

From: [Scott](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Deputy County Attorney Molly Owens
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 6:41:59 PM

Good evening Sir,

My name is Scott Sciarretta and I live here in Swan Lake Montana. I am a Detective and work for our local Sheriff Office, I am also attached to the Northwest Drug Task Force. I am writing you this letter in support of Deputy CA Molly Owens for the current District Court appointment that will be vacated by Judge Manley's retirement.

I have worked with Mrs. Owens for the past several years from the smallest misdemeanor cases to felony level cases. Mrs. Owens is very professional and is a person that believes in justice not plea bargains. Mrs. Owens takes every case extremely serious regardless of the size. I have first hand experience with my position as the County Drug Detective dealing with the fentanyl and opioid epidemic here in Lake County. Mrs. Owens will be a huge loss for our local law enforcement but with your support can help balance out the justice system that has failed us miserably. I know your take the drug epidemic in Montana seriously, its time we put District Court Judges on the bench that will to.

Thank you for your time and I hope this letter finds you well. This household support s every thing you have done for Montana.

Scott Sciarretta

From: [Ethan Bucarey](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Molly Owen: Letter of Support for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 2:17:03 PM

14 April 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of support for Molly Owen in her application for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District. I have known Mrs. Owen for seven years, and am confident to speak to her personal strengths. Mrs. Owen will - undoubtedly - be a fair, impartial, and effective judge that our community deserves.

Professionally, Molly Owen has done a tremendous amount of work to engage her community through her profession. Though I can't speak first-hand to her bullishness in the courtroom, I do know her colleagues speak highly of her. On several occasions, I had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Owen engaged with other professionals and saw the respect that others in the courthouse have for her.

I appreciate Mrs. Owen's willingness to work additionally as the St. Ignatius town attorney on top of her work as deputy county attorney. Mrs. Owen is a strong role model, and advocates for her profession as well as the community that she connects with. Her work with Safe Harbor and other organizations demonstrate her passion for advocacy for victims as well as her penchants for the adherence of law.

Mrs. Owen continually gives of herself - tirelessly. Without fail, she volunteers to speak to local youth regarding legal issues surrounding sex education: uncomfortable, but pertinent information for juveniles. Mrs. Owen doesn't shy away from difficulty, and that is laudable. She always looks for ways to volunteer and give back to the community.

Personally, Mrs. Owen is a stalwart individual. What you see with Molly Owen is what you get. Her moral convictions, unwavering comportment in practicing law, and ability to build relationships demonstrates the type of person she is. She is an empathetic advocate, strong attorney, and reliable individual. Without hesitation, I support Molly Owen in her journey to District Court Judge. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Ethan Bucarey
(406) 270-4173

April 15, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my absolute pleasure to write this letter of support for Molly Owen as she applies for the District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District position. I have known Molly for seven years, both as a friend and a professional collaborator. Molly is one of the most intelligent, hard-working, driven, and thoughtful people I know. I have no doubt that she would make an excellent judge.

Molly is an invaluable contributor to the Polson community and to our schools specifically. Molly has always been willing to attend Polson High School's annual Career Connection Day event as one of the guest presenters. She is reliable, professional, and genuine, and students have consistently made comments about how Molly is one of the most engaging presenters. She has also volunteered to speak every year in Health classes at multiple local high schools during their sexual education unit. Molly is an exceptional communicator. As a Deputy County Attorney, she shares important knowledge with students, and is also an excellent role model for young people in our community.

Molly and I have also shared the common experience of participating in the Leadership Flathead Reservation program. This program is designed to facilitate development and growth of local leaders, to create opportunities to interact with other community members and explore relevant local issues. Molly provided valuable insights during the discussion opportunities, showed full engagement when she was a part of the participating class, and organized stellar sessions for the class that followed the year after. She is committed to collaborating with other local leaders and to making our community a better place.

