

Message: Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jason Besler**✉ Re: Letter of Recommendation for Jason Besler**

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Wednesday, June 06, 2018 4:09 PM
To Megan Heneke
Cc

Thanks!!

On Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 2:09 PM, Megan Heneke <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

I practiced law in Cedar Rapids from 2011 to 2014. Jason Besler was often my opposing counsel. Jason would make an excellent judge. Jason has the knowledge and curiosity to excel at tackling legal issues, but most importantly, Jason has the temperament to treat all parties equally and with respect. As a prosecutor, Jason understood his role. He began each case as a neutral fact finder. He never approached cases with preconceived notions regarding the outcome.

Jason knew he wielded tremendous power as a prosecutor and he took this power very seriously. He never made arbitrary decisions. He understood that a conviction comes with many consequences for the defendant and he sought a just outcome in every case. He used his independent judgment and understood that a prosecutor's role is to seek justice for the state.

Finally, I know Jason to be an upstanding individual. We would all be fortunate if more people like Jason went into public service. Jason and I disagree on many political issues, but I know him to be compassionate, polite, and respectful. He builds relationships on these characteristics and I'm confident he would bring these characteristics to the bench.

Best,

Megan Heneke

--

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg

515-725-3513 | austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Because Governor Reynolds' schedule changes frequently, and at times virtually at the last minute due to her obligations to the state, you will be notified as quickly as possible if the governor must miss your event.

Message: Judicial Application

 **Judicial Application**

From Ellen Ramsey-Kacena **Date** Wednesday, June 06, 2018 4:23 PM
To Smith, Colin
Cc

I use Virtru to send and receive encrypted email. Click the "unlock message" button below to decrypt and read my message. If you have any questions, please contact me.

[Unlock Message](#)

virtruVirtru encrypts emails to keep private information safe. Learn more at Virtru.com.

Virtru Secure Email: v1.4.0

Message ID: dc0b3606-337f-4528-aae2-4438370f44a7

Virtru Metadata:

eyJ2ZXJzaW9uIjoiaWMS40LjAilLCJtZXNzYWdlSWQiOiJkYzBiMzYwNi0zMzdmLTQ1MjgtYWF1Mi00NDM4MzZjQ0YTeiLCJyZWlvdGVDb250ZW50TGluayI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2Vj

--- START PROTECTED MESSAGE TDF 0 ---
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--- END PROTECTED MESSAGE ---

Message: Reference Letter - Jason Besler**✉ Reference Letter - Jason Besler****From** Craig Foote**Date** Wednesday, June 06, 2018 7:41 PM**To** Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov**Cc**

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I would like to write to you regarding Jason Besler.

My understanding is that he is a finalist for a district judge position.

I have known Jason and his family for over seven years. We both attend the same church in Cedar Rapids, and I have also spoken with Jason many times at other community events. I have been a teacher in the Cedar Rapids area for over twenty years, including currently teaching government and history at Cedar Valley Christian School in Cedar Rapids. I have asked Jason on multiple occasions to come and speak to my classes. His insight into the current state of our state and national government is remarkable. He always does an excellent job of being fair and respectful in the way he addresses political issues, especially in front of young people. His trial experience and work in the prosecutor's office is extensive, and he is someone that I would call on if I needed help in understanding a legal or political issue.

Jason is even-tempered, thoughtful, and detail-oriented. He has a very good reputation in our community, and I am humbled that he asked me to write to you on his behalf.

I believe that he would be an excellent judge. He would be someone that you would be proud to appoint to this position. I hope that you would give him every consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Foote

[REDACTED]



Cedar Rapids, Iowa [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Message: Jason Besler Letter of Recommendation

 **Jason Besler Letter of Recommendation**

From Kraig Paulsen **Date** Wednesday, June 06, 2018 9:43 PM
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

 **2018-06-06 Besler Ltr of Rec.pdf** (213 Kb HTML)  **ATT01453.htm** (1 Kb HTML)

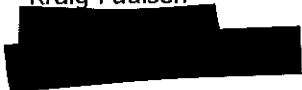
Meaghan,

Please find attached my letter to Governor Reynolds supporting Jason Besler in his efforts to be selected as an Iowa 6th District Judge. My understanding is you are the point of contact for this appointment. If you could respond so I know you received this I would appreciate it.

If there is anything else I can help with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Original will follow in the mail.

All the best,
Kraig

Kraig Paulsen


KRAIG PAULSEN

Kelley, Iowa

June 6, 2018

The Honorable Kim Reynolds, Governor
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Attn.: Meaghan O'Brien

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I wish to inform you of my unconditional support for Jason Besler to become an Iowa District Court Judge.

I have known Jason since 2001 when he agreed to support and assist me on my first campaign for the Iowa General Assembly. I have since had the opportunity to interact with him in many settings and have seen his demeanor and analytical abilities tested in both easy and difficult situations. He is consistently even-tempered and always thoughtful.

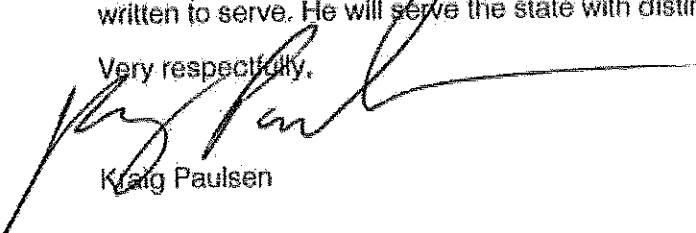
Born in Waukon, Jason is a lifelong Iowan who has prosecuted in Linn County for the last 18 years. He graduated from Luther College in 1998 and the University of Iowa Law School in 1999. After graduating from the University of Iowa he and his wife, Karen, moved to Linn County so Jason could join the office of the Linn County Attorney. He has prosecuted cases ranging from misdemeanors to Class A felonies. It is clear to me from our conversations he has developed the requisite understanding and love for the law, analyzing the law, and understanding of the larger policy questions our laws support.

Jason is also committed to service. He volunteers his time in various organizations. Among others, he served as a board member for Bridgehaven (formerly Aid to Women), a nonprofit pregnancy resource center. He is currently on the board of Isaac Newton Christian Academy, next year to be a pre-k through 11th grade education institution. On these boards he has been exposed to many issues and he has enhanced his skills as a leader during sometimes difficult and contested issues.

I have spoken with him regarding becoming a judge and I have no doubt he fully appreciates the necessity for fairness. I have no doubt about his passionate commitment to justice administered without bias and in accordance with the code of Iowa and established precedent. It is with confidence that I say he will apply the laws developed by the state's General Assemblies and Governors.

I give my highest endorsement to Jason Besler's application for the 6th Judicial District Court vacancy. He is a leader with affection not just for the law, but more importantly the Iowans it is written to serve. He will serve the state with distinction and honor.

Very respectfully,



Kraig Paulsen

Message: Letter of Recommendation to Governor for Jason Besler (District Judge Position)**✉ Letter of Recommendation to Governor for Jason Besler (District Judge Position)**

From [REDACTED] **Date** Thursday, June 07, 2018 7:34 AM
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

J Besler Recommendation.docx (14 Kb HTML)

Hi Meaghan,

I am writing to request that you please give my letter of recommendation to the Governor. Mr. Besler's upcoming meeting is June 11th, I believe.

Thank you and Best Regards,

Josh Davis

Text as follows (formatted letter attached)

Dear Governor Reynolds

I am writing to you in order to express my support for Mr. Jason Besler as a candidate to fill a district judge vacancy.

Jason has served faithfully alongside me on our school's board of directors. During the process of interviewing Jason for a director position, our nominating committee became unanimously confident that he would be a strong team member, helping the board to tackle numerous challenges over the years in service of our school's families. My confidence in him has only increased since he formally joined the board as a recommended and elected director.

Jason possesses not only a great amount of knowledge and understanding, but the gifts of wisdom and discernment - rendering him very effective in assessing unique and complicated challenges.

He is a very strong listener and communicator.

Jason has demonstrated a strong work ethic in both service and vocation.

He is a family man, a man of faith and service to his community. He leads with strength and grace.

I highly recommend Jason Besler for service to the state of Iowa, not due exclusively to his abilities and qualifications, but more importantly because of his character and commitment to justice. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service to the State of Iowa.

Best Regards,

Josh Davis
Board President, Isaac Newton Christian Academy
Cedar Rapids, Ia

June 7th 2018

Dear Governor Reynolds

I am writing to you in order to express my support for Mr. Jason Besler as a candidate to fill a district judge vacancy.

