

Slusser, Hannah

From: Maranna Dean <marannahome@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 2:03 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Rebekah J. French-Application for Eighth Judicial District

I write in support of the selection of Rebekah J. French to fill the vacancy on the Eighth District Court.

Rebekah and I have known each other for well over 40 years. It is for this reason I will speak to her character and background.

Rebekah is an upstanding, no-nonsense, dedicated, balanced and caring individual.

Rebekah has long had the desire to be educated on multiple subjects. Her passion for the law leads her to continued learning. She has the ability to look at all sides and points of views. She is not afraid of hard work or long hours. I have always thought she would make an excellent judge.

Dedicated and balanced go hand in hand for Rebekah. Her continued career has been balanced with her care for others. She is also strengthened by her ongoing faith. Most of her time has been spent in Montana even though career opportunities took her to Washington, DC at one point. She has always maintained her ties to Great Falls and her love for Montana.

Sincerely,

Maranna Dean

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Pamela Rabold
P.O. Box 111
Jefferson City, MT 59638

June 25, 2021

nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Eighth Judicial District applicant Rebekah French

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing in support of Rebekah French's application to be judge in the Eighth Judicial District. Rebekah is uniquely and eminently qualified for the position. She has practiced as an attorney on a high level in both federal and state court. She has handled complex litigation for the U.S. Attorney General's anti-trust division in Washington, D.C., and Texas. She has worked for the U.S. Attorney's office in Great Falls handling criminal cases. She defended the State of Montana in civil rights and other tort claims as an attorney for the Montana Risk Management & Tort Defense Division. She clerked for Federal District Judge Lovell. Rebekah knows how litigation works in both the civil and criminal arenas.

Rebekah would bring an objective, intelligent, compassionate demeanor to the Eighth Judicial Circuit. She has her own world view as do all judges. But she knows what precedent is and the role of courts in our system of checks and balances. She would apply the law as written even if it pains her – and it might!

Significantly, Rebekah has the intellectual wherewithal to be timely, efficient, and effective in her work as a judge. She is disciplined and hard working. And she is a Great Falls native. I have deep respect for Rebekah as a colleague and recommend her without reservation for appointment to the Eight Judicial District bench.

Sincerely yours,

Pamela Rabold
Pamela Rabold

Slusser, Hannah

From: Bill Gianoulas <KTNY12@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:01 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rebekah French Recommendation

Judicial Advisory Council
Attention Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59602

Dear Advisory Council:

I write to recommend Rebekah French as District Judge in the Montana Eighth Judicial District. Ms. French is exceedingly smart, hard working, experienced in both civil and criminal law, fair minded, impartial and full of integrity.

I worked with Ms. French starting more than fifteen years ago. As her nominal supervisor at Risk Management and Tort Defense I got to know how Rebekah viewed the law and how she practiced law. She worked on cases that were factually and legally complex and challenging. She analyzed her cases by gathering all the facts then exhaustively researching, analyzing and applying the law to the facts.

Her careful work led to recommendations to clients about the best course to follow responding to claims presented. Rebekah did not hesitate to deliver advice that was not always welcome or to vigorously defend when that is where her analysis led.

Rebekah was well respected by the Judges she practiced in front of, her clients and her coworkers. Rebekah was often consulted by other lawyers because of her knowledge and insight and was always willing to help. She worked many late nights and long hours to make sure she knew her cases and gave her clients the best representation.

Rebekah is a purist about the law. She reads and analyzes cases to understand precedent and apply the laws as set out by the courts without regard to her personal views even if she might disagree with a decision. She has the qualities that will make her a good judge. She is compassionate, carefully analytical, really listens to others and will keep her mind open until all the facts are before her and she fully understands the law.

Sincerely,
/s/Bill Gianoulas
Helena, MT 59602

Slusser, Hannah

From: Laura and Kent Kupfner <bigskytrio@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:27 PM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rebekah French

Dear Mr. Gianforte,

I am writing you on behalf of my dear friend Rebekah French. Our friendship runs deep and goes back to our fathers who were Great Falls downtown business owners.

Rebekah's resume speaks for itself. But I am writing to speak to the personal side of Rebekah. Rebekah was born and raised in Great Falls. Her roots run deep here and, I believe because of her ties, she understands and relates to our community.

Speaking of community, Rebekah is a very active member of her church. She also supports local causes in Helena and Great Falls.

