



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Judicial Nominees *Fairbanks Superior Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Fairbanks on May 13, 2022, to interview applicants for a position on the Fairbanks Superior Court. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Jennifer Page Hite, William T. Montgomery, and Kirk Schwalm** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the judicial vacancy. The governor now has 45 days in which to make the appointment 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 members of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicants, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicants.

### Nominees for the Fairbanks Superior Court are:

**Jennifer Page Hite:** Ms. Hite has been an Alaska resident for 20½ years and has practiced law for 25 years. She graduated from the University of Akron, School of Law in 1995 and is currently an assistant public advocate in Fairbanks.

**William T. Montgomery**: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 11 years and has practiced law for 10 years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

**Kirk Schwalm**: Mr. Schwalm has been an Alaska resident for 46 years and has practiced law for 11½ years. He graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2010 and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

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