



EDMISTON & COLTON LAW FIRM

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JAMES G. EDMISTON, III
SHANE D. COLTON
JOSEPH P. COOK

February 13, 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 James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

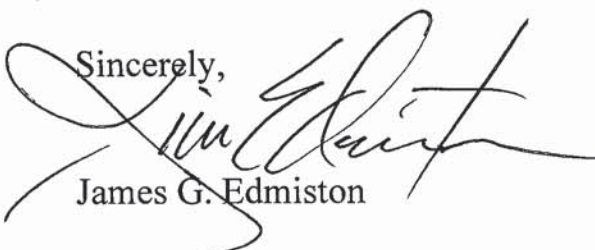
I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Jim Shea for over twenty years, first as a lawyer when he practiced in Missoula, then while I practiced before him as the Judge of the Montana Workers Compensation Court these past many years.

Jim Shea would be a fine Supreme Court Justice. He was a fine lawyer and he is a fine Workers' Compensation Court Judge. He has exhibited excellent judicial temperament. He has a good sense of humor, self discipline, and varied interests outside of the law (which I think is extremely important). He loves his family and is a good husband and father. His work product is superior because he has a keen legal mind, and has demonstrated time and again his ability to analyze complicated legal issues and apply the law appropriately. He makes decisions that are just and fair. He is unbiased and impartial. He is intelligent, wise, and patient

Jim Shea has all of the credentials, experience and wisdom to be a fine Supreme Court Justice. I hope that the Judicial Nominating Commission will consider placing him on its short list for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James G. Edmiston

LEWIS, SLOVAK & KOVACICH, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

Ben A. Snipes
Ross T. Johnson

February 18, 2014

Via Email- lmenzies@mt.gov

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

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am writing to nominate Judge James Shea to fill the vacancy in the Montana Supreme Court.

I have had the pleasure of appearing before Judge Shea for the past five (5) years in my capacity as a workers' compensation practitioner. I have always been impressed by his command of the law, familiarity with the issues and efforts to reach a just result. His preparation and commitment to the rule of law are demonstrated in his interactions with counsel and his well reasoned decisions.

Judge Shea is, in my opinion, uniquely qualified to serve on the Montana Supreme Court. His distinguished resume as a practitioner and judge establishes his diverse jurisprudential competency. During his practice and his time on the bench, Judge Shea has earned the respect and admiration of his peers in the legal community. I submit to you that he would make an excellent justice.

I thank you for your consideration of Judge Shea and for your service on the commission.

Sincerely,



Ben A. Snipes

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:06 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Shannon Thomas [<mailto:mtshan73198@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 6:10 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Public Comment on Judicial Nominee

To whom it may concern,

My name is Shannon Thomas. I am a science teacher in Helena, Montana. This email is written as public comment in support of the appointment of James Jeremiah Shea for the position of Supreme Court justice.

I have had the privilege of knowing Jim Shea for over twenty-five years, both as a friend, and as a stellar lawyer and judge. Jim brings the right mix of humility, diligence, and intelligence to his proceedings in the court. He has been a fierce advocate for clients in public and private practice. In turn, he has been that perfect "fair and balanced" judge, so often described as necessary for our judicial system.

Jim Shea is described as a "relentless seeker of fact". As a science teacher, I truly appreciate this approach and seek to have it modeled in all areas of life for my students. Jim seeks to have the judiciary keep its correct place in our three-tiered government system. The judiciary should be non-political; open to new arguments, but driven by historical precedents. Jim is not the dreaded activist judge. He has had 90% of his cases upheld by the current Supreme Court, unanimously. This can only be done if the law is applied fairly and accurately. The fact that Jim has also been confirmed by the Montana Senate twice for his Workman's Compensation judgeship, with no controversy, shows how respected he is in his work.

Jim is also a dedicated family man with a strong sense of community. Both his daughters are stellar students at the University of Montana and Helena High. His wife is a well-known family counselor in the city. Jim volunteers in his church, on the board for the local community theater, and gives his time for aiding the local education foundation.

I hope it is obvious that I hold Jim Shea in the highest of regards. I would be proud to see his appointment to the Supreme Court. He brings an experience level that few of the other candidates can rival as well as the right temperament for the appointment.

Sincerely,
Shannon Thomas, M.Ed.
Eighth Grade Science
C.R. Anderson Middle School
Helena, Montana 59601

JASPER SMITH LACNY P.C.

Lance P. Jasper
Cynthia K. Smith
Katie Lacny

Attorneys at Law

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February 18, 2014

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

RE: James Shea's Application for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I am writing to you in support of Jim Shea as part of the invited public comment on the applicants for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I have been a member in good standing of the bar of Montana since 1990. I am a former president of the State Bar of Montana.

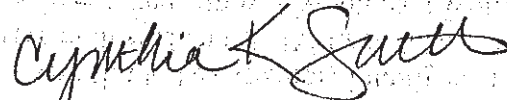
I have known Jim Shea for nearly 30 years. We met when we were both undergraduate students at the University of Montana. At the time, I knew Jim to be extremely intelligent and a good person. Since that time, I knew Jim when we were both students at UM Law School, when we were both Montana civil law practitioners, and then later when Jim was Montana's Workers' Compensation judge. My opinion of Jim has not changed since we were in college, and my regard for Jim has only increased over the years.

Jim has one of the keenest legal minds I have ever encountered. He has an uncanny ability to recall facts and law. He has the ability to quickly get to the heart of any legal issue. Just as importantly, however, Jim has the fair and ethical values and integrity that are important for a jurist. He is committed to following the law and finding justice in every situation. He is as fine a judicial candidate as I have known in my years of practicing law.

I highly recommend Jim Shea to this Commission as a candidate to recommend to Governor Steve Bullock. If I can answer any questions about my knowledge of Jim, I would welcome the opportunity to speak with any member of the Commission.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide my comments.

Sincerely,



Cynthia K. Smith

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 3:31 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Superme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: R.D. Corette [<mailto:RCorette@cpklawmt.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Jim Shea-Supreme Court Appointment

Dear Members of the Commission, I am writing to you in support of Jim Shea for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Jim worked for our firm(Corette Pohlman & Kebe-Butte) when he was in Law School. I was very impressed with Jim at that time and I have followed his career to the present. Jim is a man of integrity and has a great judicial temperament. I know from discussions with a variety of lawyers that Jim has a reputation of fairness and treating lawyers and clients with respect and bases his decisions on the law and the facts. Jim has a wealth of experience and will make an excellent Supreme Court Justice. Thank you for considering my recommendation of Jim Shea. R.D. Corette (retired attorney)

Lisa Cordingley

(406) 449-8168 | 428 S Cooke Street | Helena, MT 59601 | cord@mt.net

February 19, 2014

Via Email-lmenzies@mt.gov

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Post Office Box 203005
Helena MT 59620

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission;

I strongly support the appointment of James Shea to the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Judge Shea for eight years and in that time have come to know him well and respect him very much. His intellect is keen, his breadth of knowledge impressive and his commitment to service deep. I cannot think of a better combination of qualities for a Supreme Court justice.

I care very much about my community and the future of Montana. I want my children to be able to raise their own families in the kind of environment in which they grew up—enjoying the outdoors and reveling in the quality of life that my family has cherished for 4 generations.

My relationship with Jim Shea is personal and not professional. I am confident that each applicant for this seat on the Court has a combination of education and professional qualifications that are suitable for the position, but we expect Supreme Court Justices to meet our highest standards. Jim Shea's combination of character and intelligence suit him perfectly to meet those standards and to serve Montanans well as a member of our highest court.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa Cordingley

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 3:41 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Harper, Nancy [<mailto:NHarper@carroll.edu>]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 3:26 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Jim Shea for Judge

To Whom it may concern--- This is to advocate for Jim Shea for the judgeship position. Jim has the experience, the training, the compassion, the invaluable sense of humor, and most of all, a bone-deep sense of fairness in all he undertakes. I have known him as a fellow parent, as a thespian, as a lawyer, and as a friend. If I was in the position of plaintiff or victim I would truly want Jim Shea to be the judicial force on the bench. His qualifications absolutely speak for themselves.

Sincerely, Nancy Harper and Michael McNeilly---Carroll College, Helena, MT.

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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MEGAN MILLER
WENDY FISHER
KRISTI NATALIE
OFFICE MANAGER:
TAMMY TURNER

OUR FILE MI051-002

February 20, 2014

Richard A. Simonton
207 W. Bell Street
P.O. Box 1249
Glendive, MT 59330-1249

Re: *Supreme Court Vacancy – James Jeremiah Shea*

Dear Mr. Simonton:

I am writing to express my support for Judge James Jeremiah Shea in regard to his application to be nominated for the Montana Supreme Court seat that has been vacated by Justice Morris.

My legal practice emphasizes representing injured workers in workers' compensation claims. I have appeared before Judge James Shea in the Workers' Compensation Court on a number of occasions since he was appointed. I have also closely followed his progress as the Workers' Compensation Judge, I have attended presentations which he has given regarding the Workers' Compensation Court, and I have discussed his decisions with other members of the workers' compensation bar.

In summary, Judge Shea would be an excellent Supreme Court justice. He is smart, hard working and fair minded. His decisions at the Workers' Compensation Court are prompt, thoroughly researched and well written. There has never been a complaint by anybody that he has any bias while sitting as the Workers' Compensation Judge, neither for injured workers nor for the workers' compensation insurers. He has excellent judicial skills.

We feel it is important for the Supreme Court to have a member who is well versed in workers' compensation law. Montana law provides for direct appeals from the Workers' Compensation Court to the Supreme Court. Thus, workers' compensation

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cases are frequently reviewed by the Montana Supreme Court. The area of workers' compensation law is unique to other areas of the law, it has its own statutes, its own rules of procedure and its own case law history. It would be very beneficial to have a neutral judge like Judge Shea to sit on the Supreme Court and be able to review with his experience the various cases that may make their way to the Montana Supreme Court from the Workers' Compensation Court.

I hope you will support Judge Shea in this nomination process.

Sincerely,



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

RJM/lmr

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 2:58 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Rick Pyfer [<mailto:rpyfer@doubekpyfer.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 3:58 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Nomination of Judge James Shea to Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Ms. Menzies: I am honored to comment on behalf of the honorable Judge James J. Shea as a nominee for the open Supreme Court Justice position. I have known and practiced before Judge Shea since his appointment to the judgeship as Montana's only Worker's Compensation Court Judge. Judge Shea is always well prepared for hearings and trials and his written opinions are scholarly and follow precedent. He fairly applies the law to both sides and makes decisions based on the law and the facts presented.

Judge Shea's questions of counsel are appropriate and indicate he understands the subject matter of the cases he is deciding. He has a balanced approach to decisionmaking and answers to no political allegiances or pressures. He is an objective legal analyst and has been an excellent caretaker of the Montana Work Comp system of laws during his tenure as judge. Judge Shea has raised a family in Montana and understands Montana values. His character and integrity are impeccable. His work ethic is exemplary. He would be an outstanding supreme court justice if nominated.

I appreciate your service and work on this extremely important nominating committee. I urge you to pass on the name of Judge James Shea to the Governor for his consideration as Montana's next justice. Thank you.

Sincerely, Rick Pyfer

Rick Pyfer
307 N. Jackson
Helena, MT 59601
406-442-7830
rpyfer@doubekpyfer.com

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

February 25, 2014

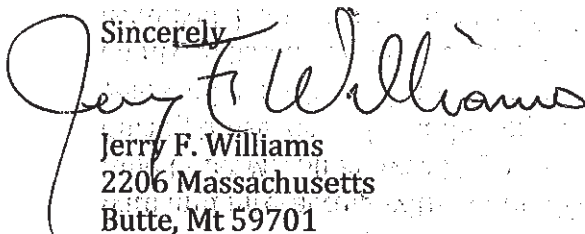
RE: Letter of recommendation for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

Dear Ms. Menzies,

I am writing to recommend James Jeremiah Shea as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Mr. Shea for over 18 years on a personal level. I believe Mr. Shea has some very important qualities that every Justice, at every level of the judicial system should possess. Those qualities are compassion for all human beings, integrity, experiences in life issues, experience in judicial issues, respect, and trustworthiness. Knowing Mr. Shea and his family, I sincerely believe he possesses each of these qualities without question. Having the opportunity to interact with Mr. Shea and his family has led me to believe he will make a fine Justice. As a retired police officer, I was trained in many areas, but the most important training received was dealing with and interacting with people. The training has served me quite well. The first time I met Mr. Shea over 18 years ago, I found him to be easy to visit with, and during those visits, I had the opportunity to learn about him as a person. Over the years, all in social or family settings, I became very impressed with Mr. Shea's ability to listen. An additional quality much desired, but unfortunately not always acquired. I am impressed with Mr. Shea's ability to show respect, even when we did not agree. I am impressed with Mr. Shea's ability to learn from others. All candidates for the Justice position will have the educational qualifications, and most will have varied experiences in the judicial setting. I am most interested in the personal qualities. If a person has great personal qualities, I truly believe that person will make an excellent Justice. I believe James Jeremiah Shea has those most necessary qualities, and I strongly recommend him to be the next Justice on the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Jerry F. Williams
2206 Massachusetts
Butte, Mt 59701

Joe C. Maynard, Jr.
P.O. Box 2529
Billings, MT 59103-2529
Telephone: 406.255.7236
Facsimile: 406.252.5292
jmaynard@crowleyfleck.com

February 18, 2014

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

Re: Judge James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

By way of introduction, I am a senior partner in the largest institutional, corporate, and insurance defense firm in a 5-state region. Over the past 25 plus years, I have appeared in most, if not all, state and federal courts in the State of Montana at one time or another. As Montanans, we are very fortunate to possess the jurists we have presiding over our courts. However, I can unequivocally state that Judge Shea outshines all others. The purpose of this letter is therefore to urge you to include Judge Shea among the candidates to be forwarded to Governor Bullock.

Turning to the basis for my endorsement, an appropriate starting point is the Code of Judicial Conduct. Rule 1.2 provides that, "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and it shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety." During the course of Judge Shea's tenure, I have tried several cases to conclusion as well as argued several dispositive motions. I won some and I lost some. However, regardless of whether I won or lost, there was a reasonable basis for the court's decision. More importantly, the decision was fair and the parties left the courtroom knowing that the decision was the result of an impartial application of the law to the facts and not the result of the judge's personal bias or agenda.

A judge should also be temperate, attentive, diligent and hardworking. Judge Shea possesses each of those traits. His judicial demeanor is impeccable. He is also a hardworking, thoughtful, intelligent jurist who delivers well reasoned decisions which attempt to follow the ever changing state of the law in an arena of legal and medical complexity. His intellect,

diligence, and analytical skills have consistently resulted in the Supreme Court affirming his decisions on appeal.

Finally, Judge Shea demands courteousness, professionalism, and civility in the practice before his court. He has no tolerance for unprofessional conduct. He has the strength to withstand partisan demands and public clamor. During his tenure, there has been an absolute prohibition upon *ex parte* communication. In short, Judge Shea is a textbook example of the traits and characteristics that the Code of Judicial Conduct requires of a sitting judge.

In light of the above, I am confident that Judge Shea would make an outstanding Montana Supreme Court Justice. I therefore urge you to submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Sincerely,

Joe C. Maynard

JCM:vb

We concur in the above recommendation.

~~100~~
~~100~~
Edward McGuire
SRW.
N. C. I.
David Charles
~~100~~
McGuire Mary
Christie in line
Michael 1-11
S. V. J. J.

Brian Holland
Steve J. Lamm
Nikky
Paul Altus
L.H. Gries
Jon Dyer
Mrs. Lamm
Kim More
Nolan
Ann V. V.
Gail J. Royer
Theodore McLean

The signatures on the preceding page are as follows:

David P. Whisenand (Billings)

Chris C. Stoneback (Billings)

Victoria A. Marquis (Billings)

Steven R. Milch (Billings)

Leonard Smith (Billings)

David L. Charles (Billings)

Eric N. Peterson (Billings)

Brad Brown (Bozeman)

Megan K. Marty (Billings)

Christine M. Prill (Billings)

Michael Tennant (Billings)

Stewart R. Kirkpatrick (Billings)

Brian Holland (Butte)

Steven J. Lehman (Billings)

Richard A. Brekke (Billings)

Paul C. Collins (Billings)

Steven W. Jennings (Billings)

Jon Dyre (Billings)

William D. Lamdin (Billings)

Danielle A. Coffman (Kalispell)

Kimberly S. More (Kalispell)

William J. Mattix (Billings)

Lance R. Hoskins (Billings)

Emily L. Royer (Billings)

Megan D. McCrae (Billings)

***The opinions expressed above are the opinions of the individual lawyers and not necessarily the firm.**

Jackie Poole
2743 West Shore Drive
Helena, MT
406-475-3649

February 27, 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 James Jeremiah Shea
for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I have had the pleasure of working with the Hon. James Jeremiah Shea since he was appointed as Judge to the Workers' Compensation Court in 2005. As a boss, he consistently allows his staff to work independently and encourages individual growth. As a friend, he is always caring and frequently entertaining.

As part of Judge Shea's team, I have the unique opportunity to observe his decision-making process. Judge Shea purposely avoids keeping track of the number of cases he decides in favor of claimants and insurers. He reviews each case on its own merits with careful consideration of the facts and law. The Montana Supreme Court has affirmed all but 4 of Judge Shea's decisions submitted and decided on appeal, and Judge Shea has garnered the respect of both claimants' and insurers' counsel with his well-reasoned decisions. Judge Shea has a strong sense of community and desire for public service. His ethics are beyond reproach.

Please consider recommending Judge Shea to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jackie Poole

OGG & HELMER LAW OFFICES

1001 S.W. Higgins, Suite 202
Missoula, MT 59803

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ogglaw@ogglaw.net

ROBERT K. OGG

CHRISTOPHER D. HELMER

February 26, 2014

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

Re: Recommendation for Nomination of James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

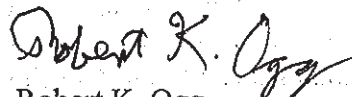
Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing to recommend the nomination of James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I have had the opportunity to represent injured workers in Montana for over 25 years of practicing law in Missoula. During the course of this representation, I have been guided by the Workers' Compensation Court decisions rendered by Montana's Workers' Compensation Court Judges. Judge Shea's decisions are even handed, well reasoned, and rarely overturned by the Montana Supreme Court. The keen legal reasoning and thoughtful resolution of numerous complicated disputes clearly demonstrates Judge Shea's ability to focus on all relevant factors required to render appropriate, unbiased decisions. I am confident that Judge Shea will diligently apply himself to the task of interpreting Montana law with thoughtful deliberation and impartiality in accordance with the highest judicial standards he has continuously demonstrated in his current position as Montana's Workers' Compensation Court Judge.

I am sure that Judge Shea's prior experience as a trial lawyer will guide him in understanding the nuances of the issues confronting him as a Supreme Court Justice for the State of Montana. I have no doubt that his wholehearted public service for the people of Montana will continue unabated. Accordingly, I strongly support the nomination of Judge James Shea for the Montana Supreme Court vacancy.

Sincerely,


Robert K. Ogg

RKO:knh

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2014 8:07 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Denis Keast [<mailto:denis@thecatalystcafe.com>]
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Public Comment on Judicial Nominee

To whom it may concern,

My name is Denis Keast. I am a business owner in Missoula, Montana, and a very proud third generation Montanan. I write today to show my strong support for the appointment of James Jeremiah Shea for the position of Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Mr. Shea for over twenty five years. I know him as a friend and have unlimited respect for him as a family man. I believe his intelligence, honesty, strong work ethic, strength of character and remarkable empathy can easily be traced by a quick review of his resume. From being raised by a mother who devoted her life to work with the Anti Poverty Council in Butte (undoubtedly showing Jim the inherent value and equality of all human life) ; to his many years on the Worker's Compensation Court (reinforcing his understanding and beliefs in the rights of the working man); to his personal life as a recovering alcoholic and father of two young women (two of the biggest challenges for any man) - Mr. Shea has developed a well rounded sense of who he is what he stands for and what is right.

His record as an attorney and as a judge speaks for itself. His record as a man is easily evident in the way he lives his life. His dedication to and knowledge of Montana is beyond reproach.

A family man, a man of faith, a man of the law, a man of Montana - It is my belief the Montana Supreme Court would benefit immensely with the addition of Jim Shea.

As a proud Montanan, as a restaurant owner with 22 young employees who depend on me and depend on a strong and fair Montana to survive, and as a friend I offer my support to Mr. James Jeremiah Shea for the position on the Montana Supreme Court.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Denis Patrick Keast
Owner - The Catalyst
Missoula, MT



BANNER-HUGHES LAW FIRM

P.O. Box 1156 | Billings, MT 59103-1156 | 406.867.0007 | bannerhughes@180com.net

February 27, 2014

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

RE: Appointment of Justice to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Commission Members,

I am pleased to write a letter in support of the appointment of James Jeremiah Shea for the vacant position on the Montana Supreme Court. I first got to know Judge Jim Shea when we were in law school. His sense of humor combined with his competence in legal reasoning make him an excellent choice for serving on the Supreme Court.

It is rare that someone has the experience and credentials that Judge Shea has for this position. He has extensive practice in civil litigation as well as criminal litigation. And of course, he has served as the sole judge for Montana's Workers Compensation Court for several years.

I was serving as the president of our local bar association shortly after Judge Shea was named to the Workers Compensation Court. I asked him to come to Billings and speak at a noon bar luncheon. Judge Shea was humorous and respectful in his presentation. Several members of the bar, who did not practice Workers Compensation, thanked me for asking Judge Shea to speak.

Judge Shea's reputation on the bench is impeccable. He is impartial and an independent thinker. He follows the law while protecting the rights of all parties. His impartiality was evident when he was recently re-appointed to the position, with the unanimous approval of an otherwise deeply divided legislature.

Both personally and professionally, Judge Shea is always honest and forthright. His record as a judge is excellent. His commitment to the Montana bar is undeniable. I would urge you to forward Judge Shea's name to the Governor for the position of Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,

Roberta Anner-Hughes

BROWN LAW FIRM, PC

John J. Russell
Michael P. Heringer
Guy W. Rogers
Scott G. Gratton
Kelly J.C. Gallinger
Matthew I. Tourtlotte
Jeffrey T. McAllister
Jon A. Wilson
Seth M. Cunningham
Shane A. MacIntyre
Thomas R. Martin
Andrew J. Miller

Retired
Rockwood Brown
John Walker Ross
Margy Bonner

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Phone: 406.248.2611 | Fax: 406.248.3128

Michael P. Heringer
mheringer@brownfirm.com

February 25, 2014

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

Re: Judge Shea's nomination for the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee:

I write this letter in support of Workers' Compensation Judge James Shea's Nomination for Justice for the Montana Supreme Court. It is my opinion that Judge Shea is a great candidate for the Justice position.

I have been a practicing attorney in Montana for almost 29 years. My practice is primarily limited to insurance defense litigation. One of my specialties is in defending employers and workers' compensation insurers before the Workers' Compensation Court. Therefore, I have had the opportunity to practice before Workers' Compensation Judge James Shea since his appointment to the bench.

In my practice in front of Judge Shea, I have seen tremendous growth in his abilities as a judge. I have had the opportunity to appear before Judge Shea on numerous occasions and found him to be professional, courteous, and fair. He is always prepared and up to speed on the issues that are being presented to him. When conflicts with opposing counsel arise, I have found him to take steps to resolve the issues so that the workers' compensation matter can proceed as scheduled. I have had over ten trials in front of Judge Shea. Many are extremely complicated and lengthy. He has an exceptional grasp for the Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of Evidence and the Workers' Compensation Court Rules. Although Judge Shea has not always ruled in my favor, at the end of the day, I believed I received a fair hearing and was able to present evidence in support of my client.

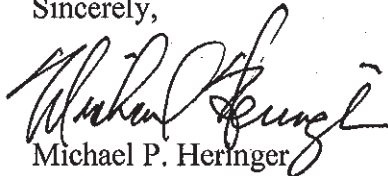
The greatest growth I have seen in Judge Shea is his ability to hear the evidence at trial and then write well-thought out and well-reasoned findings of fact and conclusions of law. A review of his decisions shows that he places substantial time in setting forth the findings of fact and then applying those facts to conclusions of law. Although I cannot say that I always agreed with his decisions, they were well supported

February 25, 2014

by case law and analysis of the legal issue presented. One example of the Judge's ability is his opinion in the *Satterlee vs. Montana State Fund and Lumbermen* decision. In that decision, Judge Shea upheld the constitutionality of a workers' compensation statute. I represented Lumbermen in the case and found the Court decision to be well supported by the facts and the law. On appeal, the Montana Supreme Court followed the sound reasoning of Judge Shea and affirmed his decision.

Even though trying matters in the Workers' Compensation Court are adversarial in nature, I have found Judge Shea to be respectful and courteous to Petitioners, Respondents and counsel. The Workers' Compensation Court is a unique judicial system that fast tracks cases to trial within 90 days. Judge Shea has done an admirable job in running the Court for the past 10 years. I believe he has the qualities necessary to be an outstanding Supreme Court Justice. I encourage you to nominate James Shea to the position of Justice of Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Heringer", is written over the typed name.

Michael P. Heringer

MPH:amr

WILLS LAW FIRM, P.C.

323 West Pine Street
Missoula, MT 59802

(406) 541.8560
www.willslawpc.com

March 3, 2014

Via E-mail

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzles
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Esteemed Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Judge James Jeremiah Shea in his application to fill the vacant position on the Montana Supreme Court.

By way of background, I graduated from the University of Montana School of Law and was admitted to the bar in 1987. Since being admitted, my primary practice has been litigation, having practiced in numerous State and Federal Courts. However, the primary focus of my practice these past 26 years has been workers' compensation. I have appeared before Judge Shea numerous times. In addition to my workers' compensation practice, I also teach Workers' Compensation at the Law School.

With regard to Judge Shea, I wholeheartedly support his appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Based on my experiences, I believe he possesses the attributes necessary to be an exceptional Supreme Court Justice for the People of Montana. Some of the reasons I support Judge Shea are as follows:

- First and foremost, Judge Shea is a good person. I have known Judge Shea both personally and professionally. He is a good husband and father. He has a strong sense of community responsibility. He readily agreed when I asked him to speak to my Law School class. He readily agreed when asked to speak to my daughter's high school government class. His commitment to his local and the statewide community and his moral character make him the type of person that the legal community and the State can be proud to call a Supreme Court Justice.
- Judge Shea has the personality and the temperament that is a perfect fit for the Supreme Court. He has an easy-going personality that I have seen him use effectively to diffuse tense situations. His quick smile and quick wit make him a great colleague. He also has a cooperative approach to the position that will serve him well when working with the other Justices.

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzles

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

March 3, 2014

Page 2

- He commands his Court and yet is extremely courteous and respectful to those who come before him. I believe this is an extremely important trait for a member of the Judiciary.
- He is an outstanding jurist with an inquisitive approach to his role as Judge, asking pertinent questions and putting the parties to their burden of proof.
- The work load of the Workers' Compensation Judge is very taxing. Nevertheless, he is always prepared. I have appeared before him countless times arguing motions and at trial, and he is always prepared with a good grasp of the facts and the legal issues. This is no small feat given the volume of cases filed in his Court and that trials often involve exhibits that number more than 1000 pages.
- Judge Shea honors the separation of power between the Legislature and the Judiciary. The Legislature has been extremely active over the years in the area of workers' compensation. Judge Shea has been respectful of the Legislature's role and taken care to apply the law consistent with the clear wording of the statute.

I believe Judge Shea's appointment to the Supreme Court would be a great benefit to the People of the State of Montana. He would serve us well in the role of Justice for many years to come. Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Thank you, too, for your willingness to share your time and serve on this important committee.

Very truly yours,

WILLS LAW FIRM, P.C.



Kelly M. Wills

KMW:rm

PAOLI KUTZMAN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DAVID R. PAOLI
JOHN A. KUTZMAN*
PHILIP C. SHADWICK

257 WEST FRONT STREET, SUITE A
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DAVIDPAOLI@PAOLI-LAW.COM
JOHNKUTZMAN@PAOLI-LAW.COM
PHILIPSHADWICK@PAOLI-LAW.COM

*Great Falls Office

March 4, 2014

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

via email: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Nomination of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Committee Members:

I write to convey my recommendation and support for the appointment of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court.

Judge Shea is uniquely qualified among the candidates in that he has a wealth of experience as an advocate, a fact finder, and a judge. It is said that true justice depends on the fair application of our laws. Judge Shea's track record on the bench demonstrates a consistent, fair and impartial application of the law and merits his appointment to Justice. Montana would do well to have Judge Shea serve on her highest court.

Over the past eight years, Judge Shea has demonstrated a fair and balanced approach to determining the legal fate of those before him, as evidenced by his support from both sides of the bar. He has a keen ability to analyze the law while detailing relevant facts. Those who practice in front of Judge Shea consistently speak of his friendly respectful demeanor. Whether they win or lose, the public always comes away from Judge Shea's Court having felt heard, treated with respect and understanding the legal basis for the outcome. These qualities are critical to furthering public trust in our judiciary.

Judge Shea's legal acumen has been tested and found solid by the Supreme Court. Rarely reversed, his decisions are much more often unanimously confirmed. Judge Shea has a strong ability to articulate the law clearly and a remarkable ability to analyze and retain facts. His opinions are well reasoned, clear and unbiased.

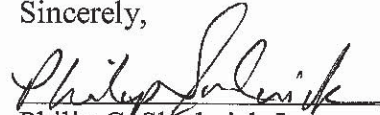
As I have come to know Judge Shea, I have learned he is a man of character and integrity. He is humble and compassionate. He is committed to his family and community. He understands and takes very serious the effect his decisions have on the everyday lives of the individual litigants and businesses that come before him.

Judge Shea's experience and reputation as an advocate led him to being a judge, twice confirmed. His record and reputation on the bench merit his elevation to Justice.

As Montana's only appellate court, the Supreme Court is tasked with interpreting and applying Montana law to a wide array of issues and facts. Montana needs Justices who have broad experiences. Judge Shea has worked in criminal defense, civil defense and as a plaintiff attorney. More importantly, he has spent eight years working as a judge at the Workers' Compensation Court. He knows how to manage a court and has significant experience as a judge in an area of law that would benefit the current Court. Rather than learning how to be a judge and how to shift from advocate to judge, Judge Shea would hit the ground running, immediately providing Montanans with a working, effective, and fair Justice.

I have nothing but the utmost respect for Judge Shea as a legal practitioner, judge and friend. I strongly recommend Judge James Shea for submission to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Philip C. Shadwick Jr.

c: Governor Steve Bullock

Leslae J. E. Dalpiaz, P.C.
Attorney at Law

March 3, 2014

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

Re: Judge James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

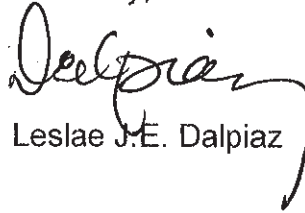
I am writing to nominate Judge James Shea to fill the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. By way of introduction I am a solo practitioner who deals exclusively with workers' compensation cases. In the last couple of years I have resolved more cases either with the Department of Labor or Judge Shea than any other attorney in the state. Based on my experience of practicing in front of Judge Shea and my admiration for the same, the purpose of this letter is to urge you to include Judge Shea among the candidates to be forwarded to Governor Bullock.

One of the qualities that I admire most about Judge Shea is that I consider him to be "a judge of the people." By this I mean that not only does he possess an exceptional legal mind and an ability to grasp the issue quickly, he is not one to stand on pomp and circumstance. His decisions are easily decipherable by a lay person and frankly very enjoyable to read. I often provide copies of his decisions in correspondence to my clients knowing that they could understand what the Court had decided and decipher why. I believe this is because Judge Shea understands that he is not simply writing decisions to be read by attorneys, but instead for anyone who is part of the judicial process. The fact that Judge Shea has not lost touch with the people who are affected by his decisions is one of the most important qualities that he possesses.

Judge Shea is also diligent, hardworking, thoughtful and when appropriate, very humorous. He has no tolerance for unprofessional conduct or grandstanding and is a fine judge of character and credibility.

I thank you for your consideration of Judge Shea and for your service on the Commission. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslae J.E. Dalpiaz', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Leslae J.E. Dalpiaz

LJED/ag



Tricon Timber, LLC

PO Box 158
126 Hwy 135N
St. Regis, MT 59866

Phone: 406-649-2485
Fax: 406-649-2653

February 27, 2014

RE: James Shea's Application for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Commission Members:

I am the General Manager of Tricon Timber in St. Regis, Montana. As an employer in an industry critical to Montana's economy, ensuring that we have fair judges is obviously an important issue to me. This is why I am writing to encourage you to forward Judge Jim Shea's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Judge Shea has a strong reputation for fairness and common sense, and that is exactly what we need on the Supreme Court.

I have no doubt there are many fine individuals who have submitted their names for appointment to this position. Judge Shea, however, has both the reputation for fairness and the years of experience as a judge to hit the ground running on day one.

Thank you for your service on this commission and your consideration of my recommendation.

Sincerely,

Angelo Ververis
General Manager
Tricon Timber, LLC
Box 158
St. Regis MT 59866
406-649-2485

"OUR LUMBER IS FRAMING THE FUTURE"

Bothe & Lauridsen, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

5 HIGHWAY 2 EAST

P.O. BOX 2020

COLUMBIA FALLS, MT 59912

KENNETH S. THOMAS

DAVID W. LAURIDSEN

LAURIE WALLACE

WEBSITE: www.bothe-lauridsen.com

(406) 892-2193

1 (800) 354-3262

Fax (406) 892-0207

E-MAIL: Bothe.Lauridsen@optimum.net

JOHN H. BOTHE

(1951-1996)

March 4, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

RE: Judge James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

As the current owner of a law firm that has dealt with literally thousands of workers' compensation claims over the past 25 years, I can state with confidence that Judge James Jeremiah Shea has proven an apt jurist during his tenure as the Montana State Workers' Compensation Court Judge. His analysis is concise and his opinions are well-written. He clearly possesses a knowledge of the Montana Workers' Compensation system that would be of benefit to the Supreme Court, and his analytical skills would apply broadly to all other aspects of Montana law, as well. I urge you to consider Judge Shea when selecting candidates to be forwarded to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Very truly yours,

BOTHE & LAURIDSEN, P.C.



KENNETH S. THOMAS

KST/jaa

W. Wayne Harper
Attorney at Law

35 West Granite

P.O. Box 506

Butte, Montana 59701

Tel - 406.782.5729

fax - 406.782.5863

wayne@wharperlaw.com

March 3, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, Montana 59620-3005

RE: Judge James Jeremiah Shea - Supreme Court Vacancy

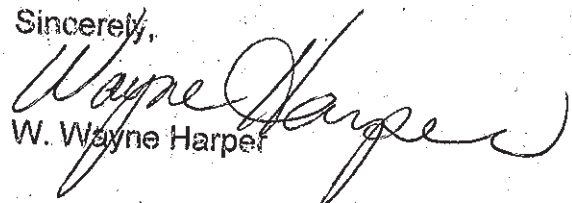
Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to voice my opinion that the best of the 15 candidates for the Supreme Court Vacancy is Judge James Shea. I can unequivocally state that it would be a superb action to have him appointed to the current vacancy.

In my 27 years of practice, I have been a federal law clerk (for 3 years); an in-house litigator for a large corporation (for 20 years); and in private practice (for 4 years). I have had the privilege of practicing in front of the Federal and State judges, many administrative judges, and mediators in over 10 states. With this background, I have found Judge Shea to be among the finest, fairest, and most well reasoned judges I have been before. His ethical conduct is a mirror to Rule 1.2. His work ethic is top-notch. More importantly, his personal and professional integrity is beyond reproach.

I am confident that Judge Shea would be an asset to Montana's Supreme Court. I implore you to submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the vacancy.

Sincerely,


W. Wayne Harper

March 9, 2014

Members of the Judicial Nominating Commission:

We write to you today in support of Jim Shea as one of your selected nominees to fill the open seat on the Montana Supreme Court. We have known Jim for many years as a friend and a well-respected member of our community. Jim would be a fine addition to the court.

Jim's record in private practice and as a Worker Compensation Judge speaks for itself. Jim has shown himself to be a fair, impartial and compassionate lawyer and judge. I am sure that the theme of the public comment that you will receive in regard to Jim will include things like, hardworking, diligent, prepared and levelheaded. He easily lives up to these descriptors and will carry this same kind commitment to the Supreme Court.

Something significant that stands out about Jim is his commitment to family and service. He dedicates his free time fully to support of his children and the community. Whether it is acting in local play with his daughters or volunteering to serve on local nonprofit boards, Jim's generosity and talents make a real and lasting difference.

As a Supreme Court Justice, Jim will come full of energy, ready to work, experienced and with the right temperament for the job. We are happy to recommend your selection of Jim Shea as a Montana Supreme Court Justice nominee.

Sincerely,

Pam and Andy Hunthausen

5775 Timber Trail Dr.

Helena, MT 59602

406-461-2922

1501 Holmes Avenue
Butte, MT 59701
Tel : 406-494-5033
Fax : 406-494-5033
Email :
mbartolettids@gmail.com

MIKE BARTOLETTI, DDS



March 4, 2014

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

RE: Nomination of James Jeremiah Shea for Montana Supreme Court Seat Vacancy

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jim Shea socially and professionally since his high school days. As his dentist I have developed more than a passing interest in his professional maturation and development. Jim has always had a passion for the "right way". His moral compass is outstanding and unwavering.

As Jim progressed through University and Law School, I was impressed that he had such a love of the law, and understanding and a reverence for our system of justice. Being in the medical/Dental profession our outlook on the legal system is generally less than favorable. Jim was able to show me the necessity, goodness, and value of our system.

As often happens in life, our roles of professional/client reversed when a series of litigations over a land issues arose. Jim handled the legalities just as I had expected; with efficiency, diligence and tenacity. His preparation was thorough and I was impressed with his professionalism, both personally and in the courtroom with the opposing counsel, judge and jury. I truly must emphasize his professionalism and knowledge of the law.

I sincerely appreciated the way Jim handled the emotional and psychological effects this had upon my wife, myself and our children. It was grueling and confusing for us, but Jim's explanations of the process and nuances assuaged the growing anger and confusion through this arduous process. His understanding of the legal issues, and explanations to us in clear concise terms insured that we came away with a much better understanding of the issues and the ensuing courtroom experience was if not pleasant, at least enlightening. Jim did a wonderful job and we came away with a favorable verdict.

Since that time I have followed his career with greater interest. His knowledge of the law, his deep moral and ethical code prove him to be a tremendous addition to the legal profession. Jim is an outstanding candidate for our Supreme Court. His intellect, personality and work ethic make him truly the person that belongs on our court. The Supreme Court of Montana is a bright spot in our state. Jim would enhance this further.

Sincerely,

Mike Bartoletti, DDS
MB/kb

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Tyson O'Connell [<mailto:tyson.oconnell@wishrockgroup.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 3:36 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: [Judicial Nomination Commission]: Letter of Support for Judge Jim Shea

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

Dear Commission,

I'm writing this letter in support of Judge Jim Shea as the next appointee to the Montana Supreme Court. Judge Shea has a distinguished legal career that includes experience as a federal law clerk, practicing attorney, and Montana Workers' Compensation Judge. This is all valuable experience for an appellate judge on the Montana Supreme Court. For the last nine years, Judge Shea has served as a Montana Workers' Compensation Judge, where he's achieved the reputation as a fair judge. While this is often the goal for a judge, it's not always easy to be "fair." If he's appointed to the Montana Supreme Court, Judge Shea will undoubtedly be faced with controversial issues that require him to take a legal position that may be unpopular with the public or contrary to his own beliefs, and I believe that Judge Shea will strive to issue fair legal opinions in these situations.

While I never had the opportunity to practice in Judge Shea's Court, I've spent time with him socially, and whether it's been hunting or just talking over coffee, it's been a pleasure to get to know him and I feel fortunate to call him a friend. Judge Shea is a good person with, judicial experience, strong values, intelligence, and a reputation for fairness. He is exactly the type of person we want on the Montana Supreme Court.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Best,

Tyson Radley O'Connell
Please note my new email address and update your contacts

WISHROCK Housing Partners & Investment Group

131 South Higgins Ave. – Suite P1 | Missoula, MT 59802
Office: (406) 728-3040; Ext. 106 Fax: (406) 552-4413 Cell: (406) 531-4745
Conference: 800-204-5502; participant 893464; moderator 935254
Email: tyson.oconnell@wishrockgroup.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Tom [<mailto:tc@mt.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2014 11:23 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: James Shea Recommendation

TKC

**428 South Cooke
Helena MT 59601**

March 5, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Post Office Box 203005
Helena MT 59620

RE: Nomination James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission;

I first met James Shea shortly after his family moved to Helena subsequent to his appointment by then Governor Brian Schweitzer as judge of the State Workers' Compensation Court. At the time I was Managing Director of Grandstreet Theatre, Helena's community theatre. Judge Shea's daughters had enrolled in our program and he was more than willing to join them on stage to help ease their transition into a new community. His commitment to his family was the first thing I knew about Jim Shea. Since then our relationship has expanded; I have come to know him as a keenly intelligent, generous-hearted and deeply committed member of the Helena community.

If I were to be asked to define essential characteristics of a Supreme Court justice, I may choose exactly those traits. Intelligence is key. I value the Montana Constitution; I want it interpreted clearly and applied fairly. A generous heart carries with it empathy and concern for those whose life experiences are different from one's own; I think that matters. His commitment to his community indicates a larger commitment—the careful stewardship of our quality of life as Montanans.

Judge Shea is the ideal appointee to the Supreme Court because he has these qualities and more. I urge you to forward his name to Governor Bullock for consideration for the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas Cordingley

KARL J. ENGLUND, P.C.

Attorney at Law

401 North Washington Street

Post Office Box 8358

Missoula, Montana 59807

[406] 721-2729

FAX [406] 728-8878

March 7, 2014

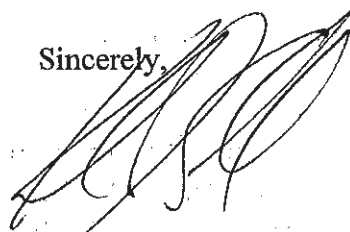
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commissioners:

Jimmy Shea was a dedicated, hard-working and very competent attorney and is, and has been, a fair, impartial and conscientious Workers' Compensation Judge. He has a breadth of experience, he is unquestionably ethical, he possesses a perfect judicial temperament and he has proven his ability to analyze complicated factual and legal issues and apply the law appropriately. He is well-respected by those who have appeared in his courtroom. He twice earned the confidence of Montana's governor and has twice been confirmed by the Montana Senate. His background, experience, intellect and record of service amply qualify him to be on the Commission's list of nominees for appointment to the vacant position on the Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Karl J. Englund

Judicial Nomination Commission

% Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT. 59620-3005

Dear Friends:

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for James Shea, a candidate interested in filling the positions of the former Montana Justice, the Honorable Brian Morris.

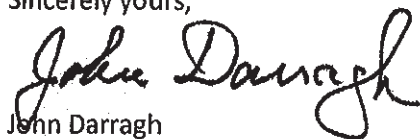
As an uncle to Jim and in close contact with him and his family, I have no hesitation to suggest him to fill this judicial seat. As a child he was charming, bright, and precocious. The youngest of six children and born to gregarious and socially minded parents, early in age he was introduced to the importance of participating in the public forum and to take responsibility for promoting the common good of people and the state in which he lived.

Jim was a gifted student who know the importance of study, hard work, prayer, and, believe me, he enjoyed life. As his vitae states, his higher education was pursued at the University of Montana. He holds a bachelor degree in Political Science and a JD in Law. At the University he met and eventually married Kathy Kinsella Shea. Kathy and Jim are the parents two beautiful and gifted daughters.

