

## Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

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

Anchorage Superior Court

Date: January 30, 2025

### I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

#### Personal

1. (a) State full name\* William Arthur Taylor  
Name as it should appear on bar survey: Will Taylor  
\* 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 names or pseudonyms? If so, please identify. \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application? \*\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Total 13 years 9 months
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application? \*\*  
\_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Total 13 years 9 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.

Arizona State University August 2006 - August 2008, B.A. Political Science Summa Cum Laude

Maricopa Community Colleges August 2001-December 2006 (no degree, credits transferred to Arizona State)

University of Alaska Anchorage - Periodically enrolled in the hockey class as a non-degree seeking student between 2018-2022

Mesa Community College - Online Spanish Classes as non-degree seeking student Summer 2023, 2024.

\*\* 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.

University of Michigan Law School August 2008-May 2011, Juris Doctor

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.

- (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.

2024 - Ethics, criminal discovery training, national security investigations, trial practice, anti-discrimination in law enforcement;  
2023 - Ethics, criminal discovery, national security, government ethics, nation state threats seminar;  
2022 - Ethics, money laundering investigations, criminal discovery, candor towards the tribunal, EEO, national security prosecutor training;  
2021 - Government ethics, EEO, presentation skills, criminal discovery, cyber security;  
2020 - Ethics, criminal discovery, disruption and early engagement, and cyber crime investigations.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) Branch of service: \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) Rank at time of discharge: \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) Type of military discharge: \_\_\_\_\_  
(e) Awards or citations:

\_\_\_\_\_

- (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.

\_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

I have no non-legal employment since graduating law school. Some of my positions prior to law school are listed below:

Best Buy Loss Prevention, Mesa Arizona

Maloney's Bar - Security/Bar Back, Scottsdale, AZ

Central High School - Security Guard, Phoenix, AZ

Taylor Junior High School - Security Guard, Mesa, AZ

Macy's Department Store - Shoe sales, Mesa, AZ

J.C. Penny - Stock room - Mesa, AZ

High School Football Coach, Westwood High School Mesa, AZ 2002-2005, 2007

## 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:** United States Attorney's Office - District of Alaska

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Adam Alexander

Current address of this person: 222 West 7th Avenue, Rm 253

City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99513

Dates and location of Employment: From Feb 2016 To Present City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description:

Assistant United States Attorney - see continuation sheet for description.

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

Employer: State of Alaska Department of Law - Anchorage District Attorney's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Clint Campion

Current address of this person: 500 L Street, Suite 500

City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From May 2011 To February 2016 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Assistant District Attorney - see continuation sheet for description.

Reason for Leaving: Hired at the United States Attorney's Office

Employer: University of Michigan Health System - Office of General Counsel

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Stan Bies

Current address of this person: 300 North Ingalls Building, Room 3B04

City Ann Arbor State Michigan Zip 48109

Dates and Location of Employment: From June 2010 To Aug 2010 City Ann Arbor State MI

Job title and description: Legal Intern, assisted with litigation preparation, contract issues, Stark and Anti-Kickback statutes, and hospital policy. Supervisor Stan Bies retired to New Mexico and I do not have current contact information. I do have a letter of recommendation from Mr. Bies written prior to his retirement available if requested by the council.

Reason for Leaving: Was a summer intern position only.

**Previous Employers (continued)**

Employer: Wayne County Prosecutor's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Daryl M. Carson

Current address of this person: 1441 St. Antoine, 11th Floor

City Detroit State MI Zip 48226

Dates and Location of Employment: From May 2009 To Aug 2009 City Detroit State MI

Job title and description: 

<u>First year summer intern working in various units at the prosecutor's office. Assisted in civil forfeiture, criminal plea negotiations, trial preparation, and legal research.</u>
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Reason for Leaving: Summer intern position ended.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and description: 

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and description: 

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and description: 

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Percent: State 35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal 65 \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
= 100%

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court \_\_\_\_\_  
Court of Appeals 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Superior Court 80 \_\_\_\_\_  
District Court 15 \_\_\_\_\_  
= 100%

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 100      Non-Jury \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 25 \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: Five oral arguments in Alaska COA and six oral arguments in Ninth Circuit COA. Other cases decided without OA.

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings (select one):

None       1-5       6-15       16-30       31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

(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.).

I do not have pro bono legal work, although I do have significant volunteer work.

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.

Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - July 2017

**Public Service**

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

Law Related Education Committee - June 2024-present  
Tutors Committee - June 2024-present

13. List publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include online publications such as blogs or websites, and any publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

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)

15. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointive? 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.

Anchorage Youth Court - taught the 7 week course in fall of 2021 and fall of 2022  
Alaska South Central Pop Warner - Football coach for youth tackle football team, approximately 200 hours of volunteer time each season. Fall 2023 and fall 2024.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church - member  
Federalist Society - member  
National Rifle Association - member  
NFL Youth Flag Football - youth coach Spring 2025 approximately 3 hours a week

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 \$100 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 any 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.

3PA-21-6636MO - In September of 2021 I shot a sublegal moose. I self-reported to Troopers while in the field and met with them in Palmer that night. I salvaged the meat which was donated to charity. I paid a \$300 fine.

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).

William Taylor v. Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State, et al., 19-CV-2987 (D.D.C.)  
In The Matter of Guardianship of [REDACTED] [REDACTED], No GC-2023-0395 (Ariz. Sup. Ct.)  
William A. Taylor et al., v. Admirals Cove Apartments LLC., 3AN-12-1856-SC (Alaska Dist. Ct.)  
Additional pages attached with descriptions attached.

(d) Has a court ever found you to have provided ineffective assistance of counsel?

Yes  No

If so, provide the particulars including petitioner and case number.

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: Greg Mendez

Address: 7931 S. Abbey Lane

City/State/Zip: Gilbert, AZ 85298 Phone: (602) 793-1905

Name: CJ Gorin

Address: 3514 East 19th Avenue

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508 Phone: 907-575-4188

- (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: Kyle Reardon

Address: 222 West 7th Avenue, Rm 175 Box 6

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99513 Phone: (907) 677-6256

Name: Frank Russo

Address: 735 S. Columbus St

City/State/Zip: Alexandria, VA Phone: 907-317-0772

Name: James Klugman

Address: 222 West 7th Avenue, Rm 253 #9

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99515 Phone: (907) 414-2000

**References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)**

(c) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. Please do not list cases with any pending issues in the trial or appellate 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. If you have no cases that have gone to trial within the past three years, you may include cases that went to trial before that date, or may provide up to six cases in response to the next subsection, 20(d). Please include the judge’s name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** United States of America **Case Number:** 3:16-CR-00076-SLG-KFM  
**v.** Shane Peterson **Judge Name:** Judge Sharon L. Gleason

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Anne Veldhuis (co-chair)</u>	Name: <u>Vik Choabal</u>
Address: <u>14 Alverno Court</u>	Address: <u>1841 W 80th #7</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Redwood City, CA 94061</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99502</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** United States of America **Case Number:** 4:16-CR-00007-RRB  
**v.** Bobby Thompson **Judge Name:** Judge Ralph R. Beistline

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Gary Colbath</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>188 W. Northern Light Blvd. Ste 700</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**v.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
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, 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 with any pending issues in the trial or appellate 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:** United States of America **Case Number:** 3:20-CR-00011-RRB  
**v.** Miguel Guevara **Judge Name:** Judge Ralph R. Beistline

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Rick Smith</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>314 North Second Street</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Yakima, WA 98901</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 2

**Case Name:** United States of America **Case Number:** 3:19-CR-00024-006- TMB  
**v.** Beau Cook **Judge Name:** Judge Timothy M. Burgess

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Scott Dattan</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>341 Tudor Road, Ste 103</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** United States of America **Case Number:** 3:19-CR-00024-007-TMB  
**v.** Justin Eaton **Judge Name:** Judge Timothy M. Burgess

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Peter Camiel</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>2800 First Avenue, Ste 309</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Seattle, WA 98121</u>	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, (d) samples from open cases including cases on appeal.

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.

### 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.

As a Justice Department official I understand firsthand how important the public's confidence is in our judicial system. This confidence relies on professionals who put the rule of law above their personal interests and prejudices. It requires a faithful commitment to adjudicating matters based on the written law and established precedent, without imposing judicial will. As a judge I would approach the work with the same integrity, work ethic, and professionalism that I have demonstrated throughout my career.

