

Legal Education

5. List all law schools, dates attended and degrees conferred. If you did not receive a degree from any law school, please indicate.

Temple University - Beasley School of Law; August 1993 - May 1996; Juris Doctorate

6. (a) Did you receive any honors in law school or belong to any honorary societies or groups?
 Yes No If yes, please give details.

Temple Political and Civil Rights Law Review
Temple Moot Court Society

- (b) Have you taken any CLE (continuing legal education) courses during the past five years?

Yes No

Please describe or list. Please do not attach individual certificates of attendance.

See attached list.

Military

7. Have you served in the armed forces (reserves or otherwise)? Yes No

If so, please provide the following information:

- (a) Dates of service: _____
(b) Branch of service: _____
(c) Rank at time of discharge: _____
(d) Type of military discharge: _____
(e) Awards or citations:

- (f) Have you ever been refused admission to or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge? Yes No If so, state the details.

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL - APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT – COLLEEN BAXTER

CLE Courses – Question 1.6.(b):

- **Best Practices for Judges Reviewing Placement of Youth in Treatment Facilities – 1.5 MCLE Ethics credits**
- **2024 Magistrate Judge Conference – 19.25 CLE credits, including 3 Ethics CLE credits**
 - **Appellate Updates**
 - **Ethics Update for Magistrate Judges**
 - **Into the Field – Anchorage Jail Court**
 - **Setting Bail (AKA: Some of the Toughest Decisions You Will Ever Make)**
 - **The Intersection of Behavioral Health & the Courts**
 - **Gender Identity 101: The Medical Perspective**
 - **Petitions for Name & Gender Marker Changes**
 - **Working with Self-Represented Litigants from the Bench: The 95% Solution**
 - **Working with Challenging People from the Bench Including Sovereign Citizens**
 - **Alternatives to Guardianships & Rights Restoration**
 - **Dos and Don'ts of Dissolutions and Uncontested Divorces**
 - **"Seeing Your Own Lens" Workshop**
 - **Restorative Justice: Implementing Criminal Rule 11(i)**
 - **Evidence Cranium**
- **2024 Basic Mediation Essentials Training - UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law (40 hour dynamic mediation training)**
- **2023 Magistrate Judge Conference – 19.75 CLE credits, including 4 Ethics CLE credits**
 - **Appellate Updates**
 - **"Judge as Leader: How to Plant People and Grow Justice"**
 - **E-Filing**
 - **Working with Interpreters**
 - **Guardianship Topics**
 - **Mental Health Commitments**
 - **Administrative Updates**
 - **Search Warrants**
 - **Poverty Immersion Workshop**
 - **Processing and Serving Protective Orders**
 - **Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Protective Orders**
 - **Field Trip: Alaska Psychiatric Institute and McLaughlin Youth Center**
 - **Court Security**
 - **Ethics Presentation: Be Mindful**
 - **Evidence Cranium**

- 2022 “Forensic Science Academy” – Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Academy – 10.25 CLE credits
- 2022 National Judicial College – “Special Court Jurisdiction – Advanced” – 59 CLE credits, including 2 Ethics CLE credits, 3 Domestic Violence CLE credits, and 2 substance abuse CLE credits
- 2022 Magistrate Judge Conference
 - Appellate Review
 - Administrative / Legislative / Fiscal / HR Updates
 - Substance Use, the Courts, and the Science of Addiction
 - Bail and Pretrial Enforcement
 - The Art of Perception
 - DV Full Faith and Credit, and Building State Court / Tribal Court Working Relationships
 - The Practical Art of Judging
 - Tips and Tricks for Alternative Dispute Resolution and Settlement
- ABA CLE: From Grievance to Attack: A Discussion on Judicial Security and Best Practices for Safety
- Disorder in the Court: An Attorney’s Guide to Judicial Misconduct
- Ethics Tonight: 2022 Free Ethics Program
- Just Another Day at the Firm: An ALPS Ethics and Professionalism Program
- What Drug Dealers and Celebrities Teach Lawyers About Professional Responsibility
- Supreme Court Off the Record
- Becoming a Judge in Alaska
- Maximizing Your Social Security Benefits
- Expert Deposition
- Reaching Out
- Family Law and the Military
- High Conflict Legal Disputes
- Alaska Court System Early Resolution Program Training
- The Hotline: An ALPS Ethics and Professionalism Program
- Annual Free Ethics CLE – Strategies for Wellness
- COVID-19 and a Troubled Economy – How to Maintain Client Wellness
- ANDVSA “Back to Basics” Training
- Ethics Tonight

Nonlegal Employment

8. Describe major nonlegal working experience. If you had a business or association that has been discontinued, please note whether there are unpaid debts or claims pending litigation.

