

# **GREGORY R. TODD**

## **RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

**After discussions with my family and doctors, I announce my retirement as a District Court Judge effective December 31, 2021. When I started this job, I told my friends that I would not overstay my welcome. That time has come. I have notified the Chief Justice so the process to choose my successor can start and there will be no gap in service in Department 4.**

**It has been a privilege to serve as a District Court Judge in my hometown for almost 21 years. I've tried to always be prepared, prompt and to decide cases based solely on the law and the facts. My approach did not favor the State or defendant in criminal cases or the plaintiff or respondent in civil cases. It was just to dispense justice as fairly as possible.**

**I was born and raised in Billings. After graduating from West High, I went to Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Immediately after graduating, I spent months pounding spikes on the railroad and working construction. That experience convinced me that law school sounded like a more viable option.**

**In 1977, I graduated from the University of Montana Law School. For the next three years I was a Deputy Gallatin County Attorney in Bozeman. That time provided an invaluable opportunity to try cases and to start to hone my courtroom skills and knowledge.**

**I returned to Billings in 1980. For the next 20 years I worked in two different law firms. From 1980 until 1992, I practiced primarily family law and plaintiff's personal injury law with Towe, Ball, Enright & Mackey. Then until December 2000, I practiced primarily corporate, insurance defense and family law with Hanson, Roybal, Lee & Todd.**

**Working and living in a community carries with it privileges as well as obligations. I have tried to give back to Billings and make it a better place to live. As a member of Mayflower Congregational**

**Church, I sing in the choir and served two terms as Moderator. I was chairman of the STEP Board and also on the Fox Committee for the Performing Arts. In the 1990s and 2000s, I hosted 12 foreign exchange students.**

**Sports have always been a passion for me. Go Griz! After playing quarterback for West High football and guard for West High basketball, I played one year of college football. I then was happy for years to play intra-mural games, noon YMCA ball and city league sports until I discovered soccer.**

**Starting at age 35 I played 15 years of city league soccer. I coached my daughters in basketball, softball and soccer. When my girls were ready to play Magic City club soccer, there were only four age-appropriate boy's teams. So, I helped start the first Magic City girl's team. I coached girls for several years, and then I coached boys – including taking two teams to regionals. Additionally, I refereed for many years. I was also president of the Amend Park Development Council for several years starting when the land was an alfalfa pasture and continuing until we had 50 acres of fields developed.**

**Unfortunately, my parents did not live to see me on the bench. My mom Beth Todd died my first year in law school, and my dad Bill Todd died about 2 ½ years before I took the bench. I am forever indebted to them for their guidance and sacrifices.**

**In particular I must thank my wife Kathie (Judge Kathie to some) for her love and support and her tolerance of the late-night search warrant calls.**

**I'm so proud of my two daughters – Kiely of Lake Elmo, Minnesota and Rachel of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. I'm blessed with two granddaughters – Lydia, age 7 and Emmalani, age 5. I am also blessed with three step grandchildren all of Laurel – Logan, Justin and Sophia plus a step great granddaughter Gwenivere.**

**During my tenure, I have tried to enhance and improve the judiciary. I started the Billings Criminal Justice Coordinating Council**

**about ten years ago. I chaired the Interim Legislative Commission on Judicial Redistricting. For almost 16 years I have served on the District Court Council and am currently the President of the Montana Judges Association. Since 2014 I have presided over the Yellowstone Family Recovery Treatment Court. That opportunity opened my eyes to a whole new approach to judicial problem solving and assistance. In my job, learning never stops. Although it has been the hardest part of my career, it has also been the most rewarding. My incredibly dedicated team has inspired me and taught me daily as we try to help break the cycle of addiction for our participants and their families.**

**For almost half of my legal career, I have had the opportunity to serve as a Judge. It is an awesome responsibility. I want to thank all who have helped me. To my friends, to the judges who I practiced under and learned from, to the lawyers who won some and lost some in front of me, to my judicial colleagues, to law enforcement and to all the parties who have appeared in front of me – I have tried to do my best.**

**I wish to thank my court clerk Susan Jones, the 25 law clerks who put up with me, my court reporters Becky Sabo and Geoff Curtiss, my Recovery Court Coordinators Will Blakely and Sophia Jackson, and most especially, my Judicial Assistant Marris Harris – we made a great team for 20 years.**

**Many institutions in Montana and across the country are being seriously challenged. A prime target is the judiciary. It is my hope and prayer that all citizens understand the ramifications of these attacks. If we do not recognize the damage that has already happened and that may continue, the viability of our judicial system may be seriously wounded or even irreparably harmed. Viable self-government is hard work that cannot be taken for granted. I have faith that our constitutional system of separation of powers will provide an appropriate balance as we wrestle with the many challenges that loom ahead.**