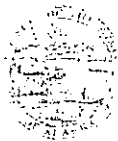


**4/10/09
CONFIRM.
HEARING
WAYNE
ANTHONY
ROSS**

SARAH PALIN
GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR@GOV.STATE.AK.US



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

P.O. Box 110001
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0001
(907) 465-3500
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March 27, 2009

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

Dear Speaker Chenault:

In accordance with Alaska Statute 39.05.080, I submit the following name for legislative confirmation of appointment set out below:

State of Alaska Attorney General

Wayne Anthony Ross

Appointed: 3/26/2009

The resume for this appointment has been submitted to the offices of the Senate Secretary and the Chief Clerk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Palin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Sarah Palin
Governor

cc: Kirsten Waid, Senate Secretary, Alaska State Senate
Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk, Alaska House of Representatives

WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS
Box 101522
Anchorage, Alaska 99510
907-276-5307 (Office) or 907-346-2697 (Home)
WARALASKA@alaska.com (E-Mail)

Wayne Anthony Ross was born 25 February 1943 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated from Marquette University High School in 1960.

EDUCATION: After attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for two years, Mr. Ross transferred to Marquette University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration in 1965, and a Doctor of Law (Juris Doctoris) Degree in 1968.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: Mr. Ross first came to Alaska in June 1967 between his junior and senior years of law school. He spent that summer serving as a law clerk for a local Anchorage attorney, and driving a sightseeing bus on weekends for American Sightseeing Company.

From 1968 to 1969, Mr. Ross served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska. In 1969 he was appointed by Superior Court Judge Harold J. Butcher to be Court Trustee and Standing Master for the Family Court. During the next four years, sitting as a judicial officer, Mr. Ross heard over 90% of all dependency, child in need of supervision, and delinquency cases arising in the Third Judicial District, and also enforced child support orders entered by the Superior court. During Mr. Ross's tenure, a computerized system of collection was instigated, which has developed into the Child Support Services Division which exists today.

In 1973, Mr. Ross left State service to enter the private practice of law. He was an associate of Edward J. Reasor and Associates in Anchorage, Alaska and a partner in law firms in Cordova, Alaska and Glennallen, Alaska. In 1977, Mr. Ross opened his own office in Anchorage, Ross & Associates, now known as the law office of Ross & Miner, P.C. Mr. Ross's practice emphasizes family law, criminal defense, plaintiff's personal injury and business law. Some years ago, Mr. Ross obtained one of the highest settlements in a wrongful termination of employment case ever obtained in the United States.

BAR ADMISSIONS: Mr. Ross was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1968 and the Alaska Bar in 1969. He is admitted to practice in the state courts of Wisconsin and Alaska and in the federal courts of the Eastern District of Wisconsin, the District of Alaska, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

MILITARY SERVICE: Mr. Ross was a Colonel in the Alaska State Defense Force. COL Ross was Commander of the Professional and Technical Detachment of the ASDF from 1986 to June 1987. He was Chief of Civil-Military Operations (G-5) from June 1987 until July 1988, and then took command of the Field Forces Teams. Several months later, he was appointed Judge Advocate General. From April of 1990 until May 1992, COL Ross was Chief of Operations and Training (G-3). In May, 1992, he was appointed Acting Chief of Staff. In March, 1993 he was appointed Chief of Staff. From July, 1994 until June 1996, he held the position of Inspector General. COL Ross was given command of the ASDF Rifle Team in September, 1989. COL Ross also served as Acting Commander, and was on the Officer Promotion and Selection Board. He participated in Mobex 88, Brimfrost 89, and Alcan Convoy 92 operations. Colonel Ross is now Area Defense Counsel for the ASDF. He founded, and was President of the 49th Territorial Guards Regiment, Inc. from 1987-1994, an organization established to support the Alaska State Defense force, its officers and soldiers, and was re-elected to that position in April, 1995, serving until August 1996. In 2007 he was again elected to the Regiment's Board of Directors and later elected to the position of Vice President and presently serves in that position.

COL Ross was awarded the Alaska State Service Medal, the Alaska State Defense Force Achievement Medal, the Alaska State Defense Force State Service Medal twice, the Alaska State Defense Force Drill Attendance Ribbon, the Alaska State Defense Force Training Achievement Ribbon, and the State

Guard Association of the United States Membership Ribbon. He was named 1988 Good Samaritan Attorney Of The Year by Veterans Living and Health, Inc. In 1990 he was knighted by the Polish Government and awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta for services rendered to the cause of freedom.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS:

Mr. Ross is presently a member of the following:

Alaska Bar Association (1968-present) (Family Law Committee, 1973-1978; Vice Chairman, 1973-1974) (Hearing Officer, Fee Arbitration Committee, 1981-1987, 1994-2001), (Discipline Hearing Committee, 1991-1994) Alaska Gun Collectors' Association, Inc. (1972-present) (Charter Member) (Master-at Arms, 1972-1973) (Secretary, 1983-1985) (President Emeritus, 1989-2004) (Director, 1994-1996, 2001) (President, 1973-1977, 1979-1981, 1985-1989, 2005-present) (Life Member, Card Number 1)

Alaska Machine Gun Association (2000-present)

Alaska M.A.U.E.R.S. Society

Alaska Outdoor Council (1985-present)

Alaska Peace Officers' Association (1970-present)

Alaska Professional Hunters' Association, Inc. (1981-present)

Alaska Right to Life, Inc. (1972-present) (Founder Member) (Member, Board of Directors, 1972-1976) (Vice President, 1972-1975)

Alaska Territorial Cavalry, Motorized (Founder member, 1991-present) (Secretary and Newsletter Editor, 1991-1998, 2000-2006) (Life Member #1)

Alaska Veterans Museum (Founder Member, 2003-present) (Director - 2008 to present)

Alaskans Against The Death Penalty (2009)

American Society of Arms Collectors (2003-present)

Anchorage Bar Association (1969-present) (Member, Committee for U.S. Constitutional Bicentennial Celebration, 1987)

Colt Collectors Association (1982-present)

Dallas Arms Collectors (Life Member, 1989-present)

49th Territorial Guard Regiment, Inc. (Member, 1987-1997, 2007-present) (President, 1987-1994, 1995-1996)(Director, 2007; Vice-President, 2007-present)

Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers (2005-present)

German Club of Alaska (1981-1994, 2001-present)

Gun Owners Action League (1987-present)

Military Vehicle Preservation Association (1989-present) (Member, Board of Directors, 1994-1996) (Vice President, 1994-1996)(Life Member - 2005-present)

Missouri Valley Arms Collectors (2004-present)(Honorary Life Member, 2008-present)

National Lawyers Association (1995-present)

National Rifle Association of America (1964-present) (Life member since 1975) (Benefactor member since 1984) (Member, Board of Directors, 1980-1992, 1994-present) (Second Vice President, 1988-1990) (First Vice President, 1990-1991) (Member, Executive Committee, 1984-1992, 1998-present) (Member, Freedom Challenge Advisory Team, 2008) (Member, Education and Training Committee, 1980-1982) (Member, NRA Legal Affairs Committee, 1982-1988, 1996-present; Chairman, 1983-1987; Vice Chairman 1996-present) (Member, NRA Gun Collectors Committee, 1980-1992, 1994-96, 1997-present; Vice Chairman, 1982-1987; Chairman, 1987-1992, 1997-present) (Member, Committee on Hearings, 1987-1988) (Vice Chairman, President's Committee on Section 501[c][3] Status, 1986) (Member, Special Committee on Hunters' Funds for the ILA Task Force, 1987-1988) (Member, Ad Hoc Committee on NRA Member Organizations, 1987-1988) (Chairman, President's Task Force on Prayer Breakfasts, 1990) (Member, Ways and Means Committee, 1990-1991) (Member, Officers Compensation Committee, 1990-1991) (Member, Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Committee, 1991-1992) (Member, Legislative Policy Subcommittee on State and Local Guidelines, 1991-1992) (Member, Ethics Committee, 1994-present, Vice Chairman 1995-96, Chairman, 1998-present) (Member, Ad Hoc Committee on the Militia, 1995) (Member, President's Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Violations of Association Policy, 1995) (Member, President's Special Committee to determine the feasibility of providing financial compensation for NRA Presidents, 1995) (Member, Ad Hoc Committee to investigate memberships and upgrades sold at a reduced rate, 1997) (Member, Nominating Committee, 1981-82; Vice-Chairman, 1998-1999)(Member, Special Committee to study the Pros and Cons of

A Regional Quarterly Board Meeting, 2001)(Chairman, Alaska Host Committee, 2005)(Member, Freedom Challenge Advisory Team, 2008).

Ohio Gun Collectors Association (1980-present) (Honorary Life Member, 1990-present)

Pioneers of Alaska, Anchorage Igloo No. 15 (2000-present)

Saint Gabriel Possenti Society, Inc. (1998-present)

Smith and Wesson Collectors Association (1975-present)

Tyone Mountain Syndicate, Inc. (President, 1982-present) which owns and operates Tyone Mountain Lodge in the Nelchina Basin of Alaska.

Washington Arms Collectors (1992-present)

Wisconsin Bar Association (1968-1989, 1991-present) (Alaska Chapter Chairman, 1997-present)

Wisconsin Gun Collectors (1958, 1965-1967, 1988-1994, 2006-present)

Wyoming Weapons Collectors (1990-present)(ID #455)

PRIOR MEMBERSHIPS:

Mr. Ross was a member of the following:

Alaska Cigar & Yacht Club (1998-2001)

Alaska 49-ers (1995-2001)

Alaska Four Wheelers (1981)

Alaska Geographic Society

Alaska Junior Miss Scholarship Pageant, Inc. (Member, Board of Directors, 1973-1980) (Judges' Chairman, 1973-1977) (Vice President, 1977-1980)

Alaska Legal Services Third Judicial District Campaign Leadership Committee (2000)

Alaska Moose Foundation (Director, 1999-2000)

Alaska National Guard Historical Holding (1989-1997)

Alaska National Guard Museum Fund, Inc. (Director, 1991-1999) (Chairman, 1996-1999)

Alaska Professional Sportsmen's Association, Inc. (1990-1991)

Alaska Public Policy Research Institute, Inc. (1997-1998)

Alaskans United Against The Tax Cap (2000)

Alaskans for Recriminalization of Marijuana Advisory Committee (1990)

Alaska Rifle Club (1981-1999) (Legislative Liaison Officer, 1982-1988)

Alaska 2nd Amendment Coalition (ASAC) (1992-2000)

Alaska State Rifle and Pistol Association (1980-1992) (Vice President, 1983-1988) (Secretary and Executive Officer, 1988-1989) (NRA Liaison Officer, 1989-1992)

Alaska Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children's Rules (1972-1973)

Aleutian Rod and Gun Club (1994-1995)

Alpha Delta Sigma National Professional Advertising Fraternity, C. Brooks Smeeton Chapter (1962-1968)

American Bar Association (1968-1990) (Membership Chairman, Family Law Section, 1975-1976)

American Federation of Police (1972)

American Historical Foundation (1986-1988)

American Judicature Society (1970-1979)

American Legion - Fairview Park Post (Ohio)(1990)

American Sports Car Association (1958-1960) (President, 1958-1960)

Anchorage Clearinghouse Christian Ministries, (Member, Board of Directors, 1992)

Anchorage Committee for the White House Conference on Children (1970)

Anchorage Council on Prevention of Alcohol & Drug Abuse (1984)

Anchorage Crime Commission (Committee on Prosecution, 1981)

Anchorage Interfaith School Foundation (1983)

Anchorage Snowmobile Club (1992-1993)

Anchorage Veterans Monument Committee, (Director, 1998-2001)

Antique Automobile Club of America (1991-1998)

Antique Auto Mushers of Alaska (1991-1993)

Armed Services YMCA of Alaska (Advisory Committee Member, 1995) (Director, 1995-2003)(Program Committee Member, 2000-2003)(First Vice Chairman, 2001-2002)(Chairman, 2003)

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (2003-2007)
 Association of Family Conciliation Courts (1977-1978)
 Association of the United State Army (1990-1998, 2001-2002)
 Boy Scouts of America (Sustaining Member, 1983-1991)
 B.P.O.E., Lodge No. 1351 (1991-2003) (Vice-Chairman, Americanism Committee, 1991-1995)
 California State Rifle and Pistol Association, (1988-2003)
 Cinema Cynics (1973-1978)
 Citizens' Committee to Keep and Bear Arms (1981-1983)
 Coalition For The Alaskan Way Of Life (2000-2001)
 Coalition of American Veterans (1987-1989)
 Commonwealth North (1986-2002)
 Congress of Racial Equality (1991-1992)
 Copper Basin Shooting Club (2003-2004)
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (1984-1987) (Member, Board of Directors, 1984-1987)
 Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity, Eschweiler Senate (1966-1968), Alaska Senate (1983-1989)
 (Tribune, 1983-1985)
 Ducks Unlimited (Sponsor, 1985-1986)
 Elephant Club of the Republican Party of Alaska (1985-1987)
 Gun Owners of America (1988-1994)
 Gun Rights Committee (1983-1992) (Legal Action Committee Chairman, 1983-1985)
 Holy Family Cathedral Parish Council (1971-1975) (Vice President, 1972-1975)
 Indiana Sportsmen's Council (1973-1974)
 International Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association (1978)
 Izaak Walton League of America (1990-2000)
 Kodiak Island Sportsmen's Association (1992-1994)
 Kodiak Rod & Gun Club (1984-1986)
 Law Enforcement Alliance of America (1992-2002)
 Law Enforcement Committee on Alcoholism (1969-1970)
 Lincoln Society (1994) (Lincoln Day Gala Committee, 1993-1994)
 Marine Corps League (1998-2006)
 Matanuska Valley Sportsmen (2000-2002)
 McKinley Mountain Men (1980-1986)
 Military Transport Association of North Jersey (2002-2008)
 National Council of Juvenile Court Judges (1971-1986)
 National Federation of Independent Businesses (1976-1986, 1996)
 National Firearms Museum Fund (Director, 1982-1994; 1997-1998)
 National Mossberg Collectors Association (1989-1991)
 National Policy Forum (Member, Policy Council on Free Individuals in a Free Society, 1994)
 National Republican Congressional Committee's Gun Owners Task Force (2000-2001)
 National Republican Lawyers Association (1985-1994)
 National Rifle Association of Great Britain (1989-1991)
 Navy League (1988-1998)
 Neighbors for Educational Programming (Chairman, 1992)
 Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation (1979-1981)
 Presidential Inaugural's Professionals Advisory Committee (1988-1989)
 Republican National Committee (Member, 1992-1998)
 Republican Party Platform Planning Committee (1992)
 Republican Roundup Committee (1996-2002) (Chairman, 1996-2002)
 Republican Speakers Association (1993-1998)
 Ruger Collectors Association (1982-1993)
 Safari Club International (2001-2002)
 Save Our Constitution Committee (1992)
 Second Amendment Foundation (1981-1983)
 Sierra Club (1985-1986)
 Spanish - American War Historical Association (1993-1994)

Spenard Bar Association (1975-1977) (Vice President, 1976-1977)
State Guard Association of the United States (1987-1997) (Member, Board of Directors, 1992-1994)
Statewide Advisory Committee, Alaskans for Equal Fishing and Hunting Rights (1982-1983)
Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association (1983-1986)
Theodore Roosevelt Association (1982-1993, 1995)
Toy Gun Collectors Association (1989-1994)
Toy Gun Purveyors Association (1989-1994)
Ugashik Bay Beach Club
Wednesday Night Club (1983-1994)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE: Mr. Ross taught courses entitled "Juveniles and the Law" (1973-74) and "Introduction to Criminal Justice" at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, for several semesters. He has been a guest lecturer at Marquette University Law School, the University of Alaska, Anchorage, and at Wayland Baptist College. Mr. Ross served as a member of the Board of Trustees (Secretary) for Lumen Christi High School from 1999 to 2001.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE: Mr. Ross first became involved in politics in 1960 when his father, Ray E. Ross, ran for the office of Alderman (City Councilman) of West Allis, Wisconsin's fourth largest city. Ray E. Ross was elected and held the Alderman's position for 3 four year terms. Wayne Ross was Campaign Chairman for two of those campaigns. He also participated in the Nixon campaign of 1960 and the Goldwater campaign of 1964 with less satisfactory results. Upon coming to Alaska, he was an alternate delegate to District 11's convention in 1972 and 1976. Mr. Ross has been involved in the Republican Party from precinct to national levels. Mr. Ross served as Parliamentarian at the 1980, 1982, and 1984 District 8 Republican Conventions and was Parliamentarian Pro Tem for the Republican State Central Committee in 1983. In 1984 he was Parliamentarian for the State Republican Convention and was an alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas, where as a seated alternate, he was able to cast his ballot for Ronald Reagan for the Republican Party nominee for President of the United States. Mr. Ross was elected Vice Chairman of the District 8 Republican Party in 1982 and served as Chairman of that District from 1985 to 1988. As such, he was a member of the Alaska State Republican Party Central Committee. Mr. Ross was a member of that party's Elephant Club and was Chairman of the Rules committee from 1985-1988 and Co-Chairman of the 1988 State Convention's Candidate Recruitment Committee. In 1988, he was Alaska Chairman, Lawyers for Bush/Quayle. Mr. Ross was Republican Party National Committeeman, Alaska from 1992-1998. He attended the Republican National Convention in Houston 1992 as National Committeeman-elect and the 1996 National Convention in San Diego as National Committeeman. From 1995-1996, he served as Co-Chairman, Alaskans For Gramm. In 1997, Mr. Ross was a member of a delegation representing the United States and the Republican National Committee to the Republic of China (Taiwan's) 15th Kuomintang National Congress in Taipei, Taiwan, China. Mr. Ross sat on the Republican State Central Committee from 2000-2001 as the Bonus Vote for District 18. He served as Secretary for Precinct 357 from 2000-2001. He also served as a member of the Republican Party Special Events Committee from 2000-2002. Mr. Ross was a Republican Candidate for Governor of Alaska in 1998 and 2002. In 2006 he served as Honorary Co-Chairman of the Sarah Palin for Governor campaign.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Mr. Ross was appointed to serve on the Alaska Land Use Council Advisors' Committee by the United States Department of Interior in January, 1984, and was re-appointed each year thereafter. In April, 1987, Mr. Ross was elected Chairman of that Committee. He served as Chairman from 1987-1988. He was elected Vice Chairman in 1988, and from 1989-1990, Mr. Ross held the position of Acting Chairman. Mr. Ross was appointed to the Advisory Council for the Commission On Privatizations and Delivery of Government Services by the Alaska Legislature in 1999, and assigned the Chairmanship of the Advisory Subcommittee to study the Office of the Governor.

Mr. Ross was appointed and served as an Alaskan Marriage Commissioner in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1984, 1985, 1994, 1997, 2003, and 2005.

AWARDS: Mr. Ross and his law firm have received awards from the National Rifle Association of America, the Alaska Outdoor Council, and the Alaska Christian Sportsman's Club for services on behalf of sportsmen. Mr.

Ross has been awarded the NRA Affiliated Gun Collectors Award of Merit for the Promotion of Gun Collecting. Mr. Ross has also received patriotism awards from the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Alaska Sea Cadets, the National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Anchorage VFW Post 9981.

Mr. Ross is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, 1st-9th, 14th, and 20th editions; *Who's Who in American Politics*, 15th, 16th, 17th and 20th editions; *Personalities of the West and Midwest*, 8th edition; *Who's Who in Society*, 1st and 2nd editions; *Who's Who in America*, 46th-49th and 55th-57th editions; *International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement*, 1984/85 edition; *Marquis Who's Who in the West* (1996-1997); and *Who's Who in the World*, 12th and 18th and 21st editions.

PUBLICATIONS: Mr. Ross was a biweekly columnist for the *Anchorage Times* (FROM THE ARENA, every second Sunday) from 1986 until 1992. He later wrote for the *Voice Of The Anchorage Times* in the Anchorage Daily News from 1992-1993, and for *The Anchorage Chronicle* in 2003. He served as contributing editor (firearms) for the Alaska Bar Rag, the official newspaper of the Alaska Bar Association for which Mr. Ross received the coveted Stanley Award for Heroic Journalism. Mr. Ross also has had outdoor and firearms articles printed in the Congressional Record, Alaska Outdoors, Supply Line, Soldier of Fortune, Wild Sheep, the Message, the Washington Arms Collectors Gun News, the Missouri Arms Collectors newsletter, the National Firearms Museum Quarterly, and Gun Week magazines. He also has written articles for Army Motors and was book review editor for that magazine.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS: Mr. Ross was a holder of a Federal Firearms Dealers License for twenty-five years and specializes in collecting large caliber Colt and Smith and Wesson handguns. He has testified before Congressional Committees in Alaska and Washington, D.C. on lands and hunting issues, and has lobbied the Alaskan Legislature for equal access to fish and game for all citizens. He has also appeared on numerous television and radio programs supporting hunting and the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Mr. Ross has conducted seminars and given speeches on hunting and gun collecting in many parts of the country. He is listed on the NRA Gun Collectors Speakers Bureau.

Mr. Ross's hobbies include hunting (especially with a .45 caliber handgun), fishing, and gun-collecting and he is a licensed assistant guide. He has taken two moose, and three caribou, with a .45 Colt revolver; three Sitka deer and a musk ox with a .45 semi-automatic pistol; and numerous other large game with a rifle including Dall sheep, whitetail deer, moose, caribou, sika deer, black bear, and brown bear. He has been qualified as an expert witness on firearms in both Alaska and Texas State Courts and in the Federal District court for the State of Alaska, both in Anchorage and Fairbanks. He is also a bibliophile, collecting books by Robert Service, Rex Beach, James Oliver Curwood, Don Blanding, and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as possessing the largest library on firearms in the State of Alaska.

RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE: Mr. Ross is a Catholic. He, along with his wife, Barbara, participated in the Anchorage Archdiocese Pre-Cana Program as instructors from approximately 1972 until 1985. In 1988, he was Advanced Gifts Chairman of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church building program. In 1991 he was Building Fund Committee Chairman for that church. In October, 1991, Mr. Ross and his wife were named, by the Vatican, to be a Knight and Lady in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. In 1998, Mr. Ross was awarded the Saint Gabriel Possenti Medallion by the Saint Gabriel Possenti Society. Mr. Ross served as Secretary on the Board of Trustees of Lumen Christi High School, Inc. from 1999 until 2001 and helped in the transition of that school from a private corporation to a parish school under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage.

FAMILY INFORMATION: Mr. Ross was married to Barbara L. Froelich of Elkhart, Indiana in 1968. They reside in Anchorage and have four children: Gregory, age 38, Brian, age 35, Timothy, age 32, and Amy Katherine Ross, age 30 years, and six grandchildren. Gregory graduated from Pre-Law at Marquette University, was a commercial fisherman, obtained his masters degree in education from the University of Alaska, Anchorage, is now a teacher for the Anchorage School District and coaches high school hockey. For several years, he served on the Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee. Greg is married to Shelli, and has one son, Oberon and two step-children, Ryan and Tristen. Brian graduated 13th in his class, the top Marine Corps officer (Class of 1994), from the United States Naval Academy, and is a Major in the U.S.

Marine Corps, having served 3 tours in Iraq. Brian recently obtained his Masters Degree at Marquette in Milwaukee and currently is assigned by the Marine Corps as an Instructor (Naval History) at the Naval Academy. Brian and his wife, Tracy, have two sons, Andrew Charles Ross and Matthew Edward Ross, and a daughter, Emily Louise Ross. Tim graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Marquette University and is working in Alaska as a project supervisor for ANC. Amy graduated from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington with a degree in Criminal Justice. She is police officer with the Spokane Police Department, and is a Spokane Police Department Firearms Training Officer. She was recently commissioned as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshall. Barbara and each of the Ross children and grandchildren are NRA Life Members. Barbara was the librarian at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Elementary School, was a member of that school's Service Club Board, and was President of its School Board. She worked for the Anchorage School District as a librarian's assistant, and is now retired. Barbara served for several years as Program Director for the Anchorage Republican Women's Club, was District Chairman for Republican District 32, and as Secretary for Alaska Right To Life, Inc. Currently she is a Director of Alaska Right To Life, Inc. (Eff. 1 Feb 09)

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Eff. 17 March 2009

"Abuse touches all walks of life within our society". The Anchorage Times, 4 November 1990.

"A 'Citizen Of The World' may be an undesirable citizen". The Anchorage Times, 17 January 1988.

"Action of adults toward children hold lasting memories", The Anchorage Times, 19 April 1992.

"A goodbye to my longtime friend". The Anchorage Chronicle, 10 - 17 October 2002.

"A 'good name'. an asset beyond value". The Anchorage Times, 28 February 1988.

"Ah, it's the amenities in life". The Anchorage Times, 9 October 1988.

"Alaskans must meet challenge of subsistence regulation", The Anchorage Times, 31 December 1989.

"Amendments unfair to individuals". The Anchorage Times, 6 August 1986.

"America Lost A Good One When We Lost Joe Foss". Soldier of Fortune, April 2003.

"ANCSA amendments Bad For State. And Its Citizens". The Cordova Times, 5 June 1986.

"ANCSA deserves the Golden Fleece award". The Anchorage Times, 26 April 1987.

"An 'early retirement' doesn't offer dragons to slay, battles to fight". The Anchorage Times, 3 June 1990.

"Animal activists real enemy". The Anchorage Times, 2 December 1990.

"Anonymous hate mail should not be permitted". The Bar Rag, October-December 2007.

"Another look toward 1991". The Anchorage Times, 15 May 1986.

"Anti-Gun laws do not aid the law-abiding". The Anchorage Times 5 February 1989.

"Applicant earns an 'A For Effort' on resume". The Anchorage Times, 26 August 1991.

"A promise is to be honored". The Anchorage Times, 16 August 1986.

"A reputation with a shadow. The Anchorage Times, 7 June 1987.

"Arm the pilots and the passengers". The Anchorage Chronicle, Aug. 29 - Sept. 4, 2002.

"Arms misuse threatens rights". The Anchorage Times, 24 February 1991.

"A road to Cordova would give more Alaskans access to the little-known treasure". The Anchorage Times, 20 August 1989.

"Assault weapons are being confused with automatic firearms". The Anchorage Times, 30 April 1989.

"As soon as I head out of town, the snow should start falling". The Anchorage Chronicle, 28 November 2002.

"At Ease - The Flying Jeep". Army Motors, Volume 104, Summer 2003.

"A tribute to Barbara on Mother's Day". The Anchorage Times, 10 May 1987.

"Average citizen finds legal system inaccessible". The Anchorage Times, 16 April 1989.

"Base subsistence priority on need". Voice of the Times, 8 August 2001.

"Battle lines are being drawn for subsistence war". The Anchorage Times, 11 March 1990.

"Bears will be bears - Can we allow it?". The Anchorage Times, 12 August 1990.

"Before you go hunting remember to vote". The Anchorage Times, 26 August 1990.

"Belief in Santa Claus isn't just for little kids". The Anchorage Times, 25 December 1988.

"Best choice to keep young". Anchorage Daily News, 6 August 1992.

"Burgers are best for a 'Trencherman's' lunch. The Anchorage Times, 11 December 1988.

"Bush achievements many". Anchorage Daily News, 29 August 1992.

"Buy American-made products in 1992". The Anchorage Times, 29 December 1991.

"Campaign provides a real education". The Anchorage Chronicle, 5 September 2002.

"Candidates' book is more than Alaska history". The Anchorage Times, 23 October 1988.

"Candidates do not agree on gun control issue". The Anchorage Times, 25 September 1988.

"Can our best afford public service?". The Anchorage Times, 8 January 1989.

"Change in Show Rules". AGCA News & Views, March/April 2009.

"Chastity, adultery relegated to Dark Ages". The Anchorage Times, 23 February 1992.

"Christmas time sparks thoughts on old friends". The Anchorage Times, 16 December 1990.

"Come Celebrate the Beginning", AGCA News & Views, May-June 2007.

"Commitment is needed before practice". The Anchorage Times, 19 June 1988.

"Community service isn't as recalled". The Anchorage Times, 21 June 1987.

"Defending the guilty: Our judicial system at its very best". The Anchorage Times, 4 January 1987.

"Determining when one man's refuse is another man's refuge". The Anchorage Times, 6 October 1990.

"Do you have the attributes and desire to run for office?". The Anchorage Times, 9 July 1989.

"Duty- a sense of obligation, obedience and respect". The Anchorage Times, 15 March 1987.

"Equality for women still has considerable distance to go". The Anchorage Times, 11 October 1987.

"Elders pass wisdom to young during hunt". The Anchorage Times, 12 January 1992; The Message, March 1992; Gun-News, Volume 9 - Number 1.

"Fall hunting is a family occasion". The Anchorage Times, 14 August 1988.

"False! False! False!". Supplement to The Anchorage Daily News, 6 November 2000.

"False reports of child sexual abuse devastate families and children". The Anchorage Times, 28 July 1991; Speak Out For Families, December 1993.

"Family unit suffers from bureaucratic maze". The Anchorage Times, 22 May 1988.

"Family vacations offer fun and frustrations". The Anchorage Times, 24 April 1988.

"Fr. Boyle taught schoolboys lessons on discipline". The Anchorage Times, 13 March 1988.

"Father's death helps him understand what a happy death means". The Anchorage Times, 22 September 1990.

"Fighting for Old Glory on battlefield of art". The Anchorage Times, 31 May 1992.

"Friends sometimes have to sit in the front of the canoe". The Anchorage Times, 3 July 1988.

"From Civil War typewriter to the modern computer". The Anchorage Times, 22 April 1990.

"Game permits seem to be for the lucky few". The Anchorage Times, 23 July 1989.

"Getting old is not for me". The Anchorage Chronicle, 27 March 2003.

"Goodbye my friend". The Anchorage Chronicle, 3 October 2002.

"Governor Cowper doesn't understand the issue". The Anchorage Times, 1 July 1990.

"Governor's duties clear on lands issues". The Voice of the Anchorage Times, 2 January 2001.

"Grass roots political meetings: a learning experience". The Anchorage Times, 27 March 1988.

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Sec. 44.23.010. Attorney general.

The principal executive officer of the Department of Law is the attorney general.

Sec. 44.23.020. Duties; and powers; waiver of immunity.

(a) The attorney general is the legal advisor of the governor and other state officers.

(b) The attorney general shall

(1) defend the Constitution of the State of Alaska and the Constitution of the United States of America;

(2) bring, prosecute, and defend all necessary and proper actions in the name of the state for the collection of revenue;

(3) represent the state in all civil actions in which the state is a party;

(4) prosecute all cases involving violation of state law, and file informations and prosecute all offenses against the revenue laws and other state laws where there is no other provision for their prosecution;

(5) administer state legal services, including the furnishing of written legal opinions to the governor, the legislature, and all state officers and departments as the governor directs; and give legal advice on a law, proposed law, or proposed legislative measure upon request by the legislature or a member of the legislature;

(6) draft legal instruments for the state;

(7) make available a report to the legislature, through the governor, at each regular legislative session

(A) of the work and expenditures of the office; and

(B) on needed legislation or amendments to existing law;

(8) perform all other duties required by law or which usually pertain to the office of attorney general in a state; and

(9) prepare, publish, and revise as it becomes useful or necessary to do so an information pamphlet on landlord and tenant rights and the means of making complaints to appropriate public agencies concerning

landlord and tenant rights; the contents of the pamphlet and any revision shall be approved by the Department of Law before publication.

(c) Before January 1, 1999, the attorney general may, in a case that involves the state's title to submerged lands, or in any case in which the state seeks to allocate fault to the federal government or a federal employee under AS 09.17.080, waive the state's immunity from suit in federal court provided under the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The expiration on January 1, 1999, of the attorney general's authority to waive the state's Eleventh Amendment immunity does not affect existing waivers in ongoing cases.

(d) The attorney general may, subject to the power of the legislature to enact laws and make appropriations, settle actions, cases, and offenses under (b) of this section.

(e) There is established within the Department of Law the function of public advocacy for regulatory affairs. The attorney general shall participate as a party in a matter that comes before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska when the attorney general determines that participation is in the public interest.

(f) The attorney general shall designate not less than one-half attorney position in the Department of Law for the purpose of prosecuting actions for fraudulent acts related to workers' compensation under AS 23.30.

(g) The attorney general may, in cases that involve compliance, discharge, or enforcement of responsibilities assumed by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities under AS 44.42.300, waive the state's immunity from suit in federal court provided under the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Ross confirmation hearing testy at times

By SEAN COCKERHAM
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Published: April 8th, 2009 09:36 PM
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JUNEAU — State lawmakers on Wednesday grilled Gov. Sarah Palin's appointee for state attorney general, Wayne Anthony Ross, as Ross defended past controversial statements and said he believes that former state legislator Vic Kohring is innocent despite an Anchorage jury convicting him of corruption.

Wednesday was the first day of confirmation hearings for Ross, with the Legislature scheduled to vote April 16 on whether he should be the state's new attorney general.

"Nobody ever accused me of tippy toeing around the issues. Now I'm asking for this job of advocating for Alaska, for the state that I love almost as much as I love my wife," Ross said.

Ross was the original defense lawyer for Kohring, whom federal prosecutors accused of taking bribes when he represented Wasilla in the state Legislature. Ross maintained at the time that Kohring was innocent, and said Wednesday under questioning from Senate judiciary committee members that he still believes that's true, despite a jury in Anchorage federal court finding him guilty. Kohring was sentenced last year to serve three-and-a-half years in prison.

"Vic's main problem was that he was naive," Ross said.

Ross said Kohring didn't follow his legal advice and then hired another lawyer, John Henry Browne of Seattle. Ross, responding to questioning, said **he thought Palin was wrong to call on Kohring to resign from the Legislature following his indictment.**

Ross also said he thought the governor was wrong to call on Alaska Sen. Ted Stevens to step down from office in October after he was convicted — a conviction that a U.S. District Court judge dismissed on Tuesday. "I believe our system of justice should work first before somebody is publicly asked to resign," Ross said.

Anchorage Democratic Sen. Bill Wielechowski brought up previous Ross statements, including saying the idea of **Native sovereignty is a 19th century principle**, and using words like "immoral," and "degenerates" in a letter to the state bar association newsletter during a fight over gay rights in 1993.

"Some of the things that you've said are extremely divisive and I don't think help us as a state move forward. And I don't know that right now, at this time in our state, it's in our best interest to have such a divisive figure," he said.

Ross responded he had a different role in the past as a private attorney representing clients than he would as attorney general. "I want to represent all Alaskans, I'll have a different hat on ... If I have the job of advocate for the state of Alaska then I'm going to advocate for all the people of the state of Alaska," Ross said.

Most of the pointed questioning came from Democrats and **lawmakers generally believe that Ross will end up being confirmed**. Ross, a gun-rights advocate, has a lot of Republican support in the Legislature.

On other issues: **Ross said he opposed the death penalty, which Palin supports**, and believes that state youth workers are often too intent on taking kids from homes in cases of alleged abuse than in keeping families together when appropriate. "I've wondered whether it wasn't a matter of numbers, in other words, the more kids they could get into the system of foster homes, the more money they could come (to the Legislature) and justify getting," Ross said.

But Ross said that, as attorney general, his role wouldn't be to make policy. It's to follow the directions set by the governor and the state Legislature, he said.

"I'm the general, who carries out the campaigns. I'm not the guy who decides when to go to war," he said.

The most heated exchange came between Ross and Nome Democratic Sen. Donny Olson. **"I'm concerned that, as the general, the casualties may indeed be those people that are out there in rural Alaska — the people that I represent. I've had torrents of e-mails and torrents of communication (from people), stating that they have difficulty with your appointment,"** Olson told him.

Olson singled out Ross's statements about the rural preference for subsistence hunting and fishing. Alaskans have been divided for years on whether residents of far-flung rural areas should enjoy more liberal hunting and fishing access than residents from more urban areas. At stake are longer seasons, higher catch limits and first crack at fish and wildlife during times of scarcity.

In 1989, Ross was co-counsel in a lawsuit that led to the Alaska Supreme Court tossing out the state's rural-preference law. Federal law calls for a rural subsistence preference and the state's unwillingness to comply led to a court-ordered federal takeover of subsistence hunting and fishing management across much of the state. **When running for governor in 2002, Ross told a crowd in Kodiak that if elected he would hire a band of "junkyard dog" assistant attorneys general to challenge the federal rules or seek changes in the law through Congress.**

Ross said the state Constitution says Alaska's assets belong to all state residents, and people should talk instead of going to the feds to get "more rights than other people."

"You don't invite the bear into your house and then expect not to get eaten up. We're being eaten up and we need to get together," Ross told the committee.

Olson objected.

"The bear that you call it is the United States government and that's what had to step in here because

state law was starting to run over the rank and file little guy out there that is trying to make a living out in rural Alaska," Olson said.

Ross fired back.

"You're a senator, you represent all Alaskans and you should be working with other Alaskans to develop solutions rather than going out and crying to mama out somewheres else, and saying 'mom, you've got to help me,'" Ross said. "That's not necessarily directed at you. But we should have worked together to solve those problems, rather than get somebody else."

Anchorage Republican Sen. Lesil McGuire said Ross would be a passionate fighter for the state and she is inclined to support a governor's choice unless there is a huge reason not to. But McGuire said that, in response to public testimony, she needs to follow up with Ross about his stance on domestic violence issues.

Confirmation hearing for Ross as AG gets testy at times

By SEAN COCKERHAM
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(04/08/09 21:09:49)

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Subject: Anne Sutton: Legislative hearings begin on Alaska attorney general confirmation

Legislative hearings begin on Alaska attorney general confirmation

Anne Sutton/The Associated Press

Originally published Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 6:02 p.m.
Updated Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 8:07 p.m.

JUNEAU, Alaska - Confirmation hearings got off to a **spirited start** for Gov. Sarah Palin's choice for attorney general as a Senate committee Wednesday grilled Wayne Anthony Ross on his views regarding everything from family law to subsistence.

Unlike his mild-mannered predecessor Talis Colberg, a small town lawyer who'd specialized in worker's compensation claims up until he was appointed the state's top lawyer, **the flamboyant Ross** has generated plenty of controversy, from his newspaper columns to his two runs for governor, during his decades long career as an Anchorage attorney.

"I have got a binder full of things that you've said over the years and articles that you've written over the years," Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, told Ross at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. **"Some of the things you have said are extremely divisive and I don't know that right now, at this time in our state, it's in our best interests to have such a divisive figure."**

Palin's nod to the National Rifle Association director was applauded by gun rights advocates but slammed by Alaska Native groups over his views on subsistence rights.

Ross acknowledged he took many controversial positions as a private attorney but said he would wear a different hat as the attorney general and take his cue from the state's policy makers. **But he said he would welcome direction to resist outside interference in the state's affairs, such as the federal law that guarantees a subsistence hunting and fishing preference for rural residents.**

"I'm just the general who carries out the campaign. My job is to win the war after you decide to carry out the war," Ross said.

