

Alaska Judicial Council
Application for Judicial Appointment



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

Date: May 1, 2026

I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

Personal

1. (a) State full name* Matthew Carson Widmer
Name as it should appear on bar survey: Matt Widmer
* 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. N/A
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application?**

<u>20</u> years	<u>8</u> months
Total <u>20</u> years	<u>8</u> months
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application?**

<u>20</u> years	<u>8</u> months
Total <u>20</u> years	<u>8</u> 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.

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. 1995-1999.
B.A. History, B.A. English, 1999.

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH. Summer 1999. No degree.

College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL. 2001. No degree.

University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK. 2011. No degree.

** 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.

William & Mary Law School, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA. 2002-2005. J.D. 2005.

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.

- (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.

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.

Question 6(b) [CLE courses in the past five years]:

2022

- Ethics Tonight
- Anchorage Youth Court
- A Panel Discussion on Ethics

2023

- Alaska Public Records Act
- Investigators and Paralegals Guide to Character Evidence
- Writing Strong, Confident Paragraphs
- Culture, Individual Rights, and Tribal Sovereignty in Indian Country
- Retroactive Application of New Criminal History Guidelines Amendment 821
- Mitigation 101

2024

- The Corporate Transparency Act
- Basics of Gender-Based Violence
- Trauma-Informed Client Interviewing
- ANDVSA Legal Program & Pro Bono Resources
- Custody and Visitation
- Property, Debt Division & Spousal Support
- CJA Panel Attorney Meeting: Questions with CMJ Scoble and MJ Reardon
- CJA Boot Camp Friday (bail, pretrial, and initial client interviews)
- CJA Boot Camp Friday (Sentencing Guidelines)
- CJA Boot Camp Friday (Trial Prep and Trial)
- An Overview of Differences Between the Federal and Alaska Rules of Evidence
- Women in Leadership -- Ninth Circuit Judge Lucy Koh
- How to Build, Protect, and Utilize a Record for Appeal
- Unlocking the Sentencing Guidelines: A Virtual Series, Session 2 - Navigating Relevant Conduct
- Supreme Court Review
- Generative AI
- Climate Conversations
- Reflections on the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act
- Demystifying the Pretrial Risk Assessment Tool (PTRA)
- The Essence of a Democratic Society: The right to vote and guidance for judges and attorneys in preparing for election-related litigation
- Innovative Justice: Exploring the Ninth Circuit's Specialty Courts
- The Doors Dobbs Opened
- The Federal Trade Commission Reinvigorated: A Conversation with Lina Khan
- Are You Not Entertained? Unraveling the Legal Complexities of Reality Crime Shows

- Native American Tribal Law at an Inflection Point
- Into to Federal Sentencing Guidelines
- Evidence 101: preparing and introducing exhibits in Federal Criminal Court
- Unlocking the Sentencing Guidelines: Targeting the Firearms Guidelines from Section 2K2.1 and Beyond
- US Supreme Court & Alaska Supreme Court 2023-24 roundup, part II
- Why parties should consent to Magistrate Judges
- Thinking ethically about AI
- Anchorage Youth Court
- Police Worn Body Cameras: Are We Really Seeing Everything?
- Judicial Selection & Retention (presentation)
- Calculating the Guidelines in Drug Cases
- Strategies for Working with RICO/VICAR and Gang Cases

2025

- Unlocking the Sentencing Guidelines, A Virtual Series: Session 12 – The Categorical Approach – A Primer
- Writing Effective Sentencing Memoranda with Fritz Scheller
- When Disaster Strikes: Insiders' Views on the Law of Catastrophe
- AI and Copyright: A Sea Change or More of the Same
- Pretrial Detention Standards and Practice Under the Bail Reform Act
- The Digital Divide - Bridging New Technologies and Traditional Evidence Standards
- Legal Airwaves: Navigating the Law of Podcasting
- Health and Incarceration
- Independence of the Judiciary
- Trawling for Meaning After Loper Bright
- Set Your Mind to Success 10 Essential Ways to Catapult Your Career and Well-being
- Joint Defense Agreements
- Disaster Rights, Resources and Legal Ethics: How You Can Help Those Impacted

2026

- Mastering Case Management: Strategies for Efficient & Effective Organization

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.

