

SENATE JUDICIARY

Exhibit No. 6

Date: 2/13/15

Bill No. SR 15

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

***LETTERS OF SUPPORT
FOR CONFIRMATION OF
HON. DAVID M. SANDLER***

Jay P. Dufrechou
Attorney at Law
413 8th Ave.
Helena, Montana 59601

February 6, 2015

Sen. Scott Sales
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0400

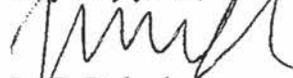
Dear Sen. Sales and the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Judge David Sandler as Workers' Compensation Judge. Since 1999, I have worked in the Montana workers' compensation system, as a Hearing Examiner at the Workers' Compensation Court and then in private practice. Much of my work has been as a mediator in workers' compensation cases, which has brought me into contact with insurance representatives, claimants, and claimant representatives. I have had numerous opportunities to work with Judge Sandler in his prior capacity as attorney for insurance companies in workers' compensation cases and as claimant representative.

In my experience, Judge Sandler brings an ideal balance of qualities to the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. From working with him as an attorney to closely following his decisions as Workers' Compensation Judge, I have found Judge Sandler to be one of the finest legal scholars and writers working in the State. He understands very well the importance of closely following the statutory system created by the Montana Legislature and balancing the important needs of Montana employers for a fair, equitable and affordable system and the needs of injured workers to receive assistance for quick recovery, return to work, and/or appropriate benefits under the system. I have found Judge Sandler's decisions to be prompt, very clear, very straightforward in their interpretation of Montana laws, and very balanced in their evaluation of the facts of particular cases.

Perhaps even more importantly, in my work as a mediator since Judge Sandler's appointment, I have had occasion to hear the comments of many attorneys and insurance adjusters involved in the workers' compensation system. I have heard uniformly positive appreciation for the dedication and fine work Judge Sandler has brought so far to the Court.

Very truly yours,



Jay P. Dufrechou

(406) 439-2681

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Dear Sen. Sales,

I am writing to support the confirmation of the Hon. David M. Sadler as the next Montana Workers' Compensation Court Judge when you hear SR15. I am an attorney who has practiced workers' compensation law for 32 years. While he was in private practice I represented clients against whom persons then represented by Mr. Sandler had claims, some of which went to trial in the work comp Court. I know the man personally and he is an excellent attorney who is very knowledgeable about workers' compensation law. I am confident he will bring the professionalism, experience and integrity to the Court that I experienced when working with him.

My current practice is virtually exclusively workers' compensation law defense representing workers' compensation insurers. Workers' compensation law is a very complex area of the law (involving medical, employability, constitutional and benefits entitlement disputes) practiced almost entirely by a few very seasoned attorneys. The nature of the litigation in the Workers' Compensation Court requires a judge who will hear both sides, resolve the dispute and do so based on the (unique) law and the facts of the case. Judge Sandler is the person for the job.

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Of Counsel:

June 26, 2014

JAMES W. JOHNSON
STEPHEN C. BERG
BRUCE MCEVOY

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

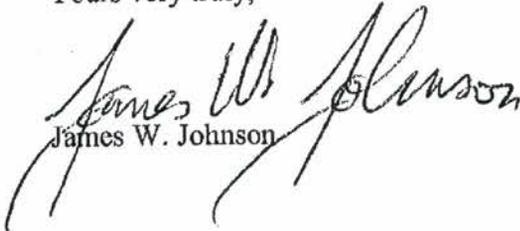
Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

This letter is a very strong recommendation for the appointment of David M. Sandler as judge of the Montana Worker's Compensation Court. I am retired now, but practiced law for 48 years in Montana - 13 years in Great Falls and 35 years here in Kalispell. I have known many lawyers and judges, of all abilities, over those years after my graduation from the University of Montana Law School in 1966. I was very active also, over the years, in the Montana Bar Association. I served as a director for many years and President and past President in the early 90's, allowing me to become acquainted with many more practicing attorneys and judges. I am well aware of the qualities which make good lawyers and judges.

I have known David Sandler since he was in law school, and also since he began his practice here in Kalispell, and state that he has all of the above-mentioned qualities as an excellent lawyer, and would make an excellent impartial judge. He practiced in our law firm for about three years. He left so he could practice in worker's compensation, and other areas this firm was not involved in, and has done very well with his own practice. I usually want to report any negatives with the positives, but I can think of no negatives to relate regarding David, either personally or professionally.

To be straight forward, I will say he is married to my daughter, Erika, so you will be aware of that fact, but that has not affected my opinion that he will be the best appointment as Worker's Compensation Judge, and encourage you to do so.

Yours very truly,


James W. Johnson

EDDY SANDLER TRIAL ATTORNEYS PLLP
AMY EDDY
DAVID SANDLER

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Phone: (406) 752-3303

July 3, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Workers' Compensation Judge Vacancy

Dear Judicial Nominations Commission,

I write to recommend David Sandler for the vacant position of Workers' Compensation Court Judge. This position requires a candidate who is knowledgeable about the constantly evolving statutory framework of workers' compensation laws in Montana, understands how application of those laws effect both employers and injured employees, has the experience to fairly and consistently apply those laws in a trial court setting, and can fairly determine the credibility of witnesses and admissibility of evidence. David is a well-qualified candidate for the position.

While David and I have been law partners for a number of years now, we first met litigating against each other when David was a civil insurance defense attorney at Hammer, Hewitt & Sandler. In that capacity David had the opportunity to defend employers and insurance companies against workers' compensation claims in front of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. David then went on to represent injured claimants through the same system while working at Bothe & Lauridsen.

This experience representing "both sides" has given David a balanced perspective on the interests of all the parties moving through the system. David also has an in-depth understanding of how to litigate a workers' compensation claim, including the role of the judge and the responsibilities of claimant and defense attorneys. David has tried numerous cases in front of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court, which is essential experience for a trial court judge, and has also handled appeals in front of the Montana Supreme Court on workers' compensation issues.

David has a statewide reputation with both defense and claimant attorneys for being "firm but fair," efficient and smart. He is a well-respected, articulate, and responsible litigator. It has been nothing but a pleasure working with him for all these years, and while I will hate to lose him as a law partner, his appointment to this position would be an enormous gain for workers' compensation justice in Montana.

Sincerely,
/s/ Amy
Amy Eddy
amyeddy@eddysandler.com

McENERY LAW OFFICE, PLLC

June 30, 2014

Mona Charles
1420 Lake Blaine Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

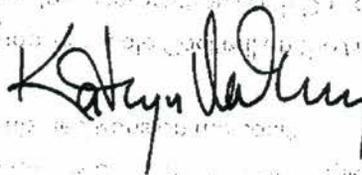
Dear Mona,

I am writing to let you know I highly recommend David Sandler for the position on the Worker's Compensation Court. I have known David for the last four years and know him to possess all the qualities needed for this position. He is intelligent and thoughtful, and he will be careful and deliberate in his decisions on the court.

I was an associate attorney working with Dale Cockrell on the *Hineman v. Erickson's* case David mentions in his application. In my interactions with David during that case I found him to be respectful and professional even though we were opponents. I think that this quality in him will enable him to be fair to the workers who come before the court.

I also know David to be an advocate for social justice and the arts. David and his wife Erika assisted me with a successful fundraising project for the Whitefish Theatre Company (encouraging attorneys to be cultural philanthropists and purchase season tickets to the GSC, ACT, or WTC), and know that he also supports the annual social justice luncheon in Kalispell. I believe that this quality in him shows that he is a well-balanced person who can look beyond the legal issues to see what it is the law is supposed to do for our whole community.

Although I know and have respect for several of the other candidates, I hope you will select Mr. Sandler for the WCC.



PO Box 965, Kalispell, MT 59903 406-741-2688 mcenerylawoffice@gmail.com



FOUST
LAW OFFICE

Lucas J. Foust

July 3, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO BOX 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Support of application of David M. Sandler.

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I write this letter in support of the application of David M. Sandler as Workers' Compensation Court judge. I believe that Mr. Sandler is an excellent candidate for the position of Workers' Compensation Court judge and strongly recommend his appointment to this position. A significant portion of my practice involves representing injured claimants before the Workers' Compensation Court. Based upon my experience, I believe that Mr. Sandler will be an excellent Workers' Compensation Court judge.

Mr. Sandler has represented both claimants as well as insurers in his experience before the Workers' Compensation Court. I believe he has the judicial temperament and even handedness necessary to be an excellent Workers' Compensation Court judge. Thank you for accepting this letter on behalf of David M. Sandler for the position of Workers' Compensation Court judge. If I can be of any further assistance, do not hesitate to contact be at the below number.

Very truly yours,



Lucas J. Foust
LJF:amp

lfoust@foustlaw.net

July 2, 2014

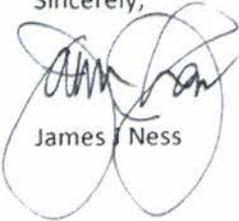
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing this letter to recommend the appointment of David M. Sandler for the position of judge of the Montana Workers Compensation Court. I have known David on both a professional level and personally for the past 10 years. I currently work in the banking industry in Bozeman Montana and I lived and worked in Kalispell for 27 years prior to moving to Bozeman in 2013. I originally came to know David through our passion for the game of golf. From there, we became great friends and have continued that friendship to this day. David has done legal work for me as well as counseled some of my family members from my referrals to David. David's work and advice have been exemplary.

