

September 2, 2025

Via Email

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

RE: Letter of Support for Colin Rubich
Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judicial Appointment

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic recommendation for Colin Michael Rubich in his application for appointment to the 13th Judicial District Court. I have known Mr. Rubich for nearly two decades, beginning with our time together in law school and continuing through various professional collaborations over the years.

Mr. Rubich has consistently demonstrated the qualities essential to judicial service: integrity, intelligence, and a deep commitment to justice. His work as an Assistant United States Attorney and as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army and Army Reserve reflects a breadth of legal experience that is both impressive and highly relevant to the demands of the district court. His prosecutorial focus on white-collar crime, drug trafficking, and violent offenses speaks to his dedication to protecting the community and upholding the rule of law.

In my own practice, I have had the opportunity to seek Mr. Rubich's assistance when representing clients who were purported victims of white-collar crimes. He has always been eager to help, offering thoughtful insights and practical guidance. His willingness to serve as a resource in matters involving potential fraud and his volunteer efforts to educate members of the bar on white-collar crime issues further underscore his commitment to the legal profession and public service.

Mr. Rubich possesses the judicial temperament necessary for the bench—he is measured, respectful, and intellectually rigorous. His ability to navigate complex legal issues with clarity and fairness, combined with his strong ethical foundation, makes him exceptionally well-suited for judicial office.

I am confident that Mr. Rubich would serve the citizens of Yellowstone County and the State of Montana with distinction. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy and urge you to give his application your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,
CROWLEY FLECK PLLP

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'EJP', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

ELI J. PATTEN

EJP/to

By Email

September 4, 2025

Office of Governor Greg Gianforte
P.O. Box 20081
Helena, MT 59620
Attention: Hannah Slusser

Re: Letter of Support for Candidate Colin Rubich

Dear Governor Gianforte,

I enthusiastically write in support of attorney Colin Rubich, who has applied for a judicial vacancy on the Montana Thirteenth Judicial District Court.

With respect to my background, I have been an active member of the State Bar of Montana since 1989. From 1989 to 2002, I worked as a prosecutor in the Montana Attorney General's Office, trying cases in most of the state district courts over the years. From 2002 to 2022, I served as an assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) for the District of Montana, trying many cases in Montana's federal courts. I was the chief of the United States Attorney's Office's Criminal Division from 2014 until my retirement in August 2022. Given this background, I believe I have a strong sense of the qualities that make for a great trial judge.

Colin served as an AUSA in Montana throughout my entire tenure as criminal chief between 2014 and 2022, so I became very familiar with him as a person and an attorney. As a person, Colin has all the qualities we expect of attorneys. He is highly intelligent, extremely ethical, committed to public service, and dedicated to the impartial application of the law in all cases. He has an excellent, very efficient work ethic. Colin is simply an outstanding person.

Colin is also an exceptionally talented attorney, with a broad legal background that includes his work as a Judge Advocate General in the United States military and his present service as an AUSA. In the U.S. Attorney's Office,

Colin is a rare breed of prosecutor who prosecutes a general caseload, ranging from very sophisticated white-collar crimes, to cybercrimes, to drug trafficking and violent crimes. As criminal chief, I always felt very confident that Colin could quickly master the law in any subject matter. He never disappointed my expectations.

Colin has a keen ability to correctly analyze the law, assess the facts in a case, and render a timely, reasoned decision about how to proceed. He thus handles cases expeditiously and correctly, two critical hallmarks of a good attorney.

Finally, Colin is a very talented, experienced courtroom attorney. He has tried numerous jury trials, and countless motions hearings. That experience has given Colin a deep understanding of the rules of evidence, the rules of criminal procedure, the constitutional underpinnings of our legal system, and the manner in which adversarial proceedings occur in court. Simply stated, Colin knows what he is doing when he enters a courtroom.

