

Message: Re: Need to make contact with LT Governor Gregg

✉ **Re: Need to make contact with LT Governor Gregg**

From Adams, Michael **Date** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 10:24 AM
To Kirby Connell
Cc

5:15 sounds perfect. My number is [REDACTED]

Thank you, Kirby. We miss you guys!

Mike

On Tue, May 22, 2018 at 10:21 AM, Kirby Connell <kirby.connell@iowa.gov> wrote:

Mike, good to hear from you. Would you like to have a quick phone call? He will also ask you to put your recommendation in writing which can be sent to me for the applicants file.

If you're free this evening, he could talk around 5:15, or we can look for a window on Thursday if that would work better for you. Let me know!

Thanks,

Kirby

On Tue, May 22, 2018 at 9:41 AM Adams, Michael <madams@spd.state.ia.us> wrote:

Kirby: Two people have been selected to fill the District Court Judge position for District 5A. One of these people is Mike Jacobsen, who I have worked with for about 28 years. Adam met Mike when he went to Waterloo to watch that 30 year old murder case we had, and I'd like to put in a good word for him to Adam and Governor Reynolds.

Can you tell me how to do that?

Thank you!

Mike

--

MICHAEL H. ADAMS

Chief Public Defender, Special Defense Unit

401 East Court Avenue, Suite 150

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Telephone: (515) 288-0578 | Facsimile: (515) 288-2020

Email: MAdams@spd.state.ia.us

<https://spd.iowa.gov/>

--

MICHAEL H. ADAMS

Chief Public Defender, Special Defense Unit

401 East Court Avenue, Suite 150

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Telephone: (515) 288-0578 | Facsimile: (515) 288-2020

Email: MAdams@spd.state.ia.us

<https://spd.iowa.gov/>

Message: Re: Need to make contact with LT Governor Gregg

✉ **Re: Need to make contact with LT Governor Gregg**

From Connell, Kirby **Date** Tuesday, May 22, 2018 11:54 AM
To Adams, Michael
Cc

Sounds great, he will call you then!

Kirby Connell | Assistant to the Lt. Governor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

515-725-3510 | Kirby.Connell@iowa.gov

www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Tue, May 22, 2018 at 10:23 AM, Adams, Michael <madams@spd.state.ia.us> wrote:

5:15 sounds perfect. My number is [REDACTED]

Thank you, Kirby. We miss you guys!

Mike

On Tue, May 22, 2018 at 10:21 AM, Kirby Connell <kirby.connell@iowa.gov> wrote:

Mike, good to hear from you. Would you like to have a quick phone call? He will also ask you to put your recommendation in writing which can be sent to me for the applicants file.

If you're free this evening, he could talk around 5:15, or we can look for a window on Thursday if that would work better for you. Let me know!

Thanks,

Kirby

On Tue, May 22, 2018 at 9:41 AM Adams, Michael <madams@spd.state.ia.us> wrote:

Kirby: Two people have been selected to fill the District Court Judge position for District 5A. One of these people is Mike Jacobsen, who I have worked with for about 28 years. Adam met Mike when he went to Waterloo to watch that 30 year old murder case we had, and I'd like to put in a good word for him to Adam and Governor Reynolds.

Can you tell me how to do that?

Thank you!

Mike

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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<https://spd.iowa.gov/>

Message: Fw: 6th District Candidates

Fw: 6th District Candidates

From Todd.Nuccio@iowacourts.gov **Date** Wednesday, May 23, 2018 8:58 AM
To ryan.koopmans@iowa.gov
Cc

FYI

Todd Nuccio | State Court Administrator
Iowa Judicial Branch
1111 East Court Avenue | Des Moines | Iowa 50319
515.348.4880 (phone) _
todd.nuccio@iowacourts.gov

----- Forwarded by Todd Nuccio/SCA/JUDICIAL on 05/23/2018 08:57 AM -----

From: Patrick R Grady/District6/JUDICIAL
To: Todd Nuccio/SCA/JUDICIAL@JUDICIAL
Date: 05/22/2018 09:47 PM
Subject: Re: 6th District Candidates

Jason Besler

[REDACTED]
Ellen Ramsey-Kacena

[REDACTED]
Patrick R. Grady

Message: Letters of recommendation

Letters of recommendation

From Hough, Margaret

Date Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:09 AM

To [REDACTED]

Cc

Jason: I would have these directed to:

Governor Kim Reynolds

%Austin Jacobs

1007 East Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50319

Feel free to call me if you have further questions. Thank you. M

Margaret J. Hough | Director of Boards and Commissions

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

515-725-3509 | margaret.hough@iowa.gov

www.governor.iowa.gov

www.lgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Letters of recommendation

✉ Re: Letters of recommendation

From Jason Besler **Date** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:48 AM
To Hough, Margaret
Cc

Margaret J. Hough,

Thank you very much for the information.

