

## FROM THE DESK OF FORMER JUSTICES

W. William Leaphart | Patricia O. Cotter | James C. Nelson

Jim Regnier | Terry N. Trieweiler | John Warner

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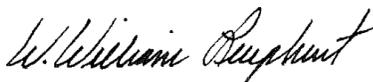
Dear Fellow Montanan:

For the first time in 30 years, the familiar and trusted name of Ed Smith will not appear on the ballot for the position of Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court, as Ed is retiring at the end of 2018 after years of dedicated service. In Ed's place, you will see the name of Rex Renk. As retired Supreme Court justices, we write to request your support for Rex's candidacy because in this office of complex operations, experience and institutional knowledge really matter.

Most of you already know Rex. He has served as Deputy Clerk of Court for over 23 years. During that time, Rex led a dramatic modernization of the office, improving the public's access to court records, digitizing all case pleadings, and implementing the judiciary's first ever state-wide case management and E-filing systems. He knows better than anyone how the system works. Rex has also been a consistently genial ambassador for the office, always ready to assist members of the public, attorneys, and - as we know firsthand - the members of the judiciary.

The Clerk of Court's office is apolitical. It does not implement policy. Rather, the role of the office is to license attorneys, and to serve attorneys, the courts and the public by maintaining secure records and providing all persons open and efficient access to court documents. We can attest that Rex has faithfully fulfilled these important functions every workday. He is independent, experienced, responsive and highly capable, and will provide the continuity of first-rate service that attorneys and the public have come to expect from the Clerk's Office. We therefore urge you to support Rex Renk for Clerk of the Montana Supreme Court.

Sincerely,



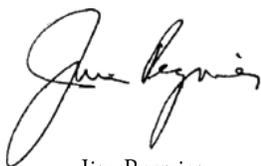
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