



# alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

## Press Release

Contact: Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director  
Alaska Judicial Council  
510 L Street, Suite 450  
Anchorage AK 99501  
(907) 279-2526  
[sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)  
[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

For immediate release  
October 30, 2020

## Announcing Applicants

### *Fairbanks Superior Court and Fairbanks District Court*

Nine attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Fairbanks Superior Court, and ten attorneys have applied for a position on the Fairbanks District Court. Applicants for the judgeships 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 February 2021. The Council will select two or more nominees for each vacancy to send to the governor. The governor will have 45 days to make appointments from the Council's nominees.

### Summary of Applicants for Judgeships:

<b>Fairbanks Superior Court</b>	<b>Fairbanks District Court</b>
JB Brainerd	Maria Pia L. Bahr
Heather M. Brown	Andrew Patrick Baldock
Trisha Haines	JB Brainerd
Steven Hansen	Trisha Haines
Jennifer Page Hite	Steven Hansen
Mike Kenna	Jennifer Page Hite
Scott Oravec	Mike Kenna
Kirk Schwalm	Scott Oravec
John Foster Wallace	Kirk Schwalm
	John Foster Wallace

**The applicants for the Fairbanks Superior and/or the Fairbanks District Court are:**

**Maria Pia L. Bahr:** Ms. Bahr has been an Alaska resident for 5 years, and has practiced law for 29½ years. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1990, and is currently the Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Opinions, Appeals & Ethics section.

**Andrew Patrick Baldock:** Mr. Baldock has been an Alaska resident for 13 years, and has practiced law for 18 years. He graduated from the George Washington University School of Law in 2002, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Fairbanks.

**JB Brainerd:** Magistrate Judge Brainerd has been an Alaska resident for 28½ years, and has practiced law for 19½ years. He graduated from the Golden Gate University School of Law in 1999, and is currently a magistrate judge in Fairbanks.

**Heather M. Brown:** Ms. Brown has been an Alaska resident for 30 years, and has practiced law for 6½ years. She graduated from Faulkner University Thomas Goode Jones School of Law in 2013, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

**Trisha Haines:** Ms. Haines has been an Alaska resident for 9½ years, and has practiced law for 8½ years. She graduated from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2010, and is currently a staff attorney for the court of appeals in Anchorage, and resides in Fairbanks.

**Steven Hansen:** Mr. Hansen has been an Alaska resident for 11 years, and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from the George Washington University, School of Law, in 2009, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

**Jennifer Page Hite:** Ms. Hite has been an Alaska resident for 19 years, and has practiced law for 24 years. She graduated from the University of Akron School of Law in 1995, and is currently an assistant public advocate in Fairbanks.

**Mike Kenna:** Mr. Kenna has been an Alaska resident for 5½ years, and has practiced law for 16 years. He graduated from St. Thomas University School of Law in 2004, and is currently an assistant attorney general in Fairbanks.

**Scott Oravec:** Magistrate Judge Oravec has been an Alaska resident for 21½ years, and has practiced law for 18 years. He graduated from St. Louis University School of Law in 1996, and is currently a U.S. magistrate judge in Fairbanks.

**Kirk Schwalm**: Mr. Schwalm has been an Alaska resident for 44 years, and has practiced law for 10 years. He graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2010, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

**John Foster Wallace**: Mr. Wallace has been an Alaska resident for 39 years, and has practiced law for 25 years. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 1991, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*