



alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

Press Release

Contact: Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director
Alaska Judicial Council
510 L Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 279-2526
sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us
www.ajc.state.ak.us

For immediate release
August 28, 2023

Judicial Nominees *Anchorage Superior Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Anchorage on August 23 - 24, 2023, to interview applicants for a position on the Anchorage Superior Court. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Kate Demarest, Kari Lyn McCrea, David A. Nesbett, and Danée Pontious** 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 Anchorage Superior Court are:

Kate Demarest: Ms. Demarest has been an Alaska resident for 13 years and has practiced law for 15 years. She graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2008 and is currently a senior assistant attorney general in the Opinions, Appeals, and Ethics section at the Department of Law.

Kari Lyn McCrea: Judge McCrea has been an Alaska resident for 18 years and has practiced law for 22 years. She graduated from Mitchell Hamline School of Law in 2001 and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

David A. Nesbett: Judge Nesbett has been an Alaska resident for 51½ years and has practiced law for 23 years. He graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1998 and is currently a district court judge in Anchorage.

Danéé Pontious: Ms. Pontious has been an Alaska resident for 19 years and has practiced law for 18½ years. She graduated from the University of Denver, College of Law, in 2004 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

Attached is a record of the Council members' votes.

* * * *



alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

Vote Tally Sheet Anchorage Superior Court August 24, 2023

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Katcher	Parker	Simon	Maassen*
Kate Demarest	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Kari Lyn McCrea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Patrick J. McKay, Jr.	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Excused	
David A. Nesbett	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Danée Pontious	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Rob Sato	No	No	No	No	No	Excused	
Sam Vandergaw	No	No	No	No	No	Excused	

**The Chief Justice votes only when to do so would change the result.*