

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name:** State full name (include any former names used).

Aaron Christian Peterson

2. **Position:** State the position for which you have been nominated.

United States District Judge for the District of Alaska

3. **Address:** List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

Alaska Department of Law
1031 West 4th Avenue #200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

4. **Birthplace:** State year and place of birth.

1981; Anchorage, Alaska

5. **Education:** List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

2007– 2010, Gonzaga University School of Law, J.D., 2010
2003 – 2007, University of Alaska Anchorage, B.B.A in finance (*cum laude*), 2007

6. **Employment Record:** List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

2019 – Present
Alaska Department of Law, Civil Division, Natural Resources Section
1031 West 4th Avenue #200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Senior Assistant Attorney General

2015 – 2019

Office of Special Prosecutions
Alaska Department of Law, Criminal Division
310 K Street #308
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant Attorney General

2012 – 2015

Anchorage District Attorney's Office
Alaska Department of Law, Criminal Division
310 K Street #520
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant District Attorney

2011 – 2012

Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's Office
632 West 6th Avenue #210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant Municipal Prosecutor

2010 – 2011

The Honorable Michael R. Spaan
Alaska Superior Court
825 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Law Clerk

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

2000 – 2003, United States Air Force, Senior Airman, Honorable Discharge

I registered for the selective service upon turning 18.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

Trial of the Year Award from the Alaska Attorney General for the *Badillo* trial (2017)
University of Alaska Anchorage, Graduated *Cum Laude* (2007)
Air Force Achievement Medal (2001)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

Alaska Bar Environmental/Natural Resources Section (2019 – present)

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Alaska, 2010

There has been no lapse in membership.

b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2020

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, 2024

U.S. District Court, District of Alaska, 2019

Supreme Court of Alaska, 2010

There have been no lapses in membership.

11. **Memberships:**

a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Federalist Society (2025 – Present)

Fire Lake Arena Management, Inc., Volunteer Board Member (2024 – Present)

Mustang Hockey Association (1986 – 1996; 2021 – Present)

USA Hockey (2021 – Present)

b. The American Bar Association's Commentary to its Code of Judicial Conduct states that it is inappropriate for a judge to hold membership in any organization that invidiously discriminates on the basis of race, sex, or religion, or national origin. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11a above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership

policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

To the best of my knowledge, none of the organizations listed above currently discriminates or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin, either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies

12. **Published Writings and Public Statements:**

a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply copies of all published material to the Committee.

Press Release, *Alaska Wins Major Legal Battle to Protect Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery*, Alaska Department of Law, July 2, 2025. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *AK Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to State's Management of Herring Roe Fisheries in Sitka Sound*, Alaska Department of Law, January 2, 2024. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Fishing Season is On in Southeast Alaska*, Alaska Department of Law, June 21, 2023. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Alaska to Appeal Bitter Ruling on Southeast AK Chinook Fishery by Federal Court in Washington*, Alaska Department of Law, May 2, 2023. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Bethel Superior Court Judge Dismisses Challenge to ADFG Management of Chum and King Salmon*, Alaska Department of Law, April 13, 2023. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Bear Cub Poacher Sentenced to Three Months in Jail, 10 Year Hunting Ban, and Forfeiture of Boat, Truck, Firearms, and Gear*, Alaska Department of Law, January 23, 2019. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Anchor Point Man Sentenced for Poaching and Wasting Three Moose*, Alaska Department of Law, December 7, 2018. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Kenai Man Sentenced in Unlicensed Sport Fishing Guiding Case; Sport Fishing Vessel Forfeit*, Alaska Department of Law, October 12, 2018. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Prince of Wales Man Sentenced in Commercial Seine Fishing In Closed Waters Case – Seine Vessel F/V Tlingit Lady Forfeit*, Alaska Department of Law, January 11, 2018. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *Big Game Guide Pleads Guilty To Several Bear Bait Station Violations - Guide License Permanently Revoked*, Alaska Department of Law, November 22, 2017. Copy supplied.

Press Release, *California Man Sentenced for Taking Brown Bears Out of Season and Failing to Salvage*, Alaska Department of Law, September 21, 2017. Copy supplied.

Letter to the Editor, Anchorage Daily News, Aug. 9, 2005. Copy supplied.

b. Supply copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

I do not recall preparing or contributing to any such reports, memoranda, or policy statements.

c. Supply copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the February 23 - March 5, 2024 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Alaska Department of Law, February 14, 2024. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the January 9 - 12, 2024 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, January 4, 2024. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the November 28 - December 1, 2023 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, November 22, 2023. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the March 10, 2023 - March 14, 2023 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, March 6, 2023. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the February 20, 2023 - February 25, 2023 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, February 13., 2023. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the January 14, 2023 - January 18, 2023 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, December 22, 2022. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the November 29 - December 3 Board of Fisheries meeting for Bristol Bay finfish, Alaska Department of Law, November 23, 2022. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the October 27-28, 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea, and Chignik Pacific Cod, Alaska Department of Law, October 19, 2022. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the March 26, 2022 - April 2, 2022 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, March 24, 2022. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the January 4 - 15 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat, Alaska Department of Law, December 30, 2021. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the November 30 - December 6 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Prince William Sound finfish, Alaska Department of Law, November 24, 2021. Copy supplied.

