

PAULA T. VRANA, J.D.

STATE OF ALASKA

COMMISSIONER APPOINTEE, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

SEPTEMBER 2021-PRESENT

As the Governor's Commissioner appointee, I have served as the Department's executive head for the past several months. Expanding on my role as Deputy Commissioner, I oversee the nine primary divisions and four legal agencies, as well as several boards and commissions housed in the Department. With varied and diverse missions, I work closely with directors and the Commissioner's Office staff to ensure the operational success of the Department's divisions and agencies as well as that of the major initiatives underway across the department, including four significant consolidation efforts, the migration of State servers to the cloud, the upgrade of the State's finance and accounting system, and more.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

2019-SEPTEMBER 2021

For two and a half years, I served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administration for the State of Alaska. I worked closely with and oversaw numerous Divisions within the Department, including: Division of Motor Vehicles, Office of Information Technology, Office of Procurement and Property Management, Division of Finance and the Division of Retirement and Benefits. The Department is a large, complex and diverse Department within the State of Alaska Executive Branch with an annual budget over \$300 million and approximately 1100 employees. Many of the Divisions within the Department have major change initiatives underway pursuant to Administrative Order, including the consolidation of statewide procurement, the consolidation of Information Technology, the consolidation of Human Resource and the consolidation of Shared Services (Accounts Payable and Travel). The Division of Finance is undergoing a major capital project upgrading the State's financial accounting system, which is nearing completion. I participated as an executive-level team member in state-wide Covid-related pandemic response and planning efforts, quickly developing the infrastructure to enable mass telework in a matter of weeks (from 100 people to 6,000), as well as several other major preparedness projects.

HOSPICE OF ANCHORAGE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

2017-2018

I had the privilege of serving as Executive Director of Hospice of Anchorage, a non-profit agency providing palliative and end of life care to people of all ages in the Anchorage area. In my time as Executive Director, donations and fundraising revenues were increased 25% percent, leading to an all-time high of gross revenue for Hospice of Anchorage. I prioritized fund development, public relations events, volunteer management, and the technical writing of funding requests and proposals. At the same time, revenues were increasing, costs were substantially reduced by carefully managing personnel and administrative service costs. My legal and executive-level experience provided the necessary focus on fundraising and cost containment efforts without impairment to providing compassionate care to the people Hospice of Anchorage serves. Some of the Highlights of my tenure include successful public Gala events featuring Heroes of Healthcare and 10 Chefs for 10 Causes.

COPPER RIVER NATIVE ASSOCIATION
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COPPER CENTER, ALASKA
2010- 2013

I served as the Chief Executive Officer of an active and industrious Alaska Native tribal health organization which was operating five village health clinics, a brand new 32,000 square foot health facility, a dental clinic, a behavioral health clinic, a homeless shelter, and tribal and community services. Copper River Native Association employed approximately 80 people and had an annual operating budget of approximately \$7 million. As CEO, I reported to a Board of Directors which represented five compacting sovereign tribes. Copper River Native Association (CRNA) offered comprehensive health services to the region including: primary health, behavioral health, village public safety officers, and tribal and community services. My leadership responsibilities included the oversight of the day-to-day business, while also developing and administering the overall strategic direction of the organization, setting and accomplishing agency goals, fiscal development and fostering the growth and development of relationships between company agencies and with external cooperating entities. I mentored senior leadership and I found it rewarding to help employees develop professionally and build solidarity amongst colleagues.

During my tenure as CEO, I accomplished several monumental goals at CRNA, perhaps none more important than working to include \$8 million in the State of Alaska's 2013 FY Capital Budget and \$2 million in the FY 2014 Capital Budget. This was the result of diligent board discussion and analysis, and thorough internal development of strategy. I oversaw all the work involved in the construction of CRNA's new \$20 million health facility, including securing the financing portion of the project-budget through the United States Department of Agriculture, overseeing the contracts for the project manager, architect, and contractor, and the oversight of the entire construction process for the project. I also negotiated with the Federal Indian Health Service on behalf of CRNA and successfully secured a 20-year contract that resulted in \$100 million of new revenue for the corporation and nearly doubled the operating budget for the next fiscal year. I negotiated the employment contracts for all the health providers and dentists at CRNA.

BRENA, BELL & CLARKSON, P.C.
MANAGING ATTORNEY

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
1998-2010

For nearly 13 years, I worked in an of-counsel capacity at the law firm of Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C. The focus of our firm was on administrative/regulatory and contract law. During the years 1999-2004, I was the managing attorney and my duties, in addition to my legal responsibilities, were to oversee all administrative aspects of the firm including all financial, budgeting, and human resource issues and all other strategic aspects of the firm; I reported to the partners of the firm. I also negotiated the employment contracts for all of the attorneys in the firm. I transitioned from managing attorney to an of-counsel, part-time position after the birth of my children. Our law practice was largely before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska in oil and gas and telecommunications matters. My legal work at Brena, Bell & Clarkson, P.C. consisted largely of researching complex legal and factual issues and drafting legal memoranda and motions. Major cases: Tesoro v. TAPS Carriers, Anadarko v. TAPS Carriers, Tesoro v. Olympic Pipeline Co., JL Properties v. Golden Heart Utilities.

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO SCHOOL OF LAW, MOSCOW, IDAHO

DOCTOR OF JURISPRUDENCE
AUGUST 1995-MAY 1998

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY, BOISE, IDAHO

BACHELOR OF ARTS - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
AUGUST 1993-MAY 1995

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND, TACOMA, WASHINGTON

AUGUST 1991-MAY 1993