



United States District Court District of Montana

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July 7, 2026

COURT ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States District Court for the District of Montana is pleased to announce that Kathleen S. Lane has taken the oath of office and will begin her service as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Montana on July 13, 2026. Judge Lane's oath of office was administered by U.S. District Judge Susan Watters. A formal investiture ceremony will follow at a later date.

Judge Lane was nominated by President Trump in February 2026 and confirmed by the United States Senate on June 2, 2026.

Judge Lane grew up in Bozeman, Montana, graduating from Bozeman High School. She graduated magna cum laude from Furman University with a double major in Economics and Communication Studies. She went on to graduate magna cum laude from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.

Following law school, Judge Lane clerked for Judge Thomas Varlan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee and for Judge Timothy Tymkovich of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Judge Lane began her legal career in private practice at Jones Day in Washington, D.C., later joining Consovoy McCarthy in Arlington, Virginia. Between her time in private practice, she served as Deputy Solicitor General for Montana under Attorney General Austin Knudsen. Most recently, she worked as Senior Counsel to the Republican National Committee.

Judge Lane will fill the judgeship vacated by United States District Judge Susan P. Watters, who assumed senior status on June 8, 2026. Judge Lane's chambers will be in Billings.

The District of Montana has three authorized federal district judgeships, located in Missoula, Billings, and Great Falls.