

Heidi L. Drygas

Drygas, Heidi
Commissioner -
Department of Labor and
Workforce Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For nearly 10 years, I have served as General Counsel to one of Alaska's largest labor unions, with over 6000 hard-working members. I was born and raised in Fairbanks, where my family still lives and where I maintain deep ties to the community and its people. The last 10 years I have lived and worked in Alaska's largest city. I have developed strong relationships with employers, labor leaders, community leaders and organizations, and elected officials across Alaska. I am bright, energetic, strive for creative problem solving, and work well with a variety of individuals of different backgrounds and temperaments.

EXPERIENCE

General Counsel, Alaska District Council of Laborers (Anchorage, AK)

July 2005 – present

Handle legal matters for the Union, including but not limited to arbitration, grievance adjudication, contract negotiation, election law, general litigation in both state and federal court, and appearances before the National Labor Relations Board and the Alaska Labor Relations Agency. Provide legal advice to union staff on wage and hour matters, civil rights laws, APOC, PERA, LMRA, workers' compensation, building trades jurisdiction, and internal union elections, among numerous other issues. Advise the Union on political strategy and help execute the Union's political program during state and federal election campaigns.

Associate, Guess & Rudd, P.C. (Anchorage, AK)

Sept. 2004 – July 2005

Composed pleadings, letters, memoranda, and conducted research on issues involving employment law, administrative law, oil & gas, municipal law, insurance law, and general litigation.

Law Clerk to Judge Charles Pengilly, Alaska Superior Court (Fairbanks, AK)

Sept. 2003 – Aug. 2004

Drafted opinions, conducted research, and composed memoranda covering civil, criminal, and appellate litigation. Helped prepare Judge Pengilly for oral argument and trial.

Summer Associate, Jermain, Dunnagan & Owens (Anchorage, AK)

May 2002 – Aug. 2002

Composed pleadings, letters, memoranda, and conducted research on issues involving labor and employment law, education law, civil litigation, commercial transactions, general business, and bankruptcy.

ASSOCIATIONS & COMMISSIONS

Member, Alaska Bar Association

Oct. 2003 – present

Member, Lawyers Coordinating Committee, AFL-CIO

July 2005 – present

Board Member, Salaries & Emoluments Commission

Nov. 2007 - Nov. 2011

Appointed by Mayor Mark Begich, Municipality of Anchorage

EDUCATION

Willamette University College of Law (Salem, OR)

Juris Doctor, May 2003

- Dean's Honor List
- *Willamette Law Review*

University of Alaska-Fairbanks (Fairbanks, AK)

Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, History, 2000

- Student Speaker, Class of 2000 Commencement

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am an active member of Alaska's food writers' community, with a local food blog *Chena Girl Cooks*, and as a regular contributor to Alaska Public Media's TownSquare49. In addition to cooking, I enjoy camping, fishing on the family boat in Valdez, hiking, foraging for wild edibles, and entertaining with friends.