

## Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

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

Palmer District Court

Date: 15 January 2020

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

#### Personal

1. (a) State full name\* Thomas Vahan Jamgochian

Name as it should appear on bar survey: Tom V. Jamgochian

\* 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.

2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application? \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Total 15 years 5 months

3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application? \*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ months  
Total 14 years 5 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.

California State University, B.A. Degree, History, 2000

\*\* 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.

University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2001-2004, J.D. Degree

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.

Class Rank: Top 10%, Cum Laude  
Order of the Coif  
Thurston Society  
Best Brief Award, Moot Court, 2002

- (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.

See attached.

## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Jamgochian CLE's Attended in the Past Five Years

### 2019

*2019 Review of Alaska Appellate Decisions*, Tamara DeLucia  
*2019 Legislative Updates*, Kaci Schroeder  
*Crime Lab Updates and Genetic Genealogy*, David Kanaris, Laboratory Chief  
*Victims' Rights Act (VRA): A Prosecutor's Guide*, Joseph Dallaire  
*Screening Sexual Assault Cases*, Jenna Gruenstein  
*Victim Rights in Alaska*, Paul Movias  
*How To Use 5G Technology and Cellular Analysis During An Investigation*, Eric Perry, Special Agent  
*2019 Guide to Ethics*, Angie Kemp  
*Closing Arguments Ethics*, Brittany Dunlop  
*Alaska Psychiatric Institute: Status*, Gavin Carmichael  
*Clinical & Legal Practice Standards For Conducting Competency To Stand Trial Evaluations & Restoration Services*, Dr. David Sperbeck  
*Civil Commitment and its Role in Public Health and Public Safety*, Stacie Kraly  
*Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault*, Katy Sode  
*Alaska Native Resource Center*, Tami Jerue

### 2018

*2018 Review of Alaska Appellate Decisions*, Tamara DeLucia  
*2018 Legislative Updates*, Kaci Schroeder  
*Untested Sexual Assault Kits in Alaska: How many are there, how big of a problem is it, and who's dealing with it?*, Jenna Gruenstein  
*Getting the Most from Your Expert in Strangulation Cases*, Angie Ellis  
*"I lied; I was mad at him; I hit him first; I provoked him; I was drunk; I don't remember anything; the cops lied . . ."* Navigating the Ethical Implications of a Recanting Victim. ~ Paul Miovas  
*Forensic Expert Testimony, Negotiating Confrontation Clause Challenges*, Tamara DeLucia,  
*DNA 101*, Jennifer Foster  
*Why Do Y's: An Intro to Y-STR Testing*, Cheryl Duda  
*Physical Comparative Analysis and Testimony in a Post PCAST Environment*, Debra Gillis  
*Preparing to Confront the Queen on the Opponent's Chessboard: Ethics and Practice Issues Surrounding a Pre-trial Interview of an Opposing Expert* Jay Fayette

### 2017

*Implicit Bias Training-NAGTRI*, Jeanette Manning  
*Stopping Victim Bashing Overcoming the Consent Defense and other Defenses in DV and Sexual Assault Cases*, Courtney Curtis  
*Introduction to Analytical Advocacy And Case Analysis*, Paul O'Connor  
*Presenting the Dynamic Opening and Demo*, Mark Shlifka  
*Approach Point Cross and Examination Working with Scenarios*, Eric Leafblad  
*The Visual Presentation of Evidence Based Prosecution and Admissibility Issues*, Pat Muscat  
*Witness Issues: Recanting Witnesses, Failure to Appear, and When the Victim Testifies for the*

*Defendant ...AKA Do I Need an Expert?* Jacqie Spradling  
*Injury and Death Causation in Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults*, Dr. Cristin Rolf  
*DNA: The Gold Standard Defense Challenges*, Danielle Hagaman-Clark  
*Ethics and Professional Responsibility*, Jacqie Spradling