I share this biographical info, because for me, it now captures Jim's adulthood and indicates underneath his wit and charm, is a very responsible and gifted professional. His wisdom and creative mind would enable him to work well with the other members of the court in their responsible duties.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and convictions about Jim.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Darragh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "J" and "D".

John Darragh

**Edward F. Bartlett
Attorney at Law
3717 Fairmeadow Ct
Billings, MT 59102
Phone: 406-652-1373**

March 5, 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 Jim Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to strongly recommend Judge Jim Shea for Supreme Court Justice. Jim Shea has a very positive reputation as an independent, impartial, fair and competent Judge. He is known to be intelligent, ethical, hardworking, kind and generous. He has a keen sense of humor, which is balanced with his professionalism inside and outside his Workers' Compensation Court.

I am familiar with Jim Shea's reputation from my experience as a practicing attorney and lobbyist and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Montana Chamber of Commerce. I am a former President of the State Bar and have served on the Chamber Board since 2007. My immediate family and I lived in the same neighborhood in Butte as Jim Shea and his family. We have mutual friends and colleagues. Although I have not appeared in his Court, I am familiar with his judicial demeanor and with many of his decisions.

Jim Shea has the perfect judicial temperament to serve on the Montana Supreme Court. His decisions are thoughtful, fair, complete and well-reasoned. He diligently and correctly applies the facts to the law. He always treats all parties and persons in his Court and in his community with courtesy and respect. He believes in family and friends. He is actively involved in his community.

In short, Jim Shea has all the right attributes and abilities to be an outstanding Justice of the Montana Supreme Court. Therefore, it is without qualification that I recommend Jim Shea to the Judicial Nominating Commission for nomination, and to the Governor for appointment, to the Montana Supreme Court. Thank you for your work on the Commission and for your consideration of Judge Jim Shea.

Sincerely,



Edward F. Bartlett

**MATOVICH, KELLER
& MURPHY, P.C.**
Attorneys at Law

*Carey E. Matovich
Geoffrey R. Keller
Brooke B. Murphy
Katherine S. Huso
Emily Jones*

March 10, 2014

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL (lmenzies@mt.gov)

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

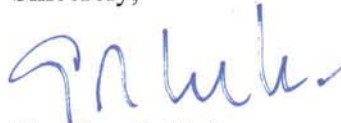
Re: MT Supreme Court Vacancy
Hon. James Shea

Dear Commission:

I write in support of Judge Shea as a nominee to be forwarded to the Governor for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. My background includes Law Clerk for the Workers' Compensation Court in 1983 – 1984 (Hon. Timothy Reardon), practitioner exclusively for injured workers' compensation claimants from 1984 – 1995, and since then primarily a defense practitioner in workers' compensation and casualty/insurance matters. In reviewing Judge Shea's many opinions/orders and personally practicing in front of him, I can easily attest to his accomplished comprehension of the Workers' Compensation Act and ancillary trial procedures. He took a balanced approach to every one of my cases, was fully prepared at the inception, was open to presented evidence either confirming or changing his mind, and always issued a decision with a sound legal rationale. I have both won and lost issues, but respected his thoroughness and analysis when his decisions were issued. He always gave each party and their counsel great respect, and at all times remained unbiased and impartial.

Judge Shea is an excellent jurist, and with his broad experience would be an excellent Montana Supreme Court Justice. Without hesitation I urge you to select him for consideration.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey R. Keller

GRK/eml

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Joe Perry [<mailto:circles@3rivers.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject:

Dear Ms. Menzies,

Deb and I would like to add our voices to comments on Supreme Court nominees. We feel the following three best represent the values we share:

Elizabeth Ann Brennan, Amy Poehling Eddy, and James Jeremiah Shea

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Joe and Debby Perry
4125 Circle S Road
Brady, Montana 59416



STRAUCH
LAW FIRM

STRAUCH LAW FIRM, PLLC
257 West Front Street, Suite A
Missoula, Montana 59802

Phone (406) 532-2600

Fax (406) 542-3332

tstrauch@strauchlawfirm.com

Lawyer for the long run.

March 13, 2014

By Email Only:

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

***Re: Montana Supreme Court Vacancy - Applicant James
Jeremiah Shea***

Dear Ms. Menzies and Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my strong recommendation for the submission of Jim Shea's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

In order to explain my recommendation, please allow me to introduce myself. I was appointed by the Montana Supreme Court as the first Disciplinary Counsel for the State of Montana's Office of Disciplinary Counsel and served in that capacity for more than three years. I am a frequent continuing legal education speaker and have written several articles on ethics and professional responsibility topics. Since 2007, I have served on the State Bar of Montana Ethics Committee and the Judicial Relations Committee. I have also been an adjunct professor at the University of Montana School of Law where I have taught professional responsibility. I have worked as a trial lawyer for the past 23 years.

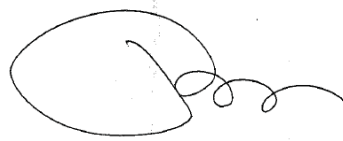
With my background on legal ethics and my experience as a trial lawyer, I believe that the most important qualification for a judge is integrity. I have known Jim both professionally and personally for most of my career. He is a man of impeccable integrity, ethics, and high moral character.

The Commission no doubt has many candidates who are well-qualified to analyze and decide cases and to write cogent opinions explaining their

rationale. And Jim is definitely one of them. Where he rises to the top is on the ethics scale. To achieve his current position, Jim has twice been appointed by the Governor and both times been confirmed by Senate.

Please give serious consideration to Jim's application. I believe he has earned a recommendation by your Commission to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'T' followed by a series of smaller, connected loops and a final flourish.

Timothy B. Strauch

MOLLIE A. MAFFEI
ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC
C/O 321 W. PARK ST.
BUTTE, MONTANA 59701
406-497-6230

March 13, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
Attn: Lois Menzies
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, Montana
59620-3005

RE: Jim Shea

Dear Sir and Madam:

I am writing in support of Jim Shea's nomination to the vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court. I met Jim when we started law school together in 1988. I found Jim to have a great work ethic, a wonderful sense of humor and fair mind. It is my view that Jim has an exemplary judicial temperament. I recommend him without qualification.

Sincerely,



Mollie A. Maffei

Cc: Governor Steve Bullock

BROWN LAW FIRM, PC

315 N. 24th Street | PO Drawer 849 | Billings, Montana 59103-0849
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John J. Russell
Michael P. Heringer
Guy W. Rogers
Scott G. Gratton
Kelly J.C. Gallinger
Matthew I. Tourtlotte
Jeffrey T. McAllister
Jon A. Wilson
Seth M. Cunningham
Shane A. MacIntyre
Thomas R. Martin
Andrew J. Miller

Scott G. Gratton
sg4413@aol.com
Missoula Office 406.830-3744

March 14, 2014

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

lmenzies@mt.gov

Retired
Rockwood Brown
John Walker Ross
Margy Bonner

RE: **Jim Shea Nomination**

I write this letter to express support for Mr. Shea being a Montana Supreme Court candidate. Although I do not do any Worker's Compensation work, I did deal with Mr. Shea in his civil practice before going on the WC bench and I feel that he is an excellent candidate for the Montana Supreme Court.

I have known Mr. Shea for well over 20 years and feel that he has always exemplified the highest moral and ethical character and would be great as a judge on the Montana Supreme Court.

I would strongly encourage the Nomination Commission to appoint Mr. Shea as the next Montana Supreme Court Justice as I believe he is eminently qualified and professional and possesses the appropriate demeanor to be judicial, objective and exercise the necessary academic background to serve our State well.

Although I am sending this letter by regular mail, I am also sending electronically so that my opinion and support of and for Mr. Shea can be considered.

Sincerely,

SCOTT G. GRATTON

COVER LETTER

**To: Judicial Nomination Committee
 c/o Lois Menzes
 Office of the Court Administrator
 Post Office Box 2033005
 Helena, Montana 59620-3005**

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT/RECOMMENDATION
 Jim Shea for Supreme Court**

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2014

Total number of pages - 2

COMMUNITY, COUNSELING AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, INC.

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Butte Pre-Release Center
Women's Transitional Center
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Butte, MT 59701
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WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

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Anaconda, MT 59711
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Gallatin Re-Entry Facility
Melissa Kelly, Adm.
675 S. 16 Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility
Robert Palmquist, Adm.
P.O. Box 670
Medical Lake, WA 99022
509-299-7733 Fax 509-299-1447

Nexus Program
Marcie Conmy Adm.
P.O. Box 1200
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-6660 Fax 406-535-6665

RYO Correctional Facility
Travis Hettick, Adm.
360 Galen Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-693-9975 Fax 406-693-9988

START Program
George Strutzel, Adm.
801 MT Hwy 48
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCh Program
Alex Vukovich, Adm.
Box G
Warm Springs, MT 59756
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

WATCh East
Deb Dion, Adm.
700 Little Street
Glendive, MT 59330
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

March 13, 2014

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Lois Menzes
Office of the Court Administrator
Post Office Box #203005
Helena, Montana 59620-3005

**RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT/RECOMMENDATION FOR JIM SHEA
REGARDING THE VACANT SEAT ON MONTANA'S SUPREME COURT**

To Whom This May Concern:

At this time, please allow me to offer my wholehearted endorsement of Jim in his desire to fill the vacant seat on Montana's Supreme Court.

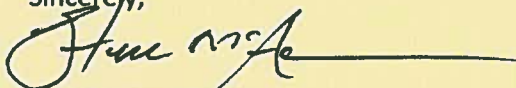
I have known Jim for as long as I can remember. I know that he has worked long and hard to attain those professional milestones in his life and that he has a true passion for the law. As you will note, Jim's professional resume is quite impressive and reflects the absolute value that he places on the law, the whole of the judicial system and those people who count upon, or are impacted by, the legal system in Montana.

Greater minds than I have commented upon Jim's career accomplishments, but I can provide my insights as to how it is I know Jim Shea. Jim is a man of high integrity and his work ethic is beyond reproach. I have never seen Jim as a man who pounds his chest as to those titles, accomplishments and responsibilities he has attained and held over the years, but rather as man of high intellect and superb reasoning who focuses his energies and resources towards any task at hand. Jim is a very engaging and open person and he can discuss a wide variety of topics in an educated, thoughtful and humble manner and he also has a sharp wit and patient manner.

I have always seen Jim as a person who respects people for who they are and he never has discounted nor diminished their right to be heard in a manner that places the highest emphasis on fairness and allegiance to the law.

In closing, I respectfully request that the members of the Judicial Nomination Committee give Jim's desire to serve on the Supreme Court serious consideration as, in my humble opinion, he would well serve the Supreme Court and the people of Montana.

Sincerely,



STEVE MCARTHUR

Director of Community Correctional Programs
CCCS, Inc.



The University of
Montana

School of Law
The University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812-6552
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FAX: (406) 243-2576
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March 10, 2014

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

Re: Candidate, Honorable James Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I am pleased to recommend Judge Jim Shea as a nominee to the Governor for the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court created by Justice Morris's appointment to the Federal Court. I have known Jim Shea since he entered law school in the Fall of 1992. I observed him to be a superior and competent student during law school. I also observed that he had a fine set of interpersonal skills that I predicted would serve him well in the law profession as they have.

I have been in touch with Jim throughout his years in private civil litigation practice and, to a lesser extent, during his years as Workers' Compensation Judge for Montana. Jim proved to be a highly competent lawyer in civil litigation. He had a reputation for professionalism and civility, and I suspect that played a large part in his selection to be Montana's Workers' Compensation Judge.

My observation is that Jim Shea has the qualities necessary to a Supreme Court Justice. He is highly intelligent, very experienced, has a judicial demeanor. He has the appropriate knowledge of law and legal processes. He is also diplomatic, tactful and blessed with a great sense of humor.

For these reasons, I recommend that the Commission forward Judge Jim Shea as a nominee to the Governor. Jim is an asset to Montana and the Montana judicial system.

Sincerely,

Gregory S. Munro
Professor and Director of Professional Skills

RUSS PLATH LAW, LLC

Attorney at Law
2601 Minnesota Avenue
P.O. Box 1337
Billings, MT 59103

RussPlathLaw@gmail.com

406.534.4177
FAX 406.534.6717

March 10, 2014

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

Re: Letter of Recommendation – James Jerimiah Shea
Justice Montana Supreme Court

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing in support of the application of James Jerimiah Shea for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I have practiced in front of Judge Shea since his appointment as the Montana Workers' Compensation Judge. During my representation of clients before Judge Shea I have found him to be a very efficient, practical and fair judge. The circumstances of the clients I represent can be especially difficult, Judge Shea has gone out of his way to bring resolution to disputes in the quickest manner possible. Judge Shea's guidance and rulings on these issues is very compassionate and well informed and well-reasoned. I give my highest recommendation of Judge Shea for the Montana Supreme Court.

Judge Shea's attitude from the bench is open and respectful to the parties before him. His judicial demeanor goes a long ways towards instilling judicial confidence in his decisions once he has made a ruling. His written decisions are very thorough, well researched and well written. These judicial skills instill a sense to the litigants that their case has been fully considered and the rendered decision is fair.

Judge Shea has several qualifications for this position with the Montana Supreme Court. He has solid judicial experience and exhibits sound judicial temperament. He is well versed in the area of workers' compensation practice and applies excellent legal scholarship to his written opinions. Judge Shea's law practice prior to his appointment as the workers' compensation judge was a varied and encompassed a wide variety of issues addressed by our judicial system. In my opinion Judge Shea is uniquely qualified for a position on the Montana Supreme Court.

Best

R. Russell Plath

DOUBEK, PYFER & FOX, LLP

Attorneys at Law

JOHN C. DOUBEK
RICK PYFER
PATRICK T. FOX

307 NORTH JACKSON • P.O. BOX 236
HELENA, MONTANA 59624
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CARL A. HATCH
Retired
FLOYD O. SMALL
(1907 - 1995)

March 12, 2014

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

RE: Nomination of James Jeremiah Shea

To Whom It May Concern:

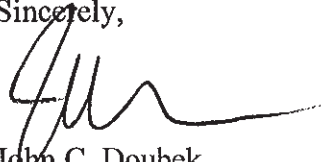
Please seriously consider this letter in support of the nomination of Judge James Shea, the current Workers' Compensation Court Judge. I have been in practice since 1976 here in Helena. I have been actively involved in workers' compensation issues and with workers' compensation clients since 1978. During that time I have represented numerous clients before the Workers' Compensation Court and the various Judges involved over that course of time.

I had the first trial setting when Judge Shea became the Workers' Compensation Judge. I have had several cases before him over the course he has been the Workers' Compensation Judge. There are several qualities about Judge Shea that would serve him very well and would serve the people of Montana very well if nominated to the Montana Supreme Court. These are as follows:

- 1) Judge Shea is very compassionate to the claimants who are before him in his Court. He understands their difficulties, their limitations, their need for swift justice.
- 2) Judge Shea strives to get things worked out between the parties so that trials and delays can be avoided.
- 3) Judge Shea is a good listener and oftentimes is able to resolve difficulties between competing attorneys in a way which moves cases along and yet is fair to both sides. He has a good sense of equity.
- 4) Judge Shea spends quite a lot of time developing his opinions and though I may not have agreed with all of his opinions they are carefully researched and clearly articulated. I have appreciated his candor, his hard work, and the fact that, whether I like it or not, he has a knack for getting it right.

I strongly recommend Judge Shea for the Montana Supreme Court position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John C. Doubek
Attorney at Law

JCD/nr



DONEY CROWLEY P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Ted J. Doney (1942-1994)
R. Allan Payne, RGp, MS
Frank C. Crowley, MS
Marc G. Buyske, LL.M.
Jacqueline R. Papez
James L. Shuler

March 11, 2014

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

RE: Supreme Court Justice Vacancy: **Recommendation for Judge Jim Shea**

Dear Members of the Montana Judicial Nomination Commission:

While there are many fine lawyers who have submitted their names for nomination as the next Montana Supreme Court justice, I strongly encourage the Commission to consider existing judge of the Workers Compensation Court, Jim Shea, for nomination for the current seat on the Montana Supreme Court that was vacated by Justice Morris' appointment to the federal bench.

Personal Knowledge

I have known Judge Jim Shea for several years, both professionally and personally, and I have been very impressed by how he balances his serious side with his more informal side. He is well-spoken, a good listener, and has a good sense of humor. I see him now frequently at the Capital City Health Club where he lives out his long-standing commitment to physical fitness and which I believe helps him have a very positive and optimistic attitude toward life and work. I also know his family and they are all a credit to the community. I think the appointment of an individual like Judge Shea would bring a recognition to the public that the legal system is managing to utilize its best and brightest to serve on the Supreme Court.

Judicial Temperament

I do not practice workers compensation law, but I knew Jim when he was in private practice in Missoula and I have known him since he moved to Helena. I also do take the time to read the summaries of his decisions as they appear in Montana Law Week and have seen that he makes rulings on a myriad of factual and legal issues. He also included one of his well-written decisions on his application to the Judicial Nomination Commission. He has a sharp and analytical mind and he has always seemed fair and well-reasoned in his consideration of the facts and the law. He is an excellent communicator and I believe he

would be able to integrate very easily with the judicial panels to which he would be assigned. As he did in his past private practice, Judge Shea carries and efficiently manages a large workload and there can be no question about his work ethic and dedication to getting things done.

Finally, knowing Jim as I do, I can only imagine that the other sitting justices would find him easy to work with and appreciative of the cogent yet fluid way he expresses himself. I also believe he has a gift at taking complex issues and rendering them into manageable tasks for decision- making.

Judicial Experience

With all due respect to the justices on the Montana Supreme Court who have not had prior experience as judges, I believe it is very important for the next justice on our Supreme Court to have prior experience as a trial judge. Not only did Jim clerk for a U.S. District Court Judge after law school, but Judge Shea has already served nearly nine years as the judge of the Workers Comp Court and has also seen 39 of his decisions be appealed to the Montana Supreme Court, and so he would bring to the appellate court the experience and perspective of a trial judge which only one other candidate for the vacant seat can bring. Jim already has a judicial mindset – which in my mind should justify the Commission's intense interest in him as an excellent fit to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

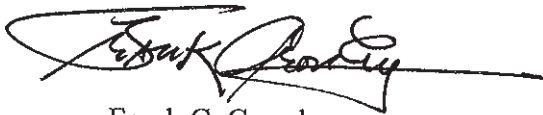
Judge Shea's Resume

I have taken the time to read Judge Shea's entire submission to the Commission and I have to say that his personal and professional backgrounds are testament to the breadth and depth of his experience, to his ethics, and to his commitment to self-development and excellence.

Judge Shea will bring many personal and professional assets that will be most useful to the substantial workload of the Montana Supreme Court. The Commission and the Governor have the chance to bring onto the Supreme Court one of Montana's finest lawyers, judges, and individuals. I urge the Commission to capitalize on this great opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments, and also for your important service on the Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank C. Crowley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank C. Crowley
Senior Counsel

March 12, 2014

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

RE: Mr. Jim Shea

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

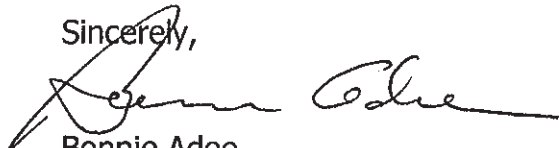
I wish to support Jim Shea for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Jim is one of the finest ambassadors for the legal community that I have met in Montana.

I am retired from the position of Bureau Chief of the DPHHS Children's Mental Health Bureau and am a volunteer for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. I have come to appreciate the important role that attorneys and judges play in the functioning of our society. I have known Jim Shea for many years and I have always been impressed that he is a very bright, personable, and thoughtful individual. I can only think that he would be an excellent addition to the Montana Supreme Court. He not only is an experienced judge, but he always takes pride in his person, his family and his work.

As we move into the future, we need fine and dedicated professionals like Jim to serve in our most important institutions.

I urge the Commission to nominate Jim Shea for appointment to the Supreme Court by the Governor.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Ade
Helena

Paul Tuss
13 Spruce Drive – Havre, Montana 59501
406-265-4455

March 10, 2014

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

I am pleased to recommend for your consideration Jim Shea of Helena for the vacancy that currently exists on the Montana Supreme Court.

During my eight-year tenure as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, I had the good fortune to be able to review the professional and personal attributes for literally dozens of attorneys who wished to be considered for a judicial appointment in our state. I thoroughly enjoyed that experience and serving with many of you in that capacity. That work also gave me the opportunity to better understand the type of individual that I believe would be a positive addition to Montana's judiciary.

Jim Shea is an accomplished lawyer and judge and would be an appropriate addition to the Montana Supreme Court.

Mr. Shea has served with distinction since 2005 as Montana's Workers Compensation Court Judge. During this time he has presided over more than 200 trials. As you can imagine, this is an excellent background for someone now wishing to secure a position on the Montana Supreme Court. Mr. Shea also served in private practice for a number of years.

Jim is also prepared to mount an aggressive statewide campaign for this position when this seat next appears on the ballot. He understands the rigors of such an endeavor and I believe already has a good statewide network of friends and colleagues that will assist with this effort.

Without reservation, I am hopeful you select Jim Shea as a recommendation to Governor Bullock for his consideration for this important position.

Best regards,


Paul Tuss

Tim C. Warner Jr.

March 13, 2014

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

Dear Members of the Judicial Nominations Commission of the State of Montana,

Please submit Judge Jim Shea's name to the Governor of Montana, so the Governor may consider Judge Shea for appointment to the Supreme Court of the State of Montana.

As Judge Shea's application indicates, his experience and knowledge of the law shines brightly, as one considers the many other applicants. Two terms on the Montana Workers Comp Court and years of diverse experience in the private sector have earned Judge Shea a sophisticated understanding of our Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana. His temperament and strong work ethic give me great confidence that he will serve honorably, fairly and humbly on the Supreme Court of Montana.