Each of these personal and professional qualities will make Colin an extraordinary trial judge. His commitment to public service and the impartial treatment of litigants will ensure that those who appear before him are treated fairly and courteously. His ability to master any area of law will guarantee litigants receive the proper legal outcome in their cases. Colin's extensive courtroom experience will assure that legal proceedings proceed smoothly. Moreover, Colin's unique capacity to dispose of cases efficiently will assure that litigants receive a prompt resolution of their cases, something extremely important in our present time of crowded court dockets. Justice will not be denied by delay in Colin's court.

I have run out of adjectives to describe how positively I envision Colin as a judge. Suffice it to say, he has my full support.

Thank you for considering my opinion. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Joseph E. Thaggard
Attorney at Law
Missoula, Montana
josephethaggard@gmail.com

Lori Harper Suek

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Billings, Montana 59103
(406) 799-4865
Lori.Suek@gmail.com

Governor Gianforte

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

Dear Governor Gianforte

I am honored to write this letter in support of Colin Rubich and his application to be one of two new district court judges in the Thirteenth Judicial District, Yellowstone County. I recently retired after a 30year career as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Montana. In that capacity, I met Colin in 2014 and worked with Colin until my retirement at the end of May 2025. I consider Colin not only a former colleague but a friend. Working with Colin and getting to know Colin for over ten years allows me to speak to Colin's work and character. But my experience as a trial lawyer, appearing in front of numerous judges throughout my career, puts me in a unique position to speak to his ability to be a judge.

Colin has an unmatched work ethic. He routinely carried the largest and most diverse caseload in our office, yet he never wavered from his belief that every case, every crime is important because of his unfailing commitment to community safety and justice. But, even more important, is his ability to approach every case with objectivity, respecting the rule of law above all else. In short, Colin will never compromise the law because of a personal belief or feeling. As a prosecutor and as a judge, if you choose him, he will judge every case only on the facts and the law. In my experience, the best judges marry two qualities: confidence and humility and Colin has both qualities in spades. It will make him a judge that gets the work done while respecting all litigants that appear in front of him.

In short, I recommend Colin to you without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lori Harper Suek

Lori Harper Suek

September 7, 2025

Via Email

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

RE: *Letter of Support for Colin M. Rubich*
Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judicial Appointment

Dear Governor Gianforte,

“Every Jurist should be consistent, knowledgeable, and efficient.” These qualities expressed by Mr. Colin M. Rubich in his application for the Thirteenth Judicial District Judgeship accurately capture who Mr. Rubich is as a person, an attorney, and importantly, how he will serve as a judge. It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of Mr. Rubich’s application to serve on the judiciary in the Thirteenth Judicial District.

Since 2014, Mr. Rubich and I have been colleagues serving in the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Montana. He has extensive experience as a criminal litigator. Mr. Rubich understands the courtroom—everything from the rules of evidence to Constitutional considerations to the practical approaches mastered only by experienced trial attorneys. During this time, I have seen Mr. Rubich’s true qualities as an attorney setting him apart from others. He is consistent with every person he prosecutes and truly believes in making sure justice is done as he works to protect and serve the citizens of the District of Montana. Mr. Rubich believes in enforcing the laws fairly as they are written and nevertheless recognizes that an individual’s personal qualities are important in considering fair and just resolutions in each case. These characteristics not only demonstrate his thoughtfulness as a prosecutor but underlie the respect he has earned from his colleagues, opposing counsel, and the judiciary.

Mr. Rubich’s work in our office has centered on the criminal justice system, but his knowledge and work can, and does, expand to other areas of law. Mr. Rubich’s role in complex white-collar cases has given him experience in the same immense discovery and document review seen in civil cases. In his role in the military, he has worked representing

individual soldiers in both criminal and civil matters. This shows an obvious ability to be adaptable to changing circumstances, working under pressure, and showing attention to detail, all with the underlying goal of helping the individual soldiers in litigation. As an attorney, he is acutely aware of affording due process to all parties and he would be the same in every family law, abuse and neglect, or civil matter that was presented in his courtroom. Mr. Rubich never flinches at not being perfectly versed in a specific area of the law because he is willing to accept new challenges and learn. I have no doubt that he will take an active approach to excel in all areas within the court's jurisdiction.