## **2016**

*A Prosecutor's Role in Criminal Justice Reform*, John Skidmore  
*Effects of SB 91 on Crime Victims' Legal Rights in Alaska*, Kathy Hanson  
*Corrections and the Criminal Justice System Post-SB 91*, Carrie Beiden  
*Therapeutic Courts in the Post-SB 91 Era*, Clint Campion  
*2016 Appellate Case Review*, Ken Rosenstein  
*Integrating a Trauma-Informed Response & Interviewing Victims*, Patti Powers  
*Pills Mills, Privacy, and the PDMP: MFCU's Role in Opioid RX Cases*, Jonas Walker  
*Identifying the Predominant Aggressor & Evaluating Lethality*, John Wilkinson  
*Ethical Considerations for Prosecutors in Intimate Partner Violence Cases*, Patti Powers  
*Going Forward Without the Victim: Evidence-Based Prosecutions of Domestic Violence*, John Wilkinson  
*Countering Witness Intimidation: Forfeiture by Wrongdoing*, Teri Garvey  
*Making it Stick: Protecting the Record for Appeal*, Tamara de Lucia  
*Safeguarding Victim Privacy: A Plan of Action for Prosecutors*, Jane Anderson

## **2015**

*An Appeal Just Landed On My Desk: Now What?*, Tamara DeLucia,  
*2015 Review of Alaska Appellate Decisions*, Ken Rosenstein  
*Photographic Lineups*, Rick Svobodny  
*Legislative Updates / Criminal Justice Reinvestment*, Kaci Schroeder  
*"I Plead the Fifth": Evidence and the Immunized Witness*, Jean Seaton  
*Digital Evidence: 21st Century Sources of Evidence*, Rob Henderson  
*How to Win DV and Sex Crime Trials with ER 404(b)*, Jonas Walker  
*Recanting DV Victims*, Bailey Woolfstead  
*Ethical Preparation of Witnesses for In-Court Testimony*, John Novak  
*Dealing with Unethical Conduct by the Defense*, Scot Leaders  
*The Role Ethics Plays in the Use of Experts in Criminal Cases*, Sharon Marshall

## 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.

Dog Mushing Recreational Guide, Nome, Alaska 2012 to Present

## 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:** State of Alaska, Department of Law, Nome District Attorney Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: John Earthman, Nome District Attorney

Current address of this person: PO Box 160

City Nome State AK Zip 99762

Dates and location of Employment: From Jan 2011 To Present City Nome State AK

Description:

Prosecute misdemeanor and felony cases.

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

Employer: State of Alaska, Department of Law, Fairbanks District Attorney Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Joe Dallaire, Fairbanks District Attorney

Current address of this person: 510 2nd Ave #200

City Fairbanks State AK Zip 99701

Dates and Location of Employment: From September 2008 To January 2011 City Fairbanks State AK

Description: Prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases.

Reason for Leaving: Transferred to Nome DAO

Employer: State of Alaska, Department of Law, Bethel District Attorney Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Tom Hoffer, Bethel District Attorney

Current address of this person: P.O. Box 170

City Bethel State AK Zip 99559

Dates and Location of Employment: From September 2005 To September 2008 City Bethel State AK

Description: Prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases.

Reason for Leaving: Transfer to Fairbanks DAO

**Previous Employers (continued)**

Employer: Alaska Court System  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Wooliver, Douglas Deputy Administrative Director  
Current address of this person: 820 W 4th Ave  
City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501  
Dates and Location of Employment: From September 2004 To September 2005 City Anchorage State AK  
Description: 

Law Clerk to State Superior Court Judge Gleason. Researched and wrote legal memorandum.
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Reason for Leaving: Clerkship ended

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates and Location of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

10. During your legal career, please indicate (approximately) the following:

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

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

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

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

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court \_\_\_\_\_  
Court of Appeals 1%  
Superior Court 50%  
District Court 49%  
= 100%

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

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

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

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted (select one):  
 None     1- 5     6-15     16-30     31 or more

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

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 98    Non-Jury 2

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

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 15

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

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings (select one):

None     1-5     6-15     16-30     31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

(i) Please briefly summarize any *pro bono* work that you have done and indicate whether the work was done through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.).

- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault - one pro bono divorce

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, admitted 2005  
 - California Bar, admitted 2004

**Public Service**

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

- Alaska Legal Services Alternative Board Member

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).

Should California Update its Conservation Easement Act? The Back Forty, Vol. 9 - No. 4, Summer 2004

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)

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.

I am a member of the Iditarod Official Finisher's Club, finishing the 1,049 sled dog race with my own sled dog team in 2016.

I was also a board member of the Nome Kennel Club from 2014 to 2018.

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.

