


Jessica Moats Alloway



February 4, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
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, sweeping underline that loops back under the name.

Jessie M. Alloway

Jessie Moats Alloway

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

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I am writing to respectfully request your consideration of my candidacy for the vacancies on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. I have extensive federal litigation experience, including successfully representing the United States in high-stakes constitutional challenges, national security matters, and complex regulatory disputes in federal courts across the country over the course of Presidential administrations of both parties. As Deputy Municipal Attorney for Anchorage, I currently represent the Municipality's interests in matters before the District of Alaska and the Ninth Circuit, including cases involving critical public safety issues. My career in public service has given me tremendous pride and satisfaction in diligently applying my legal acumen to helping resolve difficult disputes with integrity and overriding respect for the rule of law. It would be an honor to continue doing so, but in a different capacity as a federal judge.

My legal career began here in Alaska clerking for then-Chief Justice Dana Fabe after graduating *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School. That clerkship is where I learned how unique this State is in law and life. The challenges we face in Alaska have often led to novel legal solutions in the form of federal statutes governing land ownership, resource development, and Alaska Natives. In our short history as a State, we have been blessed by a world-class bench and bar that have risen to the challenges we face. As Chief Justice Roberts famously observed, and as every brief to an Outside court about an Alaska issue has noted ever since, "Alaska is different." I am thankful every day that I lucked my way into this special life, where I met my wife on a hike up Crow Pass, and this legal community, where I currently serve on the board of the Alaska chapter of the Federal Bar Association and help organize bench-bar events.

After starting our legal journey here in Alaska, my wife and I briefly moved to DC where I launched what would become nearly a decade-long career as a DOJ litigator. After just a few years in DC, we had the good sense to come back to Alaska to make our forever home and raise our children. I was given special permission during the first Trump administration, before the pandemic, to work remotely from Alaska while continuing to take the lead on some of the federal government's most sensitive, complex, and important cases, including matters of national security and administration priorities, such as cases involving state secrets, foreign intelligence surveillance, military aid to Israel, the defense of Executive Orders, and the constitutionality of major bipartisan federal statutes. That worked earned me U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement and a Special Commendation for Outstanding Service. By the time I left DOJ, I had filed over 100 significant motions and briefs in 56 cases in federal courts across the country.

I am now honored to serve as Deputy Municipal Attorney for Anchorage. In that role, I directly supervise and conduct all civil litigation on behalf of the Municipality in federal and state courts, particularly the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. I also advise municipal leadership on an astoundingly broad range of legal matters that come before the city every day. This job gives me the opportunity to devote my legal talents to making my town better in tangible ways that my family

and I can see every day. A very significant part of my job involves navigating the intersection of federal law with state and local law in the unique context of Alaska, with our special needs and often special legal frameworks. That experience has given me valuable insight into the real-world impacts of federal judicial decisions on local businesses and communities and the importance of making sure our bench maintains the highest level of professional capability, integrity, and diligence.

Public service is a calling, and any lawyer fortunate enough to be selected from the long list of those qualified to sit on the bench should feel grateful for the opportunity to serve. I certainly would. My career as a litigator has instilled in me a reverence for the rule of law as a bedrock principle in our country and for the essential role of the judge in upholding that value. Much of the greatness of our modern world rests on the rule of law. It would be an honor to continue in the tradition of upholding the rule of law for the next generation. But I must admit I also have a more personal, less lofty interest in serving: I am a huge legal nerd. I have never met a case or legal issue, big or small, that I did not find interesting. I can think of no more interesting job than one that feeds me a constant diet of new legal and factual issues to resolve to the best of my abilities.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications with you or your staff at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Busa



JOSEPH F. BUSA

Summary: extensive litigation experience in federal, state, and local government, including defending Presidential administrations of both parties in federal courts across the country and defending the Municipality of Anchorage in the District of Alaska and Ninth Circuit

2024–Now MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE, Deputy Municipal Attorney

- Supervise all civil litigation in federal and state courts in which the Municipality is involved, including:
 - Port funding litigation, officer-involved shooting litigation, employment disputes, and torts
- Advise the Mayor, Municipal Manager, Departments, and Assembly on wide range of legal matters
- Manage civil legal department comprising 12 attorney and 3 staff positions, with duties including:
 - Hiring, training, assigning work, supervising, evaluating performance, budgeting, and procurement
- Special projects as assigned by Municipal Attorney (including assistance on criminal law issues)
- As ethics officer, provide Muni-wide advice on municipal ethics code
- Areas of special focus: Crime, public safety, homelessness, energy, federalism

2015–2024 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Civil Division, Appellate Staff, Attorney

- Worked in DC for three years before returning to Alaska in 2018 for family reasons
- Lead attorney for federal government on important and sensitive cases across three administrations:
 - Developed overall litigation strategy, reviewed and edited district court briefs, wrote appellate motions and briefs, presented oral arguments, and drafted cert. and merits briefs in Supreme Court
 - Presented oral argument in 28 cases in 9 courts of appeals; filed 106 appellate briefs and significant appellate motions in 56 cases in the courts of appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court
 - Significant cases:
 - *Handy v. Jones*, No. 3:24-cv-00178 (D. Alaska) (pending) (police officers shot violent suspect)
 - *American Federation of Government Employees v. Trump*, 929 F.3d 748, 752 (D.C. Cir. 2019) (Executive Orders addressing collective bargaining by federal employees)
 - *Wikimedia v. NSA*, 14 F.4th 276 (4th Cir. 2021) (state secrets and foreign intelligence surveillance)
 - *NHBPA v. Black*, 53 F.4th 869 (5th Cir. 2022), 107 F.4th 415 (5th Cir. 2024); *Alpine Securities Corp. v. FINRA*, 121 F.4th 1314 (D.C. Cir. 2024) (constitutionality of private, self-regulatory organizations)
- Advised the White House, agencies, and DOJ leadership; reviewed draft legislation, regulations, and EOs
- U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions' John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement in Litigation
- Special Commendation for Outstanding Service for advising on national security matters
- Areas of special focus: First Amendment, Fourth Amendment, separation of powers, administrative law, national security, surveillance, employment and labor, False Claims Act, bankruptcy, and FOIA

2014–2015 U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, Judge David Barron, Law Clerk

2013–2014 ALASKA SUPREME COURT, Chief Justice Dana Fabe, Law Clerk

2010–2013 HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, J.D., *magna cum laude*

- Harvard Law Review, Notes Editor
- Dean's Scholar in seven classes (awarded in recognition of the highest grades in each class)

2004–2008 HARVARD COLLEGE, B.A., *summa cum laude*, Social Studies

- Activities: Harvard Glee Club, Baritone; taught civics in local middle schools
- Honors: Phi Beta Kappa; Detur Book Prize

Federal Bar Association, Alaska Chapter, Board Member

Bars: AK and NY. Admitted to practice in D. Alaska, 9th Cir., U.S. Supreme Court, and 9 other federal courts

ROBERT W. CORBIER

February 4, 2025

Honorable Lisa A. Murkowski
United States Senate
522 Hart SOB
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Sen. Murkowski,

I am interested in the federal district court vacancy because I want to restore faith in our nation's judiciary, and I believe my résumé might help.

I went to Vermont Law School because it was the top school for environmental/resources law for two of my three years there. I was already on the east coast and saw it as an opportunity to be back in the woods and close to skiing. Having grown up in Homer/Anchor Point, my goal was to return home to Alaska and become in-house counsel to an oil company, a mining company, or an Alaska Native corporation involved in resource development to counsel them on environmental compliance.

I did not want to be a trial attorney upon graduating from law school let alone a judge, but my career path is full of unanticipated curves. For starters, Frank Murkowski ran for Governor, so I was honored when the Attorney General called while I was finishing my JD to ask if I could be his Special Assistant. Less than two years later, the Governor drafted me into his personal office to handle a legal/policy portfolio. My own circumstances at the end of that administration required me to remain a state employee, so I moved back to the Department of Law to become a DA and earned my stripes as a trial attorney. After almost 5.5 years, I took the opportunity at Reeves Amodio to work on environmental permitting and spill cleanup issues. I also accepted some of the firm's general practice areas and capitalized on my litigation experience. Except for family law and criminal defense (and I did some of these cases anyway), I saw the gamut of clients: estates, real estate/property, transactions, corporate issues, contracts, complex commercial disputes, spill cleanups, NPDES permitting, torts, insurance, etc.

I was invited back into public service in late 2018 to assist the Dunleavy administration with criminal law reform. With that accomplished and a change in the Chief of Staff, I found myself seeking a new role. This led me to become a civil rights attorney as the Executive Director for the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights. From the outset, and particularly given that I was the sole attorney when I started, I committed to leading the agency from the front by retaining a caseload. I am extremely proud of my five years at the Commission: the agency is restaffed, reorganized, and with efficiencies I implemented, we accomplished a 40-year goal to reduce investigation times to less than a year. It was here in my first few months that an opposing attorney first planted the seed by telling me I should apply for an open judicial seat.

