

CITY COURT OF TOWNSEND, COUNTY OF BROADWATER,
STATE OF MONTANA
GARY A. OLSEN, CITY JUDGE
515 Broadway
Townsend, Mt. 59644
Ph 406-266-9230

October 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very happy to write this letter of recommendation regarding my participation in Clarence Darrow's Judicial Perspective program. I had the privilege of portraying Judge Frank Murphy in the Sweet Murder Trials in Detroit in 1925-26. This portrayal was the closing session of a four-day mandatory training for judges of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in the State of Montana. It could have been a tough task, but the way Mr. Anderson conducted himself as Clarence Darrow and laid out the background of each case, the audience was right with the program to the very end!!

Having been a local judge in my home county in Montana for the past ten years and having no stage experience in the past 43 years (since high school) I approached this role with some trepidation. However, Mr. Anderson soon put me at ease during the half hour "rehearsal" we had the day before the performance.

I found Mr. Anderson very easy to work with as he explained the background of each case to us and led us through our cues. He encouraged us to maintain our character and throw ourselves into the roles, but not to overplay the role. After reading through my script a couple of times, I began to have a much deeper understanding of the whole scenario in Detroit in the mid 20's. I also began to see that Judge Frank Murphy made some incredibly tough decisions in response to Clarence Darrow's actions in the courtroom; especially for the circumstances at that time in history.

In my opinion, Gary Anderson is a very energetic, hard working, and cheerful actor that I felt very comfortable working with, being the novice that I was. Mr. Anderson is dedicated and loyal to both Clarence Darrow and this program which enthralls the audience, even if it is the last program of the week. Many of the audience were moved to near tears.

I would encourage this program for any group of judges and any novice to participate if they get the chance. It is an incredible experience for all.

Any questions, please call me at 406-266-9230.

Sincerely,

Gary A. Olsen
City Judge,
City of Townsend