

ORIGINAL

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

OP 26-0292

FILED

MAY 28 2026

Bowen Greenwood  
Clerk of Supreme Court  
State of Montana

AUDREY S. CROMWELL, in her official  
capacity as GALLATIN COUNTY ATTORNEY,

Petitioner,

v.

ORDER

AUSTIN MILES KNUDSEN, in his official  
capacity as MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL,

Respondent.

Petitioner, Audrey S. Cromwell, in her official capacity as Gallatin County Attorney, petitions this Court for declaratory relief on original jurisdiction, seeking a declaration that Montana counties may not lawfully disseminate Confidential Criminal Justice Information (“CCJI”) to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), upon receiving non-criminal civil or administrative requests without a court order; and seeking an Order terminating the Attorney General’s exercise of supervisory control over the Gallatin County Attorney’s Office. Cromwell sets forth two issues for this Court’s consideration in her Petition:

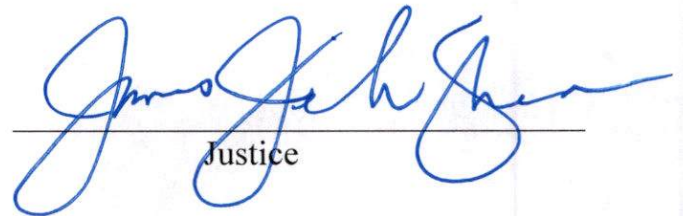
1. Whether counties may lawfully disseminate CCJI to federal agencies, specifically ICE, upon receiving non-criminal civil or administrative requests without a court order.
2. Whether, based upon this Court’s declaration of the law, the Attorney General should continue to exercise supervisory control over the Gallatin County Attorney’s Office.

In his response to Cromwell’s Petition, in addition to responding to the substantive issues as presented by Cromwell, the Attorney General argues that this dispute is nonjusticiable. We deem it appropriate to require a reply brief from Cromwell in response to

the Attorney General's non-justiciability argument. Therefore, with good cause appearing, and pursuant to M. R. App. P. 14(7)(a),

IT IS ORDERED that on or before June 8, 2026, Cromwell shall prepare, file, and serve a reply to the Attorney General's response to Cromwell's Petition. The reply brief shall be limited to addressing the Attorney General's argument that this dispute is nonjusticiable, and it shall consist of no more than 2,500 words.

The Clerk is directed to serve a copy of this Order upon all counsel of record.

  
Justice