

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.