Jason has served faithfully alongside me on our school's board of directors. During the process of interviewing Jason for a director position, our nominating committee became unanimously confident that he would be a strong team member, helping the board to tackle numerous challenges over the years in service of our school's families. My confidence in him has only increased since he formally joined the board as a recommended and elected director.

Jason possesses not only a great amount of knowledge and understanding, but the gifts of wisdom and discernment - rendering him very effective in assessing unique and complicated challenges.

He is a very strong listener and communicator.

Jason has demonstrated a strong work ethic in both service and vocation.

He is a family man, a man of faith and service to his community. He leads with strength and grace.

I highly recommend Jason Besler for service to the state of Iowa, not due exclusively to his abilities and qualifications, but more importantly because of his character and commitment to justice. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service to the State of Iowa.

Best Regards,

Josh Davis
Board President, Isaac Newton Christian Academy
Cedar Rapids, Ia

Message: Re: District Court Judge for the 6th Judicial District Recommendation**✉ Re: District Court Judge for the 6th Judicial District Recommendation**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, June 07, 2018 8:26 AM
To Hollie Trenary
Cc

Thank you!

On Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 3:58 PM, Hollie Trenary <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I am writing in support of Ellen Ramsey-Kacena's nomination for the District Court Judge for the 6th Judicial position. I met Ellen eleven years ago through our association with the Junior League of Cedar Rapids. Since that time I have grown to know Ellen even more through various community activities and currently serve with her on the board of Foundation 2 in which she serves as president and I the vice president.

Ellen is a committed community leader and is focused on the areas of our community that are most in need of support and advocacy, the areas that volunteers usually shy away from. Ellen does not hesitate to tackle issues of importance and always provides a fair and unbiased point of view. Ellen has a calm approach and I have witnessed her use this as well as a seasoned restraint in dealing with many types of issues.

I do not know the exact qualifications you may have in mind for the open position Ellen is applying for but I can say without question that she is someone who is committed not only to this community but also her profession. Ellen is a trusted resource for her extensive knowledge of the law and court system and is called upon often as a reference. I am pleased to endorse Ellen for the position of District Court Judge for the 6th Judicial.

Sincerely,

Hollie Trenary

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
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www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Reference Letter - Jason Besler

✉ Re: Reference Letter - Jason Besler

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, June 07, 2018 8:40 AM
To Craig Foote
Cc

Thank you!

On Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 7:41 PM, Craig Foote <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I would like to write to you regarding Jason Besler.

My understanding is that he is a finalist for a district judge position.

I have known Jason and his family for over seven years. We both attend the same church in Cedar Rapids, and I have also spoken with Jason many times at other community events. I have been a teacher in the Cedar Rapids area for over twenty years, including currently teaching government and history at Cedar Valley Christian School in Cedar Rapids. I have asked Jason on multiple occasions to come and speak to my classes. His insight into the current state of our state and national government is remarkable. He always does an excellent job of being fair and respectful in the way he addresses political issues, especially in front of young people. His trial experience and work in the prosecutor's office is extensive, and he is someone that I would call on if I needed help in understanding a legal or political issue.

Jason is even-tempered, thoughtful, and detail-oriented. He has a very good reputation in our community, and I am humbled that he asked me to write to you on his behalf.

I believe that he would be an excellent judge. He would be someone that you would be proud to appoint to this position. I hope that you would give him every consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig M. Foote

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt .Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Jason Besler Letter of Recommendation

Re: Jason Besler Letter of Recommendation

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, June 07, 2018 8:43 AM
To Kraig Paulsen
Cc

Thank you!

On Wed, Jun 6, 2018 at 9:42 PM, Kraig Paulsen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Meaghan,

Please find attached my letter to Governor Reynolds supporting Jason Besler in his efforts to be selected as an Iowa 6th District Judge. My understanding is you are the point of contact for this appointment. If you could respond so I know you received this I would appreciate it.

If there is anything else I can help with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Original will follow in the mail.

All the best,

Kraig

Kraig Paulsen
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Regarding Jason Besler

✉ **Re: Regarding Jason Besler**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, June 07, 2018 4:05 PM
To Jenifer Hobert
Cc

Thank you!

On Thu, Jun 7, 2018 at 1:33 PM, Jenifer Hobert [REDACTED] > wrote:

I am writing this letter of support for Jason Besler in his quest to become a judge.

In my experiences with Jason I observed that he is a competent and fair attorney. Jason is very knowledgeable and advises effectively.

