

Alaska Judicial Council

Judicial Applicant Biographical Statement

Name: Samuel Glen Vandergaw

Position(s): Anchorage District Court

Date: April 21, 2025



I was born and raised in Anchorage. My determination to attend law school formed while I was serving as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer, in the Republic of Kiribati, where I developed an appreciation for the importance of fair process and effective dispute resolution. After graduating from Gonzaga University School of Law, I served for eight years as a Deputy Public Defender in Arizona, gaining substantial courtroom experience in serious criminal cases. In 2018, I returned home to raise my son and continue my legal career. I served for a year as an Assistant Public Defender before joining the Alaska Department of Law, Office of Special Prosecutions, where I have now worked for six years. In that role, I have focused on complex and violent crimes, serving rural Alaska. Throughout my career, I have sought to approach the law with fairness, professionalism, and respect for the communities we serve.