Through my relationship with David, I have known him to be a highly competent attorney and dedicated family man. If I were to use some words to describe David, those words would be honest, intelligent, fair, dedicated and reliable. I know there will be other qualified applicants for this judicial position, but I know David would do an outstanding job and would fulfill any and all expectations for this position.

Sincerely,



James J. Ness



HAMMER, JACOBS & QUINN PLLC

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July 7, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Letter of Recommendation for David M. Sandler

Dear Ms. Menzies:

Please let this letter serve as an endorsement of David Sandler for the next Workers' Compensation Judge in Montana.

I was a partner of Mr. Sandler and I know him well. He cut his teeth on Workers' Compensation defense, and I found him to be extremely articulate, well spoken, a creative writer, and an advocate for his client's position. Following his departure from our law firm, he went to another law firm which specialized in claimants' work. He exhibited the same attributes: an aggressive and well-spoken writer and advocate for the cause of his clients.

I think David exemplifies a balanced approach between employers/insurers and claimants as a result of his experience, and I think he would be an excellent Workers' Compensation Judge. He certainly has my endorsement for the position, and if you have any questions, I would be more than happy to answer them.

Best regards,



Todd A. Hammer

Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

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JOHN H. BOTHE
(1951-1996)

July 9, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: DAVID MICHAEL SANDLER - Applicant
Workers' Compensation Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to support the appointment of David M. Sandler to the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. I first met David when we were on opposite sides of a workers' compensation claim. At the time, I had been practicing as a claimant's attorney for 14 years. Although David was new to the workers' compensation defense bar, I was impressed with his understanding of the case law specific to our dispute. He had clearly taken the time to research his position and presented a compelling argument to the Court. David and I had several more cases together over the next few years. Not only was he pleasant to work with, but he continued to impress me with his legal research and writing skills.

In 2006, our firm was looking to add another attorney. When David applied for the position, there was no hesitation on my part, or on the part of the other attorneys in the firm, to offer him the position. As a co-worker over the next five years, I observed in David many characteristics which define a good jurist. For example, I admired David's ability to quickly identify the relevant issues in his cases and his efficiency in tackling those issues, even when they presented novel claims or legal theories. And, although he was always a strong advocate for his clients, David's background in both plaintiff and defense work allowed him to see both sides of an issue. David also had the ability to remain calm under fire. Whether it was an angry client or an angry defense attorney, David maintained a controlled demeanor and was never distracted from the task at hand. Above all, David had a good sense of humor. If he hadn't, he wouldn't have lasted very long at our firm.

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July 9, 2014

My association with David over the years leads me to believe that he would make an excellent workers' compensation judge. His sharp intellect and broad experience in Montana workers' compensation cases provide him with the resources and skills to now sit in judgment of those disputes. I recommend David to you without reservation and strongly encourage you to pass his name on to the Governor for appointment as the next Workers' Compensation Judge.

Sincerely,



LAURIE WALLACE
BOTHE & LAURIDSEN, P.C.

LW/rs



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July 9, 2014

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Missoula, MT 59620-3005

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As long-time court reporters in Montana, we have worked with David Sandler for many years, and from our perspective, we feel he would make an excellent Workers' Compensation Judge. We have witnessed David in a deposition setting representing his clients and working with his peers, and he is an effective litigator and client advocate. He is prepared, thorough, focused and demonstrates an in-depth knowledge of his cases and the law.

David is well-respected and well-liked in the legal community and has a wonderful working relationship with everyone. He is respectful of others, and we always enjoy working with him. We have both referred friends and acquaintances to David because we know they will be well-represented.

Thank you for considering our comments with regard to Mr. Sandler.

Sincerely,


Jolene Asa, RPR


Beth Gilman, RPR

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MCGARVEY, HEBERLING, SULLIVAN & LACEY, P.C.

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July 9, 2014

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Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

VIA E-MAIL: lmenzies@mt.gov

RE: Workers' Compensation Court Appointment – David Sandler

Dear Judicial Appointment Commission:

You have before you a list of capable candidates for appointment to the position of Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. We write to recommend from that list one whom we believe would be a truly outstanding judge, David Sandler.

Based on our firm's extensive experience actively litigating in Montana's courts, and our knowledge of David's background, experience and character, we can unreservedly say that David exemplifies those qualities necessary to fairly and successfully preside over Montana's Workers' Compensation Court.

During the course of David's sixteen years as a lawyer he has worked as a Montana Supreme Court clerk, an effective and dedicated attorney defending civil suits, and then as a successful plaintiffs' trial attorney. David's intellect is accompanied by his honorable character, demonstrable work ethic and commitment to excellence, which are important qualities to find in any judicial candidate. David has proven to us that he is capable of in-depth analysis and understanding of all legal issues he encounters and is able to clearly communicate his conclusions and opinions.

I have had the opportunity to face David for several years as opposing defense counsel before the Montana Workers' Compensation Court and Montana Supreme Court on several occasions. David's defense work was top notch. He was perceptive, assiduous and cross-examined well. Subsequently, our firm has been able to observe David here in Kalispell in his successful practice as a plaintiffs' attorney. Our firm's first-hand experience with David in his fine representation in Workers' Compensation Court of both respondents and petitioners, as well as civil defendants and plaintiffs assures us that he has the ability to fairly weigh both sides of any dispute and that he will issue rulings and decisions in accordance with applicable legal standards and principles.

Judicial Nomination Commission
Page Two
July 2, 2014

In short, the Montana Workers' Compensation Court, and the citizens and businesses it serves, would benefit enormously from David's experience, intellect and integrity. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jon L. Heberling". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Jon L. Heberling, on behalf of the firm of
McGarvey, Heberling, Sullivan & Lacey, P.C.

LEWIS, SLOVAK & KOVACICH, P.C.

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Tom L. Lewis
J. David Slovak
Mark M. Kovacich

Ben A. Snipes
Ross T. Johnson

July 14, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
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EMAILED TO Imenzies@mt.gov

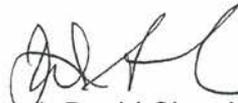
RE: Montana Workers' Compensation Court

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members:

I write in support of David Sandler's nomination for Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. David has a wealth of experience in litigating cases before the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. Whether advancing the claim of an injured worker or defending the interests of employers and insurance companies, David has a well-deserved reputation as a fair and effective advocate. He has earned the trust of both the claimant and defense bar and Montana's judiciary. In my personal dealings with David, he has uniformly exhibited the highest standards of legal competence and ethical conduct.

Being the Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court is a demanding position. The cases are essentially "fast-tracked" to assure that both claimants and insurers are afforded a timely resolution of their claims. The docket can be imposing and many of the legal issues to be decided are complex and frequently of constitutional magnitude. David not only has the requisite experience, but the intellect, energy, and vitality to get the job done.

Sincerely,


J. David Slovak

JDS:dak



LEWIS, SLOVAK & KOVACICH, P.C.

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July 14, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
C/O Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

EMAILED TO Imenzies@mt.gov

RE: Workers' Compensation Court Judge Vacancy – David Michael Sandler

Dear Commission Members:

I write to recommend Kalispell attorney David Sandler as a nominee for Governor Bullock's consideration, when appointing our next Workers' Compensation Court Judge in Montana. David has been an effective advocate for a very diverse group of clients throughout Montana for many years. I have no doubt he would serve Montana well as a Judge on the Workers' Compensation Court.

I have known David Sandler for near 20 years, dating back to our time as students at the University of Montana School of Law. Since that time, I have interacted with David regularly, on both personal and professional levels. Over the years, I have worked with David as co-counsel representing the same clients, and I have observed him as an adversary representing individuals or entities adverse to my firm's clients. I have gained considerable respect for David's qualities as an advocate in both settings. He demonstrates rare creativity and intelligence which would make him an exceptional Judge.

David has spent much of his career practicing before Montana's Workers' Compensation Court. For many years, he has represented both claimants and insurance carriers, and he has earned the respect of claimants lawyers and defense lawyers alike. As a result of his experience, David possesses in-depth knowledge of Montana workers' compensation law, and respect for the rights of all parties who will appear before the Court.

Apart from his successful legal practice, David Sandler is a devoted husband and father, and he regularly contributes valuable time to the betterment of his community. David is highly and uniquely

July 14, 2014
Page 2

qualified to serve as a our next Workers' Compensation Court Judge, and I urge you to nominate him for appointment by Governor Bullock.

Sincerely,



Mark M. Kovacich

MMK:dak

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 3:03 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Sandler -- Public Comment

From: Leslae Dalpiaz [ldalpiaz@dalpiazlaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 1:23 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Cc: 'Jay Dufrechou'
Subject: Dean Blackaby and David Sandler

Dear Commissioners,

As workers compensation professionals with several decades experience in the Montana Workers' Compensation system, in contexts ranging from claims examiner, to counsel for claimants and insurers, to mediator, we believe Montana is fortunate to have two outstanding candidates for the open Workers' Compensation Judge position with the range of experience and knowledge embodied by both David Sandler and Dean Blackaby. Mr. Blackaby and Mr. Sandler both have in depth experience with workers' compensation law and with the needs, concerns, and perspectives of both insurers and injured workers. We have known each to advocate professionally, respectfully, and with great skill for clients on both sides. We believe each would bring commitment and diligence to the important role of Workers' Compensation Judge, with the goal of serving the people of Montana in an area important to our economy and to countless individuals.

