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ROGER A. BERKLAND (1938-2011)
JOHN D. BROWN

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E-MAIL berkbrow@non.net

May 29, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capital
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Office of the Governor
ATTN: Colin Smith
State Capital
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Judicial Nomination

Dear Governor Reynolds and Mr. Smith:

I am writing on behalf of Michael K. Jacobsen, who is currently the Jasper County Attorney. I understand that the Judicial Nominating Commission appointed he and another person with the right to appear in front of you to see who would be nominated District Court Judge in District 5A.

I know Mike, but I have not dealt with him personally. I have been admitted to practice since 1973 in the State of Iowa. I know that Mike is 20 years younger than I am, he graduated from Drake University of Law School.

He is currently the Jasper County Attorney. From 1996 to 2009 he was the Assistant Jasper County Attorney, and before that he was a partner in the law firm of Diehl, Clayton and Jacobsen. I feel that he would be an excellent candidate for judgeship because of his varied experience, i.e. the fact that he has handled criminal defense, juvenile law, family law, and civil defense cases. He did tax returns, Wills, Trusts, title opinions, and probate of estates. He is now dealing with criminal prosecution. Mike has handled mental health commitments, civil cases on behalf of Jasper County, tax assessments, and juvenile law. I think he has outstanding experience in all phases of the law that is required of a Judge. I know that I, after law school, went to work for the Polk County Attorney's Office. Back then there were nine (9) of us, and Ray Fenton was the County Attorney, who later became a Judge. Rick Blaine who is a retired Judge (Sr.) was in the office with me. John Sarcone, the present Polk County Attorney was a child. Frank, his older brother, was my mentor. He has passed away.

I know the Judges in the District, in fact, as I indicated previously in a separate letter to you folks regarding a candidate from our Judicial District (3), that Art Gamble, Chief Judge of the 5th Judicial District is a friend of mine, and I know the various Judges in Polk County.

Governor Kim Reynolds

Mr. Colin Smith

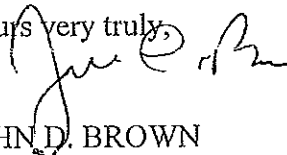
May 29, 2018

Page 2

For your information, the reason I am writing on Mike's behalf is simply because I am close friends with Duane and Margaret Twait, his mother and father-in-law. Mike married a girl from Emmetsburg. For your information, Craig and Sam Brownlee work in the back office and they are big donors to the Republican Party. I think Michael's background would be extremely relevant to the position of a judgeship, and I would highly recommend him. He would be a fine judge.

Thank you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

JOHN D. BROWN

JDB/ljd

ROGER A. BERKLAND (1938-2011)
JOHN D. BROWN

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May 29, 2018

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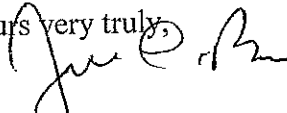
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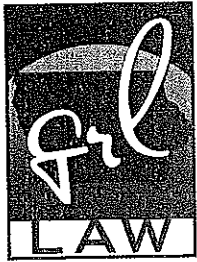
Governor Kim Reynolds
Mr. Colin Smith
May 29, 2018
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Thank you.

Yours very truly,

JOHN D. BROWN

JDB/ljd



GOURLEY
REHKEMPER &
LINDHOLM, PLC

(Tel) 515.226.0500

(Fax) 515.244.2914

440 Parkway, Suite 210

West Des Moines, IA

50266

May 30, 2018

Office of the Governor
Attn: Lt. Governor Gregg
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Michael Jacobsen – Judicial Applicant for District 5A

Dear Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Gregg:

Michael (“Mike”) Jacobsen is precisely what our state needs as a District Court Judge. As a criminal defense attorney, I instinctively tend to be leery about prosecutors becoming judges, but I have no such reservations or apprehension with Mike. Mike is a no-nonsense, get-to-the-bottom-of-things, consummate professional who will make a fantastic judge.

I have had the privilege of getting to know Mike both on a professional and personal level since I began practicing law over fifteen years ago. Mike has been a prosecutor in Jasper County since I have known him, taking over as head County Attorney in 2009. As a criminal defense attorney, I routinely defend clients that Mike prosecutes. We certainly have our share of disagreements in the courtroom, but Mike always maintains impeccable professionalism with myself and my clients. It never becomes personal.

I have always been impressed with Mike’s openness and impartiality with the cases that he handles. He understands that the individuals involved on both sides of a case are human and that every case has lasting implications on both sides. In a position where it is easy to get swept up in a mindset of win first, justice second, Mike has always demonstrated a sincere desire to ensure that the right thing was done with each case. He applies and enforces the law in a fair and even-handed manner. As with every great leader, Mike has instilled that approach with the other attorneys he oversees in his office.

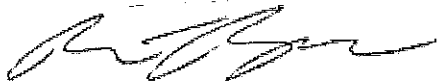
Page 2 of 2

Mike is direct; Mike is honest; and above all, Mike is fair. I could not put forth a stronger recommendation for District Court Judge than I am putting forth for Mike. If I can provide any additional information or further insight on Mike's behalf, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gourley, Rehkemper & Lindholm, PLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert G. Rehkemper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "G".

Robert G. Rehkemper

Ringgold - Taylor County Attorney

Clinton L. Spurrier

109 West Madison Street
Mount Ayr, Iowa 50854
(641) 464-3235 - Telephone
(641) 464-2124 - Facsimile

June 8, 2018

The Honorable Kim K. Reynolds
Governor, State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: District 5A Judicial Vacancy – Michael K. Jacobsen

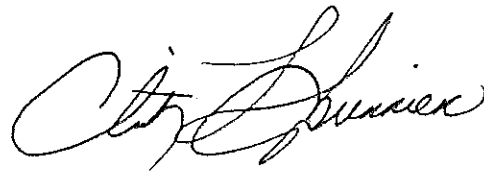
Dear Governor Reynolds:

I was very pleased to learn that the judicial nominating committee selected Mike Jacobsen as one of the two nominees to fill the judicial vacancy in judicial sub-district 5A. Although I practice in judicial sub-district 5B, our court service days, hearings and trials are often covered by 5A judges, so it is very important to me that we have the highest caliber attorneys serving as judges in that sub-district. Over the years we have been fortunate that many excellent attorneys have been appointed to serve as judges in 5A, and Mike's appointment to the bench will maintain these high standards.

I have been practicing law for almost 30 years and during the majority of that time a significant number of the judges had prior experience as a prosecutor, or at least reasonable criminal law experience. Over the years I have seen the number of judges with this type of experience decrease to the point that in 5A I believe there is only one judge with prior prosecutorial experience. Considering the percentage of the judicial caseload comprised of criminal cases or related proceedings, it is important to have judges with a firm grounding in the criminal law. Further, prosecutorial experience is a particularly good training ground for a future judge. While the duty of most attorneys is to zealously advocate the position of their respective client and seek to obtain the result desired by that client, the role of a prosecutor is quite different. The county attorney's duty is to pursue justice - not just convictions. We daily assess the credibility of witnesses, determine the admissibility of evidence, research the applicable law, and weigh the evidence to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to carry our burden in a pretrial hearing or to prove a person's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt - all skills that are also part the daily work of a judge.

Mike has served his citizens well as Jasper County Attorney and proven himself to be a fair and firm enforcer of Iowa's laws. Of equal importance, Mike has a positive and professional demeanor, and he will treat all those who come before him with the dignity and respect they deserve. Mike is comfortable in a courtroom setting, and he will be able to make a swift transition from one side of the bench to the other. I have always believed that a judge should be a mature person who has gained the life experience that comes with age and the legal experience that comes with a good number of years of hard work in our profession; and a person who will exercise the wisdom that comes through both non-professional and professional experience. Mike has reached the point in his personal life and professional career that he has the experience and wisdom to distinguish himself as a judge. Mike's appointment to the judicial bench would maintain the high quality of jurisprudence we have been fortunate to enjoy in judicial sub-districts 5A and 5B.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clinton L. Spurrier". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "C" and "S".

Clinton L. Spurrier
Ringgold-Taylor County Attorney

Copy e-mailed to:

Mr. Michael K. Jacobsen



Newton

POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 30, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Honorable Governor Reynolds,

I am writing in support of Michael Jacobsen as a judicial candidate for a district court judge position. I have worked with Michael in Jasper County for nearly 20 years as a prosecutor and after he was elected as the Jasper County Attorney.

Michael has shown great dedication to his profession and community. He has shown sound judgement in working through some difficult or challenging criminal cases and has proven himself to be respectful, patient, fair-minded and conscientious. Michael makes himself available to law enforcement officers at all hours of the day and night to answer questions and has always been a great resource to many of our younger detectives or officers who are new to writing search warrants or other legal documents.

Michael is greatly involved in the Newton and Jasper County community and has done an excellent job serving on numerous committees and boards in an effort to make Jasper County a safe place for citizens to live, work, and play.

If given the opportunity, I am confident that Michael would do an excellent job serving as a judge and would serve Iowans with a high level of integrity. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this recommendation and I appreciate all that you do for our state.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rob Burdess", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

Rob Burdess
Chief of Police

JASPER COUNTY ATTORNEY

Michael K. Jacobsen



114 West 3rd Street North
Newton, Iowa 50208
Telephone: (641) 792-5010
FAX: (641) 792-8327
E-mail: general@jaspercoatty.org

Scott W. Nicholson, First Assistant County Attorney
Kelly T. Bennett, Assistant County Attorney
Jonathan D. Noble, Assistant County Attorney
Peter W. Blink, Assistant County Attorney

June 7, 2018

Re: Application of Michael K. Jacobsen

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

My name is Kelly T. Bennett. I have been a licensed, practicing attorney in the State of Iowa since 1997. Please accept this letter as my recommendation for Michael Jacobsen for the position of District Court Judge.

I have known Mike professionally for the last fifteen years. During this time, I have been employed as both a prosecutor and a defense attorney. As a defense attorney, I worked with Mike on criminal cases to which I had been court-appointed. Mike was always courteous, professional, and extremely competent. Mike is an excellent trial attorney and has an exceptional grasp of the law and the rules of procedure. Mike is one of those rare attorneys who know the nuances and language of the most obscure section of the Code of Iowa from memory. His knowledge and understanding of the law would make him an excellent Judge.

As a prosecuting attorney, I have had the opportunity to work with Mike in the Jasper County Attorney's Office for the last eight years. Mike is a great manager who keeps everyone on task without being over-bearing. He allows the attorneys in his office to practice law and excel under his guidance without micro-managing every aspect of our dockets. It is this style of leadership that would make Mike an excellent Judge. I have tried cases in many different courtrooms and in front of many different judges. I have found that, in my opinion, the best judges are those who maintain control of their courtroom while allowing the attorneys the freedom to try their own cases within the bounds of the rules of evidence and the rules of procedure. Mike would do a great job in this respect.

Outside of the courtroom, I also know Mike and his family very well on a personal level. When Mike is not working, you can usually find him coaching or sitting in the bleachers at one his children's sporting events. Mike is extremely involved in the community and in the schools to which his children attend. From Booster Club to mock trial to coaching his kids' teams—Mike is involved with the program. Mike is also a very active member of the community. He regularly attends church and civic functions in Jasper County in an attempt to be involved and help make Newton a better place. This dedication to his family and his community demonstrates Mike's character and values, and illustrates the type of person Mike would be as a judge.

I highly recommend Michael Jacobsen for this position, and consider myself proud that I know Mike and work with him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly T. Bennett".

/s/ Kelly T. Bennett

Kelly T. Bennett, Assistant Jasper County Attorney
Jasper County Attorney's Office
Newton, IA 50208

[REDACTED]
Newton, Iowa [REDACTED]
June 7, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Gov. Reynolds,

My name is Carol Kramer, retired teacher of 30 plus years for the Newton Community. I have also served on the Jasper County Conservation Board, and am currently an active community volunteer.

I am writing this letter to you in support of Attorney Michael Jacobsen to serve as a District Judge.

We have known Mike for many years. He and his wife were our next door neighbors in the 1990's. They had moved here with new careers, his as an attorney, and Colleen as the pharmacist for Skiff Hospital. In a few years they were parents of twins who were born premature, 2 pounds and 1 pound, 14 ounces. That meant that they were at the Des Moines Hospital daily for 3 months. Mike was the most attentive father, with the stress of a fairly new career, but was there continually in support for his wife and those 2 precious babies. 3 years later they had another daughter. As the children have grown, I've not seen such a devoted dad. He always found time for his children. All 3 active in the athletic field. His son had some Cerebral Palsy issues, and with Mike's dedication, constant encouragement, and support, Collin developed into a healthy young man. Our joy was when Collin was able to play on the final football game for Newton High School Varsity. He has the tenacity of his father.

All three children have responded well to the positive guidance they have received from home. The twins are college graduates and the younger daughter is beginning her second year in college.

When Mike's parents could no longer stay in their home in NW Iowa, Mike moved them here to Newton's Park Center. His father died shortly thereafter, and Mike made time for a daily check-in with his mother. He cared for her lovingly through Hospice to the end. I was a friend of hers, so I know about this first hand.