Jason Besler

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From: Hough, Margaret <margaret.hough@iowa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:08:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letters of recommendation

Jason: I would have these directed to:

Governor Kim Reynolds

%Austin Jacobs

1007 East Grand Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50319

Feel free to call me if you have further questions. Thank you. M

--

Margaret J. Hough | Director of Boards and Commissions

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa

Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

515-725-3509 | margaret.hough@iowa.gov

www.governor.iowa.gov

www.lgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Judgeship recommendation

 **Judgeship recommendation**

From Wes Breckenridge **Date** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:38 AM
To austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
Cc

 **Michael Jacobsen .pdf** (185 Kb HTML)  **ATT00175.txt** (1 Kb HTML)

Mr. Jacobs,

I am sending the attached letter to Governor Kim Reynolds for recommending Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen for the open district court judgeship position. Please thank her for her review of the attached letter and consideration of Mr. Jacobsen. A hard Copy has also been sent to her office. Thank you again.

Wes Breckenridge
State Representative HD 29

REP. WES BRECKENRIDGE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 24th, 2018

Gov. Kim Reynolds
State of Iowa
1007 East Grand
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Gov. Kim Reynolds:

I am writing to recommend Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen for the open district court judgeship. Mr. Jacobsen is someone of high character and integrity and has served our county and state with the utmost fairness and professionalism.

As a retired police lieutenant, I had the opportunity to work with Mr. Jacobsen on multiple complex cases to include major drug cases, homicides and sexual assaults. He is very mindful of the details and does extensive reviews of the material. His knowledge of the law is exceptional and his work ethic is second to none.

County Attorney Jacobsen is someone who cares deeply about the rule of law and will serve the people of Iowa well as a judge. In my opinion, you couldn't go wrong selecting Mr. Jacobsen to fill the opening. I hope you will review the great work he has done for Jasper County and the State of Iowa and give him careful consideration.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this letter of endorsement.

Sincerely,



Wes Breckenridge



Message: Fwd: Judgeship recommendation

✉ **Fwd: Judgeship recommendation**


From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:40 AM
To Colin Smith; Ryan Koopmans
Cc

 **Michael Jacobsen .pdf** (185 Kb HTML)

FYI

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

----- Forwarded message

From: **Wes Breckenridge** 
Date: Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:37 AM
Subject: Judgeship recommendation
To: austin.jacobs@iowa.gov

Mr. Jacobs,

I am sending the attached letter to Governor Kim Reynolds for recommending Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen for the open district court judgeship position. Please thank her for her review of the attached letter and consideration of Mr. Jacobsen. A hard Copy has also been sent to her office. Thank you again.

Wes Breckenridge
State Representative HD 29

Message: Re: Judgeship recommendation

✉ **Re: Judgeship recommendation**

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:40 AM
To Wes Breckenridge
Cc

Wes,

Thanks for sending this over. I've passed on to the Governor and our legal team.

Hope all is well!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3513 | austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:37 AM, Wes Breckenridge <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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Wes Breckenridge
State Representative HD 29

Message: Re: Judgeship recommendation

✉ **Re: Judgeship recommendation**

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Thursday, May 24, 2018 9:43 AM
To Wes Breckenridge
Cc

Excuse me, Representative Breckenridge.

I don't know the legislature as well as I should and your name didn't ring a bell at first. I apologize!

Hope you have a great rest of your week!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3513 | austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:39 AM, Jacobs, Austin <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov> wrote:

Wes,

Thanks for sending this over. I've passed on to the Governor and our legal team.

Hope all is well!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
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On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:37 AM, Wes Breckenridge [REDACTED] wrote:

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I am sending the attached letter to Governor Kim Reynolds for recommending Jasper County Attorney Michael Jacobsen for the open district court judgeship position. Please thank her for her review of the attached letter and consideration of Mr. Jacobsen. A hard Copy has also been sent to her office. Thank you again.

Wes Breckenridge
State Representative HD 29

Message: Re: Judicial Nomination Information - 5A**✉ Re: Judicial Nomination Information - 5A**

From Smith, Colin **Date** Friday, May 25, 2018 2:00 PM
To Michael Jacobsen
Cc

Michael,

At this time, your interview with the Governor is scheduled for 4:20 pm on June 11, 2018. If this time or date changes, we will let you know. The interview will be in the Governor's Formal Office at the Iowa State Capitol Building, Room 109. Parking for this interview can be found on the South and West sides of the building. Attire will be formal. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

-Colin

Colin C. Smith | Legal Counsel

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa

Governor Kim K. Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

515.725.3516 | colin.smith@iowa.gov

www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Please be advised that messages sent to or from this e-mail address may be subject to public disclosure under Chapter 22 of the Iowa Code.

On Thu, May 24, 2018 at 9:02 AM, Michael Jacobsen <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I have received the email. I will fill out all the forms and return them soon.