As a District Court Judge, I am confident that Molly would make a positive impact on our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betsy Wade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betsy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wade".

Betsy Wade
Polson, MT

Slusser, Hannah

From: Steve McCollum <smccollum@stignatiusschools.org>
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2022 6:57 AM
To: NominateJudges
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Twentieth Judicial District Judge

Nomination of Attorney Molly Owen for Twentieth Judicial District Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission;

My name is Steve McCollum and am the past Mayor for the Town of St. Ignatius and currently serving on the Council. I strongly support the appointment of Molly Owen to the vacancy on the Twentieth Judicial District Judge. I have known Molly for six years and in that time have come to know her well and respect her very much. Her intellect is keen, her breadth of knowledge impressive and her commitment to service deep. I cannot think of a better combination of qualities for a District Judge. I care very much about my community and the future of Montana. I want my children to be able to raise their own families in the kind of environment in which they grew up— enjoying the outdoors and reveling in the quality of life that my family has cherished for 4 generations. My relationship with Molly Owen is professional. I am confident that each applicant for this seat on the Court has a combination of education and professional qualifications that are suitable for the position, but we expect District Court Justices to meet our highest standards. Molly Owen's combination of character and intelligence suit her perfectly to meet those standards and to serve Montanans well as a member of our highest court.

Sincerely yours

Steve McCollum
Sent from [Mail \[go.microsoft.com\]](mailto:go.microsoft.com) for Windows

The documents included with this electronic mail transmission contain information from St Ignatius Public School District #28 which is confidential and/or privileged. This information is intended to be for the use of the addressee only. Note that any disclosure, printing, photocopying, distribution or use of the contents of this e-mailed information by persons other than the addressee or an agent of the addressee, is unauthorized and prohibited. If you have received this electronic mail in error, please notify us via electronic mail reply to the sender or by telephone 406-745-3811 immediately.

04/20/2022

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of Molly Owen's candidacy for the upcoming judicial vacancy in the 20th Judicial District. I believe Molly possesses the educational background, practical experience, and necessary character attributes to hold a position of this caliber adequately, impartially, and responsibly.

Molly's qualifications speak for themselves but are important to reiterate. A full decade of experience including work as Deputy County Attorney for Lake County since 2015, holding the town attorney position for St. Ignatius since 2017, and working as a judicial law clerk for Division One of the Arizona Court of Appeals has given Molly the necessary background to fulfill the demands of the position with sufficient knowledge and expertise. Her time spent locally during these years cannot be overstated as it has provided her the opportunity to establish professional relationships with her peers, colleagues, and community members in the unique legal environment that is offered by practicing in an area governed by Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies.

Additionally, and possibly more importantly, Molly's dedication to and passion for her community is exemplary. I am a Polson native and active community member myself and I value those who work to improve the quality of my hometown. I have had the pleasure of working with Molly in several endeavors and can personally attest to her love of community and strong leadership qualities. Molly has dedicated significant time to the Polson Redevelopment Agency and Leadership Flathead Reservation program, and has maintained involvement with community-minded organizations such as Safe Harbor and Rotary International.

Lastly, as a prosecutor for the Lake County District Attorney's Office, Molly has specialized in prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Her attention to detail and tenacious demeanor has led to a conviction rate of nearly 90% despite being saddled with a larger caseload and smaller workforce than neighboring counties. This helps to highlight Molly's work ethic and efficiency but also her compassion for people that she will bring to the table as a judge.