Mike is the kindest, thoughtful and helpful neighbor. He is the kind of person that can be depended on. He has a cool, friendly demeanor.

As a citizen of Newton, I have had the opportunity to observe him in the courtroom. He left no stone unturned as a prosecuting attorney. Still he came across as a thorough professional, doing his job, open to hearing the other side with respect.

I know that Mike Jacobsen will make Iowa proud as a very impartial, informed, and fair judge.

Sincerely,


Carol Annette Kramer

JASPER COUNTY ATTORNEY

Michael K. Jacobsen



114 West 3rd Street North
Newton, Iowa 50208
Telephone: (641) 792-5010
FAX: (641) 792-8327
E-mail: general@jaspercoatty.org

Scott W. Nicholson, First Assistant County Attorney
Kelly T. Bennett, Assistant County Attorney
Jonathan D. Noble, Assistant County Attorney
Peter W. Blink, Assistant County Attorney

June 7, 2018

Re: Application of Michael K. Jacobsen

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

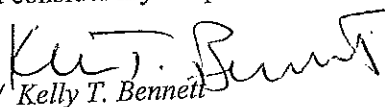
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/s/ Kelly T. Bennett

Kelly T. Bennett, Assistant Jasper County Attorney
Jasper County Attorney's Office
Newton, IA 50208

CALDWELL, BRIERLY, CHALUPA & NUZUM, PLLC
COUNSELORS AND ATTORNEYS AT LAW

211 FIRST AVENUE WEST • P.O. BOX 726 • NEWTON, IOWA 50208

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BRUCE NUZUM
bnuzum@newtoniawalaw.com
HILARY J. MONTALVO
hmontalvo@newtoniawalaw.com
* * *
Dennis F. Chalupa (1944 - 2013)

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Tuesdays 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
SULLY OFFICE
618 4th STREET
SULLY, IOWA 50251
Phone: 641-594-4420
Thursdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

May 31, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Ave., Room 101
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Application of Michael K. Jacobsen

Dear Governor Reynolds:

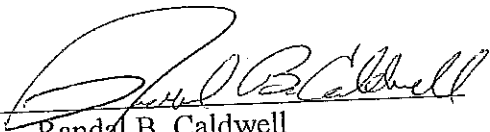
This letter is to recommend Michael Jacobsen as District Judge for the Iowa District Court for the 5th Judicial District. I have known Mike for many years and am confident he would be a terrific District Court Judge.

Mike brings mature common sense and integrity to his role as Jasper County Attorney. During his many years in this job, he has maintained an intense and professional demeanor. He has never been partisan or partial, but has always brought thoughtful and scholarly judgment to often difficult situations. Because of his many years in the courtroom, he would likely have dealt with almost every scenario he is likely to encounter as a District Court Judgment

I believe Mr. Jacobsen would be an outstanding Judge and respectfully ask that you consider his appointment.

Very truly yours,

CALDWELL, BRIERLY, CHALUPA
& NUZUM, PLLC

By: 
Randal B. Caldwell

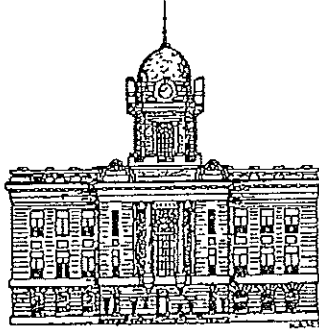
RBC/ds

Jasper County, Iowa

Joe Brock

Denny Carpenter

Doug Cupples



Board of Supervisors

Courthouse

PO Box 944

Newton IA 50208

Phone 641-792-7016

Fax 641-792-1053

June 6th, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 East Grand Ave
Des Moines IA 50319

Re: Michael Jacobsen for the District 5A Court Judge Position

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I have been made aware of Mr. Jacobsen's desire to be appointed to the District 5A Court position that will be opening up. I would gladly recommend Mr. Jacobsen without any hesitation.

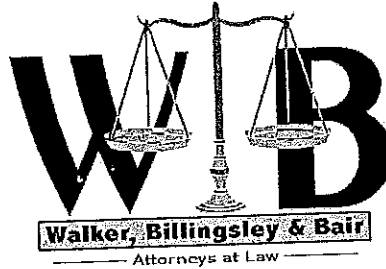
I have worked with Mr. Jacobsen since January of 2016. Mr. Jacobsen has always been upright, truthful, timely, and level headed. He makes decisions based on the law and yet he is fair.

Mike will be missed dearly by Jasper County if he was to be chosen for the open District 5A Court Judge position. I appreciate your time in considering Mr. Jacobsen for the position.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Cupples". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug Cupples
Jasper County Supervisor, Chairman



Attorneys
Lee (Ken) M. Walker (retired)
John E. Billingsley
Corey J. L. Walker
Kathryn (Beth) Walker
Erik D. Bair
Joanie L. Grife*
(*Certified Mediator)

REPLY TO: Newton
208 N. 2nd Ave. W.
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Newton, Iowa 50208-0157
Fax- 641-792-0289
www.WalkLaw.com
[Injury Victims- www.IowaInjured.com](http://www.IowaInjured.com)
WRITER'S E-MAIL: Corey@WalkLaw.com

Offices
Newton- 641-792-3595
Des Moines- 515-440-2852
Marshalltown- 641-352-4747
Ankeny- 515-964-5664

June 5, 2018

Office of the Governor
Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Support of Michael Jacobsen as a District Court Judge

Dear Governor Reynolds:

We have known Michael Jacobsen for more than 20 years both professionally and personally. He has shown his commitment to the rule of law and to justice as the Jasper County attorney since 2009. He has continued to show the upmost respect for our legal system and has been a shining star and example for all county attorneys. We think that he will make an excellent judge who will listen to both sides of the case and make fair and impartial decisions based upon the facts, the law and prior legal precedent. We hope that you will strongly consider selecting Mike as our next district court judge.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

WALKER, BILLINGSLEY & BAIR

By:

Corey J. L. Walker

By:

Kathryn E. Walker

JASPER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Serving Jasper County Since 1846

Sheriff

John R. Halferty
2300 Law Center Drive
Newton, Iowa 50208

Office (641) 792-5912
Fax (641) 792-4202

Chief Deputy
Duane Rozendaal

May 30th, 2018

Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Letter of recommendation- Michael Jacobsen

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I have had a professional relationship with Mike Jacobsen for over 20 years, in my capacity as a law enforcement officer. Mike originally had a private practice in Jasper County, prior to being appointed an Assistant Jasper County Attorney, and later elected Jasper County Attorney.

Mike has proven himself as a competent, organized and professional attorney. He has always been available for guidance and direction, when consulted by my office. He is approachable and willing to listen. He is able to work with multiple agencies and resources on large investigations.

Mike also routinely updates area law enforcement agencies on case law updates, changes and guidelines. He makes sure we are well informed.

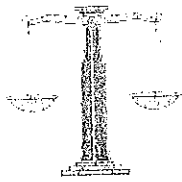
I have also observed Mike during situations in which people are angry and confrontational. Mike has a direct, but professional approach during these situations. He is able to inform, direct and many times diffuse those that are involved.

Over the course of the last 15 years, Mike has been directly involved in several high profile criminal cases within Jasper County. Homicide, Attempted Homicide, Robbery and Sexual Assault cases were handled by Mike and his staff.

Mike Jacobsen has been a tremendous source for both criminal law and civil issues that my office encounters on a daily basis. I would highly recommend him for the position of District Court Judge. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, 641-792-5912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Halferty".
John R. Halferty, Sheriff



Feuerhelm Law Office, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Gerald B. Feuerhelm

3231 E. Euclid Ave., Ste. 300
Des Moines, IA 50317
Telephone: 515 266-5552
Fax: 515-266-6600
Email: jake@feuerhelmlaw.com
Website: www.fklawpc.com

May 29, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am pleased to submit to you a recommendation for the judicial opening in Iowa District 5A. I believe that Michael Jacobsen would be an ideal candidate for this position.

I have known Michael since he arrived in Newton in 1993 and joined the law firm of Diehl, Clayton & Jacobsen. At that time I practiced extensively in Jasper County and observed Michael representing clients similar to my clients. I was impressed with his demeanor and the way in which he interacted with his clients, other attorneys and judges.

In 1996, he moved on to become an assistant county attorney. I worked with him on numerous cases that he was prosecuting and I was defending. I was always impressed with his fairness and his professionalism in resolving cases. I continued to work with him on cases he prosecuted when he became the county attorney. I witnessed how he manages the county attorney's office, supervises his staff, and interacts with defense counsel, court staff and judges. I believe he can be described as efficient, fair, and professional. He and his assistants have tried difficult, complex cases. I have found him and his assistants to always be prepared for depositions, hearings, and trial. His office works very hard to make the trial process as tolerable as possible for witnesses and victims.

Even though Michael and the county attorney's office most often deals with criminal cases, I am aware that he was involved in a wide variety of cases including civil cases during his time in private practice. I too once practiced in a small firm in Jasper County and know it is quite common that attorneys in small firms handle various legal matters for clients. I have complete confidence in that Michael can effectively deal with any legal matter he would face on the district court bench.

Without hesitation or reservation I recommend that Michael be your pick for this judicial position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald B. Feuerhelm".

Gerald B. Feuerhelm



June 7, 2018

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

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Michael K. Jacobsen, Jasper County Attorney

The Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds,

In my role as the Superintendent of Schools of the Newton Community School District, I write this letter to express my strong support for Mike Jacobsen, Jasper County Attorney, to be Judge in District 5A. During our interaction over the past five years, Mike has proven himself to be a committed, fair-minded, and conscientious County Attorney. His extensive background in the law and his professional conduct have been outstanding and notable. I believe strongly this will allow him to bring a unique perspective and a deep understanding to a position on the bench.

Mike has always acted professionally, treated individuals in a respectful manner, been committed to ethical and legal application of the laws of the State of Iowa, and remained patient, calm, and focused on doing the right thing. I have also had the honor and privilege of knowing Mike as a father and community leader. In both of these roles he has excelled. A true test of an individual's effectiveness may be the impact they have on their own family. Based upon this test, Mike and Collen stand out as exceptional.

A strong indicator of Mike's success as a County Attorney that will undoubtedly be parlayed into his effectiveness on the bench, is the safe and secure community in which we live. Jasper County has experienced great socioeconomic changes since the departure of Maytag. Even in this changing atmosphere, Jasper County remains one of the safest communities in Iowa. Much of this can be credited to Mike Jacobsen's leadership and effectiveness in his role as our County Attorney. The professional relationship that Mike has developed with local law enforcement, the public and private schools, and multiple county and city agencies is collaborative and focused on the citizens.

It is without reservation and with high recommendation that I hope you will give strong consideration to Michael K. Jacobsen as Judge for District 5A.

Respectfully,

Bob Callaghan, Superintendent

Newton Community School District
E. J. H. Beard Administration Center
1302 First Avenue West
Newton, Iowa 50208

641.792.5809 (PHONE)
641.792.9159 (FAX)
www.newtoncsd.org

June 5, 2018

Governor Reynolds
State Capital

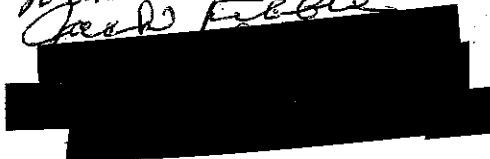
Dear Kim,

Governor I want to put in
a good word for Mike Jacobson
who wants to be appointed judge
in judicial district fine A.

He has had a lot of trial
experience. He is now serving
as Jasper County Attorney.
A member of the Iowa Bar
for twenty five years. A
wonderful family man
with upright values.

Mike's wife is from
Emmetsburg and have been
family friends forever.
Mike's wife's Dad is one of
the most winning foot ball
coaches in Iowa history. His
name is Duane Twit

Thank you
Enjoyed serving with you
on IPER's Board and in
the Iowa Senate and when
we worked to put drivers
license in the court houses
your friend
former state senator
Jack Feltie



NIDEY ERDAHL FISHER PILKINGTON & MEIER, PLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

WWW.IOWALAW.COM

FRANK J. NIDEY*

CLEMENS A. ERDAHL

MARK D. FISHER*

JOHN W. PILKINGTON

PATRICIA J. MEIER

ELIZABETH A. ARAGUÁS*

JONATHON MUÑOZ

*MEDIATOR

OF COUNSEL: LEI BEI

RICHARD C. WENZEL (1945-2010)
KENNETH R. MARTENS (1946-2010)

AUTHOR'S E-MAIL: MFISHER@IOWALAW.COM
REPLY TO: CEDAR RAPIDS OFFICE

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

By email and regular US mail

Re: Sixth Judicial District Court Judge Vacancy

Your Honor:

I am writing today to express my full support for Jason Besler for District Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial District. I have known Mr. Besler for a number of years and believe he possesses all of the qualities needed to make him an excellent judge.

I have been practicing law in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for over 10 years. My practice includes a wide variety of legal issues, which brings me into contact with judges, county attorneys, and litigants on a regular basis. I regularly practice in family, criminal, civil, juvenile and other areas of law, which have allowed me to regularly see Mr. Besler at the courthouse.