Michael Jacobsen

On Wed, May 23, 2018 at 1:32 PM, Smith, Colin <colin.smith@iowa.gov> wrote:

Congratulations on your nomination by the Judicial Nominating Commission. Attached are several forms that you will need to complete and send back to the

Governor's Office. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Regards,

-Colin

Colin C. Smith | Legal Counsel

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa

Governor Kim K. Reynolds & Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg

515.725.3516 | colin.smith@iowa.gov

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Message: Re: Judicial Nomination Information - 5A

✉ **Re: Judicial Nomination Information - 5A**

From Michael Jacobsen **Date** Friday, May 25, 2018 2:44 PM
To Smith, Colin
Cc

Thank you I look forward to the interview.

Mike Jacobsen

On Fri, May 25, 2018 at 2:00 PM, Smith, Colin <colin.smith@iowa.gov> wrote:

Michael,

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Message: Re: Judgeship recommendation

✉ **Re: Judgeship recommendation**

From Wes Breckenridge **Date** Sunday, May 27, 2018 8:55 PM
To Jacobs, Austin
Cc

Austin,

Thanks, hope you had a good Memorial Day..

Wes

On May 24, 2018, at 9:42 AM, Jacobs, Austin <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov> wrote:

Excuse me, Representative Breckenridge.

I don't know the legislature as well as I should and your name didn't ring a bell at first.
I apologize!

Hope you have a great rest of your week!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

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Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

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Wes Breckenridge
State Representative HD 29

Message: Re: Inquiry regarding letters of recommendation for judicial vacancy

Re: Inquiry regarding letters of recommendation for judicial vacancy

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:07 AM
To Jason Besler
Cc

Good morning Jason,

I hope you had a great Memorial Day.

Either way works fine for me, e-mail or hard copies.

Austin Jacobs

Governor's Office

1007 E Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319

I will keep an eye out for them.

Thanks!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3513 | austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Tue, May 29, 2018 at 6:45 AM, Jason Besler <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Mr. Jacobs,

I was recently named 1 of 2 finalists for the 6th judicial district vacancy. When I inquired as to where I should direct letters of recommendation/support I was directed to you. I was also given a physical address rather than your e-mail address.

I just wanted to confirm your preference. Would you rather I have them send their letters via U.S. Mail in care of you at 1007 East Grand Avenue, would you prefer the letters be sent to your e-mail, or is there a third alternative that is your preference.

I thank you for your aid in helping me navigate this process.

Thank you,

Jason Besler

Cedar Rapids, IA

Get Outlook for Android

Message: Re: Inquiry regarding letters of recommendation for judicial vacancy

 **Re: Inquiry regarding letters of recommendation for judicial vacancy**

From Jason Besler **Date** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:25 AM
To Jacobs, Austin
Cc

Mr. Jacobs,

I hope your Memorial Day was good as well. Thank you for the prompt reply. I will let those writing letters know.

Thanks,

Jason Besler

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From: Jacobs, Austin <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:06:36 AM
To: Jason Besler
Subject: Re: Inquiry regarding letters of recommendation for judicial vacancy

Good morning Jason,

I hope you had a great Memorial Day.

Either way works fine for me, e-mail or hard copies.

Austin Jacobs

Governor's Office

1007 E Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319

I will keep an eye out for them.

Thanks!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

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I thank you for your aid in helping me navigate this process.

Thank you,

Jason Besler

Cedar Rapids, IA

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Message: Re: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler

✉ **Re: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler**

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:06 AM
To Craig Clark
Cc

Good morning Mr. Clark,
Thanks for sending this over. I will make sure this gets in the right hands.
Have a great day!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Governor Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3513 | austin.jacobs@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 11:04 AM, Craig Clark [REDACTED] wrote:

Message: Re: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler

☑ **Re: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler**

From Craig Clark **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:08 AM
To Jacobs, Austin
Cc

Austin,

thanks. CEC

On May 30, 2018, at 11:06 AM, Jacobs, Austin <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Clark,

Thanks for sending this over. I will make sure this gets in the right hands.

Have a great day!

Austin S. Jacobs | Scheduler & Communications Advisor

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

www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 11:04 AM, Craig Clark <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Message: Letter of Support

 **Letter of Support**

From Butteris, Regina A. **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 11:53 AM
To meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 **Jason Besler, Governor letter.docx** (15 Kb HTML)

Here is a letter of support for Jason Besler. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regina Butteris, MD, FAAFP
Medical Director, Child Protection Center

Unity Point Health-St. Luke's Hospital
1095 N. Center Point Rd.
Hiawatha, IA 52233
Phone: 319-369-7908
FAX: 319-369-8726

unitypoint.org/cedarrapids

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May 30, 2018

Governor Reynolds,

Jason Besler from the Linn County Attorney's Office informed me that he is applying for the judicial vacancy for the Sixth Judicial District. I am writing this letter of support for Jason. I have had experience working with Jason through my position as the Medical Director of the UnityPoint Child Protection Center (CPC) in Hiawatha, Iowa. My primary role is to perform the medical evaluation and treatment of children referred to the CPC. I have worked at the CPC for 13 years so I have worked with Jason for many years.

