



United States District Court District of Montana

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COURT ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States District Court for the District of Montana is pleased to announce the confirmation of William W. Mercer to serve as a United States District Court Judge for the District of Montana. Mr. Mercer was nominated by President Trump in July 2025 and confirmed by the United States Senate on October 22, 2025. He is a partner with Holland & Hart LLP and has been based in the firm's Billings Office.

Before joining Holland & Hart, Mr. Mercer served in the federal government for twenty-one years. President Bush nominated Mr. Mercer to serve as United States Attorney for the District of Montana in June, 2001, and the Senate confirmed him for the position later in the same year. He also served as a senior Justice Department official in the Bush Administration, first as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General in 2005-2006 and then as Acting Associate Attorney General in 2006-2007. As Associate Attorney General, he served as the third-ranking official in the Department and had oversight responsibilities for five litigating divisions (Antitrust, Civil, Civil Rights, Environment and Natural Resources, and Tax) with criminal and civil cases.

Mr. Mercer served as lead counsel in numerous civil and criminal cases in state and federal courts and participated in oral arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and the Montana Supreme Court.

Before his presidential appointments, he worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Montana, a policy analyst for the Department of Justice, and a revenue estimator for the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Mr. Mercer is a graduate of the University of Montana (B.A. 1986), Harvard University (M.P.A. 1988), and George Mason University (J.D. 1993). He was

selected as a Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation in 1984 and as a Presidential Management Intern in 1988.

Mr. Mercer has served four terms in the Montana House of Representatives beginning in 2019. Prior to his service in the Montana Legislature, he served on the boards of directors for six non-profit organizations.

Upon taking the oath of office, Mr. Mercer will fill the judgeship vacated by United States District Judge Dana L. Christensen, who will assume senior status. Mr. Mercer's chambers will be in Missoula.

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