Very truly yours,
Leslae J.E. Dalpiaz, Attorney
Jay P. Dufrechou, Attorney

Leslae J.E. Dalpiaz, P.C.
222 E. Pine Street, Missoula, MT 59802
Phone: 406.549-9200
Fax: 406.728-0790



Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Sandler -- Public Comment

From: Pookie Tully [pookietully@attorneysmontana.com]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: David Michael Sandler

Dear Commission:

I had the pleasure of working with David Sandler when our firm first started up back in early 2000. I not only had the pleasure to get to know him personally through his triumphs and heartaches but also as an incredible lawyer that I respected and admire. I was always impressed with Dave's ability to stay positive, focused and centered through some very tough litigation situations. He is amazingly fair minded, seeing not only the strengths of his case, but the weaknesses as well. Dave remains, after having served at the pleasure of counsel in the Flathead Area for nearly 27 years, one of my favorite attorneys. He is a bright, inquisitive and innovative attorney. I can't help but feel the Court would be very well served with an attorney that has served both sides of the Workers' Compensation arena - by being a stellar defense lawyer, followed by a career serving the claimants interest. I believe that makes him uniquely fair minded and balanced for this open seat.

I also know Dave personally as a friend and he is blessed with a solid marriage to a wonderful woman, and two beautiful children. He has their support as well.

David Sandler has my overwhelming confidence to serve the very best interest of this State as our next Workers' Compensation Judge.

I wish you best of luck with your decision.

Sincerely,
Pookie Tully
Paralegal

Hammer, Jacobs & Quinn, PLLC
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VISCOMI & GERSH, PLLP

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■ ALSO ADMITTED IN COLORADO

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June 25, 2014

Mona Charles
1420 Lake Blaine Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Re: David Sandler

Dear Ms. Charles & Mr. Rusche:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of David Sandler's application for the vacancy on the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I have known David since he started practicing law here in Flathead County in 1999. I am aware that from 1999 to 2006, David handled a lot of workers' compensation defense cases and from 2006 to 2010, he handled a significant number of claimant workers' compensation cases. Although David's practice has primarily been civil litigation since 2010, it is my understanding he still handles some workers' compensation cases as well.

I have had the pleasure of having litigated cases against David and more recently, we represented co-plaintiffs in a very complex wrongful death defective highway design case. During all of my dealings with David, I found him to be extremely competent, professional and ethical. With David's background, experience, and temperament, there is no doubt in my mind that he will make an excellent workers' compensation judge if given the opportunity.

I wholeheartedly endorse David's application. If you have any questions or concerns that I can address, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,
VISCOMI & GERSH, PLLP

Michael A. Viscomi, Esq.



LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.

NORMAN L. NEWHALL
RICHARD J. MARTIN
J. KIM SCHULKE
STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN
MICHELE REINHART LEVINE

WAYNE E. LINNELL
Of Counsel

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TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MI103-001

June 23, 2014

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Dear Ryan:

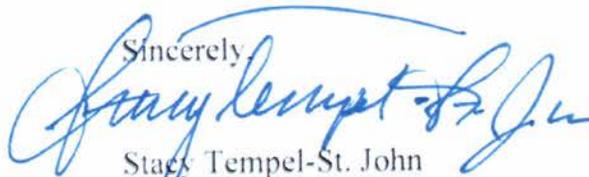
I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of David Sandler, candidate for appointment to the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I have known David for over 10 years and have had the privilege of working with him both as a workers' compensation defense attorney and as a workers' compensation claimant's attorney. Having worked with David in both capacities, I can honestly say David is one of the hardest working and most professional attorneys that I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

David is uniquely qualified for the position because of his unique perspective in having practiced workers' compensation in Montana on both sides of a workers' compensation claim. Regardless of which side of the aisle he stood, I always found David to be open-minded, articulate, and well-reasoned. I have always been impressed by his command of the Montana Workers' Compensation Act, familiarity with the issues and efforts to reach a just result. I also know David to be fair and honest, making him a tremendous asset to the Court.

I respect David's professional qualifications and believe he is extremely qualified for the appointment. David would be an outstanding choice for the next Montana Workers' Compensation Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Stacy Tempel-St. John
sstjohn@lnms.net
(406) 454-5814

STS/lmr





OUR FILE MI051-002

June 27, 2014

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Re: *Workers' Compensation Judge*

Dear Mr. Rusche:

I write to express my support for David Sandler to be favorably considered by the Judicial Nomination Commission to be appointed the next Workers' Compensation Judge.

Our office has a very busy workers' compensation practice representing injured workers. We have represented clients before the Workers' Compensation Court for more than 25 years. It is important for our clients to have the next Workers' Compensation Judge be able to process workers' compensation cases through the Workers' Compensation Court promptly, fairly and diligently.

I feel that David Sandler is the best candidate for the appointment of the next Workers' Compensation Judge. I have known David since he began practicing workers' compensation law. For a while, he represented respondents/insurers. Later, he represented claimants/injured workers. He has demonstrated an acumen for the complex issues involved in workers' compensation cases. He is diligent in his representation of clients. He has an excellent temperament to be a judge, fair but firm. David is hard-working, smart and compassionate.

Thank you for your due consideration of David Sandler.

Sincerely,


Richard J. Martin
rmartin@lnms.net
(406) 454-5803

RJM/lmr

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MARTIN &
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CHARLES L. HASH (1921-2007)
C. MARK HASH
ANNE G. BIBY
DONALD R. MURRAY
KENNETH E. O'BRIEN, of counsel

cmhash@hashlaw.com
abiby@hashlaw.com
dmurray@hashlaw.com

July 2, 2014

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

RE: *David Sandler, applicant for position of Workers' Compensation Court Judge*

Dear Mr. Rusche:

Please consider this my letter of support for David Sandler, who is applying to become our new Workers' Compensation Court judge.

I have practiced law here in Kalispell since 1992. I have come to know David during the last ten or twelve years, and I can attest without hesitation that he is capable, hard-working, well-respected and extremely knowledgeable regarding Montana law. I have also found his ethics and professional conduct to be above reproach.

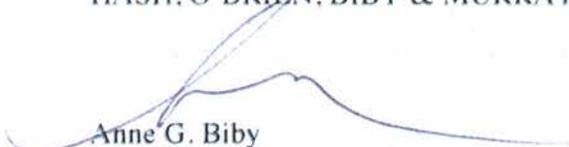
Workers' compensation has been one of David's specialties, and I am sure that he would be able to step into the judgeship and hit the ground running. I am pleased to give him a glowing recommendation.

Thank you and do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

HASH, O'BRIEN, BIBY & MURRAY, PLLP


Anne G. Biby

James M. Regnier

Mediation Services
P.O. Box 299
Lakeside, MT 59922

Telephone: (406) 459-3318

July 18, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: David Sandler

Dear Commission Members;

I write on behalf of David Sandler's application for appointment as judge of the Workers' Compensation Court.

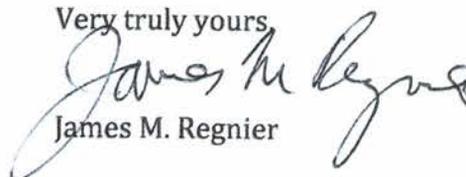
I have known Mr. Sandler since he clerked at the Montana Supreme Court. Although he did not serve as my clerk, I reviewed his research and writing on many occasions. Mr. Sandler has a keen legal mind and writes effortlessly in a coherent and concise manner.

Since entering private practice, Mr. Sandler has gained the reputation as an outstanding attorney and advocate for his clients. Many of the top firms in Montana have tried to hire him. He has decided to stay in the Flathead, however, because of the special needs of one of his children. He has contributed significantly to the community and notably has served on the board of the Flathead Land Trust.

David has always enjoyed a reputation for adherence to the high ethical principles demanded in this position. He is also committed to the concept of "equal access to justice" which I believe is a must for someone who aspires to be a judge. I strongly believe he has the balance and temperament to be fair to both claimants and insurers.

I am confident David would become an excellent jurist and urge you to put his name at the top of the list submitted to Governor Bullock.

Very truly yours,



James M. Regnier

James C. Nelson
841 S. California St.
Helena, MT 59601
406-431-2131
jcnelson44@gmail.com

June 25, 2014

Ms. Nancy Zadick
1901 Whispering Ridge Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

Re: David M. Sandler/Workers' Compensation Judge

Dear Ms. Zadick,

I am writing this letter to urge the Judicial Nomination Commission's favorable recommendation of David M. Sandler to Governor Bullock to be appointed as the next Workers' Compensation Judge.

I am a retired Justice of the Montana Supreme Court. I have known David during his entire career as a lawyer. I interviewed and hired David to be one of my legal research assistants during his third year at the School of Law in Missoula. Given the importance of the work of those individuals to my own work as a Justice, I only hired those with excellent academic abilities, emphasizing research and writing skills, and those who were self-starters, original thinkers, and who would work well with fellow clerks and Court staff. When I interviewed him, I immediately liked David; he was up-beat and a very pleasant person.

David worked as one of my legal research assistants in 1998 and 1999. David's work was always of the highest caliber; every assignment was finished correctly and on time. One of my initial instructions to my newly hired clerks was that I did not like to have to edit and re-write proposed opinions and orders. David always was able to write what I wanted to say, in the detail, and in the way I wanted to say it. David was tasked with writing proposed opinions and orders in every conceivable type of case, both civil and criminal. He was always thorough in his research and scrupulous in his review of the factual record. Many of the opinions he wrote for me involved workers' compensation cases. I was always extremely pleased with David's work.

