



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants

Kenai Superior Court

Eleven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Kenai Superior Court. The vacancy will occur due to the forthcoming retirement of Kenai Superior Court Judge **Jennifer K. Wells**. Applicants for the judgeship 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 January 2023. The Council will nominate two or more applicants to send to the governor, after which the governor will have 45 days to make an appointment from the Council's list of nominees.

The applicants for the Kenai Superior Court are:

Lacey Jane Brewster: Ms. Brewster has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 6 years. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2016 and is currently an assistant public defender in Kenai.

Amanda L. Browning: Judge Browning has been an Alaska resident for 11 years and has practiced law for 17½ years. She graduated from Roger Williams University Ralph R. Pappito School of Law in 2005 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

Katherine Ann Elsner: Ms. Elsner has been an Alaska resident for 9 years and has practiced law for 14 years. She graduated from Northwestern University School of Law in 2008 and is currently in private practice in Kenai.

Kelly J. Lawson: Ms. Lawson has been an Alaska resident for 45½ years and has practiced law for 19 years. She graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2002 and is currently a Victim Rights' Attorney in Anchorage.

Elizabeth Leduc: Ms. Leduc has been an Alaska resident for 15½ years and has practiced law for 15 years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2007 and is currently an assistant public advocate and supervisor of the Kenai Office of Public Advocacy.

William T. Montgomery: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has practiced law for 10½ years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

Gustaf W. Olson: Mr. Olson has been an Alaska resident for 44 years and has practiced law for 18½ years. He graduated from Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 2003 and is currently the District Attorney in Kodiak.

Curtis Patteson: Mr. Patteson has been an Alaska resident for 30½ years and has practiced law for 17 years. He graduated from the Regent University School of Law in 2002 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Alicia Porter: Ms. Porter has been an Alaska resident for 50 years and has practiced law for 23 years. She graduated from the Seattle University School of Law in 1999 and is currently in private practice in Sitka.

William W. Taylor: Mr. Taylor has been an Alaska resident for 15½ years and has practiced law for 26 years. He graduated from Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 1995 and is currently an assistant public defender in Kenai.

Nicholas Torres: Mr. Torres has been an Alaska resident for 10 years and has practiced law for 8½ years. He graduated from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 2011 and is currently an assistant attorney general in Kenai.

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.

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