Alaska Judicial Council

Judicial Applicant Biographical Statement



Name: Risa Leonard

Position(s): Fairbanks Superior Court

Date: October 26, 2026

I was born in Alaska. I started in rural Alaska but primarily grew up in Fairbanks, where I graduated high school. I went to college and graduated from the University of Oregon in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. From there, I moved to Southern California and worked in the social work field. Feeling that law would be a better fit, I decided to go to law school. I graduated from Syracuse University College of Law in 2008. After some reflection, I decided that my hometown was where I wanted to be. I started at the Fairbanks District Attorney's Office in January 2011 and rose to the rank of Deputy District Attorney. May 2021, I became a Magistrate Judge for the Fourth Judicial District in Fairbanks. I enjoy spending time with my family, taxiing my children, and exercising (I've run the Equinox three times).