I do not have any major non-legal work experience.

During my undergraduate summers (prior to law school), I worked for NANA Marriott as a kitchen worker and housekeeper.

In the interests of full disclosure, I own the Baxter family farm located in Montana, which has been in our family for three generations. This farmland is rented to neighboring farmers and ranchers, and is used for growing various crops such as sugar beets, corn, alfalfa, and barley, and the pastureland is rented to the same individuals for grazing cattle and horses. I also have some mineral interests in both Montana and North Dakota, which have also been in the family for generations.

I have no unpaid business debts or claims pending litigation.

Legal Experience

9. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. Please provide dates and location of employment, name of employer, name AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF supervisor or person who can verify AND COMMENT ON YOUR employment, the reason you left the position, and a brief description of type of practice (i.e., insurance defense, criminal, appellate, general, litigation, etc.) for each position listed below. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A TRIAL COURT JUDGE, PLEASE LIST YOUR PRESIDING JUDGE. FOR PAST JUDGESHIPS, PLEASE LIST THE JUDGE WHO LAST PRESIDED DURING YOUR TIME ON THE BENCH.

The Council will ask for comments from your current and former employers about your employment and your judicial qualifications. You may choose to list other persons as character and professional references in response to Question 20 of this application.

If the supervisor or contact person asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

Current Employer: Alaska Court System

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Judge Paul Roetman

Current address of this person: P.O. Box 317

City Kotzebue State Alaska Zip 99752

Dates and location of Employment: From March 2022 To Present City Kotzebue State Alaska

Job title and description:

Magistrate Judge IV / Superior Court Standing Master: Primary duties include Criminal, Delinquency, CINA, Domestic Violence, Small Claims, and Minor Offenses.

Previous Employers: *(In chronological order, most recent first)*

Employer: Law Office of Colleen Baxter, LLC

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: self

Current address of this person: P.O. Box 1371

City Kotzebue State Alaska Zip 99752

Dates and Location of Employment: From April 2000 To February 2022 City Anchorage State Alaska

Job title and description: Owner - solo practice focusing on family law matters, including domestic violence, custody, divorce, and child support

Reason for Leaving: Accepted position as Magistrate Judge IV / Standing Superior Court Master with AK Court System.

Employer: Ross & Miner, PC

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Wayne Ross

Current address of this person: 10300 Kasilof Blvd.

City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99507

Dates and Location of Employment: From December 1997 To April 2000 City Anchorage State Alaska

Job title and description: Associate Attorney in a general practice litigation firm. While at this firm I handled primarily domestic relations, criminal, and a small number of probate matters

Reason for Leaving: To begin my own law practice.

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: Law Office of Dan Allan and Associates

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Dan Allan

Current address of this person: 800 E. Dimond Blvd., Suite 3-620

City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99515

Dates and Location of Employment: From August 1997 To December 1997 City Anchorage State Alaska

Job title and description: Worked as a law clerk until admission to the Alaska Bar in Novmeber 1997, then worked as an Associate Attorney handling primarily domestic relations matters

Reason for Leaving: Accepted position with Ross & Miner, PC, for a more diverse case assignment.

Employer: Alaska Court System

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Honorable Jonathan Link, Superior Court Judge

Current address of this person: deceased

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From August 1996 To July 1997 City Kenai State Alaska

Job title and description: Judicial Law Clerk: Performed legal research, wrote memoranda, and drafted dispositions for a wide variety of Superior Court issues / cases

Reason for Leaving: This was a one-year judicial clerkship.

Employer: Kenai District Attorney

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Sharon Illsley

Current address of this person: Box 1970

City Grand Lake State Colorado Zip 80447

Dates and Location of Employment: From June 1995 To August 1995 City Kenai State Alaska

Job title and description: Summer Intern: Screened cases for intake, performed legal research and submitted motions to Superior and District Court. Negotiated and finalized plea deals with defonse counsel, and represented the State daily in court for misdemoanor proceedings.

Reason for Leaving: This was a summer position between my 2nd and 3rd years of law school.

Employer: Alaska Public Defender Agency

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Marjorie Mock

Current address of this person: 1203 H Street

City Anchorage State Alaska Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From June 1994 To August 1994 City Anchorage State Alaska

Job title and description: Summer Intern: Performed legal research for various attorneys in the appellate division, and drafted briefs for submission to court.

