

ALASKA BAR
ASSOCIATION

NOMINATING PETITION
Deadline: February 20, 2026

Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors

We, the undersigned, nominate (nominee): Meghan Sigvanna Tapqaq to serve as:

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

At Large 3rd Judicial District

Maggie Massey
(Signature of Nominator)

Maggie Massey
(Print Name)

Elisabeth Mering
(Signature of Nominator)

Elisabeth Mering
(Print Name)

Rachel W. Espejo
(Signature of Nominator)

Rachel W. Espejo
(Print Name)

I hereby consent to the above nomination.

Meghan Tapqaq
(Signature of Nominee)

Meghan Tapqaq
(Print Name)

In addition to the above signatures, candidates should submit a resume and/or a letter with a statement of your background, which will be posted on the Bar's website. Materials must be received by Friday, February 20, 2026.

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

Email: bailey@alaskabar.org
Fax: (907) 272-2932

Meghan Sigvanna Tapqaq

February 20, 2026

Statement of Candidacy Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors At-Large Seat

Dear respected colleagues,

I am writing this statement to express interest in being considered for re-election to the At-Large Seat on the Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors. Before serving in this role, I was previously the New Lawyer Liaison to the Board of Governors. These experiences deepened my understanding of the Bar's governance structure and reinforced my commitment to strengthening our profession from within. They also gave me valuable insight into the challenges and opportunities facing attorneys across our uniquely vast and diverse state.

I am seeking this position for three primary reasons. First, I care deeply about the integrity of our profession and the responsibility we share to uphold high ethical standards. Second, as a still relatively young attorney practicing in rural Alaska, I believe we must continue to innovate in how we deliver legal services and support one another in a state defined by geographic isolation and complex jurisdictional landscapes. Third, I strongly believe our institutions must reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, including generational diversity and meaningful representation of Alaska Native voices.

Since returning home to Nome, I have stepped into several leadership roles with the goal of ensuring that young people and Alaska Native perspectives are included in decision-making spaces. I serve on the Nome Public Schools Board of Education, the Alaska Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors, and the Bar Foundation Board of Trustees. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how interconnected our systems truly are. No organization operates in isolation. Effective leadership requires collaboration across community, tribal, state, and federal partners. I believe this same principle applies to our Bar Association: collaboration, inclusion, and transparency are essential to maintaining a strong and responsive professional community.

In addition to the above, I serve as an adjunct professor with UAF Northwest Campus, teaching in the Tribal Governance Program, Alaska Native Studies Department, and Inupiaq Language Department at our local college campus and high school. I also volunteer as a Director for the Nome Youth Court program. Working with youth reminds me daily that leadership is not only about governance, but also about mentorship and empowerment. Our profession has a responsibility to support the next generation of attorneys, particularly those from rural and underserved communities, and to create pathways that allow them to thrive.

It would be an honor to continue to serve in this capacity and contributing to a Bar Association that reflects the strength, diversity, and resilience of Alaska. I am committed to serving my colleagues, my community, and future generations of legal professionals with integrity and purpose.

Quyaana (thank you) for your consideration and for the work you do in support of our profession. I welcome any questions and have attached my resume for your review.

Sincerely,



Meghan Sigvanna Tapqaq

Bar No. 1711083

Alaska Bar Association Member since 2017

Meghan Sigvanna Tapqaq

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

ALASKA BAR ASSOCIATION MEMBER

Nov. 2017 - Present

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON SCHOOL OF LAW, Juris Doctor – Eugene, OR

May 2017

- » **Pro Bono Certificate 2017** – awarded to students who graduate with 40 or more hours of pro bono hours
- » **National Native American Law Students Association** – President 2016-2017
- » **Journal of Environmental Law & Litigation** – Executive Editor 2016-2017; Staff Editor 2015-2016
- » **25 Ducks Award Recipient** – 2016
- » **Young Alumni Award** - 2021

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, Bachelor of Arts – Hanover, NH

Jun. 2013

Graduated with honors in Native American Studies (major) and Linguistics (minor)

- » **Senior Honors Thesis** in Native American Studies with advisor Professor Bruce Duthu: *Savaqatigiigñak Alaskamlu Nunaqaatlu Kavamarjiksa Miqliqtut Qaunakkutaagun: The Relationship of Alaska State and Tribal Governments through the Lens of Child Welfare*. Awarded 2012 Native American Studies Writing Prize.
- » **Awarded Tucker Foundation Citation** for commitment to Dartmouth community and beyond.

