



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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For immediate release  
June 27, 2025

## Announcing Applicants

### *Alaska Court of Appeals & Bethel District Court*

Four attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Alaska Court of Appeals. The vacancy on the Alaska Court of Appeals is due to the forthcoming retirement of Judge Bethany Harbison. 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 evaluation, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and public hearings will be held in November 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 Alaska Court of Appeals are:**

**RuthAnne Beach:** Ms. Beach has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 11½ years. She graduated from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in 2013 and is currently the Deputy Chief of the Office of Criminal Appeals in Anchorage.

**Lacey Jane Brewster:** Ms. Brewster has been an Alaska resident for 15 years and has practiced law for 9 years. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2016 and is currently an Assistant Public Defender with the Alaska Public Defender Agency in Anchorage.

**Patricia L. Haines:** Judge Haines has been an Alaska resident for 14½ years and has practiced law for 13 years. She graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2010 and is currently a Superior Court Judge in Fairbanks.

**Chris Peloso:** Mr. Peloso has been an Alaska resident for 14 years and has practiced law for 15 years. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center in 2009 and is currently in private practice in Juneau.

Consideration for the Bethel District Court position has been postponed. Additional information about the readvertisement and the new application period will be released at a later date.

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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