Communication related to Board of Fisheries member request for legal interpretation, Alaska Department of Law, November 24, 2021. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Emergency Petition for the August 2, 2021 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, August 2, 2021. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Emergency Petition for the March 16, 2021 Board of Fisheries Meeting, Alaska Department of Law, March 11, 2021. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the March 8 - March 11, 2020 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Statewide King & Tanner Crab, Alaska Department of Law, March 2, 2021. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the February 7 - February 19, 2020 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Upper Cook Inlet Finfish, Alaska Department of Law, March February 3, 2020. Copy supplied.

Memorandum, Department of Law Comments on Proposals for the December 10 - December 13, 2019 Board of Fisheries Meeting for Lower Cook Inlet Finfish, Alaska Department of Law, March December 6, 2019. Copy supplied.

d. Supply copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech,

and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

I do not recall giving any such speeches or talks.

e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

Zaz Hollander, *Newly released video shows Alaska father and son killing sow bear and screeching cubs in den*, Anchorage Daily News, Mar. 29, 2019. Copy supplied.

Julia Jacobs, *Alaska Hunter Who Killed Cubs in Bear Den Gets 3 Months in Jail*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 26, 2019. Copy supplied.

Alaska man, son sentenced in bear killings case, The Peninsula Clarion, Jan. 23, 2019. Copy supplied.

Dan Joling, *Anchor Point Moose Poacher Fined \$100,000, Sentenced to Jail*, Associated Press, Dec. 11, 2018. Copy supplied.

Leroy Polk, *Kenai sport fish guide to pay \$35,000, see jail time for violations*, NBC - 2 KTUU, Oct. 12, 2018. Copy supplied.

Zaz Hollander, *Rammed or shooting the gap? Salmon seiners clash in Prince William Sound criminal case*, Anchorage Daily News, Apr. 24, 2018. Copy supplied.

Zaz Hollander, ADN, *Troopers: Southeast fishermen illegally caught sea cucumbers*, Bristol Bay Times & Dutch Harbor Fisherman, Mar. 23, 2018. Copy supplied.

Rachel D'Oro, *Alaska men sentenced in musk oxen poaching case*, Associated Press, Aug. 4, 2017. Copy supplied.

Alaska News, *Game Guide Loses \$25,000 and ATV in Sentence for Hunting Offenses*, Alaska Dispatch Publishing, May 13, 2016. Copy supplied.

Sam Friedman, *Wasilla guide gets jail time for Delta area hunts*, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, May 13, 2016. Copy supplied.

Dave Bendinger, KDLG, *Togiak fisherman sentenced for fishing outside the line*, Bristol Bay Times & Dutch Harbor Fisherman, Apr. 1, 2016. Copy supplied.

Becky Bohrer, *Adventure show hosts pleads guilty in illegal hunting case*, Associated Press, Jan. 8, 2016. Copy supplied.

Lisa Demer, *Reality TV host pleads guilty to killing brown bear without proper permit*,

13. **Judicial Office:** State (chronologically) any judicial offices you have held, including positions as an administrative law judge, whether such position was elected or appointed, and a description of the jurisdiction of each such court.

I have not held judicial office.

a. Approximately how many cases have you presided over that have gone to verdict or judgment? _____

i. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

jury trials: _____ %
bench trials: _____ %

ii. Of these cases, approximately what percent were:

civil proceedings: _____ %
criminal proceedings: _____ %

b. Provide citations for all opinions you have written, including concurrences and dissents.

c. For each of the 10 most significant cases over which you presided, provide: (1) a capsule summary of the nature of the case; (2) the outcome of the case; (3) the name and contact information for counsel who had a significant role in the trial of the case; and (4) the citation of the case (if reported) or the docket number and a copy of the opinion or judgment (if not reported).

d. For each of the 10 most significant opinions you have written, provide: (1) citations for those decisions that were published; (2) a copy of those decisions that were not published; and (3) the names and contact information for the attorneys who played a significant role in the case.

e. Provide a list of all cases in which certiorari was requested or granted.

f. Provide a brief summary of and citations for all of your opinions where your decisions were reversed by a reviewing court or where your judgment was affirmed with significant criticism of your substantive or procedural rulings. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

g. Provide a description of the number and percentage of your decisions in which you issued an unpublished opinion and the manner in which those unpublished opinions are filed and/or stored.

h. Provide citations for significant opinions on federal or state constitutional issues, together with the citation to appellate court rulings on such opinions. If any of the opinions listed were not officially reported, provide copies of the opinions.

i. Provide citations to all cases in which you sat by designation on a federal court of appeals, including a brief summary of any opinions you authored, whether majority, dissenting, or concurring, and any dissenting opinions you joined.

14. **Recusal:** If you are or have been a judge, identify the basis by which you have assessed the necessity or propriety of recusal (If your court employs an "automatic" recusal system by which you may be recused without your knowledge, please include a general description of that system.) Provide a list of any cases, motions or matters that have come before you in which a litigant or party has requested that you recuse yourself due to an asserted conflict of interest or in which you have recused yourself sua sponte. Identify each such case, and for each provide the following information:

I have not held judicial office.

a. whether your recusal was requested by a motion or other suggestion by a litigant or a party to the proceeding or by any other person or interested party; or if you recused yourself sua sponte;

b. a brief description of the asserted conflict of interest or other ground for recusal;

c. the procedure you followed in determining whether or not to recuse yourself;

d. your reason for recusing or declining to recuse yourself, including any action taken to remove the real, apparent or asserted conflict of interest or to cure any other ground for recusal.

15. **Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:**

a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have not held public office or had any unsuccessful bids for elected or appointed office.

b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

I have not held any memberships or offices to any political party or election committee, and I have not been involved in any political campaigns.

16. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

- i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

From 2010 to 2011, I served as a law clerk to the Honorable Michael R. Spaan, Superior Court Judge of the Alaska Superior Court in Anchorage.

- ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I have not practiced alone.

- iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each;

2011 – 2012

Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's Office
632 West 6th Avenue, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant Municipal Prosecutor

2012 – 2015

Anchorage District Attorney's Office
Alaska Department of Law, Criminal Division
310 K Street, Suite 520
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant District Attorney

2015 – 2019

Office of Special Prosecutions
Alaska Department of Law, Criminal Division
310 K Street, Suite 308
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Assistant Attorney General

2019 – Present

Alaska Department of Law, Civil Division
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Senior Assistant Attorney General

- iv. whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have not served as a mediator or arbitrator.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

After graduating from law school, I clerked for Judge Michael R. Spaan of the Alaska Superior Court in Anchorage. In that role, I assisted with a busy criminal docket and handled administrative appeals to the superior court. This experience provided me with an early grounding in criminal law and procedure, as well as exposure to the appellate process and the discipline of careful, neutral legal analysis in support of judicial decision-making.

From 2012 to 2015, as an Assistant District Attorney in Anchorage, my practice was devoted to criminal prosecution. I handled a wide range of felony cases, including homicide, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, and assault. This work required me to manage a large caseload, conduct jury trials, argue motions, and engage daily in courtroom practice. It also gave me substantial experience working directly with victims of crime and law enforcement agencies.

In 2015, I transitioned to the Office of Special Prosecutions, where I served until 2019 as the Statewide Fish and Wildlife Crimes Prosecutor. My practice remained criminal in nature but became more specialized, focusing on complex commercial fishing and wildlife poaching cases of statewide significance. This role required extensive jury trial work across Alaska, close coordination with the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and federal law enforcement, and frequent interaction with the public and media in high-profile cases. It also expanded my work into legislative and regulatory matters.

Since 2019, I have served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division's Natural Resources Section. My practice is now entirely civil, with a focus on federal and state litigation affecting Alaska's sovereign interests in natural resources and fisheries. I represent the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries in both trial and appellate courts, and I have handled several consequential federal environmental and resource cases in recent years, including litigation involving the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. This phase of my career has emphasized constitutional law, statutory

interpretation, and federalism, and has required me to develop and present complex legal arguments before both state and federal trial and appellate courts.

- ii. your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

As a law clerk I worked on criminal matters and administrative appeals that came before the Alaska Superior Court.

As a prosecutor my clients were the people of the City of Anchorage and State of Alaska. I began my career prosecuting misdemeanors, focusing on domestic violence offenses, and later transitioned to prosecuting a wide range of felony cases. At the Office of Special Prosecutions, I specialized in wildlife poaching and commercial fishing offenses of statewide importance.

As a Senior Assistant Attorney General I represent and advise state agencies, primarily the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries in a wide range of civil and administrative matters.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. | federal courts: | 40% |
| 2. | state courts of record: | 50% |
| 3. | other courts: | 0 % |
| 4. | administrative agencies: | 10% |

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. | civil proceedings: | 45% |
| 2. | criminal proceedings: | 55% |

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

I have tried over thirty cases to verdict, judgment, or final decision as sole counsel.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----|
| 1. | jury: | 85% |
| 2. | non-jury: | 15% |

e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

I am co-counsel in *Alaska v. United States*, No. 25-320, in which we recently filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

17. **Litigation**: Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

- 1. *United States v. Alaska*, 1:22-cv-00054-SLG, (D. Alaska 2022-2024) (Gleason, J.); *United States v. Alaska*, No. 24-2251, --- F.4th ----, 2025 WL 2406531 (9th Cir., 2025); Petition for Writ of Certiorari pending

The United States sued Alaska to prevent the State from managing fisheries on navigable waters within conservation system units created by the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. I represent Alaska in defending its sovereignty and authority to manage these waters. The case centers on whether a line of Ninth Circuit opinions that extended federal regulatory power over state-owned waters based on the Federal Reserved Water Rights (FRWR) doctrine remains valid after the Supreme Court's decision in *Sturgeon v. Frost II*. We argue that the Supreme Court clarified that FRWR are limited and do not confer authority over entire water systems, making the Ninth Circuit opinions inconsistent with controlling precedent.

The litigation also challenged the constitutionality of the Federal Subsistence Board, whose members exercise significant regulatory authority without presidential appointment or Senate confirmation.

Co-Counsel

Margaret Paton-Walsh
Chief Assistant Attorney General
Department of Law
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200

Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-5100

J. Michael Connolly
Taylor A.R. Meehan
Steven C. Begakis
Zachary P. Grouev
Consovoy McCarthy PLLC
1600 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209
703-243-9423

Counsel for Federal Plaintiffs

Paul A. Turcke
Trial Attorney, Natural Resources Section
U.S. Department of Justice
1290 West Myrtle Street, Suite 500
Boise, ID 83702
202-532-5994

Kevin W. McAardle
Daniel Halainen
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 7415
Washington, D.C. 20044
202-514-4081

Counsel for Intervenor-Plaintiff Ahtna Tene Nené, et al.

Andrew B. Erickson
John M. Sky Starkey
Anna C. Crary
River E.M. Sterne
Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP
701 West 8th Avenue, Suite 1100
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-276-5152

Nicholas Ostrovsky
Ambriel Sandone
Ahtna, Inc.
110 West 38th Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-868-8256

Counsel for Intervenor-Plaintiff Alaska Federation of Natives

Scott M. Kendall
Jahna M. Lindemuth
Cashion Gilmore & Lindemuth
510 L Street, Suite 601
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-222-7932

Counsel for Intervenor-Plaintiff Association of Village Council Presidents, et al.

Erin C. Dougherty Lynch
Heather R. Kendall Miller
Wesley James Furlong
Megan R. Condon
Sydney Tarzwell
Kirsten D. Gerbatsch
Native American Rights Fund
745 West 4th Avenue, Suite 502
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-276-0680

Counsel for Intervenor-Plaintiff Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP
510 L Street, Suite 310
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-258-6377

Counsel for Amici Curiae Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Lane Kisonak
Chief Legal Officer
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, D.C. 20002
802-318-0103

Counsel for Amici Curiae Cato Institute

Thomas A. Berry
Alexander R. Khoury
Cato Institute

1000 Mass. Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
202-789-5202

Counsel for Amici Curiae Safari Club International

Regina Lennox
Jeremy E. Clare
Safari Club International
501 2nd Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-543-8733

2. *United Cook Inlet Drift Association, et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service, et al., and the State of Alaska*, (3:24-cv-00116-SLG) (D. Alaska 2024-2025) (Gleason, J.); *United Cook Inlet Drift Association, et al. v. National Marine Fisheries Service, et al., and the State of Alaska*, No. 25-5523 (9th Cir.) (appeal pending)

I was lone counsel for the State of Alaska as an intervenor-defendant in the most recent challenge by United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA) to Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Cook Inlet salmon fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). UCIDA argued that the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA) required federal management of salmon across both state and federal waters and claimed that Amendment 16 unlawfully excluded state waters from federal jurisdiction. UCIDA also challenged the plan's compliance with the National Standards, including optimum yield, mixed-stock management, and safety at sea.

The State aligned with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), arguing that the MSA preserves state jurisdiction within three miles of shore and does not compel NMFS to regulate fisheries in state waters absent specific statutory findings. We also defended NMFS's reliance on the best available science to define optimum yield and maximum sustainable yield in the mixed-stock fishery.

The district court ruled in favor of NMFS and the State, rejecting UCIDA's claims and dismissing the case with prejudice. The court held that NMFS acted within its statutory authority by limiting Amendment 16 to the EEZ, properly explained its decisions, and satisfied the MSA's National Standards. UCIDA has appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

Co-Counsel

I did not have co-counsel.

Counsel for Federal Defendants

Coby Howell

[Then Senior Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice]
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Oregon Department of Justice
100 SW Market St.
Portland, OR 97201
971-673-1880

Maggie B. Smith
[Then Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice]
Office of the Attorney General
Environmental Protection Division
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 464-7744

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Connor R. Smith
Stoel Rives LLP
510 L Street, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-277-1900

Ryan P. Steen
Jason T. Morgan
Stoel Rives LLP
600 University Street, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101
206-624-0900

3. *Groundfish Forum, Inc. v. National Marine Fisheries Service, et al. and Central Bering Sea Fisherman's Association, et al.*, 3:23-cv-00283-SLG, (D. Alaska 2023-2024) (Gleason, J.)

The plaintiff Groundfish Forum challenged the validity of Amendment 123 to the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Groundfish Fishery Management Plan, which links halibut prohibited species catch limits for the Amendment 80 groundfish trawl fleet to halibut abundance. The plaintiff argued that Amendment 123 violated the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the APA, and NEPA, claiming the rule unlawfully allocated fishing privileges, imposed impracticable bycatch measures, and relied on an unduly narrow NEPA analysis.

I represented Alaska as an amicus curiae in support of NMFS, emphasizing the importance of halibut conservation while maintaining the stability of Alaska's groundfish fisheries. The court rejected all of Groundfish Forum's claims, holding that Amendment 123 was lawful, reasonable, and adequately explained. The court found NMFS's

approach consistent with National Standards 4 and 9, properly focused on the sector with the highest halibut bycatch mortality, and supported by practicable bycatch reduction measures. The court also upheld the adequacy of the final Environmental Impact Statement, concluding that NMFS had reasonably considered alternatives and complied with NEPA.

The court dismissed Groundfish Forum's claims with prejudice, allowing Amendment 123 to stand as an important conservation measure balancing halibut protection with continued groundfish harvest opportunities.

Co-Counsel

I did not have co-counsel.

Counsel for Plaintiff

Connor R. Smith
Stoel Rives LLP
510 L Street, Suite 500
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-277-1900

Ryan P. Steen
Jason T. Morgan
Stoel Rives LLP
600 University Street, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101
206-624-0900

Counsel for Federal Defendants

Erika Furlong
Wildlife & Marine Resources Section
Jennifer Sundook
Natural Resources Section
Trial Attorneys
150 M Street NE
Washington, DC 2002
202-305-0424

Counsel for Intervenor Defendants Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, City of Saint Paul, Alaska, Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association, Fishing Vessel Owners' Association, Homer Charter Association, The Boat Company, Petersburg Vessel Owners' Association, Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Halibut Association of North America, North Pacific Fisheries Association, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government, and the Seafood Producers Cooperative

John L. Fortuna
Ari S. Gordin
Jones Fortuna LP
111-A New Street
Decatur, GA 30030
404-282-4725

Counsel for Amici Curiae Cordova District Fishermen United, Kodiak Archipelago Rural Regional Leadership Forum, Prince William Sound Economic Development District, and individuals Avery Ault, Daniel Donich, Greg Sutter, Richard Baltzer, and Emily Ault

Ken Ciccoli
Inlet Law, LLC
818 Smoky Bay Way, PMB 324
Homer, AK 99603
907-299-6572

Counsel for Amici Curiae Senator Daniel S. Sullivan and Representative Mary Sattler Peltola

Granta Y. Nakayama
Ashley C. Parrish
King & Spalding LLP
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-737-0500

4. *Wild Fish Conservancy v. Quan, et al., the Alaska Trollers Association, and the State of Alaska*, 2:20-cv-00417, (W.D. Washington, 2020 – 2023) (Jones, J.); *Wild Fish Conservancy v. Quan, et al., the Alaska Trollers Association, and the State of Alaska*, No. 23-35322 (9th Cir., 2024)

In March 2020, the Wild Fish Conservancy sued NMFS, alleging that the federal Southeast Alaska Chinook salmon fishery violated the ESA by reducing prey availability for Southern Resident killer whales. I represented the State of Alaska in the district court litigation, which intervened to protect its fishery. The federal district court in Seattle ruled in favor of the Conservancy, finding that NMFS failed to provide binding mitigation measures in its biological opinion and did not properly evaluate the prey increase program's impact on endangered Chinook salmon. The court ordered vacatur of the incidental take statement, effectively shutting down the fishery.

Alaska immediately appealed to the Ninth Circuit and sought an emergency stay to prevent the closure. The Ninth Circuit granted Alaska's request, allowing the summer and winter troll fisheries to proceed while litigation continued. On appeal, the Ninth Circuit reversed the district court's vacatur of the incidental take statement, holding that the

lower court misapplied the *Allied-Signal* test by failing to properly weigh the severe economic, social, and cultural harm that closing the fishery would impose on Alaskan fishing communities. The Ninth Circuit ultimately agreed with Alaska's position on remedy. NMFS has since issued a new biological opinion and NEPA documentation, and the fishery has continued uninterrupted.

Co-Counsel

Laura Wolff
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-5100

Linda Larson
Brian Ferrasci-O'Malley
[Local Counsel]
Nossaman LLP
719 Second Avenue, Suite 1200
Seattle, WA 98104
206-395-7630

Counsel for Federal Defendants

Frederick H. Turner
[Then Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice]
Attorney, Appellate Section
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division
150 M Street NE
Washington DC 20002
202-532-3076

Coby Howell
[Then Senior Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice]
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Oregon Department of Justice
100 SW Market St.
Portland, OR 97201
971-673-1880

Thekla Hansen-Young
Attorney, Appellate Section
U.S. Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Division

150 M Street NE, Room 2.900
Washington DC 20002
202-307-2710

Counsel for Alaska Trollers Association

Douglas J. Steding
Greg A. Hibbard
Northwest Resource Law PLLC
71 Columbia Street, Suite 325
Seattle, WA 98104
206-971-1567

Counsel for Plaintiff

Brian Knutsen
Emma Brunden
Kampmeier & Knutsen PLLC
1300 S.E. Stark Street, Suite 202
Portland, OR 97214
503-841-6515

Paul A. Kampmeier
Kampmeier & Knutsen PLLC
811 First Avenue, Suite 468
Seattle, WA 98104
206-858-6983

Eric A. Lindberg
Benjamin C. Byers
Corr Cronin, LLP
1001 Fourth Avenue, Suite 3900
Seattle, WA 98154
206-625-8600

5. *Cook Inletkeeper et al. v. Raimondo, et al., Hilcorp, and the State of Alaska*, 541 F. Supp. 3d 987 (D. Alaska 2021) (Gleason, J.)

In this case, the State of Alaska intervened as a defendant aligned with NMFS to defend the State's interest in responsible resource development against a challenge to NMFS's Incidental Take Regulations for Hilcorp's oil and gas activities in Cook Inlet. Plaintiffs alleged violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act, arguing that NMFS failed to adequately account for tugboat noise impacts on the endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale. The district court partially agreed, holding that NMFS's "no take" determination was arbitrary and capricious and invalidating portions of the ITR, Biological Opinion, and Environmental

Assessment.

I represented Alaska during remedy briefing, in which we emphasized that a full vacatur would cause Alaska severe economic harm, disrupt critical maintenance and well-plugging operations, and heighten environmental risks. The court adopted a tailored remedy, allowing essential maintenance and decommissioning to proceed while NMFS corrected its analysis.

Co-Counsel

Jeff G. Pickett
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Department of Law
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-5275

Counsel for Federal Defendants

Edward C. Thomas
Trial Attorney, Natural Resources Section
United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box 7611
Washington, D.C. 20044-7611
202-305-0239

John H. Martin
Wildlife & Marine Resources Section
999 18th Street, South Terrace Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202
303-844-1383

John Fonstad
Assistant U.S. Attorney
United States Attorney's Office – District of Alaska
Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse
222 West Seventh Avenue #9
Anchorage, AK 99513-7567
907-271-5071

Counsel for Hilcorp

Ryan P. Steen
Jason T. Morgan
James C. Feldman
Stoel Rives LLP

600 University Street, Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101
206-624-0900

Counsel for Plaintiffs

Kassia Siegel
Julie Teel Simmonds
Kristen Monsell
Center for Biological Diversity
1212 Broadway, Suite 800
Oakland, CA 94612
510-844-7100

6. *Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund v. Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Board of Fisheries*, 3KN-19-641CI (Alaska Superior Court, 2019-2020) (Gist, J.); *Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund v. Department of Fish and Game and Alaska Board of Fisheries*, 514 P.3d 1250 (Alaska 2022)

I was lead counsel for the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in *Cook Inlet Fisherman's Fund v. ADFG and the BOF*, a case in which a group of commercial fishers challenged both state agencies' regulation and management of Cook Inlet salmon, alleging that the state's fishery management practices in Cook Inlet violated federal law and national standards. The plaintiffs sought to impose federal fishery management standards on Cook Inlet salmon fisheries, arguing that Alaska was required to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other federal regulations.

My role included briefing and arguing that the State's management decisions were consistent with state and federal law, and that federal fishery management standards did not apply to state waters. The plaintiffs also attempted to depose officials, which the State successfully opposed on the basis that the administrative record contained all relevant evidence.

The superior court ruled in favor of the State, holding that Alaska was not bound by federal fishery management standards in state waters. The court also upheld the State's position that additional discovery was unnecessary. On appeal, the Alaska Supreme Court affirmed the decision, reinforcing the State's authority to manage its fisheries without additional federal oversight. The ruling reaffirmed that the Alaska Statehood Act did not impose ongoing federal management obligations and that the Magnuson-Stevens Act did not require Cook Inlet fisheries to operate under a federal fishery management plan at that time.

Co-Counsel

Jeff G. Pickett
Senior Assistant Attorney General

Alaska Department of Law
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-5275

Counsel for Plaintiff

Carl Bauman
Law Offices of Carl Bauman
35555 Kenai Spur Highway # 374
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-394-8507

7. *State of Alaska v. Demmert*, 1PW-17-145CR (Alaska District Court, 2017-2018)
(Clark, M.J.)

I prosecuted this case as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Special Prosecutions. The defendant, a commercial salmon seine captain, was charged with multiple counts arising from an illegal fishing operation in Coco Harbor, an area closed to commercial fishing for nearly thirty years to protect salmon spawning streams. Evidence showed that the defendant fished more than sixty miles into closed waters, near a spawning stream, and attempted to conceal his actions by filing a false commercial fish ticket claiming the catch came from open waters.

I handled the case from charging through sentencing at which the court imposed a \$32,728 fine, 180 days of suspended jail time, forfeiture of \$17,728 in proceeds from the illegal catch, and forfeiture of the 58-foot vessel F/V Tlingit Lady, its skiff, nets, and all gear aboard.

This case was significant because it addressed an egregious violation with potential long-term impacts on a sensitive salmon run. The outcome underscored the seriousness of creek robbing and reinforced the State's commitment to protecting fisheries through vigorous enforcement and meaningful penalties, including vessel forfeiture.

Co-Counsel

I did not have co-counsel.

Counsel for Defendant

James W. McGowan
202-A Katlian Street
Sitka, AK 99835
907-747-8850

8. *State of Alaska v. Badillo*, 3AN-15-03481CR (Alaska Superior Court, 2015-2017)

(Saxby, J.)

I served on the team prosecuting a case involving violent kidnapping, multiple armed robberies, sexual assault, and burglary. While on felony probation and absconding from supervision, the defendant abducted a woman at gunpoint from her garage as she was loading her two young children into a car. He assaulted the victim in her home, then forced her to drive him across town for several hours while committing multiple robberies at different locations. The following day, he continued his crime spree, burglarizing another home and pointing a firearm at two strangers before attempting to flee from law enforcement.

I promptly presented the case to the grand jury and successfully argued for a high bail amount to ensure public safety while the case awaited trial. After transferring to the Office of Special Prosecutions in 2016, I elected to remain on the case for trial, ultimately prosecuting it alongside another attorney from the Anchorage DA's Office in 2017. The jury convicted the defendant of three counts of kidnapping, multiple counts of first-degree sexual assault, nine counts of first-degree robbery, three counts of first-degree burglary, and several related offenses. Given his prior felony history, the state sought and obtained multiple aggravating factors, including the youth of the child victims, the number of victims involved, the severity of the crimes, and his continued criminal conduct despite previous rehabilitation attempts. The court ultimately imposed a composite sentence of 127 years to serve, ensuring the defendant would never again pose a danger to the public.

Co-Counsel

Jenna L. Gruenstein
Chief Assistant Attorney General
310 K Street, Suite 701
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-6250

Counsel for Defendant

Lyle Stohler
Stohler & Lonergan, P.C.
518 East Fireweed Avenue
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-8877

9. *State of Alaska v. Kinmon*, 4DJ-14-00005 CR (Alaska District Court, 2015-2016) (Christian, J.); *Kinmon v. State of Alaska*, 451 P.3d 392 (Alaska Court of Appeals, 2017-2019)

I was the lone prosecutor in *State v. Kinmon*, a complex case involving a licensed vendor and registered big game guide who was charged with multiple guiding offenses after

allowing clients to hunt without proper tags, guiding for species he was not authorized to guide for, and falsifying hunt records to conceal the misconduct. The illegal hunts involved the unlawful taking of a Dall sheep, a grizzly bear, and a sublegal moose, all of which were forfeited to the State.

After hearing testimony from eight witnesses, the jury convicted the defendant on eleven counts. I argued for a significant sentence to ensure deterrence and later successfully defended that sentence on appeal. The case underscored the importance of enforcing Alaska's guiding and tagging requirements, which safeguard wildlife resources and preserve the integrity of lawful hunting in the state.

Co-Counsel

I did not have co-counsel.

Trial Counsel for Defendant

Wayne Anthony Ross
Ross & Miner, P.C.
327 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 201
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-276-5307

Appellate Counsel for Defendant

Wally Tetlow
Tetlow Christie, LLC
745 West 4th Avenue, Suite 250
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-274-4621

10. *State of Alaska v. Wagner*, 3AN-11-12073 CR (Alaska Superior Court 2014)
(Smith, J.)

I co-chaired the murder trial. The defendant was accused of fatally stabbing the victim during a fight in the victim's garage. After the stabbing, the defendant continued to threaten the victim by breaking a window, spraying a fire extinguisher inside, and yelling he would kill him. The defendant claimed self-defense at trial, testifying the victim attacked him and that he wrested the knife from the victim before using it. The jury convicted the defendant of second-degree murder.

Co-Counsel

Andrew V. Grannik
[Then Assistant District Attorney]
Assistant Attorney General

310 K Street, Suite 701
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-6250

Counsel for Defendant

Joeseeph A. Vandemark
Assistant Public Advocate
900 West 5th Avenue, Suite 525
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-3500

Kimberly A. Tasousis
[Then Assistant Public Advocate]
Senior Assistant Attorney General
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-5100

18. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued, including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

The most significant legal activities I have pursued span both criminal prosecution and civil litigation. Early in my career as a prosecutor, I handled serious felony cases from charging decisions through sentencing. These prosecutions required trial advocacy as well as extensive pretrial motion practice, evidentiary hearings, and plea negotiations. Many cases did not proceed to trial but still demanded careful legal judgment to ensure victims were heard and public safety protected.

Since 2019, my practice has centered on complex civil litigation defending Alaska's sovereign interests in federal and state court. I have represented the State in cases involving the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and ANILCA, where the stakes often extended beyond the individual matter to long-term consequences for Alaska's economy, resource development, and self-governance. In this capacity, I have drafted and argued numerous motions and appellate briefs, advised agencies on litigation risk, and collaborated closely with clients in developing legal strategy.

In addition, I have served as legal counsel to the Alaska Board of Fisheries for the past six years. That work involves attending board meetings, advising on the legality of proposed regulations, and providing real-time guidance to avoid decisions that could later be invalidated in court. This role requires translating complex legal principles into practical advice for policymakers and ensuring that Alaska's fisheries are managed within statutory and constitutional limits.

Taken together, my most significant activities have required not only courtroom advocacy but also the consistent application of sound legal judgment in preventing litigation, guiding regulatory decision-making, and safeguarding the interests of my clients.

I have never acted or registered as a lobbyist.

19. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide copies to the committee.

I have not taught any courses.

20. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

None.

21. **Outside Commitments During Court Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service with the court? If so, explain.

I have no plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation.

22. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

When my nomination is formally transmitted to the Senate, I will file my Financial Disclosure Report and supply a copy to this Committee.

23. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

See attached Net Worth Statement.

24. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, categories of litigation, and financial arrangements that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

I anticipate potential conflicts of interests arising from my current employment as a Senior Assistant Attorney General the with Alaska Department of Law. If confirmed, I will recuse myself from any case where I have ever played a role. Further, I will evaluate any potential conflict or issue that could give rise to the appearance of a conflict, on a case-by-case basis and determine appropriate action, including recusal where necessary.

b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

If confirmed, I will carefully review and address any real or potential conflicts by referring to 28 U.S.C. § 455; Canon 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges; and any other laws, rules, and practices governing such circumstances.

25. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each.

My entire legal career has been dedicated to public service and to advancing the interests of all Alaskans, often with a focus on protecting the most disadvantaged members of society. As a prosecutor, I sought justice for victims of violent crime, many of whom lived in especially vulnerable circumstances. In my work enforcing Alaska's hunting and fishing laws, I pursued significant penalties against poachers, recognizing that illegal harvests disproportionately harm rural and subsistence users who rely on a sustainable surplus of fish and game to feed their families.

In my current role representing the Department of Fish and Game, I have worked to protect the rights of all subsistence users to harvest the resources upon which they depend. These cases frequently involve high-stakes questions of access and conservation, with outcomes that directly affect some of the most disadvantaged communities in Alaska.

In addition, I have devoted time to mentoring the next generation of lawyers as the Natural Resource section's intern supervisor. In that role, I supervised and mentored law students, helping them gain practical experience and encouraging them to pursue careers in public service.

26. **Selection Process:**

a. Please describe your experience in the entire judicial selection process, from beginning to end (including the circumstances which led to your nomination and the interviews in which you participated). Is there a selection commission in your

jurisdiction to recommend candidates for nomination to the federal courts? If so, please include that process in your description, as well as whether the commission recommended your nomination. List the dates of all interviews or communications you had with the White House staff or the Justice Department regarding this nomination. Do not include any contacts with Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel concerning your nomination.

I was first contacted on January 21, 2025, by an attorney working on Governor Dunleavy's federal transition plan, encouraging me to apply to Senator Sullivan's Alaska Federal Judiciary Council. I submitted my application packet, resume, and references to the Council and interviewed on March 19, 2025. I subsequently interviewed with Senator Sullivan on March 29, 2025. On June 4, 2025, I interviewed with attorneys from the White House Counsel's Office at the Eisenhower Building in Washington, D.C. Since September 16, 2025, I have been in contact with officials from both the White House Counsel's Office and the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice in preparation for a potential nomination. I am scheduled to meet with Senator Murkowski on October 23, 2025.

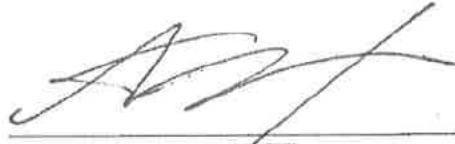
b. Has anyone involved in the process of selecting you as a judicial nominee discussed with you any currently pending or specific case, legal issue or question in a manner that could reasonably be interpreted as seeking any express or implied assurances concerning your position on such case, issue, or question? If so, explain fully.

No.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Aaron Christian Peterson, do swear that the information provided in this statement is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

September 30, 2025
(DATE)


(NAME)


(NOTARY)

