

# **Alaska Focus. Member Driven.**

**2023 Annual Bar Convention**

**September 20-22, 2023**

**Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center, Fairbanks**

## **Dasha Kelly Hamilton (Keynote)**



Dasha Kelly Hamilton is a writer, performance artist and creative change agent.

Through responsive and respectful intentionality, Dasha leverages the creative process to facilitate critical dialogues around human and social wellness. Dasha delivers her engagement sessions to campuses, classrooms, correctional institutions, association conferences, social service agencies, municipal departments, and team retreats.

Her nonprofit, Still Waters Collective, has curated poetry programming and spoken word events in the region for almost 20 years. The work has impacting more than 13,000 youth, provided professional development to more than 100 young people and created platforms for thousands of voices to be honored and heard.

Dasha has written for national, regional and local magazines; produced three collections of poetry; recorded four spoken word CDs; and published two novels. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University and has taught writing courses at Mount Mary University, Alverno College and UW-Milwaukee. Dasha served as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy to teach, perform and facilitate community building initiatives in Botswana and the island of Mauritius. A former Artist of the Year for the City of Milwaukee, Dasha was recently named the city's 11th Poet Laureate.

## **Kima Hamilton (Baker)**

Kima Hamilton is a facilitator, DJ, poet, and social justice engineer. From Pennsylvania to Georgia to Alaska to Wisconsin, he has shaped his engineering skills and artistic talents into a signature work as a convener, counselor and ARTivist. Kima has traveled as an Arts Envoy for the U.S. Embassy in Colombia, Nepal and Mexico. He has led writing workshops in school systems, social agencies, and correctional facilities. Kima has organized with Alaskan Native Dialogue on Racial Equity and presented cultural



reverence training for NAMI and Milwaukee County. He leads healing and accountability workshops for men and advocacy initiatives for fathers.

## **Beistline, Ralph**



Ralph Robert Beistline is a senior United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Alaska. Born in Fairbanks, Alaska, Judge Beistline received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1972 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University School of Law) in 1974. He was a law clerk to three judges on the Superior Court in Fairbanks from 1974 to 1975, and thereafter was in private practice in Alaska from 1975 to 1992, at which time he was appointed a judge on the Alaska Superior Court.

On the recommendation of U.S. Senators Ted Stevens and Frank Murkowski, Judge Beistline was nominated by President George W. Bush on November 8, 2001, to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Alaska vacated by Judge H. Russel Holland. Judge Beistline was confirmed by the United States Senate on March 12, 2002, and received his commission on March 19, 2002. He was the chief judge from 2009 to 2015, at which time he assumed senior status.

Judge Beistline served as President of the Tanana Valley Bar Association in 1979, and as President of the Alaska Bar Association from 1986 to 1987.

Judge Beistline currently is Editor of the ALASKA BAR RAG

## **Chemerinsky, Erwin**



Erwin Chemerinsky became the 13th Dean of Berkeley Law on July 1, 2017, when he joined the faculty as the Jesse H. Choper Distinguished Professor of Law.

Prior to assuming this position, from 2008-2017, he was the founding Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law, and Raymond Pryke Professor of First Amendment Law, at University of California, Irvine School of Law. Before that he was the Alston and Bird Professor of Law and Political Science at Duke University from 2004-2008, and from 1983-2004 was a professor at the University of Southern California Law School, including as the Sydney M. Irmas Professor of Public Interest



Law, Legal Ethics, and Political Science. From 1980-1983, he was an assistant professor at DePaul College of Law.

He is the author of sixteen books, including leading casebooks and treatises about constitutional law, criminal procedure, and federal jurisdiction. His most recent books are *Worse than Nothing: The Dangerous Fallacy of Originalism* (2022) and *Presumed Guilty: How the Supreme Court Empowered the Police and Subverted Civil Rights* (2021).

He also is the author of more than 200 law review articles. He is a contributing writer for the Opinion section of the Los Angeles Times, and writes regular columns for the Sacramento Bee, the ABA Journal and the Daily Journal, and frequent op-eds in newspapers across the country. He frequently argues appellate cases, including in the United States Supreme Court.

In 2016, he was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2017, National Jurist magazine again named Dean Chemerinsky as the most influential person in legal education in the United States. In 2022, he is the President of the Association of American Law Schools.

## **Education**

B.S., Northwestern University (1975)  
J.D., Harvard Law School (1978)

## **Dolchok, Evelyn**



Judge Evelyn Dolchok is a citizen of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe and lifelong Alaskan and Kenai resident. She was appointed to a judgeship position by the Kenaitze Tribal Council in 2013 followed by her appointment to Chief Tribal Judge in September of 2019. Judge Dolchok continues to advance her education by attending classes from the National Judicial College. She is active in conferences and trainings held by All Rise (formerly National American Drug Court Professionals), National American Indian Court Judges Association, National Indian Child Welfare Association, and more.

