


## Jessica Moats Alloway

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February 4, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[ak\\_judge@murkowski.senate.gov](mailto:ak_judge@murkowski.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I write to express my interest in an open vacancy on the Alaska federal district court. I am a dedicated public servant, having spent the first six years of my career in federal service as a law clerk and a federal prosecutor and the last thirteen plus years in state service as a civil litigator. I intend to finish my career in public service, and I would be honored to serve the State of Alaska as one of its federal district court judges.

I am applying because I believe I can be of service to the State of Alaska. The simple truth is Alaska is different, and I have spent my career at the Alaska Department of Law litigating cases to protect those differences and the State's statehood entitlement. And, more importantly, I have had success. When I started at the Department of Law, I focused on quieting title to the State's submerged lands. I litigated a dispute with the federal government over the Mosquito Fork River from start to finish and built a case so strong that the United States disclaimed its interest on the eve of trial. I then persuaded Judge Gleason that the United States had acted in bad faith by presenting frivolous arguments and she awarded the State attorney's fees. *See Alaska v. United States*, 2016 WL 1948801 (D. Alaska 2016). Most recently, I received a partially favorable decision in litigation challenging the Secretary of the Interior's authority to take lands into trust in Alaska. Although Judge Gleason found the Secretary retained some lands-into-trust authority, she agreed with the State's position that Interior must apply a more limited definition of "Indian" and that Interior cannot rely on the Tribe's traditional homeland as support for its decision. *See Alaska v. Newland*, 2024 WL 3178000 (D. Alaska 2024). Even if the Ninth Circuit upholds her decision on the Secretary's authority, this should provide some guardrails around that authority.

I also have experience with federal criminal practice. I spent the first three years after my clerkship working for the Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor. I tried twelve bench trials and two jury trials during this period. And, during my three-year clerkship, I assisted Judge Tallman with multiple criminal appeals. I will use this criminal experience as a foundation to build from should I join the bench.

Last, I understand and wholeheartedly accept the responsibility that comes with public service. I am committed to the principles of justice, fairness, and accountability, and I accept the responsibility to protect the public trust. If chosen, I would do what I have always done throughout my life and career; I would act with transparency, and I would hold myself to rigorous ethical standards.

Alaska needs a federal district court judge that has experience with its state-specific statutes and federal jurisprudence. I have that experience, and I hope you will consider me for the position. Attached please find my resume, and I am also happy to provide the application materials that I submitted to Senator Sullivan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessie M. Alloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end of the name.

Jessie M. Alloway

# Jessie Moats Alloway

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## EXPERIENCE

### Alaska Department of Law

*Solicitor General, Civil Appeals*

Anchorage, AK

June 2021 – Present

Oversee the Department's civil appellate practice, including advising attorneys on substantive issues and appellate practice and coordinating the State's participation in filing or joining *amicus curiae* briefs. Directly supervise nine attorneys in the Opinions, Appeals, and Ethics section. The section's attorneys, including myself, litigate some of the State's most high-profile and complex cases in both the Alaska Supreme Court and the federal courts of appeal.

*Assistant Attorney General*

November 2011 – May 2021

Represented state agencies in state and federal court on complex civil litigation at both the trial and appellate levels, primarily focusing on natural resource matters but also litigating federal and state constitutional questions.

### U.S. Department of Justice

*Trial Attorney, Environmental Crimes Section*

Washington, D.C.

September 2008 – October 2011

Investigated and prosecuted cases involving violations of federal statutes and regulations. Tried twelve bench trials during a detail to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

### U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

*Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard C. Tallman*

Seattle, WA

August 2005 – August 2008

### Jardine, Stephenson, Blewett, and Weaver, P.C.

*Summer Associate*

Great Falls, MT

Summer 2004

### U.S. District Court for the District of Montana

*Intern for the Honorable Carolyn S. Ostby, Magistrate Judge*

Great Falls, MT

Summer 2003

## EDUCATION

### University of Montana School of Law

*Juris Doctor, High Honors*

Missoula, MT

May 2005

Class Rank: GPA – 3.90/4.00 (Ranked 1/79)

Activities: Student Bar Association Treasurer (2004 – 2005)

Honors: Order of Barristers Award; West Group's Award for outstanding scholastic achievement; John P. Acher Memorial Award

### University of Montana School of Forestry

*Bachelor of Science in Recreation Resource Management with a Minor in Wildlife Biology, High Honors*

Missoula, MT

May 2002

GPA: 4.00/4.00

Honors: President's Recognition Award; Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; Dean's List (1999 – 2002)

## COMMUNITY

Alaska Appellate Rules Committee

June 2021 – Present

Alaska Bar Association, Committee on Fair and Impartial Courts

June 2021 – June 2024

Ninth Circuit Appellate Lawyer Representative

2022 – Present

Federal Bar Association Board Member

2024 – Present

**BAR MEMBERSHIP** – Montana (November 2005); Washington (August 2008; currently inactive); Alaska (May 2012)

**INTERESTS** – Schutzhund, ATVing, Motorcycling, Fitness, Skiing, Mountain Biking, Packrafting