



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

July 1, 2021

Alaska Judicial Council
510 L Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, AK 99501-1295

Members of the Alaska Judicial Council,

I respectfully request your reconsideration of the nominations for the Alaska Supreme Court vacancy, and that a new slate of names be put forward. The slate of candidates put forward could be expanded to reflect the balance and diversity in philosophy and Alaskan experience requisite to adequately make a fair choice for the people of Alaska.

Alaska's court system, in particular the Supreme Court, should reflect the balanced viewpoints of all Alaskans. Over the past several months, I have heard a number of concerns regarding the representation of rural Alaska in the Judiciary. I have seen this point articulated by the Supreme Court's "Advisory Committee on Fairness and Access", outlined in last summer's statements by the Supreme Court, and recognized through the numerous court system programs targeted at attracting diversity into the judicial profession.

In the Judicial Council's most recent consideration, you bypassed Judge Paul Roetman. Judge Roetman has more time serving as a judge and a significantly longer timeframe living in Alaska than any individual nominated. Judge Roetman was also your only applicant from rural Alaska.

Alaska is a place where everyone has a fair shot to pursue the life and career they choose, and in that context I want to see our Judiciary reflect the culture and spirit of our state. Alaska has many high caliber, qualified judiciary members and their education, professional experience, and geographic backgrounds are diverse. No one path leads to a perfect judge. The people of Alaska, including myself, wonder how someone like Judge Roetman is qualified to sit where he currently is but not have his name put forward for consideration to the Alaska Supreme Court?

I ask you to reflect on the people of Alaska and what they seek from their Judiciary branch of government, and please provide me with a new slate of names to choose from for the upcoming opening on the Alaska Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor