



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

August 19, 2019

Alaska Public Defender Position

The Alaska Judicial Council met on August 16-17, 2019 to interview applicants for the Alaska Public Defender position. Following its meeting in Anchorage, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Samantha Cherot, Dan Lowery, and Renee McFarland** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the position.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate the most qualified applicants applying for the position of public defender.

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 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 Alaska Public Defender are:

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.

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 17½ years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 2001, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.