Jason is a member of the CPC multidisciplinary team (MDT) that meets monthly. The purpose of the MDT is to review cases seen at the CPC and evaluate case outcomes. Jason's role on the MDT is to provide the team with legal advice as well as to explain case outcomes. Jason is an engaged member of the MDT and is able to provide valuable information to the team. He is knowledgeable in areas of child abuse and criminal law as it pertains to child abuse as well as CINA petitions. He offers advice to MDT members to improve outcomes for the children we serve. He also is able to explain to members why case outcomes may not be as anticipated. Jason is always willing to help obtain information for the team if further research is indicated.

In the course of my job, I also testify in court. I have had several experiences in court when Jason was the prosecuting attorney. He is very well prepared and ensures that I am well prepared as a witness. He makes it a priority to understand the medical components of a case.

Jason has also been an active member of the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (IAPSAC). IAPSAC is the state chapter of the national organization, the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. The mission of IAPSAC is to improve the effort and response of professionals working with children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Jason received the IAPSAC Outstanding Service Award in 2018. In order to receive this award, nominees must model outstanding professionalism and have made contributions in the area of child maltreatment. Overall, Jason is knowledgeable and approachable. He is an advocate for children and a valuable multidisciplinary team member. I would be happy to answer any other questions about Jason.

Regina Butteris


Regina Butteris, MD, FAAFP Medical Director, UnityPoint Child Protection Center 1095 N. Center Point Rd. Hiawatha, IA 52233 [REDACTED]

Message: Fwd: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler

Fwd: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr.

Jason Besler



From Ryan Koopmans **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 12:39 PM
To Meaghan O'Brien
Cc

 **Besler letter 05-30-2018.docx** (90 Kb HTML)


----- Forwarded message -----




From: Jacobs, Austin <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov>
Date: Wed, May 30, 2018 at 11:06 AM
Subject: Fwd: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler
To: Colin Smith <colin.smith@iowa.gov>, Ryan Koopmans <ryan.koopmans@iowa.gov>

FYI

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Craig Clark** < >
Date: Wed, May 30, 2018 at 11:04 AM
Subject: Recommendation for Sixth Judicial District Judgeship - Re: Mr. Jason Besler
To: austin.jacobs@iowa.gov

--
Ryan Koopmans |  Chief Policy Advisor and Senior Legal Counsel
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-802-8844 |  ryan.koopmans@iowa.gov 
www.governor.iowa.gov
www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Mr. Austin Jacobs
Governor's Office
1007 East Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa
50319

Dear Mr. Jacobs,

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of Mr. Jason Besler, an applicant for District Court judgeship in the Sixth Judicial District.

Jason and I entered law school in 1996. Jason is a conscientious learner with an impressive work ethic. I've followed Jason's career closely because of my personal and professional relationships with other members of the Linn County Attorney's Office. Yet my vantage point is somewhat unique.

In addition to my background in the law, I'm a practicing physician with nearly 40 years clinical practice, and a former economist. I also benefit from 16 years military experience in the Air Force, beginning during the Viet Nam conflict. In these careers, I've served in various leadership positions where selecting staff for critical assignments was part of a day's work.

There are a number of qualities that Mr. Besler has that I admire, especially his measured temperament and the gift of being a good listener. He has the ability to measure his thoughts and comments with a sound basis for rational judgment. These are qualities that are hard to teach, and I've observed these traits since we began our legal training.

Jason is liked and respected by his fellow attorneys and support staff. I know of no personal missteps in his 20-year practice history and can, without reservation highly recommend his nomination for the Sixth Judicial District Judgeship.

Sincerely yours,

Craig E. Clark MS, MD, JD, FCLM, FACR

Cedar Rapids, Iowa


May 30, 2018

Message: Fwd: Jason Besler Nomination



 **Fwd: Jason Besler Nomination**

From Jacobs, Austin
To Colin Smith; Ryan Koopmans
Cc


Date Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1:15 PM

 **20180530130420845.pdf** (453 Kb HTML)

FYI

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

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Josh Byrnes** < >
Date: Wed, May 30, 2018 at 1:10 PM
Subject: Jason Besler Nomination
To: "Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov" <Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov>, "austin.jacobs@iowa.gov" <austin.jacobs@iowa.gov>

Print

Image 1

5/30/2018

Dear Governor Reynolds:

The following letter is on behalf of Jason Besler for the appointment of District Judge to the 6th Judicial District.

My relationship with Jason Besler goes all the way back to 1996 when Jason and I were freshman on first floor Ylvisaker at Luther College. Jason and I also were also teammates on the Luther wrestling team our freshman year. My fondest memories with Jason were when he and I sat in the tv lounge at Ylvisaker debating the 1996 presidential election with our liberal floormates. It was at that point and time I learned of Jason's innate ability to debate, his passion for politics and conservative principals. Was nice to find another Republican at Luther as we were a minority!

