

# Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

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

Anchorage District Court

Date: May 15, 2012

## I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

### Personal

1. (a) State full name\* Leslie Nan Dickson  
Name as it should appear on bar survey: Leslie Dickson  
\* 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 name? If so, please identify.  
No
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application?\*\*\*  
Total 16 years 8 months  
Total \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application?\*\*\*  
Total 15 years 9 months  
Total \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Miami University; Oxford, OH; 8/85-5/89; B.A. Sociology  
Licensed Social Worker; State of Ohio Counselor and Social Worker Board; 1991  
(expired)

\*\*\* 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.

Northeastern University School of Law; Boston, MA; 8/92-5/95; J.D.; 5/95

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.

Moot Court Society  
Women's Law Caucus  
Domestic Violence Advocacy Program

- (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.

PDA/OPA conference: 2004-2011; AATL Litigator's conference: 2008; IJP's Working with Interpreters: 2008; Juvenile Defender Summit: 2006-2011; Alaska Child Maltreatment Conference: 2004-2010; Guardian ad Litem certification: 2006; Street Gang Training: 2009; AK Bar Convention: 2010-2011; Color of Justice: 2010; AKACDL CLE's; Discovery, Evidence and Motions; Electronic Evidence; Crime Scene Reconstruction: 2011; Law Firm Profitability and Productivity: 2012; GAL training for Delinquency cases (trainer): 2012.

## 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Hotel for the Homeless; Dayton, OH; 8/89-5/90. Social worker.

YWCA Battered Woman Project; Dayton, OH; 5/90-2/91. Social worker.

Artemis House, Inc.; Dayton, OH; 2/91-8/92; Legal advocate. Recruited and maintained a pro bono panel of 35 attorneys to serve criminal and civil legal needs of victims of domestic violence. Significant cooperative relationship with the court system.

## 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:** Self-employed. Law Office of Leslie Dickson

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

Current address of this person: 1101 West 7th Avenue

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and location of Employment: From 9/20/10 To Present City Anchorage State AK

Description:

Operate own law office handling a wide range of matters, including misdemeanors, felonies, delinquency, employment, adoptions and child in need of aid matters.

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

Employer: Office of Public Advocacy

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Chris Provost, Supervisor

Current address of this person: 900 West 5th Avenue, Suite 401

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From 4/03 To 9/10 City Anchorage State AK

Description: Handled delinquency, child in need of aid proceedings, custody appointments and guardianship proceedings.

Reason for Leaving: To open my own practice.

Employer: District Attorney; Fairbanks and Anchorage

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Adrienne Bachman

Current address of this person: 310 K Street, Suite 520

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/96 To 4/03 City Fbx/Anch State AK

Description: Criminal prosecution: Misdemeanor Unit Supervisor in Fairbanks; Special Assault prosecutor in Anchorage.

Reason for Leaving: Opportunity to incorporate civil experience into my practice.

**Previous Employers (continued)**

Employer: Alaska Court System; Superior Court law clerk  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Joanne Denson  
Current address of this person: 303 K Street  
City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501  
Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/95 To 6/96 City Anchorage State AK  
Description: Law clerk for superior court. Wrote drafts and provided bench memoranda for oral arguments, dispositive motions and administrative appeals.  
Reason for Leaving: Bar exam preparation/Assistant District Attorney position

Employer: ACLU Prisoner Assistance Project  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Sue Maldonado  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Austin State TX Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From 3/95 To 5/95 City Austin State TX  
Description: Responded to citizen and prisoner complaints and prepared cases for legal panel.  
Reason for Leaving: Temporary law school internship.

Employer: Trustees for Alaska  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Peter Van Tuyn  
Current address of this person: 310 K Street, Suite 200  
City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501  
Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/94 To 11/94 City Anchorage State AK  
Description: Legal research to assist litigation director in active cases.  
Reason for Leaving: Temporary law school internship.

Employer: E-LAW  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jennifer Gleason  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Eugene State OR Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From 3/94 To 5/94 City Eugene State OR  
Description: Assisted attorneys in 50 countries with pertinent U.S. law.  
Reason for Leaving: Temporary law school internship.

Employer: United States Attorney  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Michael Louckes  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Boston State MA Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From 8/93 To 11/93 City Boston State MA  
Description: Intern for Criminal Division's Economic Crimes Unit, focus in healthcare fraud.  
Reason for Leaving: Temporary law school internship.



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.

Alaska Bar; 1996  
 United States District Court; 1996

**Public Service**

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

Alaska Bar Association; 1996-Present  
 Tanana Valley Bar Association; 1996-2002  
 Alaska Bar Disciplinary Hearing Committee; 1998-Present  
 Law and Community Health; 2003-Present  
 Criminal Pattern Jury Instruction Committee; 2002-03

13. List legal publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

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)
Anchorage Superior Court	2012	Y	N
Anchorage District Court	2011	Y	N
Anchorage District Court	2010	Y	N
Palmer District Court	2009	Y	N

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Fairbanks District Court	2009	Y	N
Anchorage District Court	2002	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.