In my opinion, the most important qualities for any judge are good demeanor, knowledge of the areas of law regularly presented to them, respect for litigants and attorneys, and the ability to efficiently and effectively deal with cases. Based on my experience with Mr. Besler I have no doubt that he can fulfill all of these expectations.

Mr. Besler is very knowledgeable in criminal law and has dedicated many hours to advocacy for abused and neglected children. Indeed I understand he was awarded the Outstanding Service Award. In addition, every time I have come into contact with Mr. Besler he has had a good demeanor and has been willing to talk. I believe that his knowledge of criminal law and his willingness to reach out to others in the community is a strong indicator of how well he will function as a judge. Mr. Besler has a tremendous reputation in the community for integrity and fair dealing, and I fully support his appointment.

Cedar Rapids Office

425 2nd Street SE, Suite 1000
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401
Phone: (319) 369-0000
Fax: (319) 369-6972

Marengo Office

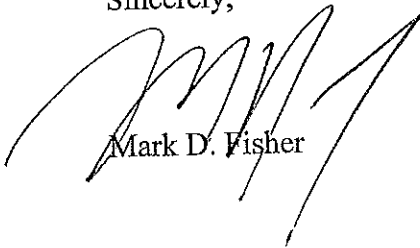
1017 Court Avenue
Marengo, Iowa 52301
Phone: (319) 642-3411
Fax: (319) 642-3411

Muscatine Office

300 East 2nd Street
Suite 300A
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
Phone: (563) 263-2971
Se habla español

If you have any questions about Mr. Besler please do not hesitate to contact me. My personal cell phone is [REDACTED] and my office is [REDACTED]. Thank you, again, for considering Mr. Besler. He will make a terrific judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fisher', written over the typed name.

Mark D. Fisher

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Peter Persaud, Local Public Defender
725 South Clinton St, Ste A
Iowa City IA 52240
Tel:319-351-1327
Fax: 319-351-0042

Rachel Antonuccio, Attorney
John Bruzek, Attorney
Dennis Cohen, Attorney
Sarah Hradek, Attorney
Quint Meyerdirk, Attorney
Matthew Shimanovsky, Attorney
Thomas Woods, Attorney
Julia Zalenski, Attorney

May 30, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Gov. Reynolds:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Jason Besler in his application for the position of District Judge. I have known Mr. Besler for several years, and he is undoubtedly one of the finest individuals with whom I have had the pleasure of working with in the justice system.

Mr. Besler has a reputation of being kind, professional, and knowledgeable about the law. In my own interactions with him, he has always given thoughtful consideration to each case and the circumstances of not only the defendant but all parties affected by the case. As just one example, I represented a young man who was charged in a particularly tragic vehicular homicide case. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Besler, we were able to come to a resolution that was satisfactory to all parties, including the victim's family, and helped my client get the assistance he needed with his own struggles.

Two words that I would use to describe Mr. Besler would be honest and fair. These qualities are imperative in a judge. While these attributes are inherent to Mr. Besler as a person, he also possesses a strong working knowledge of the legal system and the law, and he strives to continue to learn.

I hope this letter adequately conveys the strength of my recommendation for Mr. Besler's application for District Judge and that you find he is deserving of such. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hradek
Assistant State Public Defender

June 4, 2018

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I am writing a letter of support for Jason Besler who has been nominated for a judgeship on the district court in Cedar Rapids. I am Tom Fogle, a retired pastor. I was on the staff of Cedar Valley Bible Church in Cedar Rapids for forty-four years, serving as senior pastor for thirty-one of those years. Though retired now, I am still an elder and teach Sunday school and continue to teach English grammar and composition in our school (Cedar Valley Christian School) to seventh through ninth graders and coach elementary and junior high girls' basketball.

I have known Jason for sixteen years starting when he and his wife began attending our church. For about seven years he and his wife were part of a small group that met at our house to study marriage and other biblical topics. It was in that small group that I really got to know Jason well. The first thing that I was impressed by was his integrity. He was a man of his word and has solid convictions. Although he never mentioned names or specifics, he often discussed his role as a prosecuting attorney for Linn County. In his words it was clear that he was always seeking justice whether it meant a conviction or an acquittal. It didn't matter to him what the outcome was as long as it was the right one.

Next, I am also impressed by his intellect. He is bright and well-read. He is thoughtful when discussing societal issues. It is hard to find a topic that he doesn't have knowledge about. Also, I never hesitate to ask him questions regarding the law. If he knows the law in a certain area, he will give me clear, thoughtful answers. If he doesn't know the law in an area, he will honestly tell me that he doesn't know much about that subject and won't try to speak to that matter without research.

Jason is a strong family man. He is sacrificial for his wife and young daughter. They respect him greatly. He is very involved in both his wife's and his daughter's lives.

One of the things that I appreciate about him a lot is his conservative approach to the issues of life. Since biblical truth is important to me, I am grateful that he evaluates life matters from a biblical perspective. However, he very much believes in the constitution and laws of the United States and of the State of Iowa and governs his approach to prosecution by those laws. In short, he truly is a man of high standards, and I have always respected him in that regard.

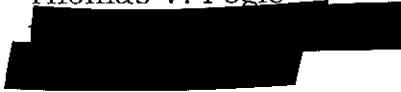
I will be praying for you as you make this appointment. I know that these decisions are often difficult for those who govern our nation and our

state, so I will be praying that you will have the wisdom to choose the right person for this appointment, whether it is Jason or the other candidate. I do believe Jason is a well-qualified and principled man who will be thorough and honest in his judgments. We certainly need men and women of his quality serving in our judicial system. If you choose him, I know that you will feel comfortable with that decision and that as time goes on, you will know it was a wise choice.

Thank you so much for considering my words as you make your decision. And thank you for serving the people of Iowa!

Sincerely,

Thomas V. Fogle
Thomas V. Fogle





Hiawatha Police Department

Dennis Marks
Chief of Police

101 Emmons Street
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
Phone: (319) 393-1212
Fax: (319) 393-4416

Office of the Governor
Governor Kim Reynolds
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

June 7, 2018

Governor Reynolds,

I am writing to you today hoping you have just a few minutes to consider my support for the appointment of Assistant Linn County Attorney Jason Besler to the District Judge vacancy. I support Mr. Besler without any hesitation and believe beyond any doubt that his service to the State of Iowa as a District Judge would be remarkable.

I have been working with Mr. Besler for nearly 14 years. Over that time, I have had the opportunity to experience the work of an attorney who is down to earth and stoically calm. He has advanced from misdemeanor attorney to felony attorney and has even been recognized recently with the Outstanding Service Award from the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. You will not have to look far to find many of his accomplishments.

Over the last decade and a half, I have consulted with Mr. Besler on a number of occasions due to his clear knowledge on legal matters, his ability to explain legal matters understandably to the lay person, and his willingness to do so. When I have requested attorney advice I have, at times, sought the advice of Mr. Besler specifically. At other times I have simply requested an available attorney and I consider myself fortunate when I get to consult with him anyway. My confidence in his understanding of the law is constant.

Mr. Besler has shown me his genuine interest in the manner in which justice is carried out. He is not afraid to stand on the virtues of his opinion. In my experience he does not necessarily tell me what I want to hear, rather he gives his advice based on fact and case law. Mr. Besler has always given me sound advice that permanently rings true to the spirit in which laws have been written which has guided my growth and development as a Police Officer. Mr. Besler has offered constructive criticism and praise when appropriate which has positively impacted my career and how I enforce the law.

Finally, I believe that challenging the merits of appointing Mr. Besler to District Judge would be difficult. My hope is that you will also find him as inspiring as I have. Please do not hesitate to contact me with anything further. I thank you for the time you have taken to consider my support.

Sincerely yours,

Ben Kamm, Police Captain

KRAIG PAULSEN

52935 – 310th Street, Kelley, Iowa 50134

319.981.3097 | 9813097@gmail.com

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.

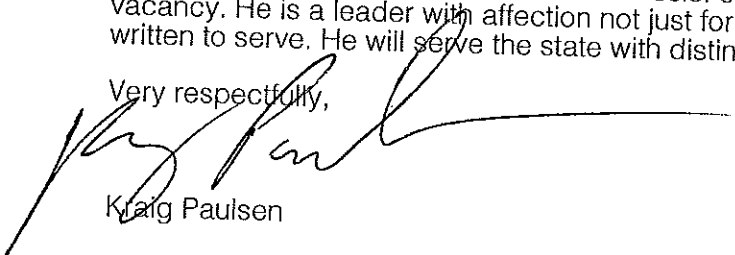
Born in Waukon, Jason is a lifelong Iowan who has prosecuted in Linn County for the last 18 years. He graduated from Luther College in 1996 and the University of Iowa Law School in 1999. After graduating from the University of Iowa he and his wife, Karen, moved to Linn County so Jason could join the 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

Brian D. Gardner

Linn County Sheriff
310 Second Avenue S.W.
P.O. Box 669
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0669
Phone: (319) 892-6100 FAX: (319) 892-6276
www.linncounty.org/sheriff sheriff@linncounty.org

May 31, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: District Court Vacancy

Honorable Governor Reynolds:

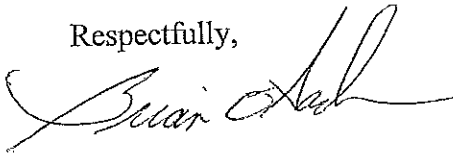
I am writing you to provide this letter of support on behalf of Jason Besler to fill the district court vacancy in the 6th Judicial District. I have known Jason since May of 2000 when he was hired by the Linn County Attorney's Office as a Prosecutor I. Since then he has worked his way up through the ranks, becoming a Criminal Prosecutor III in February 2009.

Over the course of his employment as an Assistant Linn County Attorney, I have found Jason to be a very competent and methodical prosecutor. His knowledge of the law is impressive, as is his understanding of its proper application. I have also found Jason to be very approachable and personable when either my staff or I have had questions about criminal law matters.

In addition to knowing Jason on a professional level, I have also know Jason and his wife, Dr. Karen Besler for several years on a personal level. Karen has been our family dentist for several years.

Throughout my interaction with Jason, I have found nothing that would cause me any concern should he be placed in a position as a district court judge. In fact, I find him to be very well-suited for a judicial appointment and I would highly recommend that you consider doing just that.

Respectfully,



Brian D. Gardner
Linn County Sheriff

[REDACTED]
Cedar Rapids, IA [REDACTED]

June 2, 2018

Re: Character Reference Letter for Jason Besler

To the Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds,

This letter is written on behalf of Jason Besler as testament, not only to his outstanding service to our community, but his consistent demonstration to live in an engaging way for the welfare of others. He presently serves as a board member for Isaac Newton Christian School.

I have known Jason for over a decade as a fair and able leader particularly from our mutual involvement on local community boards. One such board was Bridgehaven (Pregnancy Support Center, formerly known as Aid to Women) where we served as board members and officers at various times. Jason's knowledge, insight, and judgment was not only timely but invaluable when it came to addressing many organizational challenges. Even after stepping down from the board, his advice was still sought after, and he would make himself readily available to supply it.

I've witnessed how Jason's calm demeanor and winsome attitude have allowed him to be welcomed into some of the most contentious debates and result in positive outcomes. He is as articulate as they come while being both clear and firm. He is willing to work through difficult circumstances and assignments to arrive at a just conclusion.

It is for these reasons that I can wholeheartedly recommend Jason for the judgeship position he is seeking.

Sincerely,



E. Bernard Hayes
Elder Chair
Noelridge Park Church

[REDACTED]
(319) 350-4568



Richard L. Pazdernik, Jr.
Attorney at Law

☎ 319-331-5407
☎ 319-390-6627
✉ Rich@pazderniklaw.com
🌐 www.pazderniklaw.com

1231 Park Place NE, Suite D
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

June 1, 2018

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

Re: Linn County District Judge Opening -- In Support of Jason Besler

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

I am writing you to express my support of Jason Besler for Judge of the Sixth Judicial District of Iowa. As an attorney practicing in Cedar Rapids for over twenty years I represented many clients where Jason Besler served as the prosecutor. In each case I found Jason to be well versed on the facts and law, reasonable and willing to consider a plea agreement, but also firm and able to proceed to jury trial when he believed it was warranted. These traits and extensive experience bode well for him to serve as a District Court Judge.

In writing this letter of recommendation I reflected on my days as a law clerk and early years as a lawyer when I had the tremendous opportunity to work under a great mentor in Cedar Rapids Attorney, Wythe Willey. Mr. Willey, who unfortunately passed away several years ago, was the long time Chief of Staff for Governor Robert Ray, and provided counsel to Governor Terry Branstad and U.S. Senator Charles Grassley. On several occasions I assisted Mr. Willey with recommendations for State and Federal Judicial Appointments. I recall Mr. Willey asking my opinion on a candidate's experience, temperament and personality. Mr. Willey provided Governor Branstad and Senator Grassley with many successful appointment recommendations. I firmly believe Jason Besler would be the type of candidate Mr. Willey would fully support and recommend to Governor Reynolds to be the next District Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial District of Iowa.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Pazdernik, Jr.