Jason is a great rural Iowa success story. Jason grew up in Manchester, Iowa and didn't come from a family with a lot of wealth. Everything he earned, he earned through pure demanding work and determination. Luther is a tough school when it comes to socioeconomics and class. We had a lot of peers that came from money, drove fancy cars, didn't have to worry about school loans and had life made. I think that is why Jason and I connected because we both came from modest backgrounds, didn't have fancy vehicles, we had school loans and both needed work study positions to help pay for college. Doing work study at Luther College is a very humbling experience. You are vacuuming, washing dishes, mopping floors, etc.... surrounded by your peers. I think those experiences make you stronger and more appreciative of the successes one has in life.

The appointment of Jason Besler to District Judge would be another great chapter in the life of Jason. You fully understand what it is like to have to work hard and get to where you are today. Jason, yourself, myself- we have all found what happens when you have true grit and determination. That grit and determination will ensure Jason's success on the bench.

Jason will bring fairness, common sense and respect to his time on the bench. As Governor you will be able to sit back and say, "that one there was my appointee". I have no doubt Jason will make you proud and be a positive addition to the Iowa judicial system.

Thank you for your consideration of Jason Besler as an appointee to become a 6th District Judicial Court Judge.

Respectfully,


Josh Byrnes

Message: Re: Jason Besler Nomination

✉ **Re: Jason Besler Nomination**

From Jacobs, Austin **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 1:15 PM
To Josh Byrnes
Cc Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov

Thank you!

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

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 1:10 PM, Josh Byrnes <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Message: Jason Besler

✉ **Jason Besler**

From Susan Martinek
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

Date Wednesday, May 30, 2018 3:00 PM

Hi Meaghan,
I have known Jason Besler for over 18 years. It is always a pleasure to work with him. He is very knowledgeable about many subjects and has an excellent point of view. He can assess a situation, summarize it, and explain it in a way that is easy to comprehend, doing it without talking down to the listener. He is a hard worker, and not afraid of responsibility. He respects all life and values it at any stage.

I think he would make an excellent district judge. He would be an asset to any governor, but a very good fit for Governor Kim Reynolds' pick for an Iowa leader as a district judge.

Sue Martinek


"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already been born." Ronald Reagan

Message: Support of Jason Besler for Judicial appointment**✉ Support of Jason Besler for Judicial appointment**

From Rob Gettemy
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

Date Wednesday, May 30, 2018 7:52 PM

Hello Ms. Obrien:

My name is Rob Gettemy. I am a senior corporate executive as well as an adjunct instructor at the University of Iowa. I am 53 years old and have lived in the Cedar Rapids area for 27 years. In the last 15 years, I've gotten to know Jason Besler and am proud to recommend his appointment as a district Judge.

While I've never worked with Jason in a career capacity, thus cannot point to his work product, I have worked with him both as a Rotarian and as fellow board members for a local crisis pregnancy center.

I recommend Jason for two reasons. First, I find Jason to be very thoughtful in his opinions. On top of that, while I agree with him more often than not, I find myself surprised from time to time that we are not in agreement. More often than not, when that happens, I have taken a pretty ideological position where Jason has shown more flexibility and thoughtfulness in his positions.

Second, I find Jason very intellectually curious. Truth and facts matter a lot to Jason, and he pushes until he has the facts and the truth.

Finally, Jason cares very deeply about this community, this state and this country. The Governor will never be ashamed of having appointed Jason to a district judge position. His character is strong and his values are firm.


I'd be glad to discuss on the phone if that would be helpful.

Rob Gettemy


Message: Letter of Support for District Judge Applicant - Mr. Jason D. Besler

 **Letter of Support for District Judge Applicant - Mr. Jason D. Besler**

From Shady Elfaham **Date** Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:43 PM
To Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 **Letter of Support for Mr. Jason Dennis Besler.pdf** (50 Kb HTML)

Dear Meaghan,

I hope this email finds you well.Â

Attached, please find a letter of support for Mr. Jason D. Besler for the District Judge position, addressed to Governor Reynolds. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me. My contact information is inside the letter.

With great appreciation,

Shady ElfahamÂ

Cell: 

Shady Elfaham

Email: [REDACTED]

~ Cell: [REDACTED]

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

RE: Letter of Support for Mr. Jason D. Besler – Candidate for District Judge Position

Dear Governor Reynolds,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Jason D. Besler as part of his application for the current District Judge position within the Sixth Judicial District. I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to express my thoughts and strong admiration for Jason, given the substantial impact he and his wife had on my life during my time in Iowa between 2007-2008.

As an exchange student coming to the United States via a U.S Department of State program, I was very fortunate to be placed for the academic year with Jason and his wife. From the very second that I met Jason, my fears and anxiety of living in a new country with limited language skills disappeared and I became a member of their family. Jason took me under his wing from the start and exposed me to the great American values and spirit that makes this country so exceptional. As a legal expert, he was always patient, open-minded and courteous when we would discuss issues facing the American and Egyptian society at the time. One of my favorite memories is attending the presidential debates together and listening to him tactfully explaining the issues discussed among the candidates in an unbiased manner. Instead, he would elaborate on both sides of the debate and provide well-thought analysis behind each ideology. His sensible approach helped me identify the importance of being compassionate, understanding and tolerant towards perspectives and thoughts that are different from yours. These invaluable skills served as life goals and lessons, which I carry on with me to this day in my work managing a variety of United States Government international education and inter-cultural programs designed to promote social justice.

