



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Announcing Applicants

### *Anchorage Superior Court and Bethel District Court*

Three attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Bethel District Court and six attorneys have applied for a position on the Anchorage Superior Court. Applicants for the judgeships will be evaluated by the Council's seven members (the chief justice, three non-attorney members, and three attorney members). Comprehensive background investigations, a survey of Alaska Bar members, and personal interviews with the applicants are all part of the evaluations, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and public hearings will be held in May of 2025. The Council will nominate two or more applicants for each vacancy to send to the governor, after which the governor will have 45 days to make appointments from the Council's lists of nominees.

### **The applicants for the Bethel District Court are:**

**Joy Anderson:** Ms. Anderson has been an Alaska resident for 11 years and has been practicing law for 12 years. She graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2011 and is currently a co-director of the community justice worker resource center at Alaska Legal Services in Bethel.

**Colleen Baxter:** Magistrate Judge Baxter has been an Alaska resident for 55 years and has been practicing law for 27 years. She graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1996 and is currently a magistrate judge in Kotzebue.

**Matthew W. Faulks:** Mr. Faulks has been an Alaska resident for 4½ years and has been practicing law for 23½ years. He graduated from the University of Idaho, College of Law in 2000 and is currently an assistant public advocate in Bethel.

**The applicants for the Anchorage Superior Court are:**

**Marika Athens:** Magistrate Judge Athens has been an Alaska resident for 42½ years and has been practicing law for 20½ years. She graduated from Duke University School of Law in 2004 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

**Kate Demarest:** Ms. Demarest has been an Alaska resident for 14½ years and has been practicing law for 16 years. She graduated from University of Minnesota Law School in 2008 and is currently an assistant attorney general in Anchorage.

**Kari Lyn McCrea:** Judge McCrea has been an Alaska resident for 18½ years and has been practicing law for 23½ years. She graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law in 2001 and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

**Patrick J. McKay, Jr.:** Mr. McKay has been an Alaska resident for 33 years and has been practicing law for 13½ years. He graduated from Western State University College of Law in 2011 and is currently an assistant district attorney in Anchorage.

**Danée Lynn Pontious:** Ms. Pontious has been an Alaska resident for 20½ years and has been practicing law for 20 years. She graduated from University of Denver College of Law in 2004 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**William A. Taylor:** Mr. Taylor has been an Alaska resident for 13½ years and has been practicing law for 13½ years. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2011 and is currently an assistant United States attorney in Anchorage.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE APPLICANTS IS ENCOURAGED DURING THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TO COMMENT, OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT SUSANNE DIPIETRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 510 L STREET, SUITE 450, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1295, (907) 279-2526.

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