He has always made himself available to answer any questions I had. On my last encounter with Jason he went above and beyond by taking extra time with me to explain in detail and help me understand the situation. He always took my wishes into consideration.

In my opinion he has the temperament, experience, and the open mind requisite to serve.

Sincerely,

Jenifer Hobert

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Jason Besler


 **Jason Besler**

From Jeffrey L. Clark
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

Date Thursday, June 07, 2018 4:35 PM

 **Besler 1.pdf** (30 Kb HTML)

Please forward this to the Governor. Regards, Jeff.

Jeffrey L. Clark
THOMAS & CLARK, LLC
P.O. Box 77
Anamosa, IA 52205
(319) 462-4346
FAX (319) 462-4347
CELL: 

Office: 102 N. Ford Street
Anamosa, IA 52205

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THOMAS & CLARK, LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



P.O. Box 77, Anamosa, Iowa 52205
Phone: 319-462-4346 Fax: 319-462-4347

JAMES G. THOMAS
jthomas@thomasandclarklaw.com

JEFFREY L. CLARK
jclark@thomasandclarklaw.com

June 7, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
State Capital
1007 East Grand'
Des Moines, IA 50319

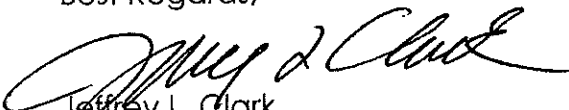
Dear Governor Reynolds,

I am writing in support of Jason Besler, a finalist for the vacancy in the 6th judicial district.

Jason and I worked together for many years in the Linn County Attorney's Office and I found him to be a diligent and thoughtful person. I believe his legal experience and dedication would make him an excellent district court judge.

I hope you will agree after you have had the opportunity to interview him that he would be an asset to the 6th judicial district.

Best Regards,


Jeffrey L. Clark
JLC/jc

OFFICE ADDRESS
102 North Ford Street, Anamosa, IA 52205

Message: Governor's & Lt. Governor's Schedules for Friday, June 8

 **Governor's & Lt. Governor's Schedules for Friday, June 8**

From Jacobs, Austin

Date Thursday,
June 07, 2018 5:17
PM

To post16@dps.state.ia.us; Diane Becker; DPS - ISP EPU; IGOV Reynolds
All Staff; Kevin Reynolds; Molly Thompson; Sharon Vanverth; Adam
Gregg - Personal; Cari Gregg - Personal

Cc

 **Lt. Governor Gregg's Daily Schedule for Friday, June 8.pdf** (5 Kb HTML)  **Governor Reynolds' Daily Schedule for Friday, June 8th.pdf** (6 Kb HTML)

Please see the attached schedules.

Thanks!Â

--

Austin S. Jacobs |Â Scheduler & Communications Advisor
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3513 |Â austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov
www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Because Governor Reynolds' schedule changes frequently, and at times virtually at the last minute due to her obligations to the state, you will be notified as quickly as possible if the governor must miss your event.

- [Image 1](#)
- [Image 2](#)

Image 1

Lt. Governor Gregg

Fri Jun 8, 2018

All day HOLD: Travel to Chicago?

Fri Jun 8, 2018 - Sat Jun 9, 2018

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

7:30am - 8:30am [REDACTED]

- personal

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

8:30am - 9am Travel to Holiday Inn

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

9am - 10am

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States 97th Annual Convention

Where: Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/Conf Center, 6111 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321, USA

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

Description:

Bring greetings to the Ninety-Seventh Annual Convention; VeteransForeign Wars

POC: Jacob Gruber, [REDACTED] vfw@iowa.qwestoffice.netRemarks: Yes 5-10 minPress: Yes

Staff: AliAli will meet you there.

10am - 10:30am Travel

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

10:45am - 11:15am Meeting w/ Heather Cianfracco, United HealthCare

Where: Governor's Formal Office

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Description: POC: Paige

11:15am - 2:15pm Office Time

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

2:15pm - 3pm Travel

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Ali Boettcher

3pm - 4:15pm Campaign Event

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Ali Boettcher

Description:

Location: Downtown Newton, IA Staff: Format: Walk around downtownNewton, shake hands; Finalizing elected official to walk you around

4:15pm - 6pm Travel

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Ali Boettcher

6pm - 7pm Campaign Parade

Where: Elks Club, 407 E Park Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703, USA

