

JAN 08 2021

Alaska Judicial Council

# Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

Alaska Supreme Court

Date: January 8, 2021

## I. Public Information (Questions 1-24)

### Personal

1. (a) State full name\* Jennifer Stuart Henderson  
 Name as it should appear on bar survey: Jennifer Stuart Henderson  
\* Unless otherwise specified, this is how your name will appear on the bar survey.
- (b) Have you ever used or been known by any other names or pseudonyms? If so, please identify. Jennifer Erin Stuart
  
2. How long have you been a resident of the State of Alaska immediately preceding the date of this application?
 

**	<u>17</u> years	<u>5</u> months
Total	<u>17</u> years	<u>5</u> months
  
3. How long have you been engaged in the active practice of law immediately preceding the date of this application?
 

**	<u>17</u> years	<u>4</u> months
Total	<u>17</u> years	<u>4</u> months

### Nonlegal Education

4. State names and dates of attendance of all colleges and professional schools (other than law schools) ever attended and degrees and dates conferred. List any honors.

Claremont McKenna College - B.A. in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics  
 Dates of attendance: August 1994 - May 1998  
 Honors: Graduated summa cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa; McKenna Achievement Award; 1998 Claremont-Mudd-Scripps Student-Athlete of the Year

\*\* See AS 22.10.090; see also 1984 Inf. Op. Atty. Gen. (July 19; 366- 624-84).

## Legal Education

5. List all law schools, dates attended and degrees conferred. If you did not receive a degree from any law school, please indicate.

Yale Law School  
Dates of attendance: September 1998 - May 2001  
Juris Doctor

6. (a) Did you receive any honors in law school or belong to any honorary societies or groups?  
 Yes  No If yes, please give details.

I served as Director of the Temporary Restraining Order Project, President of the Public Interest Initiative, Vice President of Student Funded Fellowships, editor of the Yale Journal of Law and Feminism, a member of Yale Law Women, and a Student Class Representative.

- (b) Have you taken any CLE (continuing legal education) courses during the past five years?  
 Yes  No

Please describe or list. Please do not attach individual certificates of attendance.

I have attended the Judicial Conference annually, and the Newer Judges' Conference during the first three years of my terms on both District Court and Superior Court. These, and additional specialized conferences that I have attended, have focused upon topics such as judicial ethics, legal procedure, courtroom management, complex evidentiary issues, best practices in presiding over cases involving self-represented litigants, best practices in presiding over hearings occurring by telephone and/or video-conference, awareness of individual and historical trauma as it may impact both litigants and court personnel, effective management of Child in Need of Aid cases, criminal competency law, and a variety of other substantive areas of civil and criminal law.

## Military

7. Have you served in the armed forces (reserves or otherwise)?  Yes  No

If so, please provide the following information:

- (a) Dates of service: N/A.  
(b) Branch of service: N/A.  
(c) Rank at time of discharge: N/A.  
(d) Type of military discharge: N/A.  
(e) Awards or citations: N/A.

N/A.

- (f) Have you ever been refused admission to or released from any of the armed services for reasons other than honorable discharge?  Yes  No If so, state the details.

N/A.

## Nonlegal Employment

8. Describe major nonlegal working experience. If you had a business or association that has been discontinued, please note whether there are unpaid debts or claims pending litigation.

My nonlegal working experience occurred prior to law school and involved volunteer work for the Domestic Violence Unit of the San Diego City Attorney's Office, as well as for a Children's Hospital in La Mesa, California. I also worked in a variety of retail and other sales-related positions during that time period, prior to attending law school.

## Legal Experience

9. Describe chronologically your legal employment since admission to law school. Please provide dates and location of employment, name of employer, name AND CURRENT ADDRESS OF supervisor or person who can verify AND COMMENT ON YOUR employment, the reason you left the position, and a brief description of type of practice (i.e., insurance defense, criminal, appellate, general, litigation, etc.) *for each position listed below*. IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY A TRIAL COURT JUDGE, PLEASE LIST YOUR PRESIDING JUDGE. FOR PAST JUDGESHIPS, PLEASE LIST THE JUDGE WHO LAST PRESIDED DURING YOUR TIME ON THE BENCH.

The Council will ask for comments from your current and former employers about your employment and your judicial qualifications. You may choose to list other persons as character and professional references in response to Question 20 of this application.

