

SB

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SB 99 am

Amendment line 18

at a law school accredited or
approved by the Council of Legal
Education of the American Bar Association
or the Association of American Law
Schools.

P. O. Box 2007
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
October 3, 1978

Hon. Clem Tillion
State Senator
Homer, Alaska 99603

Re: Law Clerkship
AS 08.08.207

Dear Clem:

I note in the Session Laws that the last Legislature has amended AS 08.08.207(b) thru (i) by Ch. 119 to have the law clerk program initiated in 1976 administered by the University of Alaska instead of by the Alaska Supreme Court.

Enclosed is a copy of my request to the University for the necessary registration forms. However, I foresee some complications due to the wording of AS 08.08.207(a) which remains unchanged from the 1976 version. It reads in pertinent part:

"Every person who desires subsequently to qualify as a general applicant for admission to the Alaska Bar without having graduated from an approved law school ... shall present satisfactory proof that he has been granted a bachelor's degree (other than bachelor of laws) ..." (Emphasis added)

You are probably aware that the study of law on the European continent differs substantially from the American method. Instead of entering law school after having obtained an undergraduate degree in another subject, there one studies law right out of a college-preparatory high school and after having obtained a law degree, which Americans would consider undergraduate, serves a three-year internship in various branches of the justice system before being admitted to the practice of law. I have this (undergraduate) bachelor of law degree, but did not serve the European internship. I enclose a list of my education and experience which, I feel, should be the equivalent of any internship I could or would have served in Europe.

It appears that AS 08.08.207(a), as presently worded, would disqualify any applicant, such as myself, who has graduated from a non-accredited (by the American Bar Association) law school with a bachelor of law, but would otherwise be eligible. To be logical and inclusive, the wording of Sec. 207(a) should follow that of Sec. 205 and should read as to the part in parenthesis, "other than bachelor of laws from an accredited law school."

I brought this discrepancy to the attention of the Alaska Court System in 1976 and was repeatedly assured by then Chief Justice Boochever that the Supreme Court was aware of this complication and that the Justices would give serious consideration to my case once they had issued the regulations for clerkship. As you know, such regulations

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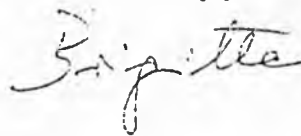
were never perfected, and now the whole program is in the hands of the University which may be more reluctant than the Supreme Court to interpret a law other than in its most narrow, literal sense.

I am writing to request your assistance in initiating an amendment to AS 08.08.207(a) so that it conforms to AS 08.08.205. This would not in any way change the intent of the Legislature as expressed in Sec. 205 or permit anyone not qualified to apply for admission to the Bar, but would clarify my situation and perhaps that of others similarly situated.

Thank you very much for your attention and for any assistance you may be able to give me.

With best personal regards to you and Diana,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brigitte".

encls.

cc: Judge Roy H. Madsen