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Image 2

Lt. Governor Gregg

8pm - 10pm Travel - Return to DSM

Calendar: LG.AG@iowa.gov

Created by: Kirby Connell

Description: camp to drive

- [Image 1](#)
- [Image 2](#)

Image 1

Governor Reynolds

Fri Jun 8, 2018

All day EPU:

Fri Jun 8, 2018 - Sat Jun 9, 2018

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

8:40am - 8:55am Travel

Where: 10 min - 4 miles

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Description:

Austin will meet at TH at 8:35am [REDACTED]

- security

8:55am - 9:10am Network @ the Principal Charity Classic

Where: Wakonda Club, 3915 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Description:

Staff: Austin Lt. Gov: No Remarks: No POC: Chris [REDACTED] Parkingpass and credentials being provided Chris, Tim, Matt Ahmann greeting at the club house

9:10am - 9:40am Principal Charity Classic Opening Ceremonies

Where: Wakonda Club, 3915 Fleur Dr, Des Moines, IA 50321

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Description:

Staff: Austin Lt. Gov: No Remarks: No POC: Chris [REDACTED] the first tee, Dan Houston will be speaking and recognizing the Governor in the crowd

9:40am - 10am Travel

Where: 15 min - 5 miles

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

10am - 10:45am Office Time

Where: Governor's Personal Office

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

10:45am - 11:15am Meeting w/ Heather Cianfracco, United HealthCare

Where: Governor's Formal Office

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs
Description: POC: Paige

11:15am - 1:30pm Travel

Where: 1 hr 40 min - 99 miles
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs

12:45pm - 1pm Call w/ Dennis Fitzpatrick

Where: In car
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs
Description:
Discuss Wyatt Peterson - judicial interview on the 18th for district 8B: [REDACTED] cell [REDACTED] home

Image 2

Governor Reynolds

1:30pm - 2:30pm Campaign Meeting

Where: [REDACTED] Ft. Dodge, IA
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs
Description: [REDACTED]

2:30pm - 4:30pm Travel

Where: 1 hr 45 min - 100 miles
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs

2:35pm - 2:50pm Call w/ Robert Fraley

Where: In car
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs
Description: re: Monsanto / Bayer merger cell: [REDACTED] POC: Dave [REDACTED]

4:30pm - 5pm Campaign Interview

Where: KXEL, 514 Jefferson St, Waterloo, IA 50701, USA
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs

5pm - 6pm Campaign Visits

Where: Locals Bar & Grill, 229 E 4th St, Waterloo, IA 50703, USA
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs
Description: Newton's Paradise Cafe, 128 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

6pm - 7pm Campaign Parade

Where: Elks Club, 407 E Park Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703, USA
Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov
Created by: Austin Jacobs

7pm - 8:15pm Travel to Marion

Where: 1 hr - 58 miles

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

8:30pm - 8:30pm Hotel in Marion

Where:

[REDACTED]

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Description: Trooper [REDACTED] offer: [REDACTED]

8:30pm - 9pm Overnight in Marion

Where: [REDACTED] USA

Calendar: gov.kkr@iowa.gov

Created by: Austin Jacobs

Message: Sixth Judicial District Judge position

 **Sixth Judicial District Judge position**

From Teresa Barnett

Date Friday, June 08, 2018 9:57 AM

To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov

Cc

 **Ellen Ramsey-Kacena recommendation.docx** (34 Kb HTML)

Meaghan,

I am attaching a letter of recommendation for Ellen Ramsey-Kacena to the Sixth Judicial Judge position.

Thank you.

Teresa Barnett

[REDACTED]
Cedar Rapids, IA [REDACTED]

June 6, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds

1007 East Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Letter of recommendation for Ellen Ramsey-Kacena for the Sixth Judicial District Judge position

Dear Gov. Reynolds,

I am writing to recommend Ellen Ramsey-Kacena for the Sixth Judicial District Judge position. I have known Ellen for three years while working on the Board of Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale. She has been President of the Board since I have been a member. She has the patience to work with all the different members of the board. She has lead the Chorale through lean years to a financially stable organization. For the Chorale to become financially stable, she was involved in the hiring of the new artistic director.

I highly recommend Ellen Ramsey-Kacena for the Sixth Judicial District Judge position.

