

1149 Toole Ct  
Billings, MT 59105  
Aug15, 2025

Dear Governor Gianforte,

This letter is being written to comment on the appointment to the District Court bench in Billings that you will be making in the near future. Bradley Kneeland is currently a Standing Master in Billings, and I believe he is a superior candidate.

Brad's entire career has been in public service; working in the public defender's office, as a law clerk, as a city prosecutor, and now a Standing Master. Currently, he presides over family law cases, including divorces and child custody matters, most of which involve pro se/self-represented litigants. He also handles criminal arraignments, initial hearings in sanity proceedings and presides over a wide variety of cases involving general civil litigation. He conducts mediations to assist parties in resolving disputes without having to incur the expense and stress of going to trial. His experience prior to his current position spanned criminal law. He represented children and parents in dependency and neglect proceedings, and also represented juveniles. His current role as Standing Master allows him to preside over family law cases. These experiences give him a well-rounded background in the types of cases that a District Court Judge must handle, transferable experience that would be beneficial for a Judge to have to get to work immediately. Brad would be able to hit the ground running seamlessly on day 1.

Brad possesses many characteristics that support him as a Judge. He is intelligent, patient, and objective. He views situations as a whole and considers all details prior to making a decision. In addition, he has strong values, is respectful, and works well with people. I have worked with him on a church committee, the Staff Parish Relations Committee, and he is an exceptional asset. He is easy to talk to, considerate, and is dependable. He is a leader, yet is also a strong team player. His work ethic is unparalleled, and he is extremely responsible.

Brad Kneeland is an incredible fit for this position. He is worthy of the appointment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Waldorf  
406-690-3666

Office of the Governor  
Helena, MT 59620

August 27, 2025

**RE: Letter of Support for Bradley Kneeland, Thirteenth Judicial District Court Vacancy**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am submitting this letter in wholehearted support for the appointment of Bradley Kneeland for the vacancy for District Court Judge for the Thirteenth Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County.

I have known Brad for several years, most notably we worked together for the Office of State Public Defender. Since that time, Brad has gone on to serve in other public service positions as judicial law clerk for Honorable Jessica Fehr, a city attorney for the City of Billings, and his current position as a Special Master for the Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

Brad is uniquely qualified for this position through his diverse background and experiences. In each of his roles, he has exhibited knowledge of the laws of the State of Montana, the importance of ensuring the justice system is equitable, and treating all counsel and parties fairly in the process. During our time working for the public defender's office, Brad zealously advocated for criminal defendants, often taking on challenging cases and always keeping the client's and their well-being in mind. As a prosecutor, Brad worked to ensure that sentences imposed were equitable and commensurate with the crime charged, and balanced punishment and rehabilitation needs of a defendant. In his current role as a Special Master, Brad presides over criminal matters, mediations and other family law matters. In this role, he has demonstrated his capabilities upholding Montana law while presiding over civil and criminal matters.

What is paramount in Brad's legal background is his commitment to public service and to the community of Billings and Yellowstone County. Each of his roles as a legal professional has served this community, and his candidacy for District Court Judge demonstrates a commitment to justice and to continue serving our community.

Brad is a respected member of the Yellowstone County legal community. He is kind, compassionate, level-headed, incredibly hard-working and always conducts himself as a professional. He is respected by his colleagues and peers. Brad not only possesses the qualifications for this position through his past work but also has the right demeanor and attitude. His variety of experience and his current experience in the Thirteenth Judicial District have prepared him for the challenges of this position.

I've had the privilege to know Brad outside of the work setting as well, and he is an exceptional human being. He is intelligent, caring, a community supporter and a fierce friend. It is without hesitation that I recommend Brad for this position as District Court Judge. He is the well-rounded, best choice for the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Natasha Y. Fernando, Esq.



*Law Firm PLLC*

**GW Building**  
2722 Third Ave N. STE 235  
Billings, Montana 59101  
TEL: 406-248-3900  
[berstlawfirm@gmail.com](mailto:berstlawfirm@gmail.com)

September 4, 2025

Governor Gianforte  
Attn: Hannah Slusser  
PO Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620  
[nominatejudges@mt.gov](mailto:nominatejudges@mt.gov)

RE: 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, Yellowstone County  
Department 9 and 10  
Application of Standing Master Bradley Kneeland

Dear Governor Gianforte:

This letter is in support of Standing Master Bradley Kneeland's nomination for one of the newly created district court judicial vacancies in Department 9 and Department 10.

I have had the privilege of practicing before Standing Master Kneeland during the last three (3) years as he has served Yellowstone County as a Standing Master. Standing Master Kneeland has presided over a number of my family law cases including parenting plans, marriage dissolutions and orders of protection. Family law cases present a unique challenge for those presiding over the matters. Clients come to proceedings in a heightened state afraid of a process they may or may not understand and worried that they could lose their children, retirement and/or home. Standing Master Kneeland has a unique talent to appreciate and treat all persons who appear before him with respect. The command that Standing Master Kneeland has over his courtroom is unmatched and allows him to give everyone who appears before him an opportunity to be heard and present their case.

I also worked on dependent neglect matters with Standing Master Kneeland when he was working as a public defender. These early cases are where I first witnessed Standing Master Kneeland's diligence to his work. Standing Master Kneeland from his early career as a public defender, to serving as a city attorney and now as a standing master approaches his work with a gravity and diligence that allows him to be prepared the moment he enters the courtroom. The preparation work judges put in prior to a hearing can have immense impact on proceedings from ensuring that the court day moves efficiently, to being prepared with the applicable law for the matter that the judge will be presiding over.

I have also had the opportunity to know Standing Master Kneeland personally as he has continued to serve the Yellowstone County community outside his role as Standing Master. He is an involved member of his church serving as an elder. He has participated in events through his church within the community. Throughout his career he has prioritized pro bono work to use his legal degree to assist those who may otherwise not have access to the court system.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court presents a set of unique challenges. Judges preside over an exceptionally high number of family law proceedings, criminal matters, and dependant neglect matters. Standing Master Kneeland's career has uniquely prepared him to be able to serve as a competent judge on day one. Specifically Standing Master Kneeland has practiced in these three (3) areas that make up the majority of the case load for the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court but he has also had years of experience making decisions over these matters in his current role as a standing master.

Standing Master Kneeland's entire career has been spent in service to others and the community. As the caseload in the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court has continued to grow it has become more and more important to have judges who have the experience, temperant and abilities to step into this role immediately. Standing Master Kneeland uniquely has this skill set and would be an asset to the 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court as he continues to serve the people of the community. For all of these reasons I fully support Standing Master Kneeland being appointed to one of the openings in Department 9 or Department 10.

Sincerely,

Katherine Delaney Berst

**From:** [Amy Hernandez](#)  
**To:** [NominateJudges](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bradley Kneeland  
**Date:** Saturday, September 6, 2025 1:07:31 PM

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Good afternoon. I am sending a quick email in support of Brad Kneeland for 13th District Judicial Court Judge. I have worked with Brad since 2019 when he started as a law clerk for Judge Fehr. I've been a legal assistant in the County Attorney's office for almost 25 years. He would definitely be an asset if selected. He's fair, impartial, knowledgeable and willing to do the work.

As part of the 13th District, I encourage you to choose Bradley Kneeland for Judge. He deserves this opportunity and will definitely do a great job.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Hernandez  
406-672-5720