For these reasons, I strongly support the selection of Molly Owen for the upcoming judicial vacancy in the 20th Judicial District of Montana. If there are further questions about her qualifications or character attributes, please reach me at 406-270-1987 or dlewing@valleybanks.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Lewing", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Lewing

From: [trevor.mcgregor](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Molly Owen for District Court Judge
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 9:13:02 AM

Please consider Molly Owen for District Court Judge. She was the prosecuting attorney for us in a neighborhood dispute. She took the time to make all of the members of our party feel comfortable, and was very patient and attentive to all. I feel she has a good grasp on what is the correct and proper thing to do, which seems to be more and more rare these days. I feel that these qualities would make her a deserving choice for District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Trevor McGregor
Bigfork, MT

Vera Johnson
35785 Beaverhead Drive
Ronan, MT 59864
(406) 260-3643

Via: email: nominatejudges@mt.gov

Governor Greg Gianforte
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Re: Molly Owen Application for District Court Judge
Twentieth Judicial District, State of Montana

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I have been employed as a paralegal at Lake County Attorney's Office since October 2016. I graduated from Boise State University in 1999 with honors, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration with Courts and Law Emphasis, and a three year Paralegal certificate. I have had the opportunity during the last 23 years to work with many attorneys and judges in both criminal and civil law. I tell you this, only to enhance the credibility of my opinions expressed below.

The first two years I worked at Lake County Attorney's Office I occasionally had opportunity to work with Molly Owen. Since October 2018, I have worked with Molly Owen as a team handling domestic violence and sexual assault cases for Lake County. The cases we have worked on are some of the most difficult, emotionally charged cases that are dealt with in criminal law. Molly always presented herself with decorum and fortitude to obtain best outcomes for cases.

Molly is respected in our office and in the legal community here. She is competent and knowledgeable. She works very efficiently and has always performed her job with integrity and honesty. She has always strived for justice for the victims in the cases we have worked on and for best resolutions to help protect them and society. However, when the facts of a case developed reasonable doubt, she was always willing to amend charges as necessary or to dismiss a charge or even the case if it was evident. She has always strived to communicate well and to respect others. I have worked with Molly Owen on hundreds of cases and I have always been impressed at her ability to apply legal knowledge to the facts of a case, to resolve cases with the best results.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments in support of Molly Owen as an applicant for District Court Judge for the Twentieth Judicial District Court.

Sincerely,


Vera Johnson

TOWN OF ST. IGNATIUS
ST. IGNATIUS CITY COURT
P.O. BOX 103
ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865
PHONE (406) 745-3791, FAX (406) 745-2800

May 6, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support for the appointment/nomination of Molly Owen as District Court Judge, replacing Judge Jim Manley.

I have worked with Molly Owen for the last few years in my capacity as town clerk/treasurer, court clerk, and now city judge. She is wonderful to work with and has a vast knowledge of the law. I have been able to rely on her for help when I've had legal questions that needed to be answered. She has also assisted in drafting ordinance changes requested by the mayor and city council.

It has been a privilege to work with her these last few years. She would represent herself, the Court, and the State of Montana well. I couldn't think of a better person to replace Judge Manley as District Court Judge.

Thank you,


Mary Leishman
City Judge
Clerk of Court
St. Ignatius City Court

From: [tony isbell](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Molly Owen for the 20th District
Date: Monday, May 9, 2022 5:41:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support Molly Owen for the opening for district court judge in the 20th district. I have had the pleasure of working directly with Molly since her start at the Lake County Attorney's office in 2015. Molly from the start was a hard worker. Her values are deep rooted in true justice. My interactions with her were when I was a State Trooper. In the local law enforcement community, she was known to us as the attorney that we would all lean on and trusted. I believe she will also bring back stronger sentences that we need in this district. I believe that the days of judge shopping would come to an end if Molly were appointed to this position. The issues in this community are deep rooted and I have full confidence she is the right person for the job. Watching her family become involved community members in the area has been reassuring that she knows the broadest demographic and has the community in mind with her prosecution decisions. Another place I worked with Molly was when she was a member of the Polson Redevelopment Community. This was a volunteer position that she was in for the betterment of the Polson area. I believe she will be fair and impartial. Our community would be a better place with her appointment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Polson City Commissioner Ward 2,

Tony Isbell
(406) 531-4951
tony_isbell@hotmail.com

From: [William Mesteth](#)
To: [NominateJudges](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Molly Owens
Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 5:02:42 PM

Sir,

My name is William Mesteth, and I am the Corporal of Investigations for the Flathead Tribal Police, located in Pablo, MT, on the Flathead Indian Reservation. I have been employed by the Flathead Tribal Police Department since 2009.