Ross said his overarching duty would be to uphold the state constitution, and he said he would not want to see it amended in order for the state to regain management of subsistence on federal lands. He represented sport hunters in a 1989 lawsuit that overturned the rural preference, arguing that the federal law conflicts with that document's equal protection clause.

Donny Olson, D-Nome, said his constituents overwhelmingly oppose Ross' appointment.

"I'm concerned that as the general, the casualties may indeed be those people who are out there in rural Alaska that I represent, that I've had torrents of e-mails and torrents of communication from, stating that they have difficulty with your appointment," Olson said.

But Ross argued the federal law is a bad system, cutting out traditional subsistence users in the Native Village of

Eklutna because they live too close to Anchorage while granting rights to well to do residents who happen to live in designated rural areas.

Committee Chairman Hollis French, D-Anchorage, grilled Ross on an article he wrote 18 years ago in which he criticized attorneys in the Office of Child Services, saying they were intent on destroying family unity.

Ross told the committee he thought they were trying to boost the numbers unnecessarily in order to win more funding from the state Legislature, but he said it appeared the system had improved since then.

Ross was also asked what he thought about former Rep. Vic Kohring, whom he briefly represented. Ross said he believes the Wasilla Republican who is currently serving jail time on corruption charges was "innocent but naive."

Ross also said he disagreed with Palin when she called on Kohring to resign before he had been tried. Ross said he disagreed when she made the same call regarding Sen. Ted Stevens upon his conviction.

"When you have a public official calling on someone to resign, it's like saying that person is guilty," Ross said.

Asked his views on the death penalty, Ross said he was opposed but if a bill passed to reinstate capital punishment in Alaska, "My job is to administer the law, so I would uphold the law."

Asked who would be his clients as attorney general, Ross said he would have quite a few people to advise from the governor to state officials. **But he said his duty to the law would come first and it would be his job to defend the constitution and not the governor.**

A public hearing on the confirmation drew testimony from all sides. Gay rights advocates panned the governor's pick.

In 1993 Ross wrote an article opposing a proposed Anchorage city ordinance barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, saying the bill gave "extra rights to those whose lifestyle was a crime only a few years ago, and whose beliefs are certainly immoral in the eyes of anyone with some semblance of intelligence and moral character."

Marcia Buck of Juneau questioned whether Ross would fairly represent all Alaskans.

"We need an attorney who would represent all Alaskans equally, including gay lesbian and transgender Alaskans," Buck said.

But Jake Jacobson of Kodiak praised Ross for his courage in doing the right thing even when it was unpopular and his devotion to the law.

"We need a lawyer, not a politician for attorney general," Jacobson said. "I know he will serve all Alaskans well."

The committee will allow Ross a chance to respond to the public comments on Monday.

He will face the House Judiciary Committee on Friday. The Legislature will decide on his confirmation on April 16.

JUNEAU EMPIRE.COM

Ross runs into resistance

Legislative hearings begin on attorney general confirmation

Thursday, April 09, 2009

By Anne Sutton | **The Associated Press**

Confirmation hearings for Gov. Sarah Palin's choice for attorney general got off to a spirited start Wednesday as a Senate committee grilled Wayne Anthony Ross on his views regarding everything from family law to subsistence.

Unlike his mild mannered predecessor Talis Colberg, a small town lawyer who'd specialized in worker's compensation claims up until he was appointed the state's top lawyer, the flamboyant Ross has generated plenty of controversy, from his newspaper columns to his two runs for governor, during his decades long career as an Anchorage attorney.

"I have got a binder full of things that you've said over the years and articles that you've written over the years," Sen. Bill Wielechowski, D-Anchorage, told Ross at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. "Some of the things you have said are extremely divisive and I don't know that right now, at this time in our state, it's in our best interests to have such a divisive figure."

Palin's nod to the National Rifle Association director was applauded by gun rights advocates but slammed by Alaska Native groups over his views on subsistence rights.

Ross acknowledged he took many controversial positions as a private attorney but said he would wear a different hat as the attorney general and take his cue from the state's policy makers. But he said he would welcome direction to resist outside interference in the state's affairs, such as the federal law that guarantees a subsistence hunting and fishing preference for rural residents.

"I'm just the general who carries out the campaign. My job is to win the war after you decide to carry out the war," Ross said.

Ross said his overarching duty would be to uphold the state constitution, and he said he would not want to see it amended in order for the state to regain management of subsistence on federal lands. He represented sport hunters in a 1989 lawsuit that overturned the rural preference, arguing that the federal law conflicts with that document's equal protection clause.

Donny Olson, D-Nome, said his constituents overwhelmingly oppose Ross' appointment.

"I'm concerned that as the general, the casualties may indeed be those people who are out there in rural Alaska that I represent, that I've had torrents of e-mails and torrents of communication from, stating that they have difficulty with your appointment," Olson said.

But Ross argued the federal law is a bad system, cutting out traditional subsistence users in the Native village of Eklutna because they live too close to Anchorage while granting rights to well to do

residents who happen to live in designated rural areas.

Committee Chairman Hollis French, D-Anchorage, grilled Ross on an article he wrote 18 years ago in which he criticized attorneys in the Office of Child Services, saying they were intent on destroying family unity.

Ross told the committee he thought they were trying to boost the numbers unnecessarily in order to win more funding from the state Legislature, but he said it appeared the system had improved since then.

Ross also was asked what he thought about former Rep. Vic Kohring, whom he briefly represented. Ross said he believes the Wasilla Republican who is currently serving jail time on corruption charges was "innocent but naive."

Ross also said he disagreed with Palin when she called on Kohring to resign before he had been tried. Ross said he disagreed when she made the same call regarding former Sen. Ted Stevens upon his conviction.

"When you have a public official calling on someone to resign, it's like saying that person is guilty," Ross said.

Asked his views on the death penalty, Ross said he was opposed but if a bill passed to reinstate capital punishment in Alaska, "My job is to administer the law, so I would uphold the law."

Asked who would be his clients as attorney general, Ross said he would have quite a few people to advise from the governor to state officials. But he said his duty to the law would come first and it would be his job to defend the constitution and not the governor.

A public hearing on the confirmation drew testimony from all sides. Gay rights advocates panned the governor's pick.

In 1993, Ross wrote an article opposing a proposed Anchorage city ordinance barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference, saying the bill gave "extra rights to those whose lifestyle was a crime only a few years ago, and whose beliefs are certainly immoral in the eyes of anyone with some semblance of intelligence and moral character."

Marcia Buck of Juneau questioned whether Ross would fairly represent all Alaskans.

"We need an attorney who would represent all Alaskans equally, including gay lesbian and transgender Alaskans," Buck said.

But Jake Jacobson of Kodiak praised Ross for his courage in doing the right thing even when it was unpopular and his devotion to the law.

"We need a lawyer, not a politician for attorney general," Jacobson said. "I know he will serve all Alaskans well."

The committee will allow Ross a chance to respond to the public comments on Monday.

He will face the House Judiciary Committee on Friday. The Legislature will decide on his

confirmation on April 16.

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JUNEAU EMPIRE.COM

Native groups oppose Ross appointment

Friday, April 03, 2009

Juneau Empire

ANCHORAGE - Gov. Sarah Palin's choice for attorney general has been unanimously rejected by at least two Alaska Native groups.

An Alaska Federation of Natives committee voted Wednesday to oppose Wayne Anthony Ross.

The AFN plans to send Palin a letter formally opposing the appointment of Ross, an outspoken opponent of giving rural residents a preference when it comes to subsistence fishing and hunting.

Also on Wednesday, the Association of Village Council Presidents voted to pass a resolution of its own rejecting Ross.

The group represents Western Alaska villages.

Ross describes himself as "pro-Constitution" rather than "anti-subsistence."

State lawmakers have scheduled an April 16 confirmation vote for Palin's pick.

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JUNEAU EMPIRE.COM

Juneau Native groups oppose confirmation of attorney general

Ross raises ire for views on subsistence

Wednesday, April 08, 2009

By Eric Morrison | **JUNEAU EMPIRE**

Alaska Native groups in Juneau voiced opposition to the nomination of Attorney General Anthony Wayne Ross and called on other Native groups to speak out against Gov. Sarah Palin's selection to head the Department of Law.

In a special session on Saturday, both Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood Glacier Valley Camp No. 70 passed a resolution asking the Grand Camp executive committee to oppose Ross' nomination, primarily because of his views on subsistence. The move was made after both the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Association of Village Council Presidents came out against Ross last week, ANB Camp No. 70 President Bradley Fluetsch said.

"We've been fighting long and hard for subsistence and this is one of the attorneys of the people that we've been fighting," he said. "So we know him and we don't trust him."

Ross said on Tuesday that none of the groups that have been speaking out against him have bothered to get in touch with him to find out what his positions are. He said he believes they are reaching conclusions that may be erroneous.

"I think subsistence is one of the things that makes Alaska great, makes Alaska interesting and makes Alaska unique," Ross said. "Certainly we have people in outlying areas that don't have access to grocery stores and have to live on the resources of the state to sustain themselves and I'm certainly in favor of that."

Ross said he believes it is the duty of the attorney general to uphold the Alaska Constitution, which stipulates that the state's resources belong to all Alaskans.

"When my mother used to have company for dinner and she had a pie to serve, she didn't say some people can have pie and some people can't, and she didn't say we're going to make the pieces smaller," he said. "She baked another pie."

Ross said he believes wise management of the state's resources can ensure there is sufficient game and fish to take care of all user groups in Alaska.

"But in times of shortage, we may have to have a preference for subsistence to take care of the people in the state of Alaska who rely on that," he said.

Ross did say the groups are correct in that he is against Native sovereignty. He said he believes

Alaskans should be working together and not breaking the state into separate entities.

"However, I do believe that tribal government could be utilized under the auspices of the state of Alaska to provide more local control," he said. "So I think they have a mistaken impression of what my position is."

Fluetsch said the state has a record of litigating against Native Americans' federal rights, not realizing there is a special relationship defined in the U.S. Constitution.

"We need to get the state to be more unified, moving together, and it would be a whole lot simpler if we had an attorney general who understood and respected 150 years of federal law regarding Native Americans and Alaska Natives," he said.

Although Ross was appointed by Palin late last month and is presently on the job, he must still receive a majority vote of the Alaska Legislature to retain the position. The vote is scheduled for April 16. Ross replaced former Attorney General Talis Colberg, who resigned in February.

Fluetsch, who also is president of ANB Grand Camp, said there are enough members of the executive committee against the confirmation of Ross to pass a similar resolution. Fluetsch said he plans to testify as the president of both Grand Camp and Camp 70 against Ross during today's Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing.

"Not only do we want Grand Camp to do it, but we also would like to see all the other camps in Southeast and around the state pass similar resolutions," he said.

"I'm sorry they feel that way," Ross said. "I could give them names of some good friends who are Natives who speak highly of me, I think. And I hope to get the job and prove that they have an erroneous impression of me in some areas."

- Contact reporter Eric Morrison at 523-2269 or eric.morrison@juneauempire.com.

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Coverage During the Closing Days of the Legislative Session

As is our custom, during the closing days of the session *ALASKA BUDGET REPORT* departs from our regular weekly schedule, publishing more frequently.

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energy plan.” [See **Palin releases 1,000-page report; lawmakers ask, “Where’s the plan?”** *ALASKA BUDGET REPORT*, January 22, 2009.]

“This is such a huge, unwieldy project,” added Sen. Bill Wielechowski, who co-chairs the Senate Resources Committee with McGuire, at the Legislative Council hearing.

McGuire initially asked that a contract be awarded to the firm Cambridge Energy Research Associates, and later asked that the project go out to bid. But at the hearing, she stopped short of requesting a vote, citing “some dissention” between the House and Senate on the issue.

Legislative Council Chair Rep. John Harris noted the “less than resounding” support for the effort and appointed a subcommittee to consider the need.

On Tuesday, McGuire acknowledged that differing viewpoints between the two energy committees has contributed to their taking independent approaches. But she added that she met with Millett on Monday to discuss how to proceed and said she expects House and Senate members to meet jointly at least part of the time during the interim.

For now, the House committee can claim a stronger working relationship with Palin and her administration. Millett said she met with the governor on Saturday to talk energy policy, and on Monday, Palin quickly offered support—albeit conditional—for the committee’s new legislation. “I share the intent of committee members to streamline and consolidate the state’s energy programs, but with an expectation that efficiencies must be delivered,” Palin said in a news release.

“We have a good working relationship with the Senate [and] a great working relationship with the administration,” Millett said at a news conference.

On Monday, House Speaker Mike Chenault included an administration bill expanding ANGDA’s mission in a list of bills he expects will pass. But otherwise, the Legislature has almost completely given up on passing any of the many energy-related bills introduced this year.

McGuire said she would have liked to see passage of her bills providing renewable energy tax credits (SB 31) and establishing an emerging energy technology fund (SB 150). But she said the Senate Finance Committee has put energy bills on hold until the state establishes a more comprehensive energy policy, a statement confirmed by staff to Senate Finance Co-chair Bert Stedman.

TRANSITIONS

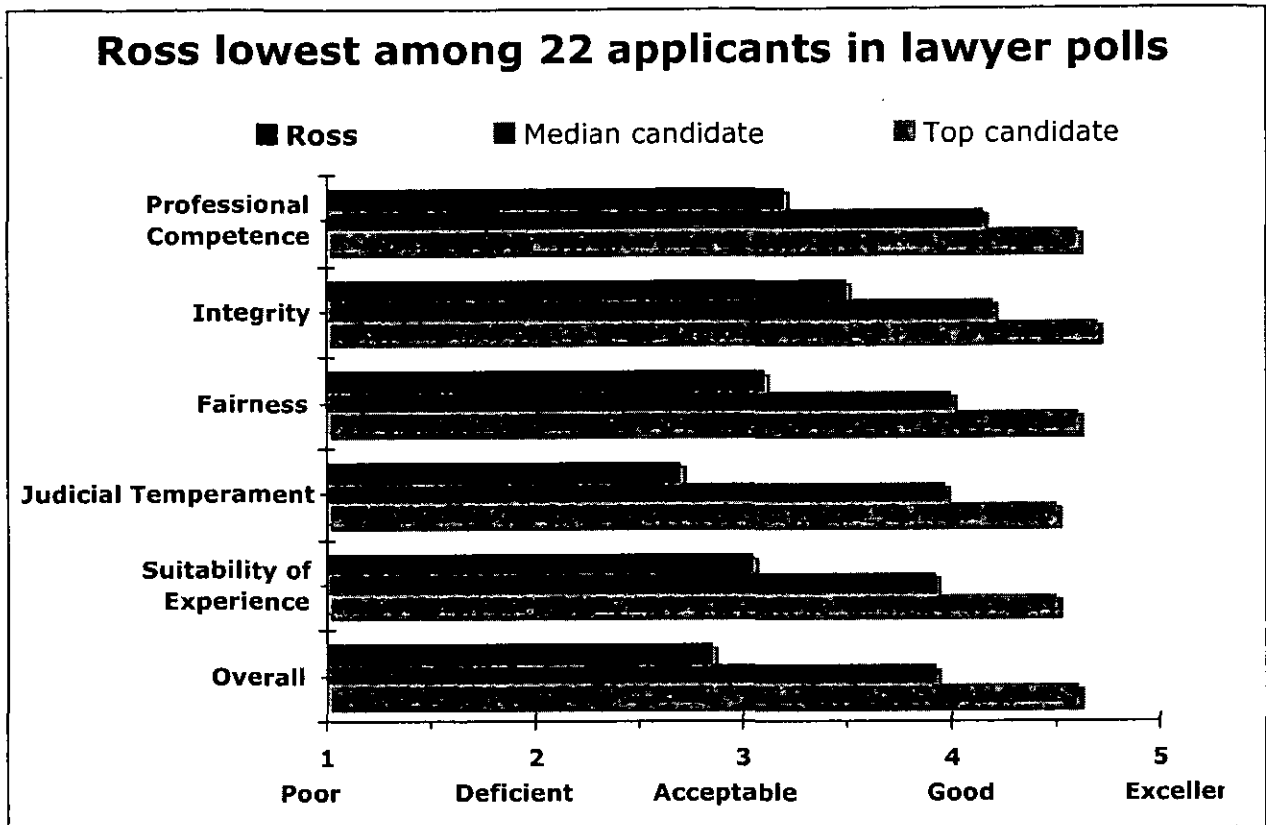
Ross nomination sparks divergent reactions

Close to 400 Alaska lawyers who have had direct professional contact with Wayne Ross—the man Gov. Sarah Palin has picked to be the state’s top lawyer—say his professional standards fall somewhere between deficient and acceptable. The attorneys twice rated him least qualified among those seeking judicial appointments. The polls, one in 2007 and another in 2008, were conducted by the University of Alaska Anchorage on behalf of the Alaska Judicial Council, a unit of the Alaska Court System.

In 2007 Ross was among 13 candidates for a seat on the Alaska Supreme Court, and in 2008 among 14 candidates for a place on the Alaska Court of Appeals. In each competition, and in each of the six characteristic respondents were asked to evaluate, Ross’ score was the lowest.

The chart on page 15 summarizes the results of the two polls. Scores for Ross and each of the four other attorneys who applied in both competitions were generally consistent between the two

polls. In preparing the chart we averaged their 2007 and 2008 scores [Full sets of names and scores for both years are available by request to rbraun@alaska.com.]



In a 2007 article in the *Bar Rag*, a newsletter published by the Alaska Bar Association, Ross attributed his low scores to a bias against conservatives among members of the bar, and to fallout from his 41 years as an aggressive litigator. “The often harsh realities of litigation are not designed to readily create long-standing friendships between adversaries.”

Weren't the other candidates subject to that fallout?

No, Ross said yesterday in an interview. “None of those people have been in private practice as long as I have, and most of them have been state attorneys or public defenders.”

“You tell me why I'm down at the bottom,” Ross added, throwing up his hands: “I've made a good living practicing law for the past 40 years. ... I have people coming back. They're happy with their representation. That's the mark of a good attorney, I think.”

Rep. Max Gruenberg, an Anchorage attorney, suggested another possible reason for Ross' low survey scores: the candidates against whom Ross competed were perhaps unusually well qualified.

Apart from the issue of his professional competence, Ross has alienated some with his outspoken views on social issues. In 1993, in another article published in the *Bar Rag*, he criticized efforts by a group called Lawyers Against Discrimination (LAD) supporting an Anchorage city ordinance barring discrimination on the basis of sexual preference: “This bill seems to give extra rights to those whose lifestyle was a crime only a few years ago, and whose beliefs are certainly

immoral," Ross wrote. "You support degenerates. ... You collectively contribute \$5000 to the cause of sexual perversion."

Sen. Hollis French, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he plans to ask Ross about that article at today's confirmation hearing. "Maybe in the intervening 15 years, as society has become more mainstream on this question, maybe he has as well."

But yesterday Ross said he stands by his 1993 statement: "I wrote it, and I haven't changed my mind."

"I think there is something unnatural about that [act]," Ross adds, "That doesn't mean I wouldn't invite somebody like that to dinner. But I might try to convert 'em."

Ross admits his flamboyant style may sometimes work against him, but says it serves a purpose. "You try to use colorful terms to catch people's eye," he said.

In an e-mail sent last evening, Brittany Goodnight, public affairs manager for the Alaska office of Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest, urged supporters to testify at the confirmation hearing: "It is incredibly important that pro-choice supporters call and ask the legislature not to confirm Ross. [He] defended protesters who chained themselves to reproductive health clinic check-in counters a decade ago. This was more than an issue of choice, this was an issue of trespassing, privacy, and stopping Alaskan women from getting birth control and STD tests."

Goodnight's claim could not be verified by this newsletter's midnight deadline, but there is little doubt that Ross' long-time support of the right-to-life cause is a lightning rod.

More important from a political perspective is the opposition of Alaska Native organizations. In an April 2 press release the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) asked legislators to oppose Ross' confirmation based on what AFN termed his opposition to subsistence and what they say is his disregard for the legal principle of aboriginal land title. Ross represented sport hunters in a 1989 lawsuit that overturned as unconstitutional the state's subsistence preference for rural residents.

"They want to see Alaska balkanized into little fiefdoms where these self-proclaimed Native leaders will reign supreme with help from the Great White Father," Ross said of proponents of a rural subsistence preference in a 1997 interview with reporter Tom Kizzia.

"I don't think he is going to get much support from rural legislators," commented Sen. Lyman Hoffman on Monday. Hoffman, who represents the Bethel area in western Alaska and Rep. Reggie Joule, representing a vast area of Arctic Alaska, say they will oppose the nomination.

But many legislative leaders appear to support the nomination. "He is a man absolutely dedicated to doing the right thing," House Finance Co-chair Mike Hawker said in an interview Wednesday. Hawker, who served as Ross' campaign treasurer during Ross' second campaign for governor, added, "While he is characterized as flamboyant and controversial, I've always found him to be absolutely totally and completely dedicated to the Constitution and the rule of law."

Senate Rules Chair Charlie Huggins reported great enthusiasm about Ross' nomination at a gun show he recently attended in the Matanuska-Susitna area. "It's always been my feeling that unless there's some really big skeletons in the closet, the governor deserves her choice," he said.

Senate President Gary Stevens said he doesn't foresee major problems for Ross' confirmation.

French agrees. "In my belief, the body is going to approve Wayne Anthony Ross," he said in an interview yesterday. "There is nothing I could do or say that would change that, so I don't intend to be hammering on his anvil. I hope we get straight, short answers."

"I would say there is a strong likelihood that he will get [confirmed]," agreed Hoffman, speaking in a separate interview. But it's not a sure thing, suggested Hoffman. "If everybody, all the different factions get together and say, there's enough of us that have problems in different areas, he may have a challenge."

"There is a temptation with governors' appointments to just waive them through; you want to give the governor a certain amount of discretion to have her people in place," observed Anchorage Rep. Les Gara: "As I sit her in my seventh year, I think I've been burned on a few attorney generals, and I'm going to start looking at these things more closely. I think it was a big mistake when I voted for Gregg Renkes," who served as attorney general under former Gov. Frank Murkowski until he resigned amidst conflict-of-interest allegations.

"I have heard that Mr. Ross has said disparaging things about gay people. I don't know if that's true, but I want to find out the answer to that," Gara said. "I've some concerns about his strong stance against the right of Native Alaskans to a subsistence preference when necessary."

"And I'd like to hear answers from him on how he is going to unify the state, as opposed to divide it," Gara concluded.

Interview: Wayne Anthony Ross

Wayne Ross, 66, has been tapped by Gov. Sarah Palin to be her second attorney general, following Talis Colberg, who resigned in February [see **Contempt finding, resignation climax Troopergate imbroglio**, *ALASKA BUDGET REPORT*, February 12, 2009].

Ross faces a confirmation hearing this afternoon in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and on Friday before House Judiciary. *ALASKA BUDGET REPORT*'s Gregg Erickson interviewed Ross yesterday in Juneau. Following is a partial transcript of that interview. An audio file (MP3 format) of the entire 33-minute interview is available to client-subscribers by request to rbraun@alaska.com.

Rep. Mike Hawker supports your confirmation, saying, "Nature abhors a vacuum, and Wayne Ross never met a vacuum he wasn't ready to fill." Do you and Gov. Palin have a common understanding of your role in her administration?

I was honorary co-chairman of Sarah's campaign when she ran for governor, so we see a lot alike. She gave me basically [four] tasks: protect Alaska's sovereignty, represent the people of the state of Alaska, help us develop our resources, and ... protect the right to keep and bear arms. ... She knows I'm not a yes-man; I'm loyal, but if somebody's doing something wrong, I'll tell 'em. So I think we'll work well together.

What about the death penalty?

I'm opposed to it. She's for it. If it gets passed, then I follow the law. But I hope it doesn't get passed because I've been a private attorney, practiced law for 42 years and I've seen how our beloved system of justice works. Sometimes it works well, and sometimes an innocent guy gets convicted. I've seen innocent guys get convicted three or four or five times in my career, and those are the cases that when I wake up in the middle of the night they gnaw at me because I wonder if I could have done something different. ... If the system of justice fails in a capital case and somebody gets executed that shouldn't have been, there's no way that you can make an appropriate apology.

The rate of plea bargains and trials are quite different from one district attorney's office to another. With a new prosecutor in Fairbanks, for example, fewer cases are going to trial. What role do you see for your office in managing criminal prosecutions?

I'm familiar with the Anchorage office, and there the trials are going up. ... Each office seems to be different, just like you say. Each of those offices spends state money, and one of the jobs of the attorney general's office is to get the most efficient work out of the various district attorneys'

offices. It's my perception as a defense counsel that there are some good cases involving very evil people that haven't gone to trial that should have been taken to trial, and there's some very bad cases involving decent people that are being prosecuted. ... I haven't had much time to get a handle on it, but that's one of the things I'll do after confirmation. ... We're going to see if we can't get an overall policy in effect so we have the limited resources of the department focusing on getting the bad people off the streets. ... If I get confirmed as attorney general, Alaska Airlines stock will go up, because I intend to see to it that the gang members and the druggies and some of the miscreants of the state of Alaska see it in their best interests to head south.

Where will you be based?

My main base of operations is going to be Anchorage. I expect to come down to Juneau probably at least once a month. I hope to visit each of the outlying offices at least once in my tenure.

The department's headquarters is in Juneau. Do you see a problem managing from Anchorage?

So far, I haven't. They've got fabulous communications facilities. I've just got to get a handle on them.

Much of your practice is in the area of family law. Have you had professional contact with the attorneys in the Department of Law that handle child-in-need-of-aid cases?

Very much. I've very much represented parents involved in the system, and in many cases that I've been involved in, the department is overreaching. The Department of Health and Social Services has been doing a lot of overreaching, getting involved in families where they shouldn't, and then not getting involved with families where there is serious abuse. That's one of the areas that I intend to look at. ...

One of the best ways to clean up the problem is a provision that if a parent defends themselves successfully against the state trying to take over their kids, that the parent gets their attorney's fees back. Many parents can't afford to litigate against the full power of the state. There ought to be some kind of even ground there.

In 2003 Attorney General Renkes overturned 27 years of precedent, instructing officials at the Alaska Permanent Fund Corp. to start charging investment losses to the fund principal. I'm not asking you to respond on that particular issue, but as a general matter, what happens if you look at the department's position on an issue and decide you don't agree with it?

Then we'll probably issue a new opinion again. I'm not afraid to do that.

It's important, though, to look at precedent, and understand that people rely on precedent. ... You can't just change the law willy-nilly.

One of your charges from the governor is to protect the state's sovereignty. Does that include further challenges against federal law providing for a rural subsistence preference?

I'm not against subsistence or subsistence preference. I'm against any attempts to modify the Alaska Constitution, which says the resources belong to all the people. Now that doesn't mean you couldn't make a preference for subsistence, even under the Constitution, because subsistence is really something almost unique for Alaska. ...

I'm in favor of managing our resources so there's enough resources for everybody. When my Mom invited people to come for dinner and she made a pie, and we had more people come than we expected, she didn't say, some people get pie and some don't. She didn't say we're going to make everybody have a little piece of pie. She'd make another pie. That's what proper management of fish and game resources are, it's making another pie. ...

The next thing is I'd like to see our resources get back under management of the state of Alaska. We're the only state that the federal government manages our fish and game resources [on federal land]. It's my understanding that there is a bill introduced this year to have us take another look at that. If the Legislature decides that we want to regain, and we can afford to regain management of fish and game on federal lands, it will be the attorney general's job to go after it. ...

If the Legislature and governor direct me to do [that] I'll be happy, ... but Lord knows, there's enough work here on my desk in the first week that I'm not going to be some knight errant, roaming about the countryside looking at windmills to tilt at.

What's the biggest challenge facing you in that pile of work?

Learning how to work the computer. ...

When I started work in Alaska, my first job was with the Department of Law. That was in 1968. We had about 30 attorneys that did all the work for the state of Alaska. Now we have 300. It either means that maybe the new guys aren't doing as good a job as we did 40 years ago, or there's more laws.

What kind of cases did you handle in 1968, working as an assistant AG?

I handled fish and game cases, sunken vessels, setting adoptions aside, I handled just about everything. But the issues we faced then were nowhere near as complex as cases we face now.

What's the biggest organization for which you've had executive responsibility?

I've been a director of the NRA ... Other than that, I've managed a small law firm.

Balash: same job, bigger salary

Joe Balash, former special assistant to Gov. Sarah Palin, transferred on February 17 to the Department of Natural Resources, but in practical terms nothing has changed, Balash said. Asked if his job is any different since he transferred, he said Friday:

"Not that I've been able to tell. My keycards work in all the same places, I go to the same staff meetings, I still have my assistant."

One thing that did change is Balash's pay, which went from \$95,640 annually to \$125,000, an increase of 31 percent. The new position is a Range 26M with a salary override. Balash explained:

"I had an opportunity to go to the private sector and the governor asked me to stay. I did not require that the state meet the offer dollar-for-dollar, but I needed to see an increase in compensation to stay in state service." Balash confirmed that the offer was with Enstar, an Anchorage-based privately-owned public utility seeking to build an in-state natural gas pipeline.

Revenue Commissioner Pat Galvin attested to Balash's value: "Within the gas line team, Joe's value is recognized, and DNR stepped in to say we'll provide a position and we have the funds to pay Joe's salary. Between what he has done for DNR and the Department of Revenue, we've sort of shared his services."

Asked about his new title, "intergovernmental coordinator," Balash said, "Somebody made it up for me."

"I'm basically detailed to the governor," he added. "My understanding is this has happened before."

Balash has kept a low profile about the transfer. He responded to an e-mail query from a reporter in March asking if he'd transferred to DNR to coordinate in-state gas efforts with three

words: "Just a rumor." As late as last week, Balash introduced himself for the record to the Senate Energy Committee as "a special staff assistant to Governor Palin for energy and resource issues."

Linda Perez, administrative services director for the Governor's Office, said there is no formal agreement between DNR and the governor's office concerning Balash:

"I understand that in his DNR position Joe works on REGA [Railbelt Energy Grid Authority], now known as GRETC [Greater Railbelt Energy and Transmission Corporation], energy issues and in-state gas. He is continuing to assist the Governor's Office on some key energy issues for the rest of the session. There is no agreement or [reimbursable services agreement] between the Governor's Office and DNR for Joe. We formally transferred positions and funding we received for the AGIA bill to DNR and I assume they are using one of the positions and some of the funding for Joe."

It appears somebody created not only a new title but an entire job class for Balash. According to Personnel Director Nicki Neal, there is only one person in Balash's job class, which is called "intergovernmental coordinator."

State personnel laws provide strict hiring rules and salary limitations, but governors past and present have used an obscure provision in the personnel act to bypass such rules. AS 35.25.110(9) allows special *exempt* positions to be created for "persons employed in a professional capacity to make a temporary or special inquiry, study or examination as authorized by the governor." [See **Four years as a temp**, *ALASKA BUDGET REPORT*, March 8, 2007.]

Art Chance, a former personnel director under Gov. Frank Murkowski, questioned whether Balash's duties qualified for the special exemption, but he added that Knowles and Murkowski availed themselves of the loophole as well. "It's the way to free friends of political figures from the surly bonds of the state Personnel Act and the state pay plan."

Correction

On page 13 of last week's issue we reversed the figures in our description of an operating budget amendment correcting an earlier amendment. The Senate floor amendment by Senate Finance Co-chair Lyman Hoffman **increased** from \$450,000 to \$450 million the amount of money to be transferred from the oil and gas tax credit fund to the general fund.

WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS

Theodore Roosevelt once said 'Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords' – I subscribe to that philosophy," Ross said. "I sincerely appreciate the confidence placed in me by Governor Sarah Palin in choosing me to be our new Attorney General. I welcome the chance to now represent the best interests of our beloved state and its citizens. I look forward to working with Governor Palin and the Legislature in the good fight to help our state achieve its full potential."

Governor Palin added, "Now more than ever, it is essential that Alaska's sovereignty be protected, that there is unity in Alaska, and that we all stand together to see Alaska's potential fulfilled with energy security contributions to ourselves and the nation, while protecting the Constitution."

Patriotic

"He wants Alaskans to get to be Alaskans again instead of under the thumbs of the feds," retired state trooper Fred Angleton said before heading out for another round of door-to-door campaigning in Soldotna. "He stands up for what it means to be an American. Patriotism and

Wayne Anthony Ross Named Attorney General March 26, 2009, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin today announced the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General. Ross, currently in private practice, will fill the vacancy created last month by the resignation of Attorney General Talis Colberg. The governor thanked Acting Attorney General Rick Svobodny for his support and counsel during this transition. Svobodny will resume his position as Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Division. "Wayne Anthony Ross will be a great defender of Alaska and the people he serves," Governor Palin said. "With his vast legal knowledge, experience and integrity, he will make an exceptional Attorney General. I recognize the sacrifices our public servants make for Alaska and her people, and I am honored that Wayne is willing to make those sacrifices for the greater good." Ross received his Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Law degrees from Marquette University. He has been president of Ross & Miner, P.C. in Anchorage since 1977. "Theodore Roosevelt once said 'Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords' – I subscribe to that philosophy," Ross said. "I sincerely appreciate the confidence placed in me by Governor Sarah Palin in choosing me to be our new Attorney General. I welcome the chance to now represent the best interests of our beloved state and its citizens. I look forward to working with Governor Palin and the Legislature in the good fight to help our state achieve its full potential." As Attorney General, Ross will work with the governor on issues surrounding development of Alaska's rich natural resources as the state continues its efforts to provide energy security for America and lower energy costs for Alaskans. As Attorney General, Ross also will help the governor protect Alaskans' right to bear arms, and he will work tirelessly to manage Alaska's fish and game resources for abundance through science and not politics. Governor Palin added, "Now more than ever, it is essential that Alaska's sovereignty be protected, that there is unity in Alaska, and that we all stand together to see Alaska's potential fulfilled with energy security contributions to ourselves and the

nation, while protecting the Constitution." Ross is no stranger to public service. More than forty years ago, Ross began his distinguished career as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska, and then as Court Trustee and Standing Master for Family Court. He ran for governor in 2002 in the Republican primary against then-U.S. Senator Frank Murkowski. Ross is also an educator, having taught several semesters at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

"I feel I have a good relationship with the good Lord (but) if I could overturn Roe vs. Wade, I figure I got my ticket," he said.

HERO OF HIS OWN LIFE Like David Copperfield, Ross is determined to be the hero of his own life, painting his public portrait in extremes and reveling in the reaction. His personalized "WAR" license plate is instantly recognizable; directions to his home include reference to a drawbridge and "the moat," neither of which is strictly true. (The moat is a slight ground depression encircling the house.) He admires the legend of Teddy Roosevelt and has been accused of cultivating a slight physical resemblance to the dead president.

He plays these games to advance causes he believes in, but also because it's his nature to be a showman. He enjoys confounding people and loves being the center of attention.

Take for example his dealings with attorney Allison Mendel. Ross and Mendel both do a lot of family-squabble law -- divorce, child custody, missed support payments, kids in trouble. She says he represents "the boy's point of view." Ross doesn't agree.

"He's arrogant and opinionated," Mendel said. "He shows up (in court) with his cowboy boots and cowboy hat and doesn't stand up when the judge comes in. . . . He has a very definite view of the world."

During a fight several years ago over gay rights, Mendel helped organize Anchorage lawyers in support of an anti-discrimination ordinance. Ross wrote a nasty letter to the Bar Association newsletter, using words like "immoral," "perversion" and "degenerates." The language went way beyond reasonable disagreement, Mendel and others said.

But months later, when Mendel found herself crosswise with a judge and facing a possible jail term for contempt, Ross publicly supported her and even sent a small check for her defense fund.

"He takes principled positions, " Mendel said, somewhat grudgingly. "I'd rather deal with him than someone who views it all as a shell game."

MAN OF 'INTEGRITY' People asked to summarize Ross's character almost always mention "integrity." He puts his time, which for a lawyer is the same as money, where his mouth is, said Pam Sigfried, an anti-abortion activist. He's been a free lawyer for anti-abortion activists for 23 years and, according to Sigfried, once took a trespass case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court "for the price of the paper."

There's more to it than causes. For 25 years Ross has been the Anchorage version of a small-town family lawyer, banking a lot of goodwill with people who think "the system" is stacked against the little guy. His friend Close is an aircraft maintenance supervisor for the Air Force and a fellow gun collector. Years ago Ross represented Close in a successful battle with the state over whether his rebuilt pickup truck legally qualified for personalized license plates. The case won't make a splash in legal journals, but it mattered a great deal to Close, who remembers it as "Wayne and Rex taking on Goliath."

"I would do anything for that guy and his family, " Close said.

Judicial selection:

Anonymous hate mail should not be permitted

By Wayne Anthony Ross

I recently underwent the experience of applying for the vacant position on the Alaska Supreme Court caused by Justice Bryner's retirement.

The Application for Judicial Appointment consists of a 20-page questionnaire which asks for complete information about the applicant. The only thing I noticed missing was a question about my shoe size. It took several days to get together all the information requested by that questionnaire.

The Alaska Judicial Council is the state board charged with reviewing the applicants for judicial positions, and then recommending and forwarding several names to the Governor who then fills the vacancy from the recommended list. As part of its review, the Judicial Council surveys the members of the Alaska Bar Association.

Once the Bar survey is completed, the applicant receives a copy of the draft results of that survey. Included in those results are comments made about the applicant by members of the Bar, without attribution. I got my copy several weeks ago. I found it very interesting.

Initially, while deciding whether or not to apply, two matters concerned me and caused me to think long and hard before submitting my application: the Bar survey and the Judicial Council itself. Having practiced law in this state in one capacity or another for almost four decades, I anticipated that there would be a number of

fellow members of the Alaska Bar who would relish the opportunity to, perhaps, settle old scores by trashing me in the survey. One cannot practice in our system of justice in the private sector without creating hard feelings from time to time because that system is generally geared to someone winning and someone losing.

Unfortunately, over the years, when I took a position that differed from another attorney's position, sometimes that other attorney took offense. While I try not to make enemies, the often harsh realities of litigation are not designed to readily create long-standing friendships between adversaries.

The positive comments made about my candidacy were gratifying and much appreciated. The negative comments were not.

The negative comments ranged from perceptive through vicious, from fallacious to outrageous.

A sample of these negative comments include the following:

One cannot practice in our system of justice in the private sector without creating hard feelings from time to time because that system is generally geared to someone winning and someone losing.

"...(A) likeable man who probably should not be on the Supreme Court."

"...(He has) deluded himself into believing (that he is Teddy Roos-

evelt)."

"...(M)yopic in his approach to the law... A terrible candidate."

"...(T)akes positions that aren't just unpopular, they are irresponsible."

"...(I)rrational and ...extremely arrogant..."

"...Briefs of his were borderline incompetent... (I have heard he once try {sic} to break up a rowdy party near his house by firing a shotgun in the air...).

"...(U)nreasonable, unnecessarily flamboyant, misrepresents and distorts the law on issues...(Would make the Supreme Court) a laughing stock..."

