

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.

University of Puget Sound School of Law
(Now Seattle University School of Law)
August 1985 - May 1988
J.D. received May 1988

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.

I graduated in the top 20% of my class, but did not receive any formal honors.

- (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.

- Family law Practice, 1/19/06. I was the panel moderator.
- Patriot Act, Alaska Con Law and U.S Supreme Court Opinions (3 seminars), 4/30/04
- Powerful Communication & Who is Attorney X (presenter) (2 seminars), 4/29/04
- Negotiating Tactics, Anti-Govt. Movement & Motion Practice (3 seminars), 4/28/04
- SEE APPENDIX.

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.

After obtaining my BA, I worked for two years (Sept. 1981 - Sept. 1983) as an administrative assistant for a small entrepreneurial corporation, Franchise Development Corporation, in Seattle. I reported directly to the two principals of the company. My responsibilities included oversight of the monthly, quarterly and annual financial statements of their various business concerns (franchised restaurants and retail stores). During this time, I was supporting my husband, who was seeking his Master's Degree at the University of Washington. I left this position shortly before the birth of my daughter.

From September 1984 until September 1985, I worked as a secretary at the Seattle office of the engineering firm, Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas. I supported the lead civil, electrical and mechanical engineers responsible for the design of the bus tunnels in Seattle. I left this position to attend law school.

Legal Experience

9. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. **Please provide dates, name of employer, name of supervisor or person who can verify employment, addresses, 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.**

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: Self employed sole practitioner

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Michael Gershel, office share partner

Current address of this person: 211 H Street

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates of Employment: From October 1992 To present

Description: I have a family law practice. About 70% of my clients are parents/spouses experiencing divorce or custody disputes. Another 5% percent of my clients have other family law issues, such as adoption. I act as the children's GAL or as custody investigator in the remainder of my cases.

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

Employer: Tugman Clark and Ray

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Charles W. Ray

Current address of this person: 711 H Street, Suite 310

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates of Employment: From June 1989 To October 1992

Description: I was an associate in this general litigation firm. I managed my own caseload and assisted the partners with their cases. I worked on antitrust, commercial, real estate, personal injury and maritime cases.

Reason for Leaving: I wanted to open my own practice.

Employer: Guess & Rudd

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Gary Zipkin

Current address of this person: 510 L Street

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates of Employment: From May 1988 To June 1989

Description: I worked in a variety of areas for several different partners. The majority of my work was in insurance defense and insurance coverage cases.

Reason for Leaving: This was a fine learning experience, but not a good long-term "fit."

Previous Employers (continued)

Employer: Burgess Kennedy Fitzer & Strombom
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jack Kennedy
Current address of this person: 1501 Market Street, Suite 300
City Tacoma State WA Zip 98402
Dates of Employment. From June 1987 To March 1988
Description: Legal Intern. I worked primarily for attorneys practicing insurance defense. I researched and wrote legal memoranda and some briefs to the court. I also organized and maintained the firm brief bank.
Reason for Leaving: I was graduating and relocating to Anchorage

Employer: Professor David Skover
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: David Skover
Current address of this person: University of Seattle School of Law
City Seattle State WA Zip
Dates of Employment: From Sept. 1987 To May 1988
Description: Research Assistant for Constitutional Law professor.
Reason for Leaving: The articles were completed.

Employer: University of Puget Sound School of Law
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: School staff
Current address of this person:
City Tacoma State WA Zip
Dates of Employment: From Sept. 1987 To May 1988
Description: Tutored first-year students in civil procedure.
Reason for Leaving: I was graduating from law school and relocating to Anchorage.

Employer: Sinsheimer & Meltzer
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Ron Meltzer
Current address of this person: 1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2120
City Seattle State WA Zip 99154
Dates of Employment: From May 1986 To August 1986
Description: Legal intern in firm emphasizing criminal defense, bankruptcy and personal injury. I wrote jury instructions and memoranda, and helped in trial prep
Reason for Leaving: This was a summer internship.

Employer:
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment:
Current address of this person:
City State Zip
Dates of Employment. From To
Description:
Reason for Leaving:

10. For the past five years, please indicate (approximately) the following:

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

Comment: _____

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

Comment: _____

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court 5%
Court of Appeals _____
Superior Court 95%
District Court _____
= 100%

Comment: _____

(d) Frequency of appearance in court:
 Regularly Occasionally Infrequently Not at All

Comment: _____

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted in the past 5 years:
 None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Comment: Trials and extended evidentiary hearings

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 0 Non-Jury 100%

Comment: _____

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 6-7

Comment: _____

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings:
 None 1-5 6-15 16-30 31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

My practice involves a great deal of mediation, but no arbitrations or administrative hearings.