I am writing in full unwavering support of Molly Owens to replace the Honorable Judge James Manley as District Court Judge in Lake County, MT.

I know Ms. Owens to be fair, yet tough on crime. Ms. Owens has always displayed professionalism, hard work and compassion in her position at the Lake County Attorney's Office.

Please strongly consider Ms. Owens as the top candidate for the District Court Judge. I trust she will proudly and honorably serve this county, this reservation, and this state.

Thank you for your time,

Flathead Tribal Police
Cpl. Of Investigations
William Mesteth
William.Mesteth@cstkt.org
406-270-4077

Sent from my iPhone

Mathieu Gfroerer
31395 Pineview Loop
Polson, MT 59860
mgfroerer@gmail.com

09 May 2022

Governor Greg Gianforte
PO Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Governor Gianforte,

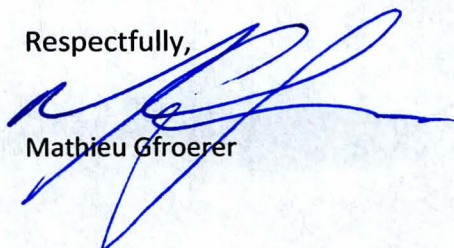
I am writing this letter to express support for Deputy County Attorney (DCA) Molly Owen regarding her application for district court judge of the 20th Judicial District of Montana. My name is Mathieu Gfroerer and I have worked as a law enforcement officer in Montana for over 13 years.

Working with DCA Owen, I have repeatedly been impressed by her professionalism and genuine care for victims of violent crime. I can think of two specific cases where DCA Owen went above and beyond what I've come to expect. DCA Owen's diligence and determination resulted in a repeat domestic abuser finally, after years and years of slipping through the cracks in a lower court, being held accountable for their actions. As the level of violence between the two parties had continued to progress, I truly believe her work on that case saved at least one life from being lost.

The second instance involved a homeless woman who was a repeat victim of PFMA. The female generally refused to work with law enforcement and expressed she had no faith our judicial system would do anything to keep her safe or hold her abuser accountable. DCA Owen, having watched a body-worn camera recording of the female's statement, reached out to local officers in attempt to locate and speak with the female directly. DCA Owen was eventually able to meet with the female. Unfortunately, despite DCA Owen's efforts, the female passed away in an unrelated incident prior to seeing the justice system work for her.

It is my opinion, DCA Owen would enforce Montana law impartially and hold offenders accountable for their actions, while also being compassionate toward the public and victims of the 20th Judicial District. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Mathieu Gfroerer

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT

Lake County Courthouse
106 4th Avenue East
Polson MT 59860
(406) 883-7254 - phone
(406) 883-8582 - fax

MAY 9 2022 AM 11:03

May 5, 2022

Governor Gianforte
Governor's Office
P.O. Box 200801
Helena MT 599620-0801

Lyn Fricker
Clerk of District Court
106 4th Ave E.
Polson Montana 59860

Re: Molly Owen for Department 1 Twentieth Judicial District Court Lake and Sanders County

Dear Governor Gianforte:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Molly Owen because I think she is the best candidate for the Judge's position. Molly Owen is an intelligent hard working attorney that I have had the pleasure of working with. I am always impressed how prepared she is. She is extremely professional and handles herself in a manner that gets respect. Molly Owen can make decisions on her own without being intimidated. Molly would do what it takes to be an honest and fair Judge that the people of Lake County deserve.

Please consider Molly Owen to be the Judge for Lake County.

Thank You.



Lyn Fricker
Clerk of Court