

Candidate Statement for Aimee A. Oravec

I have been an active member of the Alaska Bar Association since 1999 and wish to continue to serve the Bar Association through work on the Board of Governors.

I graduated law school from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, receiving a Juris Doctorate and an Order of the Barristers. I began work here in Alaska as a litigation and employment law attorney at a Fairbanks firm. After having my second child, I opened a “fourth bedroom” practice to provide employment law advice and work on administrative appeals while I balanced my practice with raising young children. I then opened a small firm in Fairbanks, representing corporations and non-profits in earnest, reporting to boards of directors and executive management. I was brought in house by one client to assist with internal legal and regulatory matters as well as provide advice with respect to regulatory strategy. Subsequently, a sister company hired me directly to serve as General Counsel.

I have served the legal community and the state in a variety of volunteer roles, including service as a lawyer representative on the Alaska Judicial Council (2012-2018); as a member and then Chair of the Board of the United Way of the Tanana Valley (2012-2016); and as an officer and then President of the Tanana Valley Bar Association (2009-2013). I also have served as a past member of the Alaska Bar Association CLE and Fee Arbitration Committees.

In 2019, I volunteered to serve the final year of a previous member’s term on the Board of Governors. My year of service to the Board of Governors has been interesting and engaging. The work is serious, the opinions varied, and the discussions occasionally spirited. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board and represent the Fourth Judicial District.

DIANA WILDLAND

1447 Birchwood Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • (907) 378-5855 • diana.wildland@alaska.gov

To my fellow attorneys in the Fourth and Second Judicial Districts,

I am running to be your representative on the Alaska Board of Governors.

My experience with the Board of Governors began in 2018, shortly after I became a barred attorney, when I was appointed by the Board to be the New Lawyer Liaison. During my tenure in this position, I have participated in conversations that directly affect our community of lawyers, including discussions about bar dues, bar exam administration, and the potential for our bar association to invest in the purchase of a building. I have appreciated being at the table for these discussions, but ultimately, my voice was limited because my position did not permit me to vote. I now seek a voting position on the Board because I believe that I can and do represent important sections of our bar: young and new lawyers; public defense and criminal defense attorneys; and attorneys who were born and raised in North-Interior Alaska.

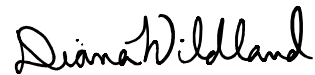
First, I am running because young and new attorneys deserve a vote. I have been a barred attorney since 2017, an admittedly short period of time. But having relatively recently graduated from law school and taken our bar exam, I am uniquely qualified to speak on issues that directly affect the future of our bar association. With high law school tuition rates, high rates of student debt, and meager job prospects for law school graduates, the Board of Governors must continue to have meaningful conversations about how to encourage attorneys from diverse backgrounds to come and practice in our state. (The scholarship program implemented during Darrel Gardner's presidency was a huge first step.) With Covid-19 now affecting all aspects of our lives and practices, giving meaningful consideration to the needs of our newest generations of lawyers is all the more crucial. I intend to advocate for these members.

Second, I am a public defender. I have worked with the Public Defender Agency in Fairbanks as an attorney since August 2017, and previously worked with my agency as an intern before entering law school. Public defense work is a deeply ingrained part of my identity, and I know the importance of this work, not just for our judicial system but also for our clients. Our Board of Governors may soon lack any representative from the public defense or criminal defense bar. Because of his recent move out of state, Darrel Gardner is not seeking reelection, and Sharon Barr (the most recent public defender member of the Board) left when her term ended last year. I believe that public defense and criminal defense attorneys must have representation on the board. Attorneys in these fields regularly appear in court and participate frequently in trials, therapeutic courts, and bail hearings. We represent clients on their worst days, helping them to navigate our complex judicial system. Our work requires us to be creative, highly productive, and deeply compassionate. These practices and perspectives will continue to be central to my work on the Board.

Finally, I have a strong interest in the well-being of our bar association because I was born and raised here. As the daughter and niece of career Alaska public defenders, I have been around our legal community my entire life. I am a West Valley High School graduate, and I returned to Alaska after completing undergraduate and law school as a “double duck” at the University of Oregon. My childhood here, complete with my knowledge of our community and our values, informs everything that I do. This would, of course, continue to inform my advocacy on the Board of Governors. We have recently reaped the benefit of local knowledge in the leadership of our board; two of our most recent bar presidents have been Anchorage natives. Fairbanks should be permitted a similar benefit.

I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and hope to have your support in this election.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Wildland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diana Wildland

DIANA WILDLAND

1447 Birchwood Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 • (907) 378-5855 • diana.wildland@alaska.gov

EXPERIENCE

- Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors** **Fairbanks, AK**
New Lawyer Liaison 2018 – 2020
- Attend and participate in meetings of the Board of Governors
 - Member of the Bar Exam Cut Score Committee, 2019
- Alaska Public Defender Agency** **Fairbanks, AK**
Assistant Public Defender August 2017 – present
- Represent and advocate for clients in juvenile delinquency and child in need of aid matters
- University of Oregon Student Bar Association** **Eugene, OR**
President (2016-17), Vice President (2015-16) 2015 – 2017
- Advocate for students on a variety of issues, including tuition increases, use of university funds, building management, course offerings, and bar exam passage
 - Appointed by vote of the law school faculty and University of Oregon provost to act as the sole student member of the hiring committee, resulting in the hiring of Law Dean Marcilynn Burke
- Molina Law Group, LLC** **Springfield, OR**
Volunteer, Immigration Law Clinic Jan. – May 2017
- Lane County Public Defender** **Eugene, OR**
Student, Criminal Defense Clinic 2016 – 2017
- Justice Daniel E. Winfree, Alaska Supreme Court** **Fairbanks, AK**
Summer Legal Intern June – August 2016
- Drafted legal memoranda answering questions of law for Justice Winfree and law clerks
 - Conducted technical edits of legal memoranda using Word Perfect software
- Access the Law** **Eugene, OR**
Law Clerk June – August 2015
- Co-managed monthly veteran's free legal clinic and outreach program
 - Researched criminal, family law, and animal law issues for attorneys at modest means non-profit law firm
- Alaska Public Defender Agency** **Fairbanks, AK**
Investigative Intern June – Sept. 2012
- Assisted in investigations of felony and misdemeanor offenses

EDUCATION

- University of Oregon School of Law** **Eugene, OR**
Juris Doctor May 2017
- Earned academic certificates in International Law and Public Interest Law
 - Awarded University of Oregon Pro Bono Certificate for volunteer service
- University of Oregon** **Eugene, OR**
Bachelor of Arts with honors in Literature, Romance Languages, and Russian December 2013

LICENSES, CERTIFICATIONS, AND AFFILIATIONS

Alaska Bar Association (Licensed Attorney, Active Status)	Admitted December 2017
Washington Bar Association (Licensed Attorney, Inactive Status)	Admitted November 2017
Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers	Member Since 2018
National Association of Public Defenders	Member Since 2017