Judge Dolchok is the presiding Tribal Judge for the Henu Community Wellness Court, which is one of the few joint jurisdictional courts in the United States. Weekly hearings are dually conducted with a State of Alaska Superior Court Judge at the Qiz'unch' Tribal Court. "Qiz'unch'" is the Dena'ina word translating to "the right way, the truth." Henu is the Dena'ina word for "hard work," which



describes the effort and dedication each participant puts into their recovery throughout this 18-24 month program. Witnessing the transformation take place in each participant is one of her greatest joys of being a judge.

## **Dougherty Lynch, Erin**



Erin is a Senior Staff Attorney and the Managing Attorney of NARF's Anchorage, Alaska, office. At NARF, Erin works on a variety of federal Indian law issues, including Indian and tribal child welfare, subsistence hunting and fishing rights, co-management/co-stewardship agreements, voting rights, tribal jurisdiction and sovereignty, tribal sovereign immunity, and issues related to Alaska Native communities and climate change.

Erin leads NARF's Indian child welfare work and is heavily involved in national efforts to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). With co-counsel she has authored tribal amicus briefs in all three of the federal court challenges to ICWA, including, most recently *Haaland v. Brackeen*, where she is counsel of record on the tribal amicus brief representing 497 federally recognized tribes and 62 tribal and Indian organizations.

Since 2010 she has represented the Bering Sea Elders Group, an organization of thirty-eight Yup'ik, Cup'ik, St. Lawrence Island Yupik, and Inupiaq Tribes in Western Alaska that work to protect the traditional resources of the Bering Sea. She is also involved in two federal court cases representing a tribe, a tribal organization, and Alaska Native individuals to protect Alaska Native subsistence rights—work that has been central to NARF Alaska's docket since the office opened in 1984.

Erin joined the Native American Rights Fund in 2009 as a Skadden Fellow, following a clerkship with the Honorable Dana Fabe, then Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. Erin received her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School where she was the co-chair of Michigan's Native American Law Students Association, served on the National Advisory Committee for Equal Justice Works, and served as an Article Editor and the Administrative Manager for the Michigan Journal of Gender & Law. Erin received her B.A. from Willamette University where she was a Truman Scholar. She was also a Fulbright Scholar based at the University of Tromsø where she conducted masters-level research on indigenous political mobilization and self-governance.

Erin is a member of the Alaska bar, as well as the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, and District of Columbia Circuits, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. Erin also serves on the Alaska Bar Association's Committee for Pro Bono Service and the Committee



on Fair and Impartial Courts, and is a member of the Alaska Court System's Court Improvement Program and Chair of its ICWA Subcommittee.

## **Fletcher, Savannah**



Savannah Fletcher is a civil rights attorney with the Northern Justice Project, LLC. She specializes in Indian Child Welfare Act and Tribal sovereignty cases. Savannah has her JD from Stanford Law and serves as an Assembly Member for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

## **Levenson, Laurie**



While in law school, Laurie Levenson was chief articles editor of the UCLA Law Review. After graduation, she served as law clerk to the Honorable James Hunter III of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. In 1981, she joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, where she practiced as a trial and appellate lawyer and served as Assistant Chief of the Criminal Division. Levenson joined the Loyola faculty in 1989 and served as Loyola's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1996 to 1999. She has been a visiting professor at UCLA School of Law and USC Law School, and a D&L Straus distinguished visiting professor at Pepperdine School of Law. In 2019, she co-founded (with Judge Sandra Klein) Girl Scout Troop 1085, a troop for girls experiencing homelessness. At Loyola, Professor Levenson is the Founding Director of the Loyola Project for the Innocent, the Loyola Center for Ethical Advocacy, and the Fidler Institute on Criminal Justice, and Senior Faculty for Loyola's Journalist Law School.

### **Education**

- AB, Stanford University
- JD, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law



## **Maassen, Peter**



Chief Justice Peter J. Maassen was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in August 2012 and became chief justice in February 2023. Born and raised in Michigan, Maassen received a B.A. from Hope College and a J.D. from the University of Michigan. Other than a two-year stint in Washington, D.C., where he worked in the General Counsel's Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce and then for a private firm with a federal administrative practice, Maassen spent most of his 30-year career, before joining the bench, in private practice in Anchorage. For six years he served as editor-in-chief of the Alaska Bar Rag, the official publication of the Alaska Bar Association. He received the Bar's Professionalism Award in 2006 and served on its board of governors from 2009–2012. He served for ten years on the board of the Anchorage Youth Court, an alternative, peer-driven justice system for young offenders. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has chaired various committees focused on such issues as judicial education, access to justice, and court security. With his wife Kay, he enjoys the Alaska outdoors both summer and winter.

## **Schick, Nikole**



Originally from Fairbanks, I have practiced law in Alaska for 18 years. During this time, I've worked in private practice, as a Magistrate Judge and Standing Master for the Alaska Court System, and in my current role as a Supervising Attorney and Guardian ad Litem for youth with the Office of Public Advocacy. My varied experience has frequently involved working with Tribes and tribal members, and I appreciate opportunities to collaborate with Tribes toward achieving the best outcomes possible for the youth and families we serve.



