity, fairness, and distinction.

I would be pleased to provide additional information if helpful. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keldah Hedstrom", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Keldah Hedstrom

February 11, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor, Juras:

I am writing to offer my strong support for Rebecca Swandal for the 6th Judicial District Court.

I have known Rebecca since birth, and our relationship has spanned a lifetime. We were college roommates, and over the years our friendship has grown alongside our professional careers. As a CPA, I have also had the opportunity to work with Rebecca on professional matters, which has allowed me to observe firsthand her analytical ability, sound judgment, and unwavering commitment to ethical standards.

Rebecca possesses exceptional integrity. She approaches every situation thoughtfully, fairly, and with a deep respect for the law and for the people she serves. Her strong ethical foundation is evident in both her personal and professional life. She listens carefully, considers all perspectives, and makes decisions grounded in principle rather than pressure or convenience.

Rebecca is deeply rooted in Park County, where we both live. She understands our community - its values, its challenges, and its people. Her connection to this area is not only professional but personal, and she is genuinely invested in its well-being. That local perspective, combined with her legal experience and steady temperament, would make her an outstanding judge for the 6th Judicial District.

In my professional capacity, I value individuals who demonstrate sound reasoning, discretion, and a strong moral compass. Rebecca exemplifies all these qualities. I have complete confidence in her ability to serve with fairness, diligence, and integrity.

I wholeheartedly support Rebecca Swandal's candidacy and believe she would serve our community honorably and effectively.

Sincerely,



Emily Fabich

LAW OFFICES

HUPPERT, SWINDLEHURST & WOODRUFF, P.C.

ARNOLD HUPPERT, JR.
(1931-2011)
JOSEPH T. SWINDLEHURST
STEPHEN E. WOODRUFF

420 SOUTH SECOND STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 523
LIVINGSTON, MONTANA 59047

TELEPHONE: 406-222-2023
FACSIMILE: 406-222-7944
Email: joe@hswlegal.com
Email: steve@hswlegal.com

February 23, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

**Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal's Appointment
as 6th Judicial District Court Judge**

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Rebecca Swandal. I believe she will make an excellent judge to serve the people and legal community of the 6th Judicial District.

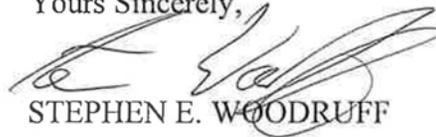
I have worked on a variety of matters with Rebecca during her years in practice, primarily in the areas of real estate transactions, estate/trust matters, and business matters. She is consistently prompt and reasonable in all dealings. She is collegial, but never at the expense of advocating for her clients. She has an excellent grasp of the law, and also the practicalities of legal decision-making.

Like her father Nels (who I practiced in front of for many years, and for whom I have a great deal of respect), I believe that Rebecca will be a fair, prompt and decisive judge. Issuing timely rulings has been a hallmark of practice in our court throughout my 25+ years in practice, and I am confident that Rebecca will continue that tradition (which is certainly not a given in other Montana District Courts).

Rebecca is a kind and friendly person who will treat litigants as human beings. She understands that the function of the legal system is, ultimately, to resolve disputes, and I am confident that she will be a problem-solver on the bench.

I commend Rebecca to the bench, and appreciate your consideration of this letter of support.

Yours Sincerely,



STEPHEN E. WOODRUFF

February 24, 2026

Governor's Office
c/o Hanna Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to share my personal observations regarding Rebecca Swandal, whom I have come to know over the last several years. During that time, Rebecca has consistently demonstrated integrity, fairness, and genuine respect for others. She approaches every situation with a calm, principled mindset and exemplifies strong character and ethics.

Her extensive experience as a lawyer has given her a deep, practical understanding of the law. I know her to have the ability to navigate complex legal matters with balanced reasoning and professionalism. Her knowledge and steady judgment are valuable qualities in any setting where clarity and fairness are essential.

Because of Ms. Swandal's strong ethics and character, along with her thorough understanding of the law and judicial processes, I have great confidence in her ability to take on the responsibilities as the 6th Judicial District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trishia Herbst", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Trishia Herbst
Park County, MT



February 28, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

As you know, the Montana Chamber of Commerce is the state's largest and oldest business advocacy organization. We are guided by a strategic plan that has been developed and supported by business leaders across the state.

The strategic pillar "Business Climate" focuses our efforts on tax and regulatory policy, legal climate and judicial environment. A stable, fair and predictable judicial climate is a priority for economic growth and business leaders continue to stress the importance of a balanced judiciary.

I have known Rebecca Swandal and her family throughout my life. Rebecca is very well respected in the community and has established a successful law firm in Park County.

There are a lot of frustrations with Montana's judicial system and the frequent role courts have taken to write legislation rather than interpret law. Rebecca will be a solid constitutional based judge, recognizing the different roles the legislature and the judiciary serve.

Additionally, Rebecca's life experiences have been shaped through both rural and agricultural experiences—values that will serve her and the constituents of Montana well.

On behalf of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, I encourage you to consider Rebecca Swandal for the 6th Judicial District Court.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd O'Hair".

Todd O'Hair
President/CEO
Montana Chamber of Commerce

February 23, 2026

Governor's Office

PO Box 200801

Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing in strong support of Rebecca Swandal's appointment as the 6th Judicial District Court Judge.

I have known Rebecca for over 30 years, both as a relative and as a close friend. Having observed her throughout different stages of her life and career, I can confidently speak to her character, integrity, and unwavering sense of responsibility.

Rebecca is consistently professional, honest, and deeply committed to doing what is right. She approaches her work with thoughtfulness and care, and she holds herself to the highest standards. Her strong work ethic and sense of duty are evident in everything she undertakes. At the same time, she is compassionate and genuinely cares about people, which I believe is an essential quality for someone serving on the bench.

Over the years, I have seen Rebecca handle challenges with maturity, fairness, and steady judgment. She listens carefully, considers issues thoroughly, and treats others with respect. These qualities, combined with her experience and dedication, make her exceptionally well suited to serve as a District Court Judge.

I wholeheartedly support Rebecca's appointment and am confident she will serve the 6th Judicial District with integrity and distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chelsea McNamara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Chelsea McNamara
227 ½ S. Main St Apt 2
Livingston, MT 59047

February 19, 2026

Governor's Office
c/o Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor, Juras:

I am writing to express my strong support for appointment of Rebecca Swandal to serve as Judge of the Sixth Judicial District Court.

My support comes from both personal and professional experience. I had the privilege of being represented by Rebecca as her client, and I now serve as City Judge. These combined perspectives allow me to speak not only to her skill as an attorney, but to her temperament and readiness for judicial service.

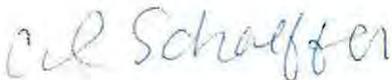
As my attorney, she approached my matter with diligence, preparation and care. She communicated clearly, took the time to explain so that I understood potential outcomes and demonstrated professionalism throughout. What stood out most was her character. She approached my matter respectfully and with compassion.

From my perspective on the bench, I recognize in her the qualities essential to a district court judge: sound judgment, impartiality, patience and a deep respect for due process. She understands that court decisions profoundly impact individuals, families and communities. Her professionalism and ethical standards reflect someone who appreciates both authority and the responsibility essential to the judicial office.

The Sixth Judicial District Court requires a judge who represents fairness, competence and integrity. Based on my firsthand experience and my understanding of judicial responsibility, I am confident she will serve the citizens of Park and Sweetgrass Counties with honor.

It is without hesitation that I offer my full support for her appointment.

Respectfully,



Carol Schaeffer
City Court Judge
Livingston, Montana

SPECTEC

THUNDERBIRD INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

To: The Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
HELENA, MT 59620-0801

RE: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras,

We have known Rebecca for many years. She has helped us in writing contracts and legal agreements.

Rebecca Swandal is an outstanding Lawyer and a person of high competence, integrity, honesty, discrimination, good judgement and fairness.

We have referred her services to business associates and friends and highly recommend that she be seated as Judge for the 6th Judicial Court.

Sincerely

Walter and Regina Wunsch

President / COO

SPECTEC

INNOVATIVE SENSOR SOLUTIONS

406-333-4444 Cell 406-223-4444 / 223-2227 Fax: 406-333-4259

Email: walter@spectecensors.com



Rebecca Swandal <rebecca.swandal@gmail.com>

Letter of Support

dogrockranch <dogrockranch@gmail.com>
To: Swandal Law <rebecca.swandal@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 7:51 AM

Dear Governor

Gayleen and I are fully supportive of Rebecca Swandal for District Judge. MS Swandal will make a great Judge following the Constitution and using conservative principles

Both of us recommend your appointment of Rebecca Sweandal for District Judge.

Thank you

Marty and Gayleen Malone
[Quoted text hidden]

February 24, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th
Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to express my support for Rebecca Swandal for District Court Judge. I have known Rebecca Swandal my entire life and have witnessed her dedication and understanding of the law. I am confident she will serve as an impartial, hard-working judge who will uphold the rule of the law.

She has operated her family's law office for many years and has deep roots in this area. She is committed to the values of rural Montanans and will serve them with honor and integrity.

I highly recommend Rebecca Swandal for this position.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Robitaille". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Courtney Robitaille

Ron and Kayl Arthun
283 Shields River Rd
Wilsall, MT 59086
February 23, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court.

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

We are writing in support of Rebecca Swandal, for appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court.

We have known Rebecca since she was a very young child. We watched her grow up. We know Rebecca personally and professionally.

Rebecca is a very intelligent and very driven person. She works hard in all areas of her life. She is actively involved in her children's school activities. She is supportive and active in Shields River Lutheran Church. She is active in the Wilsall Foundation.

Rebecca has personally helped us with legal work for our business. Rebecca is always willing to help others. She works above and beyond to help people with reduced financial resources.

Rebecca is calm and methodical. She is pragmatic and ethical.

We highly recommend Rebecca Swandal for this judicial position.

Respectfully,

Ronald V Arthun
Kayl J Arthun

February 15, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

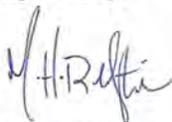
It is my privilege to write this letter in support of Rebecca Swandal for appointment to the Montana 6th Judicial District Court bench. Having collaborated with Ms. Swandal for over ten years, both in an official capacity as the County Clerk and as a private client, I have witnessed the integrity, diligence, and legal proficiency she brings to our community.

In my former role as County Clerk, I observed many attorneys. Ms. Swandal stands out for her unwavering professionalism. She possesses a comprehensive understanding of statutes regarding land use and property law, and I consistently found her work both thorough and accurate.

Beyond the courtroom, I have sought Ms. Swandal's counsel for my own legal needs, including the successful formation of a family-owned LLC. In 2020, my husband and I required specialized guidance for a unique property "trade". Because this transaction was conducted without real estate agents, we relied entirely on Ms. Swandal's expertise to protect our interests. She oversaw the transfer of property and preparation of all land deeds, ensuring every statutory requirement was met. The process went seamlessly.

I am proud to recommend Rebecca Swandal. I have no doubt that she will preside over her courtroom with the same patience and commitment to service she has demonstrated throughout her career.

Respectfully,



Maritza H. Reddington

February 21, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca R. Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I credit Rebecca Swandal, and her grandmother, Bonnie Swandal, with planting the seed that grew into my career as an attorney. Bonnie inspired me to consider the law as a "profession of public service," and working with Rebecca taught me that a career centered on helping people could be intellectually rigorous. Rebecca and I share the rare experience of being born and raised in Wilsall which means that I have known her my entire life. Because she was ahead of me in school, I knew of Rebecca as the Sunday school helper, basketball star, and valedictorian that my peers and I hoped to emulate. I was lucky enough to start a summer internship at Swandal, Douglas & Gilbert shortly after Rebecca joined the firm, and she took me under her wing. I continued interning with her for several more summers, including after she opened Swandal Law and Mediation Center. During those years, she spoke often about her desire to help people, manage costs for clients, and work to strengthen the local bar association.

Rebecca's values encouraged me to pursue a career in the law, but it is my experiences as an attorney that make me confident that Rebecca will be specifically suited to the role of a district court judge. While most attorneys have a streak of procrastination in their personality, Rebecca is the only person I have ever worked with who is the opposite of a procrastinator: she does not put off until tomorrow what she can do today. I have never seen case management or time management skills to equal hers, and I am confident that she will not leave parties waiting in limbo for decisions.

Family law, criminal law, and estate administration are all practice areas that can lead to disillusionment with the practice of law and occasionally the very people we choose to represent. Despite practicing in these areas for the entirety of her career, Rebecca has never lost her faith in humanity or her lively sense of humor. Additionally, the breadth of her casework will give her a bedrock in legal knowledge surpassing more specialized attorneys.

If you have any questions about my wholehearted recommendation or about my experiences with Rebecca, please do not hesitate to contact me at caity@bmslawmt.com or 406-656-6551.

Very Truly Yours,



Caity Zimmerman



February 11, 2026

Governor's Office
c/o Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I'm writing to express my full support for Rebecca Swandal's being appointed as the 6th Judicial District Judge here in Park County.

Rebecca's roots in this area run deep, having grown up in Park County and spent most of her life here. She has a unique appreciation for the community and its people, which will serve her well as a judge. Her extensive experience as an attorney, including her work in family law, estate planning, and civil litigation, has prepared her to handle the complexities of the judicial system that she would have to face while being a Judge.

I have had the pleasure of working with Rebecca over the past few year in the Real Estate industry and have observed that she is a respected and accomplished attorney, and I can confidently attest to her exceptional qualities. She possesses a strong work ethic, a keen intellect, and a compassionate heart. Rebecca is committed to fairness, impartiality, and justice, and I have no doubt that she will bring these values to the bench.

Rebecca's experience as a pro tem judge in Park County and County Attorney for Meagher County have given her a unique understanding of the judicial system and the needs of the community.

I strongly believe that Rebecca has the qualifications, temperament, and experience necessary to excel as a district court judge. I wholeheartedly endorse her application and urge you to consider her for this important position,

Respectfully,

Charlie Eubank
Broker/Owner

PARK COUNTY JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD

Justice of the Peace

Honorable Clay Herbst

February 25, 2026

Governor's Office
c/o Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801
hannah.slusser@mt.gov
Fax: (406) 444-5529

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to express my support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court.

I have known Ms. Swandal for numerous years. I first became acquainted with her as a Deputy Sheriff and then as Undersheriff for the Park County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Swandal always demonstrated professionalism, poise, and integrity.

Currently in my service as the Park County Justice of the Peace, Ms. Swandal practices in my Court on occasion. Ms. Swandal is an experienced Attorney who has shown a vast knowledge of the Law as well as a strong understanding of the Judicial Process. She has demonstrated high moral standards and work ethics as well as balanced reasoning and professionalism in the Courtroom. She demonstrates strong character and poise, as well as the ability to navigate difficult cases, while still showing respect for others who may be in opposition.

Ms. Swandal has also served as a Pro Tempe Judge on numerous occasions in my Court. During that time, she has shown exceptional decision-making skills in accordance with the Law, as well as acting with grace and courtesy when dealing with participants in the Courtroom.

Because of Ms. Swandal's many exceptional qualities and her vast knowledge of the Judicial System, Ms. Swandal has my full support, and I am very confident that she would make an outstanding District Judge in the 6th Judicial District Court.

Respectfully,

Clay Herbst

Judge Clay Herbst
Park County Justice of the Peace

February 11, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Rebecca Swandal as she seeks appointment for the position of 6th Judicial District Court Judge.

I have known Rebecca for most of my life, while growing up in neighboring communities. Throughout those years and into adulthood I have seen Rebecca's character blossom in many ways. She does what is right and what is needed, without hesitation, every time. Many families and members of our community have been positively impacted by her hard work and dedication. I have no doubt that she will bring the same level of work ethic and commitment when appointed to this new position.

In recent years, I have looked up to Rebecca as a fellow working Mom. She has proven that dreams of holding important positions in our community can in fact be possible, while also shaping the future of the next generation in our homes.

I have no doubt that Rebecca Swandal is the right person for the job of 6th Judicial District Court Judge. Her application speaks for itself in regards to her experience, but I am certain her character and values are even more impressive.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kendra Fox".

Kendra Fox
kfox@parkcounty.org

LAW OFFICES
KARL KNUCHEL, P.C.

101 North E Street
P.O. Box 953
Livingston, MT 59047

Karl Knuchel karl@knuchelpc.com

February 11, 2026

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
PO BOX 200801
HELENA MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the Sixth Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juris:

As a practicing lawyer in Livingston, Montana, for over 47 years, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Rebecca Swandal to become the Judge of the Sixth Judicial Court.

I have known Rebecca since she returned from college and began practicing law in Livingston, Montana, and find that she has the temperament, intellect and work ethic to become a great District Judge.

If there is any other information I can provide, please do not hesitate to call or write.

