

John J. Burns

John J. Burns is Governor Parnell's appointee as Alaska's twenty-second Attorney General. Burns, age 51, is a life-long Alaskan, who grew up in Nome and Fairbanks, where his father was a marine mammal biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and his mother worked in the airlines industry. Burns graduated from West Valley High School in Fairbanks in 1976 and from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1982 with degrees in history and philosophy. In 1986, Burns received his JD degree from University of Puget Sound School of Law in Tacoma, Washington.

Burns spent the summer months of his high school, college, and law school years working as a fisheries technician for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game throughout Western Alaska and in Prince William Sound.

Burns was admitted to the Alaska Bar in 1986 and to the U.S. District Court of Alaska in 1987. He was a judicial extern for Justice Jay Rabinowitz of the Alaska Supreme Court and a law clerk for the Fairbanks Superior Court. Burns entered private practice with the law firm Birch Horton Bittner and Cherot in their Fairbanks office. In 1999, Burns and partner Cory Borgeson formed Borgeson and Burns, PC, providing a full range of legal services, including business law and litigation, public utility practice, property law, insurance defense, estate planning, and family law. Burns' practice focused primarily on business transactions and commercial litigation.

In addition to his legal practice, Burns commercial fished for a number of years in Bristol Bay and taught business law classes for 12 years as an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Burns was a member of the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce, serving as its past president, and he has been active in many other community service organizations, including the Fairbanks Rotary Club, the University's Chancellor Advisory Committee, and Hospice of Alaska.

Attorney General Burns and his wife Christi have been married for twenty-four years. Together they have two daughters, Alissa, a senior at the University of Arizona, and Kate, a high school junior who is currently studying in Poland on a Rotary exchange fellowship.