Sincerely,

Teresa Barnett

Message: Jason Besler Recommendation

 **Jason Besler Recommendation**

From Sean Lillis **Date** Friday, June 08, 2018 11:11 AM
To meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 **Jason Besler Recommendation.pdf** (252 Kb HTML)

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

Please find attached a recommendation for Jason Besler to serve as district judge of the 6th judicial district.

If you have any questions or I can be of any serve, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Pastor Sean Lillis

Cedar Valley Bible Church
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Image 1

To: The Hon. Kim Reynolds

Re: Jason Besler

Gov. Reynolds,

It is my absolute pleasure to recommend Jason Besler for the position of district judge for the 6th judicial

district of Iowa.

Jason has long been a member of Cedar Valley Bible Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa where I am privileged to serve on the pastoral staff. Over the past ten years that I have been at Cedar Valley, I have come to know Jason well, both at church as well as outside of church, as Jason, his wife Karen and their daughter have been guests at our home. These interactions have given me the opportunity to see the depth of his character and intelligence that would certainly make for a good judge, but more importantly, make for a good man.

If I were to try and describe the man you are considering, I think I would focus on three words: integrity, patience, and kindness.

Jason is a man of integrity. I know that when Jason says something, he means what he says, and he will stick by what he says. That is an unusual quality in the world today. Yet, integrity goes beyond simply truth telling to include abiding by a moral code that directs and influences every decision. As a judge, I believe Jason's integrity will be the most valuable asset he will bring to the bench. This is not to downplay the importance of experience in matters of law, which he possesses in great quantity. It is simply to emphasize that integrity in the application of the law is of even greater importance. Jason has

this integrity.

Jason demonstrates tremendous patience as well. I have seen this quality in a number of situations he has faced that often test the limits of one's patience. Whether in his interactions with his family (a crucible for anyone's patience if ever there was one), or in the courtroom, Jason never loses his temper. This is not to say that he is some sort of milktoast; he stands firmly for what is right and is able to draw a line which cannot be crossed when necessary. But he is also patiently able to find opportunities for compromise, which will serve him and the people of the 6

th district well.

Finally, Jason is a kind man. Kindness isn't a quality we probably think of too often in relation to a judge, but I think it is a valuable quality. Jason has the ability to empathize and respond with kindness to people of all different backgrounds and circumstances. He will apply the law fairly and with integrity, but a judge need not be unkind, especially since many cases involve a party who has suffered deep emotional trauma. As a judge, Jason will bring compassion to the courtroom.

Gov. Reynolds, I am very pleased that Jason's name has been brought before you for consideration, and I am confident that when you have the opportunity to meet with him, you will see these same qualities which I have briefly outlined in this letter. So, it is without a doubt that I recommend Jason Besler to be your selection for district judge. I know he will serve with dignity and be a wonderful addition to the 6

th

district.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] if you would like to discuss Jason's qualifications further. I would be happy to expand on my recommendation.

Best wishes,



Pastor Sean Lillis

Cedar Valley Bible Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Message: Letter of Recommendation for Ellen Ramsey-Kacina

 **Letter of Recommendation for Ellen Ramsey-Kacina**

From Kim Reem **Date** Friday, June 08, 2018 12:27 PM
To Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 **170427 MOH Logo without Address.png** (37 Kb HTML)  **180607 Letter of Support for Ellen Ramsey-Kacena.pdf** (57 Kb HTML)

Hi, Meaghan:

Please make sure Governor Reynolds receives this personal recommendation on behalf of Ellen Ramsey-Kacina. They have an appointment on Monday.

Thanks,
Kim Reem
Executive Director
Mission of Hope
[319.365.1782, ext 6](tel:319.365.1782)



[Preview is not available (conversion excluded for this file type).]

Image 1

Kimberly A. Reem

[REDACTED]
Marion, IA [REDACTED]

June 7, 2018

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
State Capitol
1007 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of Ellen Ramsey-Kacena to the Sixth Judicial District bench.

I believe Ms. Ramsey-Kacena's breadth of personal experience as an attorney in private practice will be an asset to the Sixth Judicial District considering the other judges in our district were prosecutors prior to their appointments. Her presence on the bench would bring both balance and diversity of experience.

Ms. Ramsey-Kacena's commitment to our community is apparent in her every action. She is devoted to her clients, an ardent advocate for children, and a teacher and mentor for those seeking to join the law profession. Her positivity radiates to others as she lifts them up.

I urge you to appoint Ellen Ramsey-Kacena to the Sixth Judicial District bench.

