
JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 9, 2020

The Judicial Nomination Commission convened through videoconferencing at 9 a.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020. All members were present: Judge John C. Brown (Chair), Janice Bishop, Karl Englund, Elizabeth Halverson, Hal Harper, Lane Larson, and Nancy Zadick. Kevin Cook and Lois Menzies provided staff services. The purpose of the meeting was to nominate applicants to fill a judicial vacancy in the 8th Judicial District (Cascade County).

Applicant interviews were scheduled as follows:

9:00 a.m.	David J. Grubich
9:40 a.m.	Michele Reinhart Levine
10:20 a.m.	Matthew Stuart Robertson
11:00 a.m.	Sunday Zoie Rossberg

Judge Brown opened the interview session by providing an overview of the judicial nomination process. Questions from the Commission followed. Topics addressed during applicant interviews included life experiences preparing the applicant for the bench; strategies for keeping civil cases moving along; addressing weaknesses in experience; resolution of discovery disputes; ability to render criminal sentences; people who have most influenced the applicant; plans for ensuring Senate confirmation; views on appointment vs. election of judges; handling an endorsement by a political party; most important issues impacting the 8th Judicial District; ensuring impartiality given an applicant's professional advocacy background; why an applicant is the best person for the position; controlling the atmosphere in the courtroom; and plans for running an effective campaign if appointed. Some applicants were asked to clarify or expand upon

their responses to certain application questions. Applicants concluded their interviews by making closing statements.

The Commission began deliberations following the last interview. The concurrence of at least four Commissioners is needed to nominate an applicant for the Governor's consideration. The Commission decided as follows:

- David Grubich was nominated by all seven Commissioners (Brown, Bishop, Englund, Halverson, Harper, Larson, and Zadick). His name will be forwarded to the Governor.
- Michele Reinhart Levine was nominated by all seven Commissioners (Brown, Bishop, Englund, Halverson, Harper, Larson, and Zadick). Her name will be forwarded to the Governor.
- Matthew Robertson was nominated by four Commissioners (Brown, Englund, Harper, and Larson). His name will be forwarded to the Governor.
- Sunday Rossberg was nominated by one commissioner (Larson).

The reasons for nominating Mr. Grubich, Ms. Levine, and Mr. Robertson are contained in the certificate and report submitted to the Governor, which are incorporated into these minutes and attached to them.

The Commission adjourned at approximately 12 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

The Judicial Nomination Commission of the State of Montana hereby certifies to the Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana that it has agreed and approved the qualifications of the following lawyers for appointment as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District.

All of these we now certify are qualified for appointment under the laws of the State of Montana. We hereby certify the same to you, as required by law, and list them in alphabetical order:

David J. Grubich
Michele Reinhart Levine
Matthew Stuart Robertson

REPORT

Pursuant to Section 3-1-1010, MCA, the Judicial Nomination Commission provides the following report:

On October 9, 2020, the members of the Judicial Nomination Commission participated in applicant interviews and deliberations through videoconferencing. The applications of and public comments regarding the above-listed nominees are attached to this certificate and also may be reviewed at: <http://www.courts.mt.gov>.

David J. Grubich received seven affirmative votes (unanimous) to recommend his appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Mr. Grubich:

1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience;
4. demonstrates judicial temperament; and
5. has significant support within the community for serving in the position of district court judge.

Michele Reinhart Levine received seven affirmative votes (unanimous) to recommend her appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Ms. Levine:

1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience;
4. demonstrates judicial temperament; and
5. has significant support within the community for serving in the position of district court judge.

Matthew Stuart Robertson received four affirmative votes to recommend his appointment. The Commission's reasons for recommending this nominee are that Mr. Robertson:

1. meets the minimum qualifications for the position of district court judge;
2. appears to be electable to the position within the judicial district;
3. has a depth and breadth of legal experience;
4. demonstrates judicial temperament; and
5. has significant support within the community for serving in the position of district court judge.

Done by videoconferencing on the 9th day of October, 2020.

Hon. John C. Brown, Chair
Janice Bishop
Hal Harper
Nancy Zadick

Elizabeth Halverson, Secretary
Karl Englund
Lane Larson