



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

January 9, 2018

Sitka Superior Court Vacancy First Judicial District

The Alaska Judicial Council met on January 8, 2018, to interview applicants for a position on the Sitka Superior Court.

Following its meeting in Sitka, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Jude Pate** and **Julie Willoughby** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill a Sitka Superior Court judicial vacancy, which will be created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge David V. George. 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, interviews the applicant, and holds a public hearing.

Nominees for the Sitka Superior Court are:

Jude Pate: Mr. Pate has been an Alaska resident for 24 years, and has practiced law for 23 years. He graduated from Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law in 1993, and is currently an assistant public defender in Sitka.

Julie Willoughby: Ms. Willoughby has been an Alaska resident for 32 years, and has practiced law for 19 years. She graduated from Stanford Law School in 1998, and is currently in private practice in Juneau.