Best wishes,

KARL KNUCHEL
Attorney at Laws

KK/sh

February 20, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the appointment Rebecca Swandal for district judge. Throughout her legal career, she has demonstrated unwavering integrity, deep commitment to justice, and an exceptional understanding of the law. Her professionalism and dedication to fairness have earned the respect of colleagues, clients, and community members alike.

Throughout our collaboration, Rebecca has shown remarkable attention to detail and a strong commitment to achieving positive outcomes. Her communication skills are excellent, and she is always responsive and clear in their interactions. I have witnessed firsthand her ability to analyze intricate legal issues, develop effective strategies, and advocate passionately for her clients.

I am confident that her experience and sound judgment will serve our district well. The appointment of such a capable and principled individual will undoubtedly enhance the quality of our judiciary and strengthen public trust in the legal system. Please consider this letter as our wholehearted endorsement for their appointment as district judge.

Respectfully,

Nick and Kira Jerke
406-951-4878
kajerke@hotmail.com

February 23, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

It is with great honor that I write this letter in strong support of Rebecca Swandal for appointment to the Sixth Judicial District Court. I have known Rebecca for over 17 years through community efforts and personal relationships, and during that time I have come to deeply respect both her professional integrity and her personal character.

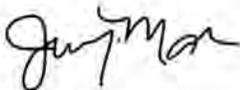
Rebecca is a well-known and committed supporter of the Park County communities in which she lives and works. Her dedication to empathetic, ethical service—particularly in support of the less fortunate and vulnerable populations of our county—is one of the many reasons I consider her an outstanding applicant for this appointment. She understands that the law is not simply about statutes and procedure; it is about people, fairness, and ensuring equitable access to justice.

For the past six years, I have directly observed Rebecca's compassion and steadfast care toward a young single mother navigating a tumultuous divorce and custody battle. Throughout a long and emotionally taxing legal process, Rebecca provided guidance, security, and structure. At no time did she allow her client to feel that fairness and equity were out of reach simply because she did not have the financial resources to retain a high-cost attorney like her former spouse. Rebecca provided pro bono and reduced-fee representation over the course of six years, ultimately resulting in a favorable and just outcome for the mother and her child.

This example reflects what I have seen consistently over nearly two decades: Rebecca approaches her work with intellect, preparation, steady judgment, and unwavering integrity. She listens carefully, treats people with dignity, and remains grounded in the principles of fairness and accountability that our judicial system depends upon.

The Sixth Judicial District deserves a judge who understands our community, respects the rule of law, and carries both strength and compassion to the bench. Rebecca Swandal embodies those qualities fully. I offer my unequivocal support for her appointment and thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,



Jenny Malloy
(406) 853-2474
jennymalloy@gmail.com

February 23, 2026.



Ms. Carol Glenn Lalani
9265 Trooper Trl
Bozeman, MT 59715

406-579-4100
Carol@tmt@aol.com

Governor's office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620-0801

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lt. Governor Juras :

I would like to highly recommend Rebecca Swandal for the position of 6th Judicial District Court Judge. I'm a 4th generation Montanan who has known the Swandal family for decades and Rebecca since she was born.

Rebecca has the professional background needed with extensive legal expertise. She has the temperament and high ethical standards; including, impartiality and fairness. Rebecca also has long and extensive community ties.

In my opinion she has the qualifications needed and required for the position of 6th district court judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Glenn Lalani". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Carol Glenn Lalani



Blair Jones
8 River View Road
Park City, Montana 59063
(406) 697-1054
willisblairjones@gmail.com



February 16, 2026

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

Re: Application of Rebecca Swandal – Sixth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant-Governor Juras:

I consider it a privilege to provide this letter of recommendation on behalf of Rebecca Swandal for the position of District Court Judge of the Sixth Judicial District. As a retired district judge who served the 22nd Judicial District for almost two decades, I know what the job requires and the skills necessary to competently discharge the duties of a district judge. Based on personal observation, I know that Rebecca Swandal possesses the requisite skills.

I am personally acquainted with Rebecca, having been close friends with her father, Nels Swandal, who was a highly respected district judge for the Sixth Judicial District for many years. Rebecca is a most accomplished attorney in her own right, serving clients in Livingston and the surrounding communities. In just the past few months, I had occasion to mediate a case where Rebecca was one of the lawyers on the case. She was prepared, knowledgeable in the relevant law, and ably represented her client. Her reputation in Park County and surrounding counties is impeccable, and I find her to be personable, skilled, and committed to fairness. Moreover, I believe her judicial philosophy would reflect judicial restraint, with a sincere respect for the powers and duties of the executive and legislative branches under the Montana Constitution.

