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OCT 22 2020

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OF COUNSEL JULIAN L. MASON III • A. WILLIAM SAUPE

October 19, 2020

Deborah O'Regan, Executive Director  
Alaska Bar Association  
P.O. Box 100279  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
[oregan@alaskabar.org](mailto:oregan@alaskabar.org)

Re: Nomination for Seat on the Commission on Judicial Conduct

Dear Ms. O'Regan:

Please accept the attached nomination for me to serve a second four-year term on the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct. My ability to contribute to the deliberations of the Commission has grown over my first term and I would appreciate the opportunity to continue with my service.

The public expects a bench distinguished by integrity and diligence and respect for the litigants and attorneys in the courtroom. The Commission's disciplinary role is vital to upholding that expectation and maintaining public confidence. Equally important in my opinion, the Commission plays an important role in providing feedback and counselling to judges, who are isolated by the nature of their role in society. The restrictions imposed by the Code on their conduct, both on and off the bench, are significant and the Commission can help guide judges through those grey areas that inevitably arise, without resort to the disciplinary process.

The Commission meetings are an interesting intersection of perspectives, with an even balance among judges, lawyers and public members. I have been a member of the Alaska Bar for 39 years and remain active with my firm. I believe that history and my past service on the Board of Governors allows me to provide the perspective of practicing attorneys on the matters that come before the Commission. Like many Alaska institutions, the Commission is a collegial body and all members are encouraged and

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expected to participate in its discussions. It is impressive that while many of our discussions start from varied perspectives, they resolve with near unanimity. I have a temperament that works well in a collegial setting and I would appreciate the chance to serve another 4 years.

Very Truly Yours,

ASHBURN & MASON, P.C.



Donald W. McClintock

Enc:

# MATTHEW WIDMER

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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*Admitted to Alaska (2006), US District Court for Alaska (2006), and Ninth Circuit (2008)*

Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot, Anchorage, Alaska November 2018-present  
*Associate Attorney*

- Associate attorney in a 28-attorney law firm with offices in Anchorage, Alaska and Washington, D.C. Primary responsibilities focus heavily on all aspects of litigation within the following disciplines: criminal defense, family law, torts, municipal law, and employment law.

Public Defender Agency, Anchorage, Alaska January 2012-November 2018  
*Assistant Public Defender*

- Responsibilities included parole; post-conviction relief; all aspects of a criminal defense trial caseload (i.e., bail, pre-trial motions, trial and sentencing), primarily for B and C felony cases but also A and Unclassified felonies as assigned; primary counsel for ten cases to verdict.

Office of Public Advocacy, Anchorage, Alaska July 2010-January 2012  
*Assistant Public Advocate*

- Responsible for all aspects of a criminal defense trial caseload for misdemeanors and felonies (except unclassified felonies) in Anchorage, Palmer, and Kenai. Co-counseled one juvenile discretionary waiver trial. Primary counsel for one case to verdict; two cases resolved mid-trial.

Angstman Law Office, Bethel Alaska August 2005-June 2010  
*Associate Attorney (2006-2010); Legal Intern (2005-2006)*

- Participated in all aspects of a general law practice in rural Alaska, handling all types of cases except criminal prosecution throughout the Second, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts. Co-counseled one 2.5-week civil trial. Primary counsel to verdict for two criminal trials, one civil trial, one presumptive death hearing, and one small claims trial. Participated in numerous criminal hearings, including bail, omnibus, evidentiary, and motion hearings. Prepared multiple civil cases for trial, including motion work, jury instructions, and trial briefing as needed.

## EDUCATION

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William & Mary Law School  
J.D., 2005

College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia

Virginia Tech  
B.A., History and English, 1999

Blacksburg, Virginia