

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