## Wells, Jennifer



Retired Superior Court Judge Wells was appointed to the Superior Court in 2017 and retired in 2023, after a varied career in the Alaska court system which began in 1994. Judge Wells started her judicial career as a magistrate judge in a two-person court in Tok, Alaska, working closely with nearby tribes to enhance access and communication with the outlying villages. She then worked for 10 years in a variety of magistrate judge positions in Anchorage, which included training magistrate judges around the state. Judge Wells moved to Kenai in 2007 as a magistrate judge and was part of a multi-agency team which designed the state's first joint-jurisdiction state-tribal therapeutic court. The primary reason she applied to be a superior court judge was to serve in the Henu Community Wellness Court after Superior Court Judge Moran retired. This therapeutic court has been operating since 2017.

## Wilson, Joan



Joan Wilson is the Director of the State of Alaska, Alaska Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO), appointed by Governor Dunleavy in May 2022. In this position, she serves as executive officer to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Marijuana Control Board. She oversees a staff of peace officers and licensing examiners assigned to overseeing the regulation of the State's alcoholic beverage and marijuana licensees.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Wilson served as a Senior Assistant Attorney General with the State of Alaska, Department of Law. Her clients included AMCO, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Marijuana Control Board, the Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Administration, and the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. She has practiced as a trial attorney for 27 years in both civil and criminal law and public and private practice. Prior to that practice, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable H. Russel Holland of the United States District Court, District of Alaska

In 2021, she was awarded the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General's Award for Excellence in Promoting Quality, Safety, and Value for her part in the trial team that successfully prosecuted an Anchorage dentist for



committing millions of dollars of Medicaid fraud and reckless endangering the lives of to his patients in the process. Ms. Wilson has also served as the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, where she was also responsible for guarding against fraud and abuse of state and federal health care programs. .

Ms. Wilson received her Bachelor of Arts from Northwestern University, her Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College, and her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Alaska. There, she was recipient of the Jason Wenger Award in Literary Excellence. She is also recipient of a Rasmuson Foundation Individual Artists Award.

Ms. Wilson is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Book of Timothy: The Devil, My Brother and Me* (Red Hen Press 2021). This memoir chronicles her efforts to track and find her brother's abuser, a Catholic priest exiled to Rome, to get a confession from him many years after his crimes. It also tells the story of finding and rebuilding a Catholic faith life despite the broken foundation for the same. More information about this book and her literary life can be found at [www.joannockelswilson.com](http://www.joannockelswilson.com)

Related to her current profession, Ms. Wilson is daughter, niece, and granddaughter of Chicago Firefighters and the great granddaughter of one of the first members of the Iowa State Liquor Commission. She considers her current appointment of AMCO Director as the continuation of a long family history of public service. She considers herself privileged to serve the people of the State of the Alaska.

(Updated August 16, 2023)



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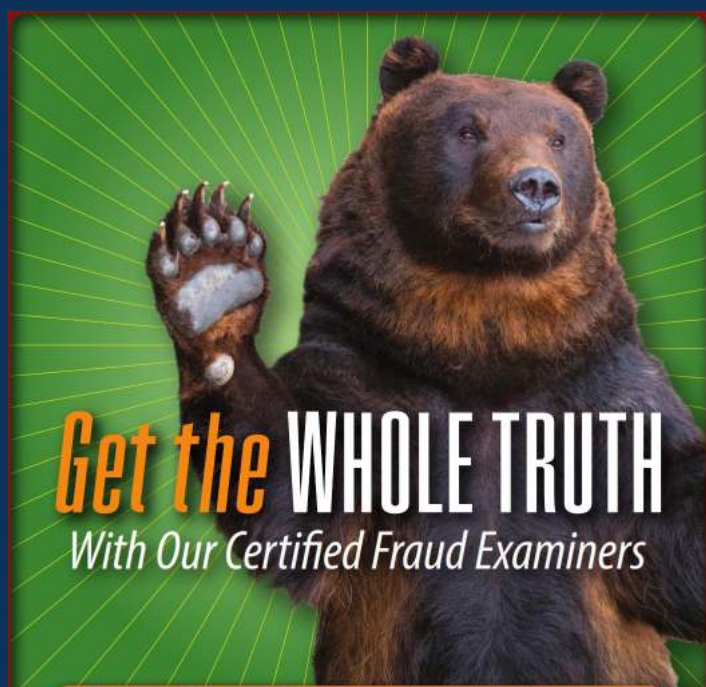
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### **2023 AK Bar convention artwork—Angle Rocks by Linda Wies**

Linda Wies is a Fairbanks based printmaker. In 2020, she took a leap and purchased an etching press and set up a studio space at her home on Chena Ridge, which is now primarily where she works.

Linda's work is largely focused on creating multi block relief prints. She hand carves linocuts and woodblocks which are individually inked and rolled through an etching press. She also carves solid woodpieces that are hand painted with Indian inks. Her process consists of sketching an image onto the wood carving, painting, and carving again until she has a finished piece- which is often a springboard to future relief prints. The subjects of Linda's work are typically found in the forest around her home; fungi and lichen, ravens and sandhill cranes, and berries and flowers are all reoccurring images in her art. Linda attends local festivals where she does on-demand printmaking and teaching others how to print on recycled tee shirts.