Personally, I have confidence in Judge Shea because he is an individual of high moral values and integrity. His heritage and experience growing up in Butte and earning degrees of higher education from Montana's University System, give me confidence that he understands both the law and the people his judgments impact. As a hunter, a marathoner and an outdoor enthusiast, I believe Judge Shea respects the land, water and air upon which we all rely for a healthy lifestyle, our businesses and our fulfillment.

I have great confidence in Judge Shea and encourage you to put forth his name to the Governor of Montana for consideration for appointment to the Supreme Court of the State of Montana.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Warner". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Warner

LAW OFFICES
**CORETTE BLACK CARLSON &
MICKELSON, P.C.**

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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HOWARD A. JOHNSON (1893-1974)
ROBERT D. CORETTE (1911-1989)
KENDRICK SMITH (1905-1989)

Of Counsel:
WILLIAM M. KEBE, JR.

Retired:
R.D. CORETTE

GREGORY C. BLACK
ROBERT M. CARLSON
MARSHAL L. MICKELSON
C. KATHLEEN McBRIDE
MARIE KAGIE-SHUTEY
ANNIE N. HARRIS
ANGIE HASQUET

March 13, 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 James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I first met Jim when he applied for a summer internship with our firm while Jim was in law school. Jim came to work for us for two summers. I was impressed immediately with Jim's intellect, professionalism and his sense of humor and saw his growth over those two short summers in his knowledge and respect for the law and for our profession. I knew after those two summers that Jim would go on to accomplish much in his career as a lawyer and Jim has not disappointed me.

My practice is generally defense of civil cases and I have not done much work in the worker's compensation arena. However, through a twist of circumstances, I did find myself in front of Judge Shea, my former summer intern, on one occasion where we tried a case in the Worker's Compensation Court. I was again impressed with Jim's professionalism and judicial demeanor. He treated all, attorneys, clients, witnesses and staff with grace and dignity. Jim has a reputation, in my experience, of fairly hearing the case and applying the law without any agenda or bias. In the end, that is all we can ask of the Judges that will be deciding our cases whether at the trial level or on appeal.

Given what I know about Jim, his very keen mind, his compassion, his work ethic, his professionalism, and especially his good nature and sense of humor, I know Jim will make an extremely fine Supreme Court Justice. I wholeheartedly recommend

Judicial Nomination Commission

March 13, 2014

Page 2

that the Commission place Jim on the list of candidates to recommend to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Yours very truly,

CORETTE BLACK CARLSON & MICKELSON

By 

Marshal L. Mickelson



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Sherman V. Lohn
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R.H. "Ty" Robinson
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Gary B. Chumrau
Randall J. Colbert
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Megan L. Dishong
Candace C. Fetscher
Katherine L. Georger **
Charles E. Hansberry
Gregory L. Hanson
Elizabeth L. Hausbeck
Jenny M. Jourdonnais
Isaac M. Kantor
Bradley J. Luck
Robert C. Lukes
Kathryn S. Mahe

Alan F. McCormick
Kristina K. McMullin
Charles E. McNeil
Mark S. Munro *
Anita Harper Poe
Larry E. Riley
Jeffrey M. Roth
Susan P. Roy
Robert E. Sheridan
Brian J. Smith
Jeffrey B. Smith
Peter J. Stokstad
Christopher B. Swartley
Kevin A. Twidwell
William T. Wagner

*Currently admitted in New York, Texas, and Washington only
**Currently admitted in Idaho only

March 13, 2014

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

RE: James Shea's Application for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I write in support of the application of Jim Shea for appointment to the vacant Montana Supreme Court seat. I do so as a lawyer who has appeared before Judge Shea's Court on several occasions and dealt with him in numerous other formal and informal proceedings incident to ongoing litigation. All of these experiences tell me that Judge Shea has the intellect, experience, professionalism and temperament to be an outstanding Justice on the Montana Supreme Court.

I do not write as a social friend of Judge Shea, although I consider him a friend as do so many people that appear before him due to his outgoing, friendly and infectious personality. I am also not writing as a member of a specific interest group. I write because I feel it is important for the Commission to hear the perspective of those who know Jim Shea as a Judge. In my mind, that is the best indicator of the basis of his top rating in the field of applicants.

My perspective is based on my specific experience. My practice in the Workers' Compensation Court has been exclusively on the side of employers and insurers. Over the last 37 years I have appeared hundreds of times in the Court, before all of the Judges who have held the position. I have been involved in more than 30 cases appealed from the Workers' Compensation Court to the Supreme Court, several decided by Judge Shea. I also taught Workers' Compensation law at the UM School of Law.

Judicial Nomination Commission

RE: James Shea's Application for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

March 13, 2014

Page 2

In the courtroom Judge Shea is prepared, focused and decisive. I have not always agreed with his decisions but I understood why he was making them and have never questioned his motivation, understanding and skill as a jurist. His superior judicial capabilities and talents are a given, as are the professional credentials of several of the other applicants who I know and respect. The strengths of Judge Shea that set him apart from others are on two related levels, his experience and his judicial and personal approach to matters.

Judge Shea's actual experience being a Judge since 2005 is invaluable for several reasons. First and foremost, we already know how he will approach the position. His record verifies that he will work hard and be decisive but fair. He will be respectful of litigants and those appearing before him. Importantly, we know he will bring a constructive and positive demeanor to the bench. We also know that Judge Shea will be himself, with the confidence of a successful legal and judicial career as his foundation. This will be complimented by his personal skills and commitment to do the right thing within the confines of established precedent.

Time and again, when Judge Shea appears before groups to discuss his Court or the law and when he speaks to law students to provide them their first contact with his Judicial philosophy we see a solid jurist, a teacher and a good person. Jim Shea has proven he is all of these. The combination defines the perfect candidate for your consideration and recommendation for appointment to the Supreme Court. In a group of candidates containing several fine lawyers Judge Shea rises to the top in terms of judicial capability and temperament.

Very truly yours,

GARLINGTON, LOHN & ROBINSON, PLLP



Bradley J. Luck

Direct Line: (406) 523-2548

Email: bjluck@garlington.com

BJL:jdl

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
510 EAST PARK STREET, SUITE 200
P.O. BOX 527
BUTTE, MT 59703
EMAIL: folaw@flemingandolearylaw.com

PATRICK T. FLEMING
WILLIAM M. O'LEARY

TEL: (406) 723-5600
FAX: (406) 723-5602

March 13, 2014

VIA EMAIL & U.S. MAIL
lmenzies@mt.gov

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

Re: James Jeremiah Shea, Candidate for Supreme Court

Dear Commission Members:

It is not my habit to provide comments on prospective judges; in fact, this is the first time I have elected to send any comments because I generally believe that the public at large, not a practicing attorney, should be the person(s) extolling the qualities of candidates for District Court judgeships or for Justices of the Montana Supreme Court. I depart from my normal practice because I feel very strongly that James Jeremiah Shea, a candidate for the vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court, is particularly deserving of a Judicial Nomination Commission endorsement.

I have known James Jeremiah Shea for well in excess of twenty-five (25) years, first as a young man growing up in Butte, Montana, then as a lawyer practicing law in Missoula, Montana, and now as the Workers Compensation Judge for the State of Montana. I have the utmost respect for James' character, ethics, legal scholarship and his excellent judicial temperament. James is intelligent, practical and extremely hard working.

When James was working as a lawyer in Missoula, he always put his clients first; he always advocated on their behalf with zeal, but always within the boundaries of the canons of ethics. Since he has assumed the bench and taken over the administration of the Workers Compensation Court, I have watched with amazement as he revitalized that Court; his caseload is current, his opinions are timely and cogent, and, as far as I can tell, all members of the Workers Compensation Bar respect and appreciate the fine job he is doing as the Workers Compensation Judge. And, while I do not always agree with his rulings, particularly those that have gone against one or more of my clients, I have never

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
March 13, 2014
Page 2

had an occasion where my client's arguments were not carefully considered by Judge Shea, or a situation where my client was not afforded his/her full due process of law.

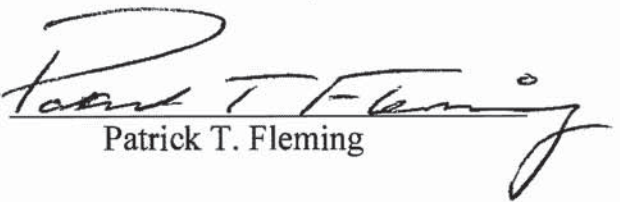
James' written decisions are always timely and they always address the issues and argument(s) properly raised by the litigants. James' written decisions always fully explain the legal basis for his decision, and his decisions are always based on prior decisions of the Workers Compensation Court and/or the Montana Supreme Court. In short, James is an excellent Judge who clearly possesses the analytical skills and the writing skills to be elevated to the Montana Supreme Court. His fairness, his integrity, his sense of justice and his sense of fair play will be a great fit for the current Montana Supreme Court.

I urge the Judicial Nomination Commission to place James on its' short list and to highly recommend him to Governor Bullock for appointment to the vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court. I sincerely believe that James Jeremiah Shea is the candidate most capable of replacing Justice Brian Morris on the Court.

Thank you for your service to Montana and your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

By 
Patrick T. Fleming

I concur in all said in this letter.

Sincerely,

FLEMING & O'LEARY, PLLP

By 
William M. O'Leary

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 5:23 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Larry Jones [<mailto:lwjones@willslawpc.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:53 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Hon. James Jeremiah Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission,

I am writing to you to recommend Judge Shea for the Supreme Court vacancy. I have been in practice in Montana since 1982 and for about the last 19 years I have practiced exclusively before the Montana Workers' Compensation Court representing workers compensation insurers. I was the second law clerk in the Workers' Compensation Court (with the Hon. Timothy Reardon presiding). I was also Judge Reardon's Hearing Examiner and presided over hearings in the Court. I have tried cases before three of the four judges to preside in that Court.

I have also represented clients in many Montana Supreme Court appeals, including oral arguments. My next oral argument is on May 6, 2014, and is an appeal of a decision of Judge Shea involving a constitutional challenge to a statute that the Supreme Court must be given the opportunity to review. Based on my experience in the Supreme Court I am convinced that Judge Shea's temperament and personality will be a good fit for the Court and those who appear before it. He is very personable and does not fluster. He treats the attorneys and their clients in a way that sets a tone of civility and respect that helps make the workers compensation bar very collegial. I have had many conversations with Judge Shea about such topics as movies, hunting and other shared interests. He has a rich and varied life outside the law which I believe is very important to have an informed perspective and balanced judgment.

When Judge Shea was first appointed as Judge of the Montana Workers' Compensation Court he had to learn what I believe is a very complicated area of the law and preside over a Court before which appeared very seasoned workers compensation attorneys. He was quick to earn the trust and respect of those of us who appeared before him. He ran the Court with an efficient and professional manner. After every case I have tried before Judge Shea I have left the Court thinking he was knowledgeable about the case and that my client had been given a fair opportunity to present its case. Workers' compensation cases can involve complex medical issues with conflicting expert testimony that must be sorted out and weighed to resolve the case. It is this experience that I believe will benefit our Supreme Court.

I make no comments about the other persons who have applied and by making this recommendation it should not be inferred that I do not think they are qualified. But because of the nature of my practice it is Judge Shea with whom I have had extensive professional experience and can recommend based on my personal knowledge. I ask that you recommend Judge Shea to Governor Bullock to fill the vacancy.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you for your service on the Commission.

Larry W. Jones
Attorney at Law
2614 A Tanbark Way
Missoula, MT 59808
larryjones@bresnan.net

Pamela J. Bailey

Attorney At Law

March 13, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. ox 203005
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Judge James J. Shea

Dear Ms. Menzies,

I would like to offer my support for Judge James J. Shea for the nomination as a Justice on the Montana Supreme Court.

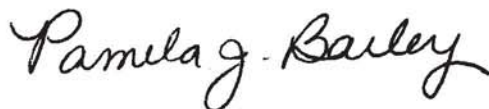
I have been a member of the State Bar of Montana for over 30 years. I have served as President of the Yellowstone Area Bar Association and the State Bar of Montana. I came to know Judge Shea through my involvement with the state and local bar associations.

Judge Shea has proven himself worthy of becoming a Supreme Court Justice during the time he has served as a Workers Compensation Judge. He has a reputation of being fair, honest, intelligent, thoughtful, hard working, and impartial. He treats attorneys and litigants with respect. I can think of no other attorney that would better serve the citizens of Montana than Judge Shea.

I highly recommend him for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Bailey

PAUL N. SIMON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

March 14, 14

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

Re: Judge James Jeremiah Shea Recommendation

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing in support of Judge James Jeremiah Shea for the Montana Supreme Court Justice vacancy. After graduating from law school I clerked for Judge Shea at the Workers' Compensation Court for almost five years. During this time, I had a rare opportunity to see him work as a judge both inside and outside the courtroom. I came away from that experience with a unique perspective of Judge Shea's skills as a jurist, public servant, and supervisor.

On the bench, Judge Shea is fair, curious, frank and intelligent. He possesses a wonderful sense of humor that puts those before him at ease. He is a tireless researcher and goes the extra mile when reaching legal decisions. His writing style is clear, concise, and well reasoned. Attorneys may disagree with the result of a particular decision, but they respect his integrity, neutrality, and process in reaching that decision.

As a supervisor, Judge Shea garnered the admiration and support of his court staff with the example he set. I witnessed him treat claimants, witnesses, attorneys and the general public with the utmost respect and humility. He expected the entire court staff to follow this lead in order to make the Workers' Compensation Court the most accessible court in Montana for all Montanans. I, for one, believe it is.

Without reservation or hesitation I lend my support to Judge Shea as he seeks to fill the Montana Supreme Court Justice vacancy. Please let me know if I can offer any further assistance.

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

March 14, 2014

Via Email: lmenzies@mt.gov

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

RE: Support for the Nomination of James Shea to fill the vacancy of the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I write in support of Jim Shea's appointment to fill the vacancy for justice of the Montana Supreme Court. Please forward this letter to all members of the nomination committee.

I have been fortunate to know Jim since we traveled together on that long, three year journey at the University of Montana School of Law. You learn a lot about a person's character when you share a stressful and challenging experience with them. From the very first time I met Jim to this day, he continues to impress me with his dedication to the practice of law and the people it serves. Jim's character and integrity are beyond reproach. I cannot think of three more important qualities for a jurist to possess than dedication, character and integrity.

Jim's qualifications do not stop there. He has demonstrated a keen aptitude for the law and legal analysis serving clients in the private practice and also serving the State of Montana as its Workers' Compensation Judge. Jim has handled both impeccably. He has garnered the respect from both sides of the isle - a difficult task in this day and age. In my job as Claims Manager for ALPS Property and Casualty Company, I deal routinely with judges across the country both federal and state and both at the trial and appellate level. I have had direct experience with hundreds of judges. I have seen the exceptional, the good, the mediocre and the bad. I have no doubt from my experience with Jim that he will (and does already) rank at the very top of that group. I know Jim is fair and even handed. I have no doubt that he will continue to be so when rendering a decision as a justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

The attorneys, the courts and most importantly the people of Montana deserve the very best to serve on the Supreme Court. They deserve someone who accepts that responsibility with a sense

Judicial Nomination Commission

March 14, 2014

Page | 2

of honor, dedication, and integrity and without a personal agenda. That is Jim Shea. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Tamerler', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ROB TAMELER

PEGGY PROBASCO, ESQ.
2637 STATE
BUTTE, MT 59701

March 14, 2014

Dear Commission Members:

Please accept this letter as my enthusiastic support for Judge Jim Shea's application to fill the current vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court.

Since 1991, I have served as a Special Assistant Attorney General with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Child Support Enforcement Division. Therefore, I have not had the opportunity to appear in Judge Shea's court. However, I am actively involved in both state and local bar organizations, having previously served as State Bar President and on numerous boards and committees. Through these contacts I have become well acquainted with Judge Shea's reputation, both personally and professionally, among other members of the bar.

Since being appointed to the bench, Judge Shea has earned a reputation as a diligent, fair, even tempered, and thoughtful judge. His opinions are thorough, well-reasoned, and legally sound, which likely is the reason his decisions are so rarely reversed on appeal. Outside of the courtroom, he is approachable, friendly, and exhibits the classic Butte Irish humor. In short, from both a personal and professional standpoint, he would be an ideal Supreme Court Justice.

I strongly urge you to forward Judge Shea's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to this position.

Sincerely,



Peggy Probasco

March 13, 2014

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

Re: Judge James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee,

I am writing in support of Jim Shea for the appointment of the Montana Supreme Court. I have had the opportunity to get to know and work with Jim on many different levels. I teach 5th grade at Hawthorne Elementary here in Helena where I also had the opportunity to teach Jim's youngest daughter when she was in 5th grade. Jim has strong family values and knows the importance of guiding, supporting, loving, and raising his daughters with the same integrity and ambition that Jim himself possesses. You can see this in the successes that both of his daughters have achieved.

Jim also is very involved in the Helena community. Jim has served very well on the Grandstreet Theatre board and has also taken on acting in many of their shows which in itself takes a lot of time, effort, and courage.

Jim helps orchestrate the annual Great Conversation fundraisers for the Helena Education Foundation. As an educator these fundraisers are vital in providing opportunities for teachers to obtain grants for learning opportunities for Helena students. These events take a lot of time and dedication to facilitate and Jim is always willing to make room in his schedule in order to successfully help make these events possible.

I was born and raised in Montana and know the importance of selecting persons of substantive quality for public service so we can maintain the great state of Montana. I know him as a parent, a team player, and as a leader. Jim has the ability and attributes it takes to successfully serve on the Montana Supreme Court and I am confident Jim Shea would serve us all very well as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,



Patrick Rieley
2726 Overlook
Helena, MT 59601



March 13, 2014

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

Re: Letter of Recommendation for
James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am writing this Letter of Recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Jim Shea for over ten years in the Helena Community and have had the opportunity to serve on a Board of Directors for a local non-profit for the past three years. While on the Board of Directors of Grandstreet Theatre I got to know Jim. He is a very dedicated individual, always prepared for the meetings and participates in discussions and has very good ideas. He is quick to volunteer for projects and follows through. In my mind this is a reflection on how he would be as a Supreme Court Judge-prepared, knowledgeable, committed and willing to help.

I have a great respect for Jim. He is a good citizen in Helena and I know he would be a good Supreme Court Judge.

I hope that the Judicial Nominating Commission will consider placing him on its short list for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Dalton", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Dalton
Branch President/COO

JASPER SMITH LACNY P.C.

Lance P. Jasper
Cynthia K. Smith
Katie Lacny

Attorneys at Law

202 W. Spruce St.
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Missoula MT 59807-7785
Phone: (406) 541-7177
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www.montanalaw.com

March 12, 2014

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

Re: Letter of recommendation for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Member:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for James "Jim" Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Jim for nearly 15 years. We first met when I started practicing law. Our friendship grew and later I was fortunate enough to work with Jim for several years. After his appointment to the Workers Compensation Court we continued our friendship and I have had the opportunity to become close to his family. I am obviously biased because of my friendship with Jim, but the bias is for reasons that I believe make Jim the best choice to be our next Supreme Court Justice.

Despite the fact that Jim is a sitting judge, he never lets his position change who he is. Jim has a natural humility and compassion for people it allows him to treat the less fortunate and more fortunate exactly the same, with the same regard, and the same importance.

As a father, I occasionally worry what would happen in the event that I died. My wife knows that the only person she would need to call for help or advice is Jim. The trust I have with Jim to be there for my family in the event of unforeseen circumstances is priceless. That same trust I have in Jim is the same trust the citizens of Montana can also share in that they can trust Jim to take his position as a Justice on the Supreme Court as a serious responsibility and uphold the law of Montana.

As a young attorney, Jim provided me with mentoring and skills necessary to try cases. His grasp of the law and how to apply the law is something that I admire and strive to achieve. His sense of humor, knowledge, self-discipline and ability to listen will

Judicial Nominating Commission

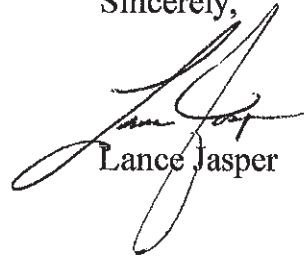
March 12, 2014

Page 2

make him a great addition to the Montana Supreme Court which needs to work together when making difficult decisions that affect the lives of Montana citizens.

For these reasons I highly recommend Jim Shea to this Commission as a candidate to recommend to Governor Steve Bullock. If I can answer any questions about my knowledge of Jim, I would welcome the opportunity. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lance Jasper", written in black ink. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Lance Jasper

TOWE LAW OFFICE

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619 S.W. HIGGINS, SUITE O
P.O. BOX 1745
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TELEPHONE: (406) 829-1669
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JAMES T. TOWE
Attorney at Law
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KIMBERLY L. TOWE
Attorney at Law
kim@towelawoffice.com

March 14, 2014

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

Re: James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing this letter to request that you present Judge Shea's name to Governor Bullock for consideration to replace Justice Morris on the Montana Supreme Court.

I had the opportunity to meet Judge Shea when he was in private practice sometime in the late 1990s. I got to know him better after I moved from Helena to Missoula in 2000.

I have not handled cases before him so I cannot speak to his service on the bench other than to say he has garnered a good reputation. I did not work with him directly when he was in private practice either but we handled similar cases and spent a fair amount of time discussing common issues and sharing information which was imperative for our client's causes. He was quick to provide assistance, advice, and documents.

What I took away from my dealings with Judge Shea is that he was bright, thoughtful, energetic, considerate, and devoted to the practice of law. He had the ability to get to the heart of matters. He was the integral part of successful law firms which handled stressful cases that required rigor, intellect, and stamina. He has already demonstrated his commitment to public service and judicial temperament discussed in letters from those that have practiced in his Court.