As the Assistant Linn County Attorney, Jason foresees his position as the chance to address illegalities, litigate injustices and indirectly serve as a policymaker. His dedication to the community is recognized through his strong work ethics, outstanding service and involvement in organizations such as the Iowa Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. His appetite for success is fueled by his desire and commitment to make his community a safe place for the future generations through the lens of the law and a fair justice system.

I hope that through my letter of support, you got a chance to see the incredible person I call my host dad and the series of qualities, which I believe, equip him with the judicial temperament he will need to serve as a District Judge in the community he has dedicated his life to.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

With much appreciation,



Shady Elfaham

Message: Recommendation for appointing Jason Besler as District Judge **Recommendation for appointing Jason Besler as District Judge**

From James Burke
To Meaghan.Obrien@Iowa.Gov
Cc

Date Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:47 PM

To all whom it may concern,

I want Iowa to have principled judges who rule on cases based on the laws of the land so Iowans can respect our court system and the rulings of the courts. I've been informed that there is a vacancy for the position of a district judge. From what I understand, Jason Besler is one of the finalists for that position. I write this strongly urge in favor of the appointment of Jason Besler to that position.

While many people today wish judges would vote in line with the politics of the person doing the wishing, I know it's important that judges rule based on the actual laws. The legislature is there to alter laws. Judges are there to rule on those laws so we don't have unwritten rules or serious deviations from the law. In the many years I've known Jason, it's very clear the great respect he has for judges who interpret the law well, rather than ruling with a political bias. This has led me to respect him and his views of the law.

Even when interpreting laws, different people come to different conclusions. We see this most notably in divided U.S. Supreme Court decisions. This is where it's important to have reputable judges who are principled. Without foundational principles to anchor oneself, judges can vary significantly in their rulings on similar cases. Jason has good principles, which helped build his honorable reputation. I believe that solid reputation has brought Jason to this opportunity.

I know it's a very important decision when one must determine who is best to appoint to such a position. I hope you give Iowa the opportunity to receive the sound rulings they deserve from someone with the knowledge and interpretation of law that Jason will bring to the cases that come up to the district level. He has served our county well as a prosecutor. It's easy to make recommend Jason to such a position because I have no doubt he will serve Iowa well as a district judge.

Thank you for your consideration of Jason for this important position,

James Burke

[REDACTED]
Cedar Rapids, IA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Message: Re: Jason Besler

✉ **Re: Jason Besler**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:13 AM
To Susan Martinek
Cc

Thank you!
On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 3:00 PM, Susan Martinek <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Hi Meaghan,

I have known Jason Besler for over 18 years. It is always a pleasure to work with him. He is very knowledgeable about many subjects and has an excellent point of view. He can assess a situation, summarize it, and explain it in a way that is easy to comprehend, doing it without talking down to the listener. He is a hard worker, and not afraid of responsibility. He respects all life and values it at any stage. I think he would make an excellent district judge. He would be an asset to any governor, but a very good fit for Governor Kim Reynold's pick for an Iowa leader as a district judge.

Sue Martinek
[REDACTED]

been born."

"I've noticed that everyone who is for abortion has already
Ronald Reagan

--

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov
www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Letter of Support for District Judge Applicant - Mr. Jason D. Besler

✉ Re: Letter of Support for District Judge Applicant - Mr. Jason D. Besler

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:23 AM
To Shady Elfaham
Cc

Thank you!
On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 8:43 PM, Shady Elfaham <[REDACTED]>
wrote:
Dear Meaghan,

I hope this email finds you well.

Attached, please find a letter of support for Mr. Jason D. Besler for the District Judge position, addressed to Governor Reynolds. Should you have any questions, please reach out to me. My contact information is inside the letter.

With great appreciation,

Shady Elfaham

Cell: [REDACTED]

--
Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov
www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Re: Support of Jason Besler for Judicial appointment**✉ Re: Support of Jason Besler for Judicial appointment**

From O'Brien, Meaghan **Date** Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:24 AM
To Rob Gettemy
Cc

Thank you!

On Wed, May 30, 2018 at 7:52 PM, Rob Gettemy <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hello Ms. Obrien:

My name is Rob Gettemy. I am a senior corporate executive as well as an adjunct instructor at the University of Iowa. I am 53 years old and have lived in the Cedar Rapids area for 27 years. In the last 15 years, I've gotten to know Jason Besler and am proud to recommend his appointment as a district Judge.

While I've never worked with Jason in a career capacity, thus cannot point to his work product, I have worked with him both as a Rotarian and as fellow board members for a local crisis pregnancy center.

I recommend Jason for two reasons. First, I find Jason to be very thoughtful in his opinions. On top of that, while I agree with him more often than not, I find myself surprised from time to time that we are not in agreement. More often than not, when that happens, I have taken a pretty ideological position where Jason has shown more flexibility and thoughtfulness in his positions.