At this point in my career, I have experience providing high-level legal and policy

advice to two administrations, I served as a prosecutor, I represented a wide variety of clients in private civil practice, and I am a civil rights attorney. I proved my worth as a competent trial lawyer and an efficient administrator. I have a working knowledge of ANILCA (I wrote the State's amicus brief in *Hale v. Norton*) and ANCSA, and tried to center as many projects during law school as I could on these laws. I studied environmental/resources law, am published, and have a working knowledge of our resource industries. My depth of legal experience is rounded while simultaneously focused on issues important to Alaska. I am also familiar with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The bench needs non-controversial appointments consisting of competent attorneys with good moral character, who understand Alaska's needs and our special laws, who have a working knowledge of criminal law, who appreciate representing clients in typical civil disputes, and who can genuinely listen to both sides and give parties a fairly decided and correct decision. I would bring all of this to the bench, and I want the opportunity to play some small role in restoring America's faith in our judicial system.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Corbisier

ROBERT W. CORBISIER

EDUCATION

Vermont Law School, Juris Doctor, 5/03; Alaska Bar Assoc. #0311072

Honors: Vermont Law Review; Dean's Fellow; ABA Negotiations Competition Regional Team; Client Counseling Competition Regional Team; HEA, Inc. Scholarship

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bachelor of Science, 6/98

Homer High School, 5/94

Honors: Valedictorian; BP Principal's and Commissioner's Scholarships; ARCO Scholarship; AK State Assoc. of Emblem Clubs Scholarship

EXPERIENCE

State of Alaska

Office of Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, Alaska State Commission for Human Rights,

Executive Director Anchorage, AK, 11/19-present

Recruited by the Governor's newly appointed Commissioners to stabilize and rebuild the quasi-judicial/quasi-independent agency after a period of significant turmoil resulting in the resignation of all attorneys and other senior staff. Working initially as the sole attorney and agency director, restarted civil rights prosecutions and rebuilt staff. Expanded outreach program with focus on supporting small businesses and HR professionals. As litigation director, oversee a small litigation staff and maintain a caseload to enforce the Alaska Human Rights Act. Restructured the agency to find efficiencies and accomplished a 40-year goal to bring average case investigation times down to less than 1 year.

Office of Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, Asst. AG Juneau/Anchorage, AK, 12/18-10/19

Recruited by the Dunleavy Administration to serve in the Governor's Office (as a Department of Law employee) in a general counsel-type role, in conjunction with the Attorney General. Provided immediate legal advice on a variety of policy matters for the day-to-day needs of the Governor's Office. Addressed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory questions; advised the Governor and executive team on matters related to Indian law and public safety. Assisted with the repeal/replacement of SB 91. Oversaw executive clemency. Transitioned into a more direct policy role as liaison between the Governor's Office and the Departments of Commerce, Revenue, Education, Military & Veterans Affairs, Corrections, Public Safety, Health & Social Services, and Labor.

Independent Contractor

Attorney Lecturer, Anchorage, AK, 6/12-present

Provide state law required legal instruction related to concealed weapons laws in Alaska for numerous firearms instructors offering the Alaska Concealed Handgun Permit classes, and occasionally help as a range safety officer.

Reeves Amodio LLC

Senior Associate, Anchorage, AK, 5/12-11/18

Civil practice split between litigation, environmental/natural resources law, and general practice. Large mine permitting work; advised in oil and gas matters; litigated complex commercial oil & gas dispute; other business disputes; contract negotiations/drafting. Represented large and small clients in cleanup matters under state and federal law. Provided advice in corporate matters, business structure, transactions, and property law. Expertise in lands. Obtained affirmation of complete attorney fee award after prevailing at trial in easement/access

dispute reported in *Keenan v. Meyer*, 424 P.3d 351 (Alaska, 2018).

State of Alaska

Department of Law, Assistant District Attorney, Anchorage, AK, 1/07-4/12

Conducted all aspects of criminal prosecution from intake, motion work, trials, probation revocations, post conviction relief, and sentence appeals. Responsible for near-daily court hearings and regular jury trials including in rural Alaska. Served as the primary weapons prosecutor for the Third Judicial District; assigned Mental Health Court responsibility.

Office of Governor Frank H. Murkowski, Special Staff Assistant Juneau, AK, 6/05-12/06

Policy oversight and leadership for the following departments/issues: Departments of Law, Revenue, and Commerce; Native Affairs; Rural Justice Commission; Alaska Railroad; Canada; national/regional gubernatorial organizations. Worked closely with cabinet members and governor to advance policy initiatives. Represented governor in meetings and public venues. Provided limited in-house legal research on certain natural resources and lands issues. Traveled extensively with and for governor.

Department of Law, Special Assistant to Attorney General Gregg Renkes, Juneau, AK, 8/03-5/05

Handled special projects, cases, and issues assigned by the AG. Represented the AG extensively in meetings and public venues. Worked on the Rural Justice Commission; led subsistence policy task force; wrote Alaska's amicus brief to Ninth Circuit in *Hale v. Norton*. Managed executive-level administrative functions, including creating and implementing attorney recruitment program.

Jack Ferguson Associates, Inc.

Interim Vice President, Washington, D.C., 5/02-8/02

Assistant lobbyist for small government affairs consulting firm dealing almost exclusively with Alaskan issues and the Alaska congressional delegation. Significant issues included SBA 8(a) contracting, by-pass mail.

Birch, Horton, Bittner, & Cherot

Law Clerk, Anchorage, AK 5/01-8/01

Summer associate for general practice law firm. Conducted legal research, drafted briefs and memorandums.

Office of Senator Frank H. Murkowski

Staff Assistant, Legislative Aide, System Administrator, Washington, D.C., 10/99-8/00

Began as Staff Assistant, quickly promoted to Legislative Aide responsible for environmental issues, EPA. Prepared Senator for hearings and meetings. Provided significant assistance on AK-Canada rail link and associated legislation, and legislation to create a new EPA region. Also served as the office System Administrator, responsible for technology budget and coordination with Senate-wide information technology.

BP Exploration, Alaska, Inc.

Tour Guide, North Slope, AK, Summers '95-'98

Within the External Affairs Department, hosted technically oriented tours to VIPs and special guests regarding North Slope operations. Became fluent in oil and gas production, including spending a week training as a production operator at the Endicott oil field. Had access and led tours through oil/gas/water separation facilities, drilling rigs, workover rigs, gas facilities, and Pump Station 1. Guests included congressional delegations, state legislators, governors, the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation trustees, foreign oil companies, FERC, visiting engineers, and high level corporate investors/owners.

PUBLICATION

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Correlative Rights, and Sourdough: Not Just for Bread Anymore, 19 ALASKA L. REV. 393 (2002).

OTHER INTERESTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Anchorage Downtown Rotary, Alaska Bar Association, Anchorage Bar Association, Scouting America adult leader (Eagle Scout w/ Silver Palm, Vigil Honor), Alaska Extreme Fourwheelers (former president), Alaska Machine Gun Association, Scrambler Owners Association, camping and hiking, hunting, alpine skiing, auto mechanics, Chilkat weaving, *Yees Ku Oo* dance group, enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation.

Michael J. Heyman

January 27, 2025

Via Email

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate

Re: Federal Judicial Vacancy, District of Alaska

Dear Senator Murkowski:

It is with honor that I write to express my interest in becoming a United States District Court Judge for the District of Alaska. As one of the most senior criminal prosecutors in the Anchorage branch of the U.S. Attorney's office, I have had the privilege of serving Alaska and the United States in a variety of roles, but can think of no higher distinction than joining the federal judiciary.

My nearly 25 years of experiences have provided me with the skillset, judgment, compassion, and respect for the rule of law required to succeed as a federal judge. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney, I have prosecuted countless complex cases, including the highest profile white-collar, corruption, and violent crimes cases, many involving highly vulnerable victims. For instance, I was lead counsel on a \$26 million investment fraud scheme perpetrated on nearly 200 Alaskan victims. I have also handled matters involving oil and gas issues, the fentanyl epidemic, and economic crimes committed in rural Alaska. In 2023, I was awarded the distinguished U.S. Department of Justice Director's Award for my accomplishments.

Prior to the U.S. Attorney's office, I was a partner in the insolvency/restructuring group at the international law firm of K&L Gates LLP, primarily representing distressed businesses and fraud victims. In addition, I have been the keynote speaker at dozens of domestic and international professional events, published multiple articles on civil and criminal topics, and lived in Nepal and the Maldives to assist these countries in developing the rule of law, including, for example, combating human trafficking and establishing fair plea bargaining and public defender systems.

I am committed to serving Alaska's communities as a federal judge. As a father of three school-aged children, an active community member, a fisherman, and a local small business owner, I appreciate the significant impacts federal cases have on our daily lives and would ensure that every citizen has an impartial and respected forum to redress their grievances.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the judicial vacancy with you in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Heyman", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Heyman

Michael J. Heyman

WORK EXPERIENCE

United States Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office, District of Alaska
Criminal Division

United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of California
Assistant United States Attorney & Resident Legal Advisor

Anchorage, AK
Colombo, Sri Lanka
San Diego, CA
March 2012 - Present

- Recipient of the U.S. Department of Justice 2023 Director's Award [REDACTED]
- Tried 20 felony cases involving money laundering, firearms trafficking, wire fraud, false statements, felon-in-possession, complex narcotics conspiracies, immigration issues, and bankruptcy fraud
- Drafted approximately 20 appellate briefs and argued 5 cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Acted as the Chief Financial Crimes Prosecutor for the District of Alaska prosecuting the highest profile white-collar cases such as the \$26 million investment fraud scheme [REDACTED] and the \$7 million embezzlement scheme [REDACTED]
- Successfully tried a case against a corrupt federal agent and the drug trafficking organization to which he belonged; responsibilities included leading a cross-agency team of agents over a three-year period to develop the case against the agent and several other high-ranking members of a drug transportation cell operating in Tijuana, Mexico that was responsible for the importation of 1,000+ kilograms of methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine
- Conducted multiple wiretap investigations, including a multi-year investigation into a drug transportation cell responsible for importing and distributing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine per month
- Acted as the lead attorney in the investigation, prosecution and resolution of numerous lengthy proactive investigations, including sophisticated tax schemes, the illegal exportation of vehicles, bank robbery with an explosive device, kidnapping, extortion, and violent drug, human and bulk cash smuggling organizations
- Assisted as co-counsel in a 26-defendant wire fraud case, including analyzing complex electronic discovery issues, directing agency investigations, presenting reverse proffers, arguing substantive hearings, and trial
- Created and launched the Alaska COVID Fraud Task Force involving multiple federal law enforcement agencies
- Held specialty coordinator positions in the following areas: (1) FinCEN Suspicious Activities Reports; (2) Health Care Fraud; (3) Border Corruption; (4) Bankruptcy Fraud; (5) Elder Fraud; and (6) COVID Fraud
- Selected by the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of State to organize and establish a first of its kind program in the Maldives to combat transnational criminal organizations and develop the Maldivian government's capacity to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate complex criminal cases; act as the primary advisor to U.S. Ambassador Alaina Teplitz regarding issues concerning the Maldivian legal and justice sectors
- Mentored Maldivian prosecutors and investigators on pending money laundering investigations and cases, including assisting prosecutors in defending against legal challenges raised by former Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen following his money laundering conviction, and developing a strategy for prosecutors to prosecute several corrupt members of the Maldivian Parliament who accepted bribes in the MMPRC scandal involving the illegal sale of dozens of tropical islands and the laundering of \$75+ million in proceeds that was the subject of the Al Jazeera documentary entitled *Stealing Paradise*; develop and implement a program to assist the Maldivian government in strengthening its anti-money laundering regime in coordination with the U.S. Department of Treasury
- Implemented U.S. counter-terrorism policy, coordinated with international intelligence organizations, and advised Maldivian investigators and prosecutors on international terrorism cases, [REDACTED]
- Served on a 14-month detail to the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal, as the Resident Legal Advisor; responsibilities included advising the Ambassador on legal issues, combating corruption and transnational crime, building capacity in the Nepali justice sector, and acting as the liaison with the Nepal Attorney General's office