I also had the opportunity to visit with him in social settings and observe him as a great husband and dad. He even retained his common sense and sense of humor after law school. Please pass Judge Shea's name to Governor Bullock. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



James T. Towe

March 14, 2014

VIA EMAIL ONLY (lmenzies@mt.gov)

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

RE: Shea Application for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write in support of the application of Jim Shea for appointment to the vacant Montana Supreme Court seat. Although I do not appear regularly in the Workers' Compensation Court, I have had occasion to work on cases with colleagues over which Judge Shea presided. I also have known him on a personal level for many years. Based on these experiences, I believe Judge Shea has the intelligence, professionalism, and competency to be an accomplished Justice on the Montana Supreme Court.

Judge Shea is widely acknowledged as a fair, respectful and open-minded jurist. His knowledge of the law is vast, and his written opinions demonstrate his ability to critically analyze facts and apply the law in an even-handed manner. Judge Shea is an independent thinker who will bring a depth of experience and skill with him. Other attributes that are apparent in his opinions are his compassion for Montanans and his acknowledgement that every case is personal to the individual bringing it. As a judge, it is important to bring experience, education, and common sense to the equation when making decisions within the applicable legal framework. I believe Judge Shea's intellect, personality, and temperament make him an ideal candidate for the Montana Supreme Court, and I wholeheartedly support his application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen L. DeSoto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" being more prominent and the last name "DeSoto" following in a similar style.

Kathleen L. DeSoto
1221 Arthur Avenue
Missoula, MT 59801

Joyce, Johnston & MacDonald

Attorneys at Law

321 West Galena Street, Suite B
Butte, Montana 59701
Telephone: (406) 723-8700
Facsimile: (406) 723-8788
Toll Free: (866) 723-8702
E-mail: john@joyce-johnston.com

William P. Joyce
John T. Johnston
Terry J. MacDonald
Michael W. Haynes

March 14, 2014

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

Re: Judge James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I am an active member of the Montana Bar and have been so since October 1988. The vast majority of my practice has consisted of being actively involved in litigation. The first approximately 10 years of my career consisted of litigating on behalf of defendants in civil actions. Since then I have been primarily representing injured plaintiffs who are seeking compensation for their injuries and damages in a civil action or a workers' compensation claim.

During my career I have appeared in both state and federal courts across Montana and by so doing I have appeared before a wide variety of judges. Although no two are alike, the vast majority are excellent jurists because of their steadfast commitment to fairness and impartiality.

I have also appeared before Judge Shea in claims before Montana's Workers' Compensation Court. Judge Shea has consistently conducted himself in a reasonable, fair, and conscientious manner and he has always been thoroughly prepared to decide the claim before him. Judge Shea has an excellent understanding of the law governing the claims before him and he possesses an excellent demeanor from the bench. He conducts himself in an extremely professional and courteous manner and demands the same from the attorneys appearing before him. The result is Judge Shea's decisions and rulings are impartial and based solely on the facts and the law before him.

Given his outstanding career as Montana's Workers' Compensation Court Judge, I can state without hesitation that Judge Shea would make an excellent Montana Supreme Court Justice. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding Judge Shea.

Judicial Nomination Commission
March 14, 2014
Page 2

Very truly yours,

Joyce, Johnston & MacDonald, PLLP



JOHN T. JOHNSTON
Attorneys at Law

JTJ/dar

March 13, 2014

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

RE: Nomination of Judge James J. Shea to Montana Supreme Court

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to write in support of the appointment of Judge James J. Shea to the Montana Supreme Court.

I have come to know and greatly respect Judge Shea in my practice with Carey Law Firm, P.C. Much of our firm's practice involves representing workers' compensation claimants, and I entered the practice shortly after Judge Shea was appointed to the Montana Workers' Compensation Court. I can personally attest that learning the intricacies of our workers' compensation statutes and corresponding case law is no easy task, and our firm was curious to see how Judge Shea would handle that task with little prior experience with the workers' compensation laws. I had a seasoned mentor to bring me along in this regard, and yet it seems I learn something new every day. Judge Shea had to bring himself up to speed on this unique area of the law essentially without a net.

If I am not mistaken, the first case in which Judge Shea issued an order as the Workers' Compensation Court Judge involved a constitutional challenge to an amended workers' compensation statute and its counterpart in Montana's health codes. *See Thompson v. State of Montana*, 2005 MTWCC 53, *rev'd*, 2007 MT 185. This was a particularly contentious case, and one of great importance to both injured workers and workers' compensation insurers as a whole. After reading his order, it was clear Judge Shea had spent considerable time educating himself on our workers' compensation laws, the public policy behind them, and the practical ramifications of their application. His order further demonstrated that he had a firm grasp on Montana's constitutional

jurisprudence and applied it dispassionately to the facts of the case. Like each of his orders that followed, the *Thompson* order was thoughtful and extremely well-written.

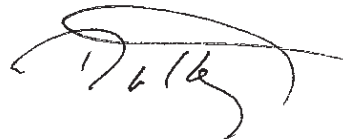
While *Thompson* was ultimately reversed on procedural grounds, Judge Shea's acumen in applying the law to the facts of a particular case is evidenced by his 87.8% affirmation rate with the Montana Supreme Court on appeal. This speaks volumes to his astuteness as a judge. Having tried several cases before him, I can also attest that Judge Shea possesses all of the qualities Montanans and attorneys from both sides of the aisle expect in a Montana Supreme Court Justice. He is intelligent, considerate, gracious, objective, at times humorous, analytic in his thoughts, and strives at all times to follow the law. While the latter has not always played out in my clients' favor, I have always respected the reasoning behind his orders and his fair application of the law.

In short, I can think of no better candidate for the position of Montana Supreme Court Justice, and the Commission would do well to recommend him to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Court. Thank you for your service and for your consideration of these thoughts.

Very truly yours,

CAREY LAW FIRM, P.C.

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Lighthall', written over a horizontal line.

David T. Lighthall

DTL:lrt

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Saturday, March 15, 2014 12:24 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

-----Original Message-----

From: Eileen Joyce [<mailto:e.joyce@bresnan.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 2:55 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject:

March 14, 2014

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

RE: Letter of Recommendation for James "Jim" Shea

Dear Members of Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Eileen Joyce and I am currently the County Attorney for the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow, Montana. I am writing in support of Jim Shea as an applicant for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. Jim is known to me to be an intelligent, personable and motivated individual with the necessary skills to fulfill this meaningful position. Further, I believe his overall broad legal background, including practicing both criminal and civil law and acting as the Worker's Compensation judge, make him distinctively qualified to act as a Supreme Court justice.

I know that Jim has a reputation as being a thoughtful and fair jurist, who issues very well reasoned and well written opinions. Additionally, he has received praise for his judicial temperament and the respect he shows litigants who appear before him. Overall, I am confident that Jim would prove to be a reliable, impartial, hard working and extremely competent judge. He is excited to take on this new challenge. I would therefore recommend him to you without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Joyce

PAOLI KUTZMAN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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JOHN A. KUTZMAN*
PHILIP C. SHADWICK

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PHILIPSHADWICK@PAOLI-LAW.COM

*Great Falls Office

March 17, 2014

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

via email: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Nomination of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Commission Members:

I met Judge Shea when we were both members of the University of Montana Law School class of 1991. I have known him for more than 20 years. I write to you today to explain why I think he is the best candidate for the seat recently vacated by Justice Morris.

Following his clerkship with U.S. District Judge Paul G. Hatfield, Jim spent the next fourteen years advocating for ordinary people, first as a public defender in Portland, Oregon, then as an associate with the Portland firm Bricker, Zackovics and Querin, and finally as a partner in the Missoula firm Paoli & Shea. His public defender work included both misdemeanor and felony cases. His civil litigation work required him to represent clients in a wide variety of forums, including jury and non-jury trials in every state in the Pacific Northwest. This combination of significant practical experience in both criminal and civil law, in several states, is unusual and distinctive in the Montana bar.

Judge Shea also has significant practical experience actually working as a judge. Since 2005 Judge Shea has been conducting workers' compensation trials, deciding complicated legal issues (including constitutional questions), and writing detailed findings of fact based on his observation of live witness testimony. He ruled for the injured worker when the facts and

the law required it. He ruled for the employer when the facts and the law required it. Lawyers for both employees and employers report they expect to and do receive a fair hearing from him on the facts and the law. Since 2005 his decisions have been appealed 39 times, affirmed 35 times, and reversed only four times. This low reversal rate is no coincidence. Jim has been a devoted student of the law from the day I first met him in 1989.

You have an impressive array of well-qualified candidates before you. What makes Jim stand out, in my view, is his eight years of experience as a trial judge coupled with a broad base of experience in both criminal and civil law in this and several other states. He already knows what the work requires and won't need to learn how to think like a judge. This will be important given the Court's caseload and the way it has operated short-handed since Justice Morris's departure. Montana needs Judge Shea on the Supreme Court.

Very truly yours



John A. Kutzman

March 13, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
Commission Members

I would like you to nominate James Jeremiah Shea for the vacancy on the Supreme Court.

I know Brian Morris very well. I know it would take the right judge to fill his shoes. To me that would be James Shea. He would be an excellent one for the job if he was appointed.

We need someone from Southwest Montana that has actual experience in Recreation and enjoys our Public lands and water.

Please so not let, "Dark Money" sway you in making your nomination.

I am very active in Sportsman water issues and public lands for our beautiful State of Montana.

Thank You,
Lorry Thomas



2 Cherry St.
Anaconda, Mt. 59711
Ph. No: 406-563-7992

COMMUNITY, COUNSELING AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, INC.

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Butte, Montana 59701

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March 13, 2014

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Lois Menzes
Office of the Court Administrator
Post Office Box #203005
Helena, Montana 59620-3005

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT/RECOMMENDATION FOR JIM SHEA
REGARDING THE VACANT SEAT ON MONTANA'S SUPREME COURT

To Whom This May Concern:

At this time, please allow me to offer my wholehearted endorsement of Jim in his desire to fill the vacant seat on Montana's Supreme Court.

I have known Jim for as long as I can remember. I know that he has worked long and hard to attain those professional milestones in his life and that he has a true passion for the law. As you will note, Jim's professional resume is quite impressive and reflects the absolute value that he places on the law, the whole of the judicial system and those people who count upon, or are impacted by, the legal system in Montana.

Greater minds than I have commented upon Jim's career accomplishments, but I can provide my insights as to how it is I know Jim Shea. Jim is a man of high integrity and his work ethic is beyond reproach. I have never seen Jim as a man who pounds his chest as to those titles, accomplishments and responsibilities he has attained and held over the years, but rather as man of high intellect and superb reasoning who focuses his energies and resources towards any task at hand. Jim is a very engaging and open person and he can discuss a wide variety of topics in an educated, thoughtful and humble manner and he also has a sharp wit and patient manner.

I have always seen Jim as a person who respects people for who they are and he never has discounted nor diminished their right to be heard in a manner that places the highest emphasis on fairness and allegiance to the law.

In closing, I respectfully request that the members of the Judicial Nomination Committee give Jim's desire to serve on the Supreme Court serious consideration as, in my humble opinion, he would well serve the Supreme Court and the people of Montana.

Sincerely,



STEVE MCARTHUR

Director of Community Correctional Programs
CCCS, Inc.

Bismarck Transition Center
Kevin Arthaud, Adm.
2001 Lee Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-222-3440 Fax 701-222-3599

Butte Pre-Release Center
Women's Transitional Center
Jay Grant, Adm.
58-68 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
BPRC 406-782-2316
WTC 406-782-6446 Fax 406-723-1170

Connections Corrections Program
Dave Boyd, Adm.
111 W. Broadway
Butte, MT 59701
406-782-6626 Fax 406-782-6876

Discovery House
Carole Kovach, Adm.
65 Sheep Gulch Road
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-3842 Fax 406-563-2451

Gallatin Re-Entry Facility
Melissa Kelly, Adm.
675 S. 16 Street
Bozeman, MT 59715
406-994-0300 Fax 406-994-0306

Martin Hall Juvenile Detention Facility
Robert Palmquist, Adm.
P.O. Box 670
Medical Lake, WA 99022
509-299-7733 Fax 509-299-1447

Nexus Program
Marcie Conmy Adm.
P.O. Box 1200
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-535-6680 Fax 406-535-6665

RYO Correctional Facility
Travis Hettick, Adm.
360 Galen Street
Deer Lodge, MT 59722
406-693-9975 Fax 406-693-9888

START Program
George Struzel, Adm.
801 MT Hwy 48
Anaconda, MT 59711
406-563-7002 Fax 406-563-5069

WATCH Program
Alex Vukovich, Adm.
Box G
Warm Springs, MT 59756
406-693-2272 Fax 406-693-2276

WATCH East
Deb Dion, Adm.
700 Little Street
Glendive, MT 59330
406-377-6001 Fax 406-377-6004

LORI A. HARPER SUEK

2601 Second Avenue North, Suite 3200 ▪ Billings, MT 59101 ▪ (406) 247-4645 ▪ lori.suek@usdoj.gov

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

RE: James Jeremiah Shea

I am honored to write this letter in support of Jim Shea and his application to fill the current vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Jim for over 30 years. Like Jim, I've spent my career in the courtroom and that experience, coupled with my knowledge of Jim, gives me a unique perspective that I would like to share with you.

Jim's desire to serve the people of Montana on the Supreme Court is not surprising to anyone who knows him. Jim's path of public service was chosen for him, you might say, because it was bred in the bone. It came from his family and his roots in Butte. Fortunately for the people of Montana, Jim followed that calling as the Workers Compensation Court judge.

Over the last 19 years, I have appeared in front of many different judges at the trial and appellate court levels. Providing litigants with a forum where they can try their lawsuits and obtain justice demands that a judge strike the balance between control and respect. I imagine that those who appear in front of Jim experience a judge that is hardworking, respectful of precedent and litigants, and humble, qualities that achieve that balance and make him an exceptional candidate for the Supreme Court.

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

I have no hesitation in recommending that you forward Jim's name to the governor to fill the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. The people of Montana will only continue to benefit with Jim's appointment to the Court.

Sincerely,
/s/ Lori Harper Suek
Lori Harper Suek

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2014 4:40 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supeme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Dave Skinner [<mailto:daskinner@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2014 6:15 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Judicial Appointees Public Comment

16 Mar 2013
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

lmenzies@mt.gov

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Commission:

As a citizen of Montana, I wish to make comments on several of the applicants for the Supreme Court vacancy left by Justice Brian Morris' appointment to the federal bench. Now, I'm not an attorney, and, like most humble Montana peasants, hope to end my days never seeing the front side of the courtroom railing.

First off, it is very clear to me that very few Montanans have chosen to participate in the process. While the process is commendably very public, there seems little to no interest from the public. There are few if any comments from average Montanans, mostly letters of endorsement from friends, past clients and professional associates of the applicants. That's a shame, a clear indication of how Supreme Court affairs are an "inside game" for those with inside knowledge only. It also may be that quite a number of Montanans DO know some of the applicants, but feel they are wasting their time participating.

Why would Montanans feel so? It is a sad fact that the popular electoral selection of statewide Montana Supreme Court justices is dysfunctional.

The financing of various judicial races almost always breaks down along factional lines, with the trial lawyers' plaintiff bar paying the most into the betting pool, basically because they have the most to win or lose by the election of a sympathetic judge.

Regular Montanans only rarely bet on these elections, because they often have no direct stake, no direct interest. The result of underfunded, under-noticed campaigns is that voters know almost nothing about the candidates before them, and the usually narrow election margins hint at nearly-random patterns of voting.

The only exceptions are when the Supreme Court candidate held partisan political office at some point and has name recognition – Chief Justice McGrath being a classic case in point.

I am not writing to endorse anyone, but rather to express my opposition to several applicants who seem to have an activist approach which they'll likely bring to the Supreme Court if appointed.

Elizabeth (Beth) Ann Brennan: I oppose Ms. Brennan. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Clark Fork Coalition, an environmental group.

While in law school, she collaborated with radical, peripatetic environmentalist lawyer Jack Tuholske on a law review article covering the National Forest Management Act. Mr. Tuholske, of course, moonlights as a law school professor who teaches young earth muffins how to sue the Feds and stop stuff.

But most objectionable is Ms. Brennan's membership in Public Justice, formerly Trial Lawyers for Public Justice. TPLJ was founded by that great centrist Ralph Nader in the early 1980's as a means of bringing forth "high-impact, cutting edge litigation" and to "build a record of precedent-setting litigation for the public good" including lawsuits attempting to hold firearms makers liable for end-user abuse.

Another TPLJ alumnus of note from Montana happens to be Senior Judge Donald W. Molloy. He was pursuing a very "innovative" work-comp case for TPLJ when appointed to the federal bench – where, as the Lincoln County commission put it in 2011: "Molloy's career [...] has been a social and economic disaster for Montana rural communities in general, and Lincoln County in particular." Picking another Naderite for any court in Montana would be bad form – leave that up to Montanans in the next Supreme Court election, which Ms. Brennan has shown interest in for some time.

Amy Poehling Eddy: While Ms. Eddy certainly seems to collect the kudos from her fellow trial lawyers, and enjoys a seat on the Board of Governors of ATLA (now renamed the American Association of Justice), the fact remains she was attorney of record for the Barhaugh "public trust" case. I would not say that is something to brag about.

In short, Ms. Eddy fronted a forum-shopping expedition for a silly "childrens' campaign" (actually run by Mom), and not content to wait for a district court case and appeal, went straight to the top with a bid for an immediate ruling by the Montana Supreme Court.

The end game was to completely bypass the Montana legislative process and force the state to implement programs to prevent global warming, regardless of economic impacts, regardless of the scientific merit of climate change and its root causes.

This was an incredible overreach, the worst sort of litigational activism, and was shot down, I believe unanimously, by the Montana Supreme Court. That she would have the temerity to seek appointment after such a slap-down only underscores her activist zeal. A bad fit, period.

Ed Sheehy: I voted against Mr. Sheehy last time around and wish he would get the message. I understand his father was a Supreme Court justice and Ed wants to follow. I can even understand that someone has to defend whacko killers, who do deserve a fair trial under strictest evidentiary standards.

But Mr. Sheehy is clearly a man who believes the death penalty is inherently unjust, that the worst, most irredeemable animals do not deserve to be "put down" for the most heinous of crimes, even when their guilt is absolutely not in doubt.

Counselor Sheehy's defense of the Kalispell Christmas killer, Tyler Miller, scoring Miller two life raps instead of the death penalty, as well as his years trying to keep Canadian guest killer Ronald Allen Smith alive, for possible repatriation to Canada after slaughtering Harvey Mad Man and Thomas Running Rabbit in cold blood for their grandma's car, force me to conclude that Mr. Sheehy has a warped sense of justice. He is therefore a bad fit for the Supreme Court, or any judgeship, anywhere.

As for the rest of the slate, I did note that almost without exception, these are Democratic political contributors who also have donated money to Supreme Court races – more of that inside baseball by the legal elite in this state, and not a surprise considering our Governor making the final decision here is, yep, a Democrat.

If I had to recommend any applicant, I would say that James Shea, the work-comp judge, and David Ortley, judge from Kalispell, both deserve to be advanced to Governor Bullock for consideration. Their main qualification is that both have been on the bench for a while, and basically, not blown the walls off the courthouse with any crazy stuff during their tenures.

Thank you for your consideration. Please choose wisely.

Dave Skinner
Hydra Project
Box 1486
Whitefish, MT 59937
406 756 0047 vm no fax

St. Clair



Construction, Inc.

Native American

March 17, 2014

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

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Oliver L. St.Clair, I am the Founder and Owner of St. Clair Construction, Inc. St.Clair Construction is a 100% Native American owned and operated construction firm, licensed in both Montana and Washington State.

Please accept this letter as my statement of recommendation and support for the appointment of Mr. Jim Shea to the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Jim personally for several years, so I can attest on a personal level to his exceptional character, honesty and integrity that would allow him to be an outstanding addition to the Montana Supreme Court.

My personal relationship with Jim is not the only reason I support his appointment, however. As an employer in the construction industry, it is important to me that the judges in our state be fair and don't bring an agenda to the Court. Since I have not had any cases come before the Workers' Compensation Court, I have diligently questioned others in the industry about Jim's reputation, I can honestly state that I have not heard any negative issues concerning his work as a judge. His reputation is that he is fair, hard working, and his legal decisions are solid because they are based solely on the law.

I hope you will forward Jim's name onto the Governor for appointment to this very important position, we need great men like Mr. Shea to continue to lead our State.

Sincerely,

Oliver L. St. Clair



EDMISTON & COLTON LAW FIRM

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JAMES G. EDMISTON, III
SHANE D. COLTON
JOSEPH P. COOK

March 17, 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 James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of James Jeremiah Shea for the Montana Supreme Court.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jim for over 15 years and have worked with him as an attorney and appeared before him at the Worker's Compensation Court. Jim was an outstanding attorney while in practice. He was thoughtful, hardworking and always reasonable. The qualities Jim displayed as a practicing attorney carried over to the bench. He effectively moves cases along a very busy docket and provides fair unbiased and reasoned decisions. Jim follows the law and does not use his position on the bench to advance an individual ideology.

Jim also understand that while he is seeking an appointment to Supreme Court that appointment is only the first step towards service as a Supreme Court Justice. Even before there was an opening on the Court Jim was committed to going out and meeting the people of Montana and asking for their votes. Jim understands that being a candidate and running an election is hard work. With the full support of his family he has made an unwavering commitment to retain his seat on the Supreme Court if appointed. Jim's sincerity and likeability combined with his track record of service as the Worker's Compensation Judge make him the lead candidate to get confirmed and hold the seat in an election.

Jim Shea has the credentials, the experience and the demeanor to effectively serve the people of Montana as its next Supreme Court Justice. I hope that you will forward his name to Governor Bullock and I thank you for your service on this very important commission.

