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JUN 12 2000

AK Judicial Council

Alaska Judicial Council
Application for Judicial Appointment

Anchorage Superior Court

Date: June 12, 2000

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered

I. PUBLIC INFORMATION (Qs. 1-24 & 35)

PERSONAL

- 1. (a) State full name\* Sharon Louise Gleason
Name as it should appear on bar survey: Sharon L. Gleason
\* 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

3. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application?
16 years 10 months
Total years 16 months 10

4. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application?
15 years 7 months
Total years 15 months 7

\*\* See AS 22.10.090; see also 1984 Inf. Op. Atty. Gen. (July 19; 366- 624-84).

**NONLEGAL EDUCATION**

5. 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.

Washington University in St. Louis, B.A. Magna Cum Laude 1979  
(Junior year - Rutgers University Year Abroad Program in Tours, France)  
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University  
I attended for one semester in the Fall of 1979.

**LEGAL EDUCATION**

6. List all law schools, dates attended and degrees conferred. If you did not receive a degree from any law school, please indicate.

University of California at Davis, School of Law, J.D. 1983

7. (a) Did you receive any honors in law school or belong to any honorary societies or groups?  
yes If so, please give details.

I graduated in the top 5% of my class and received the Order of the Coif. I was selected to participate in a national labor law moot court competition.

- (b) Have you taken any CLE (continuing legal education) courses during the past five years?  
Yes x No \_\_\_\_\_ Please describe:

See attached list.

Supplemental answer of Sharon L. Gleason - Response to question 7(b)

Continuing Legal Education courses during the past five years:

March 1996 — Direct and cross examination

April 1996 — Real property issues in divorce\*\*\*

May 1996 — Effective Family Law Practice in Alaska\*\*\*

February 1997 — Administrative Law

October 1997 — LLC Vehicles

April 1998 — American Academy of Adoption Attorneys conference

July 1998 — Civil Rule 26.1\*\*\*

October 1998 — Negotiation Skills

December 1998 — Evidence

May 1999 — Supreme Court Opinions

May 1999 — Alaska Domestic Relations Update

May 1999 — Legal Writing # 1

October 1999 — Civil Rule 90.3 Changes

February, 2000 — Domestic Violence (2 CLE luncheons)

February, 2000 — The New GAL and CI Rules\*\*\*

March, 2000 — Domestic Violence\*\*\*

May, 2000 — Interpreting and Translating in Alaska's Legal System

May, 2000 — Trial Evidence: Hearsay

\*\*\*denotes courses in which I was a lecturer or panelist

In addition to the above, I have taught legal workshops through both the Cooperative Extension Service and the Community Schools programs.

**MILITARY**

8. Have you served in the armed forces (reserves or otherwise)? 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. If so, state the details.

**NONLEGAL EMPLOYMENT**

9. Describe major nonlegal working experience, if any.

I worked for the State of California General Services Administration during law school. I was a part time waitress during college.

10. Describe major nonlegal business or professional experience, if any. If your association has been discontinued, please note whether there are unpaid debts or claims pending litigation.

I have played clarinet in the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra for approximately 15 1/2 years.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

11. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. Please provide dates, name of employer, name of supervisor, addresses, the reason you left the position, and a brief description of type of practice (i.e., insurance defense, criminal, appellate, general, litigation, etc.). **Also, provide the name and current address of a person, preferably your supervisor, who can verify your employment for each position listed below.**

--Law Clerk to Justice Edmond W. Burke, Alaska Supreme Court  
August 1983 - August 1984

Verification: Edmond W. Burke, Esq.  
Burke Bauermeister, PLLC  
921 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 250  
Anchorage, AK 99501

--Associate, then partner at the law firm now known as  
Rice, Volland & Taylor, P.C. -- formerly known as  
Rice, Volland & Gleason, P.C. -- general civil practice  
Associate attorney from 1984 - 1989

Partner (shareholder) from 1989 - April 1995

Verification: R. Scott Taylor  
211 H Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501

--Sole practitioner, general civil practice - April 1995 to present

Verification: Sue Ellen Tatter  
510 L Street, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

(Ms. Tatter is in an office-sharing partnership with me)

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

(a) Percent of your practice that was Civil 99  
Criminal 1  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
= 100%

Comment: I have also served as a juror in a six week criminal trial.