If the supervisor or contact person asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

**Current Employer:** Alaska Court System - Superior Court Judge (2017-present) and District Court Judge (2013-2017)

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Presiding Judge William F. Morse

Current address of this person: Nesbett Courthouse, 825 W. 4th Avenue

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and location of Employment: From April 2013 To present City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description:

Currently presiding over all aspects of cases within a civil Superior Court caseload, including complex contract and other civil litigation cases, CINA cases, domestic relations matters, domestic violence-involved matters, and probate cases, as well as presiding over the Anchorage Centralized Criminal Competency Calendar. Previously presided over all aspects of civil and criminal matters coming before the District Court.

**Previous Employers:** *(In chronological order, most recent first)*

Employer: Farley & Graves, P.C.

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Laura L. Farley and Cheryl L. Graves

Current address of this person: 807 G Street, Ste. 250

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From March 2007 To December 2012 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Associate attorney handling and defending a variety of civil cases, including personal injury, wrongful death, maritime, employment, contract, and administrative claims.

Reason for Leaving: Appointed to the Anchorage District Court.

Employer: Anchorage District Attorney's Office

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Anchorage DA Brittany L. Dunlop

Current address of this person: 310 K Street, Ste. 520

City Anchorage State AK Zip 99501

Dates and Location of Employment: From October 2003 To March 2007 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: Assistant District Attorney preparing, researching, negotiating, and trying cases in the misdemeanor, drug, and violent crimes units, as well as supervising the misdemeanor unit.

Reason for Leaving: Interest in diversifying my legal experience, and acceptance of position at Farley & Graves, P.C.

**Previous Employers (continued)**

Employer: The Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: The Honorable Kim McLane Wardlaw

Current address of this person: 125 S. Grand Avenue

City Pasadena State CA Zip 91105

Dates and Location of Employment: From August 2002 To August 2003 City Pasadena State CA

Job title and description: 

<u>Law clerk researching and writing memoranda for cases involving a wide array of federal legal issues; drafting dispositions; assisting with preparation for oral argument.</u>
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Reason for Leaving: This was a one-year clerkship position.

Employer: Justice Warren Matthews, Supreme Court for the State of Alaska

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Justice Warren Matthews

Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and Location of Employment: From September 2001 To August 2002 City Anchorage State AK

Job title and description: 

<u>Law clerk researching and writing bench memoranda regarding appeals involving a variety of state civil law questions.</u>
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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_ This was a one-year clerkship position.

Employer: Heller, Ehrman, White, & McAuliffe

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: This firm has disbanded.

Current address of this person: Former address of Seattle office - 701 Fifth Avenue

City Seattle State WA Zip 98104

Dates and Location of Employment: From June 2000 To August 2000 City Seattle State WA

Job title and description: 

<u>Summer intern researching and preparing memoranda on issues of property, intellectual property, contract, family, and environmental law.</u>
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Reason for Leaving: This was a summer position prior to my third year of law school.

Employer: Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: Jay McManus

Current address of this person: 298 Union Street; or P.O. Box 710

City Lynn State MA Zip 01903

Dates and Location of Employment: From June 1999 To August 1999 City Lynn State MA

Job title and description: 

<u>Summer intern conducting research and assisting with investigation and intake as related to juvenile civil, criminal, and administrative matters.</u>
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Reason for Leaving: This was a summer position prior to my second year of law school.

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor or name of contact person who can verify employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Current address of this person: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and Location of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Job title and description: 

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Reason for Leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

10. During your legal career, please indicate (approximately) the following:

(a) Percent of your practice that was: Civil 55  
Criminal 40  
Other 5  
= 100%

Comment: The "other" practice involved administrative cases/appeals.

(b) Percent: State 98  
Federal 2  
Other \_\_\_\_\_  
= 100%

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Of practice in state courts, percent: Supreme Court 3  
Court of Appeals 2  
Superior Court 55  
District Court 40  
= 100%

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Frequency of appearance in court (select one):  
 Regularly       Occasionally       Infrequently       Not at All

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Number of trials (by court or jury) you conducted (select one):  
 None       1- 5       6-15       16-30       31 or more

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_

(f) Percent of these trials which were: Jury 30      Non-Jury 70

Comment: This encompasses both my trial practice as a practitioner and my work presiding over trials as a judge.

(g) Approximate number of appellate matters handled: 18

Comment: These have involved state and federal court appeals, as well as administrative appeals.

(h) Approximate number of arbitrations or administrative hearings (select one):

None       1-5       6-15       16-30       31 or more

Briefly describe type of matters heard:

Administrative hearings and appeals involving IDEA, HRC, and ERC claims.

