



# UNITED STATES COURTS District of Montana

July 2019, Volume 12, Issue 2



## Farewell Magistrate Jeremiah C. Lynch

United State Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch will retire effective August 2, 2019.

Judge Lynch was appointed to his position on June 10, 2006 and is currently Montana's longest-serving active United States magistrate judge. A 1981 graduate of the University of Montana School of



Law, Judge Lynch began his legal career in Great Falls, serving a law clerk to United States District Judge Paul G. Hatfield from 1981-1996. From 1996 until his appointment as a U.S. magistrate judge, Judge Lynch

practiced as a trial lawyer in Great Falls with his colleague and friend Thomas Boland. During his time on the federal bench, Judge Lynch served on the Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges' Executive Board, the Ninth Circuit Jury Instructions Committee, and as chair of the District of Montana's District Court Local Rules Committee.

Judge Lynch's tenure on the bench has been marked by his commitment to fairness and efficiency in the judicial process. Litigants in Judge Lynch's court can expect prompt, well-reasoned rulings regardless of the nature of the proceeding. Judge Lynch has dedicated the majority of his professional life to the United States District Court, and the Court is sincerely grateful for Judge Lynch's many contributions to the administration of justice in the District of Montana. Judge Lynch was born and raised in Butte, Montana, one of five children of John and Mary Lynch. He graduated from Christian

Brothers High School in 1969 and received a bachelor's degree in zoology from Carroll College in 1973. He received a master's degree in zoology from Montana State University in 1975. He and his wife, Teresa, have four children and nine grandchildren.

## Court Accepting Pro Bono Applications

The Court is actively seeking qualified attorneys to join the pro bono panel, and we ask you to consider volunteering your services to this important effort.

The Court frequently has a need for attorneys to contribute their time by representing prisoner plaintiffs in lawsuits challenging conditions of confinement or alleging unconstitutional treatment under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. In addition to providing an opportunity for public service, these cases are especially appropriate for young lawyers who might otherwise not have the experience of trying a civil case to a jury in federal court. Reasonable costs expended may be reimbursable pursuant to Local Rule 83. In addition, if the plaintiff obtains a favorable judgment, the attorney may seek attorney fees from the defendants. Please visit the court's website for upcoming announcements regarding pro bono applications.

## POWER Act CLE scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup>

The United States District Court for the District of Montana will co-sponsor a free CLE program titled "Orders of Protection: Empowering Attorneys for Action" to be held on August 2, 2019, at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. For more information on the program and to read the full court announcement, visit the Court's webpage at:

[www.mtd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mtd.uscourts.gov).

Billings: 247-7000  
Butte: 497-1240  
Great Falls: 727-1922

[www.mtb.uscourts.gov](http://www.mtb.uscourts.gov)  
[www.mtd.uscourts.gov](http://www.mtd.uscourts.gov)

Helena: 441-1355  
Missoula: 542-7260



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## **New Bankruptcy Rules – effective 7/1/19**

New local bankruptcy rules and local bankruptcy forms went into effect on July 1, 2019. Please visit the bankruptcy court's website at:

[www.mtb.uscourts.gov](http://www.mtb.uscourts.gov) for the most recent local rules revisions.

## **District Court Jury Wheel Refill**

The U.S. District Court has commenced building a new jury wheel for the term of 09/01/2019 through 08/31/2021. Qualification postcard mailings were mailed to citizens on July 13, 2019. The District of Montana is optimistic that we will receive a high rate of electronic responses via our jury qualification program. Paper questionnaires will be provided upon request. The Court is required to have at least 5,000 qualified jurors on or before 9/1/2019.

## **Annual District Conference & Clerk's Office Meetings**

The district and bankruptcy courts will be closed 9/16/19 through 9/20/19, to allow staff to attend our annual district conference and clerk's meetings. The ECF help desk will continue to assist callers with filings questions during this time. Drop boxes will also be placed in the clerk's office in each division for conventional filings. An additional notification of the September closure will be sent out as the time of the conference draws near.

## **Attention Chrome Users**

Any version of Chrome other than version 53 is incompatible with CM/ECF. If you are a Chrome user and experience issues using CM/ECF in the district court database, please check to ensure that you are using version 53. If not, you will need to either reinstall the correct version, or use another compatible browser such as Internet Explorer 11, Mozilla Firefox 49, or Safari 10.1. Bankruptcy registered users may experience system difficulties if you are using Chrome higher than version 59. If you are a bankruptcy user and experience technical difficulties, please check your version of Chrome. If you are using a version higher than 59, you will need to either reinstall the correct version, or use another compatible browser such as Internet Explorer 11, Mozilla Firefox 53, or Safari 10.1.