Sincerely,

Kimberly A. Reem

Message: Re: Sixth Judicial District Judge position

✉ Re: Sixth Judicial District Judge position

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Friday, June 08, 2018 3:49 PM
To Teresa Barnett
Cc

Thank you!

On Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 9:57 AM, Teresa Barnett <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Meaghan,

I am attaching a letter of recommendation for Ellen Ramsey-Kacena to the Sixth Judicial Judge position.

Thank you.

Teresa Barnett

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Letter in support Ellen Ramsey-Kacena

✉ Re: Letter in support Ellen Ramsey-Kacena

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Friday, June 08, 2018 3:50 PM
To Debbie Courtney
Cc

Thank you!

On Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 11:24 AM, Debbie Courtney <[REDACTED]> wrote:

June 8, 2018

Office of the Governor of Iowa

10007 East Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for Ellen Ramsey-Kacena and her application for the District Court Judge position.

I have had the privilege of serving with Ms. Ramsey-Kacena as a member of the Friends of the Linn County Family Treatment Court Board for the past two years. During this time, I have watched her work tirelessly to improve the quality of services provided to the families involved in the Family Treatment Court approach. Everything she does is done with a sense of compassion, fairness, and sense of community. As a board member I have come to trust Ms. Ramsey-Kacena's opinion and guidance as we as a board work toward creating new community based programming to meet the needs of the families we work with.

Beyond this, Ms. Ramsey-Kacena has worked as an attorney focusing on juvenile, family, and criminal law for the past twelve years. In my opinion, this type of work requires one to have a balance of advocacy, diplomacy, and fairness. All things that I feel Ms. Ramsey-Kacena possesses.

It is without a doubt that I feel she would serve the Sixth Judicial District well as a District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

Rodney Courtney, LBSW

Director of Operations,

CRUSH of Iowa

[REDACTED]

North Liberty, IA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Jason Besler Recommendation

 **Re: Jason Besler Recommendation**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Friday, June 08, 2018 3:55 PM
To Sean Lillis
Cc

Thank you!

On Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 11:11 AM, Sean Lillis [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

Please find attached a recommendation for Jason Besler to serve as district judge of the 6th judicial district.

If you have any questions or I can be of any serve, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Pastor Sean Lillis

Cedar Valley Bible Church

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

—

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant



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Message: Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Vacancy District 5A

✉ Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Vacancy District 5A

From [REDACTED] **Date** Saturday, June 09, 2018 7:37 AM
To Meaghan.O'Brien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

 **Letter of recommendation 3.pdf** (20 Kb HTML)  **Letter of recommendation 4.pdf**
(20 Kb HTML)

Dear Ms. O'Brien;

Please find attached letters of recommendation for Michael Jacobsen to fill the judicial vacancy for Judicial District 5A

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Reissetter
Dallas county Attorney

Image 1

Wayne Reisetter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

June 6, 2018

By electronic mail

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of the State of Iowa
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Letter of Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Appointment to District 5A.

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I recommend that you appoint Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen to fill the vacant judicial position in District 5 A. I have known Mr. Hemphill in a professional capacity and as a member of the community. He and I have been opposing counsel in criminal matters. He has appeared to be well thought, and well spoken.

From my experience with him as a lawyer, and as a member of the community I am certain that his thoughtfulness, wisdom, and knowledge of the law will stand him well as a member of the judiciary.

I encourage you to appoint him to fill the vacancy in District 5A.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Reisetter
Dallas County Attorney

Image 1

Wayne Reisetter
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

June 6, 2018

By electronic mail

The Honorable Adam Gregg
Lieutenant Governor of the State of Iowa
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Letter of Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Appointment to District 5A.

Dear Lieutenant Governor Gregg:

I recommend that you appoint Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen to fill the vacant judicial position in District 5 A. I have known Mr. Jacobsen in a professional capacity and as a member of the community. He has been a strong advocate for justice, wisely using the prosecutorial discretion power to seek justice for the whole of his community.

From my experience with him as a lawyer, and as a member of the community I am certain that his thoughtfulness, wisdom, and knowledge of the law will stand him well as a member of the judiciary.

I encourage you to appoint him to fill the vacancy in District 5A.