(i) Please briefly summarize any *pro bono* work that you have done and indicate whether the work was done through a *pro bono* legal service provider (e.g. Alaska Legal Services, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, etc.).

I currently volunteer to preside over the Anchorage Centralized Competency Calendar, which encompasses the majority of all Anchorage criminal matters in which there are questions about whether the defendant is competent to proceed to trial. In this capacity, I oversee the tracking of individuals through the competency process, preside over numerous competency-involved hearings, make orders on competency and restoration, and work to educate attorneys, judges, and other stakeholders about developments in the law on competency and strategies for addressing systemic challenges that have arisen in this area. I have also served as a judge on the CRP (Coordinated Resources Project) Court, beginning in 2014, and presided over that Court from September 2017 through March 2019. While serving on District Court, I helped to develop and oversee the Court's mediation program for FED (forcible entry and detainer) cases, and facilitated Alaska Legal Services' placement of trained attorneys at the courthouse to assist self-represented litigants during FED possession hearings.

11. List all the courts and administrative tribunals in the United States or elsewhere to which you are or have been admitted to practice, and the dates of admission.

State of Alaska - 2004; State of California - 2002; Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals - 2002; United States District Court for the District of Alaska - 2010

**Public Service**

12. List bar associations, and sections and committees of which you are or have been a member or officer.

Alaska Bar Association  
 Alaska Bar Examiners' Committee  
 Alaska Bar Association's Continuing Legal Education Committee  
 California Bar Association

13. List publications, if any (give title, subject and date of publications). Please include online publications such as blogs or websites, and any publications you have co-authored and the name(s) of the co-author(s).

N/A.

14. Have you ever applied for a judgeship?  Yes  No

Please list dates and judgeships applied for, as well as whether you were nominated by the Judicial Council and appointed.

Judgeship	Date	Nominated By Council (Y/N)	Appointed By Governor (Y/N)
Anchorage Superior Court	9/14/11	N	N
Anchorage District Court	5/18/12	Y	Y
Anchorage Superior Court	12/9/16	Y	Y
Alaska Supreme Court	2/14/20	Y	N

15. Have you ever held public or political office, elective or appointive?  Yes  No  
If so, state office, manner selected, and when and where held.

N/A.

16. Please provide the Council with information that you would like the Council to consider about other legal and nonlegal organizations and clubs of which you are a member, including civic, charitable, religious, educational, social and fraternal organizations. Please indicate whether you participate in the organization's activities, or simply hold a membership. Your involvement in the community is one of the criteria the Council uses in its evaluations. The Council does not use affiliation with a particular group as a criterion except to the extent that it might raise questions of conflict of interest or would affect an applicant's ability to impartially apply the law.

In addition to the work described in section 10(i) above, I serve as a Training Judge within the Court System. This involves meeting with, mentoring, and evaluating two Magistrate Judges, as well as facilitating the training of those judges. Further, I serve on the Judicial Conference Planning Committee and on the Alaska Bar Association CLE Committee. These committees focus upon development of educational programs regarding a variety of areas of law, procedure, and ethics for judges and attorneys respectively. I also speak on a regular basis to groups of students, attorneys, and sometimes judges about a variety of legal topics, and I volunteer as often as possible to assist with middle and high school mock trial competitions.

Additionally, I worked with a small team of judges, justices, administrators, and stakeholders to plan and convene a summit in early 2020 geared toward educating judges and practitioners in Alaska about ongoing efforts to improve community systems' responses to individuals experiencing mental health issues and about ideas for preventing, or improving, those individuals' encounters with the criminal justice and civil commitment systems. Although the pandemic has complicated efforts to follow up on the success of that summit, I am working with others to build upon the information and lessons that we garnered during the 2020 summit.

In the past, I have also been heavily involved in the development and operation of the nonprofit organization, Girls on the Run Serving Southcentral Alaska. Girls on the Run is a mentoring program that uses running as a vehicle to build strength and self-confidence in elementary school-aged girls. At various points, I have been involved as Co-Founder, Coach, and 5k Director for our local chapter of Girls on the Run.

Finally, I am active in my children's schools and with their athletic/extracurricular activities, and am a member of the Anchorage Running Club, the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage, and U.S.A. Triathlon.