SEIDL & SEIDL, P.L.C.

Attorneys at Law
229 Northland Court NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Phillip D. Seidl
Mark J. Seidl

Telephone: (319) 377-9770
Facsimile: (319) 377-5671

June 4, 2018

PSeidl@sccrlaw.com

Gerald D. Seidl
(Retired)

VIA Mail and E-MAIL

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
Attn.: Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Jason Besler

Dear Governor Reynolds:

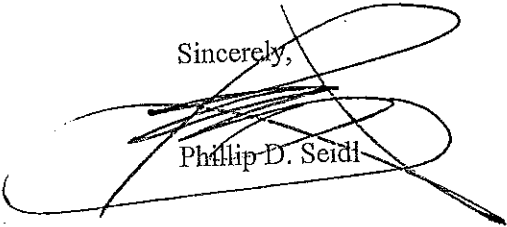
For the past several years, I have known Jason Besler as a thoughtful, hard-working Assistant Linn County Attorney. His legal competency and work ethic are well-respected in our community. In my estimation, however, in addition to his legal and professional qualifications, Jason's excellent character is what makes him an ideal jurist. Please accept this letter as a short explanation as to why.

Jason is committed to his family and community. His actions "speak" to the importance of both. Jason, along with his wife, Karen, has been actively involved as Foster Parents, and Jason's involvement in Big Brothers/Big Sisters and with Bridgehaven underscore his commitment to be a positive force in our community.

I recall visiting with Jason after he cycled off the Bridgehaven board. I had contacted him to consider joining the board of a like-minded organization, Birthright of Cedar Rapids. Jason expressed a strong interest but advised, as this commitment would impact his family, his decision would have to consider their needs. Ultimately, Jason declined in consideration of family responsibilities. None-the-less, the thing which impressed me was Jason's conscientious reflection in order to fulfill his most primary obligation to his wife and child.

In his daily life, professionally and otherwise, Jason is seamlessly considerate of others. I truly believe Jason, will be mindful of, and respectful to, all who might appear in front of him. It is in consideration of Jason Besler's work ethic, legal skill and character in particular, I believe he would be the best choice as a Judge for the Sixth Judicial District.

Sincerely,


Phillip D. Seidl

June 4, 2018

Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 503191

Dear Ms. O'Brien,

I am writing a letter in full support of Jason Besler for District 6 Judge of Iowa.

I have known Mr. Besler for about 13 years and often sought his counsel when I was the Executive Director of the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission. I have always found him to be a fair minded, even-tempered person with a brilliant legal mind. He would judge fairly in all civil cases, those charged with felonies, and divorce circumstances. His temperament is his most enduring quality, because he remains balanced even in the midst of heightened emotions.

It is also a joy to watch Mr. Besler with his family. His wife is a highly accomplished dentist and are doing a great job with how they raise their daughter. Also, Mr. Besler's patience and guidance of his daughter will be the guiding force in her development and growth in years to come.

In conclusion, Jason Besler has my full support and I believe is uniquely qualified to serve in this esteemed role. His educational background, professional career and the admiration of his peers in the legal community demonstrate qualities that would make him valuable asset to the court.

Sincerely,



Karl Cassell
President/CEO
Perhaps Today! Inc.

June 13, 2018

Honorable Kimberly Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Wyatt Peterson

Dear Governor Reynolds:

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Wyatt Peterson for appointment as a Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, Sub-District 8B. While it may or may not matter, I am a lifelong Republican and I believe Wyatt to be of the same values and principles I hold dear.

While I have known Wyatt on a personal level since my time at Drake University Law School, our families have known one another for much longer due to the proximity of our farms. Suffice to say that Wyatt is the product of a typical Iowa farm family - honest, caring, hard-working and also ready to lend a hand to a neighbor in need. I recall positive comments about Wyatt from family members long before having the pleasure of meeting him. I also recall several compliments from respected law school colleagues of mine about Wyatt and his work, particularly as it related to his involvement with the Drake Law Agricultural Journal.

Since graduating law school and returning to the area to practice I have come to know Wyatt on a personal and professional level. In so doing I have found each of those compliments, comments and characteristics to be entirely fitting. As a person, Wyatt is a kind, honest, caring individual whose interaction and concern is always genuine. He is also a devoted family man who did not hesitate to help on the family farm when his father encountered health issues, even though it required considerable sacrifice on his part.

As an attorney, I have always found Wyatt's knowledge and application of the law to be first-rate. Equally, Wyatt has always been able to zealously represent his client while maintaining the highest level of professionalism. He consistently remains respectful, patient, fair-minded and conscientious. His calm and measured demeanor is particularly well-suited for the today's courtrooms.

With the Baby Boomer generation aging we sit on the cusp of the largest transfer of wealth in our state's history. Together with this transfer of wealth will come transactional issues and, unfortunately, the increasing challenges of dementia. We will need judges well versed in the realms of transactional and probate law or capable of

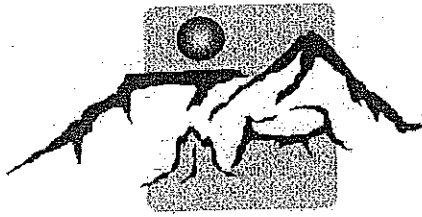
becoming such. Wyatt has already demonstrated superior knowledge and expertise in those areas and could immediately tackle those real estate, business, estate, trust and conservatorship matters that are soon to increase in their number and complexity.

I have known Wyatt Peterson to be a skilled lawyer, strong family man and leader in his community. His broad experience in the areas of probate, family and criminal law position him well for service as a Judge of the Eighth Judicial District, Sub-District 8B. I support Wyatt Peterson's appointment without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric L. Benne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "B".

Eric L. Benne



DELTA COUNTY
Memorial
HOSPITAL

June 10, 2018

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Wyatt P. Peterson

Dear Governor Kim Reynolds:

It is with great pleasure that I submit a personal letter of recommendation for Wyatt P. Peterson for the position of District Court Judge in Judicial District 8B. Humility is Wyatt's most unique trait. A trait that all truly great leaders and community servants should have. I don't think it can be learned or taught. It's who you are. It's definitely who Wyatt is. And it's why I proudly write this letter of recommendation for him. People in a position of power can easily be intoxicated by power. Wyatt's humility will never allow that to happen.

I have been lucky to know Wyatt on a personal level for 22 years now. Our relationship started as college freshman roommates. I was truly blessed to have been paired with a roommate that modeled humility, integrity, kindness, patience, and a "farm kid" work ethic. Wyatt was often my moral compass and someone I have tried my best to emulate.

A good predictor of how one will serve his community can be found in how he serves those closest to him. Wyatt loves his family and cares for them deeply. While in college he would often miss out on fun weekend activities to help on his family farm during planting and harvesting season. He was sure to make it home for any important family events such as grandparent birthdays or important events his siblings were apart of. This has carried into his adult life. He was an absolute rock for his family while his first born daughter Mary Kate was born 3 months premature. He and his wife spent 3 anxiety filled months in the NICU. He was the picture of compassion to his wife, other parents in the NICU, and the staff that cared for his new daughter. His family has grown to 4 kids. He is coaching his son's T-Ball team. Now serves as President of Mt. Pleasant Christian School school board, and adores his wife like he just met her.

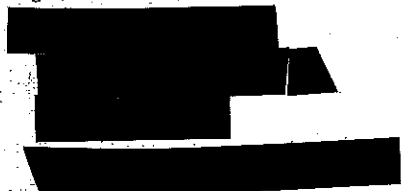
Wyatt has always displayed a very strong work ethic. He had part time jobs while being a full time college student while commuting several hours back home to work weekends on his family farm. Present day he carries himself with such dignity while diligently juggling his many responsibilities. These include but are not limited to running his own private law practice, working part time as Magistrate Judge, serving his local school as school board president, all while still helping on his family farm. He is intentional with his time, careful not to over extend himself but once he enrolls in something he is fully committed. He is diligent, punctual, and very organized.

Wyatt's nomination to this position gives me much faith in our judicial system. The backbone of our judicial system relies on personal integrity. Wyatt brings a level of integrity that is essential and rarely seen. He is guided by his personal faith and a strong desire to do the right thing. Wyatt has never wavered from his personal convictions over the 22 years I have known him. It is with extreme confidence that I recommend Wyatt P. Peterson for your position.

Sincerely,



Jarred Freese, MD





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June 13, 2018

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

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I am writing you to recommend that you appoint Wyatt Peterson to serve as a district judge of Iowa's Eighth Judicial District, Sub District 8B. Please be advised that while Wyatt and I are third cousins, a relationship worthy of disclosure and the reason I have known him for his entire life, I do not believe our relationship impacts my objectivity, rather, it gives me just the right distance from which to see clearly who he is.

Please allow me to comment on four factors that support my recommendation, namely, Wyatt's Integrity, his Legal Ability/Experience, Wyatt's Temperament and his Life Experience.

Iowa crops are the product of fertile farmland and the unmatched skill and dedication of Iowa farmers. Like Iowa crops, Wyatt's integrity is the product of an Iowa farming community where his parents, grandparents, and entire community raised him to be committed to hard work, honesty, self-reliance and a steadfast commitment to do what is right. You do not measure integrity on a scale of 1-10. Integrity is binary. Either you have it or you do not. Wyatt has it and anyone you talk to that knows him will say the same.

Wyatt has been an attorney for 15 years. Early in his career, he obtained significant courtroom experience as the Assistant County with the Washington County Attorney's office. More recently, he was appointed to serve as a part-time Henry County Magistrate. In private practice, he has had the opportunity to work with clients in virtually every area of the law, including, but not limited to, litigation, real estate, business planning and contracts, and probate and trusts. Simply put, Wyatt's broad legal experience (public and private; as a prosecutor and criminal defense counsel, including issues involving juveniles, mental health and substance abuse; as a magistrate; and as a private practice attorney) is precisely the varied experience necessary to deal with the diverse issues judges face daily.

When you meet with Wyatt, you will not meet the type of judge that would get good television ratings. To the contrary, you will meet with a man you would want to be the judge on your case, whether as an accused, a victim, a juror, a witness, a lawyer or otherwise. He is an outstanding listener. He is humble. He is not quick to judge, but firm and decisive once he has made up his mind. Most of all, he understands the gravity of this responsibility. In a judge, that is what you, and all Iowans, want . . . and deserve.

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Wyatt Peterson was born and raised in southeast Iowa. He attended college and law school in Iowa. He has served as an Iowa public employee. He has served as a magistrate judge in Iowa. He has engaged in the private practice of law. He works part-time in his father's livestock operation. I can think of no person better prepared by life to be an Iowa district court judge than Wyatt Peterson.

Wyatt is my cousin, my friend and a fellow member of the bar. As a banker, a community volunteer and a citizen of Iowa, it gives me great pride to know that you are considering Wyatt for this appointment. After meeting with him, I am confident that you will agree with me that he is the best choice to serve as a district judge of Iowa's Eighth Judicial District, Sub District 8B.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, Wyatt or any other matter, please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Joe Slavens
President/CEO

[REDACTED]

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

PATRICK C. BRAU
ATTORNEY AT LAW
111 EAST WASHINGTON STREET
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA 52641-1901
TELEPHONE (319) 385-2511
FAX (319) 385-2148

June 14, 2018

Governor Kimberly Reynolds
State Capital
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Re: Wyatt Peterson -- District Court Judge Candidate

Dear Governor Kimberly Reynolds:

I am writing in support of Wyatt Peterson, who is being considered for the District Court Judge position in the 8B Judicial District. It is without hesitation that I recommend him for your appointment.

I have been a resident of Iowa all my life. I have been practicing law in Iowa since graduating from Drake University in 1986. For the past 19 years, I have had a general practice in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. My experiences with Wyatt have been from different perspectives. When he was a prosecutor in Washington County, I represented several Defendants being prosecuted by him. Since he has practiced law in Henry County, he and I have been involved in real estate, probate and other civil cases. I have represented the City of Mount Pleasant, as City Attorney, small claims litigants and defendants, before Wyatt in his position as Judicial Magistrate. These experiences with Wyatt have convinced me that he is qualified to deal with a wide range of issues that a District Court Judge is required to address.

I served on the Judicial Nominating Committee that first selected Wyatt, when he became magistrate. The entire Committee selected Wyatt because he possessed all the qualities we felt would be necessary for him to be successful. He has more than met our expectations. Wyatt has an excellent judicial demeanor. As a lawyer, I have always felt that he has been fair with me and my clients. He always treats individuals who appear before him, whether first timers or familiar faces, with patients and respect. This is particularly important when the first, and sometimes only, time most individuals appear before a member of the judicial system is their local magistrate. An individual's first impression of the judicial system will greatly be effected by how they are treated by the presiding judge.

In addition to having the demeanor necessary in a District Court Judge, he has the intelligence, positive attitude and work ethic to be successful. I believe that Wyatt will seek justice in every case before him, within the confines of the law. I have learned from professional interaction and personal conversations that Wyatt, that he has solid values that I believe most Iowans share.

It is my personal opinion, which I share with many lawyers in Southeast Iowa, that you will never regret the decision to appoint Wyatt Peterson District Court Judge for the 8B Judicial District. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this recommendation.