"...(He) purchased an automatic weapon for his five year old daughter or granddaughter for Christmas..."

"He doesn't understand the rules of evidence."

"Gun nut; loose cannon."

"...(H)e is basically a boor."

"An arrogant, obnoxious, unscrupulous buffoon..."

"A relic with respect to gender..."

All of the people I have spoken to, who have submitted judicial applications in the past, have reported receiving similar anonymous nasty comments...

If it is possible to enjoy negative comments about oneself, the best negative comment was "If there is a God she would not let this happen." Now, at least the person who wrote that comment had a sense of humor that I can understand. Most of the negative comments were, however, simply mean-spirited and scurrilous.

All of the people I have spoken to, who have submitted judicial applications in the past, have reported receiving similar anonymous nasty comments to varying degrees from some fellow members of the Bar. So, as I said, I felt concern about applying and going through a process simply

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Special thanks to Jonathan Katcher for contributing this issue's photos.

some fellow members of the Bar. So, as I said, I felt concern about applying and going through a process simply to allow myself to be trashed in a Bar survey.

The second concern that I had was the Judicial Council itself. The Council is currently perceived by a large portion of the public as unwilling to forward to the Governor the name of any conservative candidate for consideration to a judicial appointment.

Having now gone through the process, I can say that, in my opinion, both of my concerns were justified.

The Bar survey proved to me that I have a lot of friends, for which I am grateful. It also proved that there are a number of attorneys with a vicious streak that causes them to attack someone by anonymously striking from the shadows. I won't call these folks enemies because I don't believe in having enemies. I'll just call them people who don't like me as much as I would want them to. But strike they did, and I wanted the *Bar Rag* readers to know how nasty and fallacious some of the comments were.

And as for my concern that the Judicial Council simply does not submit the name of conservatives for appointment to the judiciary, in view of the names submitted to the Governor, that concern continues to be apparently viable.

The best part of the process was the interview I had with members of the Judicial Council. The Council members were charming, the interview was enjoyable and I had fun with the give and take that took place.

All in all, however, the current process we have for picking our judges in Alaska lacks civility, at least from some members of our Bar and such members need to look deep in their heart about whether they are really helping, or actually hurting, our process of judicial selection.

Proponents of abortion are doomed to lose

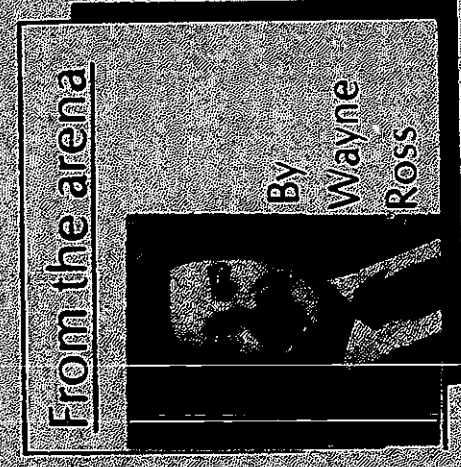
Few issues in America have sparked as much debate as the one involving abortion.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court, in a well-known decision called Roe v. Wade, in effect legalized abortions throughout the United States.

Now 16 years later, that issue once more before the Supreme Court, and speculation is that Roe v. Wade may be overturned. Proponents of abortion fear, they say, "the loss of a woman's right to control her own body" if abortions are again made illegal. Opponents of abortion speak out the violation of the rights of the unborn child if abortions are allowed to continue. The issue is one devoid of any possibility of compromise.

An examination of the issue, its debaters shows, however, that eventually abortions will be again declared illegal. This is so because, like the opponents of a century ago, the opponents of abortion will never rest until Roe v. Wade is overturned. They will not rest because abortion foes believe that every abortion kills an innocent human life. Thus Right-to-Lifers see the issue as more than a legal issue, and more than a constitutional issue. They see it as a life or death issue.

Proponents of abortion see the issue as a constitutional one. A constitutional issue cannot pos-



From the arena

By Wayne Ross

sibly generate the fervor of a life and death issue. The proponents of abortion are therefore eventually doomed to lose, overwhelmed by the fervor of abortion foes.

This gradual turn of the tide against abortion is quite evident in Alaska.

Alaska legalized abortion in 1971 or 1972. Immediately a group called Alaska Right-to-Life was formed. The group has battled against abortion ever since. They are gradually winning.

In the mid-1970s the Catholic church was almost alone in preaching against abortion. Now most major religions publicly oppose abortions also.

In the late '70s, four pro-life activists chained themselves to abortion equipment at Humana Hospital in an effort to stop the abortions being performed there. They were convicted of trespass-

ing, and appealed their case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to hear it. Now, however, almost 10 years later, Humana Hospital has declared it will no longer perform abortions.

Several years ago, after receiving complaints about the graphic depictions of aborted babies on a Right-to-Life booth at the state fair, the fair sued Right-to-Life seeking to have them evicted from the event. The pro-lifers argued freedom of speech and when the dust cleared from the courtroom, the fair paid Alaska Right-to-Life some \$15,000 in attorney's fees and guaranteed them a booth at all future fairs.

Several years ago two Alaskan doctors sued Alaska Right-to-Life over comments made about the doctors by the anti-abortionists to the governor and in their newsletter. After a seven-year legal battle that achieved national attention, all the doctors' complaints were dismissed and they were forced to pay the pro-life forces attorney's fees in excess of \$50,000. One of the doctors has given up doing abortions and left the state to teach on the East Coast.

Now, in Alaska, and elsewhere, we are seeing even more zealous anti-abortion protests. In mass demonstrations against what they view as the killing of

innocent human life, anti-abortionists are picketing, passing out leaflets, and even blocking doorways of businesses performing abortions. These pro-lifers are often arrested, charged with trespass, and other criminal offenses, and yet they return, time and again, to try to stop abortions from occurring. Some clinics continue to operate but have ceased doing abortions.

Whether one agrees with the protestors or not, one must admire their courage. Certainly it is not pleasant to be arrested, jailed and forced to face criminal charges. A number of those arrested have refused to post bail, and of those convicted, some have refused to pay their fines, choosing jail instead. They have vowed to continue these demonstrations until abortions are no longer legal in the United States.

They may not have to demonstrate much longer. The Supreme Court decision on this controversial topic is expected to be released in July.

On this Mother's Day of 1989, let us hope the Supreme Court decides the issue clearly, once and for all.

Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage and second vice president of the National Rifle Association.

Legislative session was typical, some good and some bad

So wildlife work so time are mails Ca cessfully I'm in provide such qu ever, th within e help will has a lot We are t that is other liv are in t those w help in t same is trouble compass that cor volverne there at teer to r less of t nificanc So, them of continu thing p wildlife And a li it. This let for a and ang But i rescue the sym than the be acco sensitiz the bes wildlife happen in turn

It seems it's becoming 'we' vs. 'they' on Alaska issues

When I first came to Alaska that Centennial Purchase Year 40 years ago, I was impressed by the people I met. They were Alaskans and proud of it.

There didn't seem to be the divisiveness that exists today. Maybe my memory has failed me over these many years, but it seems to me that important decisions were made on the basis of what was best for Alaska. Oh, there were differences of opinion, sure. But any differences of opinion were caused by differing viewpoints on what was best for Alaska. All parties agreed that their goal was what was best for the state. Sometimes, however, we differed on how best to achieve that goal.

A year or two after my arrival friend, Ken Quade, from Peminine, Wisconsin came for dinner. Ken had come to Alaska every year since the early 50s. Around 1960 he had walked from Seward to Fairbanks along the Alaska railroad tracks. He had seen it all. "Alaska is changing," he said.

I disagreed. "You are the one who is changing Ken, not Alaska. You are just getting old."

We spent the evening discussing it. He didn't convince me. I didn't convince him.

Unfortunately, Ken Quade was right. Alaska and Alaskans are changing. Instead of advocating what was best for Alaska, more and more people seemed to be advocating what was best for themselves and the special inter-

delayed and its costs increased substantially.

There is no doubt that the environmentalists' efforts resulted in a pipeline that was less damaging to the environment itself. Still, one wonders whether the pipeline could not have even been better environmentally, if the environmentalists had worked with other Alaskans, rather than against them, on this project.

Most Alaskans were pleased when Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Sure, some grumbled because native peoples got almost a billion dollars and 44 million acres of land, when other Alaskans (non-natives) got nothing, but upon reflection, everyone realized this legislation would, in the long run, be good for Alaska. After all, who could really complain, when other Alaskans, the native peoples of the state, got money and land from the feds. It was about time the feds gave us something!

But then another divisive issue arose: Subsistence.

Under the Constitution of Alaska, fish and wildlife resources belonged to the citizens of the state. All citizens of the state. And almost everyone who lived in Alaska hunted and fished. It was part of the Alaskan lifestyle. It differentiated Alaskans, for example, from citizens from much of the rest of the country. We fed our families from the abundant wildlife re-

sources this state had to offer. We also had fun doing it.

Suddenly, however, we had some Alaskans saying that they had more rights to fish and wildlife than the rest of us. And they succeeded in getting legislation passed that recognized that right. Alaskans became divided into "we," and "they." Instead of uniting to fight the federal bureaucracy that wanted to divide Alaskans on the allocation of their prized wildlife resources, some Alaskans sold out for their own advantage. "I've got mine!" became the phrase of the day.

More and more divisive issues have arisen. Now some Alaskans don't even wish to be Alaskans. Instead, they clamor for native sovereignty claiming that they want to be independent from other Alaskans, and even from other U.S. citizens.

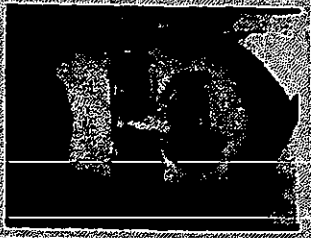
What has happened to the pride that we once felt just by being an Alaskan, united with our fellow Alaskans to enjoy a unique lifestyle and heritage here on the Great Land, on our Last Frontier?

Is it gone forever? I hope not, for my sake. For my children's sake. For the sake of the Alaska I remember from years past.

We need to regain our pride. We need to stop fighting amongst ourselves. We need to remember we are all Alaskans.

Otherwise we might just as well live in Cleveland.

From the arena



by Wayne Anthony Ross

est groups they belonged to.

My first realization of this growing divisiveness came during the debate on the building of the Alaska pipeline. No reasonable, rational mind could argue that the discovery of oil on the North Slope wasn't a real break for Alaska. But how to get it to market? The only feasible method was a pipeline which would boost the economy and provide numerous jobs for Alaskans.

Every real Alaskan has a love of the out-of-doors. That love of wilderness (with a small w) is the reason we chose to live here. Instead of working, however, with other Alaskans who loved the land to get the pipeline built while still ensuring that the environment would be protected, environmental groups did everything they could to prevent this project from being accomplished. As a result of lawsuits, legislative maneuvering and other roadblocks put up by environmentalists, the pipeline was

Strait with high voltage done by France.

This "br two reason Strait is the the Eastern pheres. Two requires the Soviet States. If can work to fect that countries i gains, the i follow suit.

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ne to some of the most and productive parts of (ural) heritage. Further- rough excessive burning of fuel, we cause the effect to worsen damage to the sound measured simply in loss of wildlife or opportunities. Instead, be viewed in terms of losses contribute to degradation of the environment that supports

hout widespread change es beginning at the per- el, that is, you and me, ok forward to more en- ial disasters, ineffec- tual and meaningless

essential that a thorough n be made of the entire ty system in Alaska. ation should be done al of scientific experts e National Academy of It must be totally unen- d by allegiances to oil industry or their po- porters.

disposal practices, tan- ds tanker traffic ment and oil spill conti- us should be given ese scrutiny. Principal he evaluation should be that state-of-the-art y and safety practices ved to all systems.

standards of perform- ed necessary should necessary regulations to be fairly but vigor- forced. The regulatory in turn will have to be sed and staffed. Need- y continued self-mon- d regulation by the oil can no longer be

tract 20 million visitors each year for conventions and other activities. What is less known is of the success of Atlantic City in the past decade.

Just over 10 years ago, the people of New Jersey took a bold

The American legal system is becoming inaccessible to the average citizen.

With minor exceptions, court proceedings consist of two major types: civil cases and criminal cases. In civil cases, one party sues another seeking either a court decision on a disputed matter or money damages for harm caused by the other person. In criminal cases, the government, be it federal, state, or local, files charges against someone, accus- ing him or her of violating a criminal law. Criminal cases seek to punish the wrongdoer, generally through fines and jail sentences. Unfortunately, they also punish the innocent.

Small cases — cases involving minor disputes — can be brought into small claims court, or in courts of limited jurisdiction such as Alaska's District Courts. Generally, in these courts, the rules and procedures are more relaxed and justice can be obtained at little expense. Indeed, most small claims cases do not even involve attorneys. The litigants square off in court, arguing the cases themselves. Attorney fees and court costs are negligible in such small court cases.

In District Court cases, attorney fees are often involved. Still, costs and attorney fees are usually small because attorneys in these cases do not have to spend substantial time complying with numerous rules and complicated procedures. Instead, attorneys

construction projects in 1989. I am proposing that Anchorage consider what other cities of the world have done in periods of hard times and that is the introduction of the "Single Casino

Average citizen finds legal system inaccessible



can get into court quickly, obtain a trial and decision for their clients, and wrap matters up in a relatively short period of time.

More substantial cases must be brought in courts of general jurisdiction, this is, in courts which have authority to act initially in all types of matters. In Alaska, the Superior Courts are the courts of general jurisdiction.

In serious criminal cases, it's sock-it-to-you time for average Americans accused of a crime. Indigent can receive free attorneys provided by the state. Thus, the state pays not only for the prosecution, but also for the defense. The average American, however, is not indigent. Thus, an average American who finds himself in the unfortunate position of being charged with a serious crime has to hire an attorney to defend himself or herself. Rich people can hire whatever attorney they wish. Average Americans cannot afford high-

balance the budget? We have failed to build any meaningful infrastructure — of any consequence. We have looked to the government for leadership when we should have moved forward

the operations to make sure that the casino is operated as a benefit to the community. Fifty percent of the gross profits of the casino would be divided between operator and municipality.

priced attorneys. Even so, the average American can often has to go substantially in debt, mortgage his or her home, and even sell property in order to pay for a proper defense. Even when he or she wins and charges are dropped, or he or she is found not guilty, the average person does not receive reimbursement from the state for the costs incurred in defending themselves. Many people face financial ruin after successfully defending themselves against a criminal case.

In certain civil cases, things are a bit better. Plaintiffs who seek money damages can often convince an attorney to take their cases on a contingent fee basis. That is, the attorney agrees to take a percentage of the money received, if the case is successful, and nothing, or a minimal fee, if the case is not successful.

Such contingent fee agreements provide access to the courts for people who otherwise would not be able to afford to go to the court and seek justice. In civil cases, people who are defendants often do not have to pay for attorneys to defend themselves, either, if they have insurance, and if the insurance covers whatever they are being sued for. In such cases, the insurance company pays for the defense. In divorce cases, however, and cases where there is no insurance coverages, again it is

the operations to make sure that the casino is operated as a benefit to the community. Fifty percent of the gross profits of the casino would be divided between operator and municipality.

sock-it-to-you time. In such cases, parties have to pay their attorneys on an hourly basis, and costs and attorneys fees can run into many thousands of dollars. Again, the average American cannot afford these expenses without going substantially in debt.

In many cases, the substantial expense of litigation is not the fault of the attorney. Courts impose more and more procedural rules, ostensibly to guarantee a fair trial, and attorneys find they have to spend several years before they can get their clients into the courtroom. And, if the client then loses and wishes to appeal, the expense increases even more, with transcript costs, brief printing costs, and the additional attorney time need to process the appeal.

What is needed in order to reduce the costs of litigation is not tort reform. What is needed is procedural reform. What is needed are judges with common sense who expedite cases and get them to court quickly. What is needed are judges who do not make litigants and their attorneys jump through numerous and unnecessary procedural hoops which only increase the costs of obtaining justice. What is needed is simplification.

When our system of justice is simplified, then and only then can it really be considered "just" to the average American.

It's time we quit crying over the oil spill

40 plus years ago, my buddy was Carl Elbis. Carl was a year or two older than I and lived in a two-story across the alley. On rainy we'd play in Carl's attic comprised the entire sector of his parents' home. of my earliest memories re coming down the narrow winding, dark stairway Carl's attic and tripping large bowl of jello his had left to cool on the stairs. The jello bowl and I went the way down the stairs. I was on the bottom. The jello ended up everywhere. I began to cry. "No use over spilled milk," said Elbis kindly. "The best we can do is to get it up." And this she started

think I was much help but I tried. And eventually got the stairway cleaned up because of my efforts. Mrs. Elbis never told the jello spill to my knowledge I never told them! I thought of Mrs. Elbis the way as I was watching for the next time, the national media reporting on the oil spill! And I wondered how people aren't as understanding as Mrs. Elbis was. Accidents happen. The Valdez incident, yes, but an accident,

We Alaskans, and the nation, have enjoyed the benefits of Big Oil for the last 20 years. Most of our state revenue comes from oil. Oil, however, especially the oil found in Alaska, needs to be transported from where it is found to where it can be used. In every type of human activity, there are risks. We knew the risks. Everybody knew the risks. We tried to lessen them, and then we chose to take those risks.

Unlike many other human tragedies, no one died in the Alaskan oil spill. We see almost everyday, however, the same films of what appears to be the same oil-soaked duck pulled out of the water. The state claims to have a number of refrigerated vans filled with about 30,000 carcasses of waterfowl killed by oil. No doubt some of these birds were casualties of oil. But had several thousand people combed Prince William Sound for dead waterfowl during any prior summer, as they did in the summer of 1983, there is no doubt that an equal number of dead birds could have been accumulated. With the millions of birds that travel through Prince William Sound each year, natural attrition would account for tens of thousands of birds each summer. After all, birds don't live forever.

The loss of eagles, in particular, and sea otters seems to be better documented, and because of the way we humans view

things, more lamentable. But after the accident occurred, everything humanly possible was done to save marine and bird life.

Last week I ran into an attorney from "Outside" who had come to Alaska to represent clients damaged by the oil spill. He had signed up a number of them earlier in the summer, but now was lamenting the loss of many of these clients. "Exxon has paid off so many of my clients' claims," he said, "that most of them aren't interested in suing anymore." Somehow, I couldn't feel sorry for him.

An admiral from the Coast Guard told me that if an oil spill had to occur, it was a good thing it happened to Exxon. "They were the best entity around to handle the problem," he said. The state and the Coast Guard had too many bureaucratic procedures that would have had to be followed, to handle the oil spill properly. "The state and the Coast Guard could not have gotten the job done as well as Exxon did. Exxon had the financial resources to handle the job."

We cannot let Exxon off the hook. We cannot stop trying to ensure that another such spill never occurs again. We cannot quit trying to restore Prince William Sound to what it once was. But we can, and should, give Exxon an "A" for its initial effort in cleaning up after its oil spill. And let's quit crying about it!

From the arena



By
Wayne
Ross

When it happened, the first, and most important problem, was to clean it up.

The response time of Alyeska and Exxon in acting to stop the spread of the oil was less than ideal. It became clear immediately that steps must be taken to ensure a more immediate response should another spill occur in the future.

But once Exxon got moving, it did a helluva job. Exxon rolled up its corporate financial sleeves and went to work. It hired thousands of workers and thousands of boats. It brought in every conceivable type of equipment. It paid hundreds of millions of dollars. In short, Exxon did almost everything humanly possible to rectify the problem.

Why is it then, that many people, and major portions of the media, continue to cry over spilled milk?

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Equality for women still has considerable distance to go

Recently Sen. Arliss Sturgelewski and I participated in a celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in Homer, Alaska. We both spoke, first at the Homer High School, and later at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Now Arliss and I don't agree on every issue. I tell her that she's right on most issues and that she's only wrong on the ones on which we disagree. But she's a good speaker and displays a warm, good humor that I've always enjoyed.

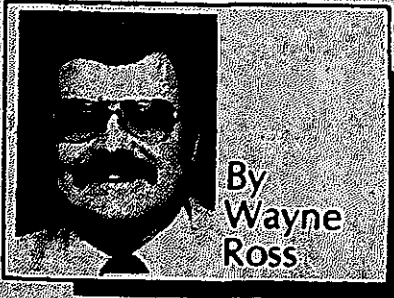
When she started speaking about womens' rights, I figured I'd be bored. After all, every modern thinking man believes in equal rights for all — men, women, white, black, etc.

But Arliss wasn't boring. In fact, she made me reflect on the history of women during the last two hundred years, and I suddenly realized why many women are concerned with womens' rights.

We speak of the founding fathers. Why no founding mothers? At the time our Constitution was written, women had few rights. Actually, married women were considered the property of their husbands, like land, horses, slaves, and children. They could not own property. They could not vote. Abigail Adams urged her president husband to draft laws ending the absolute power that men had over their wives. Virginia's Hannah Corbin argued that, though as a widow she held title to property subject to taxation, as a woman she could not vote, and therefore she was being taxed without representation.

It was 83 years before the 15th Amendment in 1870 gave black men the right to vote but not until 1920 did the 19th Amendment make it illegal to deny the vote "on account of sex." Indeed, by the end of World War I, only 15 states had given women the right to vote in general elections!

When I was in law school only



five women law students in a class of a hundred. When I started practicing law here in 1968, I knew of only three women lawyers, Mahala Dickerson, Helen Simpson and Sheila Gallagher Jones.

Now, of course, many women are studying law. Many others are practicing in this state. A number of them sit as judges here.

What happened in 60 or 70 years? What has happened in only 20 years?

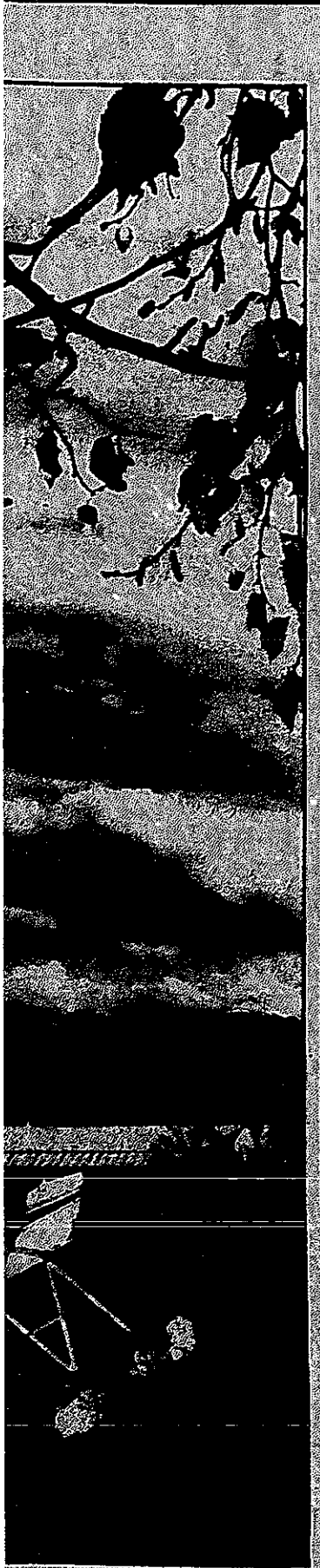
During the early years of this country, women, known as suffragettes, campaigned for the women's right to vote. They were not very well liked by men and were often heckled and ridiculed. Still, they persisted and were ultimately successful.

In the last 20 years, women, referred to, at times, as women's libbers or feminists, have strongly lobbied for more equality for women. Generally, these women also are not very well liked by men. But again, they are being successful because their cause is right. Strident feminists turn me off. Perhaps it is because they act too much like we men — pushy, loud and obnoxious.

But a personable, warm, good humored woman like Arliss reached me, and made me think.

A cigarette ad proclaims: "You've come a long way, Baby," and that statement is correct. But there still is a long way to go. And people like Arliss Sturgelewski will do far more for women's rights than any of her strident sisters.

She's still wrong on a few of the issues, but she takes the time



temperatures, forming a solid skin will replace floats on 's flights will continue

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bears, but has also given Alaska widespread recognition in magazines, newspapers, films and TV specials. For example, the National Geographic Society, CBS Evening News and the Today Show have all featured McNeil River on national television.

bears, the bears use Alaska on the short end of the stick. Should artificial fisheries development be allowed to proceed at McNeil River, increased human bear conflicts are inevitable. In presettlement times, grizzly

Public use primarily bears observation and photography should remain priority uses of the area.

Discipline in schoolboys lessons

to March 28, 1988. The department says it is proposing these amendments because it has a duty to "assure healthful and safe conditions in the public and private schools."

Whether you are a proponent or opponent of corporal punishment in the schools, you should oppose these regulations. Under the department's proposed definition of "corporal punishment," tapping a misbehaving student on the shoulder to get him or her to behave themselves would be considered "corporal punishment." So would taking a kid by the hand down to the principal's office because both examples would be "physical contact for behavior modification." Likewise, a teacher who physically separated two students who were fighting would be in violation of the regulations unless his school had authorized corporal punishment. In short, the Department of Education's proposed definition of "corporal punishment" is asinine.

Whoever drafted the department's proposed regulations obviously never went to MUHS or met Father Boyle. If they had they would know what "corporal punishment" really was.

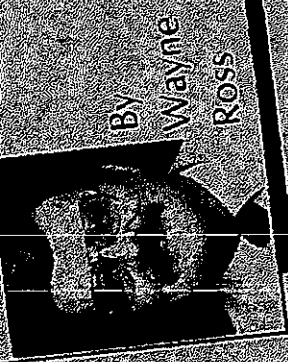
Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage and director of the National Rifle Association.

Discipline is still a major reason for the existence, indeed, for the flourishing, of private schools. Many parents do not feel public schools provide enough discipline, and for this reason, they send their kids to private schools. Under Alaska law, corporal punishment is allowed in schools when, and to the extent, reasonably necessary and appropriate to maintain order and when (corporal punishment) is consistent with the welfare of the students. Provided such corporal punishment is authorized by school regulations, this has worked out quite well. Schools or school boards, public or private, can adopt regulations authorizing corporal punishment if they wish to do so. Other schools and school districts have chosen not to do so.

Now, however, the state of Alaska's Department of Education has decided it needs to define "corporal punishment."

It proposes to adopt regulations which would define "corporal punishment" as "physical contact administered by an adult to a student for the purpose of discipline or behavioral modification." In a Memorandum numbered 88-14, Commissioner of Education William G. Demmitt solicits written responses to these proposed regulations prior

Father Boyle taught schoolboys lessons in discipline



By Wayne Ross

From the arena

Classmates talked about old memories. The one many great memories, the one teacher remembered above all others was Father Boyle. Though he was the most feared teacher in the whole school while we were students, he was the most revered once we were out. His title was Dean of Discipline and we didn't learn it from books, and we learned it from his stick, and we like many book subjects we never forgot the lessons Father Boyle taught us.

Discipline was one of the selling points of MUHS. Our folks knew if they sent us there, we would not be involved in the type of shenanigans public school kids go involved in. Father Boyle kept us on the straight and narrow. Our folks liked that at the time. We all appreciated it in later life.

But Twain may have been wrong in an have been wrong in an his famous dictum, vartributed to him and to Dudley Warner. "E talks about the weather body does anything Somebody should im pick up a phone and ca gram-trading fat cats position to self-respe puter could refuse. In not destroying the stro we'll let you play to content with the like early summer in Sa Call it an umbrella p tect our liquid assets

mendous force, the weather now be hedged in the same ner other factors are hedged thereby providing the com sized "program traders" w exciting and profitable op nity to continue all their pi tur and games, without it up the stock market for body else.

The best part of Cohen liant solution is that it con two aspects of the charact cally American wisdom of Twain. Viewing the stock ket, even before the adv mindless, blood-curdling iver programs, Twain v "October. This is one of the liary dangerous months to ilate in stocks. Others a vember, December, Ja February, March, April June, July, August and ber."

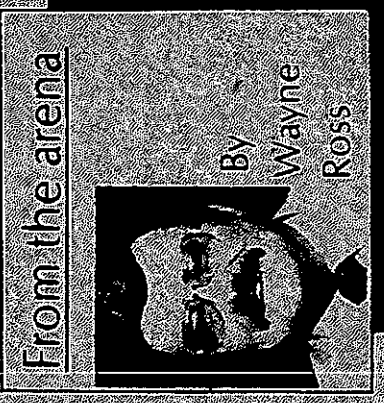
He was surely right that. But Twain may fur have been wrong in an his famous dictum, vartributed to him and to Dudley Warner. "E talks about the weather body does anything Somebody should im pick up a phone and ca gram-trading fat cats position to self-respe puter could refuse. In not destroying the stro we'll let you play to content with the like early summer in Sa Call it an umbrella p tect our liquid assets

At least a day when I attended my high school's 25th year reunion, my

When I attended my high school's 25th year reunion, my

A nationally syndicated columnist, Louis R. hosts "Wall Street

Family unit suffers from bureaucratic maze



From the arena

By Wayne Ross

The Alaska Division of Family and Youth Services, also known as the "Welfare" Department has a frightening group of social workers who regularly remove Alaskan children from their homes, over the objections of their parents, and, on many occasions, the children never return home again. They are aided in these endeavors by state assistant attorneys general and by several employees of the Office of Public Advocacy who are "appointed" by the courts as Guardian Ad Litem to "represent" the children.

When these people get together they are all too eager to believe the worst about men and fathers.

The ritual begins generally like this: Someone makes a complaint to the Welfare Department. These reports are privileged under the state law. They can be anonymous. The person making the report is immune from suit for making the report. Sometimes these reports are genuine and abuse has occurred. Other times the reports are made by overly concerned busy-bodies who wrongfully interpret what they see, or are malicious actions by people who want to break-up family relationships.

The child is then contacted at school by the Welfare Depart-

ment and interrogated without the knowledge or consent of the parents. If the social workers don't like what the child tells them, the child is not allowed to go home but is removed from school and put in a foster home. The parents then receive a call advising that their child has been taken into custody, that there will be a court hearing and that the parents can appear at that time to find out what is going on.

If the child is of less than school age, a social worker appears on the doorstep with several police officers and takes the child from the parents, telling them about the court hearing.

The court hearing is generally held 48 hours later. In the meantime, the social workers file a petition charging that the child needs state help, claiming some-

bits of profligate American motorists. On the contrary, it is their duty to carry out their sacred trust responsibilities under the law, set the best example possible in the stewardship of limited natural resources like oil,

how that the parents are at fault. Meantime, the social workers interview the child further and let others, including the police, interview the child. Many of these interviews are more brainwashing of the child than interviewing, the interviewer doing his/her best to convince the child that something bad has happened to them.

The first hearing is a "probable cause hearing" at which the court must decide whether there is cause to believe that the child needs state assistance. The social worker is allowed to testify as to what the child allegedly told her. Under normal rules of court, testifying what someone else said is hearsay evidence and not allowed. Normal rules of evidence don't apply in these types of cases however. Generally the parents aren't even allowed to testify. The court then takes the easy way out. It doesn't want to take a chance that the child may really be abused so it places the child in the custody of the state while the state investigates the matter further. It restricts the parents' access to the child to tell the truth. Sometimes the child is ordered into counseling where other "professionals" convince the child that he or she actually is abused. The Welfare Department takes its own sweet time in

But some belie for today's extrac goes beyond the tion to tell you w have done. In fac insider Kenneth C erty Hills mon blames the invest ter industry itself ing to a "scary" m notes that at newsletter publi out 2 million to 3 it direct mail every ing a depression bino, at the same t lishers are helpu negative climate a vestors, "the sma America are buyi billions of dolla stocks."

While no mere you precisely wh happen next, I su wisest individuals be those who "don the prevailing des For one thing, never guess if alarmists, the Dow rials have been t markedly higher i on any day in histo In other words w tacularly soaring l indeed undergo a rection," in the lon just of history but stocks continue t performers.

investigating the matter. Months and months pass without the child returning home. Often the child is put in a foster home where the rules are less strict than in the parents' home. The child grows to like the less strict atmosphere and the power it feels over its parents. In such cases, the child never does return home.

In other cases, this group makes an offer to the child's mother. They will allow the child to return home if the father is not there. This forces the mother to choose between her husband and her child. Often the husband comes out second and is forced to find other lodging.

Although federal law requires the Welfare Department to look for other alternatives before removing a child from his home, and state law requires the department to work towards reuniting families, this is seldom done. Instead, these people work together to destroy family unity. It is clear from their actions that this group of people doesn't like the family unit, and likes men even less.

God help you if your child falls into their clutches.

Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage and second vice president of the National Rifle Association.

ALICE PUSTER'S



icing on inlet shores
Retreating tidal waters leave a coating of Cook Inlet Combined with limited ice while appearing to be usually muddied

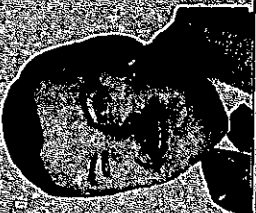
OPINION

Chastity, adultery relegated to Dark Ages

I must have been raised in the Dark Ages. Neither my father nor my mother ever gave me a talk about the birds and the bees. Sex was something that wasn't talked about in our home. My parents left it up to the nuns in my grade school and the Jesuit fathers at my high school to educate me in the area of sex. But when I came across that I was interesting to ask a girl out for what would be my first real date, my father sat me down and explained the facts of life to me in his own way.

The most important possessions that we parents have, my father said, is our children. To a mother or father, a child is more important than the self. I want you to realize that when your date's mother and father let her go out with you, they are entrusting you with their most important possession. You have a duty to live up to their trusts and to see that they are not violated. You must protect their daughter to the point where you would allow their daughter to go out with you on a date. You have to realize that and act accordingly. You must protect that girl from harm. You must see to it that others treat her properly, and with respect, and you must see to it that you also treat her properly and with respect. Don't even let me hear that you have treated any young lady entrusted to your care in an improper manner.

That was Dad's version of the facts of life. I knew what he was saying, and he knew I knew what he was saying. The Jesuit priests said it in a different way, but they meant the same thing. They gave us guys a book called "Modern Youth and Chastity" to read. They made sure we read the book by having it surprise us, and then it was quite simple really. God had given us certain Commandments, which we were to abide by. One of these, the Sixth Commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," was pretty direct. The Jesuits made sure



Wayne Anthony Ross

we knew that the Sixth Commandment also prohibited (from sexual) and that if we violated any of God's Commandments, He was not going to be very happy with us. Bad things could and would happen. We could catch VD. We could get someone pregnant. We might even end up in Hell.

When I think of it now, I suppose I behaved myself only because I didn't want to offend God, but also because I didn't want to offend my father. Dad had laid a heavy responsibility on me, the responsibility for treating someone else's daughter with respect and in a proper manner. And I didn't want to demonstrate disrespect to my Dad or to myself; that I was not up to the task.

The Jesuit fathers also laid a heavy responsibility on us. We all have a soul; they pointed out that soul was created for the purpose of eventually enjoying eternal life in Heaven with God. We had a duty to ensure that our soul made it to Heaven by acting properly. We also had to look after our fellow human beings and do nothing to cause their eternal damnation. If we caused another person to lose their place in Heaven by leading them astray, we could suffer the loss of our soul as well.

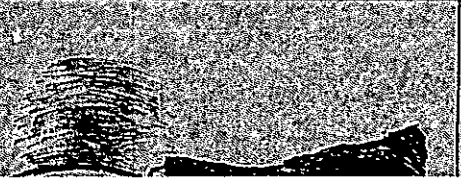
The Jesuits made sure we knew that the Sixth Commandment prohibited fornication, and that if we violated any of God's Commandments, He was not going to be very happy with us. Bad things could and would happen. We could catch VD. We could get someone pregnant.

What we were being taught of course was responsibility. We were being shown that we were responsible for our own actions, and would face unpleasant consequences if we hid in our property. But more than that, we were also responsible for the actions of others who might be influenced by us. Our duty was to influence others to the proper manner, and to avoid causing them to harm themselves by acting improperly.

The Dark Ages are gone. In this Age of Enlightenment, parents now allow their children to go to school wearing condoms on their bodies as some sort of badge of prudence. Sex, the protection of one's soul seems to be of little concern to students, or to their parents. And the protection of another's soul, even less so. Chastity is a word seldom heard, and the very mention of God is almost prohibited in schools of learning.

I'm glad I was raised in the Dark Ages. Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage. He can be reached at 585-9100.

WIND
The Great Outdoors



self

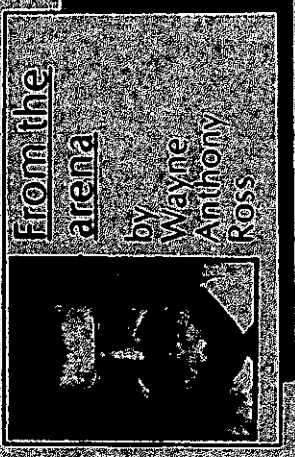
Bird's eye view of Rainbow

A narrow strip of road works its way from ridge to ridge up the steep confines of Rainbow, Cam-

resources. But whatever beliefs you have in

Defending the guilty: Our judicial system at its very

A question often asked of attorneys is, "How can you represent a person when you know he is guilty?" To an attorney who believes in the American judicial system, the answer is, of course, "It's easy."



imprisoned for years or criminals to go free. We must keep in mind, however, that literally thousands of just decisions are rendered by American judges and juries every day. Those few injustices we read about in the papers are written about simply because they are so unusual.

Our system simply put dispenses more real justice than any other judicial system in the world—principally because it recognizes and respects the rights of the individual, including the right to have an independent attorney to represent that individual at all stages of the proceeding.

It is easier for an attorney to represent a guilty client than an innocent one. When the guilty client is convicted, the attorney knows the client got a fair trial, his rights were protected and justice was served. When a guilty client is not convicted, the attorney knows he has still done his job, alone against the full power and personnel of the state, and achieved a victory for his client against all odds.

Even with a "not guilty" verdict, no guilty person brought before the bar of justice ever escapes scot free. Generally, they have been arrested, their case has been publicized, they have had to go to court, the uncertainties of a trial and

The guilty person or criminal activities in daily since he or she time and might not be tutor and/or the police ally learn what they did to avoid repeating the future.

The representation ent is much harder if guilty one. If the innocent found innocent, dergo a traumatic and ence, which as an innocent have had to endure an periences his pain and the entire procedure.

The worst thing the experience however, is clients found guilty. If home to the attorney (ally) the fallibilities of of justice and he will v of his life what he ma that caused that syste realize an innocent man

Give me a guilty client easier on my nerves. Clients are innocent, but

of perhaps a mistaken opinion into the scale against the accused.

Thus, in order to protect our system of justice, attorneys must sometimes represent those they know are guilty, simply to ensure that the system works fairly for all. By representing a guilty person, a lawyer insures the health of the judicial system and helps guarantee protection of the rights of all citizens—innocent or guilty.

Theoretically, of course, if the prosecutor, the defense attorney, the judge and/or the jury all do their jobs, the result should be truth and justice, i.e., a just decision.

