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Alaska Judicial Council
Application for Judicial Appointment

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:
Juneau District Court

Date: May 6, 2016

I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

Personal

1. (a) State full name* Kirsten Leann Swanson

Name as it should appear on bar survey: Kirsten Swanson

* Unless otherwise specified, this is how your name will appear on the bar survey.

(b) Have you ever used or been known by any other name? If so, please identify.

No

2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application? **

	<u>17</u> years	<u>5</u> months
Total	<u>17</u> years	<u>5</u> months

3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application? **

	<u>20</u> years	<u>5</u> months
Total	<u>20</u> years	<u>5</u> months

Nonlegal Education

4. State names and dates of attendance of all colleges and professional schools (other than law schools) ever attended and degrees and dates conferred. List any honors.

University of Oregon

Attended September 1984 until June 1989

Received a BA in Political Science

Portland State University

Attended June 1987 until September 1987

** See AS 22.10.090; see also 1984 Inf. Op. Atty. Gen. (July 19; 366- 624-84).

Legal Education

5. List all law schools, dates attended and degrees conferred. If you did not receive a degree from any law school, please indicate.

Gonzaga School of Law

Attended September 1992 until graduation in May 1995

Juris Doctorate, cum laude, May 1995

Top 25% of class

6. (a) Did you receive any honors in law school or belong to any honorary societies or groups?

Yes No If yes, please give details.

American Jurisprudence Award in Evidence

- (b) Have you taken any CLE (continuing legal education) courses during the past five years?

Yes No

Please describe or list. Please do not attach individual certificates of attendance.

2011: Federal Sentencing for CJA Panel Attorneys in Indianapolis, Federal Guidelines Training, Federal Ethics in Plea Negotiations, Federal Appeals, Ethics in the 11th Hour; 2012: Introduction to Workers Compensation with Tom Slagle, Killer Opening Statements, Cross-examination Seminar, Ethics in Evidence, Evidence with Cohn, Traumatic Brain Injury, International Job Opportunities by ABA International Law group; 2013: DVRO training in Anchorage, Ethical problems and the Media, Jury Selection Seminar; Alaska Bar Conference; 2014: 3/19 CJA Panel training, FASD conference, Challenging the Government's Experts; 2015: 12/17 Ethics in Anchorage,

Military

7. Have you served in the armed forces (reserves or otherwise)? Yes No

If so, please provide the following information:

(a) Dates of service: January 1996 through January 20, 1999

(b) Branch of service: U.S. Army, JAGCorps.

(c) Rank at time of discharge: Captain

(d) Type of military discharge: Honorable

(e) Awards or citations:

Service ribbon, overseas ribbon, commanding general's coin, 2d Battalion 2-15 FA coin, JTF-6 coin, trial defense services coin.

- (f) Have you ever been refused admission to or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? Yes No If so, state the details.

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL
APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT

Continuation of Question 5(b) re: CLE courses:

2/18/2015 CLE brown bag lunch CJA panel sentencing changes, 12/6/15 federal ethics, 2015 DUI with marijuana legalization, 2015 ethics under marijuana legalization, 12/21 webinar on ethics, 12/28 ethics "Don't be like the TV Lawyer",.

Nonlegal Employment

8. Describe major nonlegal working experience. If you had a business or association that has been discontinued, please note whether there are unpaid debts or claims pending litigation.

Farm Laborer
Summers 1979-1980

I picked berries and fruit to make extra money when I was a teenager.

Meier & Frank Department Store
1984-1985

I worked in retail after school, on weekends and summers while in high school selling women's clothing.

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Oregon City, Oregon
Summers of 1988 and 1989

My primary duties were taking non-emergency 911 calls and working the front desk. I took reports over the phone and in person for informational reports and reports of minor criminal activity. I don't believe this job has an association that would lead to a conflict with any judicial position.

Clackamas County Jail and Prison, Oregon City, Oregon
1990 until I left for law school in 1992

I worked in a correctional facility that was half county jail and half prison for classifying prisoners to determine which facility they would be sent to serve their sentence. I booked in new prisoners for both facilities, took mug shots, once in awhile I fingerprinted new prisoners and did a lot of data entry. I also ran license numbers and criminal histories for both jail guards and on road deputies who would call in when 911 was too busy. Again, I don't think this job would pose any sort of conflict with a judicial position.