Second, I find Jason very intellectually curious. Truth and facts matter a lot to Jason, and he pushes until he has the facts and the truth.

Finally, Jason cares very deeply about this community, this state and this country. The Governor will never be ashamed of having appointed Jason to a district judge position. His character is strong and his values are firm.

I'd be glad to discuss on the phone if that would be helpful.

Rob Gettemy
[REDACTED]

Meaghan O'Brien | Administrative Assistant
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
Gov. Kim Reynolds & Lt. Governor Adam Gregg
515-725-3517 | meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
www.governor.iowa.gov
www.ltgovernor.iowa.gov

Message: Letter of Recommendation; Jason Besler

 **Letter of Recommendation; Jason Besler**

From Randy Cole **Date** Thursday, May 31, 2018 11:17 PM
To Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 **Jason.Besler.Letter.docx** (21 Kb HTML)

Dear Ms. O'Brien,
Attached is a letter of recommendation in support of Jason Besler for the next Judgeship appointment. It was my pleasure and honor to write the letter. I truly believe Jason would make an excellent Judiciary.

Respectfully,

Randy E. Cole

05/31/2018

To: Meaghan O'Brien

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

From: Randy E. Cole; 6th Judicial District DCS Supervisor (Retired)

Subject: Jason Besler; Judgeship nomination

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

I am writing on behalf of supporting the nomination of Jason Besler for the next Judicial Appointment being considered. I have had the pleasure of working with Jason for many years in the 6th Judicial District. I am retired from the Department of Correctional Services (2014) after 32 years of service and continue to serve the DCS and Court with sex offender risk assessments for SOR Modification requests. I have worked with Jason in my direct roles as a Probation/Parole Officer, PPO Supervisor, and Sex Offender Program Manager.

In describing Jason's work ethic, words that quickly come to mind are integrity, honesty, respect, and dedication. Jason has an excellent understanding of the Criminal Justice system, the responsibilities of the professionals working within their areas of discipline, and the shared responsibilities for protecting victims, ensuring public safety, holding offender's accountable, and seeking disposition that promotes restorative justice. Jason understands the difficult balance of accountability, punishment, and rehabilitation. I have also appreciated Jason's commitment to conducting thorough investigations, researching his cases, and applying critical thinking skills to reach his conclusions concerning the most appropriate course of action for all parties involved; victim, public, and defendant.

Whether it was a probation revocation proceeding, Pre-Sentence Investigation, or new criminal charges filed against a client of the DCS, Jason is always a professional dedicated to seeking the truth and justice. He is always prepared and knows that there are not any easy answers within our work, and that a "one-size-fits-all" approach is ineffective. He understands principles of risk management, a risk-needs-response strategy, and the need for collaboration within the Criminal Justice System and community partnerships. Jason has also consistently demonstrated to me that he is fair, objective, and committed to protecting due process and constitutional rights.

In closing, I cannot think of a better nominee for the next Judgeship position. He has earned my trust, respect, and confidence many times over. Please contact me with any questions or need for further discussion.

Respectfully,

Randy E. Cole

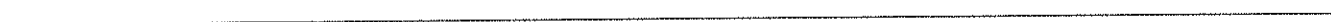
R. Cole Consulting, LLC;

[REDACTED]


or

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Message: Letter in support of Jason Besler (I have also attached a signed copy)

 **Letter in support of Jason Besler (I have also attached a signed copy)**

From Aaron Jones **Date** Friday, June 01, 2018 8:50 AM
To 'Meaghan.O'Brien@Iowa.Gov'
Cc

 **beslerletter.pdf** (84 Kb HTML)

6/1/2018

•••

Aaron Jones
 Austin, Minnesota

Honorable Kim Reynolds
 Office of the Governor of Iowa
 C/o Meaghan O'Brien

Re: Letter in support of Jason Besler as a district court judge.

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I am writing a letter in support of my law school classmate, co-worker, and friend, Jason Besler, to be a district court judge.

First, who am I and why would my opinion on a good judge be relevant? I am from Ames, but I graduated from the University of Iowa in 1996 and the University of Iowa College of Law in 1999. During law school I worked with Mr. Besler at Student Legal Services, representing students in all sorts of matters. During the 1998-1999 school year Jason Besler and I were the co-directors of Student Legal Services, meaning we were in charge.

After graduating I moved to Minnesota, was admitted to the bar in 2000, worked as a law clerk until 2003 when I started as a prosecutor. I have been an assistant county attorney since 2003, mainly focusing on child protection, delinquency prosecution and DWI prosecution. For the last 12 years I have been an assistant county attorney in Mower County, Minnesota. If you eat Spam it came from here in Austin. In my years I have appeared in front of many, many judges. I would not be surprised if I have experienced working with over 100 judges in that time.