It is without reservation that I support the application of Colin M. Rubich for these open judgeship positions. Numerous attorneys could serve as fair and impartial judges, but Mr. Rubich embodies a unique set of qualifications that will make him a true asset to the judiciary.

Bryan T. Dake

Bryan T. Dake

THOMAS K. GODFREY

2601 Second Avenue North, Suite 3200 ▪ Billings, MT 59101 ▪ (406) 247-4631 ▪
Thomas.Godfrey@usdoj.gov

Office of the Governor of Montana
Attn: Hannah Slusser, Governor's Office
PO Box 200801
Helena, Montana 59602
nominatejudges@mt.gov

RE: Colin Rubich

I am honored to write this letter in support of Colin Rubich and his application to fill the current vacancy in the Thirteenth Judicial District in Yellowstone County, Montana. I have known Colin for over 7 years. Like Colin, I have spent my career in the courtroom and that experience, coupled with my knowledge of Colin, gives me a unique perspective that I would like to share with you.

Colin's desire to serve the people of Montana as a judge is not surprising to anyone who knows him. Colin's path of public service was chosen for him, you might say, because it was bred in the bone. It came from his family and his roots in Montana. Fortunately, for the people of Montana, Colin followed that calling as a prosecutor for the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Montana and as a soldier serving his country and his community in the United States Army.

I can personally attest to Colin's legal knowledge and skill both as having been his colleague as a prosecutor and as a witness to his skill and knowledge in the courtroom. As a son of U.S. Army veterans, I can also personally attest to Colin's unflinching belief in the values enshrined in our Constitution and his love of his country. Those values are always needed in members of our judiciary.

Over the last 15 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. Those who appear in front of Colin will experience a judge that is hardworking, respectful of precedent and litigants, and humble, qualities that achieve that balance and make him an exceptional candidate for a judgeship.

Colin's work is only a small part of what makes Colin exceptional. He is a wonderfully engaging person with an unparalleled wit and sense of humor. He has not lost sight of what is important in life as shown by his dedication to his family, community, and friends. And Colin has many interests outside of the courtroom that keep him grounded.

I have no hesitation in recommending Colin's name to continue to serve his community and his state as a judge in Yellowstone County. He has shown his dedication to service his entire life. The people of Yellowstone County will only continue to benefit with Colin's appointment to the Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'T' followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Thomas K. Godfrey

Office of the Governor
Attn: Hannah Slusser
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620
Fax: (406) 444-4151
Email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Re: Letter of support for Colin Rubich
Thirteenth Judicial District Court Judicial Appointment

Governor Gianforte,

I am writing to recommend Colin Rubich for appointment to the judicial openings in the Thirteenth Judicial District. As a colleague of Colin's at the United States Attorney's Office, I have the privilege of working with him and witnessing his commitment to justice, public safety, and the rule of law.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, Colin is committed to serving his community and combatting the crime that is plaguing it. He handles a demanding caseload that encompasses white-collar crime, drug trafficking, and violent crime. His ability to efficiently manage a heavy and complex caseload will serve him well as a District Court Judge. Moreover, Colin's experience with complex litigation will permit an easy transition to deciding even the most difficult civil and commercial litigation matters.

What sets Colin apart is not just his legal acumen or his skills in the courtroom, but his sense of fairness and compassion. He understands the profound impact our judicial system has on people's lives, and he will treat everyone who appears before him with fairness and compassion. Colin genuinely cares about the Billings community and he has dedicated his career to making Billings a safer place to live.

While our office would feel a real loss if Colin were appointed, his appointment would be a tremendous gain for Yellowstone County. Colin would be an outstanding selection to serve as a District Court Judge as the next step in his career in public service.

Sincerely,



Julie Patten