Hi Kirsten,
Thanks for letting me know. We can just add this info to your application.
Best,
Susanne

From: Kirsten Swanson [mailto:k_swanson2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 10:27 AM
To: Susanne DiPietro <SDiPietro@ajc.state.ak.us>
Subject: Question about adding to application

Hello,
I have a question. I put in for the Juneau District Court position and since I turned in the application I have taught a concealed carry legal class on July 15th and I am going to be doing another in September.

I don't believe there is any conflict, but I did not note this since I hadn't been asked when I turned in the application so it is not listed.

Should I send something in writing or?

Kirsten Swanson

Legal Experience

9. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. **Please provide dates and location of employment, name of employer, name AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF supervisor or person who can verify AND COMMENT ON YOUR employment, the reason you left the position, and a brief description of type of practice (i.e., insurance defense, criminal, appellate, general, litigation, etc.) for each position listed below.** IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A TRIAL COURT JUDGE, PLEASE LIST YOUR PRESIDING JUDGE. FOR PAST JUDGESHIPS, PLEASE LIST THE JUDGE WHO LAST PRESIDED DURING YOUR TIME ON THE BENCH.

The Council will ask for comments from your current and former employers about your employment and your judicial qualifications. You may choose to list other persons as character and professional references in response to Question 20 of this application.

If the supervisor or contact person asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

Current Employer: Self Employed

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Tres Lewis

Current address of this person: 227 7th Street

City Juneau State AK Zip 99801

Dates and location of Employment: From 5/26/03 To present City Juneau State AK

Description:

I primarily represent criminal defendants at the misdemeanor and felony level in city, state and federal court.

Previous Employers: *(In chronological order, most recent first)*

Employer: Alaska Attorney General's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Steven White (retired)

Current address of this person: 437 W 12th Street

City Juneau State AK Zip 99801

Dates and Location of Employment: From July 2001 To March 2003 City Juneau State AK

Description: Coastal Management Attorney in the Natural Resources Section. Defended the program from lawsuits brought by various environmental groups.

Reason for Leaving: I left to pursue other job opportunities and to travel overseas.

Employer: Alaska Public Defender's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Phil Pallenburg

Current address of this person: PO Box 114100

City Juneau State AK Zip 99811-4100

Dates and Location of Employment: From 02/1999 To 06/2001 City Juneau State AK

Description: I represented clients in district and superior courts, juvenile hearings and competency hearings.

Reason for Leaving: I wanted to branch out and try something other than criminal law.

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: Judge Advocate General's Corps
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: LTC Michelle Ryan, SJA
Current address of this person: Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 141 Lewis Avenue
City Fort Drum State NY Zip 13602-5100
Dates and Location of Employment: From 01/1996 To 01/1999 City Fort Drum State NY
Description: I worked as a trial defense lawyer representing soldiers charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice in court-martials and administrative actions.
Reason for Leaving: My tour of duty ended and my husband wanted out of the military.

Employer: Federal Defender's of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Judy Clarke
Current address of this person: 10 N Post St., Suite 700
City Spokane State WA Zip 99201
Dates and Location of Employment: From 09/1994 To 05/1995 City Spokane State WA
Description: I did legal research, wrote motions, and represented clients in basic immigration hearings.
Reason for Leaving: I graduated from law school, took the bar exam and joined the US Army

Employer: Alaska Public Defender's Agency
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Tom Meyer, NOAA Attorney
Current address of this person: 709 9th St., Room 909A, Box 21109
City Juneau State AK Zip 99802
Dates and Location of Employment: From May 1994 To August 1994 City Juneau State AK
Description: I interned as a second year law student where I covered district court for the summer.
Reason for Leaving: Summer ended and I returned to finish my last year of law school.

Employer: _____
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: _____
Current address of this person: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____
Description:
Reason for Leaving: _____

Employer: _____
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: _____
Current address of this person: _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____
Description:
Reason for Leaving: _____

10. During your legal career, please indicate (approximately) the following:

(a)	Percent of your practice that was:	Civil	20
		Criminal	80
		Other	
			= 100%

Comment: The 20% includes, CINA, DVROs, Family Law, Small Claims.

(b)	Percent:	State	60
		Federal	20
		Other	20
			= 100%

Comment: Other would be primarily City and Borough of Juneau cases.

(c)	Of practice in state courts, percent:	Supreme Court	2
		Court of Appeals	3
		Superior Court	70
		District Court	25
			= 100%

Comment: My increase in district court has been primarily F&G violations.