At the end of his employment with me, David went on to practice law. I have followed David's career, and am proud and pleased to say that he has distinguished himself as a member of the State Bar. As you will note from his application, David practices primarily in litigation, representing both defendants and plaintiffs. David has represented various businesses and individuals in all sorts of litigation, both commercial and personal. He has represented both employers and injured workers in workers' compensation proceedings.

David's experience as a litigator is important, because, as the workers' compensation trial judge, his most fundamental task is litigation, along with pre- and post-litigation adversarial proceedings. I doubt that anyone can be a competent trial judge, who has not had substantial experience as a litigator. David has also litigated as an appellant and appellee before the Montana

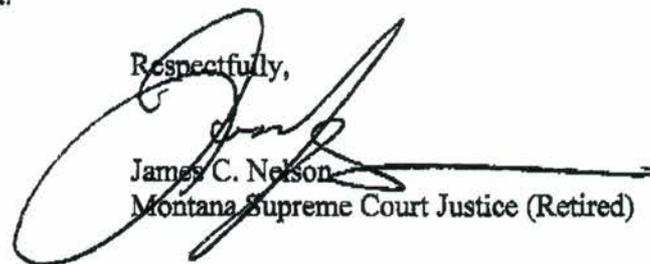
Supreme Court, and, better still, having been a clerk, he is intimately familiar with what the Supreme Court expects from trial judges in terms of decisions, finding of fact and conclusions of law. David's briefs filed before the Court were always clear, concise and forcefully argued. Similarly his oral arguments were always very well presented and persuasive.

Additionally, and again, as you will note from his application, David has been active in public service, both to the Bar and law-related organizations, and to non-law interests. He is committed to serving his profession, his community and his State. He is a well-rounded professional.

Finally, David is married and has two young children; he is a good family man. David's reputation for honesty and fairness and his character, both in his professional and personal life, are unimpeachable.

I can think of no person who would be a better recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment as the next Workers' Compensation Judge. I am very proud and pleased to urge the Commission's favorable consideration of his application. I hope you will share this letter with your fellow Commission members. Thank you.

Respectfully,



James C. Nelson
Montana Supreme Court Justice (Retired)



LAW OFFICE OF PETER LEANDER, PLLC

Tana Toren-Woepfel, Paralegal

Admitted in Montana and Arizona
Member Montana Trial Lawyers Association and
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

July 14th, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: David M. Sandler

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

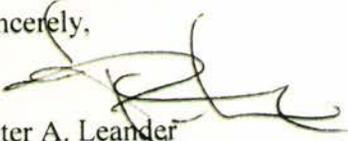
I write this letter in support of David Sandler for the position of Worker's Compensation Judge. I have known David for the past several years. We have worked together and as adversaries on a variety of cases. I found David to be an intelligent, generous and thoughtful colleague. I know David is highly respected throughout the legal community for these qualities.

We all strive to establish our practices and develop our skills and inevitably try to find a zone of comfort in our practices. I am always impressed with colleagues who are willing to step out of that zone of comfort into a new and challenging area of law. David has done that as he has expanded his successful civil practice to include criminal defense, a wholly new area of practice for David. That exemplifies David's confidence, intellectual curiosity and desire to continue to learn.

In short, I hope that you will allow David to apply his great and varied talents and qualities to the position of Worker's Compensation Judge. I believe the Worker's Compensation Court will be the better for it.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Peter A. Leander
Attorney at Law

443 Osborn Avenue, Suite 108
Bigfork, Montana 59911
peter@leanderlaw.com
Telephone: 406-837-4123 - Fax: 406-837-4122

FLATHEAD COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

Mark R. Sullivan
Justice of the Peace
Daniel R. Wilson
Justice of the Peace



Flathead County Justice Center
920 South Main, Suite 210
Kalispell, Montana 59901
(406) 758-5643

July 21, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Commissioners:

I write in support of David Sandler's appointment to the Worker's Compensation Court. I have known Mr. Sandler as an attorney for many years, and he enjoys a solid reputation for competence and professionalism among his peers.

As a judge I have witnessed his work first-hand. His legal positions are sensible and well researched, and in the courtroom his arguments are presented directly and with candor. By this I mean he answers questions in a fashion that leaves no doubt he understands both the intricacies of the law and his argument, and he does not hesitate to reveal adverse legal authority. I cannot think of a higher compliment to pay any attorney, and I believe Mr. Sandler will bring credit to the bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. Wilson,
Justice of the Peace, Dept. 1

RAMLOW & RUDBACH, PLLP

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

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jmr@ramlowrudbach.com
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christina@ramlowrudbach.com

July 17, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Mona Charles
1420 Lake Blaine Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Re: David Sandler

Dear Ms. Menzies, Ms. Charles and Mr. Rusche:

I have learned that David Sandler has applied to be the next judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. I would like to submit this letter of recommendation on his behalf.

I have been licensed to practice law in the State of Montana for nearly nineteen years and, except for approximately two years spent clerking for a state district court judge, have continually practiced law during that time. Over the years I have been involved in a handful of cases in which David Sandler was involved. I always found him to be professional, friendly and humble. I also found the quality of David's work to be excellent.

In addition to having been involved in a handful of cases with David, I have regularly sought his advice when needing a second opinion in matters I have handled. Without exception, I have found David's advice to be sound and his opinions to be well-reasoned.

In short, I have never met anyone who does not like David Sandler or who does not respect him

July 17, 2014
Page 2

as an attorney. I believe that David's temperament, his humility and his legal skills uniquely qualify him to be the next judge of the Montana Worker's Compensation Court.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any specific questions or if I can provide you with additional information that would assist in your decision.

Sincerely

RAMLOW, RUDBACH, PLLP



Karl K. Rudbach

HUNT & McDONALD

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William E. Hunt, Sr.
of counsel
Randy K. Dix
of counsel

July 18, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Letter of Support for David Sandler

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of David Sandler's application to become the next Workers' Compensation Judge.

In addition to being smart, hard-working and thoughtful, David is one of the nicest people practicing law in the State of Montana. David effortlessly relates to people from all walks of life and treats everyone with both respect and kindness. His temperament is suited to a judicial role and he would ably serve as someone who engenders trust in the legal system, both among practitioners and those whose only contact may be their one case.

As a lawyer, David has always worked hard for his clients and will bring that work ethic to the bench. Rendering timely decisions is imperative to the workers compensation system and David fully understands the additional obstacles for claimants that crop up with institutional delay. As a writer, David is articulate, clear and precise.

Sincerely,

HUNT & McDONALD

By: 
JONATHAN McDONALD

LAW OFFICES OF
JOHNSON, BERG & SAXBY, PLLP

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Kalispell, Montana 59903-3038
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COLLEEN DONOHOE
KAI GROENKE
SARAH D. SIMKINS
DAVID W. RANDALL

Of Counsel:

JAMES W. JOHNSON
STEPHEN C. BERG
BRUCE MCEVOY

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Missoula, Montana 59620-3005

Re: David Sandler Recommendation

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to address David Sandler's qualifications as a candidate for appointment to the Montana Workers Compensation Court. Please accept this letter on behalf of myself and this firm supporting David's appointment.

While this firm does not perform much work in the area of workers compensation, many of the attorneys in this firm have had the opportunity to work with David in his capacity as plaintiff's counsel on a variety of civil litigation matters.

David's management of his cases is always thorough, effective, reasonable and honest. David is candid regarding his clients position and respectful of the opinions shared by others.

One of David's most distinguishing characteristic, however, is his ability to be fair and objective. David is respectful of witnesses, defendants and opposing counsel. David handles himself in a professional manner and always gains a great amount of credibility with all involved in the litigation, even with those individuals that share a different opinion or perspective. While David always advocates for his clients position, he does so in a manner that is professional and reasonable. Stated another way, at the conclusion of the litigation you always look forward to the opportunity to work with David again.

David is a valuable member of the bar and while it would be a shame to see David leave the practice in the Flathead Valley, David is truly an excellent candidate for the Montana Workers Compensation Court.



July 22, 2014
Page 2

Thank you again for the opportunity to address David's qualifications as a candidate for a seat on the Montana Workers Compensation Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sarah D. Simkins

Sarah D. Simkins
simkinss@centurytel.net

SDS/tmk

MS MCKENNA & STARIN
TRIAL ATTORNEYS, PLLC

Sydney E. McKenna • Justin Starin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nominations Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend David M. Sandler for Montana's next Workers' Compensation Judge.

The Montana Workers' Compensation Act strikes a compromise between industry and labor. Workers receive guaranteed no-fault recovery, and industry is relieved of the possibility of large recoveries in the tort system. The Workers' Compensation Judge has the responsibility of applying the Act. David Sandler is perfectly qualified to fulfill this role. He has represented all sides over the last 14 years - insurers, employers and injured workers.

Since graduating from law school in 1988, I have practiced in the specialty area of workers' compensation, which has included trials in front of Judge Reardon, Judge McCarter and Judge Shea. I have also had several opportunities to argue workers' compensation cases to the Montana Supreme Court. I frequently discuss the Workers' Compensation Act with my peers in the legal profession and am active in the MTLA Workers' Compensation Section. My experience provides me with a solid insight into the Act's effect on Montana employers and workers and the role of the court in the process.

I know David Sandler is a hard working attorney with a broad range of legal experience. His emphasis in civil litigation gives him the tools to be a good trial judge. I also know that David has a reputation for being professional and fair. He is respected by his colleagues. In short, I believe he has demonstrated he has the temperament and character necessary to be a good judge.

