



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants

Palmer District, Anchorage Superior, and Kodiak Superior Courts

Eight attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for two vacant positions on the Palmer District Court, six attorneys have applied for a position on the Anchorage Superior Court, and three attorneys have applied for a position on the Kodiak 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 February 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 Palmer District Court are:

Krista Anderson: Ms. Anderson has been an Alaska resident for 42 years and has been practicing law for 16 years. She graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 2006 and is currently an assistant district attorney in Palmer.

James Bauman: Mr. Bauman has been an Alaska resident for 40 years and has been practicing law for 9½ years. He graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2011 and is currently in private practice in Wasilla.

Patrick J. McKay, Jr.: Mr. McKay has been an Alaska resident for 33 years and has been practicing law for 13 years. He graduated from Western State University College of Law in 2011 and is currently an assistant district attorney in Anchorage.

Elliet Revis: Mr. Revis has been an Alaska resident for 5 years and has practiced law for 5 years. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2019 and is currently a human rights attorney at the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights in Anchorage.

John Revis: Mr. Revis has been an Alaska resident for 31 years and has practiced law for 5½ years. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2019 and is currently in private practice in Wasilla.

Glenn J. Shidner: Mr. Shidner has been an Alaska resident for 8½ years and has practiced law for 8½ years. He graduated from Florida State University College of Law in 2015 and is currently an assistant United States attorney in Anchorage.

Jonathan Stinson: Magistrate Judge Stinson has been an Alaska resident for 34 years and has been practicing law for 4 years. He graduated from University of California Irvine School of Law in 2020 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

Matt Widmer: Mr. Widmer has been an Alaska resident for 19 years and has practiced law for 19 years. He graduated from William & Mary Law School in 2005 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

The applicants for the Anchorage Superior Court are:

Marika Athens: Magistrate Judge Athens has been an Alaska resident for 42 years and has been practicing law for 20 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 14 years and has practiced 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 18 years and has been practicing law for 23 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 13 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.

James Stinson: Mr. Stinson has been an Alaska resident for 40½ years and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2013 and is currently the Director of the Office of Public Advocacy.

The applicants for the Kodiak Superior Court are:

Colleen Baxter: Magistrate Judge Baxter has been an Alaska resident for 54½ years and has practiced law for 27 years. She graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 1996 and is currently a magistrate judge in Kotzebue.

Andrew Ott: Mr. Ott has been an Alaska resident for 35 years and has practiced law for 35 years. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 1989 and is currently in private practice in Kodiak.

Dawson Williams: Magistrate Judge Williams has been an Alaska resident for 19½ years and has practiced law for 19½ years. He graduated from University of Michigan School of Law in 2005 and is currently a magistrate judge in Kodiak.

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,

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