K&L Gates LLP*Partner*Los Angeles, CA
September 2007 - February 2012

- Acted as lead counsel for lenders in the collection of defaulted securitized loan portfolios, including obtaining receivers, discovery on rent skimming and commingling schemes, and analyzing loan securitization agreements
- Defended an individual and closely held corporations accused of defrauding investors of \$20+ million in a global internet scam, including advising on international banking and bankruptcy laws, conflicts issues, alter ego ramifications and criminal investigations, resolving multi-district litigation, and drafting and implementing an elaborate settlement agreement involving hundreds of claimants worldwide
- Advised a disenfranchised co-owner of 34 bankrupt real estate development entities whose business partner surreptitiously misappropriated company assets and raised capital through a multilevel Ponzi scheme
- Confidentially represented multiple Brazilian entities defrauded of over \$300 million by an international banking scandal by performing cross-border jurisdictional and insolvency analyses, asset tracing, and preparation of an involuntary bankruptcy petition and motions to prevent the dissipation of U.S. assets
- Served as counsel to a receiver of a Kia car dealership that abruptly closed and transferred \$1 million in assets to Jordan, including obtaining an *ex parte* temporary protective order and a writ of possession
- Defended a principal of a publicly traded company accused of S.E.C. violations and expansive criminal practices

Orange County District Attorney's Office*Deputy District Attorney* (volunteer program)Fullerton, CA
May 2007 - August 2007

- Tried 4 misdemeanor jury trials and conducted 15 felony preliminary examinations; prepared criminal complaints

Hennigan, Bennett & Dorman, LLP*Associate Attorney*Los Angeles, CA
November 2005 - February 2007

- Represented 20 entities holding \$450 million in bonds of Solutia, Inc. in federal court proceedings relating to a breach of trust indenture, including summary judgment proceedings, writs of mandamus, and trial pleadings
- Litigated actions involving a lien holder's efforts to enforce a \$74 million claim based on a domesticated Japanese judgment against the Hyatt Regency Waikiki, including all discovery, evidentiary hearings, and appeals in the Hawaii Bankruptcy Court, Circuit and Appeals Court, and Supreme Court, and U.S. District Court
- Handled three appeals of summary judgment and attorneys' fees awards to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals
- Assisted in preparing multiple trial briefs in a bondholder committee's attempt to recover \$17 billion in losses resulting from the corporate fraud of Adelphia Communications, Inc.

Weiland, Golden, Smiley, Wang Ekvall & Strok, LLP*Associate Attorney*Costa Mesa, CA
October 2002 - October 2005

- Independently litigated claims from pleadings through resolution in state and federal courts involving R.I.C.O. violations, bad faith, fraud, unfair competition, fraudulent transfers, alter ego, breach of contract, etc.
- Acted as second chair in a six-week misappropriation jury trial and lead associate in a \$310 million contract case
- Took and defended over 75 depositions; participated in mediations; generated litigation budgets and risk analyses

United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California**Honorable Robert Alberts, James Barr, and Lynne Riddle**Santa Ana, CA
October 2001 - September 2002*Law Clerk*

- Conducted statutory, legislative, and case law research on numerous civil and bankruptcy issues
- Drafted and edited memorandum of decision and tentative rulings; monitored trials and prepared trial summaries

EDUCATION**The George Washington University Law School** - Washington, D.C. - J.D., May 2001

- Law Clerk, U.S. Department of Justice, Commercial Litigation Branch, September 1999 - March 2000
- Moot Court Board Member and Competition Best Brief Award, published in Public Contract Law Journal Issue 30:1

University of California, Irvine - Irvine, CA - B.A. Political Science *with Honors* and B.A. Int'l Studies, June 1998**ACTIVITIES**

- Keynote and guest speaker at dozens of professional events within the U.S., such as the 34th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Providers Conference in Anchorage, and internationally, including the Maldives, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines
- Author of multiple professional publications: (1) *Parallel Bankruptcy and Criminal Proceedings, Why Parallel Bankruptcy Proceedings Are Different*, United States Attorney's Bulletin, March 2018; (2) *The Step-Transaction Defense*, California Bankruptcy Journal, Vol. 30., No. 1, 2009; (3) Co-Author (with Hon. Theodor C. Albert) - *Bankruptcy Law's Major Changes*, Orange County Lawyer, July 2005
- Former: (1) Legal Writing Instructor, UC Irvine; (2) Contributing Editor, California Bankruptcy Journal; (3) Bar Association Commercial Litigation Section Board Member; (4) Irrelevant Week Board Member; (5) Louis M. Welsh Inn-of-Court Member; and (6) Anchorage Hockey Association Board Member

RONALD W. OPSAHL

Attorney at Law

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: U.S. District Court Judicial Vacancy

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I was very happy to learn that you are again accepting letters of interest and resumes to fill the Federal District Court of Alaska seat vacated in July 2024, and presumably the seat vacated in December 2021. With this letter, I am expressing my interest in consideration for one of those vacancies.

Currently, I am a senior assistant attorney general for the State of Alaska within the Natural Resources Section of the Department of Law. I serve as Section lead on federal litigation pertaining to statehood defense and federal overreach, navigability, and RS 2477. I also advise and litigate on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies regarding the statehood entitlement program, Dingell Act Vietnam veterans' allotments, federal land management, Endangered Species Act, section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and other federal programs. Additionally, I serve as an advisor to the natural resources subcabinet, which consists of the commissioners and deputies for the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, Environmental Conservation, and the Attorney General's office.

In way of background, I have been in practice for 20 years, specializing in administrative, environmental, wildlife, and natural resources law, especially in relation to public and private lands in the West. Prior to joining the State, my employment history included positions in both large and small law firms, operating a solo practice, and directing a natural resources practice group for a non-profit law firm focused on western land issues. Before law school, I was employed as a wildlife biologist and have conducted field work on numerous species in Alaska, Colorado, and Oregon. I find that the knowledge of environmental sciences that I gained as a field biologist helps greatly in my understanding the often-complex issues presented in a natural resources law practice and certainly has helped in gaining a strong rapport with the scientists and ecologists working on the ground.

Taken as a whole, I believe that I am a strong candidate for the federal bench. I am forwarding you via email a pdf copy of my resume for your review. If I can provide you with any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Ronald W. Opsahl

RONALD W. OPSAHL

Attorney at Law



CURRENT POSITION

State of Alaska, Department of Law

Senior Assistant Attorney General, Natural Resources Section

Anchorage, Alaska

November 2020–Present

- Lead attorney advising matters of statewide significance pertaining to resource conservation and development, statehood defense and federal overreach, navigability, and rights-of-way; manages outside counsel and expert contracts; and mentors department attorneys
- Litigates in state and federal courts in cases involving the statehood entitlement program, state-owned submerged lands, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Endangered Species Act, section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and federal land management and programs
- Provides advice to executive branch subcabinet consisting of the commissioners and deputies of the departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, Environmental Conservation, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Governor’s Office

PRIOR LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- Managed natural resources practice group representing land owner, industry, and trade association clients on a pro bono basis in cases of national significance in federal and state courts; responsible for short and long term practice group strategic planning; developed practice group and individual budgets covering client and case development, attorney professional development, and anticipated litigation costs and expenses; trained and mentored junior attorneys and firm staff in natural resources and environmental law and litigation
- Managed regional mineral title practice group representing oil and gas industries throughout the Rocky Mountain West; oversaw the preparation of mineral title opinions involving fee, state, and federal lands during a period of unprecedented petroleum resource development; responsible for short and long term practice group strategic planning and client development; established and implemented practice group marketing and training budgets; trained and mentored junior attorneys and firm staff in the preparation of mineral and surface estate title opinions
- Martindale-Hubbell® AV Preeminent® rated

Opsahl Law Office, LLC

Attorney/Member

Lakewood, Colorado

May 2019–November 2020;

January 2011–October 2011

Mountain States Legal Foundation

Senior Attorney; Director – Natural Resources Practice Group

Staff Attorney

Lakewood, Colorado

May 2019–July 2020;

April 2005–January 2011

Fennemore Craig, P.C.

Of Counsel Attorney

Denver, Colorado/Phoenix, Arizona

November 2016–May 2019

Dufford & Brown, P.C. / Polsinelli, P.C.