As a workers' compensation lawyer and resident of Montana, I respectfully submit to you that David Sandler would make an excellent Workers' Compensation Judge and I highly recommend that you forward his name to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Sydney E. McKenna

MS MCKENNA & STARIN
TRIAL ATTORNEYS, PLLC
Sydney E. McKenna • Justin Starin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nominations Commission:

I urge you to appoint David Sandler as Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court. I have known David personally and professionally since we attended law school together in the 1990s. David has a keen legal mind, an understanding of people, and a sense of community.

Among the many talented lawyers in Montana, I cannot think of one better suited than David for the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. David is even-tempered, yet firm; open-minded, yet willing and able to reach a decision; confident, yet not arrogant.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter.

Sincerely,



Justin Starin





CONNER & MARR, PLLP

Dennis Patrick Conner
Keith Douglas Marr
Attorneys at Law

520 Third Avenue North
P.O. Box 3028 • Great Falls, MT 59403-3028
Telephone: (406) 727-3550 • Fax: (406) 727-1640

Kitty Agostinelli, Legal Assistant
Clari Davis, Legal Assistant

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Missoula, MT 59620-3005

RE: letter of support for David Sandler

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members:

It is with great satisfaction that I submit my letter of support on behalf of David Sandler. I urge the Commission to recommend David for appointment to Montana's Workers' Compensation Court.

I have known David in a personal and professional capacity for more than ten years. During that time, I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand David's work product and temperament.

Early in my legal career, I represented the claimant in a workers' compensation case which was appealed to the Montana Supreme Court. David represented the workers' compensation insurer. The Montana Supreme Court ordered oral argument in the case, and David and I argued against each other before the Court.

David proved to be a formidable advocate for his client. However, David never let advocacy get in the way of professionalism. While we worked against each other as adversaries, David always treated me with the utmost respect. He has a brilliant legal mind, an even temperament, and the ability to identify with people from diverse backgrounds. David naturally possesses the kind of respectful, yet determined, temperament which all trial judges should strive for.

David's familiarity with Montana's Workers' Compensation System, in representing both claimants and employers/insurers, makes David uniquely qualified to sit as Montana's next Workers' Compensation Judge. I assure you that David has both the ability, and the determination, to thrive on the Court. I am happy to speak with you further about David's qualifications should you wish to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith D. Marr



MURPHY Law Firm

Thomas J. Murphy, Attorney
Charla K. Tadlock, Attorney
Matthew J. Murphy, Attorney
Sandra Gilbert, Paralegal
Lou Joi Poelman, Paralegal
Shawnda Winter, Paralegal
Ginger Burcham, Assistant

July 21, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
Court Administrator
P O Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

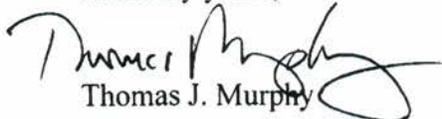
Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I want to recommend two fine candidates for the position of Montana Worker's Compensation Judge. To be honest, I found it hard to pick between these two gentlemen.

First, I recommend David M. Sandler. Dave is an excellent lawyer, and he has worked on both sides of many workers compensation cases. Dave has an even disposition, impeccable manners, and he is an excellent scholar of the law. I have worked against Dave and with Dave on various worker's compensation cases. His concern for the truth and the claimant have always impressed me. David Sandler would be an excellent judge.

Next, I recommend Dean Blackaby for the same position. Like David Sandler, Dean has worked for many years in the area of workers compensation. In addition, Dean has also worked for both claimants and insurers. Most recently, Dean has been working for the Montana State Fund, so he understands the varied demands of the largest worker's compensation insurer in the state. Dean is a good guy, he is unflappable, polite, and kind. Dean Blackaby would be an excellent judge.

Sincerely yours,


Thomas J. Murphy



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Gregory L. Hanson
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Robert C. Lukes
Kathryn S. Mahe

Alan F. McCormick
Kristina K. McMullin
Charles E. McNeil
Mark S. Munro *
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Robert E. Sheridan
Brian J. Smith
Jeffrey B. Smith
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July 21, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Workers' Compensation Court Judge Vacancy---David Sandler application

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write to recommend David Michael Sandler as a nominee for Governor Bullock's consideration in appointing the next Workers' Compensation Court Judge for the State of Montana. David has many years' experience advocating for both injured workers and insurers in such claims, and I have every confidence in his abilities, intellect, and enthusiasm for the position.

I have known David since we attended law school together, and while I have had only limited professional interactions with him, we have remained friends and he has been on many cases involving members of our firm. David is known to be fair, hard-working, and effective for his clients. He has a well-deserved reputation as an excellent attorney and is genuinely respected and liked by members of the bar. David is intelligent and thoughtful, and his written and oral advocacy reflect the time and effort he puts in to all of his cases. He has represented both claimants and insurers in Workers' Compensation cases, and has a balanced perspective on the entire system. He has significant trial and appellate experience in the Workers' Compensation field as well, which has enhanced his understanding of the system, including the role of the judge in a Workers' Compensation case.

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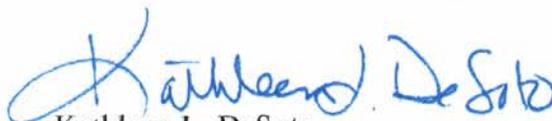
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Judicial Nomination Committee
RE: David Sandler Application
July 21, 2014
Page 2

I believe David's experience, intellect, and work ethic make him an excellent candidate for appointment to the Workers' Compensation Court Judge position, and I strongly recommend him for that position.

Very truly yours,

GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP



Kathleen L. DeSoto

Direct Line: (406) 523-2544

Email: kldesoto@garlington.com

KLD:kld



July 23, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: David Michael Sandler – Applicant for Workers' Compensation Judge

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I met David Sandler shortly after moving to Kalispell just over 9 years ago. I have had the pleasure of getting to know David both personally and professionally. David has earned my utmost respect in the time that I have known him. I am recommending him for the Montana Workers' Compensation Court Judgeship that is currently vacant.

I am a Vice President and Branch Manager for a regional bank in Northwest, MT. While I have not worked directly with David on any specific legal matters, we have had the opportunity to discuss a variety of business and legal topics over the years. Through our many conversations it is evident to me that David is very intelligent, fair, ethical, and competent. He has a broad knowledge of business and has exceptional communication skills.

Since I am not an attorney and do not consider myself an expert in the area of workers' compensation, the best perspective I can provide is a reference to David's character. David is a devoted family man that is involved in the community. He has a strong work ethic and gives 100% of his effort to be proficient at whatever endeavor he pursues. Without exception, David has always demonstrated the highest level of integrity and professionalism both on and off the job.

David possesses all of the attributes that are necessary to be successful as the Montana Workers' Compensation Judge and has my recommendation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,



Mark Armstrong



July 23, 2014

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 2033005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Application of David M. Sandler for Workers' Compensation Court
Judgeship

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am writing to support David Sandler's application for appointment as the Montana Worker's Compensation Court Judge. While I have written a letter of support on behalf of Dean Blackaby, I believe that David is also well-positioned to take on the responsibilities of the workers' compensation judge.

David began his workers' compensation practice representing insurers. Later he transitioned to representing claimants. I recall arguing a workers' compensation matter in a state district court case many years ago and was impressed with his ability to make an argument in a difficult situation.

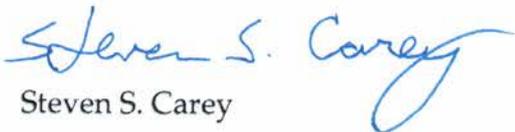
I have also had the opportunity to mediate cases for David and his clients. I have found him to be very calm, thoughtful, and informed. These are characteristics which would serve him and the State of Montana well as the Workers' Compensation Court Judge. I am certain that any parties and counsel appearing before him would have a full opportunity to present their case and would come away believing that they had received a fair hearing.

From my vantage point, David is an up and coming attorney and would make an excellent choice for Governor Bullock's consideration for the Montana Workers' Compensation Judgeship. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

CAREY LAW FIRM, P.C.

By


Steven S. Carey

SSC:kaw

PAUL N. SIMON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

July 23, 14

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

Re: David Sandler and Dean Blackaby Recommendation

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing in support of David Sandler and Dean Blackaby for Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. Based on my experience, I believe both of these applicants are highly qualified for the vacant judgeship. The Commission is lucky to have them as applicants and I hope both will be forwarded on to the Governor's office for consideration.

After graduating from UM Law School, I worked at the Workers' Compensation Court as a law clerk for Judge Shea. During that time, I clerked and mediated cases involving David and Dean as attorneys. I witnessed their legal abilities writing briefs and arguing cases in the Court. I also watched them interact with clients and opposing counsel. Both attorneys were well-prepared and fair in their approach to cases.

The field of workers' compensation law is extremely specialized. David and Dean both possess the necessary experience, intellect, and temperament required of a judge. I would be happy to work with either of them in the future. Please contact me with any questions you might have.

