From: Eli Parker <ParkerE@ci.missoula.mt.us>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 3:49 PM

Judge Beal,
I've read (and re-read) your concerns and reviewed the editorial in light of the context of this email thread. I don't find that context relevant to the point the editorial made. I also don't agree that anything in the editorial, or the paragraph you focused on, appear misleading absent that context. Frankly, I'm unsure I understand what you perceive as misleading or an attempt to undermine public confidence in the judiciary. While I appreciate your apparent attempt to clarify what you perceive as possible ethical violations, this is an inappropriate forum for that discussion, which I had expected you would know. We won't be responding further in this email thread to your accusations of ethical violations.

Sincerely,
Judge Parker

From: Alex Beal <abeal@missoulacounty.us>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2026 8:58 AM

Again, I had hoped to let this email chain end. However, given the nature of my questions, and since everyone on this chain is obligated by either MRPC Rule 8.3, MCJC Rule 2.16 (or both) this seems like a reasonable method to communicate directly regarding a potential violation of the MCJC.

Judges Steano, Coolidge, Parker:

You recently wrote an op-ed in the Missoulian related to the JP election referencing 3 cases, one of which was Mr. Ellenburg's, discussed in this thread. Given the content of this email thread, the absence of any reference that Ellenburg's mental health information was not provided to justice court, or about the below conversation, is notable.

I'll quote the section:
"M.E., a 76-year-old man, was charged with nonviolent misdemeanors, including theft of a cup of coffee and trespassing. A professional evaluation found him unfit to proceed. Following the evaluation, the cases were dismissed and re-filed in Justice Court. M.E. appeared and JP Landee Holloway imposed a $5,000 bond. Unable to post it, he spent 36 days in jail at a cost of approximately $7,200—only to have the case ultimately dismissed based on the same finding that had already been established in Municipal Court."

Could you please explain how this statement, lacking the context you possessed, was not a knowing attempt to undermine public confidence in the judiciary?

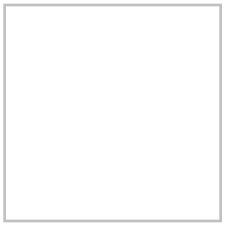
Could you also please explain how this was not a knowingly misleading statement related to an election?

Finally, if in retrospect you believe that the issuance of this statement fails to promote public confidence in the judiciary, how do you propose to rectify this?

Thank you.

-Alex

Hon. Alex Beal
Justice of the Peace
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