



alaska judicial council

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Press Release

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For immediate release
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Announcing Applicants

Alaska Public Defender

Ten attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for the Alaska Public Defender position. The selection process is governed by Alaska Statute § 18.85.030. Applicants for the position 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 evaluations, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and a public hearing will be held in August 2023. The Council will nominate two or more applicants for the vacancy to send to the governor for appointment. The appointment is subject to confirmation by majority of the members of the legislature in joint session.

The applicants are:

Lacey Jane Brewster: Ms. Brewster has been an Alaska resident for 6½ years and has practiced law for 6½ years. She graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 2016 and is currently an assistant public defender in Anchorage.

Andrew Dunmire: Mr. Dunmire has been an Alaska resident for 6 years and has practiced law for 11½ years. He graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law in 2011 and currently serves as Legislative Counsel for the Alaska Legislature, Division of Legal and Research Services, in Juneau.

Terrence P. Haas: Judge Haas has been an Alaska resident for 14½ years and has practiced law for 14½ 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.

Jennifer Page Hite: Ms. Hite has been an Alaska resident for 21½ years and has practiced law for 26 years. She graduated from the University of Akron School of Law in 1995 and is currently an assistant public advocate and supervising attorney in Fairbanks.

Lars Johnson: Mr. Johnson has been an Alaska resident for 13½ years and has practiced law for 13½ years. He graduated from New York University School of Law in 2009 and currently serves as Deputy Public Defender, Criminal Division, in Anchorage.

Jaffer Khimani: Mr. Khimani has been an Alaska resident for 11 years and has practiced law for 9½ years. He graduated from Vermont Law School in 2013 and is currently an assistant public defender and Criminal Trial Unit Supervisor in Anchorage.

Dan Mizinov: Mr. Mizinov has been an Alaska resident for 2½ years and has practiced law for 10½ years. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2012 and is currently an assistant public defender in Bethel.

Gary Soberay: Mr. Soberay has been an Alaska resident for 23 years and has practiced law for 28½ 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.

Jessica Winn: Ms. Winn has been an Alaska resident for 4 ½ years and has practiced law for 4 ½ years. She graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law in 2017 and is currently an assistant public defender and Trial Unit Team Supervisor in Anchorage.

Chong Min Yim: Mr. Yim has been an Alaska resident for 32 years and has practiced law for 18½ years. He graduated from the Seattle University School of Law in 2003 and is currently an assistant public defender 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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