Best,



Paul N. Simon

P.O. Box 8328, Missoula, MT 59807
202 W. Spruce St., Missoula, MT 59802
paul@paulsimonlaw.com

phone: (406) 541-2690
fax: (406) 206-0048

KAUFMAN VIDAL HILEMAN ELLINGSON

Suite 4000
22 Second Avenue West
Kalispell, MT 59901

T 406.755.5700
F 406.755.5783

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Via E-Mail: lmenzies@mt.gov

Attorneys at Law

Shelly Brander
Jeffrey Ellingson
Daniel Hileman
Matthew Hutchison
Lucas Mann
Stephen Nardi
David Tennant
James Vidal
Valori Vidulich
Leonard Kaufman - of counsel

Re: David Sandler

I would like to add my letter of recommendation in support of David Sandler for Judge of Montana's Workers' Compensation Court. I came to know David when he joined Bottomly, Eddy & Sandler, PLLP, in 2011. Ellingson Law Firm PLLC shared office space with David and my former partners, Amy Eddy and Joe Bottomly. David and I consulted frequently on our respective cases. I was the beneficiary especially of David's extensive experience as a workers' compensation attorney. He remains my first choice for a second opinion in that field particularly, but in other cases as well.

David has been very successful as an advocate for his clients, because he is the complete package as an attorney. His clerking experience early in his career obviously gave him a solid basis for analysis and expression. His legal writing is clear, straightforward, and efficient. He has the discipline and focus to get a lot done, and the ability to inspire others working with him to do the same. He is also exceptionally skilled at oral argument, and presentation to a jury. He has the respect of the bench and bar, including opposing counsel. He is absolutely professional, but also exceptionally personable and respectful. He obviously enjoys his profession, his family, and life in general, and he has an exceptional range of friends as a result.

I know that Judge Shea's departure for the Montana Supreme Court has unavoidably created a backlog. I also know that David is committed to doing all that it will take to bring the Court current as soon as possible, with due respect for the rights of the litigants, and clarity of the Court's decisions. I am confident that the lawyers and parties appearing before Judge Sandler will appreciate his intelligence, his kind demeanor, and his efficient management of the Court.

Yours truly,

KAUFMAN VIDAL HILEMAN ELLINGSON PC

By: _____


Jeffrey Ellingson

July 21, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
% Lois Menzies
Office of the Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Via E-Mail: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: David Sandler

Members of the Commission:

I offer this letter recommending David Sandler as a preferred candidate for appointment as Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court.

I am a Kalispell native and am currently employed as a paralegal for Kaufman Vidal Hileman Ellingson PC in Kalispell. I have worked in the legal field for 30+ years in the Flathead Valley area. My employer (attorney Jeffrey Ellingson) shared office space with David Sandler and his law partner for a little over a year as well as working together on a couple of litigation matters. I had the good fortune of developing a great working relationship and friendship with David as a result.

David is one of the most open, honest, and engaging people I have ever met. His ready smile and warm personality serve him well and enhance his effectiveness as an attorney. His demeanor immediately puts people at ease; a rare trait that would appear to be invaluable for a judge. I was struck by his obvious compassion and zealous representation of his clients in litigation cases coupled with a high intellect and the ability to communicate effectively with clients, opposing counsel, office staff, and court staff. He is obviously well respected by his clients and peers alike for his courtroom skills, or alternatively, his ability to achieve a just resolution by mutual agreement in complex litigation cases.

In addition to his law practice, I have been very impressed by David as a husband, father, and active member of the community. He is a devoted family man and also shares his youthful energy and patient attitude with others in the community by coaching children's sports.

I have no doubt that David would make an outstanding Workers Compensation Judge. His intellect and extensive experience in past Workers Compensation cases would serve him well as a judge. David has always been an excellent advocate for his clients. He obviously strives to be fair and impartial in all matters, and always seeks a just resolution while treating all parties with respect. I feel the Workers Compensation Court would be well served by David's expertise, strong work ethic, and engaging personality.

Sincerely,



Karen S. Thienes
128 South Cedar Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
Cell: 406-314-0633

July 23, 2014

VIA EMAIL ONLY

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Ms. Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 2033005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

**RE: Application of David M. Sandler for Workers' Compensation Court
Judgeship**

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Committee:

I am pleased to write in support of David M. Sandler's application for appointment as Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I have come to know and very much respect David in my practice with Carey Law Firm, P.C. Much of our firm's practice involves representing workers' compensation claimants, and I entered the Montana Bar within months of Judge Shea's prior appointment to the Workers' Compensation Court Judgeship. I learned through that experience the importance of having a Judge in place who can hit the ground running upon his appointment and quickly get up to speed on what will undoubtedly be a heavy case load. It is also incredibly important to have a Judge in place who is familiar with the intricacies of our Workers' Compensation laws and who is thoughtful, analytic, dispassionate, and a capable writer.

I have discussed the strengths and weaknesses of many cases with David over the years and have reviewed his briefing on several cases, one of which was on appeal with the Montana Supreme Court. I can confirm through those interactions, and many personal interactions, that David possesses each of the qualities that are required of a fair and effective judge, in whatever court. David's experience as both a defense and claimant's attorney in the workers' compensation field render him a particularly good fit for Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court.

I can also attest through my interactions with David that he has the life experience and temperament that will allow him to assess the facts, testimony, and law of each case in a thoughtful and even-handed light. A good Workers' Compensation Court Judge will have the knowledge and the courage to make tough calls that are consistent with our ever-evolving statutes and jurisprudence in the workers' compensation arena. I believe

Judicial Nomination Commission

RE: Application of David M. Sandler for Workers' Compensation Court Judgeship

July 23, 2014

Page 2

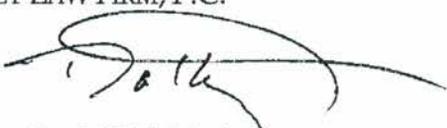
David has that knowledge and will make those calls when required. He consequently has my full endorsement for your recommendation to Governor Bullock of his appointment to the Court.

Thank you and please call with any follow up questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

CAREY LAW FIRM, P.C.

By


David T. Lighthall

DTL:kaw



Odegaard Braukmann Law PLLC

PAUL D. ODEGAARD
MATT D. BRAUKMANN

1601 Lewis Ave, Ste 101
Billings, Montana 59102
Phone: 406.259.2222
Fax: 406.259.3232

July 23, 2014

Via Electronic Mail Only

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Letter of Recommendation for David Sandler

Dear Commission Members:

I write to express my support for the application of David Sandler to fill the vacant Montana Workers' Compensation Judgeship. I first met David in 1997 when we were both summer law clerks for the Crowley Law Firm. I have followed with interest his legal career since. It is well known that he has represented both workers' compensation insurers and injured workers. He has a wealth of experience litigating cases before the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. Whether advancing the claim of an injured worker or defending the interests of employers and insurance companies, David has earned a well-deserved reputation as a fair, effective and honest advocate. His very successful law school career, Montana Supreme Court clerkship, and a very impressive 16 year legal career thus far all bode well for David continuing the excellent legacy left by Judge Shea.

I think David is an excellent candidate to fill the current judicial vacancy on the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. I hope that you submit his name for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ODEGAARD BRAUKMANN LAW, PLLC

PAUL D. ODEGAARD

PDO/kab

HAMMER, JACOBS & QUINN PLLC

ATTORNEYS:

TODD A. HAMMER
ANGELA JACOBS PERSICKE
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BENJAMIN J. HAMMER

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FAX: (406) 755-5155

WEBSITE: WWW.ATTORNEYSMONTANA.COM

PARALEGALS:

POOKIE TULLY
ANN THAMERT
ASHLEY STRICKLIN

July 18, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administration
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Letter of Recommendation for David M. Sandler

Dear Commission:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of recommendation for David Sandler for the position of Workers' Compensation Judge.

I have known David for over ten years. I worked in the same law firm with David for two of those ten years, one year as an associate and one year as his partner. During the time we worked together, David was a great mentor to me. He is a clear, logical thinker. He is also simply one of the best legal writers I have encountered, including the law clerks I worked with while employed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. As an employer, and later as a partner, David was patient, kind, funny and hardworking.

Since David left our law firm, I have had the opportunity to work both with him and against him on cases. David and I spent countless hours representing different clients on the same side of a dispute in the case *Plum Creek Marketing, et al. v. American Economy Insurance Company, et al.* I have continued to be impressed with David's legal skills and with his clear succinct analysis and writing. David also sets the bar for professionalism, a trait which can be lacking in litigation.

David has experience with both sides of Workers' Compensation, having representing both insurers and claimants. I believe this experience along with David's natural demeanor would make him a fair, balanced and impartial judge. David's legal skills, writing skills and work ethic are also well-suited to the position.

On a personal level, David is a wonderful dad, husband, friend, community member and colleague. I consider him to be one of the most ethical attorneys I have ever met and he is the person I call for advice if I have an ethical dilemma.

Montana would be well-served by having David as the new Workers' Compensation Judge. I encourage the Commission to forward his name for appointment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Persicke". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Angela Jacobs Persicke



July 23, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Helena, Montana

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write today in strong support of David Sandler, who has made application for appointment as the Workers Compensation Court Judge.

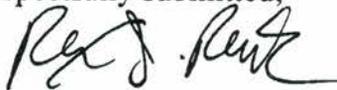
I have known David since 1998 when he served as a law clerk for former Supreme Court Justice, James C. Nelson. As Deputy Clerk of Montana Supreme Court, I have had the pleasure to work with many fine men and women who served as law clerks for the justices over the twenty years that I have worked for the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Ed Smith. Based on my experiences I can honestly say that from his time clerking at the Supreme Court and throughout the 16 years since, I have known David to be of the highest caliber as an attorney, a professional, and just as importantly, as a person.

