



# alaska judicial council

1029 W. Third Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1969  
<http://www.ajc.state.ak.us>

(907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
E-mail: [postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us)

## Press Release

December 2, 2011

### Anchorage Superior Court Applicants

Twenty-two attorneys are applying for judgeships on the Anchorage Superior Court. Two positions were recently created by the Alaska Legislature. Another opened due to the appointment of Judge Sharon L. Gleason to the United States District Court. The Alaska Judicial Council evaluates applicants and nominates the most qualified applicants to the governor who makes the appointment.

In nominating applicants to send to the governor for the final appointment, the Judicial Council considers many sources of information. It reviews an applicant's experience, and solicits character references and professional references from all present or prior employers, and attorneys and judges who have recent experience with the applicant. It investigates criminal or disciplinary charges against the applicant, the applicant's credit history, and court cases in which the applicant has been involved. The Council considers an applicant's involvement in community and professional activities, and reviews a writing sample by the applicant. Finally, members solicit public comments about applicants on the Council website, in newspaper advertising, and at a public hearing in the location of the vacancy, and then interview each applicant.

The Council surveys Alaskan attorneys about the professional competence, integrity, fairness, judicial temperament, suitability of the applicant's experience for this vacancy, and overall rating for this position for each applicant. Applicants are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest rating and a rating of 3 being "acceptable." Demographic information from survey respondents allows Council members to identify how different groups of attorneys rate judicial applicants. Bar survey ratings are summarized below. More detailed copies of the survey are posted on the Council's website at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us).

In addition to ratings, the Council solicits comments from attorneys in its bar survey. Attorneys have the option of signing their comments. Council members do not consider unsigned comments unless they are corroborated, substantiated, or acknowledged by an applicant.

The Judicial Council does not use bar survey ratings to rank judicial applicants. The bar survey is one of many tools used by Council members when considering which applicants are the most qualified. Sometimes applicants with the highest bar survey ratings are not nominated by the Council.

<b>Anchorage Superior Court</b>						
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Professional Competence</b>	<b>Integrity</b>	<b>Fairness</b>	<b>Judicial Temperament</b>	<b>Suitability of Experience</b>	<b>Overall Rating for this Position</b>
Sidney Kay Billingslea	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.2
Elizabeth Brennan	4.0	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7
Kevin G. Clarkson	3.2	3.1	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.7
Kimberlee Colbo	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.5	3.6	3.6
Suzanne Cole	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.0
Michael D. Corey	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8
Dani Crosby	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.0
Jody Davis	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.5
Leslie Dickson	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.0
Ken Diemer	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.5	3.6
Catherine M. Easter	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.4
Jennifer Stuart Henderson	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.6
Barat M. LaPorte	4.1	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.9
Dwayne W. McConnell	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Kevin F. McCoy	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.4
Paul E. Olson	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
Robert P. Owens	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.9
Daniel Quinn	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3
Kevin M. Saxby	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.8	3.9
Gregory G. Silvey	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9
Krista S. Stearns	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.8
Jonathan Woodman	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.0

The Judicial Council will interview applicants and conduct a public hearing in Anchorage in January. Following the interviews, the Council will nominate the most qualified applicants to the governor, who then will have 45 days to make the appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ANY OF THE APPLICANTS IS INVITED. PLEASE SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 1029 WEST THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 201, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1969, OR TO THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE AT WWW.AJC.STATE.AK.US.

\* \* \* \* \*

CONTACT: Larry Cohn  
Executive Director  
Alaska Judicial Council  
1029 West Third Avenue, Suite 201  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1969  
Telephone: 279-2526 x 1  
Fax: 276-5046