



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

June 25, 2018

Judicial Vacancy Announcements

**Alaska Court of Appeals
Juneau Superior Court
Utqiagvik Superior Court
Kenai Superior Court
Bethel Superior Court (re-announcement)**

The Alaska Judicial Council is now receiving applications for judgeships on the Juneau, Utqiagvik, Kenai, and Bethel Superior Courts, and for the Alaska Court of Appeals. The vacancies will occur due to the upcoming retirements of Utqiagvik Superior Court Judge Angela Greene, Kenai Superior Court Judge Charles T. Huguelet, Bethel Superior Court Judge Dwayne W. McConnell, and Court of Appeals Judge David Mannheimer. The Juneau position is a new superior court seat authorized by the Alaska Legislature. Interested persons may obtain application forms from the Judicial Council offices or online at the Council's website (www.ajc.state.ak.us). **The Judicial Council must have completed applications in its office by 3:00 p.m. on July 27, 2018.**

A superior court judge must be a citizen of the United States and of the state of Alaska, a resident of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment, engaged in the active practice of law for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in Alaska. The active practice of law is defined in AS 22.05.070.

A court of appeals judge must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.07.040. He or she must: be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska; be a resident of Alaska for five

years immediately preceding appointment; have engaged in the active practice of law, as defined in AS 22.05.070, for not less than eight years immediately preceding appointment; and must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment.

Applications are reviewed by the Judicial Council, a seven member citizens commission with three attorneys, three public members, and the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, who serves as Chair, *ex officio*. Each applicant completes a detailed questionnaire covering all aspects of the applicant's personal and professional history. Applicants also submit a legal writing sample and references.

Following the application closing date, the Council conducts a comprehensive investigation of the applicants. The Council asks the public for comments; reviews criminal and credit records; examines any litigation involving the applicant; looks at bar or judicial disciplinary records; sends out requests for more detailed information to attorneys/judges in recent cases handled by the applicant; checks references supplied by the applicants; contacts all former employers; surveys Alaska Bar Association members about legal skills, integrity and other qualities; and does any other needed investigation.

Council members will meet in November to conduct public hearings, and interview the applicants for the vacancies. Most meetings are in the location of the vacancy to encourage public participation.

At the end of the interviews, the Council deliberates in executive session. The Council then takes a public vote to nominate at least two of the most qualified applicants for the appointments. The Council votes on which applicants are the most qualified based upon consideration of the applicant's professional competence, integrity, fairness, temperament, judgment, legal and life experience, and demonstrated commitment to public and community service. The governor then has 45 days in which to appoint a judge from the Council's list of nominees.

Persons interested in applying for these positions may obtain more information from the Judicial Council at 510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295, (907) 279-2526.

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