Mr. Gianforte, Rebekah would be an excellent fit for the bench. Knowing my friend she can hold the court with her presence and will rule accordingly under the law. It would be incredibly fantastic for Rebekah's brother and friends for her to be back in her hometown. Great Falls would benefit from Rebekah French being back here .

Please consider my well qualified friend, Rebekah French for state district court judge. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Laura Kupfner
2300 Larkspur Ln
Great Falls MT 59404
406-868-1404

TINA C. BRILZ, RPR, FCRR
Freelance Court Reporter
BRILZ COURT REPORTING, INC.
4956 Smallwood Court
Helena, Montana 59601
406-899-8912

June 7, 2021

The Honorable Greg Gianforte, Governor
Attn: Ms. Hannah Slusser
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59620-0801

RE: Application of Rebekah J. French as Eighth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I am writing in support of the application of Rebekah J. French as the next district court judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court in Great Falls. Rebekah was raised in Great Falls and is looking forward to returning to Great Falls at some point in the future.

I have worked at various times with Rebekah over her 30-year career as an attorney, beginning in 1990 with her first position as a law clerk for the Honorable Charles C. Lovell in Federal District Court in Helena. As the court reporter for the same judge, I worked daily with Rebekah and observed her grow and develop in this job. She worked hard to help the judge keep up with the workload of this busy federal court.

Later, I worked with her again when she returned to Montana to work as a law clerk for the Honorable Sam E. Haddon in federal court in Great Falls. Again, I worked with her daily and saw the hard work she put in to keep the judge current on his case load and assist him with the cases we had in the courtroom..

I also worked with her when she went to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Great Falls. This was the first opportunity I had to observe her working in the courtroom. She was always

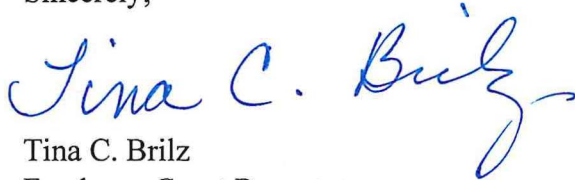
prepared and was able to anticipate what might come up as a legal issue in each trial or motion hearing or evidentiary hearing or change of plea hearing or sentencing.

I worked with Rebekah once again when she worked again for Judge Lovell in federal court in Helena and I contracted with the court as a court reporter. Rebekah possesses the integrity, honesty, and work ethic that would make you proud to appoint her to this position. She is very experienced in both criminal and civil work, so she is well prepared to do an excellent job as a judge.

Please give her consideration for this appointment.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina C. Brilz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Tina" is written in a large, elegant script. The middle initial "C." is smaller and follows the first name. The last name "Brilz" is written in a similar cursive style, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Tina C. Brilz
Freelance Court Reporter

Slusser, Hannah

From: Ada Stepleton <ada.stepleton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:21 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support for French, Levine

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I write to offer my support for two of the judicial candidates you are considering for nomination.

Rebekah French is a trustworthy and dedicated lawyer whom I've had the honor of working alongside in the Women's Section of the state bar. She is extremely well prepared and objective.

Michele Reinhart Levine is a long-time friend and colleague whom I first met when we were in law school together at the University of Montana. She is a person of great personal integrity who takes great care to view all sides of a matter before reaching a conclusion. She is very organized and is a workhorse.

I hope you will nominate both candidates.

Sincerely,
Ada Montague Strpleton



U.S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

RFK Main Justice Building
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

June 14, 2021

Office of the Governor
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena MT 59620

Re: Rebekah French – Application for the Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing in support of Rebekah French's application for the Judgeship in the Eighth Judicial District. I have known her personally and professionally for over twenty years. I believe that Ms. French is a fine lawyer and a thoughtful, fair, and decent person who would make an excellent judge and would serve the people of Montana well.

I first got to know Ms. French when we both worked in the same section of the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice. Our professional relationship was cemented during the two years that we worked together on the team of DOJ lawyers that was preparing to litigate against American Airlines, one of the cases referenced in her application. I served as chief of staff for the team. During that time, Ms. French proved herself to be a hardworking, focused and astute lawyer who, with no complaint, took on difficult and sometimes thankless tasks, and got the job done well. All of us on the team respected and appreciated her no-nonsense and thoughtful approach to her work.