Attorney

Denver, Colorado

November 2014–November 2016

Burleson LLP

Senior Counsel; Manager – Rockies Title Practice Group

Denver, Colorado

October 2011–November 2014

RONALD W. OPSAHL

EDUCATION

University of Denver, Sturm College of Law **Denver, Colorado**
Master of Laws, Natural Resources and Environmental Law and Policy *May 2005*

Lewis and Clark College, Northwestern School of Law **Portland, Oregon**
Juris Doctor and Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law *May 2004*

- Honors: Best Appellate Brief, Legal Analysis and Writing Moot Court
- Law Review: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, Notes and Comments Editor

Colorado State University **Fort Collins, Colorado**
Bachelor of Science, Wildlife Biology, Cum Laude *May 2001*

- Honors: Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; Xi Sigma Pi Forestry Honor Fraternity

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Wildlife Biologist, Field Technician **Alaska, Colorado, and Oregon**
Various state and federal agencies *May 2000–July 2002*

- Conducted ecological research on freshwater fish, large game animals, arctic waterfowl, and shorebirds in support of several research projects in Alaska, Colorado, and Oregon

Intelligence Analyst and Reporter **Stateside and overseas assignments**
United States Air Force *July 1988–September 1997*

- Supervised an analysis and reporting team consisting of personnel from four military services and federal civilian employees
- Analyzed intelligence activities and made initial decisions about the strategic, operational, and tactical importance of the activity; responsible for real-time and near-real-time reporting of significant activity to national- and theater-level military and civilian decision-makers

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

Ronald W. Opsahl, Opinion, *Trump is Right to Reform NEPA, But Will It Be Enough?* WASH. EXAMINER, Jan. 20, 2020 (discussing regulatory reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act)

Ronald W. Opsahl, Opinion, *Trump's Environmental Reforms: Good for the Environment, Bad for Lawyers*, REALCLEAR POL'Y, Aug. 26, 2019 (discussing reforms to the Endangered Species Act)

Norman D. James & **Ronald W. Opsahl**, *Forest Service & State, County, & Local Government Coordination Under NFMA Section 6*, AM. STEWARDS OF LIBERTY (Sept. 7, 2017), available at https://americanstewards.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/NFMA-Coordination-Legal-Analysis_James.pdf

Ronald W. Opsahl, *My Pooling Clause Does What? An Unintended and Unexpected Result of a Standard Pooling Clause*, ROCKY MOUNTAIN LANDMAN (Denver Ass'n of Prof'l Landmen, Denver, Colo.), Nov. 2016 (discussing oil and gas lease contractual provisions)

Ronald W. Opsahl, *Teetotaler's Legacies: Historical Liquor Restrictions and Modern Urban/Suburban Drilling*, ROCKY MOUNTAIN LANDMAN (Denver Ass'n of Prof'l Landmen, Denver, Colo.), Nov. 2015 (discussing potential ongoing effects of historical deed restrictions)

Ronald W. Opsahl, *Chronic Wasting Disease of Deer and Elk: A Call for National Management*, 33 ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 1059 (2003) (discussing adequacy of responses to wildlife disease epidemic)

COURT ADMISSIONS

State admissions: Alaska (active), Arizona (inactive), Colorado (inactive), Kansas (inactive), Montana (inactive), and Wyoming (active)

Federal admissions: U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. Courts of Appeal for the 5th, 9th, 10th, and D.C. Circuits; U.S. Court of Federal Claims; and U.S. District Courts for the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, D.C., and Wyoming

Scott Oravec

By email transmittal to: ak_judge@murkowski.senate.gov

The Honorable U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
101 12th Avenue, Room 172
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

February 5, 2025

Dear Senator Murkowski,

I am writing to request consideration for the federal district judge vacancy in the District of Alaska. I currently serve as a part-time federal magistrate judge in our District, recently served for six months as a full-time active-duty trial judge in the United States Army, and am now seeking employment as a full-time trial judge in our District.

I offer significant experience as a judicial officer in federal venues. As a civilian, I have served our District since 2009 as a federal magistrate judge that regularly hears criminal and civil matters from different areas of Alaska. In this role, I have worked for years with our court staff and stakeholder agencies to preserve the rights of the parties and ensure the administration of justice. As a former prosecutor and defense attorney, I am mindful of the stressors on litigants, including incarcerated defendants. I approach challenges with respect, thoughtfulness, and persistence.

In addition to my work for the District of Alaska, I was recently selected again to continue serving as a military judge in the United States Army Reserve. From the trial court perspective, a military judge must possess the same aptitudes as a federal district judge. A military judge presides over felony trials (jury or bench), tries cases involving United States Code violations, and must apply the Rules of Evidence, Military and Federal. Most recently, in 2024, I was mobilized to active-duty and was primarily responsible for all courts-martial heard at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. As an active-duty judge, I was responsible for the careful coordination of my docket, case management and training of military magistrates. The work is similar to that performed by district judges in Alaska.

I have served on various judicial committees because improving processes is an important component of serving in the judiciary. For the federal courts, I was most recently selected to serve on the Magistrate Judge Advisory Group of the U.S. Courts and am a director on the Federal Magistrate Judges Association board. In the military, I am on the Military Judges' Benchbook Committee. Locally, I am active on Alaska Bar Association subcommittees, support legal education as presenter and attendee, and I volunteer in the community. I was appointed to serve on the Alaska Military Appeals Commission in 2021.

My candidacy offers the continuity of an experienced trial judge who is prepared, enjoys the work, and continually strives to treat litigants, counsel, and staff with respect. I am ready to serve in the District of Alaska as a full-time United States district judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Scott Oravec

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Experienced judicial officer seeking full-time position as United States District Judge.
- U.S. Magistrate Judge in District of Alaska since 2009. Reappointed four times.
- Military Judge, U.S. Army Reserves. Selected twice.
- Prosecutor and defense counsel in federal and concurrent jurisdiction state law cases tried in military and civilian courts. Alaskan lawyer since 2001. Alaskan resident since 1999.

JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

Federal Magistrate Judge (Grade 1, part-time); February 2009 – present (reappointed four times)

United States District Court, District of Alaska

Full range of federal magistrate judge duties. In criminal cases, I issue warrants; conduct preliminary, discovery, and evidentiary hearings; hear felony changes of plea; make findings and recommendations on dispositive motions; conduct trial and sentencing in Class B misdemeanor cases and Class A misdemeanor cases upon consent. In civil cases, I can preside over trial upon consent, motion practice as delegated, settlement conferences, and habeas matters. Civil matters have involved a wide range of issues such as torts, civil rights, prisoner rights litigation, employment discrimination, and environmental issues.

- Magistrate Judge Advisory Group of the U.S. Courts (2024 - present).
- Chair of the Part-time U.S. Magistrate Judge Committee, Federal Magistrate Judges Association (2023 - present), Member (2015– present).
- Director-at-Large, Federal Magistrate Judge Association Board of Directors (2023-present).
- District of Alaska committees; Criminal Justice Act procedures manual revision (2017-2022), Bail Procedures Review Committee (2020-2021).

Military Judge, U.S. Army Reserves; 2015-2018 and 2021-present

U.S. Army Trial Judiciary, Sixth Judicial Circuit (West Coast and Alaska)

Performs duties equivalent to a United States District Judge. Preside over felony and misdemeanor offense trials, conduct hearings on evidentiary matters, decide motions. Instruct jurors on the law. In trials by judge alone, make findings and, when necessary, impose a sentence. Manage assigned cases.

- **U.S. Army active-duty Military Judge, January – July 2024, Fourth Judicial Circuit.**

Presided over approximately 22 court-martials (primarily felonies), supervised military magistrates, managed docket. Primarily covered Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Additional trials as needed (Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Wainwright, etc.)

- Appointed to Military Judges' Benchbook Committee (2023-present). Research and recommend changes to the Military Judges' Benchbook, DA Pamphlet 27-9 used across the services, contains Trial Procedure and Instructions, Instructions on Elements of Offenses, Defenses, and Evidentiary Instructions.

Military Appeals Commissioner, State of Alaska, 2021-present

Appointed by Governor Dunleavy, confirmed by Alaska State Legislature

One of three commissioners hearing appeals from Alaska National Guard courts-martial; appeals involve sentences, punishments, erroneous findings, and matters of law; issue written decisions after argument.

EDUCATION

Masters in Strategic Studies, July 2018, U.S. Army War College

Command and General Staff Officer Course, July 2014, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College

Masters in Urban Affairs, January 1997, Saint Louis University

Juris Doctor, May 1996, Saint Louis University

Bachelors in Public Administration, May 1993, James Madison University. ROTC Scholarship (1990-1993)

OTHER LEGAL EXPERIENCE

The Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, 2018–2021

U.S. Army Reserves, 311th Signal Command (Theater). Primary legal advisor to two-star command with nearly 4,000 civilian employees and full-time service members in the Indo-Pacific Theater. My role was similar to that of a civilian general counsel, advising on legal and ethical issues. I supervised a multi-component legal office of officers, civilian attorneys and enlisted Soldiers. My practice areas included fiscal, labor, and administrative law, along with strategic advice in civil litigation. I advised the command with regards to inter-agency service support agreements; contract negotiations with vendors, agencies, and other services; budgetary conflicts with other units. I resolved matters related to real property, utility services, installation management, and participated in negotiations to resolve civil litigation short of trial.

Private Practice Attorney, Oravec Law Group, LLC, 2008–2016. Represented defendants in state and military courts in criminal, civil, and administrative matters. Some Rule 12 work.

Command Judge Advocate, Camp Parks, California, 2014–2015

U.S. Army Reserves, 152d Theater Information Operations Group. Primary legal advisor. Researched and reviewed policies and procedures; advised investigating officers; legal advisor to commanders at all levels.

Deputy Regional Defense Counsel, Senior Defense Counsel, 2008-2013

U.S. Army Reserves, 22d Legal Operations Detachment. Represented Soldiers facing courts-martial, Article 32 hearings, and boards throughout Alaska, Hawaii, California and Washington. Supervised counsel.

