

ORIGINAL

1109 Delphinium Drive
Billings, MT 59102
March 20, 2020

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03/23/2020

Bowen Greenwood
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: PR 20-0072

FILED

MAR 23 2020

Bowen Greenwood
Clerk of Supreme Court
State of Montana

Montana Supreme Court
215 N. Sanders Street, #323
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Chief Justice McGrath and Associate Justices of the Montana Supreme Court:

Re: Judge Ashley Harada, 13th Judicial District

I have followed recent articles in the Billings Gazette concerning Judge Ashley Harada, as I earlier followed her campaign for election to a judgeship in the 13th Judicial District, and I have become increasingly concerned.

My first thought, after reading the March 19 Billings Gazette was: what if I should ever end up, either as a plaintiff or a defendant in Judge Harada's courtroom? I realized that I would be very worried about getting a fair trial. My feeling was—I could not trust her to be fair and impartial. Even if I should ever be called as a juror in her courtroom, I would worry about my ability to fulfill the role of a fair and impartial juror because I now believe, though everyone else in court swears to tell the truth, Judge Harada is not a truthful, honest, and honorable person, and she might conceivably have another agenda in the trials and court proceedings over which she leads and presides.

Judge Harada has admitted to (or made excuses for) character assassination and, for all intents and purposes, lying about a former employee—essentially for revenge; lying about her judicial experience—saying she had tried 80 jury trials when she was on inactive status; and all through her campaign for judge breaking the rules of Judicial Ethics. To me this is a person who seems to think she is above the law, shows little or no respect or basic decency toward people she does not like, and is willing to do whatever it takes to get what she wants. I have always believed judges at all levels should be role models of honesty, integrity, and sound judgement. I see little to no evidence of this in Ashley Harada's attitudes or behavior.

As a citizen of Yellowstone County, I would not want to end up in Judge Harada's courtroom. But furthermore, as an individual who believes in the justice system and its foundational place in our American democracy, I don't believe anyone who is seeking fairness or judicial redress or relief should have to be dependent on a judge who herself is either incapable of or doesn't care about the highest legal and ethical standards or the truth. Therefore, I believe Ashley Harada should be permanently removed as a judge in the 13th Judicial District.

Sincerely,



Adela Awner