



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Announcing Applicants for the *Juneau District Court*

Two attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Juneau District Court. This vacancy is due to the impending retirement of Judge Kirsten L. Swanson (Juneau District Court).

Applicants for the judgeship 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 the week of November 9, 2026. 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 Juneau District Court are:**

**Kevin Andrew Higgins:** Mr. Higgins has been an Alaska resident for 19 years and has practiced law for 19 years. He graduated from Lewis & Clark College Northwestern School of Law in 2007 and is currently an assistant attorney general for the Department of Law in Juneau.

**Margaret McWilliams:** Ms. McWilliams has been an Alaska resident for 18½ years and has practiced law for 26½ years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 1999 and is currently the Deputy Director for the Office of Public Advocacy in Juneau.

## **Announcing Postponement of Consideration of the Kotzebue Superior Court**

Consideration for the Kotzebue Superior Court position has been postponed because two applications were not received by the deadline. The position will be readvertised, 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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