



# alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

## Press Release

Contact: Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director  
Alaska Judicial Council  
510 L Street, Suite 450  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
(907) 279-2526  
[sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)  
[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

For immediate release  
May 24, 2024

## Judicial Nominees *Anchorage District and Palmer Superior Courts*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Anchorage on May 21, and in Palmer on May 23, 2024, to interview applicants for vacancies on the Anchorage District, and Palmer Superior Courts. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Marika Athens and Chris Darnall** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the Anchorage vacancy and **Tom V. Jamgochian and Patrick J. McKay, Jr.** were nominated to fill the Palmer vacancy. The governor has 45 days in which to make appointments from among these nominees.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate the most qualified applicants applying for a judicial vacancy. (The framers of our Constitution referred to this standard as the "best available timber.")

The Council is a citizens' commission created by the Alaska Constitution composed of three attorneys, three non-attorneys, and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. The Council completes an extensive investigation and evaluation of judicial applicants. The Council reviews each applicant's education, experience, bar discipline and credit records, participation in community activities, and other records. It asks members of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicants, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicants.

**Nominees for the Anchorage District Court are:**

**Marika Athens:** Magistrate Judge Athens has been an Alaskan resident for 42 years and has practiced law 19 ½ years. She graduated from Duke University School of Law in 2004 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

**Chris Darnall:** Mr. Darnall has been an Alaskan resident for 33 years and has practiced law for 6 years. He graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 2016 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions.

**Nominees for the Palmer Superior Court are:**

**Tom V. Jamgochian:** Judge Jamgochian has been an Alaska resident for 20 years and has practiced law for 20 years. He graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, in 2004 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

**Patrick J. McKay, Jr.:** Mr. McKay, Jr., has been an Alaskan resident for 32½ years and has practiced law for 12½ years. He graduated from Western State University College of Law in 2011 and is currently an assistant district attorney in Anchorage.

Attached are records of the Council members' votes.

\* \* \* \*



# alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

## Vote Tally Sheet Anchorage District Court May 21, 2024

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Hansen	Katcher	Parker	Maassen*
Marika Athens	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Chris Darnall	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monica Elkinton	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Lindsay Ingaldson	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	
Larry Monsma	No	No	No	No	No	No	
Sam Vandergaw	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	

*\*The Chief Justice votes only when to do so would change the result.*



# alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

**Vote Tally Sheet  
Palmer Superior Court  
May 23, 2024**

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Hansen	Katcher	Parker	Maassen*
Tom V. Jamgochian	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Patrick J. McKay, Jr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

*\*The Chief Justice votes only when to do so would change the result.*