In my judgment, Rebecca Swandal has the skills, temperament, and dedication to justice necessary to make an outstanding district judge. I give her my highest possible recommendation for this important position.

Thank you for considering this recommendation and for your outstanding service to the people of Montana.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Blair Jones".

Blair Jones
District Judge (retired)

February 25, 2026

Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal for Appointment of the 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte and Lieutenant Governor Juras:

I have known Rebecca Swandal since she was a student at Shields Valley High School. Even then, she stood out. She was focused, driven, and clear about her goal of following her family into the practice of law. What impressed me most was not only her ambition, but her steady sense of purpose and integrity at such a young age.

Since 2009, Rebecca and I have served together on the board of the Wilsall Foundation, Inc. We are now the only two remaining original board members, having worked side by side for more than fifteen years to build and strengthen this organization. Throughout that time, I have watched Rebecca grow into a thoughtful leader who brings both insight and balance to every discussion. As a lifelong resident of Shields Valley, a practicing attorney, and a young parent, she offers a perspective that is grounded in community and shaped by real life experience.

Rebecca currently serves on the Foundation's early childhood committee, where her commitment to the future of our valley is evident. She understands that strong communities are built intentionally. She has given countless volunteer hours not only to the Wilsall Foundation, but to organizations throughout Park County. Her service is not for recognition. It is simply who she is.

On a professional level, my husband and I have entrusted Rebecca with our own estate planning. That decision was not made lightly. These are deeply personal matters that require competence, discretion, and sound judgment. Rebecca has guided us through important decisions with clarity and patience. We trust her completely to handle sensitive matters with care and professionalism.

Over the years, I have seen Rebecca handle difficult conversations, competing viewpoints, and complex decisions with a calm and measured approach. She listens first. She considers all sides. She is principled without being rigid. She is compassionate without compromising fairness. Those qualities are essential in a judge.

Rebecca is committed to doing what is right. She believes in the rule of law and in the responsibility that comes with it. Her personal values are reflected in her professional conduct and in her unwavering service to this community. She will approach the bench with integrity, diligence, and respect for every individual who enters her courtroom.

It is without hesitation that I offer my full support for Rebecca Swandal's appointment as the 6th Judicial District Court Judge. She has the character, experience, and judgment to serve Montana well.

Respectfully,

Jennell Huff

Governor Greg Gianforte
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

March 17, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for Rebecca Swandal – 6th Judicial District Court

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the appointment of Rebecca Swandal as Judge for the 6th Judicial District Court.

My family and I first came to know Rebecca through a professional relationship, and over the years she has become one of our closest family friends. We have worked with her in multiple capacities, as a lawyer and real estate professional, and have seen firsthand her judgment, integrity, and fairness in both professional and personal settings.

Rebecca has been a practicing attorney in our community for many years and is well respected for her intelligence, strong work ethic, and even-tempered approach. She consistently demonstrates the ability to manage significant responsibility and high-stress situations without allowing pressure to affect her judgment. She listens carefully, thinks critically, and approaches decisions with thoughtfulness and restraint.

She has faced personal hardships in her life, and throughout those challenges has remained steadfast in her values, character, and commitment to others. Those experiences have strengthened her empathy and resolve — qualities that are essential in a judge entrusted with difficult and consequential decisions.

Equally important is her long-standing service to the community. Rebecca has devoted significant time to volunteer and nonprofit work, including many years serving on the board of CASA, advocating for children in the court system, as well as involvement with the Wilsall Foundation, the Livingston Police Commission, the Shane Center, and other community organizations. Her service reflects a deep sense of responsibility to others and a genuine commitment to the well-being of our community.

Her roots in Montana run deep. Her family has been here for generations, and her father served our community for many years as District Judge before continuing his public service in the State Senate. She understands both the responsibility of the judiciary and the importance of earning and maintaining public trust.

I understand that when appointing a judge, the critical importance of upholding the Constitution, applying the law as written, exercising restraint from the bench, and serving all Montanans fairly and impartially is paramount. Rebecca embodies these principles. She is level-headed, principled, and deeply committed to doing what is right, even when difficult.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Johnson
Wilsall, MT
406-224-7965