Sincerely,



Shane Colton

March 17, 2014

To:

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 203005
Helena, MT 59602-3005

From:

Elaine K. Spino
P. O. Box 1684
Helena, MT 59624

Re: James Jeremiah Shea, Candidate for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Commission Members:

Please consider this as an endorsement of James Jeremiah Shea for the vacant seat on the Montana Supreme Court. For those of you on the commission charged with the task of evaluating candidates considering the objective accomplishments, experience, and academic achievements of an applicant is a task in itself. Even harder, is to get a picture of a candidate's inner personal qualities that might enhance or diminish the reputation of the Court through their appointment.

The James 'Jim' Shea that I know from his participation in our community theater and from a friendship extending back 8 years since he and his family moved to Helena from Missoula is a funny, enthusiastic, even-tempered, and dependable person. We all know people who behave in ways inconsistent with their 'day jobs'. We might wonder, how did this person become a policeman, doctor, or whatever. A professional who tells a racist joke or makes a leering gesture or lets slip a derogatory comment or demonstrate selfishness or narcissism makes us wonder about their capacity to hold a position of trust. At social gatherings Jim is gregarious and entertaining without mean-spirited disparagement of others; I have never seen him display worrisome anger or frustration. I have never witnessed any behavior or heard any comment from Jim that would suggest that he is anything but a fair, honorable and respectful person towards everyone.

Jim is a gentle man of character to be respected. Working together on theatre productions and community projects that require preparation, patience, and consideration of others needs has led me to know Jim as someone who can always be counted on to be there, be prepared, and be 'on cue'.

There is a Yiddish word for a good and honorable man—a mensch. Jim Shea is a mensch.

Sincerely,

Elaine K. Spino
ekspino@gmail.com

JON M. MOYERS

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490 N. 31st St., Suite 101

Billings, Montana 59101

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Admitted to Practice In the States of:
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jon@jmoyerslaw.com

Sherri Payne, Legal Assistant
sherri@jmoyerslaw.com

Sent by email to: lmenzies@mt.gov

March 17, 2014

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

Re: Judicial Nomination for Montana Supreme Court
Judge Jim Shea

I write this letter in support of Judge Jim Shea for Montana Supreme Court justice. I have known and worked with Judge Shea for the past 15 years, first as opposing counsel and later as judge. In all matters he has displayed keen legal insight, unflappable judicial temperament, and an enduring commitment to justice. Before becoming a judge, Judge Shea fought for the rights of Montana citizens as a zealous advocate. Thereafter, he has successfully managed the difficult task of adjudicating both the facts and law in a very busy court. Through both chapters of his legal career, Judge Shea has demonstrated the strong work ethic and personal ethics necessary for a Supreme Court justice.

Consequently, I strongly recommend the nomination of Judge Shea without any reservation. I am available if the Commission has any questions regarding my support of Judge Shea.

Sincerely yours,

Jon M. Moyers



LEWIS, SLOVAK & KOVACICH, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

Ben A. Snipes
Ross T. Johnson

March 17, 2014

Via Email- Imenzies@mt.gov

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

RE: Montana Supreme Court Vacancy - Honorable James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I write to recommend Judge Jim Shea as a nominee for Governor Bullock's consideration, when filling the seat vacated on the Montana Supreme Court by Justice Brian Morris' recent appointment as a Federal District Court Judge.

For the past several years, I have appeared as a practitioner before Judge Shea in Montana's Workers' Compensation Court on many occasions. Shortly after Judge Shea was appointed to the Court, I had the pleasure of trying one of the first cases before him. I was very impressed with the manner in which Judge Shea managed the trial, treated the litigants and lawyers with respect, and ultimately rendered a fair and thoughtful decision. Since that time, Judge Shea has become one of the more experienced members of our judiciary, continuing to display qualities which would make him an excellent Supreme Court Justice. Throughout his time on the Workers' Compensation Court, Judge Shea has established an impressive record as a fair, even-tempered, and intelligent jurist.

Although Justice Morris' departure from the Court is an unfortunate loss, Judge Shea would make an excellent replacement. I therefore recommend that the Committee nominate Judge Shea for the Governor's consideration, when filling the open seat on the Court.

Sincerely,



Mark M. Kovacich

MMK/sb

Jill M. Gerdrum
jgerdrum@axilonlaw.com
T: 406-532-2635
F: 406-294-9468

March 17, 2014

By E-mail: lmenzies@mt.gov

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

Re: Judge Jim Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Judge Shea's application for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

I worked for Judge Shea when he was in private practice and briefly when he became the Workers' Compensation Court Judge. In both capacities, Judge Shea earned my admiration and respect with his integrity, well-reasoned legal analysis, impeccable writing, and even-tempered approach to every case. In my experience, Judge Shea treats everyone involved in the legal system with respect. And while Judge Shea demands professionalism, his disarming personality tends to put people at ease.

Judge Shea has proven himself a thorough and fair judge. I am confident that if appointed to the Montana Supreme Court, Judge Shea will serve Montana well. I urge you to forward Judge Shea's name to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



Jill Gerdrum

March 16, 2014

Judicial Nominations Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 03005
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Judge James J. Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Judge Shea for the Supreme Court vacancy. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment on his behalf.

I have known Jim for seventeen years and have the honor of calling him a close, personal friend. There are many reasons why Jim is the right choice for this Supreme Court vacancy:

Integrity and Fairness. The first and foremost characteristic about Jim is his integrity. Jim is a remarkable father, husband, son, brother, friend, judge, and human being. It has been said the measure of a man is what he does when nobody is watching. Jim and I have had many long talks about everything imaginable, and I can confidently say there is nothing counterfeit about him. The authenticity you see in public is the same as when he is at home. Integrity is vitally important for serving on the Supreme Court, and Jim's fairness will guide his every decision. He will undoubtedly conduct his judgeship seeking the legally correct result, irrespective of personal feelings.

Experience. Jim has over eight years of experience being the judge at the Montana Workers' Compensation Court and has presided over 200 trials. During this time, he has continually impressed people with both his competency and the dignity with which he treats his attorneys, witnesses, clients, and staff. The re-appointment to a second six-year term demonstrates the effectiveness of Jim at this position.

Courage and Ethics. Jim has been raised to hold a strong regard for ethics, which in turn has served as the bedrock upon which he has built his life. It is with this foundation that he holds true to the correct decision despite extraneous pressures to sway to personal agendas. This characteristic is vital for the Supreme Court vacancy.

Humility. Jim has the gift of being able to put his ego aside and treat everyone with dignity and justice. While Jim takes great pride in his work, family, and life, he is the last person to talk about himself or his accomplishments. His humor and sharp wit are often self-deprecating as he is conscious not to offend others. This humility and compassion are what drive him to help others and conduct public service.

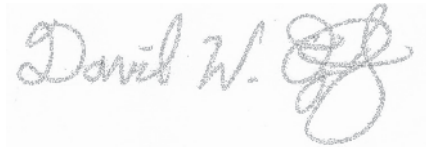
Intelligence. In my line of business as a long-time researcher at the university and national lab level, I have had the fortune to work with the world's brightest people. Jim easily ranks among the best with which I have worked. Furthermore, I can confidently say it is rare to find someone of Jim's intellect to also have the high interpersonal skills necessary for the Supreme Court position.

Common sense. Jim has a high degree of common sense, which is not always the case with highly intelligent people. His common sense is constantly on display with his keen and humorous insights, and is evident when you view the body of his professional and personal works.

Passion. Jim has a strong passion for civic duty, public involvement, and social justice. This passion is unmistakable when you talk to him. His impressive career is due to competency coupled with a high work ethic that is derived from his passion to serve. Simply said, good things happened to good, hard-working people.

I ask that you recommend Judge Shea to Governor Bullock to fill the Supreme Court vacancy. Thank you for your service on this commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David W. Opitz". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

David W. Opitz, Ph.D.

Retired Professor of Computer Science; University of Montana
Retired President and Founder, Visual Learning Systems (sold to Textron, Inc.)

James M. Regnier

Mediation Services

P.O. Box 299

Lakeside, MT 59922

Telephone: (406) 459-3318

March 18, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission

c/o Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

P.O. Box 203005

Helena, MT 59620-3005

Re: Jim Shea

Dear Commission Members;

I write on behalf of Jim Shea's application for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

I have known Jim to be a hard-working attorney and competent Workers' Compensation Judge. Jim enjoys an excellent reputation in the Montana legal community. His decisions reflect the qualities of impartiality and fairness, two of the most important characteristics of a successful judge. Jim has also exhibited a proven ability to write opinions clearly and concisely.

I enthusiastically recommend that Jim's name be included in the list of finalists submitted to the Governor.

Very truly yours,

James M. Regnier

March 18, 2014

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

Via email: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Nomination of Judge James Jeremiah Shea to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nominations Commission:

It is with great pleasure that I write to recommend the appointment of my dear friend and former colleague, Judge James Jeremiah Shea, to the Montana Supreme Court.

Upon graduating from the University of Montana School of Law in 1998, I went into practice with then, solo practitioner David Paoli. I met Jim Shea when his firm leased space right next door to my office. As a very young and inexperienced lawyer in a small firm, I was extremely fortunate to be in such close proximity to a kind and thoughtful mentor. Jim, always generous of his time, helped me navigate the law, hone my writing skills, and guide me through some of the challenges of litigating cases. I later benefited from Jim's experience and guidance in his role as a partner in the firm Paoli & Shea, P.C., where I was an associate attorney.

When Jim decided to put his name in to be considered for the open Montana Workers' Compensation Judge position in 2005, I was saddened by the imminent loss of a mentor and friend, but certain that he was the best candidate and proud to support his candidacy. Jim possessed all of the attributes we, as a community, value in a judge presiding over matters having a profound impact on injured Montana workers and their employers. I knew that Jim would bring his compassion, intellect, and dedication to the bench. In his tenure as the Montana Workers' Compensation Judge, Judge Shea has demonstrated to the Montana judiciary, State Bar and citizens that he approaches the bench prepared, fairly decides the cases before him, and issues well-reasoned opinions withstanding scrutiny from the court above.

I am hopeful that you will offer Judge Shea the opportunity to continue his public service to the state as a justice on the Montana Supreme Court. Judge Shea is uniquely qualified to serve on Montana's highest court. He will bring to the bench the perspective of a practicing lawyer, drawing upon his diverse knowledge of civil and criminal law and his mastery of Montana's Rules of Procedure and Evidence. He will also bring his valuable experience as a judge, an experience that none of the other candidates possesses despite their many other qualifications. Judge Shea has demonstrated his ability to manage a courtroom and docket, fairly act a neutral arbitrator, and analyze the law as applied to the facts before him resulting clear, thoughtful, and intellectually sound opinions. Finally, Judge Shea brings his deep ties and strong commitment to

Judicial Nominations Commission

March 18, 2014

Pg. 2

the state of Montana and its values, which will undoubtedly continue to be reflected in his work on the bench.

Thank you for your work on the Judicial Nominations Commission and considering my request that you forward Judge Shea's name to Governor Bullock to serve as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,

Heather Latino*
9232 Annhurst St.
Fairfax, VA 22031
(406) 370-3430

* Inactive attorney member of the Montana State Bar, currently licensed to practice in the District of Columbia.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:41 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Trish Opitz [dpopitz@bresnan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:12 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Nomination of Judge James Shea

March 17, 2014
Judicial Nominations Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 03005
Helena, Montana 59620

Re: Judge James J. Shea

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to write this letter of support for Judge Shea for the Supreme Court vacancy. I have known Jim and his family closely for seventeen years, and although I don't feel qualified to comment on his professional work, I am writing this to vouch for his character.

I have watched as Jim and Kathy have raised two amazing young women. When they were young our children spent a great deal of time together, often with Jim.

To this day he is one of their favorite people. I have never seen him lose his temper or get angry with anyone.

Jim has the perfect combination of character and intelligence to be an outstanding Supreme Court Justice. He treats others with humility and respect and does not think of himself as better than anyone. I believe Jim will handle every case presented to him fairly and with no hidden agenda of his own.

Community involvement is important to Jim, whether he is serving food at a local homeless shelter or improving the lives of children with his involvement in local theater.

I feel you should recommend Judge Shea to Governor Bullock to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

Sincerely,

Patricia B. Opitz

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:40 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Monica Paoli [<mailto:monicaconradpaoli@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:09 PM
To: McLaughlin, Beth
Subject: Letter in Support of Jim Shea - MT Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission Members:

After spending two terms on the Judicial Nominating Commission myself, I have great empathy for the task you face in narrowing the field of applicants for the Governor's consideration. Although there are many capable and talented applicants, I believe Jim Shea is best suited for this appointment.

Because I am not a lawyer, I will not attempt to comment on Jim's legal skills. It appears from the letters lawyers have submitted, Jim is more than qualified for the position from that standpoint.

In my view, Jim is prepared for the Supreme Court in another important way - he made the decision to run for the court months ago and took all the appropriate steps to build a campaign organization that can run a successful statewide campaign. He is prepared to do this job if he's appointed, and more importantly, he has already proven he's committed to pursuing this position through the election process.

One of the things I most admire about Jim is his ability to analyze and consider all aspects of an argument. As we've talked about world issues during the 15 years I've known him, I find he always thinks deeply and carefully. He is one of the most honorable and decent people I know, which is evidenced most clearly in the kind of father and husband he is.

I appreciate your work on the Commission. I wish you best of luck with this process. Thank you for your consideration of Jim Shea for the Montana Supreme Court.

Warm Regards,

Monica Paoli
106 East Crestline Drive
Missoula, MT 59803
406-721-4307



SMITH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

PATRICK L. SMITH

March 18, 2014

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

Re: James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commissioners:

I first met Jim Shea when he shared office space with me in Missoula over 20 years ago. At that time, Mr. Shea was in private practice, representing railroad workers injured on the job. I have since followed his distinguished legal career and believe this career qualifies him perfectly to serve on the Montana Supreme Court.

I know Judge Shea to be a hard-working, humble, and fair-minded attorney and judge. These are exactly the traits and skillset one is looking for in a Justice on the Montana Supreme Court. As the Workers Compensation Judge since 2005, Shea has valuable judicial experience in overseeing complicated factual and legal questions that require both analytical and legal reasoning skills. He does his homework and carefully explains his decisions and findings of fact, and it is no coincidence that his rulings are almost always affirmed.

In my view, however, the decision to appoint a Montana Supreme Court Justice should not be based on the candidate with the most honed legal analysis skill set—albeit a crucial asset. Behind that analytical mind should be a person of strong moral character who truly understands difficult concepts of equity, fairness, due process, and Montana values. And it is on this measure that I believe Judge Shea stands tall and unwavering. I know Judge Shea to have a commitment to public service and to justice in the truest sense of the word.

Sincerely,

Patrick L. Smith

Patrick E. Duffy
1515 Dickinson Street
Missoula, MT 59802

March 18, 2014

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

Dear Ms. Menzies:

Please accept this letter of recommendation in support of James Shea's application to fill the current vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. I am an attorney in good standing with the State Bar of Montana, and the retired Clerk of Court for the United States District Court for the District of Montana, having served in that capacity from 2001-2012.

I have known Jim in a personal capacity for fifteen years. I have decided to offer this recommendation not only because he is a friend I know well, but also because in my capacity as Clerk of Court I dealt with many federal judges from this district and others and had the opportunity to observe them on and off the bench. Through those interactions, I believe I have a good view of which personal attributes and qualities of character make a good judge. Jim possesses the ones most key in that regard.

Integrity is the keystone of the judicial system, and a good judge must strive toward the highest standards of integrity in his/her personal and professional lives. There is no question in my mind that Jim Shea possesses that highest standard, and his steadfast demonstration of that integrity commands my trust, confidence and respect. He has an independent mind and an enviable supply of moral courage. He takes his responsibilities as a citizen, attorney and judge seriously and would have no problems setting aside any personal beliefs, personalities or any partisan or political influences in deciding a case. In my conversations with Jim over the years, I have seen his humanity and humility – two personal characteristics necessary for a judge to understand the viewpoints and concerns of the parties to a case. Moreover, he is patient, open-minded and courteous. The best judges I have observed had these traits in spades – and the worst ones sorely lacked them.

Of course, a high level of understanding of principles of law and the ability to carefully find facts are essential for a good judge. While I have never dealt with Jim in a professional matter in his career

as an attorney or as the current Workman's Compensation Judge for Montana, I have read all of the letters of recommendation from the practitioners who have done so, and am not at all surprised that each speaks so highly of his sound knowledge and judicial temperament. I believe that is made possible because, in addition to the characteristics I have already mentioned, Jim combines a curious mind with outstanding intellectual and analytical ability.

Finally, Jim shares my love of the law and love for Montana. With him as a Justice of our Supreme Court, I am confident both would be in the most capable hands. With no reservation whatsoever, I recommend him to your commission.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Patrick E. Duffy

Sheriff Ed Lester
3032 Edwards Street
Butte MT 59701

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

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing this brief letter to support and recommend Judge James J. Shea as the next Supreme Court Justice for the State of Montana. I have known Judge Shea or "Jim" for the past 34 years.

My first experience in meeting Jim was memorable, although not pleasant. I fractured my arm while pitching to Jim in the Butte city championship baseball game in 1980. However, shortly thereafter, Jim and I became great friends. We were friends throughout high school and college and we remain friends to this day.


From the beginning, it was apparent to me that Jim was a fine person and someone that I wanted to be associated with. Even then, Jim was a very respectful and open minded individual. He has always treated people the way they should be treated. I am certain this trait has led him to be the fine Judge that he is today.

I watched as Jim became a fine lawyer and then was appointed as the Judge of the Montana Workman's Compensation Court. In looking at his record as Judge, I am certainly not surprised to learn that Jim has earned a reputation as a fair Judge who takes painstaking effort to know every aspect of each case that comes before him. Moreover, he continues to treat everyone with great respect.

I know Jim is a fine man who is dedicated to his family and his community.

I am very proud to write this letter in support of Judge Jim Shea as the next Supreme Court Justice for the State of Montana. While I know the task before you is difficult, I also know you will not find a better person or a better candidate.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Ed Lester
Butte-Silver Bow

June Pusich-Lester
3032 Edwards Street
Butte MT 59701

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

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am writing this letter to recommend Judge James J. Shea as the next Supreme Court Justice for the State of Montana. I have known Jim since 1980, when we were both freshman and Butte Central High School.

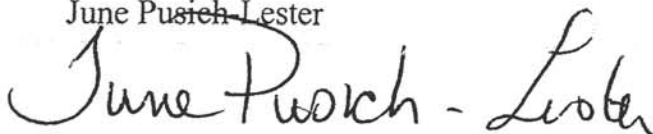
Jim was always one who treated others with respect and humility. He also has always been one who was very interested in the detailed facts of each situation and was genuinely concerned about the persons involved.

I believe Jim continues to act this way in his current position as the Judge of the Montana Workman's Compensation Court. Having known Jim for the past 33 years, I am not surprised at all that he has become a great judge.

It is without reservation that I support Judge Jim Shea to become the next Supreme Justice for the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

June Pusich-Lester

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June Pusich - Lester". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

PAOLI KUTZMAN, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

DAVID R. PAOLI
JOHN A. KUTZMAN*
PHILIP C. SHADWICK

257 WEST FRONT STREET, SUITE A
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MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802
PHONE: 406-542-3330
FAX: 406-542-3332

DAVIDPAOLI@PAOLI-LAW.COM
JOHNKUTZMAN@PAOLI-LAW.COM
PHILIPSHADWICK@PAOLI-LAW.COM

*Great Falls Office

March 19, 2014

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

Sent Via Email: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Judge James Jeremiah Shea for
Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission:

I write this letter in full support of the appointment of Judge Jim Shea to the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Judge Shea for many years and am very familiar with both his professional and personal life. Judge Shea is one of the most ethical, conscientious and caring individuals I know. He comports himself both professionally and personally in the highest fashion.

Furthermore, and more to the issue at hand, Judge Shea has the breadth and depth of professional experience to make an excellent Justice of the Montana Supreme Court. Over the years his practice has included criminal defense to plaintiff's litigation involving all types of cases. Judge Shea and I were partners for over five years and I can attest to the quality and vigor of his work. He was a wonderful trial lawyer; skilled and dogged. He treated the Court and counsel with utmost respect, and Court staff always enjoyed his quick wit and his engaging, funny stories. He is an excellent writer, well-reasoned, succinct and devoid of hyperbole.

Judge Shea is one of the most creative and insightful attorneys I have ever worked with. Most importantly, Judge Shea truly connects with and appreciates all people, from every walk of life. He is empathetic and understands the needs and concerns of every day individuals. It was my distinct pleasure to practice with Judge Shea and it was also my distinct honor to see him leave the practice of law and take the bench as Montana's Worker's Compensation Court Judge. I was lucky to have practiced with him.

Judge Shea's work and experience as a sitting judge, also exquisitely prepares him to be a fine Montana State Court Justice. Judge Shea has been required over these past ten years to manage his court, work with attorneys and litigants alike and prepare substantive orders and decisions all potentially scrutinized by the very Court to which he now seeks to become its next member. Judge Shea's opinions and orders have survived the critical eye of the Montana Supreme Court in the great majority of those decisions it has reviewed.

Although I do not practice in his Court, I have read and spoken with those who do and the consensus is unanimous that he treats all litigants and lawyers with respect and in a fair manner. Those attributes are the most valuable that any Judge seeking to become a Supreme Court Justice can possess.

Judge Shea's personal life is one of dedication to his family, his community and his philosophy of life. Public service has always been at the forefront of his worthy pursuits. He left a successful private practice so that he could serve the people and the workers of the State of Montana as the Montana Worker's Compensation Court Judge. His years of public service over the last ten years have been, beyond question, invaluable service to the people of the State of Montana. His dedication to and preservation of the rule of law and of the fair decision of all cases reflects very well on Judge Shea's strong belief and desire to serve the public.

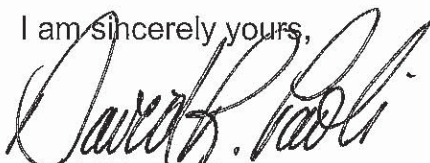
It is from the rich history of Butte that Judge Shea has developed a sense of his place and the worthy work of serving the public. He was raised by parents who served the public, their community, state and country. His mother, from whom he draws great inspiration, was the Executive Director of the Butte Anti-Poverty Council.