Since her departure from the Department of Justice, we remained good friends and have stayed in regular contact by letters and the occasional visit, despite the distance between Montana and Washington DC. Over the years since I first met her, my respect for Ms. French as a person has grown. I have always found her to be kind, honest, forthright, and decisive, qualities that served her well when she was with the DOJ. I have no doubt her colleagues in the various positions she has held in Montana also valued her for those qualities. Ms. French has pursued the public interest her entire career. Unlike so many who leave the Antitrust Division to join the private bar, Ms. French chose the less lucrative route of state and federal jobs in the name of public interest. I know that she also cares deeply about individual people. I am but one of the many friends and colleagues from Ms. French's past with whom she has stayed in touch, and I expect she has created a community of friends and colleagues in Montana. The fact that she builds and maintains relationships over the years says much about her loyalty, sincerity, and empathy.

In sum, I think Ms. French has the credentials, experience, and temperament to be an excellent judge.

Sincerely,

Nina Hale
Attorney

LORI A. HARPER SUEK

2601 Second Avenue North, Suite 3200 • Billings, MT 59101 • (406) 247-4645 • lori.suek@usdoj.gov

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

RE: Rebekah J. French

I am honored to write this letter in support of Rebekah French and her application to fill the vacancy on the Eighth Judicial District Court. I have known Rebekah for over 30 years, and I've spent my career in the courtroom. That experience, coupled with my knowledge of Rebekah, gives me a unique perspective that I would like to share with you.

I met Rebekah in law school. Our paths then continued to parallel and cross, as we both served as federal law clerks and Assistant United States Attorneys. Little did I know the day I met Rebekah that I had found not only a wonderful mentor but a lifelong friend. Watching Rebekah through the years firsthand and from afar, I can attest that Rebekah has a work ethic unmatched by anyone. Rebekah's diligence comes from a genuine love of the law, and a strong moral compass that allows her to do no less than her best at every task. The drudgery of practicing law often makes me think of Rebekah when I remind myself that excellence is measured by what you demand of yourself every day accomplishing routine matters. A genuine love of the law, such as Rebekah possesses, equals an intellectual curiosity that ensures every case will receive the same level of attention and dedication. What more could Cascade County want in its next district judge.

Over the last almost 27 years, I have appeared in front of many different judges at the trial and appellate court levels. Providing litigants with a forum where they can try their lawsuits and obtain justice demands that a judge strike the balance between control and respect. I imagine that those who appear in front of Rebekah if she is chosen to fill this vacancy will experience a judge that is hardworking and respectful of precedent and litigants, qualities that achieve that balance and make her an exceptional candidate for the district court bench.

Rebekah's work is only a small part of what makes Rebekah exceptional. She has not lost sight of what is really important in life as shown by her dedication to family, church, community, and friends. Rebekah has many interests outside of the law that keep her grounded.

I have no hesitation in recommending Rebekah to fill the vacancy on the Eighth Judicial District Court. The people of Cascade County will only benefit with Rebekah's appointment to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lori Harper Suek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" starting with a large loop and the last name "Suek" ending with a long, sweeping tail.



U.S. Department of Justice

Antitrust Division

RFK Main Justice Building

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20530-0001

June 8, 2021

VIA E-MAIL

Office of the Governor
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena MT 59620

Re: Rebekah French – Application for the Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I highly recommend Rebekah French to be a judge in the Eighth Judicial District. I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Ms. French personally and professionally for twenty years. I am very familiar with her legal and leadership abilities and her dedication to public service.

Ms. French is an exceptional lawyer. Both when we were co-workers and subsequently, in conversations about current events and public cases, I have found Ms. French to have an incisive legal mind. She is open to a variety of perspectives and arguments, sees all sides of an issue, and weighs all the information before she makes a decision. She treats everyone she meets with respect. She argues her viewpoint firmly but never gets impatient with other views. She has unfailing integrity. She is experienced in the courtroom and with the rules of criminal and civil procedure.

Ms. French is an organized and natural leader. Her colleagues at the Antitrust Division still tell stories about her work as the chief of staff on a major antitrust case in litigation where she contributed to developing legal theories and handled interactions with the defendants and the Court while also ensuring that litigation staff had the right focus, priorities, and resources.

Ms. French is dedicated to public service. At many times during her career, she could have taken more lucrative positions, but she has consistently chosen to serve the public. From conversations with her, I know that she believes in our judicial system and its need for vigorous arguments on both sides to elicit the facts. Because my mother's family is from Montana, she and I have frequently discussed her connections to Montana, and I know that she loves Montana and wants it to be a just, safe place for Montanans to live.

I believe that Ms. French would be an outstanding judge and serve the people of Montana well. Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Tracy Fisher

Attorney, United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division

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