



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Anchorage Superior Court and Fairbanks Superior Court Judicial Vacancies

The Alaska Judicial Council met on May 15-16, in Anchorage, and on May 17, 2019, in Fairbanks to interview applicants for one position on the Anchorage Superior Court and for two positions on the Fairbanks Superior Court. Following its meeting in Anchorage, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Donna J. McCready and Peter Ramgren** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the Anchorage Superior Court judicial vacancy. Following its meeting in Fairbanks, the Council announced that **Brent Bennett, Earl Adrian Peterson, and John Foster Wallace** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the Fairbanks Superior Court vacancies. 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.")

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:

Donna J. McCready: Magistrate Judge McCready has been an Alaska resident for 27½ years, and has practiced law for 27½ years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1990, and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

Peter Ramgren: Magistrate Judge Ramgren has been an Alaska resident for 17 years, and has practiced law for 21½ years. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1997, and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

Nominees for the Fairbanks Superior Court are:

Brent Bennett: Mr. Bennett has been an Alaska resident for 13 years, and has practiced law for 13 years. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2006, and is currently the supervising attorney of the Office of Public Advocacy, Fairbanks Defense Section.

Earl Adrian Peterson: Magistrate Judge Peterson has been an Alaska resident for 8½ years, and has practiced law for 23½ years. He graduated from Chicago Kent College of Law in 1995, and is currently a magistrate judge in Fairbanks.

John Foster Wallace: Mr. Wallace has been an Alaska resident for 37½ years, and has practiced law for 24 years. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1991, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.