In actuality, on account of the imperfections inherent in human nature, perfect truth and justice are not always attained in our system. Therefore, we read in the papers from time to time about unjust decisions which cause innocent men to be

The Earl of Birkenhead, Lord Chancellor of Great Britain said, "The barrister a profession offers its services to all litigants. Counsel supports his client's case within the limits prescribed by personal and professional honour. He (the attorney) is not the judge to decide the merits, his function is to present his client's case."

If counsel warps the duties of the judge (or jury), then, two results follow. First, men are deprived of their legal assistance to which they are entitled. Secondly, the fact that counsel is known only to accept cases in which he personally believes may work in justice to those to whom he refuses.

Baron Thomas Erskine, another Lord Chancellor of Great Britain argued, "If the (attorney) refuses to defend, from what he may think of the charge or of the defense, he assumes the character of the judge, may, he assumes it before the hour of judgment, and in proportion to his rank and reputation, puts the heavy influence

welfare in probe to the whole who you to be a ing. Un- be is al- and it ore peo- selves thout in. I don't saured if yliberal) a deep es, and most or car doesn't whoever ny part mber of e or no ulprment y princ- d out of and told No law a con- one to ee who ew are tage in merical danger nation, a ward boats related

ough the view was w... in the effort.

of Assembly, and on the Businessman His... column appears even, Sunday

Use reports of child sexual abuse devastate families and children



Wayne Anthony Ross

once launched from the bar...
rearm, clamor, be recalled...
sometimes fatally whoever...
to be standing in its path...
est firearms are fired, intent...
sometimes they are fired acci...
No matter, if someone is in the...
person will be hurt.
lar situation exists in the law in...
and in other states, when it...
the handling of cases of chil...
dren's sexual abuse of children.

states have laws that require...
persons or groups, such as...
nurses and doctors, to report...
suspected child sexual abuse...
such reports are made, the...
of the legal battles is launched...
for anyone who happens to be...
ts of suspected abuse are gen...
ade to the police, and to an ap...
state agency charged with in...
such reports. On some occa...
reports are made by people...
e rupture concern for the chil...
other occasions, the reports...
far less noble motives...
ince cases as a prime exam...
spouse may make a report of...
of abuse against the other

cannot avoid being hurt. Even if they...
are eventually cleared of such alleg...
tions, people still look at them and wor...
der whether or not they might be guilty...
of what all too often is a horrendous...
crime.

When allegations of sexual abuse of a...
child are made against a parent, the de...
partment often removes the child from...
the home. This is good when the abuse...
has actually happened; it's devastating...
however, to the parents and to the child...
if the abuse hasn't happened.

The department then puts the child...
into the hands of a sexual abuse investi...
gator whose job is to try and ascertain...
whether or not sexual abuse occurred...
in some cases, however, the investiga...
tor seems more interested in trying to...
show that the abuse took place than to...
find out the real truth.

The investigator embarks on a series...
of interviews with the child. These in...
terviews are often intense and respec...
tive. A child's entire tender years seem...
dumny. The child doesn't really want to...
be there and finally realizes that what it...
is that the investigation wants to hear.

If a child is asked to do it, it's times...
when the dad has touched her, there's

many investigators seem unwilling to...
believe that the incident of abuse did not...
happen.

Often too, the interviews with the...
child are not recorded. A reviewing...
body, such as a court, thus has no way...
of telling whether the child's statements...
were spontaneous or were the result of...
coercion or unconscious "coaching" by...
the investigator.

The department and the court often...
accept the investigator's report of what...
happened as "gospel." Because they...
have no way to prove otherwise, well...
meaning judges in an effort to protect a...
child are simply unwilling to return the...
child to a possibly abusive home (and all...
to prove to put the child in a state of...
for some placement it may be years, if...
ever, before a child is returned home...
hundreds of families are broken up...
each year by such judicial expediency.

Until methods for ascertaining sex...
ual abuse improve and are implement...
ed, our system may be hurting more...
children in the long run than it is pro...
tecting.

Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in...
Private Practice in Anchorage. His column...
appears every other Sunday.

Israeli prime minister receives warning from U.S.

Perils of Shamir

WASHINGTON — A powerful...
warning has been delivered to Is...
raeli Prime Minister Yitzhak...
Shamir from his major Amer...
ican ally, the American-Israel...
Public Affairs Committee, which...
sees a disaster for Israel if it fails



had been decided, but Lubbers...
present in his capacity as chair...
man of the European Commis...
sion, said there were some things...
he wanted to add. As Lubbers...
went on and on, Kohl got more...
and more bored. Finally, remem...
bering his ear phones, placing them

June with arms-and-file African...
Americans. If they oppose...
Thomas on ideological grounds

Sliet Sullivan

Health and Human Services...
Secretary Louis Sullivan...
agreed to avoid the White House

Runaway children: Solving the problem before it's too late

Recent reports indicate that Alaska has a substantial problem with children who run away from home. Sources estimate that there are more than 3,500 children in Anchorage alone who are classified as runaways.

Many people believe that children run away from home because they find conditions in their homes so intolerable that they would rather be anywhere else, even in the streets, than at home. These people point to the rise in the number of child abuse cases and argue that runaway children obviously are the result of abusive or neglectful parents.

Certainly some children leave home and refuse to return to their parents because of faults of the parents. Many other children, however, leave home despite the fact that they have good homes and good parents.

Children are subject to substantial peer pressure and other outside influences with which parents cannot always compete. Often a parent sees a child for only a few moments in the morning before school and then not again until suppertime, and possibly for a few hours, at most, in the evening. During the balance of the day, the average child is outside the penumbra of parental influence and subject to the influence of others (whose standards of conduct and morality may be substantially different from those of the parents). When a child succumbs to those outside influences and misbehaves, that child may find it easier to remain away from home than to go home and "face the music."

Well-meaning, but misguided parents or friends of the child may give the child a place to stay, believing the child's "story" that Mom and Dad are abusive parents. Even more dangerous to children are "crash pads" around town that children learn about from others, where they can stay for a while, but where they often become the prey of adults who introduce them to stealing drugs and sex.

Finally, there is the questionable sanctuary provided by the

From the arena



by
Wayne
Anthony
Ross

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (the welfare department) which is charged by law with dealing with runaways. Unfortunately, the welfare department lacks proper resources, funding, personnel and administration to handle the job. All too often the welfare department's appearance and subsequent interference in the family exacerbates the situation.

Some of the blame for the general increase in the numbers of runaway children must be placed on the Alaska Supreme Court and on the Alaska legislature.

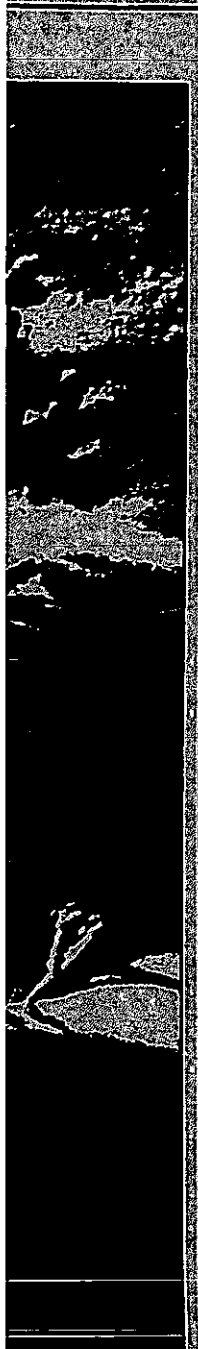
Prior to 1971, a runaway could be apprehended by the police and returned home or, if the child was out of control, the child could be detained or even institutionalized in a secure facility. In 1971, the Alaska Supreme Court decided that no legal basis existed for allowing a runaway child to be incarcerated (49 P.2d 658).

Word of this decision circulated rapidly among youngsters and it is even well known today. Children tell their parents, social workers, and foster parents, "I can run away and there is nothing you can do about it." Sadly, the kids are right.

In the early 1970's, the legislature, led by former Rep. Gene Chance, revised Title 47 of the Alaska Statutes, despite testimony from then Family Court Judge Harold Butcher and others that what was proposed was detrimental to the integrity of the

family. Judge Butcher was ultimately proven correct. The legislature's revisions, which exist in today's Alaska Statutes, have caused more heartache than any other legislation ever enacted in this state.

When a child is reported by his parents to the police as a runaway, under the present law the police have no discretion. If they find the child, they must advise the child that he or she has a choice. The child can either return home or be taken to the welfare department rather than home to face an unhappy Mom and Dad. AS 47.10.12 then states



A tiny spruce tree cactus found in the western deserts.

...nus into welfare

the appropriation. It's why the legislature put the program under the Department of Administration instead of letting the bleeding hearts get in to do good with. When I say this I'm thinking of the old families of Alaskan. The saying goes: "Their ancestors came to do good and they did very well indeed."

The second reason that need was not a requisite part of the first legislation was simple. We wanted to keep as many of life's win-

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Limy/spruce tree
actus found in the
western deserts.

of conduct and morality may be substantially different from those of the parents. When a child succumbs to those outside influences and misbehaves, that child may find it easier to remain away from home than to go home and face the music.

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Word of this decision circulated rapidly among youngsters and it is even well known today. Children tell their parents, social workers, and foster parents, "I can runaway and there is nothing you can do about it!" Sadly, the kids are right.

In the early 1970's, the legislature, led by former Rep. Gene Chance, revised title 47 of the Alaska Statutes, despite testimony from the Family Court Judge Harold Butcher and others that what was proposed was detrimental to the integrity of the

family. Judge Butcher was ultimately proven correct. The legislature's revisions, which exist in today's Alaska Statutes, have caused more heartache than any other legislation ever enacted in this state.

When a child is reported by his parents to the police as a runaway under the present law, the police have no discretion. If they find the child, they must advise the child that he or she has a choice. The child can either return home or be taken to the welfare department rather than home to face an unhappy Mom and Dad. AS 47.10.142 then states the welfare department may take custody of the child after "considering the wishes of the minor." Mom and Dad, anxious waiting at home for their child, need not be even consulted!

Once a child falls into the clutches of the welfare department, it is almost impossible for the parents to get the child back. The child is often placed in a foster home or shelter with few, if any, restrictions placed on that child. The child learns to enjoy his or her new freedom and continues to refuse to return home. The child learns to manipulate the system, using it to achieve his or her desires while punishing the parents who find themselves dragged into court by the state.

Many times the parents face allegations that they are abusive because they dared to attempt to discipline their child, or simply because the child lies after learning that the welfare personnel and the attorneys are willing to believe almost anything bad about parents.

What Alaska needs in order to solve its runaway problem is a major revision of its laws involving children. The state should only be allowed to interfere in a family's affairs when an abusive situation clearly exists. At all other times, the state should stand willing and able to back up Mom and Dad in their efforts to instill in their children proper values and behavioral standards. Only in this way can we parents ensure that when our children grow up they will be good citizens and contributing members of society.

Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage and director of the Na-

mus into welfare

the appropriation. It's why the legislature put the program under the Department of Administration instead of letting the bleeding hearts get it to "do good" with. When I say this I'm thinking of the old families of Hawaii. The saying goes: "Their ancestors came to 'do good' and they did very well indeed."

The second reason that need was not a requisite part of the first legislation was simple. We wanted to keep as many of life's winners as possible here in Alaska.

Fishing is an on and off thing, oil and timber depends on the fluctuations of international politics and world price. Of all incomes, retirement income tends to be more stable than most.

With exceptions, of course, most people over 65 are not into massing great fortunes. They spend their money either on their own comfort or on those around them. They don't cause problems with the police or their neighbors and they often have income retirement from a number of sources, be it teachers' retirement or railroad retirement as well as property amassed long years ago.

Be they rich or poor, they are well worth keeping in Alaska.

Halibut Cove charter boat skipper, Clem Tilton is a former president of the Alaska Senate.

Think small

Why, then, should anyone think that last year's frogs will become this year's princes?

Several reasons. First, the normal flow of a bull market is for bonds to move first, followed by the big blue chips, followed by the second tier of large companies, followed by the broader market, followed by the absolute junk. The broader market notably lacked the enthusiasm of the big boys last year, and many think its turn is coming now. Historically, such a move, when it comes, can be enormous.

Lately, though, small growth companies have been beaten down to virtually no price earnings premium over their larger brethren. Some historians think that alone is a buy signal for the little fellows — just as what they would regard as an excessive premium (say, twice as high) would be regarded by them as a "sell" signal.

Not everyone agrees, of course; otherwise, they couldn't open the market in the morning. But there's a growing sense among many top performers that if the stock market does make a sixth straight advance in 1967, it is likely to be — in every sense of the

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Editor's outlook



by
Jenkin
Lloyd
Jones

The shifting moral sands

...rent drives in America to
the advertising of tobacco
encourage the advertising of
...ms would have been met
utter disbelief 10 years ago.

... here is Rep. Mike Synar
(Ariz.), trying to persuade
Congress that "cigarette" in
and on billboards is a dirty

... And here are the makers
of ... a commodity that
yesterday was never men-
tioned in polite society, seeking
to fill the media on accepting
ads.

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... town, the British band
... d a piece, "The World
... ed Upside Down." That
... to be the theme song of

... irony of a nation still dis-
... tully addicted to marijuana
... suffering so far uncontrolla-
... mports of cocaine now con-
... ng a crusade against "coffin
... is remarkable. But emphat-
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... spell a decade ago, has be-
... a real and present danger
... e pack-a-day plus society. If
... time bomb that ticks ever
... as the 80s approach.

... World War II ... in the
... cigarette "age." Trench-bound
... Tommies sang of packing up
... troubles in the old kit bag, while
... you a real lucifer to light your
... tag," and Americans followed.
... Diet-conscious women listened
... to the blandishments of Madison
... Avenue: "Reach for a lucky
... instead of a sweet." By the time
... World War II ended, nearly all
... America was puffing, as the old
... movies will attest.

... You don't see many actors
... and actresses smoking on the
... screen anymore. Of course, they
... do use filthy language, divest
... themselves of their clothing and
... leap into bed together. You win
... some. You lose some.

From the arena



by
Wayne
Anthony
Ross

Our liberty requires our vigilance

... America has long been called
... the land of the free and the home
... of the brave. If our country is to
... stay that way, however, we must
... be constantly vigilant for unwar-
... ranted diminishment of our indi-
... vidual rights for the sake of pub-
... lic safety.

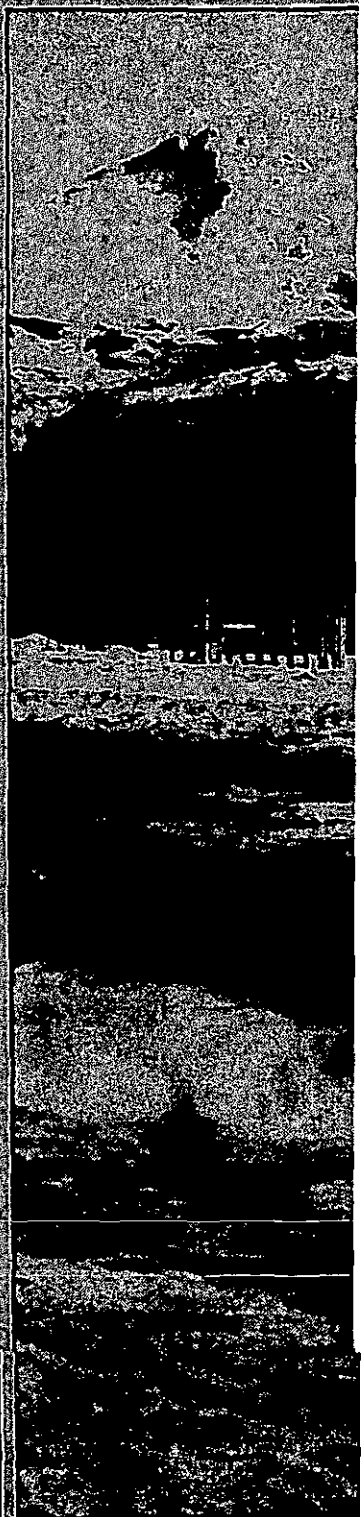
... Recently, Attorney General
... Meese announced plans to re-
... quire many Federal employees,
... especially those in "sensitive
... areas" to undergo drug screen-
... ing tests. Some government
... agency would examine the em-
... ployee's urine. If positive traces
... of drugs were found, counseling
... would be given. An employee re-
... fusing to undergo such drug
... screening tests could be fired.

... In Anchorage, several FAA
... personnel are challenging these
... drug screening tests in court. If
... America is really the land of the
... free and the home of the brave,
... we may see many more people
... refuse such testing even though
... they have never used illegal
... drugs. These people are not sym-
... pathetic to drug abusers. In-
... stead, they realize that for free-
... dom to exist and thrive, we must
... have brave people who are will-
... ing to protest rules and regula-
... tions which result in diminish-
... ment of individual freedom
... simply for the claimed purpose
... of enhancing public safety.

... In addition to fighting for indi-
... vidual liberty, those persons at-
... tacking the drug testing laws are
... fighting for their own personal
... integrity. Simply because these
... employees work in "sensitive
... areas," the federal government
... is labeling them as possible drug
... abusers without any basis for
... taking such a position.

... Any real American would re-
... sent being labeled a possible
... drug abuser. Any real American
... would resent having to prove
... their innocence by taking and
... successfully passing a urine test.

Alice Puster's Alas



It will be a short swim

A pair of mallards are attracted to the waters of a puddle in the middle of downtown Anchorage. Although

Subsisten

...and present danger
...day plus society. If
...bomb that ticks ever
...50s approach

World War II brought in the
cigarette age. Trench-bound
soldiers sang of packing up
cigars in the old kit bag while
they waited for the "big day."
And Americans followed
the lead. Women listened
to the blandishments of Madison
Avenue — "Reach for a Lucky
instead of a sweet." By the time
World War II ended, nearly all
America was puffing, as the old
movies will attest.

You don't see many actors
and actresses smoking on the
screen anymore. Of course they
don't use filthy language, divest
themselves of their clothing and
leap into bed together. You win
some. You lose some.

So smokers are on the run.
We with the pipes and cigars
were first to feel the lash, gray-
ing our fingernails on the inter-
minable ocean flights. Now restau-
rants have established leper
colonies, and the drive is on to
chase smokers completely out of
the work places.

On a recent day morning, I
traversed an alley behind a large
government building and encoun-
tered a young lady in a fur coat
emitting blue clouds. "Office
lady?" I asked. She nodded, smil-
ing wanly. "I was too polite to
point out that she was smoking
and doing nothing else on tax-
payer time. But this will cost us."

AIDS, a so far unrepentable
death sentence, out of Central
Africa, still chiefly affects homo-
sexuals and users of dirty drug
needles. But it is reported to be
assuming epidemic proportions
among heterosexuals of certain
African tribes, and an increasing
percentage of prostitutes in
America and Europe show by
tests that they've been exposed
to the virus. So the big scare is
on.

You don't see many "gay
pride" parades anymore. The
doctrine that homosexual behav-
ior is legitimate, if more lauda-
ble lifestyle is being played
passim instead of *forte* and the
door to the closet may be once
again opening to receive its prac-
titioners.

But U.S. Surgeon General
C. Everett Koop sees AIDS not as a
moral issue, but a public health
threat. So he has urged that
schools get into the warning busi-
ness. Warning, how? By starting
in junior high school with lec-
tures on how to prevent infec-

stead, they realize that for free-
dom to exist, and thrive, we must
have brave people who are will-
ing to protest rules and regula-
tions which result in dimini-
shment of individual freedom
simply for the claimed purpose
of enhancing public safety.

In addition to fighting for indi-
vidual liberty, those persons at-
tacking the drug testing laws are
fighting for their own personal
integrity. Simply because these
employees work in "sensitive
areas," the federal government
is labeling them as possible drug
abusers without any basis for
taking such a position.

Any real American would re-
sent being labeled a possible
drug abuser. Any real American
would resent having to prove
their innocence by taking and
successfully passing a urine test.
Any real American would refuse
to undergo such testing. And any
real American would fight the at-
tempt to make such testing
mandatory on others unless suf-
ficient grounds exist to believe
the person is a drug abuser.

A person's body is the most
personal and sacred possession
that person has. If it can be in-
vaded without cause, nothing
else is safe from governmental
prying. If we can be routinely re-
quired to have our bodily fluids
examined in the interests of pub-
lic safety, to see if we are poison-
ing our bodies with drugs, then
certainly the government can
routinely intrude into our homes
to see if the books we have there
may be poisoning our minds.

Theodore Roosevelt wrote
where possible, the indi-
vidual must be left free that he
must always be left so free as to
have a right to enjoy himself in
his own way where he can do it
without infringing on the rights
of others, and that the reward
for his efforts should be made so
far as may be, proportional to his
efforts and abilities, so as to en-
courage enterprise, thrift, indus-
try and sobriety, and to discour-
age their opposites. But when
ever it is found by actual prac-
tice and experiment, or by the
failure of all other methods that
state interference is wise and
necessary, we should not be de-
terred from advocating it by any
considerations of pure theory.

If reasonable grounds exist to
believe that an individual or
group of individuals are using
drugs and thereby endangering
the rest of us, drug testing may
be warranted. It is not warranted
where the government is merely
engaged in a fishing expedition to
see what it might catch.

Freedom is not for the timid.
To be free, we may have to
bravely face more dangers than
the person who opts for safety,
but that is the price of freedom.
I'm willing to pay the price. How
about you?

Wayne Anthony Ross is an at-
torney in private practice in An-
chorage and director of the Na-
tional Rifle Association.



It will be a short swim
A pair of mallards are attracted to the shallow waters of a puddle in the middle of 20th Avenue near downtown Anchorage. Although a vie-

Subsistence

On March 18 in Bethel, Alaska, native leaders of the Association of Village Council Presidents' Waterfowl Conservation Committee voted to support a government recommended hunting closure on Emperor Geese. This represented yet another courageous step by native leaders on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta to help to restore seriously depleted populations of four goose species to healthy levels.

The Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge of western Alaska is the greatest goose breeding area in North America. People live there too. Yupik speaking Eskimos in 53 scattered villages, many of which utilize geese as a subsistence resource. Because of social, cultural, language and geographic variables in this vast and remote region, wildlife conservationists have come to realize that traditional approaches to game management simply won't work. Instead, innovative efforts are needed to inform and involve local people in the protection and management of common prop-

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Unveiling th

NEW YORK — In the old days
in Wall Street, brokers used to be
given the "stock of the day."
Now the report is more likely to
be about the "crook of the day,"
and by and large it couldn't hap-
pen to a nicer bunch of guys.

For evidence is mounting that
the unsavory types involved in
the widening scandals had some-
thing very much in common, and



Is the justice system based on presumption of innocence?

Our criminal justice system operates on the principle that a person is presumed innocent of a crime. That presumption remains with a defendant unless, and until, that person is proven to have committed the crime by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Unfortunately, the presumption of innocence and the requirement for proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not apply in other areas of law.

A case in point occurred recently on Elmendorf Air Force Base.

The military, like many other aspects of our society, is plagued by drug abusers. As a result the military has enacted a program of random drug tests wherein a serviceman's urine is taken and tested for illegal drugs. If test results are positive, the serviceman faces involuntary discharge from the service. Many other government agencies, and private businesses also, have such testing programs. Employees face loss of their jobs if their urine tests come out positive for illegal drugs.

From the arena



By
Wayne
Ross

see a specimen, which he was told was his, sealed for shipment to the testing lab in Texas.

Weeks later, the sergeant was told that the test results were positive and that his urine showed traces of marijuana. The serviceman immediately had another test done at Humana Hospital. The results from this test were negative for illegal drugs.

The serviceman testified under oath that he had never knowingly used marijuana in his entire life. Over 40 people who knew him submitted statements to the effect that they had never seen the sergeant use marijuana, they did not believe he ever used marijuana, and that as long as they had known him, he had always expressed disgust with drug abusers.

The sergeant had undergone many previous drug tests without showing positive. Yet this time, test results showed traces of marijuana.

The sergeant is black. He, and several of his co-workers, testified that he had been subjected to racial slurs and harassment. His house had been painted with "N-1 Go Home!" His tires were flattened, his car was sabotaged. Clearly, someone had been out to get him.

It is possible, of course, that when the sergeant testified he had never used marijuana, he lied. The improbability of this, however, was emphasized by the numerous people who testified

The Elmendorf case involved a sergeant with 18 years of service to the U.S. Air Force. The man had an impeccable service record and was a family man with a loving wife and several children.

The sergeant's nightmare began last December, when he was summoned to undergo a urinalysis test. He produced a specimen. His later testimony indicated that Air Force regulations were violated. Air Force regulations require that the specimen remain in sight of the person providing the sample until the sample is properly sealed. The serviceman testified that this did not happen.

Instead, the specimen was removed by an orderly and was out of the sergeant's sight for up to 15 minutes before the sergeant left the bathroom. The sergeant did



image that peeks



Image that peeks

Emotional issue

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began last December, when he was summoned to undergo a urinalysis test. He produced a specimen. His later testimony indicated that Air Force regulations were violated. Air Force regulations require that the specimen remain in sight of the person providing the sample until the sample is properly sealed. The serviceman testified that this did not happen.

Instead, the specimen was removed by an orderly and was out of the sergeant's sight for up to 5 minutes before the sergeant left the bathroom. The sergeant did

Endangered Species Act. That would bring federal management of wolves to Alaska, this in fact is exactly what has already happened in all other states that still have wolves.

So what is the Game Board to do? Perhaps the most rational approach they could take would be to request that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) develop a statewide management plan for wolves. Such a plan would need to take into consideration the role of the wolf in nature, its many values to society and the need for differing management strategies depending on various land jurisdictions. Meaningful public participation would have to be provided for and as many public interests in the wolf satisfied as possible.

In the final analysis, all those who care about wildlife need to realize that the far most important issue is protection of wildlife populations and their habitats against the onslaught of an expanding civilization. By combining forces on the common ground they can influence the outcome in a positive way. On the contrary, by remaining divided over such issues as wolf control, both the wildlife and the people who cherish them will be the eventual losers.

Dave Cline is a conservationist and official of the National Audubon Society.

time; test results showed traces of marijuana.

The sergeant is black. He, and several of his co-workers testified that he had been subjected to racial slurs and harassment. His house had been painted with "N-1 Go Home!" His tires were flattened. His car was sabotaged. Clearly, someone had been out to get him.

It is possible, of course, that when the sergeant testified he had never used marijuana, he lied. The improbability of this, however, was emphasized by the numerous people who testified on his behalf. All indicated he was a very honest man and was known as a very truthful, religious person. It is possible, also, that the tests run in Texas were not done properly. Testimony, however, from the laboratory seemed to indicate the tests had been properly run. Only two other possibilities remain. Either the sergeant's urine sample was tampered with when it was out of his sight, or the sergeant had unknowingly consumed marijuana, perhaps by being given baked goods such as cookies or brownies laced with marijuana. Because of the long passage of time between the date the sample was given and the time the test results were announced, the sergeant could not remember eating anything unusual.

Despite the sergeant's protestations of innocence, and despite the fact that no one could testify that he knowingly used illegal drugs, the sergeant received Article 15 punishment, lost a stripe and faced dismissal from the service with resultant loss of his service pension. There apparently is no presumption of innocence in the U.S. Air Force.

The sergeant appealed, and at a recent discharge hearing, a panel of officers refused to restore his stripe, although they did recommend that he be allowed to stay in the service.

The sergeant is, of course, relieved that his military career did not come to a sudden end. He is, however, quite upset over the finding that he did abuse drugs, when he knows he did not. He intends to appeal further.

Unfortunately, cases like this happen every day, often with even more tragic results.

If you are required to undergo drug tests, have an independent test performed immediately, so you can defend yourself. If the first test is performed improperly, don't let the specimen out of your sight until it is properly sealed and marked. And don't partake of foods from anyone other than those you trust implicitly. The job you save could be your own.

Wayne Anthony Ross is an attorney in private practice in Anchorage, and second vice president of the National Rifle Association.

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1988

Ratings of 2008 Applicants for the Court of Appeals

	Professional Competence	Integrity	Fairness	Judicial Temperament	Suitability of Experience	Overall Rating
McCoy	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6
Bolger	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4
Carney	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Gullufsen	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.1
Terrell	4.2	4.3	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.0
Wood	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.2	3.9
Diemer	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.8
Moody	3.9	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8
Smith	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8
Moore	3.9	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.7
Svobodny	4.1	3.8	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.6
Fayette	3.9	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.4
Ross	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.7	3.1	2.9

Source: Judicial Council, Alaska Court System

Ratings of 2007 Applicants for the Supreme Court

	Professional Competence	Integrity	Fairness	Judicial Temperament	Suitability of Experience	Overall Rating
Grace	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.4
Bolger	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3
Christen	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3
Maassen	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.2
Harrington	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.9	4.1
Rindner	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.0
Winfree*	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.0
Carney	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.7	4.0
Smith	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9
Wood	3.9	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8
Pfiffner	3.9	4.0	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.6
Lundquist	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.6
Mendel	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.2
Ross	3.2	3.5	3.1	2.7	3.0	2.8

Source: Judicial Council, Alaska Court System

Scale Used in for Ranking Judicial Candidates

	1 Poor	2 Deficient	3 Acceptable	4 Good	5 Excellent
Professional Competence	Lacking in knowledge and/or effectiveness	Below-average performance occasionally	Possesses sufficient knowledge and required skills	Usually knowledgeable and effective	Meets the highest standards for knowledge and effectiveness
Integrity	Unconcerned with propriety and/or appearance, or acts in violation of codes of professional conduct	Appears lacking in knowledge of professional codes of conduct and/or unconcerned with propriety or appearance at times	Follows codes of professional conduct, respects propriety and appearance of propriety at all times	Above-average awareness of ethics, holds self to higher standard than most	Outstanding integrity and highest standards of conduct
Fairness	Often shows strong bias for or against some person or groups	Displays, verbally or otherwise, some bias for or against groups or persons	Free of substantial bias or prejudice against groups or persons	Above-average ability to treat all persons and groups impartially	Unusually fair and impartial to all groups
Judicial Temperament	Often lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	Sometimes lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	Possesses appropriate compassion, humility, and courtesy	Above-average compassion, humility, and courtesy	Outstanding compassion, humility, and courtesy
Suitability of Experience	Has little or no suitable experience	Has less than suitable experience	Has suitable experience	Has highly suitable experience	Has the most suitable experience for this position
Overall Rating	Seldom meets standards of the profession	Occasionally falls short of professional standards	Consistently meets professional standards	often exceeds professional standards	Meets highest standards of the profession

Source: Judicial Council, Alaska Court System

**Alaska Governors, Lt. Governors, Presiding Officers, and Attorneys General,
by Legislature, 1959 — Present**

State Legislature	Years	Governor	Lt. Governors *	Senate President	House Speaker	Attorney General
1	1959 — 1960	William A. Egan	Hugh J. Wade	William Beltz	Warren Taylor	John L. Rader
2	1961 — 1962	William A. Egan	Hugh J. Wade	Frank Peratrovich	Warren Taylor	Ralph E. Moody/George N. Hayes
3	1963 — 1964	William A. Egan	Hugh J. Wade	Frank Peratrovich	Bruce Kendall	George N. Hayes
4	1965 — 1966	William A. Egan	Hugh J. Wade	Robert McNealy	Mike Gravel	Warren C. Colver
5	1967 — 1968	Walter J. Hickel	Keith H. Miller	John Butrovich Jr.	William Boardman	D.A. Burr/Edgar Paul Boyko
6	1969 — 1970	Keith H. Miller	Robert W. Ward	Brad Phillips	Jalmar Kerttula	G. Kent Edwards
7	1971 — 1972	William A. Egan	Henry "Red" Boucher	Jay Hammond	Gene Guess	John E. Havelock
8	1973 — 1974	William A. Egan	Henry "Red" Boucher	Terry Miller	Tom Fink	Norm Gorsuch
9	1975 — 1978	Jay S. Hammond	Lowel Thomas Jr.	Chancy Croft	Mike Bradner	Avrum Gross
10	1977 — 1978	Jay S. Hammond	Lowel Thomas Jr.	John Rader	Hugh Malone	Avrum Gross
11	1979 — 1980	Jay S. Hammond	Terry Miller	Clem Tillion	Terry Gardiner	Avrum Gross/Wilson Condon
12	1981 — 1982	Jay S. Hammond	Terry Miller	Jalmar Kerttula	Jim Duncan, Joe Hayes	Wilson Condon
13	1983 — 1984	Bill Sheffield	Stephen McAlpine	Jalmar Kerttula	Joe Hayes	Norm Gorsuch
14	1985 — 1986	Bill Sheffield	Stephen McAlpine	Don Bennett	Ben Grussendorf	Norm Gorsuch/ Hal M. Brown
15	1987 — 1988	Steve Cowper	Stephen McAlpine	Jan Falks	Ben Grussendorf	Grace Berg Schaible
16	1989 — 1990	Steve Cowper	Stephen McAlpine	Tim Kelly	Sam Cotten	Doug Baily
17	1991 — 1992	Walter Hickel	John "Jack" Coghill	Dick Eliason	Ben Grussendorf	Charlie Cole
18	1993 — 1994	Walter Hickel	John "Jack" Coghill	Rick Halford	Ramona Barnes	Charlie Cole/Bruce Botelho
19	1995 — 1996	Tony Knowles	Fran Ulmer	Drue Pearce	Gail Phillips	Bruce Botelho
20	1997 — 1998	Tony Knowles	Fran Ulmer	Mike Miller	Gail Phillips	Bruce Botelho
21	1999 — 2000	Tony Knowles	Fran Ulmer	Drue Pearce	Brian Porter	Bruce Botelho
22	2001 — 2002	Tony Knowles	Fran Ulmer	Rick Halford	Brian Porter	Bruce Botelho
23	2003 — 2004	Frank Murkowski	Loren Leman	Gene Theriault	Pete Kott	Gregg Renkes
24	2005 — 2006	Frank Murkowski	Loren Leman	Ben Stevens	John Harris	Gregg Renkes/David Marquez
25	2007 — 2008	Sarah Palin	Sean Parnell	Lyda Green	John Harris	Talis J. Colberg
26	2009 — 2010	Sarah Palin	Sean Parnell	Gary Stevens	Mike Chenault	Talis Colberg/Wayne Anthony Ross

Notes and Sources: * Prior to 1971, this position was known as Secretary of State. Red Boucher was the first Lieutenant Governor. Gregg Renkes resigned on February 5, 2005. Talis Colberg resigned on February 10, 2009; Wayne Anthony Ross named March 26, 2009 (subject to legislative confirmation). *Alaska Directory of State Officials*, 1956 to present.

Overlaps for Attorneys General may not be exactly on the years.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives


Office of the Chief Clerk

State Capitol, Room 216
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3725
Fax: (907) 465-5334

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 30, 2009

To: Representative Ramras, Chair
Judiciary Committee

From: Suzi Lowell 
Chief Clerk

Subject: Governor's Appointment

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

State of Alaska Attorney General
Wayne Anthony Ross
Appointed: 3/26/2009

The resume and Confirmation Committee Report are attached for your use.

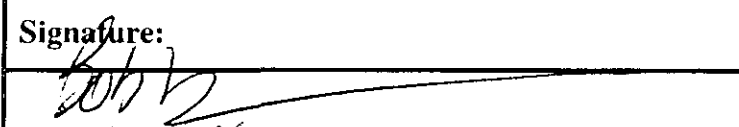
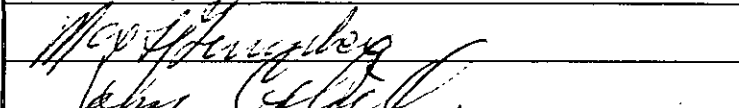
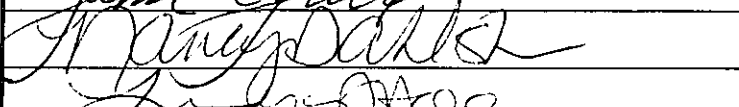
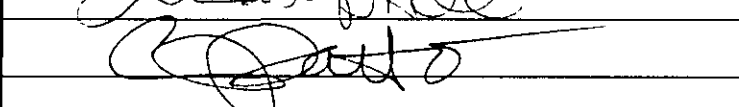
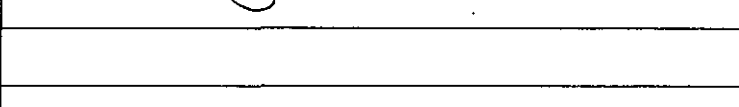
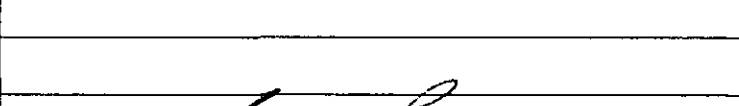

Attachments as noted

CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Action date: 4/10/09

The **Judiciary Committee** has reviewed the qualifications of the following Governor's appointee(s) as shown on the attached Referral for Confirmation form(s) and recommends that the name(s) be forwarded to a joint session for consideration:

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
	LYNN
	Greenberg
	Coehill
	Dahlstrom
	Holmes
	Gatto
Chair: 	LIAM RAS

Please attach appointee Referral for Confirmation form(s) and return to the Chief Clerk's office.

**LEAH BURTON
LETTER
AND
RESPONSE**

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Sarah Palin, Governor

P.O. BOX 110300
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0300
PHONE: (907)465-2133
FAX: (907)465-2075

April 10, 2009

By Email and Capitol Mailbox

Honorable Member of the Twenty-Sixth Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: Letter Dated 7 April 2009 Purportedly From One Leah L. Burton

I am in receipt of a letter which purports to be from one Leah L. Burton. The letter is unsigned and I have been advised that it has been circulated to members of the Legislature. When I left my wife, Barbara, in Anchorage she cautioned me that "they are going to say bad things about you". "They will have to lie!" I responded, in an attempt to allay her fears. We have been happily married for more than forty years and like the tremendous lady she is, Barbara worries about me and doesn't like people criticizing her husband. (I thank the Lord for her every day.)

Apparently Barbara and I were both right. Not content to discuss my record, someone has now chosen to circulate this unsigned memo which is replete with totally false statements. I would call Ms. Burton a liar but, since the letter is unsigned and therefore may not have actually come from her, I will not do so. Instead, I am sending the response to you and referring to the letter, hereafter, as the "Burton" letter.

I believe I have heard of the Dads Against Discrimination and I have heard of a group known as the Alaska Family Support Group. Since I have practiced law in Anchorage in the private sector for over 35 years, I have given talks to many groups. I may have even spoken to this group although I do not recall having done so. If either group is the one I am thinking of, I had an unusual experience with one of its officers. On one occasion I received a call from a video store located on Lake Otis complaining about my "boorish behavior" to one of the store clerks. After ascertaining where and when this boorish behavior occurred, I advised the caller that I had never even been in his store. Intrigued by the caller's story, I asked if he had a videotape of the person who claimed to be Wayne Ross. It turned out that he had. I went to the store, viewed the

video, and recognized the person who had claimed to the clerk that he was me. The imposter was, if I recall, one of the founders of the above referenced group.