Reason for Leaving: This was a summer position between my 1st and 2nd years of law school.

Employer: SEPTA - Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Norman Hegge, Jr.

Current address of this person: unknown

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From August 1995 To December 1995 City Philadelphia State Pennsylvania

Job title and description: Legal Intern: Represented SEPTA in handling its large and diversified tort caseload. Prepared and presented cases to arbitration panels of the Court of Common Pleas. Effectuated the investigation of claims, prepared witnesses, and negotiated settlements.

Reason for Leaving: Clinical position ceased at end of Fall 1995 semester.

10. During your legal career, please indicate (approximately) the following:

(a) Percent of your practice that was: Civil 60
Criminal 40
Other 0

= 100%

Comment: As an MJ / Sup.Ct. Master I currently preside over 84% criminal.

(b) Percent: State 100
Federal _____
Other _____

= 100%

Comment: _____

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court .5
Court of Appeals _____
Superior Court 99.5
District Court _____

= 100%

Comment: These percentages were when I was in private practice. I am currently a MJ IV (District Court) and Superior Ct Master.

(d) Frequency of appearance in court (select one):

Regularly Occasionally Infrequently Not at All

Comment: As a Magistrate Judge / Master, every day is spent in court.

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted (select one):

None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Comment: Almost all of these trials were when I was a practitioner, prior to becoming an MJ / Master.

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury _____ Non-Jury 100

Comment: _____

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 5

Comment: Prior to becoming a Magistrate Judge / Master.

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings (select one):

None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

CSSD administrative hearings. (Prior to becoming a Magistrate Judge / Master.) Since my last application, I have also conducted judicial mediations on behalf of other courts in the Second Judicial District.

(i) Please briefly summarize any *pro bono* work that you have done and indicate whether the work was done through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.).

Under the Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 4G, judicial officers (including magistrate judges) are prohibited from practicing law.

Prior to becoming a Magistrate Judge / Superior Court Master, I represented *pro bono* clients through Alaska Legal Services, and also occasionally represented clients *pro bono* on my own initiative. These cases were in the Family Law practice area (domestic violence, custody, divorce, child support).

11. List all the courts and administrative tribunals in the United States or elsewhere to which you are or have been admitted to practice, and the dates of admission.

State of Alaska - admitted 1997
 Legal Intern - Pennsylvania - 1995
 Legal Intern - Alaska 1994 and 1995

Public Service

12. List bar associations, and sections and committees of which you are or have been a member or officer.

Alaska Bar Association
 Lawyer Fund for Client Protection Committee member - August 22, 2007 to present
 Family Law section member
 I believe I was also a member of the Anchorage Bar Association at some point, but am not certain about this.

13. List publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include online publications such as blogs or websites, and any publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

None

14. Have you ever applied for a judgeship? Yes No
 Please list dates and judgeships applied for, as well as whether you were nominated by the Judicial Council and appointed.

Judgeship	Date	Nominated By Council (Y/N)	Appointed By Governor (Y/N)
Utqiagvik Superior Court	July 2021	Y	N
Bethel District Court	June 2024	Y	N (insufficient nominees to forward)

15. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointive? Yes No
If so, state office, manner selected, and when and where held.

16. Please provide the Council with information that you would like the Council to consider about other legal and nonlegal organizations and clubs of which you are a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Please indicate whether you participate in the organization's activities, or simply hold a membership. Your involvement in the community is one of the criteria the Council uses in its evaluations. The Council does not use affiliation with a particular group as a criterion except to the extent that it might raise questions of conflict of interest or would affect an applicant's ability to impartially apply the law.

None

17. Indicate (Yes or No) whether you have ever:
- (a) been arrested, charged with, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to, or been convicted of the violation of any law or ordinance, or been requested to appear before any prosecuting or investigative agency in connection with any matter in any jurisdiction, including all traffic offenses, unless the fine was less than \$100 and there were no other sanctions?
 Yes No
 - (b) failed to answer any summons or other legal process served upon you personally at any time? Yes No
 - (c) as a member of any armed forces, been the subject of any charges which may have resulted in disciplinary action or court martial? Yes No

- (d) had any proceedings brought to have you declared a ward of any court or adjudged an incompetent? Yes No

If your answer is "yes" to any part of this question, state the facts in detail. Give the name and place of the court or agency, dates of the beginning and end of any action or proceeding, case numbers, and the judgment or other disposition.

