

Alaska Judicial Council

Application for Judicial Appointment

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:
Anchorage District Court Judge

Date: February 6, 2026

[Print Application](#)

I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

Personal

1. (a) State full name* Samuel Glenn Vandergaw
Name as it should appear on bar survey: Sam Vandergaw
* Unless otherwise specified, this is how your name will appear on the bar survey.
(b) Have you ever used or been known by any other names or pseudonyms? If so, please identify. Samuel
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application?**
7 years 7 months
Total 41 years 4 months
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application?**
7 years 7 months
Total 15 years 8 months

Nonlegal Education

4. State names and dates of attendance of all colleges and professional schools (other than law schools) ever attended and degrees and dates conferred. List any honors.

University of Arizona, August 1993 to May 1994, No Degree
North Idaho College, August 1995 to May 1998, Associate of Arts and Associate of Science
University of Alaska Anchorage, January to May 1995 and January 1999 to May 2001,
Bachelor of Arts

** See AS 22.10.090; see also 1984 Inf. Op. Atty. Gen. (July 19; 366- 624-84).

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.

Gonzaga University School of Law, June 2006 to May 2009, 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.

Associate Editor of the Gonzaga Journal of International Law.

- (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.

2011- State Bar of Arizona Professionalism Course, Maricopa County Public Defender New Attorney Training.

2012-2018- Attended Arizona Public Defender Association Conference each year.

2018- Alaska Public Defender New Attorney Training

2019-Current- Attended or viewed recorded Alaska District Attorney Conference

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.

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.

All of my non-legal work experience occurred prior to law school

From 1993 to 2002 I worked each summer for Princess Tours Luggage Crew.

From 1993 to 1995 I took a month off each summer to work on set-net sites just north of Naknek.

From 1998 to 2000 I worked in the Lumber Department at Lowe's Home Improvement.

From 1999 to 2001 I was an assistant wrestling coach from Dimond High School.

From 2002 to 2004, I served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati as a Sports Development Officer during the nation's efforts to join the Olympic Movement. In that role, I worked with international sport governing bodies, including the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), and the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and served as a liaison to Chinese and later Taiwanese engineering teams constructing a national stadium in Betio. My colleagues and I organized and hosted a two-week national sporting competition that brought together teams from 19 outer islands traveling to Tarawa. During my service, I was asked to represent the government in negotiations arising from a significant labor dispute, an experience that, along with my broader responsibilities involving cross-cultural coordination and dispute resolution, helped inspire my decision to pursue a legal career.

From 2005 to 2006 I worked for a little over a year for North Slope Telecom, Inc. back here in Alaska as a Telecommunications Installer.

In 2010 I worked for two months as a census taker for the United States Census, this was immediately before I was accepted into the Arizona Bar and started work with Harris & Winger.

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: State of Alaska Office of the Attorney General Office of Special Prosecutions

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jenna Gruenstein

Current address of this person: 310 K St. Ste 701

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and location of Employment: From August 2019 To Present City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description:

Assistant Attorney General- Rural Unit Supervisor, Violent Case Prosecution.

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

Employer: Alaska Public Defender's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Mary Burnell

Current address of this person: 900 W 5th Ave, Ste 200

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From Sept 2018 To July 2019 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description:

Deputy Public Defender. Represent criminal defendants in their criminal cases.

Reason for Leaving: I was offered a position with the Office of Special Prosecutions

Employer: Maricopa County Office of the Public Defender

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Emily Downs

Current address of this person: 620 W Jackson, Ste 4015

City Phoenix State AZ Zip 85003

Dates and Location of Employment: From 5/2011 To 6/2018 City Phoenix State AZ

Job title and description:

Deputy Attorney Supervisor. Represent criminal defendants in their felony criminal cases in county superior court. Train and supervise attorneys to represent their

Reason for Leaving: Moved my family to Alaska after accepting a position at the Public Defender.

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: Harris and Winger, P.C.

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Chad Winger

Current address of this person: 6 E. Aspen, Ste. 250

City Flagstaff State AZ Zip 86001

Dates and Location of Employment: From 6/2010 To 4/2011 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Associate Attorney. Represent criminal defendants in their misdemeanor criminal cases in municipal court.

Reason for Leaving: Accepted position with Maricopa County Public Defender

Employer: Theodore A. Agnick, P.C.