(i) Have you undertaken any *pro bono* work through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.) during this period? Yes No

Describe:

I routinely handle at least one Pro Bono case at any given time. At present, I represent one Pro Bono Panel referral and two clients referred by local judges. I also represent deaf and hard of hearing clients either for free or at a substantially reduced rate.

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.

- U. S. District Court of Alaska
 - Alaska State Courts

Public Service

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

- Lawyer's Assistance Committee, approx, 2001 - present. I presently chair this committee.
 - Law Examiners committee, December 2005 - present.
 - Family Law Section Co-Chair, 2000 - 2002.

13. List legal publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications).

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)
Palmer District Court	2/97	No	No
Anchorage Superior Court	7/02	No - withdrew	No

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.

- My husband and I chaired a series of fundraising events for the Alaska Multiple Dystrophy Association. For three years, we organized and hosted a black tie masked ball at Halloween which we called "Frankenstein's Affair." We raised more than \$110,000 for MDA with this event.

- I teach a class on child support issues on behalf of the Family Law Self Help Center and the Pro Bono Panel. In the past, I have volunteered as an instructor for the Flying Pro Bono Panel, teaching classes in remote Alaska communities.

- At various times, I have contributed my time to other social service organizations, including Alaska Aids Assistance Association and Soroptimists of Anchorage.

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.

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.

I have never been sued by a client. However, I sued James Cross, a former client, for unpaid fees. Mr. Cross brought a counter-claim, even though he resolved his divorce by settlement. Mr. Cross and I reached a settlement, whereby he paid me a part of my unpaid fees. The case number is 3AN-96-04319 SC.

- (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).

- Stephen Karns & Vanessa Karns, 3AN-90-5615 DR, Dissolution
- Vanessa White v. Rock Products, 3AN-96-874 SC, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Susan Fejes, 3AN-99-02282 SC, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Richard Glenn, 3AN-00-11212 SC, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Oberlender, 3AN-00-00295 SC, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Jody Brion, 3AN-00- 5351 SC, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Barbara Smith, 3AN-00-3514 SC, suit for atty fees
- SEE APPENDIX

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: Hon. (Ret.) Douglas J. Serdahely
Address: c/o Patton Boggs LLP, 601 W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 700
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-263-6310

Name: Judith Lonquist, Esq.
Address: 1500 Seattle Tower, 1218 Third Avenue
City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98101-3021 Phone: 206-622-2086

- (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: Hon. (Ret.) John Reese
Address: 6740 Our Own Lane
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99515 Phone: 907-345-0275

Name: Hon. Craig Stowers
Address: 825 W. Fourth Avenue, Room 3620
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-264-0401

Name: Hon. Patrick McKay
Address: 825 W. Fourth Avenue, Room 326
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-264-0414

References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

- (c) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent trials they presided over.) List only those cases which have gone to trial within the past three years. Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. *(Attach additional pages if necessary)*

Case Number 1

Case Name: In Re the Marriage of Tricia **Case Number:** 3UN-02-23 CI
v. Yonker-Bacon and Roger Bacon **Judge Name:** Reese; Gleason

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>Justin Eschbacher</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>718 Barrow Street</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	_____
Name	_____	Name	_____
Address	_____	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	City, State, Zip	_____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Wendy Jennings **Case Number:** 3AN-97-4008
v. Louis Jennings **Judge Name:** Joannides

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>Maurice Ellis</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>731 I Street, Suite 103</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	_____
Name	_____	Name	_____
Address	_____	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	City, State, Zip	_____

Case Number 3

Case Name: James A. Crane **Case Number:** 3AN-96-7547 CI
v. Logan P. Crane **Judge Name:** Morse

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>Robert Frenz</u>	Name	<u>Jennifer Wagner</u>
Address	<u>Box 220487</u>	Address	<u>421 West First Ave. Suite 250</u>
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99522</u>	City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
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, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that did not go to trial but in which you did significant work. (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: Janesse M. Maile Case Number: 3AN-05-7724
 v. Lawrence J. Maile Judge Name: Christen

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>Lynda Limon</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>606 E Street, Suite 203</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	_____
Name	_____	Name	_____
Address	_____	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	City, State, Zip	_____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Beth M. Thorpe Case Number: 3AN-04-6106
 v. Arthur R. Thorpe Judge Name: Joannides

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>G. R. Eschbacher</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>718 Barrow Street</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	_____
Name	<u>David Ruskin</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>601 West Fifth Ave., Suite 700</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	_____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Lori Chiara Case Number: 3AN-05-11712
 v. Chester Chiara Judge Name: Tan

Attorneys Involved:

Name	<u>Cris Rogers</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>2600 Denali St., Suite 711-B</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>	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.