9/10/2001: speeding ticket issued by City of Soldotna. Case dismissed after I attended and completed a two-day defensive driving course. 3KN-01R1174515

11/18/2000: "equipment violation" ticket (tint on vehicle windows was too dark) Citation dismissed. 3AN-00A1244831

9/14/2000: "equipment violation" ticket (tint on vehicle windows was too dark) Citation dismissed. 3AN-00A1242251

In November 1990 I received a citation for Minor in Possession of Alcohol in Bexar County, Texas, pled no contest to this citation, and paid a \$50 fine. I do not recall the precise date, nor do I know the case number or court.

18. (a) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? Yes No

In particular, have you been the subject of any proceeding, criminal or civil, initiated against you by the Internal Revenue Service or a State Tax Office? Yes No

If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (b) Have you ever been sued by a client? Yes No

If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

- (c) Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceeding? Yes No

If so, give the particulars. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, including petitioner or respondent in dissolution or divorce proceedings; a material witness; a named co-conspirator or correspondent; and subject or witness in any grand jury proceedings. Do not list proceedings in which you were sued only in a representative capacity (e.g. guardian ad litem, or as Commissioner of Natural Resources).

Divorce - State of Alaska, Third Judicial District - Case No. 3AN-19-08898CI

Divorce - State of Alaska, Third Judicial District - Case No. 3AN-18-04018CI (dismissed)

In Re: Estate of Dirk Ronald Baxter, Deceased - Probate Court of DeKalb County, State of Georgia - Estate Case No. 2018-0334. I filed as a Caveat to the Last Will and Testament of DRB. When my brother passed away unexpectedly, his spouse informed me that I was a beneficiary in my brother's Will, but subsequently refused to provide a copy of the Will to me. This was a concern because there were family assets held jointly between my brother and myself. After hiring legal counsel in Georgia to obtain a copy of the filed Will and issue discovery requests to ascertain if the filed Will was my brother's Last Will and Testament (given the prior comments by the widow), I withdrew the Caveat after the discovery process was complete, thereby allowing the probate process to conclude.

(list continued on attached page)

Colleen Baxter
AK Bar No. 9711057

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL
APPLICATION FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT

Party to Legal Proceeding

Continued response to question I.18(c):

In 2000, an engineer whom I had hired to inspect my home's foundation and provide a report on how to properly improve the structural integrity of my home's foundation filed a Small Claims action against me almost immediately after providing me with the report. She was apparently very concerned about payment, which I satisfied, and she then dismissed the small claims case against me. State of Alaska, Third Judicial District - Case No. 3AN-00-03231 SC.

I was a party in two simultaneous cases in Montana and North Dakota, respectively, along with approximately 10 other individuals: in approximately 2006 I was contacted by a second cousin who informed me that he had discovered that a great-great aunt had, upon her death, provided a mineral interest life estate to her husband, who then sold these interests. These interests were located in Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota. The second cousin wanted to bring suit to recover these interests on behalf of the rightful heirs, and contacted all of the heirs who would have received these interests had they not been improperly sold. This distant relative took responsibility for the litigation, and the attorney's bill was paid by him, with the other heirs (myself included) reimbursing him for our fractional share. These lawsuits took almost a decade to conclude. I have no first-hand involvement or knowledge of the litigation.

Dissolution of Marriage Without Children - State of Alaska, Third Judicial District - Case No. 3AN-98-09791 CI

(d) Has a court ever found you to have provided ineffective assistance of counsel? Yes No

If so, provide the particulars including petitioner and case number.

19. State the nature and disposition of any of the following actions which apply to you:

(a) Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you? Yes No

Have you ever defaulted in the performance of any court-imposed obligation, including payment of alimony or child support or compliance with another court order or decree?

Yes No

In each case, list the name and address of the creditor, the court which rendered the judgment, the case number, the date, the amount of the judgment, and the circumstances on which such claim was based.

Has property owned by you been either judicially or non-judicially foreclosed?

Yes No

Please state the circumstances and outcome of any such unsatisfied or default judgment, or of any foreclosure.

(b) Have you ever made an assignment for the benefit of creditors? Yes No

Have you ever filed any petition in bankruptcy?

Yes No

If so, state the circumstances, case number, and the outcome.

References and Counsel Questionnaires*

- * **Please Note:** Letters of reference from these persons are confidential and will not be given to the applicant. If the reference asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters and counsel questionnaires for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. (You should not list the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.)

References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

20. (a) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and phone numbers of two persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your general character and background.

