



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Judicial Nominees *Kenai Superior Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Kenai on January 23-24, 2023, to interview applicants for a position on the Kenai Superior Court. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Katherine Ann Elsner, Kelly J. Lawson, Elizabeth Leduc, and William T. Montgomery** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the judicial vacancy. The governor has 45 days in which to make an 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 members of the Alaska Bar to evaluate the applicants, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicants.

### Nominees for the Kenai Superior Court are:

**Katherine Ann Elsner**: Ms. Elsner has been an Alaska resident for 9½ years and has practiced law for 14½ years. She graduated from Northwestern University School of Law in 2008 and is currently in private practice in Kenai.

**Kelly J. Lawson:** Ms. Lawson has been an Alaska resident for 46 years and has practiced law for 19½ years. She graduated from the University of Montana School of Law in 2002 and is currently a Victim Rights' Attorney in Anchorage.

**Elizabeth Leduc:** Ms. Leduc has been an Alaska resident for 15½ years and has practiced law for 15 years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2007 and is currently an assistant public advocate and supervisor of the Kenai Office of Public Advocacy.

**William T. Montgomery:** Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 11½ years and has practiced law for 10½ years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

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