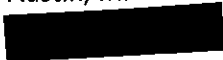
Why would Jason Besler be a great judge? The biggest reason I would see would be his ability to be respectful in sticking to his principles and to be respectful in disagreements. He is someone with whom I disagree on a lot of topics. However, I have never felt condescended to, nor observed him condescending to anyone he disagrees with. He has reasons for his positions and can explain them. In my experience, when a judge does not have this ability it leads to problems, quickly.

His legal experience would also be a substantial benefit. It may be my personal bias, but I believe attorneys with county attorney experience make better judges. Nothing can make up for actual

courtroom experience, and prosecutors have the most time in court by far.

I am certainly willing to follow up if there are any questions you have about Mr. Besler, but when he mentioned to me that he was a candidate, my immediate thought was that he is a person with the right disposition for the job, which is pretty rare.

Aaron Jones
Assistant Mower County Attorney
Austin, Minnesota



6/1/2018

• • •

Aaron Jones
Austin, Minnesota

Honorable Kim Reynolds
Office of the Governor of Iowa
C/o Meaghan O'Brien

Re: Letter in support of Jason Besler as a district court judge.

Dear Governor Reynolds:

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After graduating I moved to Minnesota, was admitted to the bar in 2000, worked as a law clerk until 2003 when I started as a prosecutor. I have been an assistant county attorney since 2003, mainly focusing on child protection, delinquency prosecution and DWI prosecution. For the last 12 years I have been an assistant county attorney in Mower County, Minnesota. If you eat Spam it came from here in Austin. In my years I have appeared in front of many, many judges. I would not be surprised if I have experienced working with over 100 judges in that time.

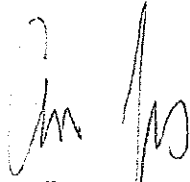
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Austin, Minnesota

• • •

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I am certainly willing to follow up if there are any questions you have about Mr. Besler, but when he mentioned to me that he was a candidate, my immediate thought was that he is a person with the right disposition for the job, which is pretty rare.



Aaron Jones
Assistant Mower County Attorney
Austin, Minnesota



Message: Recommendation letter for Ellen Ransey-Kacena

 **Recommendation letter for Ellen Ransey-Kacena**

From Kay Galli

Date Friday, June 01, 2018 10:02 AM

To Meaghan.Obrien@iowa.gov

Cc

 **recommendation letter.pdf** (69 Kb HTML)

--

Kay and Bill Galli


Image 1

Kay F. Galli

[REDACTED]

Cedar Rapids, IA [REDACTED]

The Honorable Governor Reynolds

1007 E. Grand Ave.

Des Moines, IA 50319

To the Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds:

I am writing this letter to highly recommend Ellen Ramsey-Kacena who is a finalist for the Sixth Judicial District Judge position. I have known her primarily as the President of the Board of Directors of the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale, a chorus I have sung in for nearly forty years.

Through her strong leadership we have developed into a well-organized and productive group. She developed interest groups such as leadership and marketing to involve members of the chorale. She was always able to oversee each group so that responsibilities did not overlap.

Ellen gives 100 % to anything she is involved in, and her integrity is beyond reproach. Her ability to oversee many different projects is remarkable.

I also had an opportunity to hear her in a court proceeding and was impressed with her knowledge of the case and her presentation.

I know that she would be a great District Judge because of her qualities of fairness, work ethic, and leadership.

With sincerity,

Kay F. Galli

Message: Jason Besler Recommendation **Jason Besler Recommendation**

From Zimmerman Kevin J **Date** Friday, June 01, 2018 11:06 AM
To meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov
Cc

 [Untitled].pdf (30 Kb HTML)

Meaghan,

Attached is a letter of recommendation for Jason Besler. Please let me know if you have any questions.

R/
Kevin

Kevin J. Zimmerman
Senior Manager/Labor Attorney
Global Labor Relations and Continuous Improvement
One John Deere Place
Moline, IL 61265
Office: (309) 765-8341 Mobile: (309) 912-4259

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Kevin J. Zimmerman

Bettendorf, IA

1 June 2018

To: Meaghan O'Brien
From: Kevin Zimmerman

Subject: Recommendation for Jason Besler

I have known Jason Besler since August of 1996. Jason was a classmate of mine at the University of Iowa and we both graduated in May of 1999. We were in many of the same classes as we both shared an interest in criminal law. I also worked closely with Jason for the entire 1998-99 Academic Year at Student Legal Services on the University of Iowa campus.

Following law school, I served as a judge advocate in the United States Marine Corps for nearly eight years. Most of my time in the Marine Corps was spent as a trial counsel prosecuting cases. Since law school I have remained in contact with Jason discussing issues related our jobs as prosecutors, along with discussing our common interests in sports and politics.

I was pleased to hear Jason is under consideration for a District Judge vacancy. Currently, I am employed as a labor relations attorney with Deere & Company and remain an active member of both the Iowa bar and Illinois bar. In my almost twenty years in the legal profession, I have not worked with anyone better suited to serve as a judge than Jason Besler. Jason's integrity, work ethic, judgement and dedication to the legal profession are unmatched. I give Jason my highest recommendation.



Kevin J. Zimmerman