



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

August 23, 2016

**Bethel Superior Court  
Dillingham Superior Court  
Kenai Superior Court  
Nome Superior Court**

Seven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Bethel Superior Court, nine attorneys have applied for a position on the Dillingham Superior Court, seven attorneys have applied for a position on the Kenai Superior Court, and six attorneys have applied for a position on the Nome Superior Court.

Applicants for the judgeships 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 evaluations, according to the Council's executive director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and public hearings in the four communities will be held in December. The Council will select two or more nominees for each judicial vacancy to send to the governor. The governor will have 45 days to make an appointment from the Council's list to fill each vacancy.

### **The Applicants:**

**Brooke Browning Alowa:** Ms. Alowa has been an Alaska resident for 14 years, and has practiced law for 14 years. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 2002, and is currently an assistant public advocate in Palmer. Ms. Alowa has applied for all four vacancies.

**Romano D. DiBenedetto**: Magistrate Judge DiBenedetto has been an Alaska resident for 5½ years, and has practiced law for 21½ years. He graduated from Northwestern School of Law in 1993, and is currently a magistrate judge in Fairbanks. Magistrate Judge DiBenedetto has applied for the Bethel, Kenai, and Nome Superior Courts.

**John A. Earthman**: Mr. Earthman has been an Alaska resident for 17 years, and has practiced law for 17 years. He graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 1999, and is currently the district attorney in Nome. Mr. Earthman has applied for the Nome Superior Court.

**Andrew V. Grannik**: Mr. Grannik has been an Alaska resident for 22 years, and has practiced law for 10½ years. He graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2004, and is currently an assistant district attorney in Anchorage. Mr. Grannik has applied for the Bethel and Dillingham Superior Courts.

**Jürgen Jensen**: Mr. Jensen has been an Alaska resident for 24½ years, and has practiced law for 8½ years. He graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 2007, and is currently in private practice in Dillingham. Mr. Jensen has applied for the Dillingham Superior Court.

**Lance Joanis**: Mr. Joanis has been an Alaska resident for 12 years, and has practiced law for 12 years. He graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law in 2004, and is currently an assistant attorney general in Kenai. Mr. Joanis has applied for the Dillingham and Kenai Superior Courts.

**Scot H. Leaders**: Mr. Leaders has been an Alaska resident for 24 years, and has practiced law for 18 years. He graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1997, and is currently the District Attorney in Kenai. Mr. Leaders has applied for the Kenai Superior Court.

**Tara Logsdon**: Magistrate Judge Logsdon has been an Alaska resident for 20 years, and has practiced law for 19½ years. She graduated from Regent University School of Law in 1996, and is currently a magistrate judge/standing master in Palmer. Magistrate Judge Logsdon has applied for the Bethel, Dillingham and Nome Superior Courts.

**Andrew Ott**: Mr. Ott has been an Alaska resident for 27 years, and has practiced law for 26 years. He graduated from Seattle University, School of Law in 1989, and is currently in private practice in Kodiak. Mr. Ott has applied for the Dillingham Superior Court.

**Nathaniel Peters**: Judge Peters has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years, and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from Ohio Northern University in 2002, and is currently a district court judge in Bethel. Judge Peters has applied for the Bethel Superior Court.

**Tina Reigh**: Magistrate Judge Reigh has been an Alaska resident for 13 years, and has practiced law for 13 years. She graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2003, and is currently a magistrate judge in Dillingham. Magistrate Judge Reigh has applied for the Dillingham Superior Court.

**Bride Seifert**: Administrative Law Judge Seifert has been an Alaska resident for 5 years, and has practiced law for 5½ years. She graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010, and is currently an administrative law judge in Juneau. Administrative Law Judge Seifert has applied for all four vacancies.

**Jennifer K. Wells**: Magistrate Judge Wells has been an Alaska resident for 26 years, and has practiced law for 25 years. She graduated from Suffolk University School of Law in 1990, and is currently a magistrate judge in Kenai. Magistrate Judge Wells has applied for the Kenai Superior Court.

**Joan Wilson**: Ms. Wilson has been an Alaska resident for 28 years, and has practiced law for 20 years. She graduated from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College in 1996, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage. Ms. Wilson has applied for all four vacancies.

**Summary of Judgeship Applications**

| <b>Bethel Superior</b>  | <b>Kenai Superior</b>  | <b>Dillingham Superior</b>  | <b>Nome Superior</b>   |
|---|--|---|--|
| Brooke Browning Alowa<br>Romano D. DiBenedetto<br>Andrew V. Grannik<br>Tara Logsdon<br>Nathaniel Peters<br>Bride Seifert<br>Joan Wilson | Brooke Browning Alowa<br>Romano D. DiBenedetto<br>Lance Joanis<br>Scot H. Leaders<br>Bride Seifert<br>Jennifer K. Wells<br>Joan Wilson | Brooke Browning Alowa<br>Andrew V. Grannik<br>Jürgen Jensen<br>Lance Joanis<br>Tara Logsdon<br>Andrew Ott<br>Tina Reigh<br>Bride Seifert<br>Joan Wilson | Brooke Browning Alowa<br>Romano D. DiBenedetto<br>John A. Earthman<br>Tara Logsdon<br>Bride Seifert<br>Joan Wilson |

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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