
From: Johnston, Tyler <tyler.johnston@spd.state.ia.us>
Subject: Letter in support of Jason Besler
Date: June 15, 2018 at 1:10:52 PM CDT
To: Meaghan O'Brien <meaghan.obrien@iowa.gov>

Dear Governor Reynolds:

I write in support of Jason Besler's application to become the next District Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial District of Iowa.

I have known Jason since he joined the County Attorney's Office years ago. As a public defender, Jason and I have squared off on many cases over the years. While I have had my issues with the County Attorney's Office during my 23 years here, I have never questioned Jason's honesty or integrity. When Jason tells you he's going to do something, he does it.

I have also had my share of disagreements and arguments with Judges. Jason has the kind of temperament and innate sense of fairness that I think you would want in a Judge. He doesn't take things personally. And whatever you say to him, however you say it, gets responded to as if you had said it calmly and respectfully. I have always been perplexed by Jason's ability to do this. It is as if he has no ego. He doesn't get distracted by personalities or conflicts that have nothing to do with the issue at hand.

That is not to say that Jason lacks passion. I believe he is extremely passionate about what he does and why he does it. And I have no doubt that Jason would bring that sense of passion for justice to the bench. He's just not going to get in screaming matches with counsel to do it.

Finally, I need to mention how intelligent Jason is. This is not an easy thing for me to do as a card carrying liberal and Democrat. I am always impressed with his analysis and reasoning, which exceeds my own, more often than I care to admit. But when someone is smarter than you are, you know it.

In conclusion, while I have disagreed with Jason on many things over the years, he remains the most decent man I know. A hard working, passionate guy who shows up for work with one goal, treating people fairly and honestly. If he ever ran for political office, I would oppose him tooth and nail. But I can think of no other contemporary of mine who would make a better Judge.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Tyler Johnston