(b) Percent State 95  
Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
Other 5  
= 100%

Comment: 5% - administrative hearing officer

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court 1  
Court of Appeals \_\_\_\_\_  
Superior Court 99  
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 to 5  6 to 16 \_\_\_\_ 16 to 30 \_\_\_\_ 31 or more

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Comment: I conducted two jury trials over five years ago.

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 2;

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings: \_\_\_\_ None  
\_\_\_\_ 1 to 5  6 to 16 \_\_\_\_ 16 to 30 \_\_\_\_ 31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

I have been a hearing examiner for various state agencies in a number of cases, including a two week contested proceeding in 1998.

(i) Have you undertaken any pro bono work during this period?

Yes  No

Describe: AK Pro Bono Program (1996 award recipient); ANDVSA volunteer

13. 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 -- November 1984

California -- Approximately 1983 - 1985 (currently inactive)

US District Court for Alaska - Approximately 1985

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

14. List bar associations, sections and committees of which you are or have been a member or officer.  
See attached list.

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

"Effective Family Law Practice in Alaska"; 1996; with Limon, Lynda;

National Business Institute

"Review of the Alaska Statutes for Sex Discrimination"; 1985; Alaska

Woman's Commission.

16. Have you ever applied for a judgeship? Please list dates and judgeships applied for, as well as whether you were nominated by the Judicial Council and appointed:

<b>Judgeship</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Nominated By Council (Y/N)</b>	<b>Appointed By Governor (Y/N)</b>
Anchorage Superior Court	03/11/96	Y	N
Anchorage Superior Court	09/15/96	Y	N
Anchorage Superior Court	11/15/99	Y	N

Supplemental answer of Sharon L. Gleason - Response to Question 14

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

–Chair, Alaska Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Family Rules, from August 1994 to the present. This committee meets, on average, approximately 15 hours each year. The committee drafted a proposed rule regarding mandatory initial disclosure of information in divorce cases which was promulgated by the Alaska Supreme Court. More recently, the committee completed proposed rules regarding child custody investigators and Guardians ad Litem which have been adopted by the Supreme Court, effective April 2000.

–Member, Civil Rules Committee, from June 1995 to the present. This committee meets approximately four times each year for three hours each time. In 1999, I was the chair of a drafting subcommittee which drafted a new proposed rule for domestic relations masters.

–Co-chair, Alaska Bar Association Family Law Section. I was co-chair of this section from June 1994 through June 1997. Since then, I have served on the executive committee for the section. The Family Law Section meets about ten times per year in hour long monthly meetings which feature a speaker on a family law topic. I have regularly attended these luncheons throughout the past five years.

–Member, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

–Member, American Academy of Adoption Attorneys

–Member, American Bar Association, Family Law Section

–Member, Alaska Trial Lawyers Association

–Member, Time Standards Committee of the Alaska Supreme Court

17. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointive? No

If so, state office, manner selected, and when and where held.

18. List all other legal and any nonlegal organizations and clubs of which you are a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal. (Please indicate whether you participate in the organization's activities, or simply hold a membership.)

- Anchorage Symphony Orchestra - clarinet player
- Roger's Park Elementary School PTA - rank and file volunteer
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church
- Anchorage Museum - membership only
- Alaska Club - tennis membership
- KSKA/KAKM - membership only

I have contributed to, but do not believe that I am a member of, several  
local charities and other non-profit organizations.

19. 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 other than minor traffic offenses (those for which a fine of \$50.00 or less, and no other sanctions were imposed)? No
- (b) failed to answer any summons or other legal process served upon you personally at any time? 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? No
- (d) had any proceedings brought to have you declared a ward of any court or adjudged an incompetent? 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.