I will leave it to your imagination as to what occurred in the "Come To Jesus" meeting I had with this fellow when I was able to track him down. To my recollection, that was the last time I ever heard of either of these groups. They avoided me and I them, thereafter.

If I recall correctly, the only time I ever addressed this group, if indeed I ever did address them, was at a Denny's restaurant on either Benson and Denali or on Dimond and the Seward Highway. To my best recollection the only time I have been in the Denny's on Benson and DeBarr was to attend meetings of the Armed Services YMCA (I served on its Board and later as its Chairman) or to provide legal training for several concealed carry classes given at that location.

I do not believe I know a Steve Strube or a John Grames. I don't recall ever hearing such names before the Burton letter.

I have never ever stated to anyone "If a guy can't rape his wife... who's he gonna rape?"

I don't talk like that!

I don't believe in that!

I totally abhor such a thought and I totally reject it!

Indeed, if I ever heard such a comment from anyone, that person would have faced a serious confrontation with me. Rape is a serious crime; it is not something to joke about; it is not something I joke about; and I have no sympathy with anyone who does. Indeed, as AG I intend to pursue rapists with the full power of my office and put them behind bars for as long a time as possible.

Nor have I ever stated "There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut!"

Such an allegation that I uttered those words is outrageous! Indeed, it is almost as outrageous as the words themselves!

I confess that I am a bit old fashioned when it comes to women. My dad taught me that the greatest honor that a father could show another man was to let that man date his daughter. If a guy was granted that honor, the absolutely worst thing a guy could do

was to breach the trust given to him by that father. I still believe that to this day. My wife and I learned about love-making only after we were married and we have been faithful to one another exclusively. She is my partner and I rely upon her completely.

The idea of "disciplining" a wife is outrageous! Wives are not children; they are partners (or at least should be). Any man who speaks to me about "disciplining his wife" deserves not to have one. And again, if I ever heard such a comment from anyone, that person would have faced a serious confrontation with me.

Both Barbara and I have "disciplined" our children. They have all turned out well. We are proud of them and they (all four of them) love their parents totally. Indeed, our children have turned out so well that I joke that they all take after their mother.

With regard to child support, I served as Court Trustee from 1969 to 1973. During my tenure, we developed the computerized system of collecting child support which has expanded into the Child Support Services Division with exists today. I have no patience or sympathy for any parent who fails to properly support his (or her) child.

In my practice of law when involved in divorce work, more often than not I represented the mother/wife. Ninety-five of my cases settled; only five percent went to trial. Divorces are sad situations for both spouses, and also for the attorneys who handle them. I have often said that the only reason I handled such cases is because I could go home at night to my beloved Barbara and realize how wonderful our life together is. I have always felt bad that many others cannot enjoy a marriage such as ours.

As I said above, I am old-fashioned. I take my hat off inside if a lady is present. I try to rise as often as possible when a lady enters the room. I always try to treat women like I would like my wife to be treated. Call me a dinosaur, if you will, but that is how I was raised.

I have had a good time during these conformation proceedings and I have met many interesting people. It matters not to me whether we agree or disagree on issues; what matters is that we can talk with one another and that we don't become disagreeable with one another.

The Burton letter, however, crosses the line. Now I am a bit angry! Whoever wrote that letter should be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. I do not deserve such treatment no matter how much the writer disagrees with me!

And since I am writing, let's deal with another issue. I am in receipt of a second memo dated 9 April 2009 referencing a lady who testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on 8 April 2009.

The lady referenced my attendance at a UAA Forum in October 2005. She alleged that she heard me "argue that DV victims are liars".

I do not recall the date of such forum but I do recall attending such a forum. We were shown a movie about domestic violence. When it became my time to speak, I criticized the movie because it gave the misimpression that only men committed domestic violence on women.

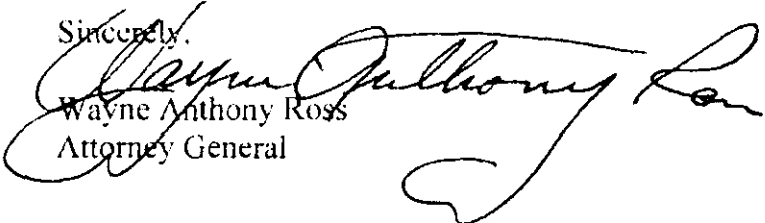
I believed that I had been invited because of my years of experience in the field. I simply pointed out that men too could be victims of domestic violence. I also stated that on occasion people who sought domestic violence protective orders did so because they wanted to use the process "as a sword rather than as a shield". I said that in my experience I had seen cases in which people lied to get such protective orders and that our domestic violence system was sometimes abused.

Quite obviously the lady who attended the UAA forum heard only what she wanted to hear.

My remarks that day were accurate and based on almost four decades of experience in the field. The lady's recollection of the event, however, was not accurate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Wayne Anthony Ross
Attorney General

cc: Sarah Palin, Governor
Mike Nizich, Chief of Staff
Sharon Leighow, Deputy Press Secretary

Jane Pierson

From: Rep. Jay Ramras
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 2:45 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: FW: My Notes
Signed By: Dana_Strommen@legis.state.ak.us
Attachments: IMG_0001.jpg; IMG_0002.jpg; IMG_0003.jpg

From: Leah Burton [mailto:leahlb@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 1:46 PM
To: Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Fwd: My Notes

These are my notes from the DADS meeting in Anchorage in 1991

--

Leah L. Burton

DADS Meeting

3/9/1

Strube,
Ghaines,
Roth

(S) "Judicial terrorism ... only 20 people to walk into a leg. office & throw them into a complete panic."

(R) "RO w/out burden of proof against Dads ... on some women accusations no words on her, allegation w/o proof."

(R) ... "97% DV Sought out by P.
RO handed out live candy"
"Ex parte allegations"

(G) No \$ muni, state, etc. men's support group.

(S) ^{"15 yrs ago"} I recognized to each other that they were oppressed. Radical interests taking over hurting men & ch.
Men haven't admitted they're oppressed.
5 more yrs to track to make a sig. diff. ...

2

(R) The ERA has emasculated us as men - if I knew their place, DV wouldn't be an issue"

(S) Now they want to control whether & when we can have sex w/ our own wives!

(R) The government is not our friend - Cent w/ Don of Jack
... we can stop this corrupt establishment.

"If a guy can't rape his wife - who's he gonna rape?" This is ridiculous!

(S) Sue Wms - "zoid" person - support in Judiciary

(S) Support Sue Wms as judge or any position in St govt.
Atty. That helps DADS - kindness of heart. Against DFTS - no charge.

(R) You can rely on me for some of that too.

(S) Gov. transition team for DSSIT
unanimously supp. Mike Rice.
Grievance Panel for family law
Task Force Comm. - problems w/ D/S.

- Pro-Family - Hired Agenda:
Unline CED - uncooperative:

(S) Mon., Tim Carter, Tracy Driscoll
met w/ Terry Mahoney & ditto
Cyneth - 30 diff. burning issues -
viol. of due process; illeg. using
2 diff. OS guidelines, computer
phone system.

Blew them away w/ documents
we had.

"Left them in shock!"

(G) Protest against them and don't
give up!
Bigger and bigger than ever!

Ref. ASB
Werner

Jane Pierson

From: joann mcdevitt [joannmcdvtt@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:23 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: WAR

I just want to be sure you have seen this

following is a testimonial letter from Leah Burton. Realize as you are reading her words, she is talking about a man who would be, if Sarah Palin has her way, the Attorney General of our state; the highest law officer in the land. A man who condoned rape? WTF?

April 7, 2009

My name is Leah Burton. My father is former Commissioner of Public Safety, Richard L. Burton, who served under both Governor Hammond and Governor Hickel. I grew up in a law enforcement environment. Mr. Ross testimony today in response to Senator Hollis' questions about domestic violence and sexual assault victims enhances my testimony as to his prejudice on this very serious topic, especially given that, "Alaska rates among the top 5 states in the nation for per capita rates of domestic violence." (FBI/UCR 2007)

From 1989 through 1997 I lobbied on behalf of families and children in Alaska with regard to child support, custody, abuse, abandonment and neglect. In the course of that time my efforts put me in conflict with a group known then as the Dads Against Discrimination (DADS), and later renamed the Alaska Family Support Group.

Mr. Ross is one of the most successful attorneys in Alaska in his representation of the members of this organization and others who sought to avoid payment of child support through several means, not the least of which was to fight for custody.

In 1991, the DADS group held an area wide meeting at a Denny's Restaurant in Anchorage near DeBarr & Bragaw. I chose to go and sit in the main area of the restaurant near the opening of the meeting room where they convened so I was able to hear what they had to say and find out what plans they had for the upcoming legislative session.

At that point they still did not know what I looked like so I was able to sit there

unnoticed. The meeting was well attended, Steve Strube was the head of the group at that time and another known member, John Grames (who Strube referred to as his Lt.), was also in attendance along with enough other members to fill the room. They were delighted to have Wayne Anthony Ross in attendance as a guest speaker.

Numerous comments were made that were appalling, not the least of which were remarks by Mr. Ross which included the following; "If a guy can't rape his wife... who's he gonna rape?" and "There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut."

Other members made their own contributions such as, "We have the right to discipline our wives and children without the interference of government in our lives!"

These comments were greeted with laughter and affirmative responses by the group. Given the fact that they had referred to me in recent months as a "femi-nazi", the comments I was witness to at this meeting, while abhorrent, were unfortunately not surprising.

This announcement by Governor Palin is a slap in the face to all single parents who have no choice but to rely upon the State Department of Law to support court orders for child support, as well as those persons who need the Department to enforce criminal laws against sexual assault and domestic violence. Mr. Ross is the antithesis of the type of person that should be the Attorney General. This has been clearly demonstrated by his own words and actions in public.

In closing, I am not alone in my assessment that anyone who condones, and contributes to that type of hateful and harmful discourse clearly does not have the judgment necessary to represent the people of the State of Alaska as their Attorney General.

Given his other special

Jane Pierson

From: Boyer [river@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 11:10 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Regarding Wayne Anthony Ross

Hello Rep Ramras,

To date myself a bit I remember you beat as the "wingman" from my undergraduate days at UAF.

Today, I realize your acumen as an entrepreneur and admire your commitment to public service.

Could you please query Mr Ross regarding this information (below) to test its veracity and act accordingly.

Thanks again for your contributions to Alaska.

Best,

Michael L. Boyer
 Juneau (also a former Fairbanks Resident)

Leah Burton discusses Wayne Anthony Ross' appointment and her explosive testimony before the Legislature.

Stream it Live III RE:

Tomorrow House Judiciary Committee will meet and take citizen testimony on the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross to be our next Attorney General.

Leah Burton is on with CC, sharing her testimony regarding Wayne Anthony Ross. She is a former citizen lobbyist who worked on behalf of families and children concerning child support, child custody, domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault.

She discusses a meeting of the group DADS, being run by Wayne Anthony Ross, and what she heard.

Numerous comments were made that were appalling, not the least of which were remarks by Mr. Ross which included the following: **"If a guy can't rape his wife...who's he gonna rape?"** and **"There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut."**

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In closing, I am not alone in my assessment that anyone who condones, and contributes to that type of hateful and harmful discourse clearly does not have the judgment necessary to represent the people of the State of Alaska as their Attorney General.

Jane Pierson

From: James Behlke [jim@behlke.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:02 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Ross Hearing

Dear Ms. Pierson:

These comments are for the House Judiciary Committee regarding Mr. Ross's Attorney General confirmation proceedings.

I listened to Leah Burton speaking on the radio about the 1991 meeting where Mr. Ross may have made the statements Ms. Burton claims she witnessed. I see no reason why Ms. Burton would make this up. She sounded very specific and credible to me. Did the meeting occur? Was Mr. Ross there?

I don't know if Ms. Burton is exclusively using her memory (she indicated there are things one never forgets and she will never forget what Mr. Ross said), or if she also took notes at the time. If she took notes and still has possession of the original notes, it may be possible to verify whether the notes are aged or new-- if paper and ink have aged since Ms. Burton wrote them, it would be extremely difficult or impossible to challenge the credibility of Ms. Burton's statements.

I hope your committee will give Ms. Burton ample time to describe the 1991 meeting (and Mr. Ross's remarks), and that Mr. Ross will have ample time to respond. Your committee may have access to experts who could help to advise them of specific questions that would help clarify credibility and who is telling the truth.

Thanks,

Sincerely,

Jim Behlke

5762 Flagstone Cir
Anchorage, AK 99502

April 10, 2009

House Judiciary Committee
Chairman-Representative Jay Ramras

Re: Ms. Leah L. Burton's letter dated April 7, 2009

Dear Committee Members:

For days now I have read numerous accusations against Mr. Wayne Anthony Ross, the governor's appointee for the position of Alaska's Attorney General. These accusations have seemed petty and ridiculous, and I hoped they would be given the attention they deserved. However, Ms. Burton's recent letter regarding Mr. Ross's character and beliefs was in a category of it's own.

It is my hope and belief that you want to hear the truth about Mr. Ross. To that end, I ask you to consider this letter.

For the past three years I have been employed as a paralegal in the office of Ross and Miner. During that time, we have been involved in many cases where domestic violence was an issue. Depending on the situation, I have seen Mr. Ross counsel these women to apply for domestic violence protective orders, advise them on safety measures, and tenaciously represent them in court. I have also observed Mr. Ross's frustration when a woman has chosen to dismiss her case and returned to her abuser.

I have even seen Mr. Ross in confrontations with the abusers. On one occasion office personnel were ready to call the police out of fear for Mr. Ross's safety. But I have never seen him back down when it has come to defending the rights of these women, nor have I heard him make any attempt to offer any excuse for their behavior.

If this is not enough to convince you that Ms. Burton's accusations are less than truthful, please consider my own experience with Mr. Ross. I came to Ross and Miner as a woman who had been out of the work force for many years. Not only did Mr. Ross give me a chance to prove myself, he encouraged me to grow in my profession and consistently pushed me to excel. He has not treated me according to my gender, but according to my ability.

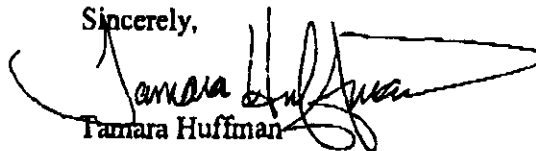
Ms. Burton's accusations are completely contrary to the character of the man with whom I have worked for the past three years. While I am hesitant to call anyone a liar, I have no qualms about doing so in the present instance. Ms. Burton speaks of a group called "Dads Against Discrimination (DADS), and later renamed the Alaska Family Support Group" and claims that "Mr. Ross is one of the most successful attorneys in Alaska in his

representation of the members of this organization and others who sought to avoid payment of child support through several means, not the least of which was to fight for custody." Yet, during the past three years, not one client has come to us claiming to be part of any such group. Indeed, I have never once heard of these organizations, if they do exist.

Nor have I ever seen Mr. Ross make any attempt to help any parent avoid paying child support. Our office holds the belief that the child's best interests are paramount, and I have seen cases turned down when the attorney felt the motivating factor in fighting for custody was to avoid paying child support.

In short, Mr. Ross is an honest, ethical man who is well qualified to fill the seat of Attorney General. Ms. Burton would do well to take a page from his rule book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamara Huffman", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tamara Huffman

**LETTERS
OF
SUPPORT
FOR
CONFIRMATION
OF
ROSS**

**(ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY BY
CORRESPONDENT'S LAST NAME)**

Jane Pierson

From: Eileen Becker [ELBecker@webtv.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:31 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Wayne Ross would make a good Attorney General. Please support Gov. Palin's choice. Thank you for the job you are doing. Dave & Eileen Becker, Dist 35, Homer, AK



Jane Pierson

From: Robert Bird [bob.bird@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 2:57 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross

Thank you for the opportunity to give this testimony, Rep. Ramras.

I am Bob Bird, former president and current board member of Alaska Right to Life. I am a member of the Alaskan Independence Party, a former Republican and have known Mr. Wayne Ross for about 25 years.

I did note that Mr. Ross has been called "controversial" and "divisive" by Democratic and native members of the legislature.

This is utter hypocrisy. The accusations "controversial" and "divisive" are never leveled at liberal Democrats. At a time when our nation and state is being subjected to THE most divisive and controversial policies, many of which are not enacted by the legislative branch but through executive fiat and judicial decree, it is time to put an end to such absurd, whining complaints.

I noticed where a native leader expects Mr. Ross to be the attorney general of all Alaskans, but this native leader is apparently only expected to serve his own constituency, which I might add includes non-natives.

The historic *McDowell* case of 1989, with which Mr. Ross was intimately involved, demonstrates who is truly divisive in the matter of rural and urban subsistence. It is the federal government that has created such division and controversy. Mr. Ross was also acting in the interests of Alaska's urban natives. This has always been conveniently overlooked.

I did note that some Alaskan natives, like Senator Donny Olson, have looked upon the federal government as their protector. I would remind them of the sordid and inhumane history of the federal government towards America's natives. It is filled with broken treaties, manipulation, murder and injustice.

Such native leaders seem to have forgotten that federal interference in the states' social issues have given us *Roe v. Wade*. It is abortion-on-demand, given to us by the federal judiciary in an unconstitutional and illegal way, that has done more to destroy minority cultures and their future. It is this very ruling that Mr. Ross has fought with such courage and gallantry for nearly 40 years. Native leaders might want to explain to their constituencies why they have not opposed the culture of death that the federal government has pushed upon them with the same energy as has Mr. Ross.

I would also remind Alaska's native leadership that Mr. Ross has been a strong advocate for the right to keep and bear arms, a right that is under threat even as we speak from the so-called "protector", the federal government. When animal rights activists come to threaten the native subsistence lifestyle by imposing regulations on our land and seas, it will be Mr. Ross and not the justice department of Barack Obama, that will fly to their defense.

Mr. Ross is an completely transparent and honorable man. Men of his convictions make enemies. In my opinion, he has made all the right ones.

Governor Palin is a conservative, she has the right to place her type of people in office and unless

Mr. Ross were to be guilty of unethical practices of some sort, deserves to be approved.

Rep. Ramras, I thank you for this opportunity.

Bob Bird
50615 Shemya Way
Kenai
907-776-5898

Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. [Check it out.](#)

Dana Strommen

From: housemajority_email@housemajority.org
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 1:09 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to cage@gci.net If suspected Spam please forward to:
support@housemajority.org
+-----+

From: cage@gci.net

Mr: Ramras,

I just received an email from my NASW office giving contact info for your office
concerning Governor Palin's appointment of Mr. Ross. My guess is that some of my fellow
social workers are not pleased with this appointment. However, my conclusion about Mr.
Ross, after about 24 years observation, is that he's a fine selection.

~ Lee Cage
Zip Code: 99577

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to cage@gci.net If suspected Spam please forward to:
support@housemajority.org
+-----+

Dana Strommen

From: Mark Chryson [mark@web-ak.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Mark Chryson
Subject: WAYNE ROSS Confirmation hearings

STATE OF ALASKA

**Mat Valley Fish & Game
Advisory Committee**

Sarah Palin, Governor

Tony Russ, Chair
574 Sarah's Way
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-6474
tony@tonyruss.com

4 April, 2009

The Honorable Governor Sarah Palin

Dear Governor Palin:

The members of the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like to take this time to show unanimous support for the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General.

We feel that Mr. Ross' past record and support of all Alaskan's right to access state lands and waters for traditional subsistence and personal use are consistent with citizens represented by the Matanuska Valley. We believe Mr. Ross will strongly support and defend the original intent of the Alaska State Constitution.

We highly recommend Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's new Attorney General.

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

Mark Chryson
MVFAC secretary
2140 E. Wolverine Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
907-376-8285
<http://www.web-ak.com>

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Jane Pierson

From: Rosanne Curran [curranbiz04@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:07 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Nomination of Wayne Ross

I would like to make my views known concerning the nomination of Wayne Ross as Attorney General. He is well qualified and an excellent choice for this position. His honesty and experience of many years is well known. Please forward this testimony to all on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

sincerely

Rosanne Curran
Cordova

Jane Pierson

From: cderrickak@aim.com

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:47 AM

To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Gene Therriault; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Mike Kelly

Subject: Wayne Ross Confirmation

To all the Interior Delegation Legislators who have espoused that they are pro gun advocates, now is the time to back your words up with actions. Mr. Wayne Ross as Alaska's Attorney General will protect gun rights for Alaskans and will vigorously fend off those who would limit those rights.

Also, as a Board member of the Chitina Dipnetters Assoc. I feel Mr. Ross will take a favorable view towards CDA's and Alaska Outdoor Council's lawsuit to return the Chitina Dipnet Fishery to its rightful classification as a subsistence fishery. Remember, thousands of your constituents participate in this fishery and subsistence status will assure the dipnet fisheries future.

Chuck Derrick
891 Seldom Seen Rd.
Fbks. Ak. 99712

The Average US Credit Score is 692. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!

Jane Pierson

From: John Davis [johndavis@radiokenai.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 5:44 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Please

Hi Jay.... Please support the confirmation of Wayne Ross as our A/G. He is a man with a rock solid, lifetime record of Integrity.

Thanks

John C. Davis
KSRM Radio Group
Kenai

Jane Pierson

From: Larry DiFrancesco [larrylakester@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 1:41 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Wayne Ross

Chairman-Representative Jay Ramras

Excellent choice for Alaska Attorney General!

Larry DiFrancesco
Director Aviation
Anchorage Alaska

Jane Pierson

From: JANET DELFINO [janetdelfino@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 9:45 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross

I support him for attorney general and am an active registered voter in Anchorage.

Janet Delfino
2390 Hillbrook Circle
Anchorage, AK 99504-3575

Thank you for listening.

Dana Strommen

From: Phil Evans [philevans@pbevans.com]

Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 2:53 PM

To: Rep. Mike Kelly; Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg;
representative_scott_kasasaki@legis.state.ak.us; senator_gene_therriault@legis.state.ak.us; Sen.
Joe Paskvan; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris

Subject: Wayne Ross Confirmation as Attorney General

Dear Legislators,

I wholeheartedly support Sarah Palin's nomination of Wayne Ross as Attorney General and want him to be sworn in as scheduled without interference. He is the right person for our State!

Thank you!

Philip B. Evans
P. O. Box 85103
Fairbanks, AK 99708

April 8, 2009

Dear Judiciary Committee,

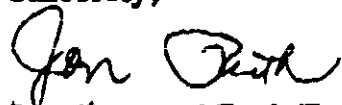
We are unable to be involved in the public testimony time concerning Wayne Ross as Attorney General. We are in complete support of this appointment by Governor Palin as Mr. Ross has served us well in the interior on many Constitutional matters. It is not hard to realize he is the man for the job and he is not easily intimidated when pressured. He is a 2nd Amendment Rights advocate and is principled in every area of our lives. He works as an attorney for Individual Rights and stands firm on the Rule of Law—the Constitution.

Any of you who may have reservations do not know the backbone it takes to protect our state in matters of law but Mr. Ross will successfully do it where others will cower. You can be assured of security with him as attorney general.

Here in the Interior when our First Amendment Rights of peaceful assembly were going to be trampled, he stepped in and wrote a letter for us and gave us his phone number to let him know if it happened again. When our fair board was not going to let us have a pro-life booth even though there was a pro-abortion booth, he wrote a letter citing precedent and the case down in the Mat-su and the fair board backed off.

Most importantly, all it takes is a few good men to run the state government well and one of those needs to be Mr. Wayne Ross.

Sincerely,



Jonathan and Ruth Ewig
2325-30th Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Jane Pierson

From: leslie hallifax [leshallifax@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:30 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Mr. Ramras,

I believe that Wayne Anthony Ross would be an exceptional choice for Attorney General for the State of Alaska. I am confident that his integrity and high moral standards would be a huge asset to our state.

Please share my testimony with everyone on the House Judiciary Committee.

Thank you.

Leslie Hallifax

Jane Pierson

From: Diane Hastings [dianehastings@catholic.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:36 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross AG nomination

Dear Rep Ramras,

Wayne Ross is a highly qualified and able candidate for the office of Attorney General. To oppose his appointment on the grounds of his pro-life and pro-family convictions is to contravene the will of the demonstrated majority of Alaskans. We voters will be watching closely to see how his appointment is handled, and will vote accordingly.

Thank you.

Stephen L. Hileman, MD
Soldotna, AK

Sent via Catholic Online Webmail!
Use Catholic Online Webmail to proclaim your faith to the world.
<http://webmail.catholic.org/>

Jane Pierson

From: Gwendaline Hill [qweebiegirl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:20 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayn Ross for Attorney General.

Please give my testimony to everyone in the House Judiciary Committee.

Wayne Ross is an exceptional choice for Attorney General. Wayne is a man of principal and Godly morals. He is a true conservative. He is the right choice for Attorney General. Please consider him.

April 10, 2009

26th Alaska State Legislature

Re: Ms. Leah L. Burton's letter dated April 7, 2009

Dear Legislator:

For days now I have read numerous accusations against Mr. Wayne Anthony Ross, the governor's appointee for the position of Alaska's Attorney General. These accusations have seemed petty and ridiculous, and I hoped they would be given the attention they deserved. However, Ms. Burton's recent letter regarding Mr. Ross's character and beliefs was in a category of its own.

It is my hope and belief that you want to hear the truth about Mr. Ross. To that end, I ask you to consider this letter.

For the past three years I have been employed as a paralegal in the office of Ross and Miner. During that time, we have been involved in many cases where domestic violence was an issue. Depending on the situation, I have seen Mr. Ross counsel these women to apply for domestic violence protective orders, advise them on safety measures, and tenaciously represent them in court. I have also observed Mr. Ross's frustration when a woman has chosen to dismiss her case and returned to her abuser.

I have even seen Mr. Ross in confrontations with the abusers. On one occasion office personnel were ready to call the police out of fear for Mr. Ross's safety. But I have never seen him back down when it has come to defending the rights of these women, nor have I heard him make any attempt to offer any excuse for the abuser's behavior.

If this is not enough to convince you that Ms. Burton's accusations are less than truthful, please consider my own experience with Mr. Ross. I came to Ross and Miner as a woman who had been out of the work force for many years. Not only did Mr. Ross give me a chance to prove myself, he encouraged me to grow in my profession and consistently pushed me to excel. He has not treated me according to my gender, but according to my ability.

Ms. Burton's accusations are completely contrary to the character of the man with whom I have worked for the past three years. While I am hesitant to call anyone a liar, I have no qualms about doing so in the present instance. Ms. Burton speaks of a group called "Dads Against Discrimination (DADS)... later renamed the Alaska Family Support Group" and claims that "Mr. Ross is one of the most

successful attorneys in Alaska in his representation of the members of this organization and others who sought to avoid payment of child support through several means, not the least of which was to fight for custody." Yet, during the past three years, not one client has come to us claiming to be part of any such group. Indeed, I have never once heard of these organizations, if they do exist.

Nor have I ever seen Mr. Ross make any attempt to help any parent avoid paying child support. Our office holds the belief that the child's best interests are paramount, and I have seen cases turned down when the attorney felt the motivating factor in fighting for custody was to avoid paying child support.

In short, Mr. Ross is an honest, ethical man who is well qualified to fill the seat of Attorney General. Ms. Burton would do well to take a page from his rule book.

Sincerely,
Tamara Huffman
(907) 830-3406

Dana Strommen

From: Linda Jo Klapperich [purple2@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 7:35 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear sir:

I have known Wayne for 10 years. I really believe he would be a great Attorney General. He is very intelligent, well spoken and has deep personal integrity.

I admire Gov. Palin for selecting him.

Linda Jo Klapperich
Teacher
Palmer Junior Middle School
Palmer, Alaska
907-761-4357

Jane Pierson

From: ak-klump@gci.net on behalf of Phil and Maureen Klump [ak-klump@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 9:42 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross Confirmation

Dear Rep. Ramras,

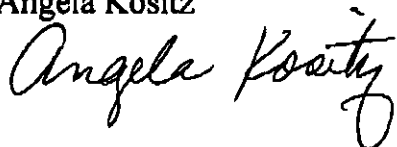
I am writing to encourage you and all other legislators to confirm Wayne Ross as Alaska's next Attorney General. I have known Wayne personally for many years and he is a great person to fight for the Constitutional rights of All Alaskans equally. His tenacity and integrity make him the perfect choice at a time when mistrust and lack of integrity are rampant in government at all levels. I will hold any legislator who votes against Mr. Ross's confirmation accountable at election time and will use my influence to vote those legislators out of office who oppose this confirmation. Sincerely, Dr. Philip J. Klump, D.D.S.

To the House Judiciary Committee

4/10/09

I have been working For Mr. Ross for a year now in his Law Office as Receptionist. I also work with his wife Barb. I would like to state for the record that my experience working for them has been nothing but positive. I see nothing but respect, honor and love in the way he treats his wife. He treats all his employees and fellow Attorneys with respect and truly cares about them. As for his clients they always come out of his office grateful and pleased for what he does for them. Almost every appointment I set for new clients are people who have been referred to Mr. Ross by former or current clients. By what I have observed he and his wife are probably the most honest, ethical people I have worked for. I could NEVER imagine Mr. Ross ever saying the things Ms. Burton accuses him of either in public or private.

Angela Kositz



Jane Pierson

From: jlaneanc@ak.net on behalf of John & Myrna Lane [jlaneanc@ak.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 3:16 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Rep. Ramras

We would like to urge you and other members of the Judiciary Committee to confirm Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General for the State of Alaska. We have been aware of Mr. Ross for many years and know him to be a fair, honest and just man and will serve the State well.

Sincerely,

John & Myrna Lane
Anchorage, AK.

Jane Pierson

From: eleeak@mtaonline.net
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 5:15 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross

I wish to add my statement to the others for Wayne Ross. Do not block him as the choice for Attorney General for our state!
He is an exceptional choice for this position. He is a man of principal and has good morals. He says what he means and means what he says, something unusual in today's world. This man is what we need right now to help hold our wonderful state together in this trying time our country and world are facing. He is the Governor's choice and he is an excellent choice.
Thank you.

Ellen Lee
Wasilla, AK

Jane Pierson

From: Marie & Sean Mayton [mayton32@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 2:41 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Wayne Ross

I want my voice heard about representative Wayne Ross. I believe in Sarah Palin's choice. I think she knows who's best for this position and He is reliable and has good morals. Please vote him in.

Sincerely
Marie Mayton

Jane Pierson

From: Jan Mccoy [janmccoy@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 4:59 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please support Wayne Ross

Wayne Ross is a wonderful choice for Attorney General. He is imminently qualified and he will be a wonderful advocate for the people of Alaska. His integrity and compassion in my view is without question-- although I know that in the poisonous political atmosphere we are in today you can expect almost anything. My husband and I have nothing but the greatest respect for his life's work and for the things he stands for. Please support his confirmation, and if you are able, please share my thoughts with other members of the House Judiciary Committee.

Jan McCoy
Anchorage, Alaska

Jane Pierson

From: Wendy McKinnis [schultzy@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:16 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn;
Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Confirm Wayne Anthony Ross!

Dear Chairman Ramras:

Please ensure my letter is given to each member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Please vote to confirm Wayne Anthony Ross to be Alaska's next Attorney General.

Mr. Ross is an exceptional individual and attorney. He keeps his word, is a man of principal, and will serve to ensure Alaska's best interests are served.

Governor Palin has chosen him to serve and he deserves to be appointed to fill the position.

Thank you for your service and for supporting Mr. Ross.

Sincerely,

Doug and Wendy McKinnis

Jane Pierson

From: John & Candy Miller [3in1oil@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 1:12 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: YES CONFIRM WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS

YES CONFIRM WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS!!!

HE WILL UPHOLD THE ALASKA & NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

for LIFE. LIBERTY, JUSTICE, FREEDOM

for ALL

Candus Miller
Palmer, AK



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
555 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 625
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916)446-2455 voice ■ (916)448-7469 fax

STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
BRIAN JUDY, ALASKA STATE LIAISON

TO: Members of the Alaska State Legislature
FROM: Brian Judy, NRA-ILA Alaska State Liaison
DATE: April 15, 2009
RE: Wayne Anthony Ross AG Confirmation – **SUPPORT**

On behalf of the tens of thousands of National Rifle Association members who live in the State of Alaska, I would like to register strong support for the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General.

The Right to Keep and Bear arms and the natural right of self-defense are fundamental. There are few issues of greater importance to citizens in the State of Alaska. Wayne Anthony Ross is a staunch defender of Constitutional freedom. Based on his proven dedication and passion for the Second Amendment, Alaskans can rest assured their firearm freedoms and hunting heritage will have a consistent defender in the State Attorney General's office.

The National Rifle Association has been quite surprised to hear some of the things alleged by those who have spoken out in their opposition to this confirmation. Particularly shocking are suggestions that the nominee would be weak in going after perpetrators of domestic violence. It is impossible to believe that Wayne Anthony Ross would coddle any criminals, domestic abusers or otherwise.

In closing I would just reiterate, on behalf of its members, the strong support of the National Rifle Association for the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross to the office of Attorney General for the State of Alaska.

Jane Pierson

From: John and Gail O'Neill [joneill@ptialaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 2:19 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: re: Wayne Ross for Attourney General

Dear Chairman-Representative Jay Ramaras,

I would like to give testimony to everyone on the House Judiciary Committee in favor of Wayne Ross for Attourney General. I believe he would be an excellent for this job. He represents my choice for this office.

Thank you very much,

Gail O'Neill

P.O. Box 15235 Fritz Creek, AK 99603

38420 Walters Street

907 235-5390

Dana Strommen

From: jpe@gci.net on behalf of James Prashuk [jpe@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 5:14 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Attorney General

Hello Mr. Ramras,

I am writing to you to ask that you support and endorse the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross for the next Attorney General for the state of Alaska. I support his nomination by Governor Palin.

I work in and reside in Fairbanks and have done so for 30 years now.

I hope that your values and mine coincide. I do pay attention to the issues facing our state and nation.

Thank you for your interest and time.

Respectfully

James Prashuk
1745 Donald Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
jpe@gci.net

Jane Pierson

From: Mike & Jenni Remillard [mailto:mikejen.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:43 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am writing to encourage you to confirm Wayne Ross as the Attorney General for the State of Alaska. Whenever I have heard him speak in public settings he speaks with common sense, humor, graciousness, and compassion. He is a man with a long history in Alaska public life. I believe he would make an exceptional attorney general for our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Remillard

Jenni Remillard
907-696-8213
22830 Eagle Glacier Loop
Eagle River, AK 99577
email: mail@mikejen.net

Dana Strommen

From: Chris Rude [crude@rsa-ak.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 9:14 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: In Regards to Wayne Ross

Greetings Representative:

I appreciate the good work that you are doing on our behalf in Juneau. I'd like to take this opportunity to urge you to vote positively for the confirmation of Wayne Ross. Wayne is a straight shooter and one whom takes our Constitution seriously - an attribute that is, sadly, in short supply these days. I believe that Wayne will do an outstanding job and I hope that you agree.

Thanks again,
Sincerely,

Chris Rude

RSA Engineering, Inc.
Mechanical Designer
907.276.0521 office
907.276.1751 fax

Dana Strommen

From: teresa siple [tesiple@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 3:50 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: confirm anthony wayne ross as attorney general

teresa siple
p.o. box 73605
fairbanks, AK 99707-3605

April 14, 2009

The Honorable Jay Ramras
Alaska House of Representatives
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Representative Ramras:

please confirm anthony way ross as attorney general

Sincerely,

teresa e. siple

Jane Pierson

From: Marc & Lucy Viens [mlviens@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:51 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Wayne Ross

Wayne Ross is an exceptional choice for Attorney General. He is an upstanding man of principle.

Sincerely,
Lucy Viens

Jane Pierson

From: David Weisensel [alaskacabins@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:08 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: in favor of Wayne Ross confirmation

Dear Mr. Ramras,

I am writing in support of confirming Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General of Alaska. Wayne Ross is an exceptional choice for Attorney General. He is a man of principal and has Godly morals. He says what he means, and means what he says. There is no pretense or illusionary aspect to Wayne Ross. He's a true conservative, which is why the liberals are trying to take him out. I liked what I read about him in the paper today. Please help.

David Weisensel
456-1664

Jane Pierson

From: Floyd/Gaye Wright [fwright@ideafamilies.org]

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 9:18 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Joe Thomas

Subject: Wayne Ross

Wayne Anthony Ross is a straight shooter, and he doesn't play games. I believe we would serve the State of Alaska honestly and with zeal. Please vote for his confirmation to the Office of State Attorney General.

Floyd Wright

Gaye Wright

Reuben Wright

**LETTERS
OF
OPPOSITION
TO THE
CONFIRMATION
OF
ROSS**

**(ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY BY
CORRESPONDENT'S LAST NAME)**

Jane Pierson


From: Sharon Alden [fwxsca@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:12 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross

Dear Rep. Ramras,

Pleas do not vote to confirm Wayne Ross at Alaska's Attorney General. His views on women and domestic violence are from the dark ages and will set our state beck decades. Alaska is number one in assaults against women and domestic violence. There are issues that need to be taken seriously. I doubt that this will be the case with Mr. Ross.

Thank you for your time.

Sharon Alden
Fairbanks, Alaska



Dana Strommen

From: Sandee Anderson [mrsnka@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 4:59 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: W.A. Ross

Dear Representative Ramras ,

As a lifelong Alaskan voter, I urge you to not confirm Governor Palin's nominee Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General. As a woman, I am offended by his flippant stance regarding rape and his disrespectful attitude toward women. I am also extremely offended at his sexist sexualization of Governor Palin. Lastly, I am offended by his disrespect for the Native people and their spirit.

Sincerely,
A concerned Alaskan voter

Alison K. Annis
19708 Revilla Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577
April 14, 2009

Jay Ramras
Alaska State Representative
Capitol Room 120
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001 **via FAX: (907) 465-2070**

Dear Representative Ramras:

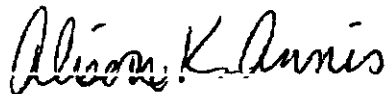
I am writing to ask you to NOT approve Wayne Anthony Ross for the position of Alaska State Attorney General. By representing one of Sarah Palin's staff members in the "Troopergate" investigation he clearly shows his loyalty to the Governor. This loyalty precludes him from impartially serving the State of Alaska and upholding its constitution.

His declarations regarding his negative opinions of homosexuals (and more recently, his refusal to declare his stance) cause me great concern for his ability (or lack thereof) to sincerely and impartially act on behalf of, and for the benefit of ALL Alaskans, regardless of political party, religion, age, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Mr. Ross's assertion that he can perform the job of Attorney General while keeping his personal opinions out of it is simply not believable. Our behavior is driven by our personal opinions and values, therefore I don't believe he can separate his from the job of Attorney General. His past behavior should be viewed as a predictor of future performance. As a concerned Alaskan, I feel he lacks the integrity required to do the job fairly and ethically.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Sincerely,



Alison K Annis

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Dana Strommen

From: ashcrafthome@gci.net on behalf of Jeanne Ashcraft [ashcrafthome@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 6:02 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: NO on Ross

Rep. Ramras:

After hearing this afternoon about the proof that Wayne Ross lied during his confirmation hearings about ever having said, "If a man can't rape his own wife, who can he rape?", and in fact about being at the meeting where he said it, I believe that if this man is confirmed as the attorney general of this state where my family lives, works, raises its children, and invests it will be just about the last straw for any of us. Alaskans deserve far, far better than we are getting from Juneau during this administration.

