



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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Announcing Applicants *Anchorage District & Bethel District Courts*

Ten attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Anchorage District Court, and four attorneys have applied for a position on the Bethel District Court. The Anchorage District Court position is due to the impending retirement of Jo-Ann Chung, and the Bethel District Court position is due to the appointment of Judge William T. Montgomery to the Bethel Superior Court.

Applicants for the judgeships will be evaluated by the Council's seven members (the chief justice, three non-attorney members, and three attorney members). Comprehensive background investigations, a survey of Alaska Bar members, and personal interviews with the applicants are all part of the evaluation, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and public hearings will be held in February of 2026. The Council will nominate two or more applicants for each vacancy to send to the governor, after which the governor will have 45 days to make appointments from the Council's lists of nominees.

The applicants for the Anchorage District Court are:

Michael John Branson: Mr. Branson has been an Alaska resident for 44 years and has been practicing law for 9 years. He graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2016 and is currently in private practice.

Ronald Dupuis: Mr. Dupuis has been an Alaska resident for 15 years and has been practicing law for 15 years. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 2009 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions in Anchorage.

John Haley: Mr. Haley has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has been practicing law for 12 years. He graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2013 and is currently a senior assistant attorney general with the Department of Law.

Lindsay Ingaldson: Ms. Ingaldson has been an Alaska resident for 37 years and has been practicing law for 6½ years. She graduated from Mitchell Hamline College of Law (William Mitchell College of Law) in 2017 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions in Anchorage.

Julia Metzger: Ms. Metzger has been an Alaska resident for 13½ years and has been practicing law for 13 years. She graduated from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law in 2011 and is currently a supervising assistant public advocate with the Office of Public Advocacy in Anchorage.

Ben Muse: Mr. Muse has been an Alaska resident for 44 years and has been practicing law for 15 years. He graduated from the Gonzaga University School of Law in 2010 and is currently an assistant federal defender in Anchorage.

Eric Salinger: Mr. Salinger has been an Alaska resident for 12½ years and has been practicing law for 12½ years. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2013 and is currently an administrative law judge in Anchorage.

Erin White: Ms. White has been an Alaska resident for 29 years and has been practicing law for 34 years. She graduated from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1990 and is currently an assistant district attorney with the Department of Law in Anchorage.

Matt Widmer: Mr. Widmer has been an Alaska resident for 20 years and has been practicing law for 20 years. He graduated from William & Mary Law School in 2005 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Christopher Yandel: Mr. Yandel has been an Alaska resident for 6½ years and has been practicing law for 8 years. He graduated from the University of California Berkeley

School of Law in 2017 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Department of Law in Anchorage.

The applicants for the Bethel District Court are:

Joy Anderson: Ms. Anderson has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has been practicing law for 13 years. She graduated from Vanderbilt University Law School in 2011 and is currently a co-director of the Community Justice Worker Resource Center at Alaska Legal Services in Bethel.

David R. Boyer: Mr. Boyer has been an Alaska resident for 8 years and has been practicing law for 25½ years. He graduated from Brigham Young University – J. Reuben Clark Law School in 1999 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Department of Law.

Jason Conrad: Mr. Conrad has been an Alaska resident for 5 years and has been practicing law for 5 years. He graduated from the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law in 2020 and is currently an assistant district attorney with the Department of Law in Bethel.

Roberta C. Erwin: Ms. Erwin has been an Alaska resident for 57½ years and has been practicing law for 31½ years. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1994 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

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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