Approximately 4 1/2 years ago, I was fined and paid \$90 for expired registration on my car.

20. (a) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? 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? If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

No.

- (b) Have you ever been sued by a client? If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

I have never been sued personally; my former firm was sued once by a former client with allegations against one of my former partners.

- (c) Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceeding? If so, give the particulars. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, including divorce/dissolution proceedings; a material witness; a named co-conspirator or correspondent; and any grand jury investigation in which you figured as a subject, or in which you appeared as a witness. 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).

None

21. State the nature and disposition of any of the following actions which apply to you:

- (a) Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you? 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? 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? Please state the circumstances and outcome of any such unsatisfied or default judgment, or of any foreclosure.

None

- (b) Have you ever made an assignment for the benefit of creditors? Has any petition in bankruptcy ever been filed by you? If so, state the circumstances, case number, and the outcome.

None

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AK Judicial Council

**REFERENCES\***

22. (a) List the names, addresses, and phone numbers of two persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your general character and background.

(1) NAME: Joan Clover  
ADDRESS: 880 H Street, Suite 201  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3450 PHONE: (907) 279-9940

(2) NAME: Justice Warren W. Matthews  
ADDRESS: 303 K Street, 5th Floor  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Anchorage, Alaska 99501 PHONE: (907) 264-0618

(b) List the names, addresses, 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. (You should not list the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.)

(1) NAME: Senior Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz  
ADDRESS: Alaska Court System, P.O. Box 114100  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Juneau, Alaska 99811-4100 PHONE: (907) 463-4770

(2) NAME: Judge John Reese  
ADDRESS: 825 West 4th Avenue, Room 524  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2004 PHONE: (907) 264-0401

(3) NAME: Jeffrey M. Feldman  
ADDRESS: 500 L Street, Suite 400  
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Anchorage, Alaska 99501 PHONE: (907) 272-3538

\* **Please Note:** Letters of reference from these persons are confidential and will not be given to the applicant. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference.

**REFERENCES (continued)**

- (c) List the names, addresses and phone numbers of attorneys 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.*)

**1**

**Case Name:** In the Matter of B.B.  
v. \_\_\_\_\_

**Case Number:** 3AN-99-482 P/A  
**Judge Name:** Probate Mstr. John Duggan

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Jeri D. Byers  
Address: 5731 College Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

Name: Allison E. Mendel  
Address: 845 K Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: Robert E. Congdon  
Address: Box 110043  
Anchorage, Alaska 99511-0043

Name: Note: I was guardian ad litem  
Address: in this case.

**2**

**Case Name:** Shirley Harduar  
v. Anthony B.L. Harduar

**Case Number:** 3AN-98-9650 CI  
**Judge Name:** Peter Michalski

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Alexis Foote  
Address: 640 Oceanview Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99515-3758

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

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

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

**3**

**Case Name:** In re:Floyd L. Shilanski  
v. \_\_\_\_\_

**Case Number:** LD97-03 Div. Insurance  
**Judge Name:** Sharon L. Gleason

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Tonja Woelber  
Address: 711 H Street, Suite 330  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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

Name: Virginia A. Rusch  
Address: 1031 W. 4th Ave., Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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

**REFERENCES (continued)**

(d) List the names, addresses and phone numbers of attorneys 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.)

**1**

**Case Name:** David T. Walker  
v. Barbara T. Walker

**Case Number:** 1JU-99-1644 CI  
**Judge Name:** Larry C. Zervos

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Vance A. Sanders  
Address: PMB 457 617 Willoughby Avenue  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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

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

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

**2**

**Case Name:** Beverly Jean Courtnage  
v. Peter Andrew Courtnage

**Case Number:** 3AN-00-5236 CI  
**Judge Name:** Eric T. Sanders

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Jonathon A. Katcher  
Address: 421 W First Ave, Suite 220  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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