POLICY & LEGAL EXPERIENCE

KAWERAK, INC., Staff Attorney – Nome, AK

Jun. 2018 - present

- » Supervise a team of 5 staff covering elections, federal Indian law, contracts, employment, and related tribal operations.
- » Advise on development and implementation of tribal justice systems, laws, and policies; deliver training and resources to strengthen governance capacity.
- » Support and expand tribal sovereignty and self-governance initiatives at local, state, and national levels.
- » Monitor and analyze legal and political developments affecting Alaska Native tribal governments; disseminate updates and make recommendations to leadership.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA REGIONAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM, Staff Attorney – Juneau, AK

Sep. 2017 – May 2018

- » Provided legal counsel and representation on matters involving federal Indian law, health care compliance, employment, contracts, and tribal governance.
- » Supported SEARHC leadership and departments in ensuring compliance with federal, state, and tribal health regulations and funding requirements.
- » Drafted, reviewed, and negotiated contracts, MOUs, and policies to safeguard organizational and tribal interests.
- » Monitored and analyzed legal and political developments affecting tribal health care and sovereignty in Alaska; provided guidance to leadership.
- » Collaborated with outside counsel, tribal governments, and partner agencies on litigation and regulatory issues.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS – NORTHWEST CAMPUS, Adjunct Professor – Juneau, AK

Dec. 2016 – present

- » Taught various dual enrollment and cross-regional classes as affiliate faculty for the Department of Tribal Governance, as well as “History of Colonization in Alaska: the Indigenous Response” and Inupiaq language courses.
- » Course covered the basics of Indian law in Alaska, the role of Tribal governments in the State, and looked at human rights frameworks and current issues and events such as trust land, climate change, and criminal justice.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, First Alaskans Institute Public Policy Fellow – Juneau, AK Dec. 2016 – Jun. 2017

- » Selected as one of four fellows by the First Alaskans Institute and placed in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

- » Wrote policy and white papers on issues of climate change and natural resources to advise staff, as relates to Natives.
- » Assisting to provide cultural training to all State staff on Alaska Native history, law, and current events.

NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND, Extern – Anchorage, AK

Sep. 2016 – Dec. 2016

- » Assisted attorneys with projects related to Indian law issues in Alaska, including voting rights, subsistence, and environmental issues by cite checking documents and writing memos.
- » Wrote memoranda and white papers on walrus ivory bans, shipping in the Bering Strait, international marine law, and the legal underpinnings of a Presidential Executive Order on the Bering Strait Climate Resiliency Area (enacted in Nov. 2016, then revoked under the subsequent administration).

OUR CHILDREN’S TRUST & THREE DEGREES WARMER, collaborator – Anchorage, AK

Nov. – Dec. 2016

- » Assisted with editing a petition to be filed with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to set a limit on carbon emission levels within the State as a mitigation measure for climate change.
- » Traveled to Nome and Shishmaref to talk with school students about sharing their story of how climate change affects them, and legal frameworks around environmental issues.

EARTHJUSTICE, Summer Law Clerk – Juneau, AK

May – Aug. 2016

- » Conducted legal research and writing on environmental law and regulation in Alaska, particularly those affecting Indigenous communities. Topics ranged from transboundary mining, CERCLA and the Endangered Species Act as well as state regulations on water quality and oil spills.

LANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT, Extern for the Honorable Judge Valeri Love – Eugene, OR

Jan. – May 2016

- » Performed administrative tasks for the judge and clerk, including pulling files and assisting with paperwork.
- » Researched Indian child welfare laws and their potential application to cases on the judge’s docket.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR, DIVISION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Udall Foundation Native American Congressional Intern – Washington, DC

May 2015 – Aug. 2015

- » Selected as one of 12 students for internship connecting students with key DC decision-makers to learn about the federal legislative process and attain a better understanding of the relationship between the federal government and tribes.
- » Researched legal topics including Indian child welfare, trust and probate, federal recognition, and Bureau of Indian Education schools.
- » Wrote legal memoranda to supervising attorneys and their clients, checked citations in opinions and complaints, compiled a legislative history of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act, and facilitated discussions on climate change and natural resources at the 2015 White House Tribal Youth Gathering.

LEWIN FELLOW, KAWERAK, INC., Legal Intern, Wellness Coordinator – Nome, AK

Jul. 2013 – Aug. 2014

- » Traveled to villages to assist attorney with tribal court development, and assess sustainability of tribal courts.
- » Assisted Beringia Center of Culture and Science in developing policies on artifacts and looting.
- » Conducted research with local experts, organized workshops on climate change, and created educational materials.
- » Helped plan and implement village Wellness Fairs, and Youth Leader and Camp Igaliq programs.
- » Served as Regional Wellness Forum member to work with local organizations on health programming.
- » Publications: “*Food for the soul: Bering Strait non-salmon fish preparation and recipes*” and “*The sea sustains us: The importance of walrus to Little Diomedé*” (presented at 2014 Alaska Marine Science Symposium).

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC., Legal Intern – Anchorage, AK

Jan. 2012 – Feb. 2012

- » Drafted resolutions, memoranda of agreement on education issues with local tribes, and other legal documents.
- » Attended conferences; observed court proceedings on Alaska Native child welfare and education.
- » Spoke at Career Day programs at a local high school to Native high school students.