Please have the **courage** to deny Wayne Ross the powerful position that he has been nominated to hold.

Thank you,
Jeanne Ashcraft
Anchorage

THIS TESTIMONY WAS DELIVERED April 11, 2009 BY EMAIL OR COURIER

April 10, 2009

Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Earlier this afternoon, Wayne Ross provided information as to how he evaluates people. For the record, and according to his measure, I am not a *communist*, I am not an *anarchist*, and *I love Alaska*. Again using Mr. Ross' words, I hope all of you will consider me *courageous* when I conclude my testimony before you.

My name is Barbara Bachmeier. As I am an 80% service-disabled veteran and because the VA in Anchorage does not provide the services I need, I'll be leaving soon on an extended trip to California. Today, I believe, will be my last testimony before the Alaska Legislature. I don't want to leave home, but I must. I'd certainly prefer not to give this testimony this afternoon, but I must. I flew in last night arriving at 9:30 p.m. in order to be here today. This matter is that important.

There was a time that I needed to hire an attorney in order to respond to a legal matter involving my expectation that students in Alaska's public high schools should be required to behave honorably and respectfully during the morning ritual recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. It seems there were administrative personnel, one mother, and one student who disagreed. The mother contacted an attorney and suddenly I was in big legal trouble (civil not criminal).

Somebody suggested that I hire Wayne Ross. "You'll get your money worth from him", this person said. "He'll work hard for you". So, I met with Wayne Ross in his office and told him the facts of the case. My words and his questions took approximately ten minutes. After this, I listened to his response: rehearsed colorful stories and goofy analogies; considerable information about his successful law career; details about the successful career his son had in the US Marine Corps; his wife's excellent baking abilities; and attempted discussions about various souvenir-type items in his office. I discovered later that Mr. Ross charged me for the time he consumed with his unnecessary attempt at entertainment and his "This is my Life" monologue. My financial situation could only have been made worse if he had charged me at the "usual rate"; this experience caused me to realize that I could not afford even Mr. Ross' "military discount rate" given the way his time accounting served only to benefit him.

Either he observed my somatic clues or ran out of colorful expressions, he eventually stopped the "chit-chat", shifted gears, and presented the grand strategy he would employ in response to my legal problem. He told me he would arrange for hundreds of veterans to muster at a particular location as a "show of force" in support of my reasonable expectation for all Alaska public school students during the Pledge of Allegiance to our country.

Behaviorally, Wayne Ross carried himself as if he were a Flag Officer imposter. Perhaps sensing my response to his weird bravado, he assured me he had sufficient military clout to make such a "big deal" military formation take place. Although he did not discuss anything about the Alaska National Guard, he spoke with such effervescence that I fully expected him to propose the activation of the Alaska National Guard for a "Pass and Review" ceremony at someplace like the Anchorage Park Strip.

In Sean Cockerham's Anchorage Daily News article on April 9, 2009, Mr. Ross characterized himself as a "... general who carries out campaigns." If I were to conduct a functional behavioral analysis of Wayne Ross (calling on my skills as a former SED special education teacher), there would be significant areas involving communications, interpersonal skills (including cheating), time management, and conflict resolution for which one would recommend intervention leading to improvement. I think Mr. Ross is less than he wants to be and makes every effort to overcompensate. During thoughts such as these and *really* wanting to run from his office, I focused on my need for an attorney that another veteran recommended. I stayed and wrote a check, but I should have followed my instincts.

Not long after I hired and paid Mr. Ross to serve as my attorney, perhaps when Vic Kohring realized he needed to get an attorney, Ross sent me a very brief note; I accepted it at face value although there was no signature (only initials). The quick note revealed that Wayne Ross had taken on "two serious criminal cases" and would no longer be available to help me with my case. He offered to return part of my retainer and recommended that I take my (good) case to another attorney. The problem with the alternative plan he crafted was that the returned portion of the hefty retainer caused me to have insufficient funds to hire a new attorney.

As I am a retired lieutenant colonel in military intelligence, I have seen lots of general officers. I served on military assignments from Camp Casey, Korea (within easy artillery range of North Korea) to the Pentagon. There were no officers at any rank that behaved as pompously as Wayne Ross did when we met that first time and seemingly continues to do in the present time. Wayne Ross is not the kind of individual that our state needs and deserves as her next attorney general. We need somebody who will observe his commitments, keep his word, and work for the common person like me. We need an Attorney General who will honor veterans and not take advantage of them for personal and professional glory. Using the words he chooses to connote high praise, Alaska needs an attorney general whose "word [one can take] to the bank".

Wayne Ross is not a role model for professional attorneys and Alaska does not need the "band of junkyard dog assistant attorneys general" that he would hire (according to the ADN article referenced above); he graduated in the bottom segment in his law school class; he was not selected for two judgeships for which he made application; he proudly uses "jury nullification" as a defense strategy when most other courts in the country expressly disallow it; as far as his skills, abilities, and competencies he demonstrated before me, was "smoke and mirrors"; and he does not keep his word.

In considering how Wayne Ross described Governor Palin as *courageous* when she took on her party only to get, initially, an unpleasant letter from the Alaska Department of

Law, I ask this committee to hear my testimony and find it worthy of honest consideration. Please do not send me a "poison" letter like the rambling one sent to Leah Burton after she submitted written testimony; she is a credible journalist.

My being here this afternoon was the honorable thing to do in this matter. I may not be around to give in-person testimony to the legislature again, but I will keep up on what's happening with state government. Perhaps in the future you will hear from me in the form of my writings. I'll stay in touch.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Wayne Ross called Leah Burton a liar and this is not true. It is appropriate for me to tell you that Wayne Ross absolutely lied to me. And to make matters worse, he cheated Alaskans as he cheated me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Bachmeier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Barbara Bachmeier

DELIVERED April 11, 2009 BY COURIER – UPDATE DELIVERED April 13, 2009

Testimony given before the Alaska House Judiciary Committee – April 10, 2009

April 10, 2009

Alaska State Legislature
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Hearings on the appointment of Wayne A. Ross as Alaska Attorney General

Earlier this afternoon, Wayne Ross provided information as to how he evaluates people. For the record, and according to his measure, I am not a *communist*, I am not an *anarchist*, and *I love Alaska*. Again using Mr. Ross' words, I hope all of you will consider me *courageous* when I conclude my testimony.

My name is Barbara Bachmeier. As I am an 80% service-disabled veteran and because the VA in Anchorage does not provide the services I need, I'll be leaving soon on an extended trip to California. Today, I believe, will be my last testimony before the Alaska Legislature. I don't want to leave home, but I must. I'd certainly prefer not to give this testimony this afternoon, but I must. I flew in last night arriving at 9:30 p.m. in order to be here today. This matter is that important.

There was a time that I needed to hire an attorney in order to respond to a legal matter involving my expectation that students in Alaska's public high schools should be required to behave honorably and respectfully during the morning ritual recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. It seems there were administrative personnel, one mother, and one student who disagreed. The mother contacted an attorney and suddenly I was in big legal trouble (civil not criminal).

Somebody suggested that I hire Wayne Ross. "You'll get your money worth from him", this person said. "He'll work hard for you". So, I met with Wayne Ross in his office and told him the facts of the case. My words and his questions took approximately ten minutes. After this, I listened to his response: rehearsed colorful stories and goofy analogies; considerable information about his successful law career; details about the successful career his son had in the US Marine Corps; his wife's excellent baking abilities; and attempted discussions about various souvenir-type items in his office. I discovered later that Mr. Ross charged me for the time he consumed with his unnecessary attempt at entertainment and his "This is My Life" monologue. My financial situation could only have been made worse if he had charged me at the "usual rate"; this experience caused me to realize that I could not afford even Mr. Ross' "military discount rate" given the way his time accounting served only to benefit him.

Either he responded to my somatic clues or ran out of colorful expressions, he eventually stopped the "chit-chat", shifted gears, and presented the grand strategy he would employ in response to my legal problem. He told me he would arrange for hundreds of veterans

to muster at a particular location as a "show of force" in support of my reasonable expectation for all public school students during the Pledge of Allegiance to our country.

Behaviorally, Wayne Ross carried himself as if he were a Flag Officer imposter. Perhaps sensing my response to his weird bravado, he assured me he had sufficient military clout to make such a "big deal" military formation take place. Although he did not discuss anything about the Alaska National Guard, he spoke with such effervescence that I fully expected him to propose the activation of the Alaska National Guard for a "Pass and Review" ceremony at someplace like the Anchorage Park Strip.

In Sean Cockerham's Anchorage Daily News article on April 9, 2009, Mr. Ross characterized himself as a "... general who carries out campaigns." If I were to conduct a functional behavioral analysis of Wayne Ross (calling on my skills as a former SED special education teacher), there would be significant areas involving communications, interpersonal skills (including cheating), time management, and conflict resolution for which one would recommend intervention leading to improvement. I think Mr. Ross is less than he wants to be and makes every effort to overcompensate. During thoughts such as these and *really* wanting to run from his office, I focused on my need for an attorney that another veteran recommended. I stayed and wrote a check, but I should have followed my instincts.

Not long after I hired and paid Mr. Ross to serve as my attorney, perhaps when Vic Kohring realized he needed to get an attorney, Ross sent me a very brief note; I accepted it at face value although there was no signature (only initials). The quick note revealed that Wayne Ross had taken on "two serious criminal cases" and would no longer be available to help me with my legal problem. He offered to return part of my retainer and recommended that I hire a different attorney to handle my good case. The problem with the alternative plan he crafted was that the returned portion of the hefty retainer caused me to have insufficient funds to hire a new attorney.

As I am a retired lieutenant colonel in military intelligence, I have seen lots of general officers. I served on military assignments from Camp Casey, Korea (within easy artillery range of North Korea) to the Pentagon. There were no officers at any rank who behaved as pompously as Wayne Ross did when we met that first time, and seemingly continues to behave in the present. Wayne Ross is not the kind of individual that our state needs and deserves as her next attorney general. We need somebody who will observe his commitments, keep his word, and work for the common person, like me. We need an Attorney General who will honor veterans and not take advantage of them for personal and professional glory. Using the words he chooses to connote high praise, Alaska needs an attorney general whose "*word [one can take] to the bank*".

Wayne Ross is not a role model for professional attorneys and Alaska does not need the "band of junkyard dog assistant attorneys general" that he would hire (according to the ADN article referenced above); he graduated in the bottom segment in his law school class; he was not selected for two judgeships for which he made application; he proudly uses "jury nullification" (persuading a jury to return a "Not Guilty" verdict despite its belief that the defendant is "Guilty" of the violation charged) as a defense strategy when courts throughout our country expressly disallow this practice; with regard to his skills,

abilities, and competencies, what he demonstrated to me, was nothing but "smoke and mirrors" and a lot of extraneous joking around; and he is dishonest.

In considering how Wayne Ross described Governor Palin as *courageous* when she took on her party only to get, initially, an unpleasant letter from the Alaska Department of Law, I ask this committee to hear my testimony and find it worthy of honest consideration. Please do not send me a "poison" letter like the rambling one sent to Leah Burton after she submitted written email testimony (therefore explaining perhaps why Wayne Ross was confused by the lack of an official signature on the actual document. Ms. Burton is a professional writer and her work is regarded highly by her peers of all political persuasions.

My being here this afternoon was the honorable thing to do in this matter. I may not be around to give in-person testimony to the legislature again, but I will keep up on what's happening with state government. Perhaps in the future you will hear from me in the form of my writings. I'll stay in touch.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony. Wayne Ross called Leah Burton a liar and this is not true. It is appropriate for me to tell you that Wayne Ross absolutely lied to me. And to make matters worse, he cheated Alaskans as he cheated me.

Sincerely,



Barbara Bachmeier

Additional points added April 11, 2009:

- a) During the public testimony session on April 10, 2009, House Judiciary Committee Chairperson Ramras announced that he had received complaints of harassment directed at some people who earlier provided testimony by telephone from their home telephone numbers. Apparently, people in disagreement with the opposing testimony, responded by finding the telephone number of the persons offering opposing testimony and placing calls to these people for the sole purpose of engaging in harassing and controversial conversation against them. Ramras did not identify which side of the argument allegedly made the harassing telephone calls or which side received them, but instructed those responsible to stop this behavior forthwith.
- b) Today, April 11, 2009, I heard from a legislative staff person that the persons receiving the harassing telephone calls were those who spoke in opposition to the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross. The people allegedly making the harassing telephone calls were supporters of Ross' confirmation.
- c) I find this alleged behavior absolutely intolerable and unacceptable. I request an immediate investigation into this matter so as to determine whether egregious partisan harassment actually took place and, if so, valid consequences that would be in order.

Jane Pierson

From: Linda Baker [otis@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 1:34 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: ross nomination

I am a 32 year resident of Alaska and a registered voter. I urge you NOT to support the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General in the upcoming voting process.
Thank you for your consideration.
Linda Baker

Dana Strommen

From: dbear [jadebear@alaska.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 1:19 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: Attorney General Confirmation:

Dear Representative Ramras,

RE: Wayne A. Ross AG Confirmation Hearings

After watching a couple hours of your and Senator French's questioning of Mr. Ross I am even more convinced that he would not be the best pick for AG. He speaks of "principles" and states that were a situation to come up where he felt "his" principles were at risk he would simply "go back to practicing law". This was in response to your question re: his character overshadowing the position of AG. I have a professional license, land surveying, and the "principles of practice" of my profession are mandated by statute. Certainly, I am expected to exercise my best professional judgment in the performance of my work but my personal "principles" have nothing to do with performing that work and should there be some conflict then my licensure would be at risk, plain and simple. The extent to which personal ethics and integrity influence an individuals work I think would have been a more appropriate line of questioning for Mr. Ross. Here's an example of Mr. Ross's "principles" getting in the way of his professional behavior/ethic; I don't remember the year but it was during the first years of the war in Iraq. There was a protest at the intersection of the Kenai Spur and Sterling Highways in Soldotna. As I recall, a woman's son had been killed in Iraq and she and several supporters were protesting the war. One of our local radicals took it upon himself to drive past a couple of times and shout obscenities at the woman for being "unpatriotic" and etc.. Then he had someone drive his pick-up truck past while he bombarded the woman and her group with water. He was arrested for assault and Mr. Ross defended him with his well known "passion" for such things. When he says that all his clients are innocent he is being disingenuous and devious in his defense of such behavior as just described above. Also, when he states, repeatedly, that he works for the people of the state and will uphold the constitution of the U.S. and Alaska I ask you to very carefully consider this; there is such a thing as "**malicious compliance**". As AG Mr. Ross, as he has so vigorously demonstrated over the years, will be in a position to make decisions based on the absolute letter of the law or, as in the case of the poached caribou for the old Native woman, not!

Obviously, I haven't been privy to all your questioning of Mr. Ross but some questions I haven't heard that would be among the first and very important to me as a legislator are as follows ;

1. What is your position/opinion re: powers of the legislative and executive branches of Alaska state government, specifically, if the legislature issued subpoenas to either an ordinary citizen or a state official, would you expect both/either to honor the summons and why or why not? Do you believe in the premise that all citizens are equal under the law and that the law should be exercised equally over all?
2. As AG would you personally give legal advice to an ordinary citizen or a state employee re:

an action of the legislature or high ranking state official if in so doing you would be acting in conflict with the stated intent of the legislature or official? As between the governor and the legislature who, in a conflict of authority, would you answer to first?.

3. Do you agree that the U.S. constitution provides both the right "to" and "from" religious belief? Given your repeated use of the word God and prayer in many of your answers and your stated position as a pro-life advocate can you envision a circumstance where your oath of office, in your professional opinion, would be in conflict with your personal "principles"? More specifically for example, what is your professional opinion re: the federal ruling that allows workers in the medical profession to deny or refuse "services" to an individual if providing those services would conflict with the providers religious belief? What is your personal opinion or principle re: this ruling?.

4. Chief Justice Warren E. Berger is quoted as having said this; "A lifestyle or behavior that is odd or even bizarre, that interferes with no right or interest of others, is not to be condemned because it is different". What is your opinion, as AG, of the Alaska supreme court ruling that partners of gay and lesbian state employees are entitled to certain benefits typically associated with married, heterosexual couples? What is your personal opinion of this ruling? Do you foresee any problem enforcing and upholding this ruling?.

5. Do you think the AG position should be an elected position or remain an appointment by the governor? Why?

6. You have stated several times that if your "principles" ever get in the way of performing your, presumably unbiased, duties as AG you will just go back to practicing law, which you love doing anyway and that you won't go hungry or need to apply for unemployment. This seems a bit capricious, flippant and speaks to your attitude re: the position of AG. Is there something on your mind that you would like to speak about with regard to this attitude? An example of this was in your response to the statement that governor Palin is "provocative", meaning that she provokes the legislature with her actions and words at times, but you replied that yes, she looked pretty good and then chuckled. This "attitude", if you will, seems inappropriate and contentious, please explain why it is not and should not be perceived as such to the casual observer?.

7. Your publicly stated position re: Native rights, subsistence hunting and fishing, are inconsistent with state and federal law. As AG you will be expected to uphold the "law" as written, do you see any conflicts with existing law and your "principles"?

8. General scientific consensus demonstrates certain irrefutable facts re: fish and game management, global warming and status of certain animal species in Alaska. Do you see yourself as someone in possession of legitimate credentials which qualify you to dispute current scientific findings re: these matters? and do you anticipate becoming involved or participating in official, formal discussion of these matters beyond a direction from the legislature or governor to pursue legal action on behalf of the state re: one or more of these issues?.

9. Going back to "malicious compliance"; you have stated your opinion that the law should be flexible, should not overly penalize someone who has broken the law but with, in your opinion, reasonable justification and that putting the "fear of God" in them would better serve the situation. Reversing the logic of this, would you anticipate exercising "discretionary authority"

that is consistent with your personal principles in certain circumstances but applying the strictest letter of the law in others that don't meet your personal standards and you oppose? Would you extend this "discretionary authority", unconditionally, to everyone under your supervision in the AGs department?. Why/why not?.

I am no fan of governor Palin and I don't believe she is acting in the best interest of Alaska with her national political pursuits. Her recent behavior re: confirmation of Kim Elton's replacement is at once childish and petty in my opinion and should not be tolerated. Her appointment of Mr. Ross as AG is politically astute but hardly the best choice she could have, and should have, made for the state. Mr. Ross's confirmation hearings have convinced me beyond any shadow of a doubt that he is most likely one of the best defense attorneys available in the state but at the same time he is probably the worst choice for AG. We have seen what the "cowboys" are capable of over the past eight years in the national arena. Alaska does not need a cowboy AG working for a "maverick" governor who aspires to be president and has focused all her energy in that pursuit!

I'm not affiliated with any political party and wear no label. I was born in Alaska in 1948 and have seen some amazing things since. I sincerely hope the appointment of Mr. Ross as AG, especially in Sarah Palin's administration, will not be another!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David M. Bear
P.O. Box 39283
Ninilchik, AK 99639

Ph.: 567-3344

Jane Pierson

From: James Behlke [jim@behlke.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 8:30 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: message for House Judiciary Committee

Dear Ms. Pierson:

Please forward this message addressed to Representative Ramras to the House Judiciary Committee:

Dear Mr. Ramras:

I watched today's House Judiciary Committee meeting, and I'm concerned your committee may not intend to adequately review Leah Burton's testimony, or any additional information she may provide, until after the joint legislative session's scheduled confirmation vote of Wayne Anthony Ross-- I'm concerned your committee, which has 5 republicans and only 2 democrats, may be steamrolling Alaska's interests beneath partisan bias.

You yourself seemed to leave open the possibility that Ms. Burton's statements may be true. I'd be even more concerned if Mr. Ross's claims, in his recent response to Governor Palin on this matter, were proven false.

I see no reason why questions raised by Ms. Burton should not be addressed and resolved before Mr. Ross's confirmation vote. Is your committee trying to hide something about Mr. Ross from Alaskans? Do you need to conceal facts from Alaskans in order to get Mr. Ross confirmed as Attorney General?

If your committee can't address the obvious questions raised by Ms. Burton in a timely and useful way, perhaps you should ethically disclose this to the legislature so it may consider alternate, better investigative options which may occur before the confirmation vote.

Sincerely,

Jim Behlke

c.c. Senate Judiciary Committee
House Speaker
Senate President

Dana Strommen

From: James Behlke [jim@behlke.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 11:02 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: c.c. AG confirmation vote message to Senate President and House Speaker

Dear Senate President Stevens and House Speaker Chenault:

I'm concerned the Governor may be attempting to manipulate the legislature by holding up Senator Elton's replacement-- she apparently has not submitted any candidates that the democratic party agrees with.

It appears this matter may end up in court.

However, Juneau's senate seat (currently vacant) should have a say in the Attorney General nomination-- I'm concerned the Governor may be holding up the Senate replacement so there would be one less potential "no" vote at the joint session on Thursday.

I think it would only be fair to delay the Attorney General's confirmation vote until the Juneau senate seat has been acceptably filled.

I ask the legislature to delay the Attorney General's confirmation vote until all Alaskans, including Juneau residents, are equally represented-- even if a special session was required for a full confirmation vote to occur.

Apparently the Attorney General nominee has been advising the Governor on the nomination process for the Juneau senate seat-- if so, he may be influencing his own confirmation vote especially if his advice results in a delayed Juneau senate appointment.

Sincerely,

Jim Behlke

c.c. Alaska Legislature

Jane Pierson

From: Bent Alaska [bentalaska@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:03 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg;
Rep. Lindsey Holmes

Subject: My testimony against Wayne Anthony Ross as AG

"Does [Wayne Anthony Ross] have the qualifications, ethical standards and temperament to be the state's top law enforcement official and run such an important, politically sensitive department?" asked an ADN editorial.

Qualifications

- **Ross has been up for two separate Judicial advancements in the past two years, for the Alaska Supreme Court in 2007 and the Alaska Court of Appeals in 2008. He was not nominated by the Alaska Judicial Council either time. His mediocre Alaska Bar Association scores were cited as the reason he did not receive a nomination.**
- In response, he wrote a letter to the Bar Association newsletter complaining about the judicial selection process and the negative comments made about him in the anonymous Bar Survey used to rate the applicants.

Ethics and Temperament

There is an extensive written record on Ross from his two unsuccessful runs for governor and his long history of political activism. His zealous support for a host of controversial causes and his insulting public statements about those who believe differently show intolerance, bad judgement and the inability to seek common ground. He has a long list of enemies, and even his attorney peers and NRA buddies don't want him in positions of power.

- He called on the governor to fire an Assistant Attorney General for her participation in a peaceful demonstration. ("*Animal Activists Real Enemy*")
- He threatened to sue the Permanent Fund Dividend division because they denied a check to his son Brian, who had not lived in Alaska for 14 years.
- During a talk on domestic violence, he said that the women's movement emasculated men and was the cause of domestic abuse.
- He promised to fight the federal law requiring rural subsistence, and opposes tribal sovereignty saying, "If the state wants to deal with tribes, it should treat them as it treats fraternal organizations rather than as governments."
- He did not support Mayor Wuerch for re-election because Wuerch refused to help Ross' friend get into the Anchorage Fire Department after the friend failed a required psychological test.
- He publicly stated that pro-choice people are "baby killers," and called gays and lesbians "degenerates" in a letter to the state Bar Association.
- He endorsed Rick Mystrom for mayor in 2003 "because he fights the unions."
- He represented without fee, and personally supported, a man who twice poured buckets of water from a passing pickup onto anti-war demonstrators.
- He was a founder of Alaska Right to Life and has provided free legal services to anti-abortion activists since 1972.
- He blamed moderate Republicans for the state's fiscal problems saying, "Moderates are mush."
- He is a former vice president of the National Rifle Association and was in line to

become president, but was voted out of office by his peers.

- He is frequently described as "arrogant," uncompromising and attention-seeking.

Do we trust an arrogant political activist with mediocre professional ratings, zealous positions on sensitive state issues, and openly expressed prejudice against groups of Alaskan citizens to be "the state's top law enforcement official and run such an important, politically sensitive department?"

I know you will listen to the concerns of the citizens and do what is best for the state by denying his appointment. Thank you.

Sincerely,
E. Ross

Bent Alaska - GLBT News and Events with a Local Alaskan Bent.

Dana Strommen

From: ruthlb@gci.net on behalf of Ruth Blackwell [ruth@aukelake.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 8:21 PM
To: Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Johnny Ellis
Cc: Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Chris Tuck; Representative Con Bunde; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Representative Gary Davis; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jay Ramras; Representative Jerry Sanders; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Wes Keller
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to ask you to consider voting "no" on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross. I have listened to much of the confirmation hearings and came away thinking that he probably was not the strongest legal mind out available in Alaska, and probably he has strong opinions very "right of center", but was probably confirmable- and we only have a couple more years- what real harm could he do.

I changed my mind after his comments to the Anchorage Daily News reporter- in which he is quoted

""It seems to me the most important thing that can be done by the Senate is not argue with legal or illegal but to appoint somebody to represent Juneau," said Ross, ...

Now, that is an unbelievable statement for the "top legal authority" for the state of Alaska. First, the governor appoints, and then the Senate Democrats confirm. This is not the "wild west" we are in - but "civilized- law abiding" Alaska. Normal citizens want our top governmental officials to think following the law is the most important, not just when it is convenient.

Please consider voting no tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth Blackwell
 4240 Lake Shore Drive
 Juneau, Alaska 99801

Jane Pierson

From: Kathy Blanc [kathyblanc@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:46 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Comments on Wayne Anthony Ross

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns about the appointment by Governor Palin of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General of Alaska.

His positions on the role of the federal government and subsistence, his comments on homosexuality, and his disregard for the serious issue of domestic violence in this state all speak to an inability to represent the interests of all Alaskans.

The Attorney General is the state's chief legal officer and is responsible for protecting the public interest of the state and its people. The Attorney General needs to be able to represent every one of us, Democrats, Republicans, rich, poor, white, black, no matter who you are. This position should be filed by someone whose focus is on the rights of all Alaskans, not just gun rights.

Please do not confirm Mr. Ross as Attorney General of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Kathy Blanc

3003 Foster Avenue

Juneau, AK 99801

Dana Strommen

From: saywhat@chugach.net on behalf of Caroline Bolar [saywhat?@chugach.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 1:03 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Defining moment
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Representative Ramras:

First, I wish to thank you for your work to feed the needy, not just in your hometown, but also in Emmonak and the outlying villages during this past winter. I had the pleasure of living a total of 10 years in Fairbanks, from 1967 through Mid-May of 1979. Both of my children, Ginger Miller, nee: Dowling and Paul Dowling, attended University Park Elementary and the junior high (Ginger). I was grateful to attend and graduate from the University in 1977. People in Fairbanks know how to help others. They also know how important our decisions can be; the long lasting impact of both good and bad decisions.

Seldom does someone have a defining decision to make; such as the one, you will be making later today. You, and your colleagues in the Legislature, will be voting on whether or not to confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General. You will be asked to take a stand and be counted. This vote will be remembered for years to come.

During the hearings from both houses of the legislature, Mr. Ross was evasive, dismissive, and derisive, with a shade of contempt creeping through. Ross equated the legitimate role of the Legislature, in bringing forward questions about the Governor's actions, regarding the dismissal of the Public Safety Commissioner, Walt Monagan, whether or not these actions were ethical, with the persecutions that took place in the 1600's. Was he referring to the Inquisitions? As a devout Catholic, he should know the history of the Inquisitions.

Unfortunately, he was not pressured to answer the questions he was evading or simply blowing-off.

One question I would have liked to ask him:

Mr. Ross, do you believe The Holocaust took place?

Caroline Bolar
907-248-7515 (H)

Jane Pierson

From: mboots@gci.net on behalf of Molly Boots [mboots@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 1:06 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please do not accept Mr. Ross for AG

Dear Rep. Ramras--

I am a citizen of the state of Alaska. I urge you to vote against the appointment of Mr. Ross for AG. I think his views on many issues are too far out of the mainstream to be able to serve the people of Alaska well.

Sincerely,

Molly Boots
13137 Gulf Circle
Anchorage, AK 99515

Jane Pierson

From: Chris & Nickie [cnbx3@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:55 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault

Subject: Ross Confirmation

Dear Representatives and Senators of the State of Alaska Judiciary Committee,

I belong to a very conservative family in the Mat-Su Valley and may be rocking the boat for some; however, in light of the testimony put forth during confirmation hearings for Wayne Ross for Attorney General, I'm compelled to urge you to ask the Governor to provide an alternate candidate that would prove capable of serving all Alaskans.

Some of the testimony given during the hearings is deeply disturbing especially the testimony of Leah Burton, but even if Ms. Burton's allegations turn out to be false other issues have also been brought to attention that cannot be disputed. This is an attorney that has in the past demonstrated a disregard for basic freedoms given to Americans through our constitution such as freedom of speech, and in all honesty his displays of general contempt towards other people, even during these proceedings, leads me to believe that this man is probably not the most stable person the Governor could have chosen for this position. In replacing Talis Colberg, Alaskans deserve better than Wayne Ross.

Thank you,
Nicole Brunnhoelzl

Hm. 746-1153
Nickie's cell 355-0754

Jane Pierson

From: Marsha Buck [mbuck@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:42 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Cc: Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Beth Kerttula
Subject: Testimony – Attorney General Hearing

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Marsha Buck and I live in Juneau. I am unable to attend the Wayne Anthony Ross Nomination Hearing this afternoon due to a mandatory Juneau Pride Chorus dress rehearsal for our 7:00 p.m. performance at the Alaska Folk Festival this coming Wednesday at Centennial Hall, to which you are warmly invited. I would, however, like to provide testimony and would like my comments to be part of the record.

I am the Board President of Alaskans Together for Equality, Inc. which is a new statewide organization formed to advance the civil equality of all Alaskans with focus on equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans. I would like to testify briefly in opposition to the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General for Alaska. Mr. Ross's record of negative comments about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans make it difficult for me to imagine how he could uphold their constitutional rights fairly and without discrimination.

We need an Attorney General who respects ALL Alaskans equally – including gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex Alaskans as well as women and Native Alaskans. His public comments and legal record appear to indicate bias and a personal agenda rather than an open willingness to uphold the Alaska Constitution. I would, therefore, ask that you oppose Mr. Ross's nomination.

Sincerely,
Marsha Buck
Board President, Alaskans Together for Equality, Inc.
Treasurer, PFLAG Juneau
8445 Kimberly St.
Juneau, AK 99801

Britteny A. Cioni
9093 Fireweed Lane
Juneau, AK 99801

Testimony Against the Nomination of Wayne Allen Ross for Attorney General

I am here to oppose the nomination of Wayne Allen Ross for Attorney General. It has become quite obvious that Mr. Ross is a very divisive person. I do not believe that Mr. Ross will be able to represent ALL citizens of Alaska and therefore in my mind is not qualified to hold this very crucial position.

Mr. Ross obviously has very strong beliefs about the LGBT community and views members of that community as immoral and degenerates.

Mr. Ross will also not represent people that believe in women's rights. Wayne Anthony Ross defended protesters who chained themselves to reproductive health clinic check in counters. Because of the all of the services provided by this clinic this stopped women from also getting birth control and STD testing and is more of an issue with privacy and trespassing than anything else. Mr. Ross has made statements that appear to condone marital rape. Marital rape may be allowed in Afghanistan but not in the United States, it is NOT ACCEPTABLE. *I understand that this afternoon this is being denied but I still find it troubling. And I do not consider Mr. Ross to be a strong advocate of women.* Mr. Ross is hostile to our native population. He is opposed to subsistence priority, tribal sovereignty and ANSCA.

Mr. Ross was among several candidates for the Alaska Supreme Court seat vacated by Justice Bryner in 2007, and for the Court of Appeals seat vacated by Judge Stewart in 2008. He did not make the "short list" of qualified applicants sent to the Governor for either seat. If he is not qualified to hold these seats, how can he possibly be qualified to serve as our next AG?

So, Mr. Ross is unlikely to represent women, natives and LGBT community members. Who will Mr. Ross represent? Apparently, white heterosexual males. This representation is fine if it is in the confines of his private business but not for the entire state of Alaska.

Dana Strommen

From: jacl@gci.net on behalf of James Clark [jacl@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:37 PM
To: Rep. Les Gara
Cc: Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: Reject Wayne Ross as AG

Dear Representative,

Please vote to reject Wayne Ross as Attorney General for Alaska. His campaign ties to Sarah Palin are disturbing and sure to facilitate Palins' efforts to circumvent the laws of Alaska. Say goodbye to any 'ethics investigations into Any Palin matter if he is confirmed. Wayne Ross' actions and statements have angered: Women, Natives, Gays and the majority of reasonable Alaskan Citizens. Please Reject Wayne Ross as Attorney General.

Dr James A Clark
Anchorage 99508

Jane Pierson

From: jclarke@gci.net on behalf of Jodie Clarke [jclarke@gci.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 10:08 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: WAR

I'm sending you another email because I didn't properly sign the one previously sent regarding Wayne Anthony Ross and my encouraging you to vote 'no' as to him becoming AG for the State of Alaska.

Jodie Clarke
6521 Cutty Sark Street North
Anchorage, AK 99502
email: jclarke@gci.net

P.S. He is an evil man!!! I have a friend who was abused by her husband and called in to give her testimony...and, a man called in directly behind her and discredited her testimony regarding Ross. I was dumfounded. I so hope you all are researching Ross to the 'enth' degree! We don't need Ross and Palin together at the helm of our government. We are in trouble already and it would only be magnified in my opinion! I am a very concerned Alaskan voter - at the tender age of 66!

Jane Pierson

From: jclarke@gci.net on behalf of Jodie Clarke [jclarke@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 12:15 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: WAR

Sir:

I have watched the entire process as to the name of WAR being forwarded our Legislature as of yesterday. I have contacted all of you before, but feel I need to again.

To my generation, Wayne Anthony Ross, is called nothing more than a 'blow hard'! He talks so much on a personal level, about himself, that it has gotten him into big trouble throughout the years to which I suspect will continue should he be appointed AG.

When he replied to your question about Palin being in Arctic Fox garb, I was appalled at his response as to how good she looked! It was apparent to me that he was thinking of what the visual aspect of Palin brought to him vs her legality in donning the apparel, as Governor, for the occasion of her husband's race! He made me absolutely sick at the way he responded!

As previously mentioned, I have personal experience of this man through a girlfriend of marital abuse. Please, please, please review his stand on things and commentary made during his run for governor and on other many occasions. He is an evil man as I said before and I cannot believe you would find him fascinating and someone you'd like to get to know better because he is such a 'character'!

Sarah Palin is a disgrace as our governor and I feel Ross as AG will only bring more discord to Alaska!

Jodie Clarke
6521 Cutty Sark Street North
Anchorage, AK 99502
Email: jclarke@gci.net

Dana Strommen

From: George & Leslie [georgenleslie@mosquitonet.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 12:43 AM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. Mike Kelly
Cc: Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Jay Ramras; Sen. Gene Therriault
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

I am writing to express my concerns about Wayne Anthony Ross's nomination to the post of Attorney General. Mr. Ross's history of questionable public statements on many important issues has raised significant questions as to his ability to act impartially in upholding the constitutional rights of all Alaskans. But I have become even more concerned after reading his views Wednesday on Governor Palin's recent handling of the replacement for Kim Elton. He seems to be expressing greater commitment to personal alliances before determining the legal status of the actions in question. This does not bode well for demonstrating a fair and balanced legal perspective on issues that may involve personal beliefs or associations.

I respectfully request that you cast a NO vote at his confirmation hearing today. Mr. Ross appears to be too divisive and controversial a figure for such an important post, and I believe the state needs to work towards more unison and unbiased cooperation given all the political division we've been witnessing recently, especially in the important decision for the appointment of our next attorney general.

Sincerely,

Leslie Correll
P.O. Box 61132
Fairbanks, AK 99706
907-488-5254
(House District 7, Senate District D)

Dana Strommen

From: cc@gci.net on behalf of Camille Conte [cc@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 10:51 PM
To: Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Senator_Gary_Wilken@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bob Lynn; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Alan Austerman; Sen. Joe Paskvan
Subject: Wayn Athoney Ross

To My Legislative Body,

It is a Saturday night and I have just come across this exchange. I am stunned. Outraged. Deeply offended and speechless.

Here is what Rep. Ramras asked of Mr. Ross on Friday:

Representative Ramras: "We have a Governor who is provocative in a lot of her actions. Recently it comes to mind when she was in Fairbanks for the finish line for the Iron Dog she was wearing Arctic Cat gear...Arctic Cat letters..."

And here is what Mr. Ross said in response:

Wayne Anthony Ross: "It was provocative, she looked very good in them, didn't she?"

If this statement alone does not give you complete justification for turning down this appointment, then each of you are not only condoning a blatant attitude of sexism and objectification but you're encouraging it as an acceptable language, dialogue and treatment of women. Where was the outrage at this comment? Do you not have wives, daughters, sisters?

I can't even find the words to express myself right now. The wires in my mind are frying! How dare this man have the privilege of serving in the top law enforcement position in this state! You think this is a casual comment? Look at the PATTERN of testimony coming from those who oppose him! These people don't know each other and yet their stories have a common thread. Here's one: sexist.

I tell you this, say yes to this man and you have just said so much more to the women, to the YOUNG WOMEN of this state.

What a sad, sad day this is.
Camille Conte
Anchorage

Dana Strommen

From: cmates [cmates@acsalaska.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 6:43 AM

To: Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Woodie Salmon

Subject: Attorney General Confirmation

I may be a day late and a dollar short in terms of confirmation deadlines, but I don't think Mr. Ross is qualified to be attorney general. Everyone is entitled to his or her personal opinions, but we need a person with great law credentials who isn't going to polarize our lives any more than they are now.

Thank you.

Paul Costello, Fairbanks



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please see attached.

Signed: LAURIE G. CRAMER *Laurie G. Cramer*
Testifier

Representing (optional)
PO Box 865, Kaslof, AK 99610
Address

Phone number

I am writing this to voice a very strong opinion regarding Governor Palin's appointee for Attorney General of the State of Alaska. I am strongly opposed to this appointment and sincerely hope that you will take my concerns into account.

First: I am a proud resident of the State of Alaska as well as a proud citizen of the United States of America. I have long felt that the state motto should be "Don't tell me what to do" because that seems to be the general feeling of the majority in this state. However, like it or not, we are part of a bigger community (both national and global). Whatever your personal feelings about our present administration of the United States, you should not support anyone who regards Washington DC as "the enemy". Nor should you support anyone who supports the right to form anti-government militias. Particularly for a position as important as Attorney General.