Sincerely,



PATRICK C. BRAU

PCB:pcb
Enclosure

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June 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & U.S. MAIL
(Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov)

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Wyatt Peterson – District Court Judge – Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I write to convey my support and recommendation for Wyatt Peterson as a District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District of Iowa. I have known Wyatt for approximately fifteen years, and have found him to be an extremely competent attorney and a good person to work with.

I have acted as co-counsel on a couple of matters with Wyatt. During my interaction with him I have always found him to be fair to both attorneys and litigants, and would note that he treats all individuals with respect and appropriate demeanor. That cannot be said for all attorneys with whom we interact, but Wyatt seems to go out of his way to treat all people fairly and with respect. I am confident he would bring this level of professionalism to the bench.

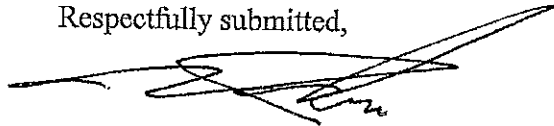
Wyatt worked in our firm for approximately three years. During that time, he exhibited excellent legal skills. Wyatt was and is extremely competent in the areas of research, writing, and interaction with clients. If he were a District Court Judge, I am confident he would competently apply the law to the relevant facts, and render objective rulings. In my interactions with Wyatt since he has left our firm, we have at times discussed various matters presented either in our firm or in his private practice. Wyatt gives all individuals, regardless of their income or background, the same deference and dedication of his time when taking on a new matter. I am confident that Wyatt would treat all individuals who come before his court with the proper level

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of respect that is expected of our judicial system. I know that Wyatt believes strongly in the Iowa court system, and would work tirelessly to provide fair and legally accurate rulings to the matters that come before him.

I highly recommend Wyatt Peterson for your consideration as a District Court Judge.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Jahn, Jr.

ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER,
ENGBERG & HELLING, P.L.C.

WRJ/dle
cc: Wyatt Peterson



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June 12, 2018

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

RE: APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am writing this letter to recommend and encourage the appointment of Wyatt P. Peterson as a District Court Judge in the Eighth Judicial District. To a certain extent, I am biased in my recommendation as I am Wyatt's father-in-law. However, I am an attorney who has practiced for over 30 years in the Fifth Judicial District and I have had the good fortune to witness and observe Wyatt's growth as a young man from courting my daughter to being an unusually good father of four children while developing a thriving law practice in his home town. In the process, he gained several years' experience as an assistant county attorney and then later, doing some defense work. He has handled family law cases, a wide variety of business law cases, and a broad range of estate planning and estate settlement cases. I cannot imagine an individual with more broad-based experience and qualifications for becoming a District Court Judge.

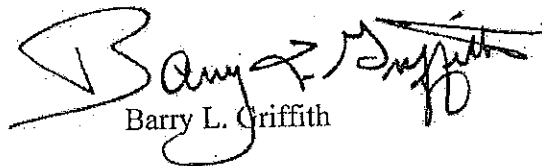
I have had the opportunity to observe Wyatt in stressful situations and have admired his ability to assess these situations and prioritize his efforts. He is extremely conscientious and well-balanced in his thinking. He is very good at diffusing tense situations and bringing common sense to a situation.

Wyatt has shown an ability to think and react quickly in stressful situations. He has shown that he has the technical skills to make good legal arguments whether writing or making oral arguments. He is at ease with people of all walks of life and backgrounds. In my view, Wyatt has the temperament to be an outstanding judge and a person of character who will stand the test of time.

My respect and support for Wyatt Peterson is unqualified and it is my hope that he will be given the opportunity to serve as a District Court Judge.

Respectfully,

JOHNSTON, HICKS & GRIFFITH



Barry L. Griffith

BLG:tld
Enclosures

LAW OFFICES OF
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June 14, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY
(Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov)

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Letter of Support for Wyatt P. Peterson for District Court Judge
for the Iowa Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I offer the following letter of support for and strongly recommend your appointment of Wyatt P. Peterson as District Court Judge for the Iowa Eighth Judicial District. I understand that you will be interviewing Wyatt on June 18, 2018 and I ask that you consider this letter of support as a part of that interview.

I have had the privilege of knowing Wyatt since 2003 when he began as an attorney practicing in the law firm of which I am a partner. Wyatt was a tremendous asset to our firm in the years he practiced with us, not only because of his strong academic background and exceptional legal knowledge and ability, but also because of his qualities as a person. Wyatt is quiet and somewhat reserved while at the same time exhibiting a level of competence, demeanor, and temperament so essential for a judge. I have found Wyatt to treat all with whom he deals with the utmost degree of fairness, respect, and dignity, regardless of their position and regardless of whether he is advocating for or against them.

After leaving our firm, Wyatt served as Assistant Washington County Attorney. I then had the experience of representing a defendant in what I felt to be a rather serious motor-vehicle-related charge arising from a significant vehicular accident. Wyatt represented the State in connection with those matters. I found Wyatt to be extremely forthright, fair, and respectful in the presentation of his case against my client and felt Wyatt to be a credit to the Washington County Attorney's Office. Wyatt was successful in that prosecution and, while I was on the losing side, I always felt that I was also treated very fairly in the arguments and the evidence

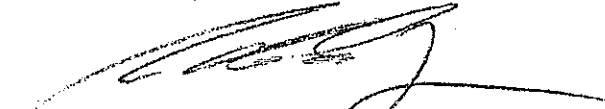
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presented against my client. Wyatt is a talented opponent, a trusted member of the Bar, and a person whose friendship I am honored to share. Wyatt's work ethic and his commitment to professional standards of conduct are above reproach.

I am convinced without any reservation whatsoever that Wyatt exemplifies the criteria for selection of judges with respect to qualities of integrity; legal knowledge and ability; professional experience; judicial temperament; diligence in punctuality; health and stamina; public service; collegiality; communication skills; and motivation.

I was very pleased to learn that Wyatt has chosen to make this application and that he was one of the nominees selected by the 8B Judicial Nominating Commission for this office. I am convinced Wyatt would be an excellent addition to the judiciary and a credit to the State of Iowa in this position.

Very truly yours,



Robert A. Engberg

RAE/dle

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& WALSH
PRYOR, RILEY, JONES (1976-1985)
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WARNER & ENGBERG

June 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY
(Meaghan.O'Brien@Iowa.Gov)

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Wyatt P. Peterson for District Court Judge
for the Iowa Eighth Judicial District

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am writing to you to recommend your appointment of Wyatt P. Peterson as District Court Judge for the Iowa Eighth Judicial District.

Wyatt was an associate of our law firm beginning in September of 2003 through December of 2006, at which time he left to take a position as the assistant Washington County Attorney in Washington, Iowa. During his term at our law firm, Wyatt was a valued member of our team. Wyatt has an exceptional work ethic. Wyatt provided excellent representation to the clients of our office.

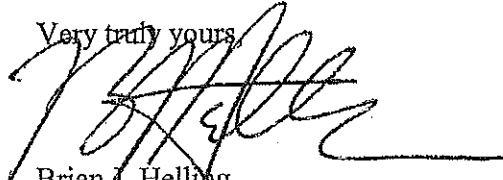
I have remained in contact with Wyatt through his time at the Washington County Attorney's Office and currently as a sole practitioner in Winfield, Iowa. I know that Wyatt's practice has allowed him to develop very competent trial and advocacy skills. Wyatt's personal demeanor and temperament would be an asset to the Iowa Judiciary. I have always found Wyatt to treat everyone fairly and with respect. As a practicing attorney, I know that Wyatt's experience as Assistant County Attorney will serve him well as a District Court Judge. Also, the fact that Wyatt has been involved in a significant amount of transactional work during his career will be very beneficial to him in his role as a District Court Judge.

I am convinced that Wyatt would be an asset to the Iowa Judiciary, and strongly recommend his appointment as District Court Judge for the Eighth Judicial District. I have known Wyatt on both a professional and personal basis, and I am convinced that based on his

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tremendous work ethic, experience, demeanor, temperament, and his unquestioned professional ethics, he would make an excellent District Court Judge.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Helling", written over a horizontal line.

Brian J. Helling
ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER,
ENGBERG & HELLING, P.L.C.

BJH/rkb

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June 14, 2018

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

VIA E-MAIL
Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov

Re: Wyatt Peterson

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide my support for Wyatt Peterson to serve as the newest Eighth Judicial District Court Judge. I am excited that Wyatt is one of the two final candidates. I have had the opportunity to work with Wyatt on different cases and I believe he is the appropriate person for the job.

I had the opportunity to work with Wyatt in a capacity where he was serving as executor on an estate I was administering. It was an extremely contentious estate with eight (8) beneficiaries who did not have strong family ties to one another. Wyatt was asked by the family to serve as co-executor on the estate with one brother after two other siblings had resigned. Wyatt was aware of the contententiousness of the estate and still chose to take the position to assist in trying to settle the disputes and close the estate. During his time as executor, I was able to see Wyatt assist with his knowledge as an attorney, and also from an individual standpoint as executor trying to implement the terms of the Will and balance the family dynamics. Over that time, he dealt with a large degree of complaints, frustrations and communication from various family members. During this case, he always maintained his integrity in his responses. He took the time to address the concerns of each beneficiary, answer honestly and maintain open communication with the family. He was fair to all beneficiaries in giving clear and consistent answers and direction. I was very impressed with his ability to handle the dynamics within the family in an open communicative and calm manner. In this situation, he was able to act independently based on what he believed was appropriate with regard to the administration of the estate and the intent of the Will. He was not swayed by various opinions based on emotion, but was able to address the situation in an unbiased manner.

I believe that Wyatt possesses the required legal knowledge and an ability to apply the legal knowledge to specific factual situations. I communicated with Wyatt regarding a probate court

ANDERSON, ROBERTS, PORTH, WALLACE & STEWART LLP

Meaghan O'Brien
Page 2
June 14, 2018

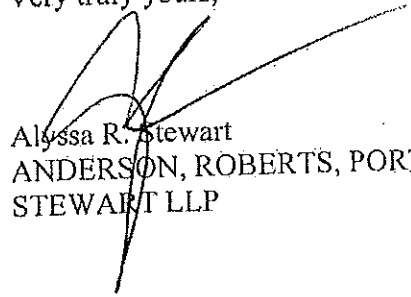
costs issue and some filings that he had made regarding the same. My review of his filings, once it was public record, indicated his ability to apply the factual situations against the law and determine the appropriate outcome.

I believe Wyatt to be a very diligent and punctual individual. When working with him on the probate estate, his response time to me and all of the beneficiaries was often as quickly as possible in a professional manner. The estate was never waiting on his response, and he was often ahead waiting on the estate to get to a point to have further analysis. He had already considered what we may need to consider at the time that we were posing the question. He was always able to make all of the appointments scheduled, whether in-person, court hearings or phone conferences, and responded appropriately to all beneficiaries and me as the attorney for the estate.

As mentioned above, Wyatt's communication skills are very good. I worked with him on a separate real estate matter where he represented the buyer under a real estate contract. Wyatt was very upfront about concerns and questions and responded with his title opinion and objections immediately and helped to address some lingering questions about an outstanding tax issue in a respectful manner to me, my client and his client. He took the time to explain his concerns and work diligently to get all signatures as quickly as possible so that all parties were satisfied and issues resolved quickly.

In closing, I would like to say that my time spent working with Wyatt on various matters has led me to want to write this letter of recommendation for him, as I believe that he is an intelligent, strong, communicative attorney who will make an excellent judge. I believe that Wyatt would excel as a judge and we would be lucky to have him in such a capacity.

Very truly yours,


Alyssa R. Stewart
ANDERSON, ROBERTS, PORTH, WALLACE &
STEWART LLP

ARS/sw/lp

June 12, 2018

Dear Governor Kim Reynolds:

I am writing this letter to support Wyatt Peterson for the vacant District Court Judge position in Judicial District 8B.

I am a court attendant in North & South Lee County and recently helped with a magistrate jury trial in South Lee County where I had the pleasure to work with Magistrate Peterson. Magistrate Peterson made the jury feel welcome and explained procedures to them. The jury trial was a speeding ticket. The defendant was pro se, a "sovereign citizen", had a very different perspective of the law, and was somewhat outspoken. Magistrate Peterson was very even-tempered but firm with the pro se defendant, also explaining procedures to him and giving him guidance as needed. He was conscious of the jurors' time and kept the trial moving along.

Magistrate Peterson was very respectful of all jurors, litigants, and court personnel. I enjoyed working with him and feel that he would be an excellent addition to our judicial team.

Sincerely,

Dawn Willson
Court Attendant
North & South Lee County

June 11, 2018

The Honorable Kay Reynolds
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

Re: Wyatt P. Peterson, District Court Judge Nominee, District 8B

As a member of the legal profession I could speak to Wyatt's legal qualifications, yet I surmise the other nominee has those necessary credentials as well as Wyatt. Accordingly, my comments are as to Wyatt's integrity and personal qualifications.