I can think of no better candidate to be appointed the next Montana Supreme Court Justice. Judge Shea's dedication to his family, his community and to the people of the state of Montana speak so strongly in support of his appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of Judge Shea's application for Justice of the Montana Supreme Court and respectfully request that you pass his name to Governor Bullock for that appointment.

With kind personal regards and great thanks for your service,

I am sincerely yours,



David R. Paoli

A. CLIFFORD EDWARDS
ROGER W. FRICKLE
TRIEL D. CULVER *
A. CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS
JACKIE S. SHIELDS **
JOHN W. EDWARDS
JARED C.B. FRICKLE

* ALSO ADMITTED IN NORTH DAKOTA

** ALSO ADMITTED IN WYOMING



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March 19, 2014

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY: lmenzies@mt.gov

RE: Letter of Support for Judge Jim Shea

To the Judicial Nominating Committee:

On behalf of my law firm, and myself, I write this letter to express our appreciation for Judge Shea submitting his name for your consideration, for recommendations to Governor Bullock for the vacant Montana Supreme Court position.

Individually and collectively, our firm knows Judge Shea to be an honest man, lawyer and judge who not only knows and understands the Law, but understands, and more importantly, its application to those who find themselves in the judicial system, for reasons either criminal or civil. He has made Fairness an attribute that he applies in his dealing with Montanans and our legal system.

We believe he would be an excellent choice for the commission to send on to the Governor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

EDWARDS, FRICKLE & CULVER

A. Clifford Edwards

ACE/ecw

ERB & SUENRAM, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

Telephone: (406)683-2391
Facsimile: (406)683-2233

117 South Idaho Street - 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 1366
Dillon, MT 59725

Calvin J. Erb
Andrew P. Suenram
Jean Bergeson
Adam M. Shaw

March 19, 2014

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

VIA EMAIL: lmenzies@mt.gov

Re: Judge James J. Shea

Dear Judge Simonton and Commission Members:

I am writing to convey my enthusiastic support for Judge James Shea to be nominated to the Montana Supreme Court. I can't imagine that Montana could find a more well rounded and ethical individual to fill this important position.

I have known Jim Shea for approximately 15 years. We first met when I was fortunate enough to co-counsel cases with Jim's law firm. I always appreciated Jim's piercing, witty and thorough analysis of cases we were working on. He could distill a case to its bare essentials faster than any lawyer I know, even when it was not flattering to our side.

Since Jim became the Workers Compensation Judge, my contacts with him have been social in nature. I have enjoyed keeping up with him and his family and making sure that he knows that Dillon has the upper hand in the Dillon/Butte Central rivalry! He assures me that was not the case when he played.....I really don't know.

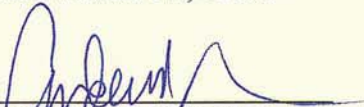
I know Jim to be a deeply committed father and husband. He is to be commended for balancing his extremely busy judicial schedule with his commitment to family and community. We could all use a lesson from Judge Shea in that regard.

The State of Montana would be well served to have Jim Shea on the Supreme Court. I would ask that the Commission forward his name to the Governor for the nomination.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

ERB & SUENRAM, PLLC


ANDREW P. SUENRAM

APS/bf

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Galen Hollenbaugh [galen@hollenbaugh.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:55 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Judicial nominations

Lois,

I would like to add my name to the list of people recommending Judge Jim Shea to the Nomination Commission.

As a 4 term legislator representing Helena, I have come to know Judge Shea as a hard working and fair Workers Comp Judge. Jim has proven his ability as an impartial Judge by being successfully confirmed by the State Senate twice, a feat that is not easy given the highly partisan nature of the Legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my recommendation, and I encourage the Commission to include Judge Jim Shea in their nomination list to Governor Bullock.

Representative Galen Hollenbaugh
HD 81 - Helena

Sent from my iPad

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 1:52 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Tom Murphy [Tom@murphylawoffice.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 4:26 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Three Strong Candidates for the Montana Supreme Court

Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator

Please add this to the comments solicited about the candidates for Montana Supreme Court Justice. I think it is very important to have experienced trial lawyers on the Court. At this time, I submit that you have three great candidates. Therefore, I ask the committee to strongly consider the following applicants: Amy Eddy, Judge Shea, and Erik Thueson. I know each of these candidates very well. Each would be an excellent Montana Supreme Court Justice. I know that your time is limited in reviewing these public comments, so please do not mistake my brevity. Please consider these candidates carefully. Thank you.

Thomas J. Murphy
Murphy Law Firm
Great Falls, Montana
(406) 452-2345
tom@murphylawoffice.net

Moreover, because the employer stands to benefit and profit from its employment of labor, and further is in the best position to avoid the risk of loss, the courts have uniformly recognized the impropriety of foisting on society the costs of a "broken body" and "diminished income" created by industry.

Mobile Elevator Co. v. White (Fla.1949).

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 1:46 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: mccarthybtt@aol.com [mccarthybtt@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 9:01 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Letter of Support for Jim Shea

Judicial Nomination Committee
c/o Lois Menzies

Re: Letter of Support for Jim Shea

To Whom This May Concern:

I would like to endorse Jim Shea in his effort to fill the vacant Montana Supreme Court seat.

I have known Jim for over thirty years. Jim is a passionate, dedicated hard working man. Jim is what I would refer to as a "regular guy". Jim respects people for who they are and always has a kind word to say with a smile on his face. Jim is a fair- minded, reasonable man.

Jim, along with the other candidates, is clearly qualified to fill this vacancy on the Supreme Court. What sets Jim aside are his personal qualities of fairness, integrity and most of all his ability to give all a fair shake.

I have been a Police Officer in Butte for over 22 years and am currently the Chief of Detectives. I have dealt with many types of people and have learned how to get a good read on people. The read I have on Jim Shea is that of an honest, respectful, reasonable and passionate man.

It is my humble opinion that Jim should be selected to fill the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Jerome McCarthy

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:23 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Libbi Lovshin [libbi@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Nomination support - Shea

March 19, 2014

Via Email-lmenzies@mt.gov
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Post Office Box 203005
Helena MT 59620

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court.

Having served on a non-profit board with Jim, I respect and appreciate his ability to thoughtfully consider decisions that came before us. His experience as a Workers' Comp Judge and in the private sector make him uniquely qualified to serve as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

Montana would be well served by a Supreme Court Justice with Jim's character, intellect, and commitment to family and community. I urge the commission to forward Judge Jim Shea's name to the Governor for consideration.

Sincerely,

Libbi Higgins Lovshin
846 S Hoback St
Helena, MT. 59601

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:26 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Arden Smith [deesmithiii@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Re: Judge Shea

Dee Smith
III

deesmithiii@gmail.com (406) 560-1379

Dear Judicial Nominating Commission,

I have known Jim Shea for many years. I have had the pleasure of working with him at Grandstreet Theatre as a fellow actor and as his director. He is a caring, intelligent, and well liked member of the Grandstreet volunteer family. When I have the opportunity to work with Jim I am always excited and relived. Jim Shea's work ethic is unparalleled and I can always rely on his preparedness. Aside from his consistency and work ethic, Jim Shea always brings a positive energy to his projects that bolsters the energy and work ethic of those around him. Aside from Jim Shea's work in the theatre I also have knowledge of his history. When I found out that Jim is a judge I shared with him that my mother had worked in Pocatello, ID for Judge Peter McDermott. This illustrated how small the world can be. Jim Shea, as a lawyer, had tried cases in front of Judge McDermott. I, of course, had to share this with my mother and Judge McDermott. They both remembered him. Thought it had many years since he had tried anything in Pocatello, his reputation as a prepared and intelligent lawyer had made a lasting impression. Judge McDermott and my mother both mentioned that Jim Shea was their favorite lawyer when they had cases of that nature in the court.

Throughout Jim Shea's life he has carried himself with fairness, integrity, and intelligence. Jim Shea is exactly the kind of person I want in the Montana Supreme Court. The honor, compassion, and fairness that he approaches everything in life with will be perfect for the Montana Supreme Court. I would be proud and relieved to know that a man of Jim's integrity is on the bench protecting and interpreting the law, insuring that the law is being fairly applied.

Please allow Jim Shea to continue is meaningful and fair minded career, he will make me, the state of Montana, and you proud.

Sincerely

Dee Smith III

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:33 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Jason Holden [jholden@faureholden.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Comment in support of James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

My name is Jason T. Holden. I am a 2001 graduate of the University of Montana School of Law and a 1998 graduate of the University of Montana. I grew up in Havre and have practiced law in Great Falls for nearly fifteen (15) years. I write in support of the James J. Shea (Jim) and his application for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

I have come to know Jim over the years as a compassionate and fair lawyer and judge. He is neither easily swayed by, nor boldly resistant to, the arguments placed before him. He appreciates advocacy and understands the reality of representing clients. He is a protector of Montana values and I believe he will uphold the principles of our Constitution. I believe he would make a remarkable Justice.

Jason Trinity Holden
Faure Holden Attorneys at Law, P.C.
P.O. Box 2466
1314 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59403-2466
406.452.6500 Phone
406.452.6507 Direct Line
406.452.6503 Fax
jholden@faureholden.com



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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:45 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: mthonzel [mthonzel@bresnan.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:45 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: recommendation for Jim Shea

To Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission:

The following is submitted in support Jim Shea's application to be appointed Justice of the Montana Supreme Court.

Because Jim did not practice law in Helena while I was serving as District Judge, I am not able to comment on his legal ability other than to note that he has earned the respect of attorneys I know who have appeared before him in the Workers Compensation Court. However, I can comment on his character which I find to be exemplary.

For the past year and a half Jim and I have served together on a hospital ministry team at Our Lady of the Valley Parish. Jim is a kind, caring and considerate person who is always willing to do whatever is necessary to carry out our duties.

Based on my experience with Jim and his reputation as the Workers Compensation Court Judge, I am confident that he has the necessary judicial temperament and integrity to be a good supreme court justice and that he would base his decisions on the facts and the law.

I am pleased to recommend him for this position.

Very truly yours,
Thomas C. Honzel
District Court Judge, retired

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:44 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Francis Marceau [fgmarceau@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:49 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Supreme Court Nomination

March 19, 2014

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

Members of the Judicial Nomination Commission

I am writing to urge you to recommend Jim Shea for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court.

I have known Jim both personally and professional for nearly 25 years.
In everything he does he is fair. Jim's ethics are unquestionable.
Whatever the issue Jim takes it on with determination and dedication to see it through to a satisfactory conclusion.

I feel the appointment of Jim Shea to the Montana Supreme Court would be a real asset to the citizens of Montana.

Thank you for considering my request.

Francis Marceau
PO Box 8115
Bigfork, MT 59911
hone 406-2500757

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:43 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Kevin Brown [<mailto:kevin@paolibrown.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:03 PM
To: 'Email-lmenzies@mt.gov'
Subject: RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am honored to comment on behalf of the honorable Judge James J. Shea as a nominee for the open Supreme Court Justice position. I urge you to appoint Mr. Shea to the Supreme Court vacancy. He has the experience, integrity, and temperament for the position. He is a proven jurist. As Montana's only Worker's Compensation Judge, he has established a proven track record of dedication, hard work, and keen intellect. He will make a find addition to our Court. On behalf of myself and my firm, we strongly encourage you to appoint him to the vacant position.



Kevin S. Brown, Esq.
Paoli and Brown, P.C.
116 West Callender Street
Livingston, MT 59047
Tel: 406/222-4420
Fax: 406/222-1032

kevin@paolibrown.com

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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:42 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Tony A. Schoonen [tony@boone-crockett.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 1:15 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Members:

I would appreciate your nomination of James Jeremiah Shea for the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. As a native of Butte, Montana, I grew up with James and found him to be a fine, upstanding and very honest gentlemen.

Even after our paths parted when I moved to Missoula, we have always had a similar interest in outdoor recreation. Montana's wildlife and wild places are one of our state's most valuable treasures. These lands have been in increasing demand by those who would lock the public out and decrease outdoor recreation opportunities.

It is critical that we protect our sacred outdoor heritage here in Montana. James will uphold and honor the values of every citizen of our great state.

Thank you for your consideration

Tony A. Schoonen
Missoula, Montana

Sara R. Sexe
3105 Kingwood Court
Great Falls, Montana 59404

March 15, 2014

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

RE: Application of James Shea for Appointment to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to support James Jeremiah Shea's application to be appointed to fill the vacant Montana Supreme Court seat. Jim should be considered by the Judicial Nomination Commission as one of the candidates presented to Governor Bullock for his consideration for appointment to the position.

I have had the opportunity to practice before Jim while he has been the Montana Workers Compensation Court Judge. In my observation, he has been even-handed and detailed in his evaluation of cases before him. His decisions have been reasoned, thoughtful, well researched and judicially sound. I have enjoyed practicing before him, and appreciate his fair and consistent approach to the law.

Jim's past practice and judicial experience provide him with a broad background which I believe are necessary traits of a Supreme Court justice. I request that you submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment consideration. If he is appointed, I believe he will serve Montana with the integrity and skill required of a Supreme Court justice.

Please favorably consider Jim Shea in this selection process. Thank you for your valuable time in serving on this Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SRS', written over a horizontal line.

Sara R. Sexe



EDMISTON & COLTON LAW FIRM

310 GRAND AVENUE • BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101
PHONE: 406.259.9986 • FAX: 406.259.1094
WWW.YELLOWSTONELAW.COM

JAMES G. EDMISTON, III
SHANE D. COLTON
JOSEPH P. COOK

March 17, 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 James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I am pleased to write a letter in support of James Jeremiah Shea for the Montana Supreme Court.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Jim for over 15 years and have worked with him as an attorney and appeared before him at the Worker's Compensation Court. Jim was an outstanding attorney while in practice. He was thoughtful, hardworking and always reasonable. The qualities Jim displayed as a practicing attorney carried over to the bench. He effectively moves cases along a very busy docket and provides fair unbiased and reasoned decisions. Jim follows the law and does not use his position on the bench to advance an individual ideology.

Jim also understand that while he is seeking an appointment to Supreme Court that appointment is only the first step towards service as a Supreme Court Justice. Even before there was an opening on the Court Jim was committed to going out and meeting the people of Montana and asking for their votes. Jim understands that being a candidate and running an election is hard work. With the full support of his family he has made an unwavering commitment to retain his seat on the Supreme Court if appointed. Jim's sincerity and likeability combined with his track record of service as the Worker's Compensation Judge make him the lead candidate to get confirmed and hold the seat in an election.

Jim Shea has the credentials, the experience and the demeanor to effectively serve the people of Montana as its next Supreme Court Justice. I hope that you will forward his name to Governor Bullock and I thank you for your service on this very important commission.

Sincerely,

Shane Colton

March 10, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
P.O. Box 2030005
Helena, MT 59620-3005

Dear Commission Members:

I would like you to nominate James Jeremiah Shea for the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. As a school administrator I knew James in middle school. At that time he was an outstanding orator and a good student. My wife also knew him when she was teaching at Butte Central.

While I do know several of the other candidates for the supreme court, my wife and I feel more comfortable with someone from Southwest Montana that has actual experience, in recreating and enjoying our wonderful public lands and waters as well as the continued assaults and takeovers by wealthy out of state interests.

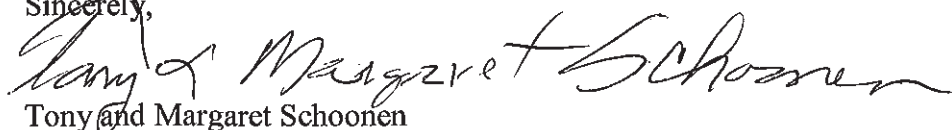
We feel very strongly that these same right-wing out of state interests are trying to do the same take over of the Montana Supreme Court. I personally have been fighting access battles since 1984 and fully understand the necessity of a fair and balanced supreme court, since the vast majority of these take over battles end up in the high court.

The other overriding issue is the "Dark Money" behind our state elections for judicial positions, much of which is untraceable.

I knew Brian Morris and his family very well and he did an excellent job while seated on the high court. We feel strongly that James Shea will also do an excellent job if appointed. In checking his background and his law practice, he is uniquely qualified in many areas of our judicial system.

We would appreciate your nomination of James Shea for the vacancy.

Sincerely,


Tony and Margaret Schoonen



Integrated Information Solutions, Inc.

March 18, 2014

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
PO Box 203005
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Letter of recommendation for James "Jimmy" Shea

I write this letter with a tremendous amount of pride and admiration for a person I have known my entire life, James Shea (though seldom; have I ever called him James).

My name is Joe Johnston and I have owned an IBM Business Partnership in Missoula for the past 17 years and also spend my weekends each fall as a Division 1 football official in the PAC12 conference. While I have been involved in some unpopular decisions in my career, I have always used one guiding principle; right or wrong, never let people question your character. Thus, my pleasure, in writing this letter for a person I have known for so long and his unwavering moral character.

James and our families were raised together in Butte, attended the same grade school and later the University of Montana. Whether practicing civil or criminal law in the private sector or maintaining his current position as judge of our state worker's compensation court, he has never lost his ability to relate or understand issues of the common man. More importantly, and as a member of our highest state court, I know he will pride himself and remain unbiased in presiding over each and every decision, while carrying the burden that both parties will always be emotional and faithful to their legal opinions.

In closing, James has always been a person of tremendous core values and *loyalty*. Whether to his Irish roots, his family, his friends, his community, his alma-matter, and currently his courtroom; loyalty is not something that can be learned or taught, you either have it or do not. I can assure you, James carries all these ideals along with the binding principles that will make him a respected, compassionate and successful member of the Montana Supreme Court!!

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Joe Johnston
5114 Pintlar Mtn Ct
Missoula, MT 59803

**Anthony Newville Investigation
8316 N Lombard #332
Portland Oregon
97203
(503) 539-7171**

To whom it may concern;

This letter is to show my support for Jim Shea as a candidate for appointment to the Supreme Court of the state of Montana. All though Jim and I grew up eighty miles apart, he lived in Butte and I lived in Bozeman, we did not meet until 1993 in Portland Oregon when Jim came to work at Metropolitan public defender's office where I was employed as an investigator. From Jim's first day at work one thing was obvious, he held a strong belief in the ideal of justice for everyone, black, white, young, old, it didn't matter to Jim, all deserved the best representation he could provide. Jim was an incredibly hard worker; I think he spent every weekend at the office getting ready for trials; his dedication to his clients was an example to other Attorneys at the office.

After working with Jim a while another of his traits that I came to admire was how he treated everyone with such respect, Investigators, legal assistance, secretary's, court clerks, jail guards, everybody was treated with kindness and respect by Jim, to me, this is the most important trait a truly great Attorney can have. Having worked with many Attorneys and many egos for twenty five years I can say with a high degree of certainty that those like Jim that show respect for everyone are the attorneys most committed people and that in my opinion is what a Supreme Court Justice should be, committed to people.

As a displaced Montanan who hopes to return when I retire, I cannot think of anybody who would up hold the values of the people of Montana better than Jim Shea.

Anthony Newville



JAMES A. MANLEY
DISTRICT JUDGE



TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF MONTANA

LAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
POLSON, MONTANA 59860
(406) 883-7250

SANDERS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
THOMPSON FALLS, MONTANA 59873
(406) 827-6962

March 19, 2014

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

Re: Nomination of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judge Simonton and Commission Members:

I strongly support Judge James Shea for nomination to the Montana Supreme Court, and hope you will include Judge Shea in the finalists you send on to the Governor.

I knew Jim Shea as a lawyer. He is brilliant, honest, decent, straight-forward, and extremely and broadly well-informed and knowledgeable. He has a gift for consensus building and common sense, such that a wide range of people and lawyers trust him.

Unlike most applicants, Judge Shea has also demonstrated his excellent judicial qualities in his years on the bench. As his written supporters attest, he is respected as a fair jurist by the full range of attorneys who have appeared in his Court.

Perhaps more than any other applicant, Jim also is of Montana. He loves the people, history, land, and politics of Montana, and cares deeply about the integrity of Montana law. I know he also cares deeply about the independence and excellence of our Supreme Court.

Montana would be very fortunate to have Judge Shea on the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,


James A. Manley

FAURE HOLDEN
attorneys at law pc

Jean E. Faure • Jason T. Holden • Dana A. Ball • Kristen G. Juras (of counsel)

March 19, 2014

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

Re: James J. Shea

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments. I write in support of James J. Shea ("Jim") as a candidate for Justice of the Montana Supreme Court. I graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 1986. Following graduation, I spent two years as a law clerk with the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco. In 1988, I returned to Montana to enter private practice in Great Falls. I have a civil litigation practice, which focuses primarily on the defense of employers and businesses in labor and employment-related claims.

I have known Jim since 1998, as he is one of my husband's friends and was the best man in our wedding. Although our relationship started as friends, over time I came to appreciate Jim's intellect and skill as an attorney. He is without a doubt one of the smartest people I know. What is remarkable about Jim's intellect is his immediate grasp of the issues and his ability to understand the issues from many perspectives.

Over the past 15 years, I have had occasion to witness Jim in action, both as an attorney and a Judge. I greatly respect his integrity and discipline. He has a strong work ethic, a commitment to the tasks placed in front of him, and an ability to handle any intellectual challenge. As the Workers Compensation Judge, Jim has consistently has made sound, well-reasoned and logical decisions. He has superior written communication skills and genuinely enjoys writing.

Montana and the judicial system would be well served by Jim. I recommend him as a Justice without reservation. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

FAURE HOLDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW, P.C.

By: 
Jean E. Faure

FAURE HOLDEN attorneys at law pc

P.O. BOX 2466 GREAT FALLS, MT 59403 • 1314 CENTRAL AVE. • GREAT FALLS, MT 59401
PHONE: 406.452.6500 • FAX: 406.452.6503 • www.faureholden.com



P.O. Box 9169, Missoula, MT 59807-9169
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www.alpsnet.com

March 19, 2014

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

RE: Hon. James Shea Application for Appointment to Montana Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the Honorable James Shea for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I do so with great admiration and respect for Jim's legal knowledge and skills, experience and demonstrated judicial temperament.