U.S. Army (Active Duty), Judge Advocate General's Corps, Various positions, Alaska, 2002-2008

- *Senior Defense Counsel (2006 – 2008), Defense Counsel (2005 – 2006).* Defended Soldiers, included senior clients across the country. Mentored junior counsel and paralegals.
- *Senior Trial Counsel (2004 - 2005) and Trial Counsel (2003 - 2004).* Prosecuted soldiers in courts-martial, Article 32 hearings, pretrial confinement hearings, and administrative boards.
- *Administrative Law and Operational Law Attorney (2002 – 2003).*
- *Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) District of Alaska, while active duty (2002 – 2003).*

AWARDS AND SERVICE

- *Final Round Judge, The Brigadier General Wayne E. Alley Moot Court Competition, hosted by the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps at Fort Belvoir, Virginia (2024).*
- *Tanana Valley Bar Association. President (2019); Vice-President (2018); Member (2008 - present).*
- *Alaska Bar Association Continuing Legal Education Committee (2013 - present).*
- *Catholic Schools of Fairbanks, School Board. Board Chair (2012 - 2016); Member (2010 - 2012)*
- *Monroe Foundation, LLC Board. Board Chair (2012 - 2016); Member (2010 - 2012).*
- *Colonel (06), U.S. Army Reserve (2021-present). Four Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, Army Superior Unit Award.*
- *Interior Baseball League, Board Member, Bronco Division Coordinator, and Secretary (2015 - 2017).*

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- *Magistrate Judge Advisory Group (MJAG) Meetings, semiannual 2024 - 2026.* Agency and activities solicited feedback on proposed changes to court system practices and procedures before adoption.
- *U.S. Magistrate Judge Training.* Phase I & II Orientation Seminars for Newly Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judges in 2009. (2010–present) annual in-person judicial training, virtual in COVID-19 years.
- *Guest Lecturer, Fed Juris / Role of the courts.* Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks, high school (2010-present).
- *Presenter, first Special Assistant United States Attorney training.* Fort Belvoir, Virginia (2022).
- *U.S. Army Military Judge Training.* Three-week on-site Military Judge School certification course (2015 and 2021) Attend annual U.S. Army judiciary and inter-service military judge training events.
- *U.S. Army JAG Training.* JAG Corps provides extensive training in advocacy and focused subject areas.
- *Invitee, Law and Society Seminar.* Harvard Law School (2018).
- *Alaska Bar Association.* Attendee at the Alaska Bar Convention and Alaska State Judicial Conferences. Member of the Military and Veteran's Affairs and Family Law sections.



Pontious Law Offices, LLC

Senator Lisa Murkowski
[REDACTED]

February 5, 2025

RE: Federal District Court Judge Vacancy

Dear Senator Murkowski:

It is with honor and humility that I submit this letter of interest for the United States District Court Judgeship. I have had the privilege of practicing before the United States District Court for the District of Alaska since 2010, at which time I was accepted as a member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel. For the past 15 years, I have been representing court-appointed criminal defendants in cases arising from a variety of felony and misdemeanor charges. While it is in this capacity that I regularly interface with the Federal District Court, I have a unique legal background and practice that distinctly qualifies me for the District Court Judge position.

As my resumé indicates, I have been a law clerk, a public defender, an associate at a medical malpractice firm, and a sole practitioner. My experience in criminal law has afforded me the opportunity to appear regularly in court, conduct jury trials, and litigate complex motions to suppress and dismiss in Municipal, State, and Federal Court. As an associate at Dillon & Findley, I regularly deposed medical professionals and worked on issues critical to local and statewide government, such as the value of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (“TAPS”) for tax assessment purposes. In my role as a sole practitioner, I learned how to manage a business and mentor an associate, expanded my areas of practice, and took on new challenges that brought me into quasi-judicial roles. The breadth of my practice reflects my ability to educate myself quickly and proficiently in new areas of the law, a quality which is integral to the District Court Judge position.

I have been involved with a number of professional organizations associated with federal practice. In March of 2018, I spoke at a combined Federal Bar Association and Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers event aimed at recruiting practitioners from diverse backgrounds to federal criminal practice. As a result of my involvement in that event, I became a member of the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers in August 2018. I termed off that Board after 6 years in December of 2024. I was a member of the Executive Committee for the Alaska Chapter of the Federal Bar Association from December 2021 to September 2024. I served two 3-year terms as a Lawyer’s Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. As a member of the Advisory Committee for the Criminal Justice Act Panel, I assisted in the vetting of applicants interested in performing court-appointed federal criminal defense work.

I believe my multi-faceted experience as an attorney and my commitment to the quality and integrity of the Federal Bench and Bar make me well-qualified to restore the confidence in the District of Alaska's bench that has been undermined by recent events. If I were chosen, I would enthusiastically accept the professional and moral responsibilities associated with this role. I would be dedicated to dispensing firm, fair, and consistent justice to our public in an empathetic manner. If you have any additional questions or requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Danée Pontious".

Danée Pontious
Pontious Law Offices, LLC

EXPERIENCE

Pontious Law Offices, LLC

Anchorage, AK

April 2017 - Present

Owner

- Currently maintain a diverse caseload consisting primarily of Federal Criminal Defense cases and Civil Family Law cases.
- Represent clients in a variety of civil matters including Family Law, Hostile Work Environment Investigations, and Administrative Law.
- Serve in a quasi-judicial capacity as an Appeal Authority for an institutional client in Title IX appeals.
- Perform complex investigations into Title IX complaints and Hostile Work Environment complaints for public and private organizations.

Law Office of Dattan Scott Dattan

Anchorage, Alaska

October 2012 - March 2017

Associate

- Managed a caseload consisting of Federal and State Criminal Defense, Family Law, Contract Law, and Personal Injury.
- Represented clients with a variety of legal issues, including Probate, Adoption, and Small Business Contracts.

Law Office of Danée L. Pontious

Anchorage, Alaska

February 2010 - June 2012

Owner

- Practiced in numerous areas of law including, but not limited to, State, Municipal, and Federal Criminal Defense and Personal Injury.
- Represented a state entity on a contract basis in the area of administrative law defending appeals brought before the Superior Court.
- Managed the daily business activities of a law firm, including marketing, management of client funds, accounting, billing, and paralegal and legal secretary work.

Dillon & Findley, P.C.

Anchorage, Alaska

August 2006 - September 2009

Associate

- Developed, strategized, and managed numerous Medical Malpractice cases.
- Produced initial complaints, discovery requests, and discovery responses for Personal Injury cases.
- Conducted and defended numerous depositions, primarily of health care professionals, experts in the medical field, and clients.

- Supported the partners by drafting legal memoranda on complicated issues arising during the litigation of claims, as well as the viability of potential Medical Malpractice claims, including drafting briefing related to two issues before the Alaska Supreme Court.

Public Defender Agency

Anchorage, Alaska

September 2005 - August 2006

Assistant Public Defender

- Represented parents in Child in Need of Aid proceedings.
- Managed over one hundred Criminal Misdemeanor cases in Anchorage District Court at a given time.
- Wrote numerous motions, as well as attended evidentiary hearings regarding those motions.
- Tried two criminal misdemeanor assault/domestic violence cases resulting in an acquittal and a suspended imposition of sentence.

The Honorable Philip R. Volland

Anchorage Superior Court

August 2004 - August 2005

Law Clerk

- Wrote memoranda on complex Federal and State Constitutional issues, including the constitutionality of the Alaska Insanity Defense and the constitutionality of pretextual investigative stops.
- Prepared Judge Volland for evidentiary hearings regarding Motions to Suppress, Motions to Dismiss the Indictment, and Motions to Preclude by drafting memoranda.
- Attended multiple high-profile criminal trials in an effort to hone and enhance trial skills.
- Drafted Administrative Appeal decisions and decisions on appeal from District Court.

Student Law Office, Criminal Defense Clinic

University of Denver, College of Law

August 2003 - January 2004

Student Attorney

- Prepared for an Assault and Battery/ Domestic Violence jury trial in Aurora Municipal Court.
- Engaged regularly with clients during client intakes, client interviews, and pre-trial conferences.

The Honorable Herbert Walker Stern, III

Denver District Court, Courtroom 3

January 2003 - June 2003

Intern

- Drafted dozens of the Judge's Orders regarding Motions for Summary Judgment, Motions to Dismiss, Motions to Compel, and Appeals from County Court.
- Wrote legal memoranda advising the Judge on how to rule on complicated legal issues.
- Attended multiple personal injury trials, advising the Judge when legal issues arose.

Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.
Glendale, Colorado

November 2000 - May 2001

Licensed Broker

- After graduating with an education in English Literature, studied for and passed the investment licensing exams, the Series 7 and Series 63, and obtained a license as a stockbroker.
- Spoke daily with Schwab customers to provide them with accurate, complete, and enlightened investment information.
- Within three months, ranked second on the Signature Series team in Business Development.

EDUCATION

University of Denver, College of Law
Juris Doctorate

August 2001 - May 2004

- **Accomplishments:**
 - *Daniel S. Hoffman Trial Advocacy Competition, Finalist, 2003:* Placed second out of thirty-four teams in Trial Advocacy.

University of Colorado at Boulder
Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis in English Literature.

August 1996 - May 2000

- **Additional Certifications:**
 - *University of Colorado Intensive Business Certification, 2000.* Following graduation, engaged in a three-week intensive study aimed at education in finance, accounting, and marketing.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- *Member of the Alaska Bar Association*
 - Admitted: November 2004
- *Member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel*
 - Admitted: 2010

- *Member of the Criminal Justice Act Panel's Advisory Committee*
 - August 2014 to May 2023
- *Member of the Federal Bar Association*
 - Active since 2019
- *Former Member of the Board of Directors of the Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers*
 - August 2018 to December 2024
- *Lawyer's Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference*
 - Active for October 2018 to October 2021 Term
 - Served a Second Term from October 2021 to 2024
- *Member of the Executive Committee of the Alaska Chapter of the Federal Bar Association*
 - December 2021 to September 2024
- *Co-Chair of the Solo and Small Firms Section, Alaska Bar Association*
 - January 2025 to Present

February 3, 2025

Senator Lisa Murkowski
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510



ak_judge@murkowski.senate.gov

Re: Solicitation of Candidates for U.S. District Court Judge Vacancy

Senator Murkowski:

I write to express my interest in filling the most recently vacated seat on the District Court of Alaska. I believe that my professional legal experience over the past 25 years, including over three years as a Magistrate Judge, 15 years as a federal prosecutor, and six years as an Army Judge Advocate, demonstrates that I have the experience, intellect, and judicial temperament to be an effective United States District Court Judge.