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

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

**3**

**Case Name:** Ralph Bolton  
v. Elizabeth Bolton

**Case Number:** 3AN-94-7809 CI  
**Judge Name:** Brian C. Shortell

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Vanessa White  
Address: 711 H Street, Suite 460  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3442

Name: Elizabeth Still - GAL  
Address: 1101 W. 7th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: Janet Platt  
Address: 711 M Street, Suite 101  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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

**WRITING SAMPLE**

23. Attach as Appendix A 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. If you do not have a good sample of this length, include an excerpt from a longer writing. **Please do not submit longer writing samples.** Make sure the sample contains sufficient facts to make it understandable. Please do not submit coauthored writing samples.
24. 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? Have formal grievance procedures been brought against you? 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? In each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

None .

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Non-Confidential)**

35. Please make any additional comments that you wish to bring to the Council's attention regarding your experience and suitability for this judgeship.

In my view, a judge should possess excellent listening skills, empathy for the human condition, and a strong legal mind. In my fifteen years of private practice, I have worked hard to develop each of these attributes and am confident that I can make a positive contribution to the Anchorage Superior Court judiciary.

My legal career has focused primarily on the representation of individuals. As a domestic relations specialist in cases involving increasingly complex financial estates, many of the legal issues I have addressed are similar to those presented in commercial litigation. Moreover, my years of experience as a small business owner running my own law practice and serving as managing partner of an office sharing partnership have given me an invaluable perspective on business operations.

Yet it has been the task of guiding individuals through the legal process during what is often for them one of the most difficult emotional stages of their lives that has consistently been the most rewarding and challenging aspect of my work. Nearly all court proceedings can be emotionally difficult for the parties involved. I believe my background and skills in this area would help me to serve the public well in all types of cases.

I acknowledge that there are areas of law in which I would face a considerable learning curve -- particularly in criminal law and procedure. I am fully committed to devoting all of the time and effort necessary to master these areas of law. To this end, I am currently co-counsel for a defendant in a felony proceeding. I would strive to ensure that every litigant that appeared before me in whatever type of action received the quality of justice to which I firmly believe we are each entitled.

Although I would embrace the challenge to conduct all types of proceedings, I would expect to retain a primary interest in family law. The importance of the legal process to the individuals involved in family law proceedings and the myriad challenges of that work have so consistently maintained my interest that I fully expect that interest to continue. I would also plan to continue as chair of the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Family Rules and continue to organize and attend Continuing Legal Education classes in that subject area. With nearly 50% of the entire caseload of the Anchorage Superior Court comprised of domestic relations cases, I believe my expertise and demonstrated commitment to this area of the law would be a valuable addition to the court.

On a number of occasions, I have served as a hearing examiner for state administrative agencies, including the Human Rights Commission and various state licensing and regulatory boards. More recently, I have served as a mediator in several cases. This work has accorded me the opportunity to test my abilities as a decision maker and neutral settlement facilitator in a wide range of contexts. While I continue to find the role of an advocate in my other cases to be both interesting and rewarding, my work as a hearing examiner and mediator has confirmed for me that I enjoy these roles and has given me the confidence to know that I could excel in the role of a superior court judge. If appointed to the Anchorage Superior Court, I would enthusiastically and respectfully apply my best efforts to render high quality judicial services to the State of Alaska.

**CERTIFICATION AND WAIVER**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this application is true and complete; and that I am a citizen of the United States and of the State, and am licensed to practice law in Alaska (Ak. Const. Art IV; § 4).

I hereby waive any privilege of confidentiality I may have with respect to information concerning my qualifications for judicial office that the Judicial Council may desire to obtain. I specifically authorize the Council to obtain information regarding me from any credit reporting agency, any law enforcement agency, and the Judicial Conduct Commission. I further authorize all of the aforesaid institutions, organizations, and individuals to make available to the Council all documents, records, and information concerning me that the Council may request.

Sharon L. Gleason

Signature of Applicant

Sharon L. Gleason

Typed Name

June 12, 2000

Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2000.

Sharon P. Smith

Notary Public, State of Alaska

My Commission expires: 1-22-01