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Ted Agnick

Current address of this person: [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip [REDACTED]

Dates and Location of Employment: From 11/2010 To 1/2010 City Tempe State AZ

Job title and description: Legal Research and Writing Clerk.

Reason for Leaving: Laid off

Employer: Mark E. Vovos, P.S.

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Mark Vovos

Current address of this person: [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip [REDACTED]

Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/2007 To 5/2009 City Spokane State WA

Job title and description: Legal Intern. Researched issues and assisted Mr. Vovos in trial.

Reason for Leaving: Graduated law school and moved to Arizona.

Employer: Municipality of Anchorage- Office of the City Prosecutor

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jo-Ann Chung

Current address of this person: [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip [REDACTED]

Dates and Location of Employment: From 5/2008 To 8/2008 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Legal Intern. Prosecuted misdemeanor cases in District Court.

Reason for Leaving: Was a summer internship.

Employer: Spokane County Public Defender

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

Current address of this person: 1033 W Gardner Ave

City Spokane State WA Zip 99201

Dates and Location of Employment: From 5/2007 To 8/2007 City Spokane State WA

Job title and description: Legal Intern. Research issues and meet with clients for intake.

Reason for Leaving: Was a summer internship.

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

(a) Percent of your practice that was: Civil 0
Criminal 100
Other 0
= 100%

Comment: _____

(b) Percent: State 100
Federal 0
Other 0
= 100%

Comment: _____

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court 0
Court of Appeals 0
Superior Court 90
District Court 10
= 100%

Comment: _____

(d) Frequency of appearance in court (select one):
☒ Regularly ☐ Occasionally ☐ Infrequently ☐ Not at All

Comment: _____

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted (select one):
☐ None ☐ 1- 5 ☐ 6-15 ☐ 16-30 ☒ 31 or more

Comment: _____

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 95 Non-Jury 5

Comment: _____

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 1

Comment: Post Conviction Relief Petition

(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:

(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.).

From 2011 through 2017, I volunteered annually at Veterans Stand Down, assisting veterans with resolving warrants, probation holds, and other legal issues. This work allowed veterans to remove legal barriers that impeded their access to housing, employment, and benefits.

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.

Arizona Bar Association, 027690- June 2010
Alaska Bar Association, 1809065- September 2018

Public Service

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

Alaska Bar Association
Arizona Bar Association (Inactive)

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).

N/A

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)
Magistrate Judge US Dist Ct. AK	2/21	N/A	N/A
AK Superior Court, Anchorage	5/23	N	N
AK District Court, Anchorage	2/24	N	N
AK District Court, Anchorage	4/25	N	N

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.

I served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati from October 2002 to December 2004, an experience that ultimately inspired my pursuit of a legal career. During my service, I was frequently asked to mediate local disputes due to my perceived neutrality within the community, and I developed a strong appreciation for principled, fair resolution of conflicts.

Earlier, from 1998 to 2001, I coached high school wrestling, which strengthened my leadership skills, patience, and ability to guide individuals toward achieving goals through discipline and accountability.

In 2022, I assisted the Alaskan Bay Owners Association in modernizing its Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions and in developing a community survey to inform the board and membership prior to a vote. That project is nearing completion, and my involvement is expected to conclude upon certification of the election results.

Since 2022, I have also been actively engaged in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) initiatives. I currently serve as the Alaska Department of Law's representative to both the U.S. Department of Justice MMIP Working Group and the Alaska Governor's Council on MMIP, collaborating closely with the Alaska State Troopers and the Attorney General's Office to address MMIP matters statewide.

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 \$50 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.

Idaho Arrest- Please See Appendix B
Fall 1997- Speeding ticket, \$80, Peachland, British Columbia, Canada
Spring 1998- driving with a headlamp out, \$190, Coeur d'Alene, ID
July 2021- Speeding Ticket, \$84, Seward, AK

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.

Please See Appendix B

- (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).

I was divorced in 2012, Maricopa County Superior Court case no. FN 2012-002800.
I was divorced in 2024, State of Alaska Superior Court at Anchorage, case no.
3AN-24-04817CI.