The law is essential for ensuring a just, civil, and prosperous society. At this time, when confidence in the judiciary is at historic lows, it is critical that a district court judge be someone who has a demonstrated record of service and leadership; is respected in their community; and brings a seriousness and commitment of purpose to the position. Moreover, in light of the current judicial vacancies that exist within the District of Alaska, it is essential that the person who is nominated to the position have experience and familiarity with the federal courts so they can serve effectively from the moment of their confirmation. I believe I am that person.

It would be an honor to serve the District of Alaska as a United States District Judge. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Reardon".

Kyle Reardon

Kyle Reardon

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**United States Magistrate Judge, District of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska**

**October 2021 -
Present**

- Preside over all phases of civil cases upon consent of the parties; current caseload includes approximately 30 civil cases, including civil rights, habeas petitions, commercial litigation, and social security appeals
- Prepare reports and recommendations on dispositive matters and orders on non-dispositive matters in referred civil cases, including civil rights, habeas petitions, environmental and commercial litigation, and admiralty
- Preside over all phases of Class A misdemeanor cases with consent, and all petty offense cases
- Conduct pretrial proceedings in criminal cases, including initial appearances, arraignments, detention hearings, preliminary hearings, motions to suppress, and motions to compel discovery
- Approve or deny search warrant applications, pen-register and trap trace applications, and 2703(d) non-disclosure orders
- Lead District of Alaska civic education outreach efforts; Member of Alaska Bar Association Law Related Education Committee
- Serve on the 9th Circuit Wellness Committee

**Assistant United States Attorney, District of Alaska
Anchorage, Alaska**

**September 2014 -
October 2021**

- Deputy Criminal Chief (March 2021 - October 2021)
 - Supervised 8 Assistant United States Attorneys; Member of the district's management team responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of district priorities
- Senior Litigation Counsel (March 2018 - March 2021)
 - Responsible for the continued education of career prosecutors; Mentored and trained newly-hired Assistant United States Attorneys; Supervised the preparation of cases proceeding to trial and assisted in the development of trial strategy
- Project Safe Childhood Coordinator (June 2016 - March 2021)
 - Responsible for the district's efforts to prosecute child exploitation crimes; Conducted internet safety outreach and led outreach efforts for the district's Rural Alaska Anti-violence Enforcement Network (RAAVEN) initiative in an effort to engage local law enforcement and increase federal child exploitation prosecutions in rural Alaska
- Lead prosecutor in over a hundred child exploitation, gun and drug, and fraud cases; Successfully tried 9 felony cases and defended and argued cases on appeal before the 9th Circuit

**Assistant United States Attorney, Eastern District of California
Sacramento, California**

**February 2007 -
September 2014**

- Project Safe Childhood Coordinator responsible for the district's efforts to prosecute child exploitation crimes and conduct internet-safety outreach
- Lead prosecutor in hundreds of sex trafficking, child exploitation, fraud, and immigration cases; Successfully tried 12 cases and defended and argued cases before the 9th Circuit
- Presenter at Department of Justice child exploitation training courses on the investigation and prosecution of online child exploitation and sex trafficking cases

**Law Clerk, Eastern District of California
Sacramento, California**

**November 2005 -
February 2007**

- Wrote over 30 draft opinions for two magistrate judges for motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, habeas petitions, civil rights litigation, and administrative appeals

**Judge Advocate
United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps**

**July 1999 -
August 2005**

- Command Judge Advocate, Special Operations Command Europe, Stuttgart, Germany (August 2003 - July 2005)
 - Advised General Officer commander on all legal matters relating to special operations in Europe, including operations in the Global War on Terror and the deployment of Special Operations forces in support of security at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games; Assisted with the implementation and management of the Pan-Sahel Initiative, a State Department led effort to train and equip military forces in Mali, Niger, Mauritania, and Chad
- Senior Trial Counsel, 1st Infantry Division, Wuerzburg, Germany (August 2002 - August 2003)
 - Senior Prosecutor for the Army's busiest court-martial jurisdiction; counseled and trained 17 junior prosecutors
- Trial Counsel, Air Defense Artillery Command, Ft. Bliss, Texas (July 1999 - August 2002)
 - Legal Advisor to Brigade Commander; responsible for military justice matters for 1500 soldiers; Administrative and environmental law attorney

EDUCATION

University of Virginia School of Law, Charlottesville, Virginia - J.D., 1999

- Lile Moot Court

Centre College of Kentucky, Danville, Kentucky - B.S. Economics, 1993

- Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

- Alyeska and Denali Volunteer Ski Patrol - 2017 - Present
- Mission is Russian (MIR) Parent-Teacher Association - September 2014 - Present
- Turnagain Elementary Parent-Teacher Association - September 2014 - May 2023
- Volunteer YMCA Coach - 2014-2018

IAN WHEELLES

Letter of Interest
Federal District Court of Alaska

January 29, 2025

Dear Sen. Murkowski:

This letter is to express my interest in appointment to the Federal District Court. Attached please find my résumé. If there is additional information or materials you would like to review, please let me know. I have also submitted my application to Senator Sullivan through the process he has announced.

In brief, I am a lifelong Alaskan. I was born in Anchorage and have lived here for 42 years, absent only for one year of college in Chicago and three years of law school in Idaho. This is my home. The people I serve at work are my neighbors, and it would be an honor to serve our great state on the federal bench. For the past 2 ½ years I have served on the superior court in Anchorage. Prior to that I was in private practice for 14 years, nearly all of which were spent managing my own law office. I maintained a general practice, from small business and civil litigation to estate planning, criminal defense, personal injury, and all areas of family law. On the bench, I currently have a primarily civil docket, but I also co-preside over a criminal substance abuse probation court, as well as serving as backup for the weekly criminal competency calendar.

I thoroughly enjoy the work of a judge. It is challenging, humbling, and consistently rewarding. It was not a career aspiration of mine to seek the bench. In truth, in law school I thought I wanted to run for governor someday. But my heart is always focused first on helping others, and ensuring access to justice for those who might feel it out of reach. Early on I found my calling serving everyday working people who needed attorneys but their means were modest. Eventually, I gravitated more to the middle of the courtroom, desiring less to argue one side, and more to land on the right outcome—whether it was where my client was standing or not. As a judge I have that freedom. I can focus on ensuring that the law is upheld, that all parties are treated fairly, and that rights are protected.

In criminal litigation, the judge must ensure that rules are followed, defendants are treated as presumed innocent until proven guilty, victims are kept apprised and given a voice, the public is

protected, and resolution must be timely. In Alaska presently, and Anchorage particularly, the saying “justice delayed is justice denied” is truly impacting all sides in criminal cases. As judges, we must be vigilant to address the causes of delay, hold attorneys and parties accountable, and facilitate speedy, but fair, justice.

In civil litigation, delay is just as damaging. In fact, often the lack of a speedy trial “right” akin to that of the Sixth Amendment, allows for delay in civil cases that significantly harms one or both parties. In my current civil caseload, I am very mindful of this and would be that much more so in federal court.

There are many issues facing Alaskans today, both as individuals and collectively, that require action by the courts to resolve, protect, and further our interests. I believe my experience serving Alaskans as an attorney for 14 years and as a superior court judge for 2+ years now have given me the perspective and understanding necessary to serve well on the federal bench. Like many other lifelong Alaskans, I am an incredibly hard worker, energized by daunting challenges, and unfazed by the storms that wash over me. I am blessed to serve on the state bench today, with the support of my family, neighbors, and colleagues. I would be honored to serve our state and country on the federal bench if I am called to that important work.

Thank you for considering me and for taking the time. I know you are busy and I do not take the opportunity for granted.



Very truly yours,
Ian Wheelles

Ian Wheelles

Work History

- SEPTEMBER 2022 TO PRESENT *ANCHORAGE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE*
- Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct (2024-present)
 - Child Support Rules Committee (2015-present) – current chair
 - PACE probation court for substance abuse (2023 to present)
- OCTOBER 2009 TO AUGUST 2022 *LAW OFFICE OF IAN WHEELLES*
- Owner; managed five associate attorneys
- JANUARY 2008 TO DECEMBER 2009 *LAW OFFICE OF DAN ALLAN & ASSOCIATES*
- Associate attorney, Of Counsel
- MAY 2006 TO AUGUST 2006 *ANCHORAGE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE*
- Summer intern; managed vice caseload; bail hearings, sentencing, and one jury trial
- JULY 2002 TO 2010 *SPENARD BUILDERS SUPPLY*
- Shipping dept; truck driver, forklift operator, and snow plow crew
- SEPTEMBER 2002 TO APRIL 2003 *UAA*
- Athlete Tutor
- JUNE 1999 TO JULY 2002 *BILL'S DISTRIBUTING, INC*
- Merchandiser

Education

- JURIS DOCTOR, MAY 2007 *UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO COLLEGE OF LAW*
- Dean's List
 - Idaho National Moot Court Competition Team 2006
 - McNichols Moot Court Competition 2005
 - Volunteer IRS tax trip team leader to Rural Alaskan villages Spring Break 2007
 - UI Residence Hall Assn. President (2006-07); Whitman Hall President (2004-06)
- BACHELOR OF ARTS, POLITICAL SCIENCE, MAY 2004 *UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE*
- Dean's List; Pi Sigma Alpha honor society
 - UA Scholar
 - Student Showcase presenting finalist, April 2003
- AUGUST 2001 TO MAY 2002 *ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY*
- Camras/NEXT Scholar (full tuition award)
 - Scarlet Hawks Varsity Baseball (scholarship)