(d) Frequency of appearance in court:
 Regularly Occasionally Infrequently Not at All

Comment: _____

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted:
 None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Comment: 46 criminal trials, 9 CINA terminations, 5 divorce or custody

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 75 Non-Jury 25

Comment: _____

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 6

Comment: _____

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings:
 None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:
Driver's license hearings, disciplinary board hearings, parole hearings and mediation in custody cases.

(i) Please briefly summarize any *pro bono* work that you have done and indicate whether the work was done through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.).

In the past I've taken cases from the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence but not in the past two years.

I do at least a couple of cases a year where I do not charge the client because they have limited resources and need help. I believe most attorneys in private practice regularly provide these sort of services and don't make a big deal about it.

In the past two years I have taken clients who I was able to get into the Juneau Mental Health Court. I did not charge these clients as they could not afford to pay me to do the weekly court meetings required of clients going through program.

11. List all the courts and administrative tribunals in the United States or elsewhere to which you are or have been admitted to practice, and the dates of admission.

United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, April 2, 1997

Washington State Bar-admitted in 1997. After being inactive for a number of years I resigned the license since I was not practicing in Washington.

Public Service

12. List bar associations, and sections and committees of which you are or have been a member or officer.

Alaska Bar Association, International Law Section

Juneau Bar Association

13. List legal publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

None

14. Have you ever applied for a judgeship? Yes No

Please list dates and judgeships applied for, as well as whether you were nominated by the Judicial Council and appointed.

Judgeship	Date	Nominated By Council (Y/N)	Appointed By Governor (Y/N)
Juneau District Court	4/2010	Y	N
Bethel District Court	5/2013	Y	N

15. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointed? Yes No
If so, state office, manner selected, and when and where held.

16. Please provide the Council with information that you would like the Council to consider about other legal and nonlegal organizations and clubs of which you are a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Please indicate whether you participate in the organization's activities, or simply hold a membership. Your involvement in the community is one of the criteria the Council uses in its evaluations. The Council does not use affiliation with a particular group as a criterion except to the extent that it might raise questions of conflict of interest or would affect an applicant's ability to impartially apply the law.

Northern Lights United Church-I attend Sunday services

Juneau Raptor Center-I answer the message phone, work at events, store risk and road kill in freezers to feed the raptors, clean mews, feed rehab eagles.

Sons of Norway-Participate in yearly cultural events sponsored by the lodge such as the Yuletide dinner, eat traditional foods, listen to traditional music.

Target Rifle Club-My uncle runs this club in Missoula, MT and I participate when I visit family in Montana every year.

NRA-Member due to membership in rifle club

Juneau Gun Club and rifle range-I do enjoy target shooting and trap shooting but haven't gotten out to the local club as much as I would like to get out there.

Friends of Jensen-Olson Arboretum-recent member so haven't done a lot with this group yet but hope to this summer.

17. Indicate (Yes or No) whether you have ever:

- (a) been arrested, charged with, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to, or been convicted of the violation of any law or ordinance, or been requested to appear before any prosecuting or investigative agency in connection with any matter in any jurisdiction, including all traffic offenses, unless the fine was less than \$50 and there were no other sanctions?
 Yes No
- (b) failed to answer any summons or other legal process served upon you personally at any time? Yes No
- (c) as a member of any armed forces, been the subject of any charges which may have resulted in disciplinary action or court martial? Yes No

- (d) had any proceedings brought to have you declared a ward of court or adjudged an incompetent? Yes No
If your answer is "yes" to any part of this question, state the facts in detail. Give the name and place of the court or agency, dates of the beginning and end of any action or proceeding, case numbers, and the judgment or other disposition.

18. (a) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? Yes No
In particular, have you been the subject of any proceeding, criminal or civil, initiated against you by the Internal Revenue Service or a State Tax Office? Yes No
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (b) Have you ever been sued by a client? Yes No
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (c) Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceeding? Yes No
If so, give the particulars. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, including petitioner or respondent in dissolution or divorce proceedings; a material witness; a named co-conspirator or correspondent; and subject or witness in any grand jury proceedings. Do not list proceedings in which you were sued only in a representative capacity (e.g. guardian ad litem, or as Commissioner of Natural Resources).

Petitioner in dissolution against Andrew G. Hutshison. Granted October 1999.

Witness in grand jury in 2000 after client changed their plea, fled the jurisdiction, then captured out of state and brought back as a fugitive from justice and I was ordered to testify.