I currently work at the United States Attorney's Office focusing on national security. In 2023 I worked for three months at a DoD facility in Jordan where I advised on the collection and use of battlefield evidence in criminal prosecutions around the world. I worked with U.S. equities and foreign nations with the mission of disrupting and dismantling ISIS through criminal prosecutions. I learned about justice systems around the world, and what makes ours special. I have also worked in Central America and Mexico and seen firsthand the respect that our foreign law enforcement partners have for our system. However, I also understand that this respect is only possible because of dedicated professionals who demonstrate the highest levels of competency and professionalism.

Neither of my parents attended college. My father was a small business owner, with intermittent success. I began helping with the business in sixth grade. When I was 15 years old my father was indicted for felony charges related to his business. He was held in custody for several weeks before we scraped together bail money. I never knew the details of the charges, and the case was later dropped. However, the damage was done as it drained the little money the family had and ruined his reputation. Financial struggles were constant; power being shut off, house foreclosed on, evicted from rentals, and eventually requiring food stamps. Most of the money I earned while working high school jobs went towards the family bills. My father later took a sales job and my mom worked nights as a proof reader.

## Additional Comments (Continued)

After high school I worked numerous jobs to make ends meet including selling women's shoes at Macy's, delivering furniture, working as a bouncer, and a high school security guard. At 23 I was admitted to Arizona State University determined to attend law school. I turned my work ethic towards my undergraduate degree and preparing for law school. I eventually graduated with a 3.95 GPA and was admitted into the University of Michigan Law School. The summer before I began law school, I worked security at Best Buy in order to save money to pay for gas and expenses to move from Arizona to Michigan.

My personal and professional experiences have shaped who I am. I treat every person I meet with respect and dignity. I volunteer as much as I can to give back to the community while still honoring my commitment to my children, and supporting my wife's career. I have found a great balance in volunteering to coach youth sports and teach as the opportunities arise. I find it incredibly rewarding to work with youth and have a positive impact on their lives.

Alaska is my home. We moved here one day after I graduated law school and have embraced all that Alaska is. My wife is a Physician Assistant who has taken care of Alaskan kids for over 10 years, first in pediatric surgery, and now in pediatric dermatology. Our three young boys could not be happier camping, fishing, hunting, and enjoying the uniqueness that is Alaska. I would love to serve the people of Alaska as one of its Superior Court Judges and appreciate the honor of being considered among the many fine candidates you are reviewing.

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 (select one).

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 a photograph of yourself with your application.

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

# Biographical Statement

Name Will Taylor

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

Anchorage Superior Court

*Please leave this area blank*

Date: January 30, 2025

I started my career as a state prosecutor in Anchorage a few weeks after I graduated law school. After nearly five years prosecuting cases in the Anchorage District and Superior Courts, I accepted a position as an Assistant United States Attorney. Over the last nine years, I have investigated and prosecuted violent and drug trafficking crimes, as well as local, national, and international organized crime.

I have also represented the Department of Justice in Mexico, Central America, and the Middle East, partnering with military, intelligence, and law enforcement officials from over 30 countries on combating and dismantling foreign terrorist organizations and organized crime. I currently work with the Alaska Joint Terrorism Task Force as the district National Security Coordinator, focusing on counterterrorism and counterespionage investigations.

It would be an honor and privilege to continue my dedication to the people of Alaska as a Superior Court Judge.

## **Question 9 Legal Experience**

**Assistant United States Attorney**, February 2016 – Present  
**Department of Justice, United States Attorney’s Office**, Anchorage, AK

- National Security/ Anti-Terrorism Chief
  - Working with FBI, intelligence, and task force partners to disrupt terrorism and espionage
- Deputy Criminal Chief - December 2021 – October 2023
- Significant investigations into organized and violent crime
  - Operation 1488 – Alaska’s first VICAR Murder/RICO case against the prison-based Nazi inspired “14/88” gang
    - 22 members and associates convicted
    - Seven-week trial resulted in convicting five defendants of all charges including VICAR Murder
  - Operation Albondiga – CCE Kingpin indictment against leaders in the Sinaloa Cartel operating out of Sonora, Mexico and sending narcotics directly to Alaska
    - 23 total indictments
- Four federal jury trials as first chair counsel and argued six cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

**Detail, DOJ National Security Division, Counterterrorism Section**, October 2023 – January 2024  
DoD Facility, outside Amman, Jordan

- Department of Justice Attaché advising DoD on use of battlefield evidence in criminal proceedings
- Assist dozens of partner nations in facilitating terrorism prosecutions in their home countries using battlefield evidence
- Lived and worked alongside U.S. and foreign military, law enforcement, and intelligence combating ISIS

**Detail, Office of Deputy Attorney General – Joint Task Force Vulcan**, December 2020 – December 2021  
**Department of Justice**, Washington, D.C./USAO Eastern District of N.Y.