17. Indicate (Yes or No) whether you have ever:
- (a) been arrested, charged with, pled guilty or *nolo contendere* to, or been convicted of the violation of any law or ordinance, or been requested to appear before any prosecuting or investigative agency in connection with any matter in any jurisdiction, including all traffic offenses, unless the fine was less than \$50 and there were no other sanctions?  
 Yes  No
  - (b) failed to answer any summons or other legal process served upon you personally at any time?  Yes  No
  - (c) as a member of any armed forces, been the subject of any charges which may have resulted in disciplinary action or court martial?  Yes  No



- (d) had any proceedings brought to have you declared a ward of any court or adjudged an incompetent?  Yes  No  
If your answer is "yes" to any part of this question, state the facts in detail. Give the name and place of the court or agency, dates of the beginning and end of any action or proceeding, case numbers, and the judgment or other disposition.

I was involved in a minor car accident on December 6, 2009, during which I accidentally slid on ice into the back of another vehicle. I was issued a ticket on that date, with a fine of \$60 and a \$10 surcharge, and I paid the ticket without appearing in court.

18. (a) Has a tax lien or other collection procedure ever been instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities?  Yes  No  
In particular, have you been the subject of any proceeding, criminal or civil, initiated against you by the Internal Revenue Service or a State Tax Office?  Yes  No  
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

N/A.

- (b) Have you ever been sued by a client?  Yes  No  
If so, give particulars, including case numbers.

N/A.

- (c) Have you ever been a party in any other legal proceeding?  Yes  No  
If so, give the particulars. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest, including petitioner or respondent in dissolution or divorce proceedings; a material witness; a named co-conspirator or correspondent; and subject or witness in any grand jury proceedings. Do not list proceedings in which you were sued only in a representative capacity (e.g. guardian ad litem, or as Commissioner of Natural Resources).

I was one of many defendants named in a case brought by Andrew Walker in the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Missouri. The case name was Andrew Walker v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company et al., Case No. 12-47852-399. Mr. Walker had previously been a plaintiff suing his landlords in Superior Court here in Anchorage, under various theories, based upon the landlords' decision not to renew his lease agreement. While working at Farley & Graves, P.C., I was one of the attorneys that defended Mr. Walker's landlords, and that case was dismissed on summary judgment. Shortly after that dismissal, and after I was appointed to the District Court, Mr. Walker filed the above-mentioned suit in Bankruptcy Court. That bankruptcy matter was dismissed shortly after I was notified about it.

(d) Has a court ever found you to have provided ineffective assistance of counsel?  Yes  No

If so, provide the particulars including petitioner and case number.

N/A.

19. State the nature and disposition of any of the following actions which apply to you:

(a) Are there any unsatisfied judgments against you?  Yes  No

Have you ever defaulted in the performance of any court-imposed obligation, including payment of alimony or child support or compliance with another court order or decree?

Yes  No

In each case, list the name and address of the creditor, the court which rendered the judgment, the case number, the date, the amount of the judgment, and the circumstances on which such claim was based.

Has property owned by you been either judicially or non-judicially foreclosed?

Yes  No

Please state the circumstances and outcome of any such unsatisfied or default judgment, or of any foreclosure.

N/A.

(b) Have you ever made an assignment for the benefit of creditors?  Yes  No

Have you ever filed any petition in bankruptcy?

Yes  No

If so, state the circumstances, case number, and the outcome.

N/A.

## References and Counsel Questionnaires\*

- \* **Please Note:** Letters of reference from these persons are confidential and will not be given to the applicant. If the reference asks (in writing) that the letter be shared with the governor, the Council will send designated letters and counsel questionnaires for each nominee. The applicant should not request a copy of the letter from the reference. (You **should not** list the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.)

References or letters not solicited by the Council are considered public (with few exceptions) and will be sent to the governor for all nominees.

20. (a) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of two persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your general character and background.

Name: Judge David A. Nesbett  
Address: Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-264-0665

Name: Michael T. Burke  
Address: 13720 Vern Drive  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99516 Phone: 907-952-2212

- (b) List the names, addresses, **including zip codes**, and **phone numbers** of three other persons whom the Judicial Council may contact who can discuss your professional competence and qualifications for a judicial position.

