



NOMINATING PETITION

Deadline: August 4, 2023

**Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors;
ALSC Board of Directors; ABA Delegate**

We, the undersigned, nominate (name of nominee): Debra O'gara
to serve as:

☒ **Alaska Bar Association Board of Governor** for the following judicial district:

☒ 1st ☐ 2nd/4th ☐ 3rd ☐ At large

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

☐ **American Bar Association Delegate** for the following seat:

☐ Regular ☐ Young Lawyer Delegate

[Signature]

(Signature of Nominator)

Hollis Handler

(Print Name)

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

[Signature]

(Signature of Nominee)

Debra O'Gara

(Print Name)

In addition to the above signatures, candidates should submit a letter or statement of candidacy that will be posted on the Bar's website. The statement must be received by August 4, 2023.

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

Email: bailey@alaskabar.org

Fax: (907) 272-2932

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION

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(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

Signature of Nominator

(Print Name)

[Signature]
(Signature of Nominator)

Solice Willoughby
(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

(Signature of Nominee)

(Print Name)

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/s/ Hannah L. Etengoff
(Signature of Nominator)

Hannah L. Etengoff
(Print Name)

Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

(Signature of Nominee)

(Print Name)

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to serve as:

Deborah O'Gara

☒ **Alaska Bar Association Board of Governor** for the following judicial district:
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☐ **ALSC Board of Director** for the following jurisdiction and seat (regular or alternate):

☐ **American Bar Association Delegate** for the following seat:

☐ Regular ☐ Young Lawyer Delegate

[Signature]

Christine Pate

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

(Signature of Nominator)

(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

(Signature of Nominee)

(Print Name)

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Fax: (907) 272-2932

DEBRA (DZIJÚKSUK) O'GARA

P.O. Box 1232
Petersburg, AK 99833

907-723-9913
dogara@alaska.edu

Statement of interest to join the Board of Governors for the Alaska Bar Association August 4, 2023

My name is Debra (Dzijúksuk) O'Gara, and I am Tlingit, Yupik, Irish and a raven from the Teeyhitaan clan and the Cedar Bark House of Wrangell. I currently live in Petersburg. I am interested in joining the Board of Governors for several reasons, though the primary one is to lend my experience and knowledge as the Bar continues to strengthen its caliber and integrity, especially in the area of increasing the diversity of the Bar membership and leadership.

I have worked in the legal field for 32 years primarily for several Northwest Tribes and non-project organization in Washington State and New York City. I helped to develop the Tlingit & Haida Court first as a Magistrate, then the elected Chief Justice, the Presiding Justice and most recently as a Pro Tem Judicial Officer. I also worked for the Alaska Native Women's Resource Center as the Senior Policy Specialist on domestic violence and sexual assault issues. In late 2022, I started at the University of Alaska Fairbanks as an Assistant Professor in the Tribal Governance Department. At UAF, I focus on building the skills, knowledge and capacity of tribal courts across Alaska, and help build stronger collaborative relationships between the state and the tribes.

In addition to focusing on my legal career, I have continued my education by earning a master's in public administration at the University of Alaska Southeast in 2013 and am currently a PhD candidate in the UAF Indigenous Studies program. With my dissertation, which should be completed in the fall of 2024, I am researching Tlingit justice practices and systems before Western contact and colonialization.

I was raised in a mostly extended and mixed family of fighters, survivors and victims' – some with education; successful careers in law, government and church; alcoholism; violence; poverty; challenges; and trauma. My mom, Carol O'Gara, and Auntie, Joan Baijot, were born and raised in Mountain Village, Alaska. Their mother, Frances Tamaree Sheppard was born in Wrangell was a nurse and healer. My maternal grandfather, George Sheppard, was born in Saint Michael and was a trader and my great grandmother was Tillie Paul Tamaree, a civil rights activist and mother to William and Louis Paul. Grandma Tillie's second husband, my great grandfather, William Tamaree, was a community leader, peacemaker, and a carver.

I enjoy traveling and creating art in all forms. In the last several years I have concentrated on weaving – spruce root and cedar bark basketry, Ravenstail and Chilkat where I have learned to reconnect with my ancestors, learning stories, history, and many lessons.

I greatly appreciate your consideration for the position on the Board. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me at contact information above.

Sincerely,
Debra (Dzijúksuk) O'Gara
Bar No. 0802002; a member since 2008