

# ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

## NOMINATING PETITION


**Deadline: July 18, 2025**

### ALSC Board of Directors

We, the undersigned, nominate (name of nominee): Joe Nelson  
to serve as:


**ALSC Board of Director** for the following jurisdiction and seat (regular or alternate):

1st Judicial District Regular

  
(Signature of Nominator)


Leigh Dickey

(Print Name)

  
(Signature of Nominator)

Heather Parker


(Print Name)

  
(Signature of Nominator)

Margaret McWilliams

(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

  
(Signature of Nominee)

Joe Nelson

(Print Name)

**In addition to the above signatures, candidates should submit a resume or statement of candidacy that will be posted on the Bar's website. The statement must be received by July 18, 2025.**

**Mail to:**  
Alaska Bar Association  
840 K Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Email:** [bailey@alaskabar.org](mailto:bailey@alaskabar.org)  
**Fax:** (907) 272-2932

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**Joe Nelson** | *Kaaxúxgu*  
Teikweidi | Brown Bear Clan  
Yakutat, Alaska

## SUMMARY

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Traditional Tlingit village upbringing; Proven leadership in policy-making and executive management roles in higher education, non-profit organizations, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) for-profit corporations; Gets the job done with a strong sense of purpose and humility. Here to serve.

## CURRENT EXPERIENCE

### Sealaska | Juneau, Alaska

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ◇ Interim President             | January 2024-current     |
| ◇ Chairman (fulltime 2019-2024) | June 2014-September 2024 |
| ◇ Board of Directors            | 2003-current             |

Contributed, as chairman (fulltime for the last five years), to the reorganization and turnaround of an Alaska Native Regional Corporation. Throughout most of the 1990s and 2000s, Sealaska was a timber and plastics company with annual revenue that hovered around \$200M. Today, Sealaska is a \$600M global ocean health company on track to double in size over the next five years.

### Sealaska Heritage Institute | Juneau, Alaska

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| ◇ Board of Trustees | 2006-current |
|---------------------|--------------|

Sealaska Heritage Institute is a non-profit organization with a \$30M operating budget that is transforming the capital city with its art campus, retail store and programs delivered across southeast Alaska and beyond.

### Spruce Root Inc. | Juneau, Alaska

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| ◇ Board of Directors, Secretary | January 2018-current |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|

Spruce Root is a non-profit with a \$10M operating budget dedicated to growing southeast Alaska's village economies specifically by supporting entrepreneurs. Spruce Root is a certified Native Community Development Fund Institution (CDFI).

### Alaska Federation of Natives | Anchorage, Alaska

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| ◇ Co-chair                                    | October 2020-current |
| ◇ Board of Directors, Sealaska Representative | June 2014-2019       |

In 2020, AFN's leadership worked directly with Governor Dunleavy and his team to help coordinate resources during the first global pandemic in the last one hundred years.

### Alaska Legal Services Corporation | Anchorage, Alaska

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| ◇ Board of Directors, President since 2022 | June 2014-current |
|--|-------------------|

Helped establish the groundbreaking Community Justice Worker program. The CJW program allows non-attorneys to represent clients in the courtroom, under the supervision of ALSC attorneys.

### Outer Coast | Sitka, Alaska

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| ◇ Board of Trustees, President since 2021 | August 2018-current |
|---|---------------------|

Outer Coast is a unique post-secondary institution based in Sitka, Alaska.

## Recent EXPERIENCE

### University of Alaska Southeast | Juneau, Alaska

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| ◇ Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs | July 2012-January 2019 |
| ◇ Dean of Enrollment Management                                | June 2010-July 2012    |

◇ Director of Admissions	June 2007-June 2010
◇ Associate Vice Provost	June 2006-June 2007
◇ PITAAS Program Director	August 2004-May 2006

Top enrollment and senior student services officer. Built a diverse and strong team of over 100 full and parttime employees.

#### **Yak-tat Kwaan, Inc. | Yakutat, Alaska**

◇ Board of Directors; Chairman 2003-09, 2012-15; Interim CEO 2013	2002-2016
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Helped the distressed Alaska Native village corporation reorganize and stabilize.

#### **City & Borough of Juneau | Juneau, Alaska**

◇ Assistant City Attorney	February 2004-July 2004
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#### **Simpson, Tillinghast, Sorensen, & Longenbaugh, P.C. | Juneau, AK**

◇ Associate Attorney	July 2001-August 2003
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#### **Self-Employed | Yakutat, Alaska**

◇ Commercial Fisherman (setnet salmon)	1988- 2007
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#### **Loyola Law School | Los Angeles, California**

◇ Staff Writer, Entertainment Law Review	1999-2000
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#### **University of California Los Angeles**

◇ Teaching Assistant, American Indian Studies, UCLA	1998
◇ Editorial Columnist, Daily Bruin Newspaper, UCLA	1997
◇ Tutor, Academic Advancement Program, UCLA	1997
◇ Project Director, Retention of American Indians Now!, UCLA	1994-1996

#### **RST & Associates | Los Angeles, California**

◇ Apartment Manager	1993-1994
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### **EDUCATION**

◇ Juris Doctor, <i>Loyola Law School</i> , Los Angeles	2001
◇ Master of Arts, American Indian Studies, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	1998
◇ Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, <i>University of California, Los Angeles</i>	1996
◇ Diploma, <i>Yakutat High School</i> , Yakutat, Alaska	1988

### **VOLUNTEER SERVICE / MEMBERSHIPS**

◇ Postsecondary and Access Completion Network, founding member, president 1yr	2013-2017
◇ Juneau Lions Club, board member	2006-2016
◇ National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependency, board member	2013-2015
◇ Alaska Committee, board member	2010-2013
◇ Alaska Bar Association, member	Since 2002

### **PUBLICATIONS**

◇ Article, <i>The Realities of a Tribal-Federal Relationship</i> , <u>Cultural Survival Quarterly</u> , Fall 2003
◇ Note, <i>California High Court Strikes Down Indian Gaming in Hotel Employees International v. Davis</i> , <u>Indian Gaming: Who Wins?</u> , eds. Angela Mullis and David Kamper (LA: UCLA American Indian Studies Center, 2003)
◇ Book Review, <i>Will the Time Ever Come?</i> , <u>American Indian Culture and Research Journal</u> , Vol. 25, 2001
◇ Book Review, <i>The Living Tradition of Yupik Masks</i> , <u>Oral History Review</u> , Fall 1997