Wyatt and his family live in rural Henry County on a farm immediately across the road from the farm where I was raised that is still in my family. I have known Wyatt his entire life, as well as three generations of his Peterson extended family. I often see him playing out front with his four children, who are creative, fun, and infinitely polite young kids, a credit to both Wyatt and his spouse.

Wyatt eventually after law school chose to return to his roots, rural Southeast Iowa. His perspectives on rural life through having grown up in and continuing to participate in a successful family farm operation are perspectives that are still needed in our state.

Wyatt has the ideal temperament for the bench. He is humble, hardworking, and a disciplined, as well as much respected, practitioner. He always maintains his composure, even under trying circumstances. I have known Wyatt only as a compassionate and caring person, attributes that are too often lacking in our current legal community. I have personally seen him interact and relate with all ages; never have I heard him speak down to anyone.

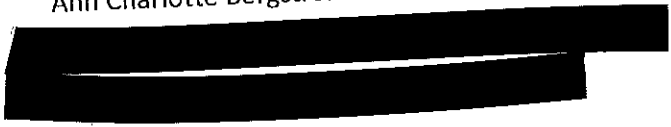
He is a salt of the earth – morally upright, dedicated father and husband, helpful neighbor, well-liked by all, as well as a respected practitioner. He is fair-minded, reliable, and trustworthy – exactly the kind of judge you would want to bring your case to in a court of law.

I am confident Wyatt will discharge his duties on the bench in a conscientious manner consistent with the laws of the state of Iowa.

As an aside, I have personally known several Iowa Supreme Court justices over the years, two of which worked for the law firm I cofounded in 1977. Justice Bruce Zager worked as an associate in our law firm in Cedar Falls for several years when he first started practicing. I predict that Wyatt will progress to the Iowa Supreme Court during his legal career! He has the needed temperament, as well the demeanor to handle the pressures of the courtroom.

Sincerely,

Ann Charlotte Bergstrom





Henry County Attorney

Courthouse--100 E. Washington St., Suite 101
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641-1949
Phone (319) 385-0752 Fax (319) 385-0778
Email: coattorney@henrycountyiowa.us

Darin R. Stater
County Attorney

Ed Harvey, Assistant County Attorney
Terri Quartucci, Assistant County Attorney

June 12, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

There are several qualities which Wyatt Peterson possesses that indicate he would make an outstanding District Court Judge.

Wyatt has clearly shown himself to be an intelligent and hardworking individual. When working with him as an attorney in the past, he was always well prepared and competent.

Wyatt also has many years experience both in civil and criminal law. He has worked both as a defense attorney and prosecutor, as well as representing varied civil clients.

The single most outstanding quality Wyatt possesses is his judicial demeanor. As a Magistrate, he has treated all individuals before his Court with the utmost respect. However, while Magistrate Peterson has treated people well, he has also demonstrated the ability to take control of his Courtroom when necessary.

In summary, I believe Wyatt Peterson would be an admirable District Court Judge highly capable of carrying out the requirements of the position, and a significant asset to the District Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ed Harvey", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Harvey
County Attorney

GARY L. WIEGEL, BA JD

Attorney at Law

114 E. Monroe

P.O. Box 488

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641-0488

Telephone (319) 385-2130

FAX (319) 385-8667

June 13, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
State Capitol
1007 E. Grand Ave., Room 101
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Wyatt Peterson
District 8B Judicial Candidate

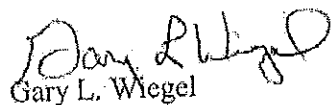
Dear Governor:

This letter is on behalf of Wyatt Peterson, candidate to fill the vacancy in District 8B created by the retirement of Judge John Linn.

I have been practicing law here in Henry County for 53 and have seen many attorneys and Judges come and go. It has certainly been a pleasure getting to know Wyatt and working with him since he opened his practice in Winfield. I enjoy talking to him and have, on occasion, sought his counsel for a second opinion. We have also been on opposing sides of issues many times and I found Wyatt to be quite knowledgeable in his application of the law. As our world is every changing, his easy-going demeanor is such that I believe he would be unfazed by situations he would be presented with on a day-to-day basis as a District Court Judge. His temperament, in fact, reminds me of that of retired Judge, Harlan Bainter.

In closing, I believe Wyatt would make an outstanding Judge and hope that you will appoint him to the bench for District 8B. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,



Gary L. Wiegel
Attorney at Law

GLW:nlw



Powell &
McCullough,
PLC

LAW OFFICES

Powell and McCullough, PLC
1100 6th Street, Suite 103
Coralville, Iowa 52241
Tel: 319-569-1772
Fax: 319-569-1774
www.powellandmccullough.com

June 13, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds

RE: Wyatt P. Peterson
District Court Vacancy

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am writing to recommend Wyatt P. Peterson for District Court Judge. I have known Wyatt for almost 12 years. Wyatt became an assistant Washington County Attorney shortly after I began practicing in Washington. The two of us then spent several formative years being opposing counsel on cases on a daily basis. I gained a great deal of respect for Wyatt, both as a person and as a prosecutor. Wyatt Peterson is honest and straightforward, with a refreshing lack of arrogance. Wyatt and I tried numerous cases against one another, and each time he was a professional to the highest degree.

When Wyatt decided to leave Washington County, I remember him sending me a very thoughtful email acknowledging our friendship and wishing me well. I appreciated that he took the time to write me; in fact I still have the email today.

For several years Wyatt and I referred cases to one another as private attorneys. Eventually Wyatt became a Magistrate Judge in Henry County, and I occasionally appear in front of him in this capacity. As a judge, Wyatt has performed just as I would have expected, running his courtroom in a calm, almost laid back manner. I have no doubt he would do the same at the district court level.

Wyatt Peterson is one of the truly "nice" people in our profession. I have yet to encounter anyone who has had anything bad to say about Wyatt personally or professionally. I believe that Wyatt will bring this level of courtesy and civility to the District Court Bench if given the opportunity. I am honored to make this recommendation. Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Very truly yours,
Powell and McCullough, PLC



Jeffrey L. Powell

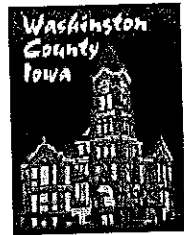
JLP/mg

WASHINGTON COUNTY TREASURER

JEFFREY A. GARRETT

Jolene Colthurst, Deputy Treasurer
Teresa Long, Deputy Treasurer
Mary Sue Northup, Clerk

Shelley Reed-Wulf, Clerk
Deanna Bertelli, Clerk



June 12, 2018

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

Dear Governor Reynolds;

It has come to my attention that Wyatt Peterson is being considered for appointment as District Court Judge in judicial district 8B. Wyatt served as Assistant County Attorney for Washington County from December 2006 through April 2010.

I am not an expert on the law, but what I do remember about Wyatt was his calm and steady demeanor. My interactions with him were always very professional. I always knew my issues would be resolved quickly and with integrity. I feel he would make an excellent District Court Judge.

Please feel free to contact me if any further information would be helpful in making your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Garrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeffrey A. Garrett
Washington County Treasurer

Brandy Bloom, Clerk
Erin Yoder, Clerk

Telephone (319) 653-7727
Facsimile (319) 653-7754

WASHINGTON COUNTY RECORDER

JO GREINER
224 West Main Street
PO Box 889 (use for mail)
Washington Iowa 52353

jgreiner@co.washington.ia.us
<http://co.washington.ia.us>
www.iowalandrecords.org



Washington County Courthouse
Washington, Iowa

June 12, 2018
Governor Kim Reynolds,

This letter is regarding Wyatt Peterson's appointment to the District Court position.

I became acquainted with Wyatt during the time he was Washington County Assistant Attorney and I was employed in the Washington County Recorder's Office. Wyatt was always helpful and kept a calm demeanor.

Also, I was a juror in an OWI case that he prosecuted. I remember Wyatt was well-prepared and courteous to those involved. The person was eventually found guilty.

Presently, we record the documents (deeds, Powers of Attorney, contracts etc) that he prepares in his private law practice. I know him to be conscientious, timely and knowledgeable of the law.

Considering Wyatt's character and integrity, he would definitely be a positive choice for this position. If you have any questions please contact me.

Sincerely,

BAINTER AND THOMAS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 E. CLAY

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA 52641-2318

SELETA A. BAINTER

JEFFREY D. THOMAS

JOSEPHINE BAINTER THOMAS

AREA CODE 319

TELEPHONE 385-0740

FAX (319) 385-0743

June 12, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Judicial Appointment District 8B – Wyatt P. Peterson

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Wyatt P. Peterson for the judicial appointment in Iowa Judicial District 8B. I have been practicing law in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa for four years. I believe that I am the youngest member of the Henry County Bar. As a young attorney, it is vital to be able to contact other members of the bar to answer questions that arise in your first years of practice. Mr. Peterson has always been supportive, respectful, encouraging, and available to young attorneys. I believe that this is an important reflection of his character because it is infinitely easier to be dismissive. I also believe that this is an important character trait for a person seeking judicial appointment because a judge who takes the time to answer questions and work with young attorneys raises the quality of legal practice in the district.

Furthermore, I have worked with Mr. Peterson on several occasions, including multiple real estate transactions, a declaratory judgement action for two trusts, and an adoption proceeding. In every communication, whether by phone, email, or in person, Mr. Peterson has been prompt, courteous, and friendly. He is careful and thorough in the manner in which he handles his cases. In the courtroom, he is thoughtful and articulate.

For these reasons, I believe that Mr. Peterson would be an excellent addition to the Iowa Judicial District 8B bench.

Best regards,



Josephine Bainter Thomas

Attorney-At-Law

Bainter and Thomas Law Office

Shelly Llus
Judicial Specialist 3

JULIE JOHNSON
CLERK OF COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY
224 W. Main St.
WASHINGTON IA 52353
PH 319-653-7741
FAX 319-653-7787

Barb Liebe
Judicial Specialist 3

Fern Bontrager
Judicial Specialist 3

June 14, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

Governor Reynolds,

I write to you regarding your upcoming appointment of a judge to the district court bench for the 8th Judicial District. I am honored to fully support an appointment of Wyatt Peterson for the following reasons.

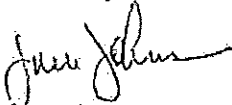
I had the pleasure of working with Wyatt when he was the Assistant Washington County Attorney from December 2006 thru April 2010. You will never find a nicer, more even tempered person than Wyatt Peterson. His demeanor and temperament while working with court users, court personnel, and other attorneys was always professional, kind and caring. Even while representing the State of Iowa in criminal cases he was firm in his standing yet always in a way that the defendant respected him for his work. You don't always find a person that can work both sides of the table and have a good result regardless of the outcome. Wyatt Peterson is that person.

Wyatt is always prepared and we have never had problems with him not being available for us, for court users and attorneys. His work ethic is outstanding and his work is always accurate and timely. Wyatt is a team player and is always willing to set his "job" aside to help anyone in a kind and compassionate way.

Since leaving Washington County we continued to work with Wyatt as he pursued his private practice and as Henry County Magistrate. Again, Wyatt's professionalism and kindness still surpasses most of the other professionals we deal with.

Governor Reynolds, you have a tough decision to make. I can assure you, you will have no regrets in appointing Wyatt Peterson to the District Court Bench! His demeanor, his temperament, his fairness and respect will be a great addition to the Judicial Branch.

Sincerely,



Julie Johnson
Washington County Clerk of Court



Phone 319-385-2712
Civil Office 319-385-4652
Fax 319-385-2384

106 E. Clay St.
P.O. Box 216
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

June 12, 2018

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

Governor Kim Reynolds,

I have worked closely with Judge Wyatt Peterson since he became the magistrate for Henry County in January of 2017. Judge Peterson is so easy to work with! If I ever have a question about an inmate or a mental committal I know that I can call him and he will listen to my question or concern. He is always patient and professional when giving me his answer or opinion. Judge Peterson carries these characteristics into the courtroom as well. He treats everyone with respect and is fair with his decisions. Judge Peterson takes all factors into consideration before he decides on the terms of release for our inmates during their initial appearance. At times, we have inmates who are not respectful or may even have outbursts in the courtroom. Judge Peterson will remain calm and respectful to the inmate but still be firm in his decisions.

Judge Peterson started GoToMeeting in Henry County. He came to me shortly after starting and asked if I would be interested in using this for weekend court. Prior to this, the judges were coming to the jail in person on the weekends to do our initial appearances. I was very happy to implement this. We also use this if we have an uncooperative inmate who may not be safe to take to court.

I would highly recommend Wyatt Peterson for the position of District Court Judge. He is honest, trustworthy, calm, fair, and approachable. These are all qualities I feel are very important for this position.