CCH, Inc. Riverwoods, IL.

Production Specialist (2000-2002): Worked as a proofreader/copy editor for the Federal Tax Reporter product. Solely responsible for maintaining word index for the product. Updated product with substantive changes to federal tax law as developed by courts, Congress, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Paramount's Kings Island, Kings Island, OH.

Inventory control supervisor (1999-2000): Responsible for monitoring \$7 million inventory for park-owned merchandise locations.

Associate, Crew Leader, Supervisor (summers 1995-1998): Worked at, and took on increasing responsibilities associated with, operations of various park-owned merchandise locations.

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: Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jennifer Alexander

Current address of this person: 510 L St., Suite 700

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and location of Employment: From 11/2018 To present City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description:

Associate/Sr. Counsel/Partner. Civil/criminal litigation caseload throughout Alaska in both state and federal courts.

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

Employer: Alaska Public Defender Agency

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Lars Johnson

Current address of this person: 900 W 5th Ave., Suite 101

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From 1/2012 To 11/2018 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Assistant Public Defender. Felony litigation caseload, including therapeutic courts, parole, and post-conviction relief.

Reason for Leaving: Wanted to pursue more varied practice areas

Employer: Alaska Office of Public Advocacy

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jonathon Torres

Current address of this person: 900 W 5th Ave., Suite 525

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From 7/2010 To 1/2012 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Assistant Public Advocate. Criminal litigation caseload with cases in Anchorage, Kenai, and Palmer.

Reason for Leaving: Wanted to join a larger, more collaborative office

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: Angstman Law Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Myron Angstman

Current address of this person: PO Box 585

City Bethel State AK Zip 99559

Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/2005 To 6/2010 City Bethel State AK

Job title and description: Associate. Assigned civil and criminal matters throughout Alaska.

Reason for Leaving: Wanted a trial-heavy caseload to gain litigation experience

Employer: _____

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

Current address of this person: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____

Job title and description: _____

Reason for Leaving: _____

Employer: _____

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

Current address of this person: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____

Job title and description: _____

Reason for Leaving: _____

Employer: _____

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

Current address of this person: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____

Job title and description: _____

Reason for Leaving: _____

Employer: _____

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

Current address of this person: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates and Location of Employment: From _____ To _____ City _____ State _____

Job title and description: _____

Reason for Leaving: _____

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

(a) Percent of your practice that was: Civil 55
Criminal 45
Other _____
= 100%

Comment: _____

(b) Percent: State 95
Federal 5
Other _____
= 100%

Comment: _____

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court 1
Court of Appeals 1
Superior Court 49
District Court 49
= 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: 2

Comment: _____

(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:

Mainly parole hearings with a few DMV revocation hearings. I have also appeared in a hearing before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

(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.).

DV protective matter in Bethel; divorce/custody in Valdez (in progress). Both with ANDVSA.

I answer questions through Free Legal Answers, a service provided by the Alaska Bar Association in conjunction with the American Bar Association.

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: 2006.
US District Court for the District of Alaska: 2006.
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals: 2008.

Public Service

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

See attached.

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).

See attached.

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)
See attached.			