19. State the nature and disposition of any of the following actions which apply to you:

- (a) Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you? Yes No
Have you ever defaulted in the performance of any court-imposed obligation, including payment of alimony or child support or compliance with another court order or decree?

Yes No

In each case, list the name and address of the creditor, the court which rendered the judgment, the case number, the date, the amount of the judgment, and the circumstances on which such claim was based.

Has property owned by you been either judicially or non-judicially foreclosed?

Yes No

Please state the circumstances and outcome of any such unsatisfied or default judgment, or of any foreclosure.

- (b) Have you ever made an assignment for the benefit of creditors? Yes No
Have you ever filed any petition in bankruptcy? Yes No
If so, state the circumstances, case number, and the outcome.

References and Counsel Questionnaires*

- * **Please Note:** Letters of reference from these persons are confidential and will not be given to the applicant. If the reference asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters and counsel questionnaires for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. (You **should not** list the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.)

References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

20. (a) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of two persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your general character and background.

Name: Laura Leist

Address: 6432 SE 134th Avenue

City/State/Zip: Portland, OR 97236 Phone: 503-761-0177

Name: Herb and Janie Freer

Address: 921 D Street

City/State/Zip: Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 907-789-6162

- (b) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of three other persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your professional competence and qualifications for a judicial position.

Name: Larry Weeks

Address: 59 Ave de la Bourdonnais

City/State/Zip: Paris 75007 France Phone: maureenweeks@me.com

Name: James Curtain

Address: Box 114100

City/State/Zip: Juneau, AK 99811-4100 Phone: 907-463-4741 or 4742

Name: Tom Wagner

Address: 417 Harris

City/State/Zip: Juneau, AK 99801 Phone: 907-586-2529

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(c) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. Please do not list cases pending in the trial courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent trials they presided over.) List only those cases that have gone to trial within the past three years. Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

Case Number 1

Case Name: State of Alaska **Case Number:** 1JU-14-00101 CR
v. Daniel Buckscott **Judge Name:** Thomas Nave

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>DA James Scott</u>	Name: <u>Kirsten Swanson</u>
Address: <u>PO Box 110300</u>	Address: <u>417 Harris</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, AK 99801</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, AK 99801</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska **Case Number:** 1JU-14-00756 CR
v. Charles Needham **Judge Name:** Louis Menendez

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Lisa Kelley, OSPA</u>	Name: <u>Kirsten Swanson</u>
Address: <u>310 K St., Suite 403</u>	Address: <u>417 Harris</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, AK 99801</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Joffrey Frye **Case Number:** 1JU-14-00696 CI
v. Angela Bell **Judge Name:** Phil Pallenburg

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Respondent was pro se</u>	Name: <u>Kirsten Swanson</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>417 Harris</u>
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, AK 99801</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(d) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that did not go to trial but in which you did significant work. Please do not list cases pending in the trial courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent cases they presided over that did not go to trial but in which they did significant work.) Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

Case Number 1

Case Name: State of Alaska
v. Donald Penner

Case Number: 1HA-14-00039 CR

Judge Name: Magistrate John Hutchins

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Arne Soldwedel, OSPA

Name: Kirsten Swanson

Address: 310 K St., Suite 403

Address: 417 Harris

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99801

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska
v. Wesley Bowman

Case Number: 1JU-14-00317 CR

Judge Name: Keith Levy

Attorneys Involved:

Name: DA James Scott

Name: Kirsten Swanson

Address: PO Box 110300

Address: 417 Harris

City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99801

City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99801

Name: ADA Amy Williams

Name:

Address: PO Box 110300

Address:

City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99801

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 3

Case Name: United States
v. Jacob Pahlke

Case Number: 1:12-cr-0009

Judge Name: Timothy Burgess

Attorneys Involved:

Name: US Attorney Jack Schmidt

Name:

Address: 709 W 9th St., Box 21627

Address:

City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99801

City, State, Zip:

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Writing Sample

21. Attach one example of a brief, memorandum of law, or legal opinion or similar example of legal writing (10-20 pages in length; 15-25 pages for appellate positions) prepared solely by you within the last five years. Please choose a sample that reflects your ability to do legal research and analysis. If you do not have a good sample of this length, include an excerpt from a longer writing. Make sure the sample contains sufficient facts to make it understandable. (Some reply briefs may not meet these requirements.)

Please do not submit: (a) coauthored writing samples, (b) samples with confidential information unless redacted to remove such information, (c) longer writing samples.