David has the requisite experience and expertise in workers' compensation law and he displays the exemplary temperament necessary to make an excellent Workers' Compensation Court Judge. These attributes I have observed in dealings with David on the nearly 30 cases in which he has appeared at Supreme Court in his career to date, including presenting oral argument in front of the Court on three occasions. David has a strong background in civil litigation, advocating for individuals, businesses and organizations and has built a successful record in both bringing suits and defending clients. He understands what it is like to be on both sides of an issue and I have no doubt of his ability to be fair and impartial as a judge.

In addition to his expertise and work ethic, David's professionalism and his ability to get along with people set him apart. In such an adversarial profession as the practice of law, David is able to employ humor, humility, empathy and respect in dealings with his clients, his opponents and the court. These qualities are evident to anyone who meets David and these characteristics would serve him, and the people of Montana, very well as our Montana Workers' Compensation Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Rex J. Renk
Deputy Clerk
Montana Supreme Court



MOORE, COCKRELL, GOICOECHEA & AXELBERG, P.C.

Mikel L. Moore
[Also Admitted in Arizona]
Dale R. Cockrell
[Also Admitted in South
Dakota and Colorado]
Tracy Axelberg
Sean P. Goicoechea
Jay T. Johnson
Jinnifer Jeresek Mariman
[Also Admitted in Oregon]

145 Commons Loop, Ste. 200
Kalispell, MT 59901

July 22, 2014

P.O. Box 7370
Kalispell, MT 59904-0370
Office: (406) 751-6000
Fax: (406) 756-6522

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: *David Sandler Recommendation*

To whom it may concern:

Please accept this letter on behalf of myself and our firm supporting David Sandler for appointment to the Montana Workers Compensation Court. Although our firm does not normally represent clients in the workers' compensation arena, we have all known and worked with David in many capacities throughout the last several years. David has many qualities that will make him truly a superb Workers Compensation Judge.

David is extremely dedicated. Our experience with David over the years has confirmed he will put forth 110% effort regardless of the task or client.

David is fair and impartial. While representing clients in any type of litigation, it is difficult for attorneys to view matters fairly and impartially. David has always exemplified the ability to view all sides of any matter reasonably, with an open mind and without any pre-conceived conclusions.

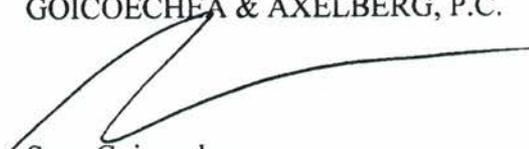
David is experienced and well respected. David's experience in the area of workers' compensation law in Montana is self evident. Not only does he have significant experience representing both claimants and defendants, he has the very hard earned reputation of someone who is very thorough, capable and effective regardless of which side of the case he represents.

If appointed, we are confident David will excel as a Workers' Compensation Judge and serve the people of Montana with diligence, fairness and respect. David deserves our highest recommendation and your very serious consideration for this position. Please do not hesitate to call us directly if you wish to discuss our recommendation of David further.

Page 2
July 21, 2014

Sincerely,

MOORE, COCKRELL,
GOICOECHEA & AXELBERG, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Goicoechea', written over the printed name.

Sean Goicoechea
Direct Line No. 406-751-6015

SG/jm

MS MCKENNA & STARIN
TRIAL ATTORNEYS, PLLC

Sydney E. McKenna • Justin Starin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

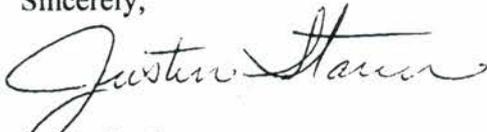
Dear Judicial Nominations Commission:

I urge you to appoint David Sandler as Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court. I have known David personally and professionally since we attended law school together in the 1990s. David has a keen legal mind, an understanding of people, and a sense of community.

Among the many talented lawyers in Montana, I cannot think of one better suited than David for the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. David is even-tempered, yet firm; open-minded, yet willing and able to reach a decision; confident, yet not arrogant.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this letter.

Sincerely,


Justin Starin



MS MCKENNA & STARIN
TRIAL ATTORNEYS, PLLC

Sydney E. McKenna • Justin Starin
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

July 22, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Judicial Nominations Commission:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend David M. Sandler for Montana's next Workers' Compensation Judge.

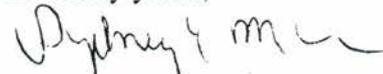
The Montana Workers' Compensation Act strikes a compromise between industry and labor. Workers receive guaranteed no-fault recovery, and industry is relieved of the possibility of large recoveries in the tort system. The Workers' Compensation Judge has the responsibility of applying the Act. David Sandler is perfectly qualified to fulfill this role. He has represented all sides over the last 14 years - insurers, employers and injured workers.

Since graduating from law school in 1988, I have practiced in the specialty area of workers' compensation, which has included trials in front of Judge Reardon, Judge McCarter and Judge Shea. I have also had several opportunities to argue workers' compensation cases to the Montana Supreme Court. I frequently discuss the Workers' Compensation Act with my peers in the legal profession and am active in the MTLA Workers' Compensation Section. My experience provides me with a solid insight into the Act's effect on Montana employers and workers and the role of the court in the process.

I know David Sandler is a hard working attorney with a broad range of legal experience. His emphasis in civil litigation gives him the tools to be a good trial judge. I also know that David has a reputation for being professional and fair. He is respected by his colleagues. In short, I believe he has demonstrated he has the temperament and character necessary to be a good judge.

As a workers' compensation lawyer and resident of Montana, I respectfully submit to you that David Sandler would make an excellent Workers' Compensation Judge and I highly recommend that you forward his name to Governor Bullock for consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Sydney E. McKenna



LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.

NORMAN L. NEWHALL
RICHARD J. MARTIN
J. KIM SCHULKE
STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN
MICHELE REINHART LEVINE

WAYNE E. LINNELL
Of Counsel

Attorneys at Law
120 – 1st Avenue North
P.O. Box 2629
Great Falls, MT 59403
(406) 454-5800
1-800-732-2451 (Montana only)
FAX (406) 454-8000
Home page: www.lnms.net

PARALEGAL STAFF:
DAN BENNETT
BRENDA McGEE
MEGAN MILLER
WENDY FISHER
KRISTI NATALIE
OFFICE MANAGER:
TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MI53-01

July 17, 2014

Nancy Zadick
1901 Whispering Ridge Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Nancy:

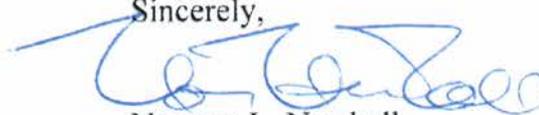
I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of David Sandler, candidate for appointment to the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I tried a case against David in Workers' Compensation Court several years ago and have also had several occasions to work with him in the resolution of other workers compensation claims. In the last several years I have followed the shift in the emphasis of his practice from defense of workers compensation insurers to the representation of claimants.

I know from personal experience and observation that David is hard-working, knowledgeable and professional in all respects. In advocating for his clients on either side of a claim, David is articulate and well-reasoned. I have also found him to be fair-minded and honest and believe he would be an excellent choice for the next judge of the Workers' Compensation Court.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to share this recommendation with other members of your committee.

Sincerely,



Norman L. Newhall
nnewhall@lnms.net
(406) 454-5802

NLN/kk



Gerry P. Fagan
Gerry.Fagan@moultonbellingham.com

July 23, 2014

W. A. FORSYTHE
DOUG JAMES
THOMAS E. SMITH
JOHN T. JONES
DUNCAN A. PEETE
GERRY P. FAGAN
MICHELE L. BRAUKMANN
MICHAEL E. BEGLEY*
JEFF G. SORENSON
KATHRYN J. MAEHL
EMILY JONES ***
CHRISTOPHER T. SWEENEY**,**
JESSICA T. FEHR
ANDON JT HOSKINS
BRIAN O. MARTY
AFTON E. BALL
GEORGE T. KIMMET *,****
ADAM J. TUNNING *
ADAM WARREN

Via email and mail: lmenzies@mt.gov

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Application of David Sandler

Dear Honored Members of the Commission:

I am writing to you about the application of David Sandler for the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. I am writing to highly recommend Dave's application and to urge you to seriously consider him for the position.

I have practiced law primarily as a civil defense litigator for over fifteen years. I know Dave well, both professionally and personally. I first met Dave in law school at the University of Montana School of Law. We have been friends and colleagues ever since. I have also been involved in legal actions that Dave was involved in, consulted with him periodically on cases and legal issues either of us encountered, and I have followed his career throughout, too.

Dave is ideally suited to become the Workers' Compensation Judge for many reasons. Dave is a very fair and objective person, and he would not bring an agenda to the bench. Dave has worked on both sides of the civil law practice. Dave has been a partner in a firm that primarily defended legal actions, and he has been a partner in a firm that primarily asserts claims on behalf of injured parties. As such, he has represented plaintiffs and defendants alike, including in workers' compensation cases. Every party to a claim would get the same fair opportunity to present his or her case if Dave Sandler was the Judge, and every party would get the same fair analysis of the merits of his or her position.

Of Counsel

Brent R. Cromley
K. Kent Koolen
Gerald B. Murphy

FREDRIC D. MOULTON
(1912-1989)

W.S. MATHER
(1922-1998)

WM. H. BELLINGHAM
(1920-2002)

BERNARD E. LONGO
(1918-2011)

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN
WYOMING*
NORTH DAKOTA**
ARIZONA***
NEW YORK****

A Professional Corporation ~ Attorneys at Law ~ SINCE 1894

WWW.MOULTONBELLINGHAM.COM



Dave has also proven himself to be a very good attorney. In particular, he is skilled at trial practice and in legal writing. He has developed his skills over more than fifteen years of litigating claims, including a substantial amount of workers' compensation claims. These skills are the keys to a good Judge, and would serve both the people of Montana and the Workers' Compensation system very well if Dave was appointed.

