



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants

Anchorage District Court

Eight attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Anchorage District Court that will become vacant when Judge Pamela Washington retires. 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 in August 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 Anchorage District Court are:

John Haley: Mr. Haley has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has been practicing law for 11½ years. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2013 and is currently a senior assistant attorney general with the Department of Law, Consumer Protection Unit.

Dustin Pearson: Mr. Pearson has been an Alaska resident for 14 years and has been practicing law for 14 years. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2008 and is currently a municipal prosecutor training specialist with the Municipality of Anchorage's Department of Law.

Eric Salinger: Mr. Salinger has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has been practicing law for 12 years. He graduated from University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2013 and is currently an administrative law judge in Anchorage.

Peter A. Scully: Mr. Scully has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has been practicing law for 15 years. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 2010 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Jonathan Stinson: Magistrate Judge Stinson has been an Alaska resident for 34 years and has been practicing law for 4½ years. He graduated from University of California Irvine School of Law in 2020 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

Matt Stinson: Mr. Stinson has been an Alaska resident for 31 years and has been practicing law for 4½ years. He graduated from Pepperdine University Caruso School of Law in 2020 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Department of Law.

Sam Vandergaw: Mr. Vandergaw has been an Alaska resident for 40½ years and has been practicing law for 15 years. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2009 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions in Anchorage.

Matt Widmer: Mr. Widmer has been an Alaska resident for 19½ years and has practiced law for 19½ years. He graduated from William & Mary Law School in 2005 and is currently in private practice 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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