Interior Domestic Violence Task Force; Fairbanks, AK; 1997-2000  
Standing Together Against Rape (STAR) Board member; 2001-2005  
Multi-Disciplinary Task Force on Child Sexual Abuse; 2002-2003  
Anchorage Running Club; Exceed Running Club; 2000-Present  
Red Hackle Pipe Band; Fairbanks, AK; 1996-Present  
Mount Marathon Volunteer and Runner; 2003-Present  
Fairbanks Youth Court Advisor; 1997-2000  
Anchorage Youth Court Instructor; 2008  
Peak a Week Hiking Club Founder; 2001-Present  
Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; 2011-Present  
National Juvenile Defender Center member and Alaska representative; 2007-Present  
Division of Juvenile Justice Citizens' Advisory Board; 2012  
Reclaiming Futures Board; 2007-Present

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.

3AN-06-16827 MO; Expired Registration; \$100 paid  
3AN-06-14825 MO; Speeding; \$174 paid with Defensive Driving class

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.

State of Ohio Tax Lien CRN No: 2941480415. Amount: \$107.78 including interest and penalties, 1992. Satisfied (attached).

- (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).

Leslie Dickson v. Michael Hall; 3AN-07-5638 CI.  
Settlement reached.

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: Gregory S. Parvin  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: Wasilla, AK 99654 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Karol Fink  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: Seward, AK 99664 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- (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: Michael Kramer, Borgeson and Kramer  
Address: 100 Cushman Street, Suite 311  
City/State/Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Douglas Kossler, Solicitor General for Criminal Affairs  
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 308  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Trooper James Gallen, Investigator, Cold Case Unit  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. Please do not list cases pending in the trial 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. Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

### Case Number 1

**Case Name:** State of Alaska **Case Number:** 3AN-10-13928 CR  
**v.** Jeremiah Paskewitz **Judge Name:** The Honorable Judge Motyka

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Adam Alexander, Asst. DA</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>310 K Street, Suite 520</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:** In the Matter of N.B. **Case Number:** 3AN-07-371 CN  
**v.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** The Honorable Judge Tan

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Elizabeth Brennan, Asst. PD</u>	Name: <u>Chad Holt, Asst. PA</u>
Address: <u>733 West 4th Avenue, Ste 300</u>	Address: <u>900 West 5th Avenue, Ste 702</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: <u>Laura Hartz, Asst. AG</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>1031 West 4th Avenue, Ste 200</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** U.S. Coatings LLC **Case Number:** 3KN-09-408 CI  
**v.** Quinton Walker **Judge Name:** The Honorable Judge Wells

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Joseph Kashi</u>	Name: <u>Elizabeth Russo, Asst. PA</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>900 West 5th Avenue, Ste 525</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Soldotna, AK</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. Please do not list cases pending in the trial 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 of Alaska

Case Number: Court of Appeals A-10512

v. Keen Smith

Judge Name: The Honorable Patrick McKay

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Eric Ringsmuth, Asst. AG

Name: John Novak IV, Public Safety

Address: 310 K Street, Ste 308

Address: 310 K Street, Ste 403

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: Chris Provost, Asst. PA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 900 West 5th Avenue, Ste 401

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Case Number 2

Case Name: In the Matter of D.L.

Case Number: 3KN-11-10 DL

v. \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Name: The Honorable Judge Huguelet

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Kelly Lawson, Asst. DA

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 120 Trading Bay Drive, Ste 200

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: Kenai, AK 99611

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Case Number 3

Case Name: In the Matter of J.B.

Case Number: 3AN-07-254 DL

v. \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Name: The Honorable Eric Aarseth

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Joan Wilson

Name: John Bernitz, Asst. PD

Address: 500 West 5th Avenue, Ste 700

Address: 733 W. 4th Avenue, Ste 300

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

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.

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.

The reasons people come before judges are as varied as the individuals themselves. I have been privileged to assist litigants, defendants, victims and witnesses through the often complex and intimidating courtroom experience. My social work and my legal practice has exposed me to diverse populations and I can communicate effectively with a broad spectrum of people.

Working in the public sector has given me the ability to prioritize a high volume of cases, and work efficiently and fairly to achieve just results. Building cases as a state prosecutor was challenging. Working with clients has given me tremendous insight and I'm a better lawyer because of it. Now, with the addition of my experience as a small business person, I see yet another challenge that private practitioners face with the demands of billing and the time it takes to maintain a business on top of a busy law practice.

I am in court almost every day, and believe I have solid skills and a good temperament to be a judge.

**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.

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 twelve photographs of yourself with your application.

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

# Biographical Statement

Name Leslie Dickson

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

Anchorage District Court  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please leave this area blank*

Date: May 15, 2012

I was born in Ohio and raised in an Air Force family. I attended Miami University of Ohio. I practiced as a licensed social worker for St. Vincent de Paul in Dayton, Ohio assisting the local homeless population and victims of domestic violence. I was inspired by a group of pro bono attorneys and attended law school in Boston. After an Alaska Superior Court clerkship, I prosecuted local and rural crimes in Fairbanks for four years and learned to love the outdoors. I continued prosecuting sexual assaults in Anchorage (75+ trials). I then worked for OPA as a GAL in CINA cases, a defense attorney in delinquency and adult criminal cases, as well as handling guardianship and custody cases. I recently opened my own practice and that has proven to be a real challenge. I'm an outdoor enthusiast who loves to run, hike, fish and ski.