Name: Elizabeth White

Address: [REDACTED]

City/State/Zip: Houston, TX 77018 Phone: (907) [REDACTED]

Name: Audra Hunt

Address: [REDACTED]

City/State/Zip: Eagle River, Alaska 99577 Phone: (907) [REDACTED]

- (b) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and phone numbers of three other persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your professional competence and qualifications for a judicial position.

Name: Judge David L. Roghair, Superior Court, Utqiagvik

Address: P.O. Box 270

City/State/Zip: Utqiagvik, AK 99723 Phone: (907) 852-4800

Name: Judge Romano D. DiBenedetto, Superior Court, Nome

Address: P.O. Box 1110

City/State/Zip: Nome, Alaska 99762 Phone: (907) 443-5216

Name: Magistrate Judge Heidi Ivanoff, Unalakleet

Address: P.O. Box 250

City/State/Zip: Unalakleet, Alaska 99684 Phone: (907) 624-3015

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(c) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. Please do not list cases with any pending issues in the trial or appellate courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent trials they presided over.) List only those cases that have gone to trial within the past three years. If you have no cases that have gone to trial within the past three years, you may include cases that went to trial before that date, or may provide up to six cases in response to the next subsection, 20(d). Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

Case Number 1

Case Name: KIC Property Management, LLC

Case Number: 2KB-23-00007SC

v. Brandl Williamson

Judge Name: Colleen Baxter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Brian T. Duffy

Name: Daniel C. Coons

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 200

Address: 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 200

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Nyquist Law Group, LLC

Case Number: 2KB-23-00020SC

v. Kylene Lie

Judge Name: Colleen Baxter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Kara Nyquist

Name: Jessica Falke

Address: 825 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 200

Address: 825 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 200

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Natalie Porec

Case Number: 3AN-21-04364CI

v. Joseph Porec

Judge Name: Dani Crosby

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Nathan Henshaw

Name: Colleen Baxter (self)

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 306

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(d) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that did not go to trial but in which you did significant work. Please do not list cases with any pending issues in the trial or appellate courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent cases they presided over that did not go to trial but in which they did significant work.) Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. *(Attach additional pages if necessary.)*

Case Number 1

Case Name: Kaitlyn Strickland **Case Number:** 2KB-23-00225 C1

v. Daelan Morris **Judge Name:** Colleen Baxter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Plaintiff and Defendant were both pro se. Name: _____

Address: Colleen Baxter performed full judicial mediation and resolved all custody issues. Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska **Case Number:** 2KB-24-00120 CR

v. Steven Farmer **Judge Name:** Colleen Baxter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: John Turner Name: Eric Derleth

Address: P.O. Box 349 Address: [REDACTED]

City, State, Zip: Kotzebue, AK 99752 City, State, Zip: Soldotna, AK 99669

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: State of Alaska **Case Number:** 2KB-23-00322CR and 2KB-20-413CR

v. Peter Tingook **Judge Name:** Colleen Baxter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: John Turner Name: Robert Campbell

Address: P.O. Box 349 Address: P.O. Box 946

City, State, Zip: Kotzebue, AK 99752 City, State, Zip: Utqiagvik, AK 99723

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Writing Sample

21. Attach one example of a brief, memorandum of law, or legal opinion or similar example of legal writing (10-20 pages in length; 15-25 pages for appellate positions) prepared solely by you within the last five years. Please choose a sample that reflects your ability to do legal research and analysis. If you do not have a good sample of this length, include an excerpt from a longer writing. Make sure the sample contains sufficient facts to make it understandable. (Some reply briefs may not meet these requirements.)

Please do not submit: (a) coauthored writing samples, (b) samples with confidential information unless redacted to remove such information, (c) longer writing samples, (d) samples from open cases including cases on appeal.

22. Has any **public** sanction been imposed against you in response to a complaint, charge or grievance brought against you as an attorney or a judge? Yes No

Have formal grievance procedures been brought against you? Yes No

See Bar Rule 22(b) & (e) concerning public bar grievance procedures against attorneys, and AS 22.30.011(b) and .060(b)(3) concerning public disciplinary grievance procedures against judges.

Have you ever been held in contempt of court? Yes No

Have you ever been fined or otherwise sanctioned by a judge? Yes No

In each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

Additional Comments (Non-Confidential)

23. Please make any additional comments that you wish to bring to the Council's attention about your experience and suitability for this judgeship.