(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: Charlie Cross
Address: P.O. Box 145
City/State/Zip: Nome AK 99762 Phone: (907)747-9471

Name: Max-Henri Covil
Address: [REDACTED]
City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] Phone: (480)495-5996

- (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: Jenna Gruenstein
Address: [REDACTED]
City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] Phone: (907)269-6250

Name: Tamara DeLucia
Address: 310 K St, Ste 701
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907)301-0444

Name: Luella Iyatunguk
Address: [REDACTED]
City/State/Zip: [REDACTED] Phone: (907)443-2296

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: State
v. Andrew Panamarioff

Case Number: 3KO-22-00312CR
Judge Name: Stephen Wallace

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Caitlyn McFadden	Name: Eric Hedland
Address: 518 Marine Way Ste 201	Address: 900 W. 5th Ave, Ste 101
City, State, Zip: Kodiak AK 99615	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State
v. Jalen Minok

Case Number: 4SM-21-00129CR
Judge Name: Terrence Haas

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Dan Mizinov	Name: Rich Rodriguez
Address: 900 W. 5th Ave, Ste 525	Address: 900 W. 5th Ave, Ste 101
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: State
v. Aaron Westlake

Case Number: 2KB-20-00130CR
Judge Name: David Roghair

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Moshe Zorea	Name: _____
Address: PO Box 212043	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99521	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: State Case Number: 4EM-22-00022CR
v. Pius Teeluk Judge Name: Nataniel Peters

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Nathaniel Hainje	Name: _____
Address: 900 W. 5th Ave, Ste 101	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State Case Number: 4EM-21-00005CR
v. Rudolf Waska Judge Name: William Montgomery

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Mike Barber	Name: _____
Address: [REDACTED]	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: [REDACTED]	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: State Case Number: 4EM-21-00007CR
v. Darren Hootch Judge Name: William Montgomery

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Julia Metzger	Name: _____
Address: 900 W 5th Ave. Ste 525	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: _____
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.

When employed as a Public Defender, I have had clients initiate grievances under Bar Rule 22(a) and the Arizona equivalent, Arizona Supreme Court Rules 50 and 55, none of the grievances were ever found to warrant investigation to trigger formal proceedings under Bar Rule 22(a).

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 a lifelong public servant dedicated to strengthening the community that has shaped me. My goal is to ensure that Anchorage and the State of Alaska remain vibrant, just, and pleasant places to live and raise families.

My commitment to public service began in the late 1990s, when I coached high school wrestling and witnessed firsthand the impact that mentorship and integrity can have on young people. This commitment deepened during my time in the Peace Corps, where I learned the value of empathy, patience, and collaboration in addressing community needs.

Over the past 15 years, I have devoted my legal career to public service, gaining a comprehensive understanding of the justice system and the people it serves. As a Public Defender, my duty was to prevent injustice and protect the constitutional rights of the accused. As a Prosecutor, my responsibility has been to seek justice on behalf of the community.

Additional Comments (Continued)

while ensuring fairness in every proceeding. Across both roles, my guiding principles have been integrity, respect, and compassion—ensuring that each person who comes before the court is treated with dignity and that the system operates fairly for all.

I have practiced in every jurisdiction across Alaska but am deeply rooted in my hometown of Anchorage. It would be a profound honor to serve as a District Court Judge in the community that raised me and where I am raising my son. My experience working on both sides of the aisle has given me a balanced perspective and a strong understanding of how judicial decisions affect the lives of defendants, victims, families, and the community. I have had the privilege of appearing before numerous Judges throughout Alaska and Arizona, learning from their example what embodies fairness, patience, and judicial excellence.

Born and raised in Alaska, I intend to dedicate the remainder of my career to serving this state and its people. I believe my experience, work ethic, and judicial temperament make me well suited to serve as a District Court Judge in Anchorage. I would approach the bench with humility, respect for all who appear before the court, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

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 Samuel Glenn Vandergaw

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

Anchorage District Court Judge

Please leave this area blank

Date: February 6, 2025

I was born and raised in Anchorage. My determination to attend law school formed while I was serving as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer, in the Republic of Kiribati, where I developed an appreciation for the importance of fair process and effective dispute resolution. After graduating from Gonzaga University School of Law, I served for eight years as a Deputy Public Defender in Arizona, gaining substantial courtroom experience in serious criminal cases. In 2018, I returned home to raise my son and continue my legal career. I served for a year as an Assistant Public Defender before joining the Alaska Department of Law, Office of Special Prosecutions, where I have now worked for six years. In that role, I have focused on complex and violent crimes, serving rural Alaska. Throughout my career, I have sought to approach the law with fairness, professionalism, and respect for the communities we serve.