

**CONFIRM.**

**HEARING:**

**ATTORNEY**

**GENERAL**



Official Business

# Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Office of the Chief Clerk

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 21, 2003

To: Representative McGuire, Chair  
Judiciary Committee

From: Suzi Lowell *sl*  
Chief Clerk

Subject: Governor's Appointments

Speaker Kott referred the following Governor's appointment to the Judiciary Committee:

**Attorney General**  
Gregg D. Renkes  
Appointed: 12/02/2002

The resume and committee report are attached for your use.

Attachments as noted

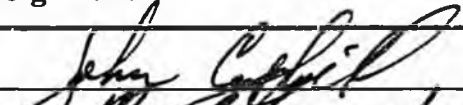
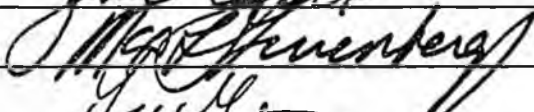
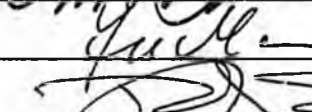
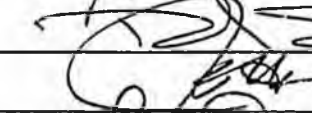
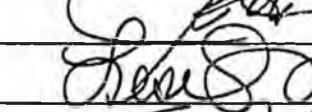
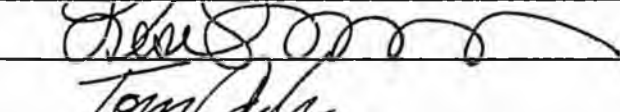
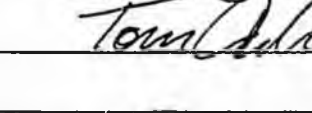
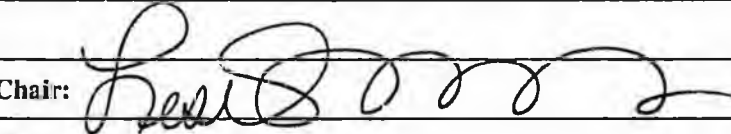

## CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Action date: February 10, 2003

In accordance with AS 39.05.020, the Judiciary Committee has reviewed the qualifications of the following Governor's appointee and recommends that this name be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

**Attorney General**  
 Gregg D. Renkes  
 Appointed: 12/02/2002

This does not reflect intent by any of the members to vote for or against this individual during any further sessions for the purposes of confirmation.

Signature:	Printed Last Name
	John Coppi
	Bruenberg
	GUTRA
	SAMMALS
	1061m
	McGuire
	AVALON
Chair: 	
Chair: 	

Please return to the Chief Clerk's office.

## GREGG D. RENKES

Gregg Renkes is an attorney licensed to practice law in Alaska since 1987. Most recently he served as President of The Renkes Group, Ltd., an energy project development and public policy consulting firm specializing in energy, environmental, natural resource, public works, transportation, and trade matters. In addition, Mr. Renkes was invited to serve as Of Counsel to the law firm of Steptoe and Johnson, assisting them with their American Indian Law Practice Group.

Prior to his consulting practice, Mr. Renkes served as the Majority Staff Director of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Before leading the Committee staff, Mr. Renkes worked as Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel to Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK) directing his Washington, D.C. and State of Alaska staff. During his nearly twelve years in the U.S. Senate, Mr. Renkes was responsible for major and diverse legislative efforts including the restructuring of the U.S. electric utility industry, the reformation of U.S. high level nuclear waste policies, the 1992 Energy Policy Act, amendments to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Joint Federal-State Alaska Native Commission, Alaska Native Languages Preservation Act, oil and gas development on the Arctic Coastal Plain, national oil spill prevention legislation (OPA 90), the reform of management in the Tongass National Forest, U.S. Japan and U.S. China Nuclear Agreements, deep water Gulf of Mexico oil and gas development, export of Alaska North Slope oil, reform of U.S. mining laws, and the reform of National Park polices.

