



# alaska judicial council

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## Press Release

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## Announcing Applicants

### *Alaska Supreme Court and Bethel District Court*

Seven attorneys have applied to the Alaska Judicial Council for a position on the Alaska Supreme Court, and two attorneys have applied for a position on the Bethel 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 November. 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 Alaska Supreme Court are:**

**Kate Demarest:** Ms. Demarest has been an Alaskan resident for 14 years and has practiced law for 16 years. She graduated from University of Minnesota Law School in 2008, and is currently a Senior Assistant Attorney General at the Alaska Department of Law in Anchorage.

**Josie Garton:** Judge Garton has been an Alaskan resident for 24 years and has practiced law for 24 years. She graduated from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2000, and is currently a Superior Court Judge in Anchorage.

**Aimee Anderson Oravec:** Ms. Oravec has been an Alaskan resident for 25 ½ years and has practiced law for 25 ½ years. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law in 1998, and is currently General Counsel for Doyon Utilities, LLC in Fairbanks.

**Margaret O. Rogers:** Ms. Rogers has been an Alaskan resident for 23 years and has practiced law for 21 years. She graduated from Vermont Law School in 2001, and is currently in private practice in Fairbanks.

**Kate Vogel:** Ms. Vogel has been an Alaskan resident for 12 ½ years and has practiced law for 18 years. She graduated from Yale Law School in 2006, and is currently the First Assistant United States Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Anchorage.

**Holly C. Wells:** Ms. Wells has been an Alaskan resident for 19 years and has practiced law for 20 years. She graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in 2004, and is currently in private practice in Anchorage.

**Laura Wolff:** Ms. Wolff has been an Alaskan resident for 7 ½ years and has practiced law for 11 years. She graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 2013, and is currently an Assistant Attorney General at the Alaska Department of Law in Anchorage.

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

**Colleen Baxter:** Magistrate Judge Baxter has been an Alaska Resident for 54 years and has practiced law for 26 ½ years. She graduated from Temple University, Beasley School of Law in 1996, and is currently a magistrate judge in Kotzebue.

**Sam Cason:** Mr. Cason has been an Alaska resident for 64 ½ years and has practiced law for 33 years. He graduated from the University of Arkansas, Leflar School of Law in 1991, and is currently in private practice 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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