- Investigation and prosecution of MS13 operations in Central America and Mexico
- Investigations include international terrorism and material support, racketeering, narco-terrorism, and human smuggling, inter alia.
- Coordinating investigations between the United States, El Salvador, and Mexico
- Three weeks in El Salvador working with FBI and HSI vetted units and jointly developing cases with the prosecutor’s office - Fiscalía General de la República (FGR)
- Two weeks in Mexico City coordinating with a specialized FGR unit on U.S. priority targets

Will Taylor – Superior Court Applicant; continuation sheet.

**Assistant District Attorney, May 2011 – February 2016**  
**Department of Law, Anchorage District Attorney's Office, Anchorage, AK**

- Investigated and prosecuted state felony offenses in Anchorage and in various rural communities outside of the road system including homicide, robbery, and kidnapping.
- Advised police departments in small communities on the Aleutian Chain in the Bering Sea including Sand Point, King Cove, and Unalaska/Dutch Harbor.
- Tried 19 felony and six misdemeanor cases and argued five cases before the Alaska Court of Appeals.

**Question 18 (c) Party to Legal Proceeding**

*William Taylor v. Michael Pompeo, Secretary of State, et al.*, 19-CV-2987 (D.D.C.)

In 2018 I applied for, and was selected, for an internal DOJ detail to work at the United States Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan for a one-year term. The position was both a capacity building program as well as operational assisting in counterterrorism and counter-narcotics operations. During the predeployment process I received a Class 1 Worldwide Medical Clearance from the Department of State. However, shortly before I was to deploy the Department of Defense stepped in to block my travel because I have Type 1 (juvenile) diabetes. The decision was based on a misreading of their own policy, violation of federal law, and an antiquated understanding of Type 1 diabetics. I exhausted administrative remedies with the Departments of Justice, State, Defense, and Air Force. I filed discrimination lawsuit (Rehabilitation Act violation) in federal court in Washington D.C. against the three department heads and the secretary of the Air Force.

I worked closely with the American Diabetes Association's Legal Office leading up to the litigation. The government moved to dismiss the case or alternatively for summary judgment. I prevailed against those motions in a very favorable order. The agencies then entered into settlement negotiations and after several months an agreement was reached. In addition to compensatory damages, I would be put to the top of the list for the next Rule of Law detail position in Afghanistan or Iraq. The settlement was finalized just a few weeks before Afghanistan fell, and funding for the Iraq program was cut, so I was never able to fulfill the opportunity.

This litigation was important not just to me personally, but to others with my condition as well. I knew I could fulfill the detail without any burden on DoD, much less an undue burden. I later worked at a classified DoD facility in a war zone for 3 months with no medical issues.

Will Taylor – Superior Court Applicant; continuation sheet.

*In The Matter of Guardianship of ██████████ ██████████*, No GC-2023-0395 (Ariz. Sup. Ct.)

My 39-year-old cousin is developmentally disabled. He was adopted by my grandmother when he was 2-years old and he lived with her in Sacramento, California until my grandmother passed away from COVID complications in August 2022. My sister and I took over care for him, moving him to Arizona where my sister lives and there are more services for his conditions. This court case we were legally appointed co-guardians of him. I visit him in Arizona 4-5 times a year and my sister and I manage his medical needs, state benefits, and overall enjoyment in life.

*William A. Taylor et al., v. Admirals Cove Apartments LLC.*, 3AN-12-1856-SC (Alaska Dist. Ct.)

On Christmas Day 2011, my wife and I were woken by a carbon monoxide alarm and were both feeling ill. We immediately left the apartment, and the fire department arrived and provided treatment. I was later treated at the hospital for carbon monoxide poisoning. AFD advised the levels of carbon monoxide were too high to return to the apartment. The city later went out and tested the apartment and advised the levels were unsafe. There was a design flaw where during certain winds the exhaust from the underground garage would be pushed into our air intake for the apartment. The apartment would not agree to pay any of the hotel, moving, or medical expenses. We brought a claim in small claims court, and they eventually agreed to pay the expenses of about \$5,500.00.