



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

August 2, 2011

Fairbanks District Court, Fourth Judicial District

Seven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Fairbanks District Court. Applicants for the judgeship will be evaluated by the Council's seven members (the chief justice, three non-attorney and three attorney members). Comprehensive background investigations, a survey of Alaska Bar members, and personal interviews with the applicants are all part of the evaluation process, according to the Council's executive director, Larry Cohn. Interviews with the applicants and a public hearing will be held in Fairbanks. The Council will select two or more nominees to send to the governor and the governor will have 45 days to make an appointment from the Council's list.

Applicants are:

Matthew Christian: Magistrate Christian has been an Alaska resident for 9 years, and has practiced law for 9 years. He graduated from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2001, and is currently a magistrate/master in Kenai.

Gene L. Gustafson: Mr. Gustafson has been an Alaska resident for 14 years, and has practiced law for 31 years. He graduated from University of Idaho, College of Law in 1980, and is currently an assistant attorney general in Fairbanks.

Bethany Spalding Harbison: Magistrate Harbison has been an Alaska Resident for 18 years, and has practiced law for 17½ years. She graduated from the Harvard Law School in 1993, and is currently a magistrate/master in Fairbanks.

Robert S. Noreen: Mr. Noreen has been an Alaska Resident for 32 years, and has practiced law for 36 years. He graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1975, and is currently an assistant public advocate in Fairbanks.

Alicemary L. Rasley: Magistrate Rasley has been an Alaska resident for 32 years, and has practiced law for 28 years. She graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1979, and is currently magistrate/master in Fairbanks.

Ben Seekins: Mr. Seekins has been an Alaska resident for 37 years, and has practiced law for 9 years. He graduated from Gonzaga Law School in 2002, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Fairbanks.

Cassandra Tilly: Ms. Tilly has been an Alaska resident for 38 years, and has practiced law for 12 years. She graduated from the Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark University in 1999, and is currently an assistant borough attorney 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 LARRY COHN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL, 1029 W. THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 201, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1969, (907) 279-2526.

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