



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
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Judicial Nominees *Alaska Public Defender*

The Alaska Judicial Council met in Anchorage on August 24 - 25, 2023, to interview applicants for the Alaska Public Defender position. Following its meeting, the Alaska Judicial Council announced that **Terrence P. Haas and Gary Soberay** were nominated as the most qualified applicants to fill the position.

The Judicial Council is required to nominate the most qualified applicants applying for the position of public defender.

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 the 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 applicant, encourages the public to submit comments, and interviews the applicant.

Nominees for the Alaska Public Defender are:

Terrence P. Haas: Judge Haas has been an Alaska resident for 15 years and has practiced law for 15 years. He graduated from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2007 and is currently a superior court judge in Bethel and serves as Presiding Judge of the Fourth Judicial District.

Gary Soberay: Mr. Soberay has been an Alaska resident for 23 years and has practiced law for 29 years. He graduated from the University of Florida, College of Law in 1990 and is currently an assistant public defender and Statewide Unit Supervisor, in Anchorage.

Attached is a record of the Council members' votes.

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Vote Tally Sheet Alaska Public Defender August 25, 2023

Candidates	Council Members						
	Babcock	Collins	DeWitt	Katcher	Parker	Simon	Maassen*
Terrence P. Haas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Jennifer Hite	No	No	Yes	No	No	Excused	
Lars Johnson	No	No	No	No	No	Excused	
Jaffer Khimani	No	No	No	No	No	Excused	
Gary Soberay	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excused	
Jessica Winn	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Excused	
Chong Min Yim	No	No	No	No	No	Excused	

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