Name: Justice Craig Stowers  
Address: Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-529-5555

Name: Justice Warren Matthews  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Judge Catherine M. Easter  
Address: Nesbett Courthouse, 825 W. 4th Avenue  
City/State/Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: 907-264-0643

## References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(c) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that have gone to trial. Please do not list cases with any pending issues in the trial or appellate courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent trials they presided over.) List only those cases that have gone to trial within the past three years. If you have no cases that have gone to trial within the past three years, you may include cases that went to trial before that date, or may provide up to six cases in response to the next subsection, 20(d). Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (*Attach additional pages if necessary.*)

### Case Number 1

**Case Name:** ITMO: NC/IC **Case Number:** 3AN-17-00497/00498 CN  
**v.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Vennie Nemecek/Celeste Brammer - AAG	Name: Chantal Trinko
Address: 1031 W. 4th Avenue #200	Address: 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 100
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: Kayla Watson - GAL	Name: Bridgette Ellis
Address: 900 W. 5th Avenue, Ste. 525	Address: 645 G Street, Ste. 100-807
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

### Case Number 2

**Case Name:** Heidi M. Grafstrom **Case Number:** 3AN-19-05092CI  
**v.** Thomas Seth Grafstrom **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: David S. Houston	Name: Andrew J. Lambert (withdrew pre-trial)
Address: 517 W. Northern Lights Blvd.	Address: 750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** Sarah Jean Rowley **Case Number:** 3AN-18-11025CI  
**v.** Jeremy Michael Rowley **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: Marc T. Chicklo	Name: Christopher M. Cromer
Address: 807 G Street. #100	Address: 1016 W. 6th Avenue #102
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

## References and Counsel Questionnaires (continued)

(d) List the names, addresses, including zip codes, and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in your three most recent cases that did not go to trial but in which you did significant work. Please do not list cases with any pending issues in the trial or appellate courts. (Applicants who are currently judges should list the three most recent cases they presided over that did not go to trial but in which they did significant work.) Please include the judge's name and case names and numbers. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

### Case Number 1

**Case Name:** Mu & Tipoilu Ausage **Case Number:** 3AN-18-05358CI (t/w 3AN-18-00834PR)  
**v.** Lemavaelagaleilei Tuala **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Michael A. Gershel</u>	Name: <u>Blake Fulton Quackenbush</u>
Address: <u>211 H Street</u>	Address: <u>807 G Street #100</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 2

**Case Name:** Erik P. Kohler **Case Number:** 3AN-18-10247CI (started trial but settled)  
**v.** Donna R. Galbreath **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Mary-Ellen Meddleton</u>	Name: <u>Jacob A. Sonnenborn</u>
Address: <u>508 W. 2nd Avenue #300</u>	Address: <u>421 W. 1st Avenue, Ste. 220</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

### Case Number 3

**Case Name:** ITMO: LI **Case Number:** 3AN-19-00198CN (t/w 3AN-19-08061CI)  
**v.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Judge Name:** Jennifer Stuart Henderson

#### Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>David Noteboom/Erin McCarthy - AAG</u>	Name: <u>Colleen Ray</u>
Address: <u>1031 W. 4th Avenue #300</u>	Address: <u>900 W. 5th Avenue #200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: <u>Latisha Rossi - GAL</u>	Name: <u>Troy Bittner</u>
Address: <u>900 W. 5th Avenue, Ste. 525</u>	Address: <u>900 W. 5th Avenue, Ste. 400</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

Question 20(d) – Case 3 continued:

Jonathon T. Torres  
900 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ste. 525  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Ian Gerard Van Tets  
3625 Carleton Ave., Unit D  
Anchorage, AK 99517

## Writing Sample

21. Attach one example of a brief, memorandum of law, or legal opinion or similar example of legal writing (10-20 pages in length; 15-25 pages for appellate positions) prepared solely by you within the last five years. Please choose a sample that reflects your ability to do legal research and analysis. If you do not have a good sample of this length, include an excerpt from a longer writing. Make sure the sample contains sufficient facts to make it understandable. (Some reply briefs may not meet these requirements.)

Please do not submit: (a) coauthored writing samples, (b) samples with confidential information unless redacted to remove such information, (c) longer writing samples, (d) samples from open cases including cases on appeal.

22. Has any public sanction been imposed against you in response to a complaint, charge or grievance brought against you as an attorney or a judge?  Yes  No

Have formal grievance procedures been brought against you?  Yes  No

See Bar Rule 22(b) & (e) concerning public bar grievance procedures against attorneys, and AS 22.30.011(b) and .060(b)(3) concerning public disciplinary grievance procedures against judges.

Have you ever been held in contempt of court?  Yes  No

Have you ever been fined or otherwise sanctioned by a judge?  Yes  No

In each case, state in detail the circumstances and the outcome.

I have not been sanctioned; however, prior to becoming a judge, during 2012, I represented a client who was sanctioned \$200.00 in relation to responses to requests for admission that were set forth in good faith, but deemed by the Court to be insufficient.