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Reisetter
Dallas County Attorney

Message: Letter in support of Jason Besler**✉ Letter in support of Jason Besler**

From Don Nelson **Date** Saturday, June 09, 2018 11:43 AM
To Meaghan.O'Brien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Jason Besler for Judge in the Sixth Judicial District. I have been acquainted with Jason and his family as we attend the same church. I have also worked with him as a fellow member or board member of local civic and charitable organizations. He has also been an active member of the Linn County Republican Central Committee, which I currently serve as secretary.

I have found Jason to be a principled, kind, and compassionate fellow with a clear sense of right and wrong combined with an understanding of human frailty. He is a good listener and very willing to help those less schooled in the law come to understand it. He has that all-too-rare quality of being able to show respect for those who disagree with him. Although the role of judge is demanding and stressful, I believe these resources will assist him in doing the task unusually well.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donald Nelson, M.D.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa



Message: Re: Letter in support of Jason Besler

✉ **Re: Letter in support of Jason Besler**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 8:50 AM
To Don Nelson
Cc

Thank you!

On Sat, Jun 9, 2018 at 11:42 AM, Don Nelson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Jason Besler for Judge in the Sixth Judicial District. I have been acquainted with Jason and his family as we attend the same church. I have also worked with him as a fellow member or board member of local civic and charitable organizations. He has also been an active member of the Linn County Republican Central Committee, which I currently serve as secretary.

I have found Jason to be a principled, kind, and compassionate fellow with a clear sense of right and wrong combined with an understanding of human frailty. He is a good listener and very willing to help those less schooled in the law come to understand it. He has that all-too-rare quality of being able to show respect for those who disagree with him. Although the role of judge is demanding and stressful, I believe these resources will assist him in doing the task unusually well.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donald Nelson, M.D.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

[REDACTED]

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Jason Besler 6th Judicial District--Letter of Support

Re: Jason Besler 6th Judicial District--Letter of Support

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 8:51 AM
To Nick Clinkinbeard
Cc

Thank you!

On Sat, Jun 9, 2018 at 1:02 PM, Nick Clinkinbeard [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

I have attached a letter of support for Mr. Jason Besler for the 6th Judicial District vacancy. Please let me know if you have any questions or find the attachments difficult to open.

Respectfully,

Nick

--

Nicholus R. Clinkinbeard

[REDACTED]
Ely, IA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

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Message: Re: Jason Bessler

 **Re: Jason Bessler**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 8:57 AM
To Mary Meisterling
Cc

Thank you!

On Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 6:55 PM, Mary Meisterling [REDACTED] wrote:

Meaghan - please see the attached letter in support of Jason Bessler to the 6th Judicial Court position. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. Thank you.

Mary Meisterling

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

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Message: Re: FW: Endorsement for Jason Besler

Re: FW: Endorsement for Jason Besler

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 9:03 AM
To Keiser, Gayle
Cc

Thanks for this recommendation as well

On Sun, Jun 10, 2018 at 7:54 PM, Keiser, Gayle <Gayle.Keiser@linncounty.org> wrote:

Meaghan,

I am forwarding another endorsement for Jason which was sent to my office.

From: Laurie King [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2018 7:08 PM
To: Keiser, Gayle
Subject: Endorsement for Jason Besler

Hello Kim Reynolds Iowa Governor,

This is an Important endorsement for Attorney Jason Besler. He is someone we trust, respect and believe to be a fabulous choice for a District Court position. He is working hard for us and shows high integrity and honor representing us not only with this appointment but proud to see him accomplish such an honorable position!

Sincerely,

Daniel Buffington, professional business owner,
Keith Rippey, CEO Area Ambulance,
Laurie King, Corporate Recruiter Cost Cutters

Sent from my iPhone

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

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Message: Re: Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Vacancy District 5A

Re: Recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for Judicial Vacancy District 5A

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 9:16 AM
To [REDACTED]
Cc

Thank you!

On Sat, Jun 9, 2018 at 7:37 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. O'Brien;

Please find attached letters of recommendation for Michael Jacobsen to fill the judicial vacancy for Judicial District 5A

Sincerely,

Wayne M. Reisetter
Dallas county Attorney

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

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Message: Re: Besler recommendation

 **Re: Besler recommendation**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Monday, June 11, 2018 4:25 PM
To Dan Dawson
Cc

Got it! Great hearing from you. I'll be sure to have this filed

On Mon, Jun 11, 2018 at 4:04 PM, Dan Dawson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Meaghan,

Great talking to you. Please see attached.

All the best,

Dan D.

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant

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