

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.