



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Announcing Applicants

### *Juneau, Sitka, and Bethel Superior Courts*

Seven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Juneau Superior Court, four attorneys have applied for a position on the Sitka Superior Court and three attorneys have applied for a position on 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 evaluations, according to the Council's Executive Director, Susanne DiPietro. Interviews with applicants and public hearings will be held in January 2024. 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 Juneau Superior Court are:**

**Roberta C. Erwin**: Ms. Erwin has been an Alaska resident for 55 years and has practiced law for 27½ years. She graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1994 and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Margaret McWilliams**: Ms. McWilliams has been an Alaska resident for 16 years and has practiced law for 24 years. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 1999 and is currently an assistant public advocate and supervisor for the Office of Public Advocate's Juneau Civil Section.

**William T. Montgomery**: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

**Christopher Orman**: Mr. Orman has been an Alaska resident for 11½ and has practiced law for 13 years. He graduated from the University of Montana, Alexander Blewett III School of Law in 2010 and is currently an assistant attorney general in Juneau.

**Bride Seifert**: Judge Seifert has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 14 years. She graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a superior court judge in Homer.

**Larry Raymond Woolford**: Mr. Woolford has been an Alaska resident for 52½ years and has practiced law for 25½ years. He graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 1998 and is currently in private practice in Juneau.

**Emily L. Wright**: Ms. Wright has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 15 years. She graduated from the University of Colorado Law School in 2008 and is currently an assistant municipal attorney, civil division, for the City and Borough of Juneau.

**The applicants for the Sitka Superior Court are:**

**Amanda L. Browning**: Judge Browning has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 18½ years. She graduated from Roger Williams University Ralph R. Pappito School of Law in 2005 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

**William T. Montgomery**: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

**Michael Thomas Schwaiger**: Mr. Schwaiger has been an Alaska resident for 43 years and has practiced law for 17½ years. He graduated from Duke Law School in 2005 and is currently a supervising attorney for the Office of Public Advocacy in Anchorage.

**Bride Seifert**: Judge Seifert has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 14 years. She graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a superior court judge in Homer.

**The applicants for the Bethel Superior Court are:**

**Mark Clark**: Mr. Clark has been an Alaska resident for 6½ years and has practiced law for 7 years. He graduated from Northern Kentucky University, Salmon P. Chase College of Law in 2016 and is currently the Bethel District Attorney.

**William T. Montgomery**: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaska resident for 12 years and has practiced law for 11 years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

**Sam Turner**: Ms. Turner has been an Alaska resident for 7 years and has practiced law for 7 years. She graduated from New York University School of Law in 2016 and is currently a staff attorney for the Alaska Court of Appeals.

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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