I first met Jim more than 25 years ago when we began our legal careers together at UM School of Law in 1988. From the day I met Jim, I've observed that his most admirable traits have never changed. He has always treated others with honesty, fairness and respect. Without question, these innate qualities have served him well throughout his career and his tenure as Montana's Workers Compensation Judge.

Equally important, Jim is extremely bright, diligent and conscientious in his work product. He never waivers in his quest to understand the facts and to ascertain the truth. Further, he understands jurisprudence and the importance of applying the facts to the applicable law. In doing so, he brings no political agenda into the judicial arena which is why he is so admired and respected in so many diverse circles throughout Montana.

Lastly, anyone who knows Jim has come to love and appreciate his down-to-earth humor and sense of compassion for others. The citizens of Montana will be well-served having James Shea as a Montana Supreme Court Justice.

Sincerely,

Bradley D. Dantic, Esq.
Vice-President and General Counsel



1001 SW Fifth Avenue
Suite 1414
Portland, Oregon 97204
Tel (503) 224-2595
Fax (503) 224-3203

SAMUEL C. KAUFFMAN
sam@kauffmankilberg.com

SENT VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I write to support the nomination of Judge James Shea for the Montana Supreme Court. I am honored to have known Judge Shea for over twenty years, since he was a young lawyer working as a public defender. Judge Shea and I have remained friends and I have followed his career since then, both as a lawyer in private practice and as a judge with the Workers' Compensation Court.

I continued as a criminal defense lawyer, working in small firms, as a sole practitioner, and most recently with a large commercial law firm. Over the past twenty years, I have represented clients ranging from large corporations to indigent criminal defendants to Guantanamo detainees and have appeared before numerous trial and appellate judges in both state and federal court.

In my view, the best judges are those that are not only highly intelligent, but who have a passion for justice. Key is the rare ability to project an appearance of fairness and respect for everyone who comes before the Court, whatever their circumstances. Judge Shea will be an outstanding Supreme Court Justice.

I can safely say that few people have had more of an impact on me as a lawyer than Judge Shea and I believe that he will continue to serve the people of Montana with integrity and distinction.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SK", is written over the text "Best Regards,".

Samuel C. Kauffman



111 N. HIGGINS, SUITE 600
P.O. BOX 4747
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59806-4747
TELEPHONE: (406) 721-3400
FAX (406) 721-6985
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JEREMY G. THANE, RETIRED

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REID J. PERKINS
WILLIAM E. MCCARTHY
MATTHEW J. CUFFE
JANE E. COWLEY
COLLEEN M. DOWDALL
AMY M. SCOTT SMITH
JORI QUINLAN
JESSE C. KODADEK

March 19, 2014

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

Re: Comment and Support – **James Jeremiah Shea**

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to submit comments in support of the application of Jim Shea for associate justice on the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Jim since we were students at the University of Montana School of Law. I have watched Jim's career evolve over the years. I was pleased when he was appointed to the bench in 2005.

Jim has proven that he has the appropriate judicial temperament to serve as associate justice through his exemplary 8+ year service as a trial court judge with the Workers' Compensation Court. He has repeatedly proven his ability to dispassionately apply the law to the facts, and yet understands how a judicial decision will affect the people appearing before the court. He communicates well with counsel, witnesses and parties. Jim is willing to listen and consider all sides of a debatable proposition.

Jim has a keen intellect, and quickly comprehends and understands new concepts and ideas. He sees the big picture as well as the details. His strong research and writing skills allow him to disseminate complex analyses in an understandable and manageable manner. Jim understands the import of his decisions and the broader effect they may have.

Jim is amiable, measured and persuasive – qualities that are needed on the Court. He seeks to build coalitions and would do well to find consensus among the justices. Jim would actively contribute to the proper functioning and well-being of the Court.

Jim is approachable, articulate and charismatic. As a result, he is eminently electable and would serve for many terms if appointed.

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Office of Court Administrator
March 19, 2014
Page 2

Finally, Jim has impeccable ethics. His personal and professional conduct is a model for attorneys and judges. There is no doubt that he would bring honor and dignity to the Montana Supreme Court.

I encourage you to select Jim Shea as one of your nominees for the position of associate justice. Jim is well-qualified and clearly demonstrates the needed attributes of an excellent justice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



Shane A. Vannatta
svannatta@wordenthane.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 7:30 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: nancy zadick [nancyzadick@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:59 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Cc: Lane Larson; Mona Charles; Patrick Kelly; Patrick Kelly; Ryan Rusche; Ryan Rusche; Shirley Ball; Simonton, Richard
Subject: Re: Out of Office

Greetings,

I received a visit today from local attorneys Mike George and Charlie Lucero. They wanted to voice their support for these supreme court candidates: Amy Eddy, Jim Shea, Erik Thueson.

Thank you.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 7:27 AM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Eric Beyer [ericbeyer1@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 11:58 PM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Jim Shea Nomination

Dear Judicial Nominating Committee,

I am writing in support of Jim Shea's application for appointment to the Supreme Court. I am a Montana business owner. I own pharmacies in Missoula, Libby, Philipsburg, and Frenchtown. As a small business owner and someone committed to rural healthcare, it is important to me to have a qualified and fair Justice on the Montana Supreme Court.

I have known Jim Shea for about 10 years. Jim has years of experience as a lawyer and a judge. Just as important though, he is a fair and decent person whom I would trust to competently handle business and healthcare matters that might come before the court. Please forward Jim's name for appointment to the court.

Sincerely,

Eric Beyer
Owner/Pharmacist

Granite Pharmacy
P: 406-926-2940
F: 406-926-2944
www.granitepharmacy.com

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:51 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Kyle Shea [kyle.shea84@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:12 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Nomination of Judge James J. Shea to MT Supreme Court

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I am writing this letter in support of the Nomination of Judge James Jeremiah Shea to the Montana Supreme Court. I do this not only as a Montana citizen, but as a United States Marine Corps officer and helicopter pilot whose duties have allowed me to live in numerous other states. This has allowed me to witness partisan politics destroy any notion of cooperation and progress which only reinforces the example Montanans set year after year. We know and understand the responsibilities we have to each other as citizens of this great state. This responsibility is to make the right decisions in order for the outcomes to benefit all Montana citizens. We do this better than any other state in the country.

As part of the Judicial Nomination Commission, a large part of that responsibility is now falling to you. The citizens of Montana have entrusted you to find the right person to fill the vacancy on our state Supreme Court. This is no easy task as I am sure there are many people who would be a "good" fit for this position. I challenge you, however, to find someone who would be a "great" fit for this position. You need to look no further than Judge James J. Shea. Our current Worker's Compensation Court Judge, twice unanimously confirmed, espouses the kind "nose to the grindstone" work ethic that Montanans and the state Supreme Court expect and, more importantly, deserve. One look at his resume and you will know the breadth of his experience from his time as a public defender to his current position. I don't need to champion his professional achievements though because they speak for themselves. I am writing in order to give you a glimpse of the true character of the man behind that great resume.

I have had the privilege to know Judge Shea my entire life. Our encounters, however, usually lack the formality one would expect to be rendered to someone in his position because I know him as "Uncle Jim". As Judge Shea's nephew I have witnessed his unending humor, quick wit, his tireless devotion to faith, family and the law. These traits have formed the foundation of his character. As a Marine Officer, one of the leadership traits that we strive for is to know oneself and seek self-improvement. This important trait does not have to be applied only to the military. Jim has demonstrated this impeccably by setting the example through his actions and not just his words. He is a lifelong student of the law because it is his passion and he knows that continuing to learn and improve only increases his credibility as a great judge. He has taught this lesson to his daughters, as well as, his numerous nieces and nephews, myself included. Professional excellence is just one piece of the equation. The other piece relates to his personal development. My uncle Jim is devout in his faith and in the last few years has turned his sights onto constantly improving his personal health and well-being. Watching his transformation and the effect it has had on him and his family was truly a sight to see. He is an inspiration, a humble leader and consummate professional.

In closing I can only reiterate what I have said before. Montana has the opportunity to once again be the example that the rest of this country needs to look up to. We need to continue that trend by nominating someone to our Supreme Court that can set that example. Judge James Jeremiah Shea is that person. He has the credibility to back up his decisions, the devotion to due process and the rule of law, and the utmost respect from his friends, family, colleagues and those who have appeared before him in court. Thank you for your time and consideration of my support for Judge Shea.

Regards,

Captain Kyle P. Shea
United States Marine Corps.

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:50 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Phil Bartruff [phil.bartruff@ihg.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:10 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: Supreme Court Vacancy

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Members of the Commission;

I am writing this email in support of the appointment of James Shea to the vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. Although I do not have a professional relationship with Judge Shea, I do have a personal relationship with Jim, and I am proud to call him my friend.

As a lawyer and a judge, Judge Shea's record speaks for itself. As a family man, the father of two unbelievable daughters and the husband of Helena's finest family counselor, Jim shows his commitment to high standards. Jim supports the community as a member of the Board for Grandstreet Theatre, Helena's community theatre, involvement in his church and with Helena's education system. Above all, Jim displays a compassion for people. Isn't that really the most important attribute a judge can possess?

I have known Jim for nearly 10 years, and in that time he consistently shows his extraordinary character through his integrity, respect of others, trustworthiness, sense of fairness and right, an unmatched sense of humor and a quick wit. He constantly strives to improve himself mentally and physically. Did I mention he runs marathons? His background and experience has brought him to this moment. Please confirm his appointment to support the continued improvement of Montana and its communities.

Thank you for considering Judge Shea for this very important position.
Most Sincerely,

Phil Bartruff

--

Phil Bartruff | Senior Training Consultant
Hotel Operations Training Team
IHG | Three Ravinia Drive, Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30346
Cell: [406-600-4987](tel:406-600-4987) | fax: [406-449-0306](tel:406-449-0306) | phil.bartruff@ihg.com



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Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:49 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Betsy Palmer [palmer2217@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 8:40 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: James Jeremiah Shea

We are writing this letter for Jim Shea as nominee for Supreme Court Justice. This letter is from a personal perspective. We have known Jim his whole life and feel he is definitely the man for the job. He is extremely personable, highly intelligent and an honest and fair person. His ability to laugh at himself and his understanding of human nature are just examples of his righteousness. We feel he is the right and only choice for the appointment of Supreme Court Justice.

Thank you,

Dave & Betsy Palmer
2217 N Main Street
Walkerville, MT 59701

Cook, Kevin

From: Menzies, Lois
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:48 PM
To: Cook, Kevin
Subject: Supreme Court -- Shea Public Comment

From: Kendall Van Dyk [kendallvandyk@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Menzies, Lois
Subject: James Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Committee--

Please accept the following comments regarding the vacancy to the Montana Supreme Court Justice position.

Jim Shea enjoys a strong reputation among community members and within the legal community on a statewide basis. He is twice appointed and confirmed by the Montana State Legislature to serve in his current position as Montana's Workers Compensation Judge, a position for which I supported him.

His experience, proven dedication to public service and solid record of understanding the Constitution of the State of Montana shines above all other candidates. Hence, I am proud to endorse Jim Shea for appointment to serve on the Supreme Court of the State of Montana.

Best Regards,

--

Senator Kendall Van Dyk
PO Box 441
Billings, MT 59103
406.690.1728

Rock Ringling
P.O. Box 355
Helena, MT 59624
Office (406) 442-7027
Cell (406) 459-3753
rock@mtlandreliance.org

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

RE: Letter of recommendation for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

I'm writing today to recommend Jeremiah Shea for the appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I believe Jim would be an excellent choice for recommendation by the Judicial Nomination Commission.

Jim has shown to be a fair and hardworking Judge for the Montana Workers Compensation Court for the past eight years. The work ethic Jim has shown will serve Montana well at the Montana Supreme Court. His ability to see and understand complicated legal matters, while at the same time being able to discern the human factor in cases brought before his court makes him an excellent candidate for Supreme Court Justice.

Besides his experience as a Workers Comp Judge, Jim also practiced law in Missoula as a private attorney. The Judicial Nominating Commission will see the merit of Jim's application and should place him on the recommendation list to be considered by Governor Bullock.

Best,

Rock Ringling

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rock Ringling', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.



Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

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Milton Datsopoulos

Dennis E. Lind
William K. VanCanagan
Rebecca L. Summerville
David B. Cotner
Darla J. Keck
* Terance P. Perry
Molly K. Howard
* Phil McCreedy
Trent N. Baker
Peter F. Lacny
Nathan G. Wagner
* Del M. Post
Joseph R. Casillas
George H. Corn
Kyle C. Ryan
Sherine D. Fernando
Brian M. Lebsock
Jason A. Williams

Ronald B. MacDonald (1946-2002)

* Also admitted in Massachusetts
* Also admitted in North Dakota
* Also admitted in Arizona

March 19, 2014

Via E-mail Only

Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
lmenzies@mt.gov

Dear Judicial Nomination Commission Members,

I write, on behalf of my colleagues below, to provide the Commission my enthusiastic support and endorsement for Jim Shea to appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I am the founding member and senior partner of a twenty-lawyer firm in Missoula, Montana. I have practiced law for over forty years and have appeared in most state and federal courtrooms around Montana as well as numerous courts in other states.

I have known Jim Shea since he was admitted to the practice of law in Montana. During the twenty years that I have known Jim I have been in numerous litigation matters that also involved Jim's participation. I have found Jim to be intellectually gifted, legally skilled, and most impressive, adept in dealing with the human factor in the practice of law. Also impressive, Jim has always, even in the most emotional and controversial cases, practiced with a high level of civility.

Jim had an extraordinary career as an attorney – practicing first as a public defender and then going into private practice. His broad base of legal practice served him well when he took the bench as the state Workers Compensation Judge. While on the bench, Jim displayed a judicial temperament and fairness that made him well liked and respected on both sides of the aisle. As a Judge, his trial level decisions were impartial and routinely upheld by the Supreme Court. Importantly, he treated all litigants with the utmost respect. Jim's practical experience as

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

March 19, 2014

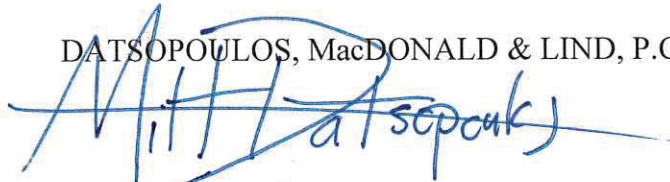
Page 2

both an attorney and a trial Judge provides a balanced body of experience important to the Supreme Court.

I am certain that Jim Shea will make an extraordinary Supreme Court Justice. I strongly urge you to submit his name to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Respectfully Yours,

DATSOPOULOS, MacDONALD & LIND, P.C.



Milton Datsopoulos

We concur in the above recommendation:



Terance P. Perry

Phillip L. McCree

Peter F. Lacny

J.R. Casillas

Molly K. Howard

Del M. Post

Nathan G. Wagner

Sherine D. Fernando

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

Via Email-lmenzies@mt.gov
Judicial Nomination Commission
c/o Lois Menzies
Post Office Box 203005
Helena MT 59620

RE: Nomination of Judge James Shea for Montana Supreme Court Vacancy

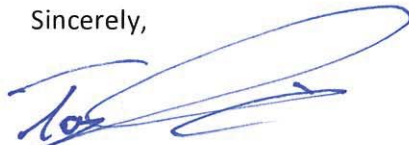
Dear Members of the Commission;

I strongly support the appointment of Judge James Shea to the Montana Supreme Court. I have known Jim for close to 7 years and have great respect for his intellect, his commitment to his family and community and his breadth of knowledge. He is one of the finest people I have had the privilege to know.

With Judge Shea's experience as a two term Worker's Compensation Judge and his wealth of experience in the private sector, he is uniquely qualified to serve as a Montana Supreme Court Justice. Judge Shea has shown himself to be a consistent, impartial and thoughtful Judge.

I am confident that Jim Shea's character coupled with his wit, intellect and experience make him a great choice for the Montana Supreme Court and urge the commission to forward his name to the Governor for consideration.

Sincerely,



Todd Y. Lovshin
846 S. Hoback St.
Helena, MT 59601



Odegard 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

March 19, 2014

Via Electronic Mail Only

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

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Honorable James Jeremiah Shea

Dear Commission Members:

I write to express my enthusiastic support for the application of Honorable James Jeremiah Shea to fill the current vacancy on the Montana Supreme Court. For the past 15 years, my practice has focused heavily in the area of workers' compensation. I have had several cases in the workers' compensation court since Judge Shea's appointment to the bench in 2005, and I have read most of the decisions he has handed down since that time. Judge Shea's legal and analytical skills are second to none. His opinions are thoroughly researched and extremely well-written. Judge Shea is respectful of precedent and the litigants. His judicial temperament should be the model for all judges and his decisions are not influenced by the clamor of public sentiment or outside interest. Judge Shea embodies Rule 1.2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Recently, I had occasion to appear before Judge Shea on a dispositive motion while representing an injured claimant. The motion presented a classic "gray" area in the law. Both parties presented spirited briefs on the matter. Because of all that was at stake for my client, I invited her and her parents to appear in Helena for the oral argument. As is so often the case, my client had a somewhat jaded impression of the legal system. Judge Shea, in his customary fashion, asked probing and thoughtful questions, mindful of not only the issue involved at hand but also how his decision might impact precedent and future cases. It was an impressive display of judicial acumen and temperament.

It is understatement to say that my client was impressed with Judge Shea that day. She was impressed with how prepared he was and how concerned he seemed to be for the interests of both parties. My client left the process with a completely different attitude toward judges, lawyers and the legal system in general. It is obvious that Judge Shea has a deep respect for the rule of law and the people affected by it. He is perfectly suited to sit on our state's highest court.

In my humble opinion, there is not a better candidate to fill Judge Morris' seat on the Montana Supreme Court. I hope that you recommend Judge Shea to Governor Bullock for appointment to the Montana Supreme Court. I thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely,

ODEGAARD BRAUKMANN LAW, PLLC



PAUL D. ODEGAARD

PDO/kab

Lois Menzies

Office of Court Administrator

Lois Menzies:

Good morning Lois, the JW & Lori Westman family from Park City, MT wish to have our comments regarding the Montana Supreme Court considered.

The Westman family is a blue collar family living in small town Montana. We have two children with one still attending Park City High School, we are big believers in public education and being involved with our public school and community. We are believers in anything regarding the public trust whether it be our publicly owned state and federal lands, our public school systems and our judicial system.

After reviewing the qualifications and backgrounds of the individuals interested in the opening on our Montana Supreme Court seat we have come up with a list of three applicants we feel would most parallel our beliefs and expectations.

- **Elizabeth Ann Brennan**

- **Amy Poehling Eddy**

- **James Jeremiah Shea**

We appreciate the ability to comment on this issue and the importance of the process of public involvement we hold dear.

JW & Lori Westman

PO Box 203

Park City, MT 59063

Jay M. Erickson, Esq.

P.O. Box 355

Helena, MT 59601

Office (406) 443-7027

Cell (406) 459-3750

jay@mtlandreliance.org

March 19, 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 James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice

Dear Ms. Menzies:

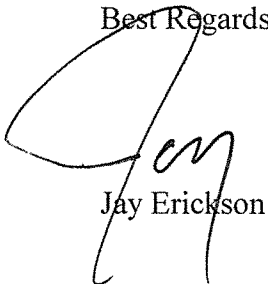
I am writing this letter of recommendation to the Judicial Nomination Commission for James Jeremiah Shea for Supreme Court Justice.

I have known Jim Shea for over 20 years, first as a lawyer when he practiced in Missoula, then as a Judge of the Montana Workers Compensation Court these past eight years.

Jim Shea will be an outstanding Supreme Court Justice. He was an excellent lawyer and he is a fine Workers' Compensation Court Judge. He has exhibited tremendous judicial temperament. He has a good sense of humor with varied interests outside of the law. His work product is superior and has demonstrated time and again his ability to analyze complicated legal issues and apply the law appropriately. He makes decisions that are just and fair. He is unbiased and impartial.

Jim Shea has all of the credentials, experience, and wisdom to be a fine Supreme Court Justice. I urge the Judicial Nominating Commission to place him on the list for recommendation to Governor Bullock for appointment.

Best Regards,



Jay Erickson



Rick Anderson
600 Dewey Blvd., Suite B
Butte, Montana 59701

406-494-3700 (phone)
406-494-3799 (fax)

March 12, 2014

Nancy Zadick
1901 Whispering Ridge Drive
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Patrick Kelly
14 N. 19th Street
Miles City, Montana 59301

Mona Charles
1420 Lake Blaine Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Ryan Rusche
73 Lone Juniper Lane
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Richard Simonton
207 Bell St.
Glendive, Montana 59330

Lane Larson
1417 Cedar Canyon Road
Billings, Montana 59101

Shirley Ball
172 Bell Road
Nashua, Montana 59248

Re: Workers Compensation Judge James Shea

Dear Judicial Nomination Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Workers Compensation Judge James Shea to highly recommend him for the vacant Supreme Court Justice seat which you will be helping the Governor to fill in the near future. I have known Judge Shea and his family for most of my adult life and know him and his family to be honest, hardworking, and down to earth Montanans.

Judge Shea has excelled as the Workers Compensation judge and his decisions have been consistently fair, well reasoned, and well written. Not only will Judge Shea bring his experience and knowledge as a judge to the Montana Supreme Court, but he will also bring his many years of experience as a litigator and his time "in the trenches" This is invaluable and necessary experience for one to be a Supreme Court Justice.

I firmly believe Judge Shea would be a fair, intelligent, and hardworking Justice. I strongly encourage you to nominate him for the upcoming position on the Court. Should any of you wish to discuss this further with me, I would be happy to do so.

Sincerely,

ANDERSON LAW, PLLC

By


Rick Anderson