This brings me to my second point: The Attorney General of the State of Alaska should represent the people. He/she should not have any allegiance to the governor or any particular party politics. Mr. Ross's involvement in previous gubernatorial races simply hails back to the old adage "you scratch my back and I will scratch yours" and smacks of conflict of interest. This is exactly the kind of politics that I am sick of. No appointment to a job this important should be made in this way. I do not believe that this man can be objective. I do not believe that he would be any better than our previous AG at addressing ethics issues.

Thirdly: How can you consider someone who refers to the position as "The General"?

Fourth: A few questions:

Does he have any administrative experience?

Does he have any experience in natural resource, land or tax law?

Does he have any experience in commercial matters?

Will he listen to opposing points of view fairly? Even in his own offices?

Will he take into account political and ideological views that don't match his own when appointing career attorneys?

Fifth: His previous writings as well as his responses when questioned about such things as Child Welfare, women's rights, natives' rights, subsistence rights and the rights of those with a different sexual preference did not make me feel confident at all about his ability to put his own opinions aside and represent all of the people. Lima Beans???? What a bizarre analogy. Governor Palin looks "provocative"??? This pretty much says it all.

In closing: I do not feel that this man is capable of representing me in the post of Attorney General.

He may be "colorful" or "folksy" or whatever the latest adjective is, but I find him controversial, divisive and downright frightening. Please do not appoint this man simply because he is one of "the good ole boys club". He is not objective and no matter how many things he denies or how many times he says that he can put his very strong personal feelings aside, I do NOT believe him.

Surely there are less controversial, less partisan and more qualified attorneys out there, any of whom would be a better choice.

Dana Strommen

From: Judy Crondahl [crondahl@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 1:19 PM

To: Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Paul Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Woodie Salmon

Subject: Hearings on Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General

Dear Members of the Alaska State House,

I am writing to urge that you not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General for the State of Alaska. I have watched many hours of the hearings before the Judiciary committees and am afraid.

Mr. Ross has shown disrespect for the rights and traditions of Native Alaskans, a hatred of homosexuals, and a pre-liberation view of women in both current and past statements. When asked about any of these, he has either denied making such statements or said that as the Attorney General he would represent all Alaskans and his feelings would not enter into it. It's nice to say he will represent all Alaskans, but all Alaskans are rarely on one side of a litigation. In a suit of Natives to preserve rural subsistence rights, or in a suit to protect gays or women against employment discrimination, I do not believe he will fairly represent anyone in these subject groups. There is a reason the legislature is required to confirm important appointments and this is it. You will be held responsible if you vote to confirm someone who is clearly unqualified by either temperament or experience to defend the Constitution and all the people of Alaska.

As a Juneau resident currently unrepresented in the Senate because of our Governor's unwillingness to forward the name of anyone on the list provided by our local Democratic party, I suggest that the legislature turn down the appointment of Mr. Ross and begin conducting your own interviews for the position of Attorney General.

Judy Crondahl
Juneau

Jane Pierson

From: Laura D'Amico [crystalwolf@astound.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:05 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault

Subject: NO WAR for AG

Dear Legislature and Senators,

Although I am a non-Alaskan, I have heard that Sarah Palin supporters in the lower 48 are weighing in on WAR's appointment tomorrow. I have listened to the interviews yesterday on Gavel to gavel and they are greatly disturbing. First off, I think he's just saying what he needs to, to get appointed. His agenda is to involve himself with all kinds of issues that don't normally involved a AG. Such as Native issues, Predator issues, I'm horrified as I listened to him speak.

I urge you to go back and review his "answers" they are evasive, belligerent, and really he is a male version of Sarah Palin.

Please see Mudflats:

<http://www.themudflats.net/2009/04/09/wayne-anthony-ross-in-his-own-words/>

What kind of a statement is this?

"**WAR:** You don't go to Washington D.C. anymore. Washington D.C. is not friends with Alaska. The General's job is not to cause casualties with its own people. The General's job is to win the war against the enemy."

No its not my imagination, I heard him say it with my own ears. In most other states the AG is voted in by the people. The governor is trying to forward her little cabal here. I urge you to be the party of "NO" to sarah Palin.

She is not looking out for the interests of Alaskans only herself. You know this guy will be fighting her Ethics complaints. And by the way, how many governors have racked up as many as her?

Please Do not confirm WAR as AG. I have also sent letters to CREW (Citizens for Ethics in WASHINGTON) and Eric Holder Dept. of Justice.

This man WAR sounds like a sessionist or AIP'er. And yesterday Meg Stapleton made a odd statement re: sarah palins (repub welfare) legal fund. She thanked the generosity of Alaskan's and Americans....Ok last time I looked Alaskan's were American's. Do you see where this is headed?

Thank you for your consideration.

Laura D'Amico

So. San Francisco, CA

Jane Pierson

From: Laura D'Amico [crystalwolf@astound.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 1:43 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Cc: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: RE: WAR * Please do not Appoint*

Dear HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

I have been following WAR proceedings very carefully, Leah Burton called in and submitted her letter Re: WAR for your consideration. Well here is a follow up to that letter posted on Shannyn Moores Blog from her (Leah's) Father to WAR and his flippent answer. It is of my opinion if WAR is confirmed you of Alaska will be opening yourselves up to major problems between Palin's Ethics complaints and WAR's arrogance. It is painfully apparant WAR will be following Palin's agenda and not the greater good of all Alaskan's. As you all know People all over are following Palin because of her Failed VP run and Possible 2012 run. So far I don't like what I see.

I also have a woman who is a top notch handwriting analysis, profiler for the Secret Service, and her premlinary finding is this man has issues. Sexual issues/hang ups. I have told her that any sensitive findings. should be turned over to the FBI, US AG Eric Holder as WAR is possibilly about to be confirmed as Alaska's AG. If you care, to hear more I will give you her name. This is strictly unoffical on her part, but I have told her the importance of what her findings are **MUST** be turned over to appropriate Agencies.

The Legislature and Senate should enact a emergency bill to elect a Attorney

General and take this out of the hands of a insane Governor.

Sincerely,
Laura D'Amico
SSF, CA

Burton Letter Part Two — W.A.R.'s Response

<http://shannynmoore.wordpress.com/2009/04/11/burton-letter-part-two-wars-response/>

From Leah Burton's Dad:

Mr. Ross,

You may or may not remember the times when we met but I remember you very vividly. The purpose of this communication is over concern for my daughter first and your attempt to be confirmed as the Attorney General, a job for which I know you had long aspirations, as well as thinking you could be the Commissioner of Health and Social Services or the Commissioner of Public Safety, none of which you are qualified for.

I was told today that you deny knowing or associating with the Mad Dads group in Wasilla. Surely records of filings in the court must still be available so that you can produce proof of who you clients were . This, is the same group that my daughter witnessed you addressing and making sexist and demeaning comments in reference to spousal rape and domestic violence, which as I see it means physical abuse of the spouse by the husband. Considering the group to which you were speaking that is the only logical conclusion one could draw from such remarks. I'm also assuming that you may have made these remarks in order to appear as a macho man in front of such a gathering. First of all, I want to caution you on what you say but can't prove and to advise you that if this kind of slander and attacks on my daughter continue you may well meet a real attorney that knows how to win.

In over 30 years in law enforcement in Alaska, as a police advisor for the U.S State Dept and the Dept of justice, I have met and worked with many quality professionals in the field and let me say that you do not rank among this group. I worked the street as a young patrol officer starting in Ketchikan in 1954, joined the Alaska State Police in 1959 and ended my career by serving two separate terms as Commissioner of Public Safety for the 2 best Governor's in Alaska, Jay Hammond and Wally Hickel. (In the interest of brevity I will attach my resume for you perusal as I want to establish my bona fides for the remarks I am about to make).

You sir, speak and act like the kind of bully I met many times when responding to domestic violence calls, some of the most dangerous situations police officers are often in. Over the years I brought many an abused spouse and/or children to my own home for my wife to care for, because there was no place else to take them. As the state matured such offices came into being on a scale large enough to expand their services, which we in law enforcement welcomed. This was especially true in the "bush" rural areas of the state in which I worked as a roving patrol trooper or where I was stationed.

Contrary to what you recently told the Judiciary Committee about the Child Welfare workers being hell bent on taking kids away from their families my personal experience was just the opposite. I had to take many children into protective custody, and even in the most dangerous of situations the welfare workers attitude was that a child was always better off staying with their natural parents regardless of the circumstances. Not a decision that I could always agree with. Therefore I am totally surprised as your comments and I challenge you to provide actual proof that supports that allegation.

Shortly after retirement in 1995 I served on a committee, hired by the Department of Law, with a former Deputy Attorney General and Commissioner of Corrections. We tasked to perform an investigation into the performance of the child protection unit, following a very unfortunate set of circumstances concerning the killing of an infant who was under the protection of the state at the time of his murder. The child should have been removed from the home but was allowed to stay there under very dangerous circumstances and was killed in a very bazaar and gruesome manner. The bottom line in this case we found that children were being left in home circumstances in many cases when the right thing to do would have been removal. This resulted in changes of the child protection statutes and policies of the agencies concerned which also included the relationship between children and adult probation sharing of information.

The only conclusion I have been able to come to concerning your remarks about the "frightening" case works is that you really don't know what you are talking about and are just talking to try to impress someone that you may have an some knowledge about the subject.

In light of the strong reaction from the native and rural communities of the state and your obvious position and bias relative to domestic and children's issues I find it hard to believe that you could be in charge of the department that is charged with enforcing laws in an impartial or effective manner. I think you should do the state a favor and withdraw your name from confirmation.

Richard L Burton

Commissioner of Public Safety (retired)

RESPONSE BY WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS:

Dick: Thanks for writing. I'll pray for you and for your daughter. Sounds like both of you have problems. My best to you old friend, WAR

Dana Strommen

From: mikon432@gci.net on behalf of salmon tale [mikon432@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 7:39 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross.

----- Original Message -----

From: [salmon tale](#)
To: Rep. Ray Ramras.
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 11:03 PM
Subject: : Wayne Anthony Ross.

----- Original Message -----

From: [salmon tale](#)
To Rep. Jay Ramras.
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 10:52 PM
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross.

Representative,

I have my concern about Wayne Anthony Ross as General Attorney. After I heard people testifying, he is a divisive person among Alaskans and his comments against Alaskan Natives are abusive and discriminative. He opposes against Alaskan Natives subsistence and has a past record with Sarah Palin and Vick Koring. Please do not confirm this individual as Attorney General.

Teresa Sager-Albaugh, president of Alaska Sportsmen Outdoor Council and appointed by Sarah Palin, voted to kill more than 800 bears, voted in favor to use Carbon Monoxide to kill wolf pups in their dens, and voted in favor to snare brown and black bears including sows and cubs. A practice that has long been prohibited in Alaska. In order for there to be balance on the Board of Game we need to have diversity. Please do not confirm this individual to the BOG.

Thank You
Yolanda de la Cruz

Jane Pierson

From: minus10@aol.com

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:42 PM

Subject: Please Vote NO on Ross

I read that the legislature received a letter from a former lobbyist informing you of derogatory comments about women made by Wayne Anthony Ross at a dinner she attended.

When I saw your questioning of Mr. Ross about his relationship with Sarah Palin, I was shocked to hear him describe her as "provocative" followed by his statement that "She looked really good didn't she?" (in response to your question about her wearing Arctic Cat clothing while in an official role). I find this *highly* offensive. The fact that he readily said this in a confirmation hearing - at which one would assume he was on his "best" behavior - leads me to believe that Mr. Ross does indeed view women as sexual objects. As an Alaskan woman I do not want him representing me or my state. Please vote NO on his appointment.

Paula DeLaiarro
East Anchorage

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Jane Pierson

From: minus10@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 11:15 AM
To: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross Confirmation vote
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attorney General nominee Wayne Anthony Ross has a history - both written and spoken - of making inflammatory and derogatory remarks about women, Natives and gays. When asked during his confirmation hearing about specific statements he made referring to gays as "immoral" and "degenerates", he did not deny making such statements nor did he deny holding those beliefs, instead he responded, "My personal opinions have nothing to do with the job. The attorney general is not going to give his opinion on those sorts of things.." Alaskans should be deeply concerned by this line of reasoning.

Ross said he didn't believe in litmus tests for hiring, and then he went on to say, "Now if a guy was a rabid communist, I probably wouldn't hire him. If a guy hated Alaska I wouldn't hire him..." So Mr. Ross admits he will not hire people whose views diverge from his, even though it isn't illegal to be a communist or to hate Alaska. Would Mr. Ross hire - indeed has Mr. Ross ever hired - someone who is gay? Despite his assurances to the contrary, it is clear that **Mr. Ross does not have a firewall between his personal views and his professional duties.**

Mr. Ross may think what he likes in private but he has a *public* record of bigoted views. One must question Governor Palin's wisdom in even considering him to be the Alaska's Attorney General. I urge you, indeed - I BEG you - to vote no on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska Attorney General.

Paula DeLaiarro
Anchorage, AK
333.5391

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Dana Strommen

From: minus10@aol.com
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 3:47 PM
To: Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross Confirmation Vote

Attorney General nominee Wayne Anthony Ross has a history - both written and spoken - of making inflammatory and derogatory remarks about women, Natives and gays. When asked during his confirmation hearing about specific statements he made referring to gays as "immoral" and "degenerates", he did not deny making such statements nor did he deny holding those beliefs, instead he responded, "My personal opinions have nothing to do with the job. The attorney general is not going to give his opinion on those sorts of things." Alaskans should be deeply concerned by this line of reasoning.

Ross said he didn't believe in litmus tests for hiring, and then he went on to say, "Now if a guy was a rabid communist, I probably wouldn't hire him. If a guy hated Alaska I wouldn't hire him..." So Mr. Ross admits he will not hire people whose views diverge from his, even though it isn't illegal to be a communist or to hate Alaska. Would Mr. Ross hire - indeed has Mr. Ross ever hired - someone who is gay? Despite his assurances to the contrary, it is clear that **Mr. Ross does not have a firewall between his personal views and his professional duties.**

Mr. Ross may think what he likes in private, but he has a *public* record of bigoted views. One must question Governor Palin's wisdom in even considering him to be the Alaska's Attorney General. I urge you, indeed - I BEG you - to vote no on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska Attorney General.

Paula DeLaiarro
8401 Pioneer Drive
Anchorage, AK
333.5391

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April 15, 2009

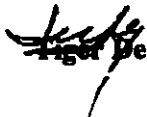
I'm writing this letter to the legislature of the State of Alaska to urge you not to confirm Mr. Koss as Attorney General for the state of Alaska. My reasons are many. Listed are a few points that are of utmost importance to me.

1. He is controversial. Reams of paper have been written describing the many divisive issues that are on the coattails of this man.
2. He is not supported by his peer group. Not one legal group has stepped in to defend this man and his sought after position.
3. His views on subsistence for Alaskan Natives are against the people of our state that need it the most.
4. His views on the Federal government are so awful I can't believe an Attorney General nominee with this extreme vision toward our country's government would even be considered for this office.

If this individual is confirmed all I can believe is this legislature thinks what works for the governor works for us. Her type of right wing republicans are the only folks that matter. The rest of you Alaskans should be quiet, don't count, and should go along with the legislative body as we place marginal people in office with marginal performance for the good of the people.....oh yes for Sarah Palin... but not for me.....think of all Alaskans before you cast this important vote.

Thank you for your kind attention. If any additional information is desired, we will make every effort to meet your request.

Au Revoir Mon Ami,


Tiger Demers

Jane Pierson

From: James Denney [alaskakingdad@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:44 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross Confirmation

Dear Representative Ramras,

I strongly oppose Governor Palin's nominee for Attorney General. I am a politically active, voting citizen of Alaska. I am many things including a husband, a father of 2 beautiful daughters, a middle school teacher, and a Sunday school teacher. As a husband and a father, I am a staunch supporter of women's rights. As a teacher, one of the lessons that I want all of my students to learn, especially the young boys, is that no means no. In light of Ross's comments as reported by Leah Burton, I feel that it is an embarrassment that this man's candidacy even warrants consideration. How will the young people that are my charges hear my message if the top cop in the state holds this worldview? He is obviously a throwback to that age when women and children were considered to be the property of the husband. This man does not deserve the consideration that he is being given. I am already hyper-alert because of the dubious rape statistics in our state. My wife was raped last summer, and the investigating detectives appeared to be more interested in protecting the perpetrator because he had standing in the community than they were in finding out the truth. Because it was his word against hers, the case was dropped. It became clear to me that part of the reason for the terrible rape statistics in our state is the culture of the very people that are supposed to be serving and protecting we citizens. To put Ross in the position for which he has been nominated would do nothing to shift that culture, it would only entrench in further.

The rape comment is what has moved me to action, but I see parallels with other issues within our state. When I walk down the hallways of my school, I see the face of Alaska. I see a myriad of different peoples: differences in color, nationality, sex, gender, sexual orientation, etc. Mr. Ross would not represent all of these citizens equally. Clearly, he possesses that sense of false entitlement that gave rise to the perception of the Ugly American. He will not serve the people of the state unless they happen to be affluent white males. That's not what I see in the hallways of my school.

I understand that you must give him a hearing because he is what Governor Palin has offered to you; do not support her choice. Don't just vote "no", vote "hell no!"

James Denney

Dana Strommen

From: Paul Eaglin [PEaglin@eaglinlaw.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 9:18 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep Max Gruenberg; Representative Nancy; Representative John; Representative Carl; Representative Bob; Representative Lindsey
Cc: Representative Scott; Representative David
Subject: Atty Gen Wayne A Ross nomination
Attachments: Bar Rag reply to Wayne Ross.doc

Representative Jay Ramras: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS IN RESPONSE TO REP. MAX GRUENBERG'S REQUEST TO ME DURING YESTERDAY'S PUBLIC TESTIMONY. I TRIED COPYING THE OTHER MEMBERS BUT EACH ONE WAS REJECTED BY THE EMAIL SYSTEM, WHICH REFUSES TO CONFIGURE THEIR EMAIL ADDRESSES CORRECTLY. IT PERMITS ONLY YOURS TO BE CONFIGURED CORRECTLY TO REACH YOU. I APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION SINCE I DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE GLITCH THAT PREVENTS ME FROM EMAILING THE OTHERS DIRECTLY.

To House Judiciary Cmte members

Rep. Gruenberg asked me to send again the document that I referenced during my testimony against the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross for Attorney General of Alaska.

I am attaching the Letter to the Editor of the Bar Rag that I wrote in response to Wayne Ross's article in the Oct-Nov 2007 issue of the Bar Rag. It criticized his article as being poorly thought out and poorly articulated in his writing. I pointed out that I do not know Wayne Ross, so my only encounter with him was through responding to his article.

His thought process on critical issues seems to be quite seriously deficient. That is reflected in his 2007 Bar Rag article to which I responded. Moreover, reading news accounts of your confirmation proceeding yesterday leads me to believe that his resort to the "lima beans" analogy is further evidence of his inability to engage in critical thinking. The analogy itself is quite obviously an attempt to deflect from and to avoid the central question that was posed by one of your committee members. The avoidance technique leads plausibly to the inference that he does still adhere to such prejudiced and hate-filled attitudes toward other human beings. Of course, that he would analogize human beings with rights under law to a vegetable that he dislikes is revelatory of his utter failure to appreciate the obligations of the office for which he is nominated.

As I said during my testimony, gays and lesbians are no more degenerates than my wife and I are degenerates. It seems clear that he continues to adhere to his bigoted views of years ago. Wayne Ross continues to manifest the same deficiency in critical thinking skills that he manifested in his poorly articulated 2007 Bar Rag article in which he complained about his failure to obtain nomination for the state supreme court.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify against the nomination of Wayne Ross. Please vote against his confirmation as AG.

Paul B. Eaglin
eaglin@alaska.com

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Fairbanks AK 99708-1910*

December 23, 2007

BAR RAG

Alaska Bar Association

I disagree with Wayne Ross' two major points—anonymous comments and AJC bias against conservatives—in the *Bar Rag* [31:4 Oct.-Dec. 2007]. He might have been more persuasive if he had adhered to a more principled critique by refraining from broad-brush criticism of four recent nominees as not conservative enough. After all, he failed to articulate a basis for such a statement by informing us whether he knows each nominee well enough to make such a statement. Even if he does know Justice Winfree, Judge Christen, Judge Bolger, and Andy Harrington, however, Ross failed to articulate any basis why an appellate judicial officer would take account of personal conservative outlook when adjudicating an appeal.

Ross' unexplained description of the four nominees undermines his criticism of anonymous comments on judicial selection surveys. The problem is not the anonymity but the inaccuracy, deliberate falsehood and intentional harm. If he had no basis for his description of the nominees as "not-conservative," then his comment is unjustified and indefensible even though he signed his name to it. Comments that are unjustified and indefensible should fall in the category of those that are inaccurate, false or intentionally harmful. He should practice what he preaches.

In practical terms, how would a conservative Justice Wayne Anthony Ross take account of his conservatism in adjudicating an appeal? Is he suggesting that he would not decide a case in a manner that violates his conservatism, regardless of the law or the facts of an appeal or the requirements of the state and/or federal constitution(s)? Is it correct to infer, therefore, that Ross believes that the sitting justices have violated their oaths of office by engaging in unprincipled decision-making based not on the law and the facts but on personal predilections, political or otherwise? Isn't that a serious charge that should be supported by facts or examples that would illustrate the point he is arguing? How can he justify such personal criticism in light of his dislike of unsubstantiated anonymous comments about himself? His comments are no better even though he signed his name.

Bar Rag Letters to the Editor
December 23, 2007

There may well be a place for anonymity in comments, which is why they should not be disfavored. Depending on what is communicated, an anonymous comment might be the safest means of communicating important, truthful but disturbing information about an applicant for nomination or retention. No doubt like many others, I have little idea how the AJC does what it does since so much of its work is not revealed. But it was embarrassing to Alaska recently that, two years after the AJC nominated someone as well qualified for a judgeship, the successful appointee was removed from the bench for cause. Was there a need for more comments, including even anonymous but truthful comments, that might have provided better insight into character and fitness? What does that failing tell us about the AJC's process and procedures? Has the AJC learned lessons from the experience and, if so, what lessons have been learned? Has it implemented the lessons learned? How would we know, as members of the public, that the AJC properly carries out its function of checking applicants for fitness and checking judges for retention?

Anonymity may be especially important with respect to commenting about the performance of judges. Unlike most applicants for initial appointment, judges are in position to retaliate in a meaningful way. To the extent that an anonymous comment is helpful in pointing to problematic performance by a judicial officer, so much the better. The writer might not have offered such comments without the perceived safety of anonymity. Since the judicial officer is accountable to the public, there is no reason not to take account of comments about performance to the same extent and in the same manner as criticism of performance of any other high ranking, influential state employee who is charged with the public trust.

I sign my name when I comment on bar surveys. So I am not defending anonymity as one who uses that technique. But I do recognize that in our less-than-ideal system in which half a dozen Alaskans get first-cut at judicial applicants, that is the only means of trying to influence the selection process. I should add that I do not know Wayne Ross except through his political advertising. I did not make any comments about him in the survey since I do not know him.

Apart from disagreeing with Ross' major points, I feel that he missed important points as well. His dismissive criticism of the four nominees as not conservative

Bar Rag Letters to the Editor
December 23, 2007

enough to suit his political disposition managed to dishonor their individual abilities and accomplishments. Of the four, the only one I do not know is Judge Morgan Christen. Like me, Justice Winfree and Andy Harrington are from Fairbanks. I litigated against Judge Bolger in Kodiak some years ago not long before his first judicial appointment. If Judge Christen is like the three that I know, it is safe to say that as a group, they can be characterized as exemplars of professionalism instead of being painted by inaccurate tones of political opportunism.

It is worth commenting on another aspect that I feel is worth noting with greater concern than Ross' lament that the recent nominees—and presumably the current justices, too—are not conservative enough. Even though I do not know Judge Christen, I note that she has consistently topped the bar surveys every time she's in the running. She did so in this recent survey for Supreme Court. She did so not long ago in the survey for the federal district court appointment. Despite the obvious extremely high regard by the bar, however, she has not achieved her objective of advancing in the judiciary. For me, Judge Christen's pursuit raises a much more serious, broader concern about the prospects for women to achieve judgeships and to rise in the judiciary once appointed. What does a woman have to do in this state to be as competitive as men are for judicial appointments? I believe more women would apply if prospects of advancing were more promising. But the rate of appointments in recent years, particularly through a number of years under Governor Murkowski, has been dismal. It remains to be seen if matters will improve under Governor Palin. It is notable that, in the recent survey, Judge Christen's bar survey results were matched by another well-known, accomplished woman appellate practitioner who, like Wayne Ross, did not get the nod from the AJC. As for me, therefore, the concern is not whether our process will or will not advance those who are conservative enough to suit Wayne Ross but whether the large number of, and the high percentage of, women in our state bar will enjoy the same prospects for professional success and advancement as men enjoy presently.

EAGLIN LAW OFFICE
/s/ Paul B. Eaglin
Alaska Bar No. 9304010

Dana Strommen

From: Bradley J Fluetsch [brad@fluetschfinancialservices.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 7:02 AM
To: Rep. Cathy Munoz
Cc: Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. John Coghil; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Peggy Wilson
Subject: Wayne A. Ross

Dear Representative Munoz,

Mr. Ross has made the argument that his personal views do not matter. He represents the Governor and people of Alaska and his opinion does not matter.

I beg to differ, Mr. Ross's personal views do matter, especially to the people who work for the Department of Law and both the prosecution and defense.

For instance, a young Native Attorney working for DOL, does Ross assign the "big" case that is a career maker to this Native Attorney, or maybe gay attorney?

Another instance in assigning a young eager attorney who wants to "prove" himself to the new AG and chooses to prosecute and therefore targets particular groups Mr. Ross has frequently publically denounced.

While Mr. Ross can argue he represents the people and Governor of Alaska and therefore his opinion does not matter, but in the reality of managing the Department of Law, there are far too many opportunities to skew the largest law enforcer in Alaska based on his own personal views. This is far more destructive to the fabric of our communities, and we have seen what a "rogue" DOJ can do, just ask Senator Ted Stevens.

We do not want any of Mr. Ross's personal or since he has run for Governor twice political influence established in the Department of Law, REJECT THIS NOMINEE!

Gunalchéesh
Bradley J Fluetsch, CFA
Grand President, Alaska Native Brotherhood

Dana Strommen

From: Lake Hood Inn [bill@lakehoodinn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 1:03 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

William W. Floyd
PO Box 91561
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

April 15, 2009

Re: Wayne Anthony Ross confirmation

Representative Jay Ramras

Please , Please reject Mr. Ross' confirmation as Attorney General.

I base my opinion on Mr. Ross' actions and opinions debasing Women and children's status in Alaska, as well as his disregard for the letter of the law.

Thanks, we are counting on you.

Sincerely'

Bill Floyd

Jane Pierson

From: Carol Ford [whoville@pobox.alaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 3:17 PM
To: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith
Subject: Ross confirmation

Dear Ms. Pierson and Ms. Smith:

I have written to all the Senators and all but one of the Representatives, and am writing to you just in case those emails aren't read in time, somehow.

I am writing to add my voice to those who ask that the legislature NOT confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General for Alaska. I have been an Alaskan for almost thirty years. I am appalled by Mr. Ross's rhetoric, outlook, politics and lack of insight or even common decency - not to mention that even his legal credentials are unimpressive.

I have listened to portions of the senate hearings, and am concerned about Mr. Ross' very personal interpretation of the law to use it to condone racism, misogyny, domestic violence, anti-American violence, interpersonal violence, ecological violence, ignorance of all but his own narrow interests, and a disregard for — ironically — the rule of law.

I write to speak out against confirming Mr. Ross to take on this important position in Alaska's government. This is possibly one of the most important decisions the legislature will make this session, in my opinion. It is not a partisan issue, in spite of the current tendency to make everything partisan, and I fear that if it is viewed as such, without serious reflection, the state of Alaska and all of its people will suffer irreparable damage from making this choice by a partisan vote.'

Senators, Representatives, please listen to Mr. Ross very carefully - and ask yourself if this man is the best, fairest, most level-headed, intelligent, virtuous and honest legal mind that you would choose to guide and represent the state of Alaska.

Sincerely,
Carol Ford
Kenai, AK



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

I would like to protest the appointment of Mr. Aas for Attorney General. His history of confrontation and commentaries on subsistence, women's rights and his verbalized right of a person to commit assault in the name of the right to express an opinion as he did in justifying throwing water on a quietly marching lady protesting the war indicates a level of impulsiveness and poor judgment that I would not like to feel is representative of the state in which I am a resident.

Signed: Mary J. Furlonghi
Testifier

self
Representing (optional)

PO Box 2244 Soldotna 99669
Address

907-262-5059
Phone number

Jane Pierson

From: Patricia Gaedeke [windpond@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 6:12 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

This announcement by Governor Palin to appoint Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General is a slap in the face to all single parents who have no choice but to rely upon the State Department of Law to support court orders for child support, as well as those persons who need the Department to enforce criminal laws against sexual assault and domestic violence. Mr. Ross is the antithesis of the type of person that should be the Attorney General. This has been clearly demonstrated by his own words and actions in public.

In closing, I am not alone in my assessment that anyone who condones, and contributes to that type of hateful and harmful discourse clearly does not have the judgment necessary to represent the people of the State of Alaska as their Attorney General.

Given his other special interests and his stated opposition to subsistence rights and other Alaska Native issues, I have brought this forth as yet another dimension of Mr. Ross' demonstrated inability to represent all the people of the State of Alaska fairly and impartially.

His clear racial and gender prejudice raise serious concerns with regard to his ability to represent all residents of the State of Alaska fairly and impartially as their Attorney General.

I respectfully request you NOT confirm W.A.R.

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
P.O. Box 80424
Fairbanks, AK 99708
www.gofarnorth.com
info@gofarnorth.com
iniakuk@gmail.com

Jane Pierson

From: Patricia Gaedeke [windpond@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:26 PM
To: Cindy Smith
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

In a poll in 2007 containing 13 candidates, and in 2008 with 14 candidates, for a seat for the Alaska Supreme Court, Wayne Anthony Ross scored the lowest overall and in each of the 6 categories (Professional Competence, Integrity, Fairness, Judicial Temperament, Suitability of Experience, Overall).

(information for this post comes from the **Alaska Budget Report** - Volume 19, No. 12)

Please convey my very strong opinion that Wayne Anthony Ross NOT be confirmed as Attorney General. His confirmation would be a disaster for Alaska.

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
Fairbanks, AK
www.gofarnorth.com
info@gofarnorth.com
iniakuk@gmail.com

Jane Pierson

From: Patricia Gaedeke [windpond@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 8:20 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Rep. Ramras:

Your questioning of Gov. Palin's choice for Attorney General, W.A.R., was impressive yesterday, however I thought Mr. Ross was condescending, flippant, sarcastic and evasive in his response to anything you asked. I feel he will act as a shield for the governor and will thwart all efforts to keep her in line with Alaska ethics. I do not feel he has the best interests of all Alaskans in mind.

My point exactly as to why he should NOT be confirmed. Please do not vote yes for Mr. Ross.

Thank you,

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
P.O. Box 80424
Fairbanks, AK 99708
www.gofarnorth.com
info@gofarnorth.com
iniakuk@gmail.com

Dana Strommen

From: Patricia Gaedeke [windpond@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 6:14 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

I have lived in Fairbanks, Alaska since 1974. I believe we should all be deeply concerned about the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross for many reasons already presented to both Judiciary Committees. However, no behavior in front of either Judiciary Committee causes more concern and reflects more directly upon how Mr. Ross may perform at his job than the ethics exchange with Representative Ramras. I commended Rep. Ramras on his questioning of Mr. Ross, however, I thought Mr. Ross was condescending, flippant, sarcastic, dismissive and evasive in his response.

Phil Munger echoed my sentiments exactly in his Progressive Alaska post, "He [Ross] has learned, though, over the years to couch his once explicitly anti-Native stance in the false language of "fairness," constitutional dissonances and equal rights." Ethical Government should be a high priority for everyone but especially for the person whose job it is to lead the department of Law.

This is the 21st century and thanks or no thanks to Gov. Palin's failed attempt at being Vice President of the United States, Alaska is in a very bright spotlight. There is no place in contemporary, reasoned conversation for the antiquated, divisive, rude mutterings of Mr. Ross. I urge you to reject the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General.

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
www.gofarnorth.com
info@gofarnorth.com
iniakuk@gmail.com

Dana Strommen

From: Patricia Gaedeke [windpond@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 1:33 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Rep. Ramras,

Regarding the possible confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross, you were quoted as saying, "But I think this foretells the larger-than-life relationship that he is going to have with the governor and with the state," he said. "We're in for a colorful, bumpy ride. We won't necessarily be coloring within the lines... There will be more of this to come."

I for one, would like the Attorney General to 'color within the lines.' I would like an AG who is not in the Governor's back pocket and the rest of Alaska can just twist in the wind. Please reconsider and vote no tomorrow.

Patricia Gaedeke, Owner
Iniakuk Lake Wilderness Lodge, LLC
www.gofarnorth.com
info@gofarnorth.com
iniakuk@gmail.com

Jane Pierson

From: anji gallanos [anji.gallanos@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:19 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please do not accept appointment of William Ross

My name is Anji Gallanos, I live in Juneau, Alaska. We have lived in Alaska for 11 years. I am asking you as a citizen of Alaska do reject the appointment of William Ross. It is my opinion that William Ross will not fairly and accurately represent Alaska. His past actions show a lack of respect for Alaskans and for the people he would represent.

Thank you
Anji Gallanos
Juneau Alaska

--

Find me at:
<http://www.rubyshill.etsy.com>
<http://www.anjigallanos.blogspot.com>

Twitter? <http://twitter.com/rubyshill>

Jane Pierson

From: kateinak@gci.net on behalf of Kate Graber [kateinak@GCI.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:59 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Do Not Approve WAR for Attorney General

Wayne Anthony Ross is not the man to be our next attorney general. He believes that he is the reincarnation of Theodore Roosevelt. He was quoted in the Daily News years ago in an article about him saying this. He is too radical in his views and will not fairly represent the law for all Alaskans. He is quoted as saying that "men should be allowed to rape their wives...who else would they rape?".

Dana Strommen

From: Melissa S. Green [yksinainen@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 8:15 PM
To: Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bob Lynn; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Alan Austerman
Subject: Testimony/letter in opposition to Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative:

I am writing on my own behalf to express my opposition to Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska Attorney General. Amongst other things, this letter provides substantiation for one of the claims made in public testimony by Paige Hodgson during the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on April 8 about Mr. Ross' opinions about domestic violence.

I oppose Mr. Ross' confirmation on several grounds:

* His biased and even misogynistic attitudes with regard to domestic violence, sexual violence, and violence against women and children, about which I have more to say below.

* His antigay attitudes, as expressed in his calling lesbians and gays "degenerates" in a letter to the Alaska Bar Association in 1992. In his House Judiciary Committee testimony last week, he compared lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual/transgender Alaskans to "lima beans," a vegetable he "hates" but would still "represent" if he was hired to be the advocate for "United Vegetable Growers." His un-apt and tortured analogy brings no reassurance to those of us who have already suffered the brunt of his antigay slanders.

* His longstanding opposition to Alaska Native sovereignty and subsistence rights, about which representatives of the Alaska Native community have testified.

* His lackadaisical attitude with regard to possible ethical violations by the Governor, as shown in his replies to Rep. Jay Ramras' questions on Friday in the House Judiciary Committee (regarding Gov. Palin's wearing of Arctic Cat gear, regarding her possible book tour, regarding other ethics-related questions). As has been pointed out by others, part of the Attorney General's job is to advise the Governor on questions of executive ethics. Mr. Ross' answers indicate he will more likely simply turn a blind eye.

* His qualifications as a practitioner of law. His middling scores on the Alaska Bar Association surveys when he applied for seats on the Alaska Supreme Court and Court of Appeals are not simply statistics, but indicative of the opinion those of his colleagues in the bar who have had direct professional experience with him have for his professional competence, integrity, fairness, judicial temperament, suitability for the position, and overall performance. Obviously candidates for Attorney General are not judged according to the same standards as used by the Alaska Judicial Council — but perhaps they should be. In any event, his mediocre scores are instructive.

Further evidence of Mr. Ross' capabilities as an attorney — particularly, I would say, with regard to temperament, and hence his ability to work productively with others — can be found in last Wednesday's public testimony by Vic Vitale, a retired attorney who reported having tried many cases against Mr. Ross. Mr. Vitale described Mr. Ross as "ill prepared in court," "bombastic," and "very rigid," and said that in his experience Mr. Ross "doesn't give credence to contrary arguments." The picture which begins to emerge is that of someone who has closed his mind and does not permit contrary evidence to sway him.

Is this the person who should be appointed to direct the state's largest law firm?

I want now to go into further discussion of his views about violence against women and

children.

By way of background, I am an 18-year staff member of the Justice Center at University of Alaska Anchorage, where I am responsible for the preparation and layout of research documents, including our quarterly, the Alaska Justice Forum (<http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/forum/>). I'm also responsible for the design and maintenance of the by-now extensive Justice Center website.

As such, I am very familiar with the groundbreaking research conducted in recent years by the Justice Center's Dr. André Rosay and his research partners on sexual violence and violence against women in Alaska (<http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/vaw/index.html>), and in fact helped to prepare most of the materials which Dr. Rosay presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee when he testified there on March 25 (<http://uaajusticecenter.blogspot.com/2009/03/dr-rosay-presents-violence-against.html>).

My familiarity with Dr. Rosay's research findings made me all the more alarmed when I heard the testimony at last week's Senate and House Judiciary Committee hearings on Mr. Ross' appointment. I mean not only the public testimony of Leah Burton to the House Judiciary Committee on the statements about spousal rape and domestic violence which Mr. Ross is alleged to have made at a DADS group meeting in the early 1990s — testimony I personally find credible — but also the public testimony last week to the Senate Judiciary Committee of Paige Hodgson, who discussed comments made by Mr. Ross at a panel discussion a few years ago at University of Alaska Anchorage. According to Ms. Hodgson, Mr. Ross, who was one of the panel presenter, remarked that domestic abuse was on the rise because the equal rights movement "emasculated men" and caused them in turn to beat their wives. He further insinuated that women lied about domestic violence in order to gain advantage in child custody cases. On questioning by the committee, Ms. Hodgson stated that she had asked the university to set up the panel discussion, and that it was organized by Dr. Sharon Araji. Dr. Araji was at that time a sociology professor at UAA but has since joined the faculty of University of Colorado in Denver. In an attempt to verify the testimony, I wrote to Dr. Araji last week, and today received an email in reply, in which Dr. Araji wrote:

Yes, he was on the panel that was a community workshop. Andre [Rosay] and Pam [Kelley] are well aware of this workshop as [the] Justice [Center] also participated in it. I think it was Fall of 2005 — it was in conjunction with the PBS documentary "Breaking the Silence". This was about children's experiences when they were given to abusive parents in contested custody battles. I don't remember what Wayne's words were exactly, but his attitude was quite cavalier and placed the blame anywhere but on the abusive husbands/partners.

