



United States District Court District of Montana

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September 29, 2016

COURT ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States District Court for the District of Montana is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Timothy J. Cavan of Billings, Montana, to serve as the next United States magistrate judge in the Billings Division. Mr. Cavan was selected from among a highly qualified group of finalists compiled by a Court-appointed merit selection panel. He is currently an Assistant United States Attorney in Billings.

A lifelong Montanan, Mr. Cavan earned a bachelor's degree from Montana State University-Billings in 1981, and graduated with honors from the University of Montana School of Law in 1984. He began his legal career practicing civil trial law with the Billings firm of Sandall, Cavan & Smith, where he became a partner in 1988. From 1996 to 2002, he served as Assistant Federal Defender with the Federal Defenders of Montana, representing indigent defendants charged with federal crimes. Since 2002, Mr. Cavan has worked in his current position in the United States Attorney's Office, serving as defense counsel in cases involving civil claims against federal defendants. He has been active in various community organizations, and is a member of the Yellowstone County Bar Association, the Billings YMCA, Zoo Montana, Yellowstone Art Museum, and Yellowstone Public Radio. He and his wife Michelle have three children.

The District of Montana has three full-time magistrate judge positions, located in Missoula, Billings, and Great Falls. Mr. Cavan will become the fourth magistrate judge to serve on a full-time basis in the Billings Division. His appointment takes effect on December 2, 2016. He will succeed current United States Magistrate Judge Carolyn S. Ostby, who has announced plans to resign on December 1, 2016.