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Endorsements for 2nd Judicial District

DIVISION XXVI — Charles W. Brown: A welding certificate from Haskell Indian Junior College was an appropriate goal for the son of an Oklahoma oilfield worker, but Brown went on to get an AA degree from Haskell and a bachelor's degree in humanities from Baker University before the Indian law program drew him to the University of New Mexico.

Gov. Bill Richardson last summer selected Brown from a list of qualified candidates for an opening on the 2nd Judicial District bench. It was the second time the Judicial Nominating Commission had put Brown on the short list for consideration.

His legal experience includes some private civil and criminal defense work and prosecution for New Mexico district attorneys and for the U.S. attorney in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to teaching law courses at UNM, he has been an ambassador for the U.S. legal system in the Balkans, Turkey, Central Asia and Japan. Brown brings a respectful, even temperament to the bench, and part of that may be due to “the idea of being as normal as I can,” he says. “It's a job, not a religion. ... I put on the robe, and I do the work.” And when he puts down the gavel, he's likely to pick up a welding torch and “bend some iron” to relax.

The Journal endorses District Judge Charles W. Brown in the Democratic primary.