Julie Pilling

Henry County Jail Administrator

MITCHELL LAW OFFICE, PLC

Katie Mitchell, Attorney at Law

217 W. Main Street
Washington, Iowa 52353

Ph: (319)653-2050

Fax: (844) 270-6616

Website: mitchelllawoffice.com

Se Habla Español

June 11, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Via email only to Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov

Re: Wyatt Peterson – District 8B Judicial Vacancy

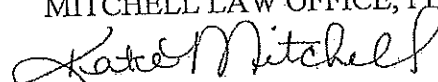
Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am a practicing attorney in Washington, Iowa. I am writing to express my enthusiasm at the possibility of having Wyatt Peterson named as the next 8B District Court Judge. I have known Wyatt since his time in the Washington County Attorney's Office. During that time, I came to know Wyatt as a skilled, detail oriented attorney. The characteristic that makes Wyatt stand out, however, is his decency to other people. This decency was not simply being kind to others rather, it was shown in his reasonableness in dealing with opposing counsel, his promptness in handling cases, and his honesty with counsel and before the Court. Wyatt used his prosecutorial discretion to serve justice, not to just "win" cases.

Since 2010 when he left his position as an Assistant County Attorney, Wyatt has developed a well-respected private practice. In my dealings with him in this area, I have found Wyatt to be very prompt in responding to issues as they arise and eager to work for common sense solutions.

As an attorney who practices primarily in real estate, tax, and probate now, I believe there is a need for judges who have knowledge and experience in this area. Wyatt has this knowledge. Wyatt's wide knowledge of the law, coupled with his decency, would make him an excellent addition to the District 8B bench.

With sincere regards,
MITCHELL LAW OFFICE, PLC



Katie Mitchell

Henry County Supervisors

100 E Washington St Ste 202
Mt Pleasant IA 52641
Fax: 319-385-3601

Marc Lindeen, Member
319-385-0760

Gary See, Vice-Chairman
319-385-0759

Greg Moeller, Chairman
319-385-0761

June 13, 2018

Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds,

This letter serves as my wholehearted endorsement of Wyatt P. Peterson for the position of District Court Judge in Judicial District 8B. I have known Wyatt his entire life and have watched him grow in an intelligent, respectful and inquiring man.

Wyatt has a quiet, thoughtful presence about him. He does not jump to conclusions, but gathers information before making decisions. He is a leader and will do what is right.

While living across the road from my elderly aunt, Wyatt brought her daily newspaper to her so that she would not have to go outside and get it. At times he would come in and have coffee with her to keep her company or shovel her front walk when the weather was bad. I have always considered him to be very thoughtful and kind.

It is a pleasure to be in the company of Wyatt. Please strongly consider Wyatt for the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Marc B. Lindeen
Henry County Supervisor

The Board of Supervisors meets regularly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings usually beginning at 9:00 AM. All meetings are open to the public unless, for purposes described in Code of Iowa Chapter 21, a closed meeting is necessary or advisable to protect the interests of individuals or the County. All persons are invited to take an active roll in Henry County government. Agenda appointments will need to be scheduled through Henry County Auditor's Office. You may address the Board (without an appointment) while they are in session if you are willing to wait your turn at an unscheduled agenda time.

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

June 14, 2018

Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

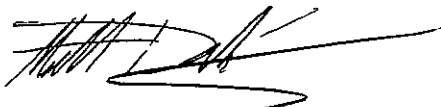
I am writing you today to recommend nominee Mr. Wyatt Peterson for the District Court Judge position for district 8B. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Peterson for 18 years, which began when he and I were students together at Drake University School of Law. Mr. Peterson and I connected early in our law school career and became close friends – our common link to family farm upbringings shaped both of our interests in course selection and work ethic.

Mr. Peterson is a smart, humble and high integrity individual. I have always admired his ability to reason and process, as well as communicate with almost anyone in a respectful manner that clearly conveys his position or demonstrates his inquisitive processing of an issue. Mr. Peterson is someone who gives thought to his decisions and has always demonstrated wisdom in both his personal and professional life.

During my friendship with Mr. Peterson I was also fortunate to get to know his wife, Meagan Peterson, and have seen the family that they are raising in SW Iowa. Mr. Peterson is very committed to his immediate family – Meagan and his kids – but his connection to his larger family and community has always been healthy, loyal and supportive.

Over the 18 years I have known Mr. Peterson, he and I have lived in different parts of the world as our careers have progressed. I continue to hold him in very high regard as a friend, a colleague and leader and I would strongly recommend that Mr. Peterson be selected as a District Court Judge. I am confident that he will represent the judicial system well and will serve as a leader for the State of Iowa and District 8B.

Sincerely,



Matthew A. Dekkers

VANCE LAW OFFICES
101 N. JEFFERSON STREET - P.O. BOX 469
MT. PLEASANT, IOWA 52641-0469

CLIFFORD M. VANCE, JD (1902-1984)
MICHAEL C. VANCE, JD

TELEPHONE (319) 385-3736
OR
(319) 385-8739
FAX (319) 385-2323
mikevancelaw@gmail.com

June 14, 2018

Honorable Kimberly K. Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
State Capital Building
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

It is with pleasure I write to you in support of the selection of Wyatt P. Peterson for appointment as a District Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District.

I have known Wyatt for several years. He is an intelligent attorney, with a very unassuming and calm nature. I have worked with Wyatt as opposing counsel, both in Court and in matters outside of Court. We have also worked together on other matters involving various transactions outside of Court.

Wyatt is a gentleman, which coupled with his intellect and demeanor, allows me to commend him to you,

Very truly yours,



Michael C. Vance

MCV/jw



Phone 319-385-2712
Civil Office 319-385-4652
Fax 319-385-2384

HENRY COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

106 E, Clay St.
P.O. Box 216
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa 52641

June 12, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

RE: District 8B Court Judge

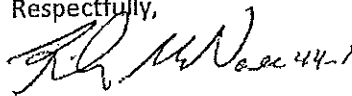
Governor Reynolds,

I am writing to you to show my support and appreciation for Henry County Magistrate Judge, and local attorney Wyatt Peterson, for the District 8B District Court Judge. Wyatt has been serving as a Henry County Magistrate Judge since early 2017. Wyatt is always available to help my office and staff with any issues that may arise. Wyatt is a very friendly magistrate and handles himself with enthusiasm and professionalism that is difficult to top. Wyatt is an approachable and conscientious person but is very stern on the bench when needed to be. Yet, Wyatt is never out of line or overbearing. Wyatt is consistently fair to all persons who come through his courtroom.

As a person, I find Wyatt to be a respectable man. He is very dedicated to his wife, family and community.

I will note that Wyatt will come into the jail for difficult inmates to be seen for initial appearance rather than bringing dangerous persons to his courtroom. Thus, Wyatt is very conscientious of safety too. Shortly after taking over as a magistrate, Wyatt was instrumental in helping initiate closed circuit television for initial appearances outside of normal court times. Thus, again promoting safety when vulnerabilities were not necessary.

With all this having been said, I fully recommend Wyatt Peterson as district judge. While the magistrate courtroom will miss his professional demeanor, our district courts will certainly appreciate the same. Wyatt will be a very thorough and fair judge for the court system. Wyatt is going to make an outstanding judge.

Respectfully,

Richard McNamee
Henry County Sheriff

Schlegel & Salazar, L.L.P.

Attorneys At Law

ROBERT G. SCHLEGEL
KATHRYN J. SALAZAR

112 SOUTH AVENUE B
P. O. BOX 929
WASHINGTON, IA 52353-0929

TELEPHONE
(319) 653-2147

FAX
(319) 653-5181

June 8, 2018

via email: Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov

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

Re: Nomination of Wyatt P. Peterson for 8B District Court Judge

Dear Governor Reynolds:

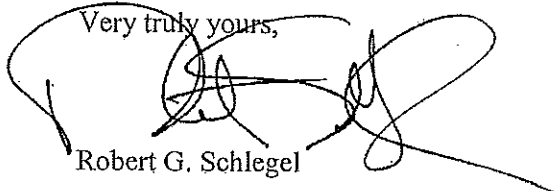
I'm writing on behalf of Wyatt Peterson regarding his consideration for appointment to the 8th Judicial District position being vacated by the Honorable Judge John G. Linn.

I have known Wyatt from the time he arrived in Washington County as assistant County Attorney. I still handled some criminal law matters at that time and found Wyatt to always be very professional in dealing with those cases. Mr. Peterson had come to that job from a civil law firm in Burlington and there was an occasion or two that I even discussed civil matters with him based on that experience. Since his years in the County Attorney's Office I have dealt with Wyatt periodically on civil matters after his move back into private practice in his hometown of Winfield. I have not appeared in front of Wyatt as a magistrate in Henry County, but understand that people are very pleased with his performance in that role.

I am always pleased when a judicial candidate possesses a broad range of experience. I have always felt Wyatt demonstrated a good command of the law in a number of fields, is knowledgeable, fair, well prepared and possesses the temperament which would be well suited to becoming a successful district court judge. These are the qualities I feel the person filling Judge Linn's vacancy will need.

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of Wyatt P. Peterson's appointment to the 8th Judicial District Court.

Very truly yours,


Robert G. Schlegel

RGS:kk

Weaver & Huddle

Law Office
327 N. 2nd, P.O. Box 226
Wapello, IA 52653

W.O. WEAVER (1908-1991)
ROGER A. HUDDLE

Phone (319) 523-4221
Fax (319) 523-5603

huddle@louisacomm.net

June 11, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319
Via email: Meaghan.O'Brien@Iowa.Gov

Re: Wyatt Peterson

Dear Governor Reynolds,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Wyatt Peterson concerning the appointment as a District Court Judge to the 8th Judicial District for the State of Iowa. I have had the opportunity to know Wyatt in the practice of law for a number of years, first in brief contact with him as a former prosecutor, and in the more recent years in private practice, particularly dealing with probate and real estate matters.

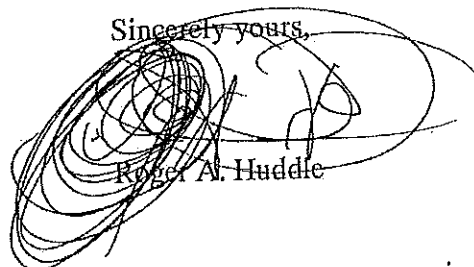
The first thing that jumps out about Wyatt is his demeanor and approach – calm, courteous, patient. This quality of “judicial temperament” would serve him well as a District Court Judge. Wyatt has a very common sense approach to matters, with compassion and understanding. He deals with legal issues in a dignified and professional manner.

As with many small town law practices, Wyatt has undoubtedly been exposed to a number of areas of law that we see in this region – elder law, probate, real estate, agricultural law. I have had occasion to work specifically with him on some contested guardianship matters, and know firsthand how he can treat clients with compassion and respect.

Wyatt’s ability to communicate in a very effective fashion is a real plus. He is a good listener, not quick to judge or overreact. He combines a good knowledge of the law with a professional and honest approach. You come away from a conversation with Wyatt as dealing with someone you know you can trust and who will work hard to solve the issue in an effective and efficient manner. He also presents as an ideal candidate that balances good professional experience with an age and good health to be productive for a number of years.

Wyatt Peterson would serve the 8th Judicial District well as a District Court Judge, and would be someone the people the State of Iowa could trust and be proud of.

Sincerely yours,



Roger A. Huddle

RAH/ld

LAW OFFICES OF
ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER, ENGBERG & HELLING, P.L.C.

ROBERT A. ENGBERG
BRIAN J. HELLING*
WILLIAM R. JAHN, JR.
BRENT R. RUTHER
SARA L. HAAS*
CLAY W. BAKER

321 N. 3RD STREET - P.O. BOX 1046
BURLINGTON, IOWA 52601
PHONE NO. 319-754-6587
FAX NO. 319-754-7514

MEDIAPOLIS OFFICE
319-394-3136

WEST POINT OFFICE
319-837-6614

JOHN J. SEERLEY (1877-1884)
SEERLEY & CLARK (1884-1928)
SEERLEY, CLARK & HALE (1928-1935)
CLARK, HALE & FLOCK (1935-1938)
CLARK, PRYOR, HALE & FLOCK (1938-1948)
CLARK, PRYOR, HALE, FLOCK & RILEY (1948-1952)
PRYOR, HALE, FLOCK, RILEY & JONES (1952-1959)
PRYOR, RILEY, JONES & WALSH (1959-1976)
PRYOR, RILEY, JONES & ASPELMEIER (1976-1985)
ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER, WARNER & ENGBERG (1985-2001)

WM. SCOTT POWER, OF COUNSEL
K.A. ASPELMEIER, RETIRED
JAMES F. FISCH, RETIRED

*ALSO ADMITTED IN ILLINOIS

June 12, 2018

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

RE: Wyatt Peterson – Judicial District 8B Judgeship

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I write in support of Wyatt for this position. Our firm recruited Wyatt out of law school to begin his legal work as an associate attorney at our firm. Wyatt practiced here for over three years before a family situation required him to move back to Winfield to operate the family farm due to untimely family circumstances. We were sorry to see him leave because Wyatt was on a path to become a partner in our firm. Wyatt worked with me along with several of our other partners in matters involving real estate and litigation, the most important being a case in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa involving the City of Burlington and BNSF Railway. Wyatt continually provided valuable assistance in all of these matters. Upon his move back to Winfield, Wyatt essentially had two places of employment, one on the family farm and the other at a law office he opened there. At the same time he and Megan began a family, all of which testifies to his work ethic.