When I was 17 years old, I was living in Seattle and was cited for shoplifting a light bulb, valued under \$5, if memory serves. From my recollection, it was a more civil than criminal process: I never appeared in court, other than calling a phone number on the citation, and I eventually received the equivalent of a "suspended entry of judgment" after engaging in community work service. This was over 25 years ago, was an isolated event and was a regrettable mistake.

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.

- (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).

I currently have a divorce pending in the Nome court: Jamgochian v. Jamgochian, 2NO-19-233 CI.

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: Margret Thomas  
Address: PO Box 160  
City/State/Zip: Nome, AK 99762 Phone: (907) 443-4860

Name: Jonas Walker  
Address: 2112 Esquire Street  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99517 Phone: (907) 223-3885

- (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: John Earthman  
Address: PO Box 160  
City/State/Zip: Nome, AK 99762 Phone: (907) 443-2296

Name: Bride Seifert (Note- relocating to Homer shortly, updated contact info available upon request)  
Address: PO Box 349  
City/State/Zip: Kotzebue, AK 99752 Phone: (907) 957-7981

Name: Rachel Ahrens (Note- relocating to Valdez shortly, updated contact info available upon request)  
Address: PO Box 349  
City/State/Zip: Kotzebue, AK 99752 Phone: (907) 412-2839

## References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(c) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable**, 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 \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** 2UT-17-46 CR \_\_\_\_\_  
**v.** Austin Matthias \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** Romano Dibenedetto \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Matthew A. Tallerico _____	Name: _____
Address: 1008 16th Ave, Ste 200 _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 2

**Case Name:** State \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** 2NO-17-343 CR \_\_\_\_\_  
**v.** Joseph Snowball \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** Romano Dibenedetto \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: James Ferguson _____	Name: _____
Address: P.O. Box 203 _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Nome, AK 99762 _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** State \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** 2NO-16-535 CR \_\_\_\_\_  
**v.** Alexie Morris \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** Romano Dibenedetto \_\_\_\_\_

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Erin Lillie _____	Name: _____
Address: PO Box 61 _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Nome, AK 99762 _____	City, State, Zip: _____
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**, 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  
 v. Noah Shoogagruk

**Case Number:** 2NO-18-221 CR  
**Judge Name:** Romano Dibenedetto

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Nicole Frank	Name: _____
Address: 100 Cushman St Ste 502	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 2

**Case Name:** State  
 v. Samantha Iyapana

**Case Number:** A-13392  
**Judge Name:** Court of Appeals

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Zach Davies	Name: _____
Address: P.O. Box 203	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Nome, AK 99762	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** State of Alaska  
 v. Julia Haworth

**Case Number:** 2UT-17-81 CR  
**Judge Name:** Romano Dibenedetto

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Robert Campbell	Name: _____
Address: PO Box 1303	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Utqiagvik AK, 99723	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. (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, (d) samples from open cases including cases on appeal.

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.

Two defendants filed bar grievances against me. After the Bar Association investigated these allegations, they were dismissed without opening a formal investigation.

### 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 Palmer District Court covers a diverse range of communities: cities such as Wasilla and Palmer, and remote settlements such as Skwentna and Chickaloon. My 15 years of professional legal experience in Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks and Nome make me well suited to preside over such a diverse range of communities.

Although I have spent most of my professional life in rural Alaska, I have also spent time in Palmer running dog races: the Northern Lights 300, Knik 200 and Iditarod. The region has always stuck me as a welcoming and warm community, and I would be honored to serve as a District Court 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 (select one).

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 Tom V. Jamgochian

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

Palmer District Court

*Please leave this area blank*

Date: January 15, 2020

For the past 14 years I have been an Assistant District Attorney in Bethel, Fairbanks and Nome.

Before becoming an ADA, I graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2004, graduating in the top 10% of my class. I then clerked for then-Superior Court Judge Gleason.

My 14 years of legal practice across the state have given me immense respect for the role and integrity of the judiciary. For example, twice I have had to report judicial misconduct. Both times, both judges were found to have violated the judicial canons. Alleging judicial misconduct in a small community is something no attorney wants to do. However, these experiences gave me an appreciation for the necessary and vital role of the judicial canons.

When I am not at work, I train my yard of 18 sled dogs, who I would relocate with if appointed to the bench.