



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

Announcing Applicants Alaska Public Defender

May 13, 2019

Ten attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for the position of Alaska Public Defender. Applicants for the position will be evaluated by the Council's seven members (the chief justice, three non-attorney members and three attorney members). Comprehensive background investigations, a survey of Alaska Bar members, and personal interviews with the applicants are all part of the evaluations, according to the Council's executive director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and a public hearing will be held in August 2019. The Council will select two or more nominees to send to the governor.

Applicants for the Alaska Public Defender position are:

Linda R. Beecher: Ms. Beecher has been an Alaska resident for 35 years, and has practiced law for 36 years. She graduated from UCLA School of Law in 1982, and is currently the Deputy Public Defender for the Civil Division of the Public Defender Agency in Anchorage.

Laurel Bennett: Ms. Bennett has been an Alaska resident for 22 years, and has practiced law for 22 years. She graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1996, and is currently an assistant public defender in Palmer.

Kevin Boots: Mr. Boots has been an Alaska resident for 34 years, and has practiced law for 8½ years. He graduated from the University of Oregon, School of Law in 2009, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Samantha Cherot: Ms. Cherot has been an Alaska resident for 32 years, and has practiced law for 11½ years. She graduated from California Western School of Law in 2007, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Beth Goldstein: Ms. Goldstein has been an Alaska resident for 12½ years, and has practiced law for 25½ years. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire School of Law in 1993, and is currently the Acting Public Defender for Alaska in Anchorage.

Dan Lowery: Mr. Lowery has been an Alaska resident for 51 years, and has practiced law for 25 years. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1993, and is currently an assistant public defender and supervisor in Anchorage.

Renee McFarland: Ms. McFarland has been an Alaska resident for 18 years, and has practiced law for 17 years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 2001, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Julia D. Moudy: Ms. Moudy has been an Alaska resident for 43 years, and has practiced law for 24½ years. She graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1994, and is currently an assistant public defender and training director in Anchorage.

Ben Muse: Mr. Muse has been an Alaska resident for 37 years, and has practiced law for 8½ years. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2010, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Regan Williams: Mr. Williams has been an Alaska resident for 13 years, and has practiced law for 17 years. He graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 2002, and is currently an assistant public defender and supervisor in Anchorage.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THESE APPLICANTS IS ENCOURAGED DURING THE EVALUATION PHASE OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TO COMMENT, OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT SUSANNE DiPIETRO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 510 L STREET, SUITE 450, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1295, (907) 279-2526.

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