I am currently a rural court judicial officer, serving as a Magistrate Judge IV / Superior Court Master in the Second Judicial District. I applied for, and was offered, this position in February 2022, after being nominated by the Alaska Judicial Council for the Utqiagvik Superior Court position, which was eventually offered to Superior Court Judge David Roghair. Throughout the past two years in my current position, in addition to working daily alongside Judge Roghair while in Utqiagvik for the first year, I have enjoyed excellent working relationships with all members of the Second Judicial District team, both judicial officers and court personnel alike.

My legal career preceding my judicial role also required a firm understanding of how Alaska's courts work, and has served me well in my current position: trials were common in my practice, and one cannot effectively advocate (or preside) without knowing the Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Evidence, Delinquency Rules, and Child in Need of Aid Rules, as well as the "nuts and bolts" of how pleadings are filed and make their way from clerk to chambers. What began with my post-law school clerkship has become my day-to-day workplace.

Additional Comments (Continued)

Prior to taking the bench, my legal practice allowed me to represent Alaskans through challenging times in their lives. It is still humbling that my clients depended upon me to advocate their interests and that the results of those efforts had significant day-to-day impacts on their lives, and often lifelong impacts on their children. Representing individual Alaskans served as a constant reminder that litigants are real people, with real families, who will live with the outcome of their case long after a court's decision, and long after my involvement (as an attorney or a judge) in their life has concluded. The legal system has an obligation to understand this reality, and to make timely decisions that allow people to move on with their lives. These lessons learned not only served me well in private practice and thus far during my tenure as a Magistrate Judge IV / Standing Master, but also in my role on the Lawyer Fund for Client Protection committee, listening to complainants and respondents, considering all evidence, and deliberating and issuing recommended decisions. I remain proud of the fact that I make timely decisions and my "under advisement" report is consistently clear, that I respect litigants and attorneys in my courtroom and expect them to demonstrate respect and courtesies to one another, and that I maintain courtroom decorum and organization in order to effectuate a smooth process without disruptions or confusion (which can often happen during mass hearings where most litigants are telephonic, and some seek to use this anonymity to behave in a manner which is less than respectful to their fellow litigants).

There are other aspects of my life and (former) practice, that I also believe serve me well as a judge: I am a lifelong Alaskan who was born in Nome, raised in rural Alaska, and who has lived in both the rural and urban areas of the State. My legal practice (prior to my current judicial position) and my current position require truly listening to litigants, not making assumptions unsupported by facts, hearing needs and concerns while recognizing realities and adhering to the law, all while making a decision promptly so as to not prolong anxiety, but never making a decision lightly. I believe this experience, outlook, and methodology will continued to be assets to the judiciary in the Kodiak Superior Court.

24. Please indicate whether you prefer to be interviewed in public session or in private session. Your choice of a public or private interview has no bearing on the Council's determination of your qualifications or on the questions the Council may ask. You may change your request in writing at any time before the interview starts (select one).

Public Interview

Private Interview

25. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (*limited to 150 words*) about your background, legal education, and legal experience. Please do not list personal information about minor children. Your picture and a copy of this statement will be scanned and posted on the Council's website after the application deadline. In its bar survey, the Council will invite attorneys to review the information if they wish to become more familiar with your background and experience. Use the form on the following page for your biographical statement. Please leave the box at the top empty. The Council will use this space for your scanned picture. *To be fair to all applicants, the Council will strictly enforce the 150 word limit.*

If you object to the posting of your picture on the Council's website, please indicate your objection below. If you object, we will not post your picture, although you still must submit a photograph of yourself with your application.

If you check this box we will not post your picture on the website.

Biographical Statement

Name Colleen Baxter

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

Kodiak Superior Court

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Date: November 8, 2024

Born in Nome, Alaska, to public school teachers, I was raised in Alaska villages and received the bilingual-bicultural education that rural Alaskan children experience. While my Alaska Native language skills have faded, the broader lessons of rural Alaska -- the importance of personal relationships and personal responsibility -- and my warm memories of the time spent in tight-knit rural communities, continue to have an outsized, positive influence on me.

While attending law school in Philadelphia, I was accepted to Temple's Moot Court and Law Review. Each summer I returned home to Alaska for internships with the Alaska Public Defender Agency and Kenai District Attorney's Office. Upon graduation, I returned to clerk for Judge Jonathan Link, Kenai Superior Court. During my 27 years as an attorney and judicial officer, I have represented and guided Alaskans through the judicial process. I would be honored to continue serving Alaskans on Kodiak's Superior Court.