



# 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

January 26, 2012

### Anchorage Superior Court Vacancies Third Judicial District

The Alaska Judicial Council met on January 22-25, 2012, to interview applicants for three positions on the Anchorage Superior Court.

Following its meeting in Anchorage the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Sidney Kay Billingslea, Elizabeth Brennan, Michael D. Corey, Dani Crosby, Leslie Dickson, Catherine M. Easter, Dwayne W. McConnell, Kevin F. McCoy, Paul E. Olson, Robert P. Owens, Daniel Quinn, Kevin M. Saxby and Jonathan Woodman** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the Anchorage Superior Court judicial vacancies. Two positions were recently created by the Alaska Legislature, and another was due to the appointment of Judge Sharon L. Gleason to the United States District Court. The Governor now has 45 days in which to make the appointments from among these nominees.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate the most qualified applicants applying for a judicial vacancy. (The framers of our Constitution referred to this standard as the "best available timber.") Failure of the Council to nominate an applicant does not mean the applicant is unqualified.

The Council is a citizens' commission created by the Alaska Constitution composed of three attorneys, three non-attorneys and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. The Council completes an extensive investigation and evaluation of judicial applicants. The Council reviews each

applicant's education, experience, bar discipline and credit records, participation in community activities, and other records. It asks every member of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicant, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicant.

**Nominees for the Anchorage Superior Court are:**

**Sidney Kay Billingslea**: Ms. Billingslea has been an Alaska resident for 52 years, and has practiced law for 27½ years. She graduated from Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law in 1984, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Elizabeth Brennan**: Ms. Brennan has been an Alaska resident for 22½ years, and has practiced law for 21 years. She graduated from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1989, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

**Michael D. Corey**: Mr. Corey has been an Alaska resident for 31½ years, and has practiced law for 26 years. He graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1985, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Dani Crosby**: Ms. Crosby has been an Alaska resident for 25½ years, and has practiced law for 15 ½ years. She graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1996, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Leslie Dickson**: Ms. Dickson has been an Alaska resident for 16½ years, and has practiced law for 15½ years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1995, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Catherine M. Easter**: Judge Easter has been an Alaska resident for 26½ years, and has practiced law for 25 years. She graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 1985, and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

**Dwayne W. McConnell**: Mr. McConnell has been an Alaska resident for 28½ years, and has practiced law for 31 years. He graduated from the University of Missouri at Kansas City in 1975, and is currently an assistant attorney general in the criminal division, Department of Law in Juneau.

**Kevin F. McCoy**: Mr. McCoy has been an Alaska resident for 35 years, and has practiced law for 35 years. He graduated from Western State University College of Law in 1975, and is currently an assistant federal public defender in Alaska.

**Paul E. Olson**: Judge Olson has been an Alaska resident for 35 years, and has practiced law for 34 years. He graduated from South Texas College of Law in 1975, and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

**Robert P. Owens:** Mr. Owens has been an Alaska resident for 28½ years, and has practiced law for 27½ years. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1981, and is currently an assistant municipal attorney in Anchorage.

**Daniel Quinn:** Mr. Quinn has been an Alaska resident for 29½ years, and has practiced law for 29½ years. He graduated from the University of Washington School of Law in 1982, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Kevin M. Saxby:** Mr. Saxby has been an Alaska resident for 25½ years, and has practiced law for 26½ years. He graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1986, and is currently a senior assistant attorney general in Anchorage.

**Jonathan Woodman:** Mr. Woodman has been an Alaska resident for 12 years, and has practiced law for 18 years. He graduated from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1993, and is currently an assistant attorney general in Anchorage.