

ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING
January 23, 2014

Item 5. STAFF REPORT

(a) **Informal Advice Staff Report** – Update by Administrator.

(b) **Public Member Appointments**

Janie Leask, alternate public member, was appointed by Chief Justice Dana Fabe on September 19, 2013 to fill the regular public member vacancy due to Toni Mallot's resignation. (See attached appointment letter.)

On January 13, 2014, Chief Justice Dana Fabe appointed Christena Williams to fill the alternate public member vacancy. (See attached appointment letter.)

Both Ms. Leask and Ms. Williams name has been referred to Senate President Charlie Huggins and Speaker Mike Chenault. Their names will be referred to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees for confirmation hearings. Each appointment requires ratification by two-thirds of the full membership of each body.

No action required by the committee. Staff will keep the committee informed of the confirmation process.

(c) **2014 Ethics Training** – Update by Administrator.

(d) **Ethics Disclosures** – Update by Administrator.

(e) **COGEL Conference, December 2013, Quebec, Canada** –Update by Administrator.

(f) **Publications** – Update by Administrator.

Alaska State Legislature

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

716 W. 4th, Suite 230
Anchorage AK
(907) 269-0150
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Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 101468
Anchorage, AK.
99510 - 1468

September 17, 2013

Chief Justice Dana Fabe
Supreme Court, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 114100
Juneau AK 99811-4100

Chief Justice Fabe:

RE: Public Member Vacancy on the Ethics Committee

Toni Mallott submitted her resignation letter today to the committee. (Attached.) Her insight from both a rural and Native Alaskan perspective into legislative ethics issues will be missed.

Under AS 24.60.130(e) you may appoint an individual during the interim to fill the vacancy. Most often this is the course of action taken by the chief justice. The appointment could also be made at the beginning of the 2014 legislative session.

This is the first year the committee has had an alternate public member position. After consulting with our internal legal counsel and reviewing the statutory language regarding a vacancy, you have several options.

According to the statute, Jamie Leask, alternate public member, remains as an alternate member and does not automatically move into the position of regular public member. However, you have the option of appointing her to fill the regular member vacancy at any time during the interim. If that were to occur, appointing an alternate public member would be required. The timing of appointing an alternate public member could occur at any time. Committee Chair H. Conner Thomas had indicated that as long we have a full complement of five public members for the remainder of the year, an additional appointment during the interim, whether as a regular member or an alternate public member, would not be crucial to the operation of the committee.

Of course, the other option is to appoint a new public member to fill the vacancy and Ms. Leask would remain as the alternate member on the committee.

I talked to Ms. Leask on Thursday, September 11, and she indicated she would be interested in moving into the regular member vacancy position. She can be reached at 250-1944. She recently moved from Anchorage to Homer.

Attached is a listing of current committee members with contact information. The affiliation, location and occupation of the current public members are as follows:

REGULAR PUBLIC MEMBERS

Democrat: H. Conner Thomas, Attorney from Nome.

Non-Partisan: Dennis "Skip" Cook, Attorney from Fairbanks; and
Herman G. Walker Jr, Attorney/Business Owner from Anchorage.

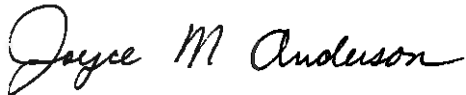
Republican: Gary J. Turner, Director Kenai Peninsula College from Soldotna.

ALTERNATE PUBLIC MEMBER

Non-Partisan: Janie Leask, retired, from Homer.

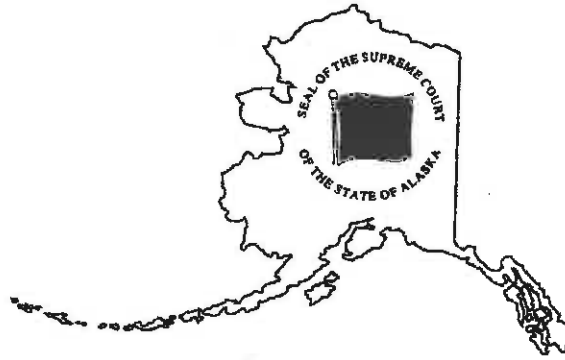
Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 269-0150 or my cell at 748-6387. Chair H. Conner Thomas can be reached at 907-443-5226.

Sincerely,



Joyce Anderson, Administrator

enc. - AS 24.60.130 and AS 24.60.131
- Contact info



Chambers of
Dana Fabe
Chief Justice

Supreme Court
State of Alaska

303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska
99501-2013

(907) 264-0622
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September 19, 2013

The Honorable Charlie Huggins
Senate President
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Huggins and Speaker Chenault:

It has come to my attention that Antoinette Mallott has recently resigned from the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics. In my capacity as Chief Justice and pursuant to AS 24.60.130(b)(3) and (e), I am appointing Janie Leask, who currently serves as the committee's alternate public member, to fill the regular public member vacancy created by Ms. Mallott's resignation. For purposes of determining compliance with AS 24.60.130(c), Ms. Leask's political affiliation is non-partisan.

