



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Judicial Vacancies Announcement

Kotzebue Superior Court (Re-Announcement) & Juneau District Court

The Alaska Judicial Council is now receiving applications for impending vacancies on the Kotzebue Superior Court and Juneau District Court. These vacancies are due to the forthcoming retirements of Judge Paul A. Roetman (Kotzebue) and Kirsten L. Swanson (Juneau). For more information regarding these positions and qualifications of district and superior court judges, please see the Council's website at www.ajc.state.ak.us. Interested persons may obtain an application form by calling the Judicial Council office or online via the Council's website. **The Judicial Council must have completed applications for these positions in its office by 3:00 p.m. on July 6, 2026.**

Applications are reviewed by the Alaska Judicial Council, a seven member citizens' commission with three attorneys, three non-attorneys, and the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, who serves as Chair, *ex officio*. Each applicant completes a detailed questionnaire covering all aspects of the applicant's personal and professional history. Applicants also submit a legal writing sample and references.

Following the application closing date, the Council conducts a comprehensive investigation of the applicants. The Council asks the public for comments; reviews criminal and credit records; examines any litigation involving

the applicants; looks at bar or judicial disciplinary records; sends out requests for more detailed information to attorneys and judges in recent cases handled by the applicants; checks references supplied by the applicants; contacts all former employers; surveys Alaska Bar Association members about legal skills, integrity and other qualities; and does any other needed investigation.

Council members will meet in November 2026 to conduct a public hearing and to interview the applicants for these vacancies.

At the end of the interviews, the Council deliberates in executive session. The Council then takes a public vote to nominate at least two of the most qualified applicants for each vacancy. The Council votes on which applicants are the most qualified based upon consideration of the applicant's professional competence, diligence and administrative skills, integrity, fairness, temperament, judgment, legal and life experience, demonstrated commitment to public and community service, and demonstrated commitment to equal justice and the legal needs of the diverse communities of Alaska. The governor then has 45 days in which to appoint judges from the Council's list of nominees.

Persons interested in applying for a position may obtain more information from the Judicial Council at 510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295, or by calling (907) 279-2526.

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