Dave also has the necessary demeanor to be a great Judge. He treats everyone with professionalism, politeness, and respect. I believe this is another important attribute for a trial judge to possess, but it is sometimes overlooked. Not all Judges possess or exhibit this attribute at all times, but it would never be an issue if Dave was appointed.

It is without any hesitation whatsoever that I highly recommend David Sandler for the position of Workers' Compensation Judge. He would serve the citizens of Montana very well. He has the necessary demeanor, intelligence, trial experience, writing skills, sense of fairness, and ethical underpinnings to be a very effective Judge for the State of Montana. Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

MOULTON BELLINGHAM PC

By: _____

Gerry Fagan

Vice President and Shareholder,
Moulton Bellingham PC



LINNELL, NEWHALL, MARTIN & SCHULKE, P.C.

NORMAN L. NEWHALL
RICHARD J. MARTIN
J. KIM SCHULKE
STACY TEMPEL-ST. JOHN
MICHELE REINHART LEVINE

WAYNE E. LINNELL
Of Counsel

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PARALEGAL STAFF:
DAN BENNETT
BRENDA McGEE
MEGAN MILLER
WENDY FISHER
KRISTI NATALIE
OFFICE MANAGER:
TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MIS3-01

July 17, 2014

Nancy Zadick
1901 Whispering Ridge Drive
Great Falls, MT 59405

Dear Nancy:

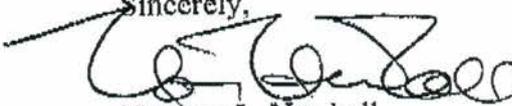
I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of David Sandler, candidate for appointment to the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I tried a case against David in Workers' Compensation Court several years ago and have also had several occasions to work with him in the resolution of other workers compensation claims. In the last several years I have followed the shift in the emphasis of his practice from defense of workers compensation insurers to the representation of claimants.

I know from personal experience and observation that David is hard-working, knowledgeable and professional in all respects. In advocating for his clients on either side of a claim, David is articulate and well-reasoned. I have also found him to be fair-minded and honest and believe he would be an excellent choice for the next judge of the Workers' Compensation Court.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to share this recommendation with other members of your committee.

Sincerely,


Norman L. Newhall
nnewhall@lnms.net
(406) 454-5802

NLN/lck

garlington | lohn | robinson



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P.O. Box 7909
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July 22, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Workers' Compensation Court Vacancy – David Sandler Application

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing in support of David Sandler's application to become the next Workers' Compensation Court Judge for the State of Montana. I have known David for many years and have worked opposite him in both civil litigation and workers' compensation claims. In recent years I have had the pleasure of mediating some of David's cases, again in both civil and workers' compensation court cases.

David is bright and articulate and is always well prepared to represent his client. He is very professional and always presents himself in a relaxed and collegial manner. He has had experience in representing both plaintiffs and defendants in civil matters and claimants, employers and insurers in workers' compensation matters. He has had significant trial experience in both arenas.

His broad experience makes him uniquely qualified to be the next Workers' Compensation Court Judge as I believe he has no bias or prejudice against any party to a workers' compensation claim. From my experience working with David he has the intelligence, demeanor and temperament to be an outstanding trial judge. I heartily endorse David's application and would ask that the commission submit his name to Governor Bullock as one of the nominees to become the next Workers' Compensation Court Judge.

Very truly yours,

GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP

Robert E. Sheridan
Direct Line: (406) 523-2546
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RES:jdl

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July 23, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005
lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Appointment of Workers Compensation Court Judge

Dear Members of the Commission:

I write to share with you my observations and impressions of David Sandler and urge you to recommend him to the Governor for the position of Workers Compensation Court judge.

I have known David since he began practicing law in the Flathead after he graduated from law school, which I believe was about fifteen years ago. David is an outstanding young man (although he may no longer qualify as a "young man") and an excellent candidate for this position.

I believe David has the complete "package" of intellectual skills and personal qualities we would want in a judge. He has proven himself to be an excellent lawyer over his fifteen-plus years of practice experience. He is smart. He is an insightful and analytical thinker. He is an excellent writer. He has maturity and sound judgment. He is conscientious and his life reflects balance and perspective.

The Workers Compensation Court judge will be writing opinions that will have a significant impact on the development of workers compensation law in our state. Accordingly, good analytical, research and writing skills are of critical importance. David excels in each of these areas. In some instances these attributes come at the expense of "good old common sense" – not with David. As bright as he is, he is a solid, down-to-earth guy. He also has a good sense of humor and while he takes his work very seriously, he does not take himself too seriously.

While critical thinking, research and writing skills top the list of qualities we look for in our jurists, other qualities are important as well. To no less an extent, David also stands out in these areas. He is compassionate, but at the same time he is decisive, and he will not shy away from making hard decisions when he believes they must be made. Striking a balance between these two qualities – compassion and decisiveness – is difficult, but it makes for the kind of "judicial



temperament" that is so important, yet hard to come by in those we would have serve on the bench. That David has this balance along with his outstanding intellectual attributes is in large measure why I was very excited when he expressed an interest in this position.

There is also the "personal side" of being a good judge and again, David is top notch. He is a good listener and he is very earnest. He is empathetic but objective. He also has great integrity and his ethical principles are beyond reproach. Add to this that he is a very hard worker and diligent in all aspects of his professional life and I think it would be hard to envision someone with a better blend of qualities than David to serve as our Workers Compensation Court judge.

I think all the lawyers that appear before him will appreciate him very much and all the injured workers who have their cases considered by him will feel they had their cases earnestly considered by the Court and that they were well served by the system. We cannot ask for more.

Add to all this that he is in an ideal position in his career in that he has a good deal of experience while at the same time, he has enough years ahead of him that we will have him and the continuity that gives the Court for a considerable length of time.

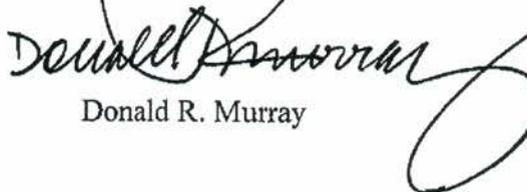
Another asset that David would bring to the position is that he will be well liked and respected by the Court staff. He works very well with others. As an administrator and leader, David has the sensitivity and interpersonal skills to step smoothly into this position and I believe he will inspire those with whom he works to give their best every day to their work for the Court. The staff will respect and appreciate working with Judge Sandler.

I recognize this is more a consideration for the Governor than the Commission, but David would be likely to be readily confirmed as I think he is widely held in high regard by his peers and has no significant political affiliation -- he is first and foremost an excellent lawyer and is perceived as such.

I believe we are all very fortunate that someone with David's credentials is willing to leave private practice to serve his state in this position. Please take advantage of this opportunity to place someone with David's skills and character attributes on the bench and recommend him to the Governor. Thank you very much for your service on this important Commission and best regards.

Sincerely,

Hash, O'Brien, Bby & Murray, PLLP



Donald R. Murray

DM/bb

Cc: David Sandler

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July 18, 2014

Mona Charles
1420 Lake Blaine Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Re: David Sandler

Dear Ms. Charles and Mr. Rusche,

I am writing to support the appointment of David M. Sandler for the vacancy on the Montana Workers' Compensation Court.

I have had the pleasure of having known and litigated cases against David since 2001. David is an exceptional attorney and I always look forward to working with him. As an attorney who primarily represents defendants in civil litigation, I have observed David's dedication and advocacy of his clients' positions while still maintaining courtesy and respect for the opposing party. He is intelligent, fair, thoughtful, thorough, and creative and abides by the highest standards of ethical conduct. I have no doubt that David possesses the ability to fairly adjudicate contested matters in accordance with the applicable law. David's temperament is well suited to be a judge.

I endorse and support without reservation David's application. The citizens of Montana will be well served by his appointment as our next Workers' Compensation Court judge. Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,


Kimberly S. More



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ALL ATTORNEYS LICENSED IN MT
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July 3, 2014

Hon. Richard A. Simonton
P. O. Box 1249
Glendive, MT 59330-1249

Re: Letter of Recommendation
David M. Sandler, Esq.
Applicant for Workers' Compensation Judge

Dear Judge Simonton:

It is my distinct pleasure to offer my recommendation for attorney David Sandler for the position of Workers' Compensation Court Judge. Although my practice does not involve Workers' Compensation matters, I have had the pleasure of working with David (I believe always as opposing counsel) in a few select civil matters. Dave is a strong advocate for his clients; his positions are well reasoned; his writing skills are excellent; and I have always found him to be open-minded. He has always been fair to deal with and has an excellent reputation in Flathead Valley.

I have always been very selective in writing recommendation letters, and although my experience with Dave has been limited, my experience dealing with him has always been outstanding. You should also know that Dave did not request this letter from me, but when I learned he had submitted his application I decided that this was a recommendation that I needed to submit.

Hon. Richard A. Simonton
July 3, 2014
Page 2 of 2

Hope all is well on the East side of the state, and if you have any questions or wish to discuss this recommendation further, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Fredrickson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Fredrickson
Kalvig Law Firm, P.C.
bruce@kalviglaw.com

BAF/

c: David Sandler, Esq.