Research on the UAA website confirms that the event, cosponsored by the UAA Sociology Department and the Justice Center, was held on the UAA campus on October 14, 2005 in advance of KAKM's broadcast of "Breaking the Silence: Children's Stories" the following week. The event included a showing of the documentary, followed by a panel discussion and discussion with the audience. Justice Center faculty member Pamela Kelley, J.D. was among the panelists, along with Dr.

Araji and Mr. Ross. I spoke with Professor Kelley this afternoon about the panel. Like Dr. Araji, she has no recollection of a specific remark by Mr. Ross about the equal rights movement "emasculating men," but she indicated that Mr. Ross' comments on the panel were much as both Paige Hodgson and Dr. Araji characterized them, "hook line and sinker" taking an extremist "dads' rights"

position that excused abusive men from any responsibility for domestic violence and abuse, and alleging that accusations of such crimes were generally fabricated in order to gain advantage in divorce or child custody battles — regardless of evidence to the contrary.

This should come as no surprise to members of the Senate Judiciary Committee and others who heard Mr. Ross' testimony last Wednesday, April 8, because many of his statements there echoed such opinions -- for example, Mr. Ross contended that Office of Children's Services workers, who are tasked with protecting children from abuse, are actually trying to remove children from families in order to "get money from the legislature" or that at least some people are accused of child abuse "just because they offended an OCS worker."

Of course there are men who prove to be innocent of charges of abuse and domestic and sexual violence brought against them. But Mr. Ross, who claimed in his testimony that "all my clients are innocent" (by implication, even those who were found guilty in court), appears to have a strong bias against even entertaining the possibility of guilt on the part of a husband, boyfriend, or father accused of these serious crimes, regardless of the evidence. Mr. Ross also showed considerable ignorance of the facts regarding sexual

violence in the state -- for example, that Alaska has the dubious distinction of having the highest rates of sexual assault in the nation. "I've heard that," he told the committee, "and I have no way to verify if that's correct." (Committee members, of course, had received ample proof just two weeks before when Dr. Rosay presented UAA research to them.) Asked by Sen. Lesil McGuire "how you intend to tackle and educate yourself" about these issues, Mr. Ross evaded the question, telling the committee how after his few days on the job so far, he now knew "where the men's room was" and was learning how to use the state email system, commenting that "learning new things" was part of the fun of the job. Once again the word "cavalier" comes to mind.

Is someone with such a proven bias qualified to take on the role of Alaska's chief law enforcement officer, and head of the department charged with prosecuting these crimes?

Research shows that less than 30 percent of founded cases of sexual violence cases reported to the Alaska State Troopers actually result in a conviction (http://justice.aaa.alaska.edu/forum/25/1-2springsummer2008/b_attrition.html).

Might we not expect conviction rates for founded cases to go down even further under an Attorney General who, biased to believe all the accused to be innocent regardless of evidence, might well pressure the district attorneys under his supervision to "pull their punches"?

Mr. Ross claims that he can fairly represent and protect the rights of all Alaskans, including all of those he has shown enmity, disregard, and contempt toward throughout his long career. I am not so confident.

I urge you to vote against Mr. Ross' confirmation as Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Melissa S. Green
2303 D St. #A5
Anchorage, AK 99503
<http://www.henkimaa.com/>

Dana Strommen

From: Lori Gregory [aleutiangrrl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 10:39 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Attorney General Nomination

Hello!

I am writing regarding the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross for Alaska Attorney General. I vehemently oppose this person's nomination and confirmation. This person does not represent the views of the average Alaskan, republican or democrat or independent or libertarian. This person cannot carry out the duties of Attorney General. He has shown over the years his true colors. The appointment and confirmation of this person will serve to cement the view of the rest of the USA that Alaska is full of narrow minded individuals such as Mr. Ross and Ms. Palin. It would be a travesty of Justice to have this person serve when he has shown time and again that his opinions and beliefs color all of his statements, including those of his work, and he cannot be nonpartisan, nonjudgemental, unbigoted. He has gone on the public record as against Natives, women's rights, and sexual orientation as a protected status. His ideology is the same as that of the South in the early 20th century - exclusionary, self-rightous, bigoted, narrow minded, and holier-than-thou. Alaska deserves better than that!!

I hope that, as elected officials, you will search your hearts and make the choice that is best for Alaska: W.A. Ross should not be Alaska's Attorney General.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my statements.

Sincerely,

Lori Gregory
PO Box 177
Unalaska, Alaska 99685
907-581-2922

Jane Pierson

From: thammmobile@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 3:33 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: No on Ross

I am writing asking you to not approve the confirmation of W.A. Ross for AG. He is not credible and would further divide the state.

Terry Hamm
Sent from my BlackBerry® smartphone powered by ACS!

Jane Pierson

From: L. Hamner [rainraven44@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:32 PM
To: Cindy Smith
Cc: Jane Pierson
Subject: Confirmation hearings for Wayne A. Ross

Honorable members of the Alaska State Legislature,

I am writing about the confirmation hearings and proposed appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General of Alaska.

First, let me say that I am a resident of this great state, not someone from outside.

Second, while I am sure that Mr. Ross has some fine qualities, I don't believe that he should be confirmed as OUR Attorney General. I say OUR A.G. because, like all civil servants, we the citizens are his employers. As one of his employers, I think he is fundamentally incapable of equally representing the ALL of the citizens of Alaska, let alone ensuring that every citizens basic constitutional rights are not trampled on. Further, I believe that Mr. Ross is incapable of representing the citizens of this state whenever our rights contradict the chosen path of our Governor.

I find it intolerable that a person who has publically stated "If you can't rape your wife, who can you rape?" would be seriously considered for the position of A.G.

I find it unexplainable that a person who has publically supported a group that advocates committing domestic violence against their wives and children as a means of silencing and forcing familial compliance to avoid "governmental interference" (i.e. being forced to share custody and/or pay child support) would be seriously considered for this position.

I find it inexcusable that someone who has publically made racist comments about minorities would be considered for this position.

I find it unbelievable that a person who believes that the federal government is our enemy would be considered for this position.

I find it laughable that a person who has a long standing membership in a paramilitary group treading the narrow line between "self defense" and being a anti-government militia would be considered for a position within the government.

In short, please do not confirm this individual as OUR A.G. Alaska has no dearth of competent lawyers. Let's all encourage the Governor to choose one who is not a misogynist, domestic violence supporting, racist.

Thank you for your consideration and time,
Sincerely,
Lacy Hamner

905 Richardson Vista Rd. #46
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.929.2683

Rediscover Hotmail®: Now available on your iPhone or BlackBerry Check it out.

Dana Strommen

From: Ed Haney [edhaney2008@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 9:38 AM

To: Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Linda Menard; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. John Coghil; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Peggy Wilson

Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross Confirmation

How can a perspective Attorney General think it would be OK to say "our Legislators should IGNORE the law and do what the Governor wants"? That is not the Attorney General we need, his job is not to be the Governors "Yes Man" but to keep her and the State Out of Trouble. He obviously is not a good choice. Do Not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross, our State has been in the news for the wrong reasons enough.

Ed Haney

907-789-3224

Jane Pierson

From: Barbara Hanson [barbhansonak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:59 PM
To: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault
Subject: Public Comment Re: Vote NO on Confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General

Please add my comment below to the public record.

Dear Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees,

I am writing to urge you strongly to vote NO on the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General.

I have followed the political aspirations of Mr. Ross throughout the twenty years that I have lived in Alaska. I must say that I have been appalled many times by his divisiveness, his racist and misogynistic overtones, and with the degree of bullying language that he has often used. It is very clear that Mr. Ross has strong and sometimes extreme political beliefs, including those regarding native sovereignty rights, domestic violence issues, and gay rights.

A person who serves as Attorney General must protect the rights of ALL citizens of Alaska, without prejudice. Objectivity and deference to federal and state law are required of anyone serving in that capacity, by definition of the position. It is clear that Mr. Ross' personal beliefs would preclude his ability to be objective in that position. His appointment would disenfranchise a huge proportion of the Alaska population. The potential for the Attorney General to make politically-biased decisions and court appointments could undermine the rights of many citizens of this state.

I also take exception to this appointment based on the fact that Mr. Ross appears to have no previous administrative experience, and the fact that he does not seem to have experience in other areas of law, including tax law and land use law, which are issues primary to this state.

I hope that you will choose to uphold the rights and concerns of ALL the citizens of the state that you represent, and vote "NO" on this appointment.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hanson
Palmer, AK

Dana Strommen

From: Barbara Hanson [barbhansonak@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 11:11 PM
To: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault
Subject: Please vote "NO" on Wayne Anthony Ross Appointment

Please add my comment below to the public record:

Dear Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you strongly to vote "NO" today on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General.

Mr. Ross has alienated huge segments of the Alaska citizenry with his divisive and bombastic statements. It is clear that he would have a great degree of difficulty (at best) separating his political beliefs from the duty of Attorney General, which is to act as the legal representative of ALL Alaskans.

Just this week, Mr. Ross further displayed his appalling lack of fitness for this position by publicly downplaying the importance of Alaska State law as regards legislative appointments. He actually stated that the "legality or illegality" of the appointment was not important, but rather, the important thing was to have an appointment made. Is someone with this type of blatant disregard for the law REALLY going to be seriously considered for the top legal position in this state? In my opinion, this type of statement should get him disbarred from legal practice, much less for consideration as Alaska's Attorney General.

I also urge you to please look at the following weblink. It is a scan of the actual 1993 letter from Mr. Ross to the Bar Association Journal, in which he calls gays "degenerates". The letter actually goes well beyond that, as Mr. Ross states that the Anchorage Homosexual Rights Ordinance "gives extra rights to a group whose lifestyle was a crime only a few years ago". This certainly leads me to believe that he would not support the LEGAL rights of people whose lifestyle he does not personally approve of. He goes on to state that gay people's rights are "certainly immoral in the eyes of anyone with some semblance of intelligence and moral character". This type of language is absolutely obnoxious, and certainly not the type of discourse that I expect to hear from someone of the caliber of an Attorney General. If the Judiciary Committee approves of this appointment, I can only imagine the numerous lawsuits that this type of language and attitude by the Attorney General would provoke.

http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_hWAVXHNgbk/SealZB7bVzI/AAAAAAAAAD2o/QfLYh-NeN2Q/s1600-h/Alaska+Bar+Rag+May+June+1993+cropped+jpeg.jpg

Please do the right thing for Alaska and vote "NO" on this appointment.
Thank you,

Barbara Hanson
Palmer

Jane Pierson

From: dpharris@gci.net on behalf of Dennis P. Harris [dpharris@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 11:52 PM
To: Alaska State Representatives
Subject: Vote NO on Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative,

I urge you to vote NO on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General. His record and his testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee both indicate that he is unsuited to be the State of Alaska's chief legal officer.

He is unfit to serve as Attorney General because of

1. His opposition to the subsistence rights given to rural residents by ANILCA;
2. His characterization of the US government as Alaska's "enemy";
3. The racism expressed in his public statements over the past 20 years, including his statements to the Senate Judiciary Committee; and
4. His statements in public meetings that "If a guy can't rape his wife...who's he gonna rape?" and "There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut." that indicate his prejudice against women, as quoted in the testimony of Leah Burton.

As Ms. Burton said, "His clear racial and gender prejudice raise serious concerns with regard to his ability to represent all residents of the State of Alaska fairly and impartially as their Attorney General." I concur with her conclusion, and ask you to vote against his confirmation as Attorney General.

Dennis P. Harris
544 W. 12th St.
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1524

dpharris@gci.net

Jane Pierson

From: Jean Hartman [nowjeanis@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 9:28 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Representative Jay Ramras:

I am writing to ask you to oppose the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General.

Mr. Ross has expressed views regarding natives and subsistence rights that are controversial and divisive.
Mr. Ross has expressed views regarding gays that are controversial and divisive.
Mr. Ross has expressed views regarding domestic violence and child abuse which are appalling.

Alaska does not need more controversy and divisiveness!

Jean Hartman
Trapper Creek, AK

Jane Pierson

From: Jim Helm [jim@atmanagers.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 3:28 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross appointment

Hello

My name is James Helm. I live in Juneau. I wish to go on record as not supporting the nomination of Mr. Ross to state Attorney General. After having seen his stand on issues like subsistence and reviewing a number of cases that he under took while in private practice I do not think he is an appropriate choice for this important office.

His defense of Rep. Kohring indicates to me that he is not on the right side of the corruption issue. We need an Attorney General that will prosecute not defend government corruption. He may state that he was simply doing his job as a defense attorney but this should still be a red flag to anyone that is concerned with cleaning out governmental corruption.

My next issue is with him comes on his record of respecting personal rights of free speech and demonstration. The specific issue is again his defense of a man in Soldotna that threw water on peaceful anti-war protestors during winter. This man then thought it was so much fun he went back and repeated the action. This time he videoed the incident. This represents an unprovoked assault on people that were peacefully exercising their constitutionally protected right. Again he may say that he was simply doing his job as a defense attorney, but this once more calls his personal views into question. I do not want an Attorney General that thinks that that kind of behavior is acceptable or defensible. It makes me wonder what he might think was reasonable action to take against people that are protesting actions of the state or it's governor.

I am also concerned about his stance on subsistence. I have not found a single native organization that supports his nomination. His refusal to see the importance and need for a rural priority in the subsistence program makes it seem to me that he does not have a good idea of what it means to live in the bush or to need those subsistence rights to survive. To me this means that he will not be able to truly represent all of the states residents equally. This is a critical issue to many of the villages in western Alaska as it the subsistence fishing and hunting problems as well as the high energy costs that are causing a true crisis in this area.

My final issue with the appointment of Mr. Ross to this post is that he has personally represented Gov. Palin in the past as a personal attorney. Given the number of ethics complaints that have been filed against our current Governor and that the Attorney General is directly involved in this process is to me a conflict of interest. The Job of the Attorney General in the ethics process is to help decide if a complaint is valid on its merits, not to simply defend the governor regardless of what is alleged. This post should be totally non partisan and committed to the single purpose of enforcing state law regardless of who is involved. We have all seen what happens when this is not how a governmental legal system is not run this way. The fall out from the Bush justice department should be a clear warning against appointing someone to a post like this if there is any indication that partisan politics will play a part in the way that they run their office or select their staff. The information I have been able to gather on Mr. Ross and public statement that he has made make me worry that he would run his offices in exactly this partisan manner and this is not something that Alaska needs.

Please understand that my objection to Mr. Ross is not based on political party. I am registered as non-aligned / Independent (can't remember exactly how it is on the voter card) and have voted for both Republican and Democratic candidates in elections past. This is strictly about my own personal concerns that Mr. Ross will not be a fair and impartial enforcer of the law, and his possible conflict of interest with Gov. Palin due to prior representation.

Thank you for your time. I may be contacted at (907) 321-4334 if you have questions or would like further comment.

James Helm
6734 A. Marguerite
Juneau Alaska, 99801

Dana Strommen

From: Rep. Bill Thomas
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 1:16 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: FW: Wayne Ross

From: Robert Henrichs [mailto:moose@nveyak.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:37 AM
To: Bruce Cain
Cc: Rep. Bill Thomas; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Nancy Barnes
Subject: Fwd: Wayne Ross

----- Original Message -----

Wayne Ross???????

In the mid eighties I needed some legal advice on a boat I had bought. The attorney I had used previously crashed his plane and was killed. In rural Alaska it is easier to use an attorney that regularly visits your community they traveling to Anchorage and hiring one. This being the case I hired Wayne Ross. Shortly after that a friend told me that he had been in a local bar when Wayne's local secretary invited several people in the bar to continue the party at their office trailer. While at the trailer the secretary allowed the partygoers to go through the client files. He mentioned several facts, which he had gleaned from my file. The next day I had a heated exchange with one of Ross's attorneys and the secretary was fired.

A while later I was charged with a DUI. I hired Wayne Ross to defend me. The day of the trial arrived and no Ross. A guy came up to me and introduced himself as Allen Bailey whom Ross had sent down to handle the trial. This was news to me, as I had not been told that Ross was not going to handle the case. I discussed the case with Mr. Bailey and he refused to take any of my advice. He promptly lost the case. I felt he was in a hurry to make the plane back to Anchorage. I was puzzled.

A few weeks later I opened the Anchorage paper and saw a photo of Mr. Bailey and he was listed as the Vice-President of the Anchorage Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD). I was furious. As a member and officer of MADD it was a conflict of interest for Mr. Bailey to represent me on a DUI charge. Mr. Bailey and Wayne Ross both knew this. I was never told Mr. Bailey was going to be my attorney and certainly not told he was involved in MADD.

I feel Mr. Bailey and Wayne Ross conspired to violate my civil rights, namely my right to a fair trial.

I contacted another attorney on this matter. She felt this was a violation of attorney ethics. Six attorneys signed statements that what Mr. Bailey and Wayne Ross did were beneath the standards that attorneys set for themselves. At this point my father who was ill asked me to not follow through with this. As it turned out this was his dying wish as he passed away a short time later.

I feel Wayne Ross is morally and ethically unfit to be the Attorney General of the State of Alaska.

I have to laugh when Governor Palin claims that where ethics are concerned Wayne Ross is squeaky-clean. She must be talking about Republican ethics where if you're not in prison you're squeaky clean.

Bob Henrichs

Dana Strommen

From: Robert Henrichs [moose@nveyak.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 6:55 AM
To: Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep_Charrise_Millett@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Fwd: Wayne Ross

----- Original Message -----

Speaker of the House Mike Chenault

I am a former client of Wayne Ross. His firm failed to maintain client confidentiality in my case. They also sent an attorney to represent me that had a major conflict of interest, which was not disclosed to me at the time.

I don't feel Mr. Ross had neither the moral fiber or the high standard of ethics required for someone to serve as Attorney General for the State of Alaska.

I am writing this letter as a private citizen although I have served as the President of the Native Village of Eyak for the past 16 years and am also serving on the Cordova City Council.

Sincerely yours

Bob Henrichs

P.O. Box 1000

Cordova, Alaska 99574

907-529-5567



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please do NOT Confirm
Wayne Anthony Rots - I feel this
would be a serious blow to our
state and everyone living here. Thank You

Signed: D. R. "skye" High
Testifier

Representing (optional)
303 Sterling Ct - Kenai AK 99611
Address

907. 395-3960
Phone number

Dana Strommen

From: paigeh@alaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 8:26 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross' 4/10/09 letter to the legislature

April 14, 2009

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I testified telephonically to the Senate Judiciary Committee last Wednesday during the public testimony period on the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as our state's Attorney General.

I came forward because I felt it was my responsibility as an Alaskan citizen, since the office of the Attorney General within the Department of Law is an extremely important one that will affect the lives of countless Alaskan's.

My main concern was Mr. Ross's attitudes towards women, domestic violence, divorce, child custody, child abuse and child protective services. I reiterated things he had spoken about at a 10/2005 community forum held at UAA on domestic violence and child custody which did not lead me to believe he had a good understanding of these issues, even after his being in family law practice for many years.

Some of Ross's statements indicated to me he had antiquated if not patronizing and sexist views of women, and held on to numerous harmful myths about domestic violence, not the least of which was his claims about rampant abuse of the protective order process and current child custody statutes both newer and older that the legislature intended to protect abuse victims. That claim simply is not borne out in statistics compiled by other citizen lobbyists on past DV bills, nor in the professional literature on the subject.

I did not know at the time of my testimony that a former lobbyist was coming forward recalling some very extreme statements he made about violence against women at a meeting of a father's rights group. I also did not have time that day to hear the Senate Judiciary Committee's questions of Mr. Ross during the earlier confirmation hearing.

I have since learned that Mr. Ross wrote a letter to you including reference to me in his derision of former lobbyist Leah Burton. The letter rambles for 4 pages about his intimate relationship with his wife, claims first to have never heard of Dads Against Discrimination (DADS), then admits on page 2 that he does recall addressing the group. He is dismissive of me, referring to me as "the lady who attended the UAA forum" and claims not to recall the date of the forum.

I was not just "some lady" in attendance. I was instrumental in the concept for and the organization of that forum, obtaining and coordinating a pre-release of a PBS documentary on the issues with the producer and KAKM, coordinating the concept of the forum with UAA and the Domestic Violence Awareness Committee, and serving as a panelist following after Mr. Ross' talk while he listened on.

Some discussion that evening involved the recent passage of 2004 legislation that provided greater protections to domestic violence victims and their children during contested custody proceedings. I co-authored that legislation with a local family law attorney and former Municipal Prosecutor, it was sponsored by Sen. McGuire, and it passed unanimously through every committee hearing in both the House and Senate and passed unanimously in a full vote of both bodies. Believe me, I was listening very closely, not only because I felt responsible for the

success of the event, but because I had to follow Mr. Ross in the panel discussion.

His rebuttal to my testimony in that letter and his answers to numerous questions posed to him by Senate Judiciary members on these issues only further serves to reinforce my recollections as accurate. In fact, his letter does nothing to deny his poor grasp of the issues.

I went back and listened to his own testimony from last Wednesday. Various members of the Senate Judiciary asked him multiple questions about domestic violence, child abuse, child protection workers/agencies, his family law practice, sex offenders and sexual assault. Every opportunity he had to answer their questions, instead of focusing on the needs of abuse victims, he spoke immediately to the needs of the accused with refrains of "false allegations", "vicious allegations", "all my clients are innocent", "litigants abusing the system", "racing to the courthouse", "I didn't have much sympathy for those kinds of cases" and themes of family preservation at the expense of child protection. These refrains are similar to those oft-repeated by father's rights groups, anti-Child Protection Service/Parent's Rights groups and their attorneys who speak out nationally against legislation, court reforms and programs that assist domestic violence victims and their children. I found his testimony very disturbing on these issues.

It has become painfully clear that it is Mr. Ross' own words that continue to cause Alaskans grave concerns about how he will handle and uphold the laws of the state when it comes to our most victimized populations. Given Alaska's horrid statistics on domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, we can not afford as a state to go backward in time.

I urge you not to vote for confirmation.

Sincerely,

Paige R. Hodson, SRA

903 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 220 Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 274-8258 phone; (907) 274-8259 fax
paigeh@alaska.net

Jane Pierson

From: Catherine Howard [howard.catherine25@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 9:49 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Charisse Millett;
ReRepresentative_John_Harris@legis.state.ak.us; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Jane Pierson; Cindy
Smith; Sen. Lesil McGuire
Subject: WAR Confirmation

Dear Representatives,

Please give Sarah Palin another chance to nominate/appoint another Attorney General. She is being advised by the new Chairman of the Republican Party to do the right thing. If you vote not to confirm Wayne Anthony Ross, she will be forced to appoint another person for this job. His actions and statements yesterday should prove to you that he would not serve the best interests of the State. He will serve the Governor's interests first. Our state has become a laughingstock to the world. Please do not allow your names to be associated with a truly abhorrent choice for our State's head attorney. With all due respect, I beg you to please reconsider your vote this morning.

I remain your supporter,
Cathy Howard



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please do not recommend the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General.

Did you know that according to **national statistics**:

- Approximately 4 million women are victims of domestic violence each year.
- **Every 12 seconds, a woman is beaten by her husband or boyfriend.**
- **25 percent of American women report being raped or physically assaulted by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.**
- Domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women ages 15-44, more common than automobile accidents, mugging, and cancer deaths combined.
- **A boy who witnesses his father's domestic violence is 10 times more likely to engage in domestic violence than a boy from a nonviolent home.**
- Studies show that child abuse occurs in 30-60% of family violence cases.

And.....

ALASKA RANKS NUMBER ONE IN THE NATION FOR RAPE

It has been reported that Mr. Ross made statements which encourage and promote the actions stated in these statistics. You have heard testimony from several individuals who heard Mr. Ross make statements like these:

"If a guy can't rape his wife...who's he gonna rape?" and "There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut."

Appointing Mr. Ross as Alaska's Attorney General undermines Alaskan civil rights for women, Alaska natives, gays and children.

Appointing Mr. Ross as Alaska's Attorney General throws Alaska back into the dark ages.

Please do not confirm Mr. Ross's nomination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Signed: Joann Jackinsky
Testifier

PO Box 1025 Kasilof, Alaska 99610
Address

907 283-9558
Phone number

Sara Jackinsky
PO Box 1044
Homer, AK 99603
907.235.6417
sarajackinsky@gmail.com

April 9, 2009

To the Senate & House Judiciary Committees of the State of Alaska

cc: Rep Paul Seaton, Sen Gary Stevens

I am writing to express my concerns about the appointment of Wayne A. Ross as Attorney General of Alaska. A confirmation of this appointment will be detrimental to the people of the State of Alaska. Please do not confirm this appointment.

1. Mr. Ross has taken a position that will undermine the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives.
2. Mr. Ross has taken a position that is not respectful of the rights of gay, lesbian and transgender Alaskans.
3. Mr. Ross has taken a position will perpetuate and perhaps increase the incidence of domestic violence in Alaska.

Mr. Ross is not the person that should be in the position of Attorney General of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sara L. Jackinsky

Jane Pierson

From: Steven Jacquier [steven_jacquier@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 10:37 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please Oppose Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General

Dear Rep. Ramras

The people of Alaska --which include many different groups-- deserve better than the likes of Wayne Anthony Ross serving our interests as Attorney General.

Mr. Ross has a record of discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans and the Native community has spoken forcefully against his appointment because of Mr. Ross's poor record on subsistence issues and his divisiveness.

We do not appreciate Mr. Ross' statement in the state Bar Association newsletter referring to GLBT Alaskans as "degenerates" and describing being gay as a "perversion." This from a person being considered for the office of Attorney General? Such baseless and divisive statements are inflammatorily prejudicial and reflect poor reasoning skills as well as bad executive judgment..

Please oppose Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General; his presence would be an insult to the office as well as to our family; based on his record and statements to date he would not serve Alaska as whole well at all.

Sincerely,
Steven Jacquier & Doran Vaughan, and our children Kristina and Andrew.

-----Tidbits du Jour-----

Alaska's Mt. Redoubt volcano erupting in striking photos-
http://www.boston.com/bigpicture/2009/04/alaskas_mount_redoubt.htm

Hello, my name is Steven Jaquier.

I am speaking on behalf of myself and my family and we appreciate the committee hearing our comments.

Over the last twenty years I have regularly attended church here in Alaska with my family, and am a parent, a teacher, and a business owner. In other words, I am the average law-abiding Alaskan whom Mr. Ross has described as being an immoral, perverted, degenerate.

(page 2 of 2)

The people of Alaska --a diverse people-- deserve better than the likes of Wayne Anthony Ross serving our interests as Attorney General.

Mr. Ross has a record of discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Alaskans and the Native community has spoken forcefully against his appointment because of Mr. Ross's poor record on subsistence issues and his divisiveness.

We do not appreciate Mr. Ross' statement in the state Bar Association newsletter referring to GLBT Alaskans as "degenerates" and describing being gay as a "perversion." This from a person being considered for the office of Attorney General? Such baseless and divisive statements are inflammatorily prejudicial and reflect poor reasoning skills as well as bad executive judgment..

Please oppose Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General; his presence would be an insult to the office as well as to our family; based on his record and statements to date he would not serve Alaska as whole well at all.

Sincerely,
Steven Jacquier

Dana Strommen

From: bill johnson [akdoggie99@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 12:42 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Ross

Please vote against seating Ross Thank You. Bill Johnson, Anchorage, Ak

Dana Strommen

From: Me [glacialblu@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 7:16 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative Ramras,

I have listened with interest to the testimony of Wayne Anthony Ross in addition to those speaking both on his behalf and those with concerns. During this process one thing has become crystal clear to me:

For the sake of all Alaskans, we do not need someone who creates such controversy as our Attorney General.

Whether you do or do not agree with Mr. Ross, it is apparent that a large number of Alaskans vehemently don't support him. We need a person in that position who has the trust of those he or she represents. All Alaskans must have faith that their Attorney General will make fair and equitable decisions.

Alaskans have to be pulled back together and not have a political wedge driven deeper between them. Please help by selecting a person for Attorney General who will have the confidence and faith of all instead of one as divisive as Wayne Anthony Ross. There is no good reason to appoint a person who raises such strong emotions and concerns. There are plenty of qualified, fair attorneys in our state who would do a fine job in that position.

Thank you for your time.

C. Johnson

Dana Strommen

From: Tom [toxicom@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 10:51 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Mr. Ramras,
I strongly believe that confirmation of the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross will expose the State of Alaska to serious liabilities because of Mr. Ross's outspoken nature and arrogant attitude.
Please reconsider your decision to confirm this man as the Attorney General for the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Thomas Johnston
9150 Chipwood Circle
Anchorage, AK 99507

**OBJECTION TO: "Appointing Wayne A. Ross
State Attorney General."**

- 1. Mr. Ross has known Governor Palin for some time. How long has he known her? How many times has he helped her, as an Attorney?**
- 2. How well does Mr. Ross know Governor Palin? Does he know about her experience in the Alaska Independence Party?**
- 3. Does Mr. Ross agree with the Alaska Independence Party issues and goals?**
- 4. Much of the Alaska Independence Party is intolerant and extreme, does Mr. Ross agree with them? On secession? On subsistence? On A.N.C.S.A.? On Alaska Statehood? On the Constitution?**
- 5. If Mr. Ross became embroiled in a situation such as "Troopergate" would he be loyal to the State of Alaska or to Governor Palin?**

The office of Attorney General has federal and State Laws to contend with, would an intolerant and extreme position on any issues be worth litigating? If litigation is a lose-lose formula, would Mr. Ross still litigate?

(page 1.)

Wayne Ross**George Wallace**

	(1.) both are "populists."	"the people."
	(2.) equalitarian, the constitution, "all Alaskans."	The constitution, yet, opposed de-segregation.
	(3.) extreme: "he would hire a band of "junk yard dog" Assistant Attorney Generals to challenge the federal rules or seek changes in law in congress."	"Of course if I did what I'd like to do I'd pick up some thing & smack one of these federal judges in the head & then burn the court house down. But I'm too genteel."
	(4.) opposes established institutions, "I intend to challenge provisions of ANILCA."	Expressed contempt for established institutions & procedures.

I've tried to show some similar characteristics of both men. In political science would be "counter-elites." populists, opposed to established order & its values, extremist, impatient with due process, equalitarian, contemptuous of law & authority and in favor of simplistic solutions. These are not qualities that would enhance the State Government of Alaska. I OBJECT TO: "the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross as Alaska's Attorney General."

Signed: Albert Judson

Albert Judson Box 1151 Haines, Ak. 99827

(resident & registered voter.)

(Page 2.)

Jane Pierson

From: ravenstricks@gmail.com on behalf of Gina [gina@ravenstrick.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 7:18 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: AG Hearings

Thank you Jay for asking the right questions!

This man is not an appropriate choice for AG. And I would like to know why he is *already* using State letterhead and why he is *already* listed on the State's website as AG. Is he *already* working out of the AG's office?? Is he on the payroll without confirmation??

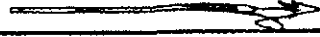
<http://www.law.alaska.gov/department/ag.html>

Keep up the good work, you're doing a great job!

Gina Kalloch
Fairbanks



TEL: (907) 443-5231 • FAX: (907) 443-4452



RESOLUTION 2009-03

SERVING THE
VILLAGES OF:
BREVIG MISSION
COUNCIL
DIOMEDE
ELIM
GAMBELL
GOLOVIN
KING ISLAND
KOYUK
MARY'S IGLOO
NOME
SAVOONGA
SHAKTOOLIK
SHISHMAREF
SOLOMON
STEBBINS
ST. MICHAEL
TELLER
UNALAKLEET
WALES
WHITE MOUNTAIN

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE CONFIRMATION OF WAYNE ANTHONY ROSS AS ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

WHEREAS, Kawerak, Inc. is a tribally authorized non-profit consortium whose mission is to assist, promote and provide programs and services to improve the social, economic, educational, and cultural well being of the people within the Bering Strait region; and

WHEREAS, the communities within the Bering Strait region include: Brevig Mission, Council, Diomedede, Elim, Gambell, Golovin, King Island, Koyuk, Mary's Igloo, Nome, Savoonga, Shaktoolik, Shishmaref, Solomon, Stebbins, St. Michael, Teller, Unalakleet, Wales and White Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Governor Palin appointed Wayne Anthony Ross to serve as Attorney General for the State of Alaska on March 26, 2009 and the legislature will confirm or not confirm the appointment on April 16, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's news release, dated March 26, 2009 stated, "As Attorney General, Ross will work with the governor on issues surrounding development of Alaska's rich natural resources as the state continues its efforts to provide energy security for America and lower energy costs for Alaskans. As Attorney General, Ross also will help the governor protect Alaskans' right to bear arms, and he will work tirelessly to manage Alaska's fish and game resources for abundance through science and not politics. Governor Palin added, "Now more than ever, it is essential that Alaska's sovereignty be protected, that there is unity in Alaska, and that we all stand together to see Alaska's potential fulfilled with energy security contributions to ourselves and the nation, while protecting the Constitution"; and

WHEREAS, subsistence is central to our regions existence and vital to the health and welfare of regional residents; and

WHEREAS, Kawerak, Inc. supports a rural subsistence preference over sport and commercial interests to insure residents within the Bering Strait region can harvest fish and game for their health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Subsistence has priority over sport and commercial interests in the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Governor Palin's Attorney General must insure that subsistence take priority over other interests as prescribed in law and regulation; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Anthony Ross, represented sport hunters in the 1989 lawsuit that overturned as unconstitutional the state's subsistence preference for rural residents; and

WHEREAS, in a Anchorage Daily News, August 13, 1998 article titled "Fed up, Ross stages battle for guns, family and Alaska pride," Wayne Anthony Ross was quoted as saying, "Rural preference is wrong and not necessary to ensure subsistence foods;" and

WHEREAS, tribal governments in Alaska are recognized under federal law; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments provide valuable leadership, resources, processes and tools to address the socio-economic, educational, and cultural needs of the Bering Strait region; and

WHEREAS, Governor Palin, with her authority to appoint key positions such as the Attorney General, has an opportunity to address rural concerns, namely the rural subsistence priority and tribal sovereignty; and

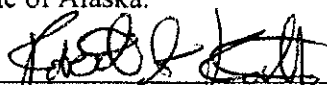
WHEREAS, Wayne Anthony Ross' stance regarding tribal sovereignty is reflected in his comments in the article titled "Indian Country: 2 Destinies, 1 Land" by Tom Kizzia in the Anchorage Daily News, June 29, 1997 in which Mr. Ross was asked to comment on the issue pending in the Venetie Indian Country case. He said "It's a giant leap backward into the 19th century... They want to see Alaska balkanized into little fiefdoms where these self-proclaimed Native leaders will reign supreme with the help from the Great White Father;" and

WHEREAS, Governor Palin's candidate for appointment of Attorney General should be an individual who exemplifies leadership skills that will seek collaboration with all local governments to resolve vital issues which would lead to safe, economically viable AND healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Anthony Ross' record and professional stance on rural subsistence priority and tribal sovereignty exemplifies an extreme bias which will further exacerbate the process to resolve vital issues to our regional communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Kawerak Board of Directors oppose the confirmation and appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross to serve as Attorney General for the State of Alaska.

By: _____


Robert Keith, Chairman

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned Secretary of the Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by majority vote of the Board of Directors of Kawerak, Inc. during a duly called meeting on this ____ day of April, 2009.

By: _____


Kawerak Board Secretary

Dana Strommen

From: Jan [janpatches@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 9:37 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative Ramras:

I respectfully ask you not to confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General. It has become painfully clear that his grasp of the law is limited, but his loyalty to Governor Palin is not.

Alaska has become the laughingstock of the United States, starting with the November election, continuing through People Magazine, and today with a major story in the New York Times.

Wayne Anthony Ross presents as a uneducated, bigoted and dangerous man. The Anchorage Daily News online comment sections indicate that others think so as well, with many comments opposing him and Governor Palin having been deleted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janette Kazar

Jane Pierson

From: danik@gci.net on behalf of Dani [danik@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 5:41 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: House Judiciary Committee Confirmation

To the House Judiciary Committee,
I would like to respectfully request that you do not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General. The problems with Mr. Ross holding that office are many and in my opinion, as a life long Alaskan, he is too divisive to help bring this state together. We are already suffering a complete leadership void with the Administration and I would hate to think what would happen if Mr. Ross were suddenly in that sort of position.

Respectfully submitted,

Danette L. Kebschull
Soldotna

Alaska Legislature

April 12, 2009

Dear Legislators:

Friday, April 10, 2009, I watched the House Judiciary Committee's interview with Wayne Anthony Ross, Governor Palin's appointee for the Alaska Attorney General position. I was surprised when, towards the end, Representative Ramras referenced the ethics complaint I submitted in March. I was then disgusted by Mr. Ross's response:

Representative Ramras: "We have a Governor who is provocative in a lot of her actions. Recently it comes to mind when she was in Fairbanks for the finish line for the Iron Dog she was wearing Arctic Cat gear...Arctic Cat letters..."

Wayne Anthony Ross: "It was provocative; she looked very good in them, didn't she?"

The fact that Mr. Ross thought it appropriate to sexualize the issue on the floor of the House during his confirmation hearing is probably alarming enough by itself. It seemed to add credibility to the Senate and House public testimony from multiple individuals alleging disturbing past negative comments and attitudes from Mr. Ross towards women.

However, the focus of this letter is the cavalier way in which Mr. Ross seems to view charges that the Governor of Alaska has behaved unethically.

While this attitude is clearly obvious in the previous comment, it is also reflected farther into the exchange between Rep. Ramras and Mr. Ross:

Representative Ramras: Presently, General, there are some concerns in this building about the focus of our chief executive because she's taken a speaking engagement in Indiana for a 36 hour period with only 72 hours to go in the Legislative Session. Although she's available by phone, there's a reason we have you here in front of us because we're not interested in doing the confirmation hearing telephonically. Nor are we interested in having a Governor available telephonically with only three days to go in the session.

So my question for you...as the Governor's attorney as well as the chief attorney for the State of Alaska...how are you going to advise the Governor, with these lucrative offers she has on the table to write a biography and the requirement for anyone who writes a book to take a book tour across the country? Are you going to advise the Governor that this is something that is within her rights and purview or is that something that infringes upon the rights of all Alaskans?

W.A. Ross: I don't know how I'm going to advise her because the question hasn't been made and I don't know all the facts.

Later on, Mr. Ross gives this response:

W.A. Ross: ...Whether that's part of her job or not, I'm not making any decisions on that. Whether she should wear Arctic Cat or I should get in trouble for wearing a Steton, I'm not making any decisions on that. If the questions come to us maybe we'll have to make a decision at that time. I'm sure she feels appreciative that you