Question 12 [bar associations, sections, and committees]:

Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2011-2018; 2019-present, Treasurer)

Alaska Bar Association (2006-present)

Committee on Fair and Impartial Courts, Chair (2017-present)

Municipal Law (2006-present)

Employment Law Section (2020-2023)

Historians Committee (2017-2023)

Appellate Law (2011-2019)

Alaska Native Law (2006-2008)

Family Law (2006-2008)

Torts/Personal Injury (2007-2020)

American Bar Association (2006-2025)

Criminal Justice Section (?-2025)

Solo, Small Firm & General Practice Division (?-2025)

Law Practice Division (?-2025)

Section of Litigation (?-2025)

Government and Public Sectors Lawyers Division (inactive)

Anchorage Bar Association (2020-present, Director; 2022, President-elect; 2023, President)

Federal Bar Association

Alaska Chapter (2023-2025)

Criminal Law Section (2023-2025)

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (2013-present)

Question 13 [Publications]:

As part of my membership with the Fair and Impartial Courts Committee, I co-sponsored a Letter to the Editor that was published in the Delta Discovery on November 2, 2022. The title of the Letter is "Alaskans: Finish the Ballot!" It was designed to encourage voters to remember to vote on the judges up for retention in the 2022 election cycle. The Letter appears online at <https://deltadiscovery.com/get-out-and-vote/> A text version of that letter is attached.

When I first moved to Bethel, I had a blog for a brief period of time. I mainly wrote about my early experiences in Bethel and remember posting pictures about the various sled dog kennels. I have no recollection of the number of posts I made, though I believe it was less than ten. I also do not remember what hosting platform I used. I have made exhaustive efforts to search my

email and the internet for any clue as to where that blog may reside but have been unsuccessful.

Question 14 [Previous applications for Judgeships]:

• Bethel Superior Court	2011	Not nominated	
• Dillingham Superior Court	2011	Not nominated	
• Court of Appeals	2016	Not nominated	
• Anchorage Superior Court	2017	Withdrew	
• Anchorage Superior Court	2021	Not nominated	
• Anchorage Superior Court	2022	Not nominated	
• Palmer District Court	2024	Nominated	Not Appointed
• Anchorage District Court	2025	Nominated	Not Appointed
• Anchorage District Court	2025	Nominated	Not Appointed
• Court of Appeals	2026	Pending	
• Anchorage Superior Court	2026	Pending	
• Anchorage District Court	2026	Pending	

Alaskans: Finish the Ballot!

With the advent of a new ranked choice voting system for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, and other political offices, you might overlook the last part of the ballot — the part dealing with retention of judges. In Alaska, judges must periodically appear on the ballot to allow the voters to decide whether they should continue in office, but these judicial retention elections are non-partisan, and judges generally are not allowed to campaign. Don't be caught by surprise. Do your research on the judges early and finish the ballot.

The judges you will see on your ballot in November went through a rigorous, nonpartisan, and merit-based selection process to be appointed. Alaska's judicial merit selection system finds the best qualified candidates for the governor to choose from, then gives the voters the last say by requiring every judge within three years of appointment to go before the voters for another term in office. And to help voters with this important decision, the Judicial Council — a citizen body created by the Alaska Constitution — gathers an immense amount of information about the judges' performances and makes it available to the electorate before the election.

Depending on which judicial district you live in, you will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" on up to twenty individual judges. But you don't have to guess about which judges deserve your "yes" vote. The Judicial Council has exhaustively surveyed all of the judges' performances. It polled those most familiar with each judge's performance — court system employees, police, attorneys, jurors, and others. It also reviewed each judge's professional activities, financial disclosure statements, the number of times a party filed a peremptory challenge against the judge, and the timeliness of the judge's decisions.

After gathering all this information, the Judicial Council then held public hearings on the judges' performance and accepted written comments. Following this rigorous review, it voted unanimously to recommend that all the judges be retained. The information the Judicial Council gathered is publicly available to you to learn more about each judge.

Just who makes up the Judicial Council? Six volunteer citizens, three appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature, and three attorneys appointed by the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association. The current council is made up of a retired Anchorage police officer who capped his career as spokesperson for the Anchorage Police Department, a neonatal intensive care nurse from Anchorage, a business owner from Kenai, and attorneys from Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks. The chair is the Chief

Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, who votes only in the very rare case of a tie, and there has never been a tie on a retention vote. For all of the judges up for retention in November, the Council found all met performance standards, and it recommends that they all be retained for another term in office.

