



# 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](mailto:sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)  
[www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

For immediate release  
February 9, 2024

## Announcing Applicants

### *Palmer Superior Court and Anchorage District Court*

Four attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Palmer Superior Court, and six attorneys have applied for a position on the Anchorage District 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 May 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 Palmer Superior Court are:**

**Amanda L. Browning**: Judge Browning has been an Alaskan resident for 12 ½ years and has practiced law for 18 ½ years. She graduated from Roger Williams University Ralph R. Pappito School of Law in 2005 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

**Tom V. Jamgochian**: Judge Jamgochian has been an Alaska resident for 19½ years and has practiced law for 19½ years. He graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, in 2004 and is currently a district court judge in Palmer.

**Patrick J. McKay, Jr.**: Mr. McKay, Jr., has been an Alaskan resident for 32 years and has practiced law for 12 ½ years. He graduated from Western State University College of Law in 2011, and is currently an assistant district attorney.

**William T. Montgomery**: Judge Montgomery has been an Alaskan resident for 13 years and has practiced law for 11 ½ years. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in 2010 and is currently a district court judge in Bethel.

**The applicants for the Anchorage District Court are:**

**Marika Athens**: Magistrate Judge Athens has been an Alaskan resident for 42 years and has practiced law 19 ½ years. She graduated from Duke University School of Law in 2004 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

**Chris Darnall**: Mr. Darnall has been an Alaskan resident for 32 ½ years and has practiced law for 6 years. He graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo Law School in 2016 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions.

**Monica Elkinton**: Magistrate Judge Elkinton has been an Alaskan resident for 17 ½ years and has practiced law for 17 years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2006 and is currently a magistrate judge in Anchorage.

**Lindsay Ingaldson**: Ms. Ingaldson has been an Alaskan resident for 35 years and has practiced law for 4 ½ years. She graduated from Mitchell Hamline College of Law in 2017 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions.

**Larry Monsma**: Mr. Monsma has been an Alaskan resident for 11 ½ years and has practiced law for 22 years. He graduated from John F. Kennedy University, School of Law, in 2001 and is currently an assistant municipal prosecutor.

**Sam Vandergaw**: Mr. Vandergaw has been an Alaskan resident for 39 years and has practiced law for 13 ½ years. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2009 and is currently an assistant attorney general with the Office of Special Prosecutions.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*