



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants

Fairbanks Superior Court

Five attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Fairbanks Superior Court. The vacancy will occur due to the forthcoming retirement of Fairbanks Superior Court Judge **Paul R. Lyle**. Applicants for the judgeship will be evaluated by the Council's seven members (the chief justice, three non-attorney members, and three attorney members). Comprehensive background investigations, a survey of Alaska Bar members, and personal interviews with the applicants are all part of the evaluations, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and a public hearing will be held in May 2023. The Council will nominate two or more applicants to send to the governor, after which the governor will have 45 days to make an appointment from the Council's list of nominees.

The applicants for the Fairbanks Superior Court are:

Tom V. Jamgochian: Judge Jamgochian has been an Alaska resident for 18½ years and has practiced law for 18½ years. He graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, in 2004 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

Risa Leonard: Magistrate Judge Leonard has been an Alaska resident for 34 years and has practiced law for 11½ years. She graduated from Syracuse University College of Law in 2008 and is currently a magistrate judge in Fairbanks.

William T. Montgomery: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has practiced law for 10½ years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

Spenser J. Ruppert: Magistrate Judge Ruppert has been an Alaska resident for 35 years and has practiced law for 7 years. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2015 and is currently a magistrate judge in Fairbanks.

Amy K. Welch: Ms. Welch has been an Alaska resident for 9½ years and has practiced law for 8½ years. She graduated from the University of Utah, S.J. Quinney College of Law, in 2013 and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE APPLICANTS IS ENCOURAGED DURING THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TO COMMENT, OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT SUSANNE DIPIETRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 510 L STREET, SUITE 450, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1295, (907) 279-2526.

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