Please do not submit: (a) coauthored writing samples, (b) samples with confidential information unless redacted to remove such information, (c) longer writing samples.

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 grievance procedures against attorneys, and AS 22.30.011(b) and .060(b)(3) concerning public grievance procedures against judges.
Have you ever been held in contempt of court? Yes No

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

In 2000, a witness in a highly contested divorce brought a grievance against me. The witness claimed that he was entitled to fees from me as an expert witness when I subpoenaed him to deposition. The grievance was dismissed by Bar Counsel without a hearing.

In 2006, a pro se opposing party in one of my Pro Bono cases filed a grievance alleging that I made misrepresentations against him in the lawsuit where I represented his former wife. Bar counsel dismissed the matter without a hearing.

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.

A substantial amount of the superior court case load involves domestic relations, domestic violence, CINA and other cases within my practice area. My experience in family law should assist me in confronting the issues a superior court judges sees most frequently. I would dedicate myself to learning about other legal areas. In fact, I would enjoy learning more about other areas of law.

As a busy sole practitioner, I have developed an efficient management style. I believe I have a reputation for quality work produced, most usually, in a timely fashion. I would endeavor to bring to the bench the focus I have strived to develop as a busy trial attorney.

I have a strong work ethic. I don't place much value in jurisprudential rhetoric when it is offered in lieu of genuine effort and careful, concise presentation. As a litigator, I serve my clients best through hard work and thorough preparation. I would try to bring this philosophy to the bench. I would continue to employ methodical work practices to my caseload as a jurist. I believe that is the best way to manage a large case load and a calendar which is not wholly within the judge's control.

Additional Comments (Continued)

My practice has evolved into a rewarding mix of representing adult litigants and advocating for children either as their Guardian ad Litem or as a custody investigator. I have observed high conflict custody litigation from the perspective of its most frequent victims: the children. These experiences would help me to prioritize the issues presented in family cases, as well as other cases, where the delays inherent in litigation can cause irreparable harm to the interested parties. As a judge, I would strive to eliminate delay when possible without denying access to the court. For my part, that would require hard work to keep a commitment of timeliness to the litigants in my court room.

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.

Public Interview

Private Interview

25. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (limited to 150 words) about your background, legal education, and legal experience. 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.

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 twelve photographs of yourself with your application.

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

Biographical Statement

Name Vanessa H. White

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

Anchorage Superior Court

Palmer Superior Court

Date: July 10, 2006

I am the product of an Army officer father and an opera-singing mother. That made me both well-organized and creative, if you believe my mother. I have a wonderful daughter who recently graduated from the University of Oregon. My husband, Michael White, is a partner with Patton Boggs, LLP.

Michael and I enjoy our work, and we are grateful for what we have been able to see and do as a result of our law practices. We also enjoy non-legal pursuits, such as travel to historic locales, organizing charity fundraisers, motorcycle road trips, and cooking for friends.

Practicing law, particularly helping the most vulnerable in our society as a Guardian ad Litem, is both challenging and rewarding. I seek appointment as a superior court judge so that I might use my skills to serve my community. Taking the bench would be the highest form of public service I could offer. I would approach this responsibility with a realistic assessment of how demanding the job would be.

JUDICIAL APPLICATION OF VANESSA WHITE

APPENDIX

Question 6.b: CLEs attended in the past five years (continued):

- Family Law: Greg Herman, 11/12/03
- Trial Evidence, Parts A & B, 4/11/03

Question 18.c: Legal proceedings in which I have been a party (continued):

- Vanessa White v. Raelyn Luckow, 3AN-02-12005 CI, suit for atty fees
- Vanessa White v. Roberta Ramsey, 3AN-02-06107 CI, suit for atty fees

Most of my collection work is referred to McNall & Associates. That law firm makes the decision whether to bring a lawsuit to collect unpaid fees, after brief consultation with me.