Activities and Service

- ANCHORAGE YOUTH COURT
- Youth member; former board member; class instructor; guest speaker
- AK NETWORK ON DV AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
- Pro Bono attorney
- ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES CORP.
- Pro Bono attorney
- MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY LEGAL CLINIC
- Attorney/judge volunteer
- ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION
- Bar exam proctor (2009-22)
- UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE
- Founded/funded scholarship (2009-present)
- ROYAL FAMILY KIDS CAMP
- Foster kids summer camp counselor
- CHANGEPOINT CHURCH
- Elder board member (2017-2022)
 - Young marrieds group leader (2011-13)
- PULLMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
- College class teacher, group leader (2005-07)
- TURNAGAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST
- High School class teacher, group leader (2002-04)
- COOPER LANDING RIFLE & SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
- Member
- ALASKA ADULT BASEBALL LEAGUE
- Former board member (and player)
- ANCHORAGE LIBRARY FOUNDATION
- Former board member
- TURNAGAIN ELEMENTARY LIBRARY
- Guys Read volunteer

Joan M. Wilson

Transmitted via Email

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, 20510

Re: U.S. District Court Judge Application

Dear Senator Murkowski:

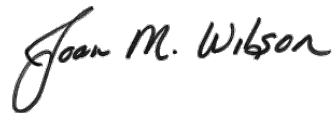
It is my distinct honor to humbly submit my application to you for consideration as a candidate for the United States District Court, District of Alaska.

My resume details my qualifications. In summary, I am a long-time Alaskan and many-year practitioner within the Alaska Bar who has served in private and public capacities throughout my career. Recently appointed by Governor Dunleavy, I currently serve as Chief Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings. I also have the distinct honor of having served as law clerk to the Honorable H. Russel Holland's from 1996 to 1998. My primary reason for submitting my name for your consideration is so that our important court can continue to reflect the qualities of excellent jurisprudence and character modeled by judges like Judge Holland and his contemporaries.

I have provided supplementary information, including a detailed questionnaire response, to Senator Sullivan. If requested, I am happy to provide this information to you as well.

I look forward to your consideration of my application. Any phone inquiries can be directed to me at [REDACTED]. I can also be reached by [REDACTED], but I also ask that a corresponding email be sent to [REDACTED] so I do not miss any vital communications during the course of a busy day.

Respectfully submitted,



Joan M. Wilson

JOAN M. WILSON

Chief Administrative Law Judge



Employment History

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS (OAH)

Chief Administrative Law Judge - Anchorage

September 2024 to Present

Appointed Chief Administrative Law Judge by Governor Mike Dunleavy. Legislative Confirmation Pending. Responsibilities set forth in statute at AS 44.64.020 to include:

- Hiring and supervision of administrative law judges
- Establishing and implementing performance standards and peer review for administrative law judges
- Monitor the quality of administrative hearings held by the office
- Provide for the delivery of high-quality adjudication services in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner
- Guarantee protection of all parties' due process rights
- Protect the integrity of the process of administrative adjudications and decisional independence of administrative adjudicators

ALCOHOL & MARIJUANA CONTROL OFFICE (AMCO)

Director – Anchorage

May 2022 to September 2024

Appointed AMCO Director by Governor Mike Dunleavy. Responsibilities set forth in statute at AS 04.06.070 and AS 17.38.080 to include

- Service as executive officer of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and Marijuana Control Board
- Enforcement of AS 04.06 and AS 17.38 and their implementing regulations
- Preparation and submission to the boards of annual budgets for the administration, enforcement, education, training, and prevention activities set forth under AS 04.06. and AS 17.38

Oversaw implementation of Title 4 Rewrite during my tenure, recipient of 2023 Hero of Hospitality Award – Alaska CHARR

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW, CIVIL DIVISION
Senior Assistant Attorney General – Anchorage
Commercial, Fair Business, and Child Support Section
January 2016 to May 2022

Advised the Alcohol Marijuana & Control Office, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture. Special Assignment to the Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Responsibilities included:

- Representing AMCO before the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Superior Court of Alaska on licensing matters
- Advising the Alcohol and Marijuana Boards on all matters regarding the regulation of both industries
- Counsel to the Board of Agriculture and Conservation regarding administration and conveyance of agricultural revolving loan funds
- Regularly advise all clients on legislative bills and regulation projects
- Regularly advise to all clients on the Open Meetings Act and requests for public records
- Successfully prosecuting *State of Alaska v. Seth Lookhart* (“hoverboard dentist”) for reckless endangerment and \$2.1 million in Medicaid fraud and permanently revoking dental license in administrative procedure and superior court appeal

Recipient of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General 2021 Award for Excellence in Promoting Quality, Safety, and Value

ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer
September 2014 to May 2016

Under direct report to Chief Executive Officer and dotted line authority to Board of Directors, tasked to establish and maintain an effective ethics and compliance program as required by Federal Sentencing Guidelines and other applicable law.

- Provided daily leadership, advice, consultation, and guidance on ethical and compliance issues for consortium averaging \$750,000,000 in annual revenues
- Supervised and oversaw development of compliance staff to build and maintain positive relationships with executive leadership and other strategic partners
- Recommended corrective and other actions to promote ethical culture, decisions and behavior; ensure effective implementation of ethics and compliance function; and to mitigate regulatory risk
- Developed and maintained a compliance work plan to address identified priorities, facilitate timely integration of new requirements and standards into policies, procedures and processes, and address ongoing compliance educational needs of workforce
- Provided regular reports and presentations to the Board of Directors and executive leadership to convey relevant and timely information about ethics and compliance activities, trends, and the status of significant investigations and corrective action plans.

SONOSKY CHAMBERS SACHSE MILLER & MUNSON LLP

Of Counsel - Anchorage

January 2011 to September 2014

Engaged in diverse civil practice primarily representing Alaska Tribes, tribal health care organizations, and village corporations and their subsidiaries on a variety of matters, including compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act, the Indian Reservation Roads Program, construction and insurance law, CEO contracting, and regulatory compliance. Health care practice primarily focused upon HIPAA and HITECH, fraud and abuse, grant conditions, and compliance with applicable state law. Representative matters include intervention in CINA proceedings and appeals of license denials and audit findings. Left firm to serve as client's Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW, CRIMINAL DIVISION

Assistant District Attorney – Anchorage

Violent Crimes Unit

July 2008 to January 2011

Prosecuted violent crimes cases, including felony level domestic violence and DUI assaults. Responsible for juvenile justice caseload in the Municipality of Anchorage, including felony and misdemeanor level crimes. Prosecutor for approximately twenty jury or bench trials.

- Published Decision, *B.F.L. v. State*, 233 P.3d 1118 (Alaska Ct. App. 2010)

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LAW, CIVIL DIVISION
Assistant Attorney General – Anchorage
Transportation and Commercial/Fair Business Sections
October 2004 to July 2008

Advised the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and additional state agencies engaging in construction or procurement activities, including Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, Department of Administration, and Department of Natural Resources. Representative matters include:

- Drafting and negotiation on behalf of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and Department of Administration of the Design/Build Agreement and Municipal Partnership Agreement for construction of the eight-story Linné Pacillo Parking Garage in Anchorage
- Drafting and negotiation of the Department of Natural Resources' acquisition of the old Valley Hospital in Palmer
- *Alaska Housing Finance Corporation v. Christensen Builders, et al.* (lead counsel for AHFC on a windows-defect claim)
- Representing Department of Transportation and Public Facilities on numerous construction claims, including the Swanson General Hightower claim and the Wilder Construction Kenai River Bridge claim
- Representing Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in numerous eminent domain proceedings
- Training of Construction Division project engineers and staff on proper documentation, claims avoidance, and litigation preparation

Advised the Department of Health and Social Services on HIPAA compliance and other transactional and governance matters. Representative matters include:

- Authoring HIPAA privacy policies and procedures for state government
- Conducting HIPAA preemption analysis
- Advising the Division of Behavioral Health on HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 compliance
- Reviewing state legislation raising medical privacy concerns

DAVIS WRIGHT TREMAINE LLP

Associate – Anchorage

Civil Litigation and Health Care Practices

September 1998 to October 2004

Engaged in diverse civil litigation practice that involved fields of commercial law, education law, employment law, disability law, environmental law, health care law, and fraud and abuse compliance. Representative cases include:

- *AT&T Corporation and Alascom, Inc. v. CenturyTel of the Northwest* (representation of plaintiffs in dispute regarding environmental representations and SPCC compliance in stock purchase agreement)
- *Digital Health Exchange v. AT&T Corporation* (representation of defendants in dispute regarding set-up of telemedicine network)
- *K&K Recycling v. Federal Coach, et al.* (representation of defendants in products liability and breach of warranty case)
- *Prudence v. Alaska Railroad Corporation* (representation of defendant in disparate treatment and impact age-discrimination case)
- *Mohon v. Anchorage Daily News* (representation of defendant in wrongful termination case)
- *United States v. Klepinger* (representation of defendant in 56-count criminal indictment involving claims of fraud and abuse and mail fraud)

Engaged in diverse health care practice representing variety of small and large health care providers on matters including HIPAA compliance, peer review, corporate governance, IRB governance, and Medicare fraud and abuse compliance.

