



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Announcing Applicants

### *Palmer District Court*

Eight attorneys have applied for a position on the Palmer 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 evaluations, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and a public hearing will be held in August 2021. The Council will select two or more nominees for the vacancy to send to the governor. The governor will have 45 days to make an appointment from the Council's nominees.

#### The applicants are:

**Krista Anderson:** Ms. Anderson has been an Alaska resident for 38½ years, and has practiced law for 12½ years. She graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 2005, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Palmer.

**Amanda L. Browning:** Magistrate Judge Browning has been an Alaska resident for 9½ years, and has practiced law for 16 years. She graduated from Roger Williams University Ralph R. Pappito School of Law in 2005, and is currently a magistrate judge in Kenai.

**Lindsey M. Burton:** Ms. Burton has been an Alaska resident for 37 years, and has practiced law for 10 years. She graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law in 2009, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Palmer.

**Anna Cometa**: Magistrate Judge Cometa has been an Alaska resident for 8½ years, and has practiced law for 9½ years. She graduated from Suffolk University Law School in 2011, and is currently a magistrate judge in Palmer.

**Craig S. Condie**: Magistrate Judge Condie has been an Alaska resident for 17½ years, and has practiced law for 16½ years. He graduated from the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in 2004, and is currently a magistrate judge in Palmer.

**Aaron J. Michels**: Magistrate Judge Michels has been an Alaska resident for 9 years, and has practiced law for 10 years. He graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2010, and is currently a magistrate judge in Kotzebue.

**Trina Sears**: Ms. Sears has been an Alaska resident for 43½ years, and has practiced law for 16½ years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2003, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Anchorage.

**Glenn James Shidner**: Mr. Shidner has been an Alaska resident for 5 years, and has practiced law for 5 years. He graduated from Florida State University College of Law in 2015, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Palmer.

The previously announced vacancy on the Utqiagvik Superior Court has been postponed. The Council is unable to move forward because it did not receive a minimum of two applications (the Alaska Constitution requires the Council to send at least two nominees to the governor for appointment). A new recruitment period for the Utqiagvik position will be announced in June 2021.

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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