I served as part-time United States Magistrate Judge working out of Burlington from 1972 through 1997. Hence I have some insight into the traits necessary to become a successful judge. A successful judge must be impartial and objective. He or she must have the proper demeanor on the bench at all times. It is not the providence of any judge to follow his or her partisan views, but rather to follow case precedent and stay within the bounds of existing statutory law. Based on my knowledge of Wyatt, these are traits that he possesses and I have no doubt that he will be successful on the bench serving the public within our judicial district. You would be wise in selecting Wyatt for this position.

Cordially,



Wm. Scott Power

ASPELMEIER, FISCH, POWER,
ENGBERG & HELLING, P.L.C.

WSP/reg

BAINTER AND THOMAS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100 E. CLAY

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA 52641-2318

SELETA A. BAINTER

JEFFREY D. THOMAS

JOSEPHINE BAINTER THOMAS

AREA CODE 319

TELEPHONE 385-0740

FAX (319) 385-0743

June 12, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor
1007 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Judicial appointment District 8B – Wyatt Peterson


Dear Governor Reynolds:

I wish to express my support of Wyatt Peterson for the judicial appointment in Iowa Judicial District 8B. I am an office attorney in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, and have had the opportunity to work with Wyatt on real estate and probate matters. Knowing that Wyatt has a great deal of trial experience, I consider him to be a very well-rounded and capable candidate for the judgeship in our district.

I have practiced law in Iowa Judicial District 8B for over 34 years, and have interacted with many judges in my career. I believe that a Judge's intellect and understanding of the intricacies of the law are also to be matched with appropriate judicial temperament. The lawyers and citizens in our district are best served by an individual who demonstrates patience, even-handedness, clarity, timeliness, confidence and humility. It is my belief that Wyatt Peterson has all of the qualities necessary to be an outstanding Judge.

Please consider this correspondence to be a show of confidence and support for the appointment of Wyatt Peterson as the next Judge for Iowa Judicial District 8B.

Yours very truly,


Seleta Bainter

Bainter and Thomas Law Office



Henry County Attorney

Courthouse--100 E. Washington St., Suite 101
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641-1949
Phone (319) 385-0752 Fax (319) 385-0778
Email: coattorney@henrycountyiowa.us

Darin R. Stater
County Attorney

Ed Harvey, Assistant County Attorney
Terri Quartucci, Assistant County Attorney

June 12, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds,

I am writing to express my support for Wyatt Peterson as the next District Court Judge for District 8B. In the sixteen months I have known Magistrate Peterson I have been very impressed by him. I represent the State in Magistrate Peterson's courtroom several times a week. Magistrate Peterson is always on time and ready to proceed. He handles the courtroom well and clearly explains the court process to the participants. Magistrate Peterson is always calm, respectful, and treats all parties fairly.

Magistrate Peterson carefully reviews requests for warrants and does not just "rubber stamp" documents that are set in front of him for consideration. I have personally been involved in matters where Magistrate Peterson took the time to review the law in order to make informed decisions in complex matters. Magistrate Peterson is thoughtful, intelligent, competent, and fair. He would be an excellent choice for District Court Judge for District 8B.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Quartucci".

Terri Quartucci
Assistant Henry County Attorney



Henry County Attorney

Courthouse---100 E. Washington St., Suite 101,
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641-1949
Phone (319) 385-0752 Fax (319) 385-0778
Email: coattorney@henrycountyiowa.us

Darin R. Stater
County Attorney

Ed Harvey, Assistant County Attorney
Terri Quartucci, Assistant County Attorney

June 13, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa State Capitol
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

It is my privilege to recommend Henry County Magistrate Wyatt Peterson for the position of District Court Judge serving Judicial District 8B.

I have appeared before Magistrate Peterson on numerous occasions, primarily for initial appearances and simple misdemeanor trials. In my experience Magistrate Peterson has unfailingly demonstrated excellent judicial temperament. Magistrate Peterson is approachable, even tempered, and respectful to attorneys, defendants, court staff and all parties appearing before him. Magistrate Peterson runs his courtroom efficiently and generates rulings in a timely manner.

Magistrate Peterson strongly reminds me of a recent judicial appointee, District Court Judge Mark Kruse of Judicial District 8B in intelligence, temperament, and personality. Judge Kruse has proven to be an outstanding choice, just as Magistrate Peterson would be to maintain the integrity of our judiciary.

I believe Wyatt Peterson to be an outstanding candidate for 8B District Court Judge. It is my pleasure to give him my full endorsement for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin R. Stater".

Darin R. Stater
Henry County Attorney



COPY

KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ADAM GREGG
LT GOVERNOR

June 27, 2018

Mr. Wyatt P. Peterson
1442 Lexington Avenue
Winfield, Iowa 52659

Dear Mr. Peterson,

It is a pleasure to appoint you a District Judge in judicial election district 8B for the Eighth Judicial District, State of Iowa, pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 46 for an initial term ending December 31, 2020.

Enclosed are two copies of an oath of office to be executed by you in the presence of a notary public within ten days and forwarded to the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

cc: The Honorable Paul Pate, Secretary of State of Iowa
The Honorable Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice
Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator's Office

Replaces: The Honorable John Linn

copy



Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
LT. GOVERNOR

Mr. Jason Besler
2447 5th Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Dear Mr. Besler,

This letter confirms your appointment on June 21, 2018 as District Court Judge in judicial election district 6 for the State of Iowa. Congratulations on your appointment.

Enclosed are two copies of an oath of office to be executed by you in the presence of a notary public and forwarded to the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

cc: The Honorable Paul Pate, Secretary of State of Iowa
The Honorable Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice
Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator's Office



copy

Kim Reynolds
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Adam Gregg
LT. GOVERNOR

Mr. Michael Jacobsen
1000 E 17th Street South
Newton, IA 50208

Dear Mr. Jacobsen,

This letter confirms your appointment on June 21, 2018 as District Court Judge in judicial election district 5A for the State of Iowa. Congratulations on your appointment.

Enclosed are two copies of an oath of office to be executed by you in the presence of a notary public and forwarded to the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Reynolds".

Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa

cc: The Honorable Paul Pate, Secretary of State of Iowa
The Honorable Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice
Todd Nuccio, State Court Administrator's Office



Supreme Court of Iowa

IOWA JUDICIAL BUILDING
1111 E. COURT AVENUE
DES MOINES, IA 50319
TEL: (515) 348-4965

July 6, 2018

Ryan Koopmans
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Ryan:

The chief justice asked me to write to you regarding the appointment process for the most recent district judge position in the 6th judicial district. I hope I do not sound too formal, but I think it is important to speak in a way that captures the true thoughts and feelings of the chief justice about the essential need for trust in government and its application to this matter.

Those authorized to act in government must often also decide what is required to be done to carry out their responsibilities. This is true in making a judicial appointment under the Constitution. It means it is up to the governor to give meaning to the constitutional directive for judicial appointments to be made within thirty days. This decision is not unlike many decisions that must be made throughout government each day to carry out the responsibilities within each branch of government. Indeed, it is a critical part of our democratic process and the reason public officials take an oath to support the Constitution and the law. The chief justice understands and appreciates the responsibility of the Governor and other public officials to make such decisions, and views that authority and discretion with the greatest deference and respect. He believes respect and comity from within government is as essential to achieving greater public trust and confidence of government, as are the checks and balances built into government.

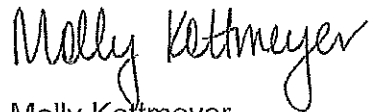
In practice, the chief justice has always considered a judicial appointment was made when it was communicated to the nominee. This communication from the governor to the nominee is a time-honored practice that every judge in this state has experienced, and an honor no judge has ever forgotten. To my knowledge, it is a practice that has always occurred within

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Ryan Koopmans
July 6, 2018

thirty days of the nomination by the judicial nominating commission. Nevertheless, this long-standing practice does not mean judicial appointments cannot be made in other ways.

With the recent district judge appointment in the 6th judicial district, the Governor's Office communicated to the chief justice, the secretary of state, and the public that the appointment of Jason Besler as district court judge was made on Thursday, June 21, 2018, which was day thirty following the nomination. You have further communicated that Governor Reynolds made "the verbal appointment" on that date, but did not notify Besler or issue a public statement on the appointment until Monday, June 25, 2018. Although the appointment was not communicated to Besler or made public until Monday, June 25, Governor Reynolds determined that the appointment was made on June 21 when she made the decision to select Besler. Consequently, the chief justice respectfully defers to and accepts the decision by Governor Reynolds that this appointment was made on June 21.

Very truly yours,



Molly Kottmeyer
Counsel to the Chief Justice

Judicial Appointments

The Iowa Constitution grants the Governor the authority to appoint district court and appellate judges from the list of nominees submitted by the district or state judicial nominating commission. *See* Iowa Const. art. V, § 15. But “[i]f the governor fails for thirty days to make the appointment, it shall be made from such nominees by the chief justice of the supreme court.” *Id.*; *see also* Iowa Code § 46.15 (requiring the Chief Justice to make the appointment if the Governor does not “make an appointment within thirty days after a list of nominees has been submitted”).

The Governor makes an appointment when she chooses the nominee to serve as a judge. *See Johnson v. Sampson*, 24 S.W.2d 306, 308 (Ky. 1930) (“It seems to be quite universally conceded that the ‘mere making of an appointment’ consists only ‘in the choice by the appointing power of the person appointed,’ and when that condition of mind is reached with the appointer he has in his own mind made an appointment.”); *Johnston v. Wilson*, 2 N.H. 202, 203 (1820) (stating the “general principles” that “the choice of a person to fill an office constitutes the essence of his appointment” and that “[a]fter the choice, if there be a commission” or other formalities, “these are forms only which may or may not be necessary to the validity of any acts under the appointment, according as usage and positive statute may or may not render them indispensable”).

As long as the Governor chooses from the nominees within the required thirty days, she has made the appointment. And the Chief Justice is thus not required to make it. *See* Iowa Const. art. V, § 15. This is so even if the Governor does not inform the appointed judge or publicly announce the appointment until a later date because neither of these actions are necessary for the Governor to make the choice. *Cf.* Chief Justice John G. Roberts, *2016 Year-End Report on the Federal Judiciary*, available at <https://www.supremecourt.gov/publicinfo/year-end/2016year-endreport.pdf> (recounting that one of the first U.S. district court judges was appointed and confirmed without his knowledge until President Washington wrote to inform him of his unexpected new judicial office).

To be sure, the appointment is an official act of the Governor that must be recorded in the executive journal. *See* Iowa Code § 7.2 (“The governor shall cause a journal to be kept in the executive office, in which a record shall be made of each official act as done, except if in cases of emergency an act is done away from the office, such entry shall be made as soon thereafter as may be.”). And the appointment “shall be in writing” and filed in the Secretary of State’s Office. *Id.* § 69.10; *see also id.* § 62.23(1). But failure to comply immediately with these documentary requirements would not affect the validity of an appointment and would instead merely “be an irregularity only which could be complied with at any time.” *State ex rel. Halbach v. Clausen*, 250 N.W. 195, 201 (Iowa 1933). This makes particular sense given the purpose of this Constitutional provision, which is designed to prevent a governor from shrinking the judiciary by refusing to fill judicial vacancies. *See* Todd E. Pettys, *The Iowa State Constitution* 232 (2d ed. 2018).

A contrary interpretation of these statutory provisions would infringe upon the Governor's constitutional authority to appoint judges. The Constitution merely requires that the Governor "make the appointment" and provides thirty days for the Governor to consider this important decision. *See* Iowa Const. art. V, § 15. Requiring that other acts—such as the writing and filing of the appointment—also to occur within the thirty-day period granted by the Constitution would necessarily reduce the time available the Governor to make the appointment. And conditioning the Governor's constitutional authority to make the appointment on the satisfaction of these additional statutory requirements would impermissibly alter the balance of the appointment power between the Governor and the Chief Justice. This, a statute cannot do.

The people of Iowa could have imposed additional duties on the Governor with respect to appointments in the Constitution, but they did not do so. In fact, the Iowa Constitution—unlike the U.S. Constitution—does not require the Governor to issue a commission to judges or other state officers. *Compare* U.S. Const. art. II, § 3 (requiring that the President "shall Commission all the Officers of the United States"), with Iowa Const. art. IV, § 21 (providing certain requirements for "grants and commissions" but not authorizing or mandating their issuance); *see also* Iowa Code § 9.3; Iowa Attorney General Opinion to G.W. Kirtley, 1937 WL 67730 (Apr. 3, 1937) ("There is no provision in the constitution or in the statutes which definitively sets out the scope of authority of the governor to issue commissions to appointed officers.").

Office of the Secretary of State



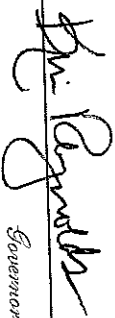
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

Know Ye, That reposing special confidence in Jason Bessler
of Cedar Rapids, Iowa I Erin Reynolds Governor of the
State of Iowa do hereby appoint and commission him/her _____
District Judge in the Sixth Judicial District _____

In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great
Seal of the State of Iowa. Done at the Capital in the City of
Des Moines this 21st day of June in the Year of
Our Lord two thousand and eighteen

By the Governor:


Secretary of State


Governor of Iowa