Prior Legal Experience

Law Clerk for the Honorable H. Russel Holland – United States District Court for the District of Alaska, 1996-1998

Education

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA, ANCHORAGE
Master of Fine Arts, Creative Writing and the Literary Arts, 2011
Winner, Jason Wenger Award for Literary Excellence

NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW OF LEWIS AND CLARK COLLEGE Juris
Doctorate, 1996
Graduated *magna cum laude*, Law Review, Business Law Round Table Scholar

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program
Former Candidate of Doctorate in Philosophy, 1988 - 1990

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1986
Dean's List, Graduated with Honors, Illinois State Scholar,
Senior Honors Thesis on ANCSA implementation

Publications and Presentations

Contributing Author, Cannabis Law Desk book (Thomson Reuters 2022 – 2024)

Alaska Bar Association, The Legal Landscape for Alaska's Alcoholic Beverage and
Marijuana Licensees: The Top Challenges for 2023 (Alaska Bar Convention Presentation
September 2023)

The Book of Timothy: The Devil, My Brother and Me (A Memoir) (Red Hen Press
2021)

Alaska Bar Association, The Carrots and Sticks of Medicare Participation: From
Meaningful Use to Fraud and Abuse (December 2011)

Alaska Bar Association, The Affordable Care Act and Its Impact on Employers
(December 2010)

DARE Conference, Juvenile Justice 101 (February 2009)

Frequent speeches on HIPAA and other statutes governing the confidentiality of
medical records

Co-author, Alaska Employment Law Desk book (2004)

Memberships and Associations

Bear Valley Community Association – Board Secretary (Current)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Parishioner, Catholics Returning Home Ministry (Current)

Alaska Bar Association – Founder, Prior Chair, and Current Member of the Executive Committee of the Health Law Section

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP – Former Co-Chair of the Pro Bono and Public Service Committee

Personal

Devoted Wife [REDACTED] and Mother [REDACTED]

Bear Valley Resident (Twenty years)

Committed to Physical Health -- Ironman Canada Competitor
and Frequent Marathon Runner, Seven Year Member --
Orangetheory Fitness

Volunteer Alaska State Rescue Coordinator, Vizsla Club of
America

Avid Reader and Writer

Avid Chicago Cubs fan

Justin R. Works



January 28, 2025

RE: Federal District Court of Alaska

To Whom It May Concern:

I submit my resume and this Letter of Interest for the Federal District Court of Alaska. I have been an Assistant District Attorney in the Kenai District Attorney's Office since June of 2021. Prior to this position, I held prosecutor jobs in both New Mexico and Texas. Alaska is my home; my wife and I have set down roots in the community and have no intention or interest in leaving. It would be an honor to fill this vacancy now and into the future.

I am a career prosecutor with a love of the outdoors and a passion for the job. I have handled cases ranging from misdemeanors to murder. I have seen firsthand the challenges facing Alaska and recognize the profound impact that having engaged jurists can have on the communities they serve.

I am a member of the Federalist Society, a card-carrying member of the National Rifle Association, and while in law school I was an associate editor of the *Corporate Counsel Review*. Currently, I am licensed to practice law in Alaska, Texas, and New Mexico. Strict adherence to the letter of the law and precedent would be the guiding principles that would inform my decision making. My career has seen me try cases in rural communities and urban areas. I would bring this experience to the bench.

Attached is a copy of my resume for your review. References can be provided upon request.

Sincerely,

Justin R. Works

Justin R. Works

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Alaska Department of Law, Kenai District Attorney's Office, Kenai, Alaska

Assistant District Attorney – Attorney 4, June 2021 – Present

- Trial attorney tasked with prosecuting felonies ranging from 1st Degree Murder to DUI.
- Coordinate with probation and parole officers on violations
- Present cases to the Grand Jury for indictment
- I also sit on the board of the Central Peninsula Hospital Foundation

Lubbock County District Attorney's Office, Lubbock, Texas

Assistant District Attorney, April, 2017 – May, 2021

- Responsible for prosecuting felonies including but not limited to drug crimes, weapons crimes, burglary, assault, kidnapping, sexual assault, robbery, larceny crimes, and felony DWI
- Case load ranging between 150 and 300 cases
- Special interest in financial crimes and fraud

1st Judicial District Attorney's Office, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Assistant District Attorney, January, 2015 – April, 2017

- Responsible for prosecuting 2nd to 4th degree felonies
- Handled misdemeanor DWI cases
- Appointed to be the office's representative at the Santa Fe County DWI Court Program

EDUCATION AND LICENSING

South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas

Juris Doctor, May 2014

Awards & Activities: Corporate Counsel Review – *Associate Editor*; Mock Trial

University of Houston - Victoria, Katy, Texas

Postgraduate studies – Management, 2010

Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing, 2008

Honors: Baylor Interdisciplinary Core, Honors College

Licensed to practice law in Alaska, Texas, and New Mexico

Completed CLE Courses:

2023 Alaska Prosecutors Conference; 2023 Strangulation Investigation and Prosecution Seminar; 2022 Alaska Prosecutor's Conference; 2021 Alaska Prosecutor's Conference; 2020 Texas Tech Mental Health Law Symposium; Capital and Non-Capital Training for Prosecution – 2020; Caseload Management – 2020; Legislative Update – 2019; 2019 Environmental Crimes Conference CLE in the Permian Basin - 2019; Handling Your First (or Next) White Collar Crime Case – 2019; Mandatory Online Brady Training – 2018; Legislative Update – 2017; Texas District and County Attorney's Association Trial Training – Summer 2017; New Mexico District Attorney's Association (NMDAA) Advanced DWI Seminar – Summer 2016; NMDAA Spring CLE Conference – 2016; NMDAA Spring CLE Conference – 2015; National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) – Trial Skills for Prosecutors – 2015; Brady: The Law//Brady: Practical Considerations – 2014 (Texas Bar CLE); Criminal Law 101 – 2014 (Texas Bar CLE) Advanced Criminal Law: DWI (Texas Bar CLE); Cross Examination Tips and Techniques – 2014 (Texas Bar CLE); The Art of Persuasion – 2014 (Texas Bar CLE); Handling Your First or Next DWI – 2013 (Texas Bar CLE); Appellate Advocacy in Criminal Law – 2014 (Texas Bar CLE)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dan Strigle

Assistant District Attorney – Kenai



Martin Law



Michael Evenson

Texas Attorney General – Transportation Division



February 5, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski (ak_judge@murkowski.senate.gov)

Dear Senator Murkowski:

I am writing to express my interest in the vacancy on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska.

I was born and raised in Anchorage. I am a first generation Alaskan and first-generation American. My parents emigrated to the U.S. from Argentina and the Czech Republic and Spanish was my first language.

As a current Superior Court Judge I am deeply committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice is served with fairness, integrity, and impartiality. It would be an honor to contribute to the federal judiciary and bring my experience to that position.

Throughout my time as a judge, I have handled a broad range of cases, including complex civil and criminal matters. I handle each case with a thoughtful approach to the law and am committed to maintaining an impartial and respectful courtroom, where I give each litigant the time to be heard so that I may consider all perspectives before rendering a decision. My experience on the bench has given me a greater understanding of the judicial process, and my ability to manage a large and diverse caseload will serve me well on the federal bench. I have presided over jury trials, bench trials, evidentiary hearings, discovery hearings, and oral arguments. Those matters have included constitutional matters, statutory interpretation, regulatory review, and administrative agency review.

Before taking the bench, I spent 15 years as an attorney in private practice, representing clients in both state and federal courts. This experience allowed me to develop expertise in a wide array of legal areas, including commercial litigation, contract disputes, employment law, construction litigation, land use issues, fisheries and natural resource regulation, and constitutional issues. Additionally, I regularly performed pro bono legal services for clients in need.

I have been honored to serve as a Superior Court Judge and would be honored to serve on the federal bench. I believe I possess the legal skills, judicial temperament and empathy that you would want in a Federal Judge.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss how my background, qualifications, and commitment to public service align with what you believe are the needs of the federal judiciary.

Sincerely,



Adolf Zeman

Adolf V. Zeman

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Superior Court Judge – State of Alaska *Anchorage, AK*, August 2020 - present

- Trial court judge with a civil docket presiding over a wide range of civil cases including complex civil litigation, medical malpractice, insurance disputes, oil and gas taxation, employment, personal injury, domestic relations, child protective matter, domestic violence, mental health commitments, post-conviction relief, and appellate cases from administrative agencies and district court. Preside over criminal jury trials when needed and preside over the Felony Drug/DUI therapeutic court.
- Manage an incredibly large docket while maintaining complex trial schedules, hear pre-trial motions, and oversee the jury selection process. Maintain courtroom decorum and ensure a fair process where all parties are heard.

Partner – Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP *Anchorage, AK*, April 2012 – July 2020

- Represented local, national, and international businesses in complex civil litigation matters - regularly appearing before State and Federal Courts, Regulatory Commission of Alaska, administrative agencies, and arbitration panels. Clients included Native Corporations, oil & gas, construction, and telecommunication companies. Provided legal services to local governments throughout the State of Alaska.

Associate/Partner – DeLisio Moran Geraghty & Zobel, PC *Anchorage, AK*, Sept. 2005 – April 2012

- Performed the same legal services as noted above – firm merged into Landye Bennett Blumstein.

Law Clerk – Honorable Stephanie Joannides, Superior Court Judge *Anchorage, AK*, Sept. 2004 – Sept. 2005

- Conducted legal research, drafted orders and bench memoranda, prepared jury instructions, and assisted with chambers operations.

EDUCATION

- *Gonzaga University School of Law*, Spokane, WA, J.D., May 2004
- *University of Buenos Aires School of Law*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Aug. 2003- Dec.2003
- *University of Oregon*, Eugene, OR, B.S., December 2000
- *University of Alaska Anchorage*, Anchorage, AK, August 1996 – May 1997

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

Serve on Alaska Bar Association Law Related Education Committee, Court's Newer Judges Conference Planning Committee, Chair Civil Pattern Jury Instructions Committee, Early Resolution Program, and serve as mentor judge to new judge.

Served on the Board of Directors for Special Olympics Alaska, Board of Directors for University of Oregon Alumni Association, youth soccer coach, and volunteer at Government Hill Elementary and Romig Middle School.

Enjoy spending time with family and friends at our cabin, fishing, traveling, soccer, and cooking.