### Additional Comments (Non-Confidential)

23. Please make any additional comments that you wish to bring to the Council's attention about your experience and suitability for this judgeship.

I have had the privilege of serving as a Superior Court Judge for almost four years, and before that, as a District Court Judge for four years, following several years of practice in both civil and criminal law. My work as a judge has been both incredibly challenging and immensely rewarding. As a Superior Court Judge in Anchorage, I preside primarily over a broad array of civil cases, including a variety of contract, personal injury, general tort, Child in Need of Aid, divorce, custody, domestic violence, civil commitment, guardianship/conservatorship, and trust, will, and estate matters. Additionally, as the judge presiding over the Anchorage Centralized Competency Calendar, I conduct weekly hearings related to competency in criminal matters, oversee the administration of that calendar, and work to provide training and education to practitioners and to other judges regarding various aspects of competency law. Prior to being appointed to the Superior Court, while serving as a District Court Judge, I presided over all aspects of countless criminal, civil, and small claims matters. During my terms on both District and Superior Court, I have served as a judge on the Coordinated Resources Project, also referred to as mental health court, and I presided over that Court from September 2017 through March 2019.

### Additional Comments (Continued)

My experiences in practicing law and in presiding over cases as a judge have reinforced in me a deep respect for the rule of law, and a commitment to maintaining the integrity of our court processes. I have had the opportunity to learn and better understand numerous areas of substantive law that impact the great variety of cases coming before our state courts and ultimately before the Alaska Supreme Court. Perhaps even more importantly, my experience as a judge has helped me to better understand how to clearly and effectively communicate, whether in writing or through spoken word, about the processes by which legal parties are able to pursue or defend their cases before the Court, about the laws that apply to any given case, and about how or why the application of law leads to a particular result in a given case. The ability of legal parties, and ultimately the public, to understand the law as it is applied by the courts, and to have confidence that the law is being fairly and consistently interpreted and applied, is paramount to maintaining an effective judiciary. My understanding of and experience with a number of areas of law, my ability to analyze and apply various legal frameworks to the facts before me, and my ability to explain the law and my legal decisions in a way that promotes understanding and confidence in those decisions will all help to prepare me for service as a Justice of the Supreme Court.

Finally, my work, both as a practitioner and then as a judge, has helped me to appreciate the leadership roles taken on by each of the Justices of the Supreme Court in a variety of contexts surrounding the work of the Court System, and to understand the crucial nature of such leadership. I hope to build upon my prior and current public service, and ultimately to contribute as a leader toward continued strengthening of our court processes and expanding the public's understanding of and confidence in our judiciary.

24. Please indicate whether you prefer to be interviewed in public session or in private session. Your choice of a public or private interview has no bearing on the Council's determination of your qualifications or on the questions the Council may ask. You may change your request in writing at any time before the interview starts (select one).

Public Interview

Private Interview

25. Please prepare a brief biographical statement (*limited to 150 words*) about your background, legal education, and legal experience. Please do not list personal information about minor children. Your picture and a copy of this statement will be scanned and posted on the Council's website after the application deadline. In its bar survey, the Council will invite attorneys to review the information if they wish to become more familiar with your background and experience. Use the form on the following page for your biographical statement. Please leave the box at the top empty. The Council will use this space for your scanned picture. ***To be fair to all applicants, the Council will strictly enforce the 150 word limit.***

If you object to the posting of your picture on the Council's website, please indicate your objection below. If you object, we will not post your picture, although you still must submit two photographs of yourself with your application.

If you check this box **we will not** post your picture on the website.



## Biographical Statement

Name Jennifer Stuart Henderson

Position(s) for which you wish to be considered:

Alaska Supreme Court

*Please leave this area blank*

Date: January 8, 2021

I grew up in San Diego, California, and attended Claremont McKenna College, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. I then attended Yale Law School, where I combined my legal studies with a deep commitment to public service.

Following law school, I moved to Alaska to clerk for Justice Warren Matthews. After leaving Alaska for one year to clerk for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, I returned and worked as an Assistant District Attorney at the Anchorage DA's Office. I then transitioned into civil practice at Farley & Graves, P.C., defending clients against a wide variety of civil claims.

I was appointed to the Anchorage District Court in November 2012, and then to the Anchorage Superior Court in May 2017. While on the Superior Court, I have presided over a primarily civil docket.

I am married and have two children.