Sincerely,

Dana Fabe
Chief Justice

DF:da

cc: H. Conner Thomas, Committee Chair
Janie Leask
Joyce Anderson, Administrator, Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

Alaska State Legislature

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

425 G Street, Room 711
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January 2, 2014

Chief Justice Dana Fabe
Supreme Court, State of Alaska
P.O. Box 114100
Juneau AK 99811-4100

Chief Justice Fabe:

RE: Alternate Public Member Vacancy

Under AS 24.60.130(b)(3) and (e) the five public members of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics and one alternate public member are appointed by the Chief Justice and ratified by two thirds of the full membership of each house of the legislature. For your information, attached is a listing of current Committee members.

No public members' terms will expire in 2014. However, there is a vacancy for the alternate public member position. Due to the resignation of Antoinette Mallott, you appointed Janie Leask, the alternate public member, on September 19, 2013, to fill the regular public member position. The appointment created a vacancy for an alternate public member. (Note: Your letter of September 19, 2013, will serve as notice to the Senate and House of Ms. Leask's appointment as a regular public member. The House and Senate will hold confirmation hearings in 2014 since her status changed from alternate to regular public member.)

The alternate public member's qualification and selection process is similar to that of a regular public member. AS 24.60.130(c) and (m) set out the requirements and prohibitions for regular and alternate public members (see attached). Interested individuals are instructed to send a resume and letter of interest to your attention.¹

¹ The committee recognized there was no formal process for announcing public member vacancies on the ethics committee. The ethics website now contains a section titled "Public Member Appointments and Vacancies (<http://ethics.legis.state.ak.us>) detailing the process for public member appointments. Interested individuals are instructed to send a resume and letter of interest to your attention. A public notice is sent to all twenty-two Legislative

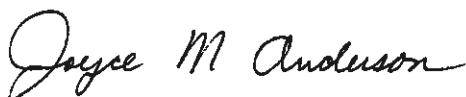
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January 2, 2014
Supreme Court Justice Fabe

We are suggesting that interested individuals submit a letter and resume to your office by Friday, January 31, 2014. The timeframe of one month is a reasonable amount of time. Let me know if you agree or if you feel the timeframe should be longer. A letter appointing an alternate public member in February would still allow enough time for the House and Senate confirmation process to be completed during the 2014 legislative session.

(NOTE: Chief Justice Dana Fabe called on January 8 and asked that the application process be open ended instead of a listed deadline. The notice was updated to reflect the change.)

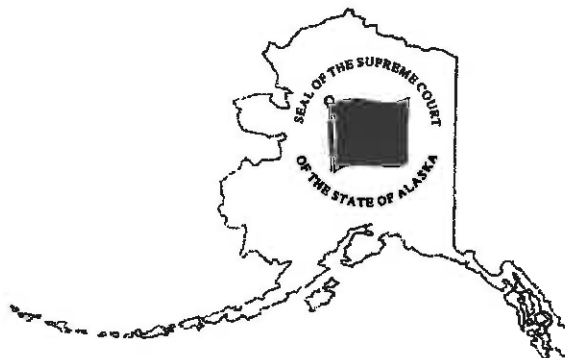
Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at 269-0150 or my cell at 748-6387. Chair H. Conner Thomas. can be reached at 907-443-5226.

Sincerely,



Joyce Anderson, Administrator

- enc. - AS 24.60.130 and AS 24.60.131
 - Committee members contact info
 - Website page on Appointments and Vacancies



Chambers of
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January 13, 2014

The Honorable Charlie Huggins
Senate President
State Capitol, Room 423
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

The Honorable Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear President Huggins and Speaker Chenault:

In my capacity as Chief Justice, and pursuant to AS 24.60.131(b), I am nominating Christena Williams as the alternate public member for the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics.

Ms. Williams is the publisher of the Ketchikan Daily News and served as a public member of the Alaska Judicial Council by appointment of Governor Murkowski from 2005-2011. She can be reached at (907) 617-7737. Her mailing address is 75 Grant Street, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901. For purposes of determining compliance with AS 24.60.130(c), Ms. Williams is registered as a non-partisan.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any other information.

Sincerely,

Dana Fabe
Chief Justice

DF:da

cc: H. Conner Thomas, Committee Chair
Joyce Anderson, Administrator, Select Committee on Legislative Ethics
Christena Williams