22. Has any **public** sanction been imposed against you in response to a complaint, charge or grievance brought against you as an attorney or a judge? Yes No
Have formal grievance procedures been brought against you? Yes No
See Bar Rule 22(b) & (e) concerning public bar grievance procedures against attorneys, and AS 22.30.011(b) and .060(b)(3) concerning public disciplinary grievance procedures against judges.
Have you ever been held in contempt of court? Yes No
Have you ever been fined or otherwise sanctioned by a judge? Yes No
In each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

In 2000 I withdrew from a representation of a client in Petersburg because another, current client had testified against him at a grand jury proceedings. Based on the Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2, 1.7 and 1.9 I moved to withdraw from the case. The client notified the AK Bar Association, upset that I could not represent him. I explained the reasons for my withdrawal from the case to the Alaska Bar and the complaint did not go any further.

Additional Comments (Non-Confidential)

23. Please make any additional comments that you wish to bring to the Council's attention about your experience and suitability for this judgeship.

I believe my years as a criminal defense attorney make me uniquely qualified for the position of District Court Judge. I am used to working in stressful conditions with large workloads and short deadlines from my years of representing both private and court appointed clients. District Court is similarly very busy and requires someone who can deal with the stress and get things done efficiently and professionally while being respectful of the people appearing before the court.

I am excited about the recent changes and direction the Juneau court system is headed. Therapeutic court (for drugs and alcohol) and the Mental Health court (CRP) have been key in assisting my clients in getting out of the revolving door of the justice system and become productive members of the local community. Frequently, people appearing in District Court have additional issues in their lives that are difficult to address in the court system. Many people who appear in District Court are chronic alcoholics, drug addicted, mentally ill and homeless. These populations

Additional Comments (Continued)

have additional issues that are difficult for the court to address. I am open to looking at possible new ways to address some of these issues. I am also a big supporter of continuing the therapeutic and CRP courts in Juneau.

When I first came to Alaska and worked at the Juneau Public Defender's Office there was a program in Kake, AK which allowed low level criminal charges to be sent to a tribal court in Kake where the tribe determined how to deal with the offender. My experience in how this system worked was positive and I found it to be very healing for both the victim(s), the perpetrator, the families and the community. Given my limited experience with the alternative justice format in Kake, AK I am very excited to hear that the tribal courts are taking more control and getting more involved in a variety of cases. I hope the expansion of tribal courts continue.

I have lived in Juneau, AK for over seventeen years. My legal work is primarily in Southeast, Alaska. I feel very integrated and a part of the local community. I am lucky enough to live in a neighborhood where the neighbors have all become very close friends and family. I've met people from work and from various social organizations who keep me active and grounded. I cannot imagine a better place to live and work than in Southeast, Alaska.

24. Please indicate whether you prefer to be interviewed in public session or in private session. Your choice of a public or private interview has no bearing on the Council's determination of your qualifications or on the questions the Council may ask. You may change your request in writing at any time before the interview starts.

Public Interview

Private Interview

25. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (*limited to 150 words*) about your background, legal education, and legal experience. Please do not list personal information about minor children. Your picture and a copy of this statement will be scanned and posted on the Council's website after the application deadline. In its bar survey, the Council will invite attorneys to review the information if they wish to become more familiar with your background and experience. Use the form on the following page for your biographical statement. Please leave the box at the top empty. The Council will use this space for your scanned picture. ***To be fair to all applicants, the Council will strictly enforce the 150 word limit.***

If you object to the posting of your picture on the Council's website, please indicate your objection below. If you object, we will not post your picture, although you still must submit five photographs of yourself with your application.

If you check this box we will not post your picture on the website.

Biographical Statement

Name Kirsten Swanson

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

Juneau District Court

Please leave this area blank

Date: May 6, 2016

I grew up in Montana and Oregon where I loved to fish, go birding, camping and garden. After my stint in the U.S. Army as a JAG officer I relocated to southeast Alaska where I have lived and practiced law ever since. I've enjoyed practicing law in a place where there are many diverse communities, each with their own character and culture.

The majority of my legal career has been in the courtroom. I've defended soldiers in military court, and defended court appointed and private clients in both state and federal courtrooms. I also have represented Alaskans in adoptions, divorce and custody cases.

I've traveled extensively overseas where I enjoy camping in remote locations and meeting new people. I especially enjoy travel to Africa, New Zealand and Iceland where the people are fascinating and the landscape is rugged.

I feel lucky and honored to live and work in Alaska.