The Judicial Council's endorsement seems like a pretty good indication that these judges deserve your "Yes" vote. But don't take our word for it. Go to www.ajc.state.ak.us, review some or all of the information there, and then decide. And after you do that, finish the ballot and cast your votes in the judicial retention election.

Members of the Alaska Bar Association's Fair and Impartial Courts Committee: Adam Alexander, Elaine Andrews, Ruth Botstein, Grant Callow, Jeff Davis, Zoe Eisberg, Stephanie Harrod, Jahna Lindemuth, Erin Dougherty Lynch, Don McClintock, Sarah Melton, Brett Watts, Matthew Widmer

Lawsuits: Why Winning Isn't Always Everything

by [Mathew Widmer](#) | Apr 20, 2026 | [Business Law](#)

"Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser — in fees, expenses, and waste of time."
– Abraham Lincoln (1850)

Abraham Lincoln's advice to his fellow lawyers in 1850 is just as vital for business owners today as it was nearly two centuries ago. The hard truth of the legal system is simple: litigation is expensive.

Taking a case all the way to trial can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and consume years of your life. Even if you "win," you may face an appeal that adds even more time and expense. By the time the dust settles, you might find that your victory feels a lot like a loss.

Before racing to the courthouse, it is important to understand the financial reality of a claim. In many cases, you may only be entitled to recover a small fraction of your actual legal fees and expenses.

Furthermore, there is the practical matter of collecting your money. Every dollar your opponent spends fighting you in court is a dollar they no longer have available to pay your settlement. In the end, you could spend a fortune to win a judgment against a company that has been drained dry by the process itself.

How do you minimize these risks so you can focus on what matters – running your business? The best defense is a proactive one.

Long before a dispute arises, you should ensure your company is built on a solid foundation.

- Is your business entity set up correctly?

- Were your contracts drafted by an attorney who understands your industry, or were they pulled off the internet?

While you can't predict every problem, having a legal professional in your corner to prepare for common pitfalls will save you significant time and money if a disagreement occurs.

When a dispute rears its ugly head, your first instinct might be to sue immediately. However, the smartest move is to take a step back and consult with a trusted legal professional to determine what is actually important to your bottom line and your sanity.

A seasoned attorney understands that a judge's powers are limited. A judge can order someone to pay, but they often cannot do the things that actually save a business relationship, such as:

- Renegotiating a contract
- Adjusting a payment plan
- Repairing a professional partnership

These strategic conversations need to happen at the very beginning of a dispute. If you wait until you are in the heat of a legal battle, the battle lines have already been drawn. By that point, both sides have likely spent tens of thousands of dollars, making a peaceful resolution much harder to reach.

It might feel good to hear an attorney say, "We'll sue them for everything they've got!" When you've been wronged, you want vindication. But remember: before the other side pays you a dime, you must pay your legal team. It could be years before you see any return on that investment – if you see it at all.

Full-scale litigation is sometimes unavoidable. But as Lincoln warned, the "winner" on paper is often the loser in reality. If your attorney isn't looking for ways to resolve your dispute efficiently and protect your resources, it might be time to consult with someone who will.

At Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot, we pride ourselves on being strategic partners for Alaska businesses. We help you weigh the costs of litigation against the value of a smart compromise. [Contact us today](#) to discuss how we can protect your business and your bottom line.

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 am an instructor/legal mentor with Anchorage Youth Court and was a Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representative from 2024 to 2025. I have also been a judge for the American Legion's Oratorical Contest.

I currently serve on the Boards of Junior Achievement of Alaska (Governance Committee Chair), the Anchorage Bar Association, and the Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (Treasurer).

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.

Williamsburg, VA. While attending law school, I received three parking tickets. I do not recall the fines or dates, but paid each without appearance or protest.

Anchorage, AK. 10/24/11. Speeding: 10-19 mph over. 3AN-11-25038MO. I paid the fine without appearance, pleading no contest in the process.

New Kent County, VA. 10/17/25. Moving violation. The rental car company received a 'Photo Summons' for the vehicle I had been driving. It paid the \$100 citation and charged me for both that and a \$25 administrative fee. I have no additional information and did not contest the charges from the rental car company.

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).

(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: Shaun Tygart

Address: 2525 C Street, Suite 450

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503 Phone: (907) 273-0200

Name: Flora Teo

Address: 639 W International Airport Road, Suite 38

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99518 Phone: (907) 344-0101

- (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: Sarah Badten

Address: 510 L Street, Suite 700

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 276-1550

Name: Clint Campion

Address: 500 L Street, Suite 500

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 677-3600

Name: Megan Sandone

Address: 111 W 16th Avenue, Suite 203

City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 563-8844

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: ITMO: Land's End Acquisition Corporation

Case Number: U-22-068 (RCA Matter)

v. Homer Electric Association

Judge Name: Jeff Davis (ALJ)

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Jess Spuhler

Name: Jeff Waller

Address: 3977 Lake Street

Address: 1031 W 4th Ave Ste 200

City, State, Zip: Homer, AK 99603

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: Elisabeth Ross

Name: JC Croft

Address: 1150 Connecticut Ave NW Ste 350

Address: Unknown

City, State, Zip: Washington, DC 20036

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 2

Case Name: State

Case Number: 3DI-19-00277 CR

v. Alexander Basargin

Judge Name: Michael Aiello

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Ron Dupuis

Name:

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 701

Address:

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip:

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

City, State, Zip:

Case Number 3

Case Name: Peggy Downing

Case Number: 3PA-18-01949 CI

v. Shoreside Petroleum, et al

Judge Name: Kari Kristiansen

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Will Earnhart

Name: William Cook

Address: 510 L Street, Suite 700

Address: PO Box 1

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Eagle River, AK 99577

Name: Griffith Winthrop

Name: Gordon Johnson

Address: 212 Whitetail Run Ln

Address: 212 Whitetail Run Ln

City, State, Zip: Sheboygan, WI 53081

City, State, Zip: Sheboygan, WI 53081

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: Cho, et al.

Case Number: 3AN-24-4527 CI

v. Kim, et al.

Judge Name: Yvonne Lamoureux

Attorneys Involved:

Name: John Pharr

Name: _____

Address: 1577 C Street, Suite 204

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: 3AN-20-7008 CR

v. Robert Merry

Judge Name: Michael Franciosi/Kari McCrea

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Ron Dupuis

Name: _____

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 701

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Williams, et al.

Case Number: 3AN-16-09639 CI

v. Williams, et al.

Judge Name: Greg Miller/Thomas Matthews

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Cam Rader

Name: Brogan Kirkman

Address: _____

Address: 527 W 3rd Ave

City, State, Zip: _____

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: David Clark

Name: _____

Address: PO Box 110162

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99511

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.

Additional Comments (Continued)

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 Matt Widmer

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

Anchorage District Court

Please leave this area blank

Date: May 1, 2026

I attended law school in Virginia, never expecting that my first job after graduation would take me to Bethel, Alaska. Like many transplants, I came expecting my time to be short and never left: living in Bethel, Chugiak, and Anchorage, while appearing in courthouses throughout the State, from Nome to Juneau, in state and federal court, and in criminal and civil law.

Public service has always been important to me. Before law school, I was an Eagle Scout. After law school, I coached youth soccer and practiced in indigent criminal defenses. I have served on the Board of Junior Achievement of Alaska, taught and mentored with Anchorage Youth Court, and assisted with the Alaska High School Mock Trial Competition.

I would be honored to continue that public service from the bench.