Mr. Renkes also coordinated the 1992 and 1998 Alaska political campaigns to re-elect Senator Frank Murkowski to his third and fourth terms in the U.S. Senate and the 2002 Alaska gubernatorial campaign. Mr. Renkes worked as staff to the 1996 Republican National Convention Platform Committee and drafted the section of the *Republican Platform* addressing energy and environment issues. Recently, Mr. Renkes assisted the 2000 Republican National Convention Platform Committee on energy policy issues and was named to the Bush/Cheney Transition Advisory Committees for the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Renkes holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Colorado School of Law, Boulder, Colorado, a Masters of Science degree from Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, and a Bachelors of Arts degree from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York where he majored in Biology and Geology. He is admitted to the Alaska Bar for the practice of law and served as a law clerk and magistrate for the State of Alaska Court System under the direction of Superior Court Judge Beverly Cutler in Palmer, Alaska.

Prior to joining the Alaska Bar in 1987, Mr. Renkes focused his work in law school and Alaska on public land, natural resources, and American Indian Law. In law school, he clerked for Professor Charles Wilkenson, assisting in rewrite of his casebooks on American Indian Law and Public Land Law, the National Wildlife Federation, and assisted the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation with its conference and publications activities. Mr. Renkes also assisted the University of Colorado Natural Resources Law Center with several projects including one concerning the impact of the Endangered Species Act on water rights in the Upper Colorado River System. In addition, he created and edited a legal publication at the University of Colorado School of Law titled "Mining Law Dialogue", dedicated to providing a point-counterpoint forum for the debate of controversial legal questions impacting mining on the public lands.

At the Yale University graduate school, Mr. Renkes spread his work across disciplines including work at the School of Forestry, School of Law, and School of Organization and Management. His Master's thesis researched the biosocial impacts of endangered species habitat protection in the Florida Keys. As an undergraduate student Mr. Renkes split his concentration between biology and geology and had his research published in professional journals including the "Journal of Animal Behaviour" and the "Journal of Arachnology".

Mr. Renkes lives with his wife, Maureen, and two children, Anja Josephine and Ian Gregory, in Juneau, Alaska.

State of Alaska  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Frank H. Murkowski**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 6, 2003

Law0303

**Attorney General Argues for Sovereign Waters in Proceeding  
Pending Before the U.S. Supreme Court**

(Juneau) – Attorney General Gregg Renkes on Monday gave the opening statement in the State of Alaska’s submerged lands case before a Special Master appointed by the U.S. Supreme Court. In the court case, the state asserts that it holds title to the submerged lands surrounding the mainland and islands of the Alexander Archipelago in Southeast Alaska. Renkes estimates the state is in the third year of an approximately four to six-year-long case. Additional argument on behalf of Alaska was presented by Jonathan Franklin and Assistant Attorneys General Joanne Grace and Laura Bottger.

“The issues in this case go to the heart of Alaska’s Statehood Compact,” Renkes argued, “to the heart of a plan for Alaska statehood based on a grant of lands and interests in resources, and to the heart of our constitutional federal system.”

Renkes said the case is a quiet title action, but not an ordinary one. It seeks to quiet title to the state’s “equal footing” lands, as confirmed in the Submerged Lands Act. He said quieting title to the lands will restore Alaska’s equal footing with every other state that has joined the Union, and cited four basic reasons why the issue is more important to Alaska than it might be to other states.

First, the federal government has already withdrawn a substantial amount of land in Alaska, in addition to the large amount of submerged lands it claims to have withdrawn in this case.

Second, the land area in question is huge – the Alexander Archipelago covers an area 600 miles long and up to 100 miles wide. For the federal government to retain, without any clear statement of its intent to do so, a large portion of lands intended in the statehood compact to pass to the state would upset the traditional federal-state balance of our constitutional system.

Third, the lands are significant to Alaskans for their historical and cultural values, in addition to encompassing the Capital.

Fourth, Alaska is still a young state, still attempting to establish boundaries and settling land claims. This process has been complicated by an aggressive federal bureaucracy

- more -

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that has fought establishment of permanent boundaries and Alaska's title to navigable waters and historical roadways. The state has also had to contend with massive temporary and permanent land withdrawals by the federal government.

The Special Master will issue initial recommendations on the parties' motions for summary judgment. Depending on the content of those recommendations, the parties may then file exceptions with the Supreme Court or engage in further proceedings before the Special Master.

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