



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

January 5, 2018

Anchorage Superior Court Vacancy Third Judicial District

The Alaska Judicial Council met on January 4, 2018 to interview applicants for a position on the Anchorage Superior Court.

Following its meeting in Anchorage, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Josie Garton, Thomas A. Matthews, and Andrew Peterson** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill an Anchorage Superior Court judicial vacancy, which will be created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge Jack Smith. 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 every member of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicant, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicant.

Nominees for the Anchorage Superior Court are:

Josie Garton: Ms. Garton has been an Alaska resident for 17 years, and has practiced law for 17 years. She graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2000, and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Thomas A. Matthews: Mr. Matthews has been an Alaska resident for 32½ years, and has practiced law for 32 years. He graduated from Northwestern School of Law, Lewis & Clark College of Law in 1985, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Andrew Peterson: Mr. Peterson has been an Alaska resident for 26½ years, and has practiced law for 16 years. He graduated from the University of San Diego School of Law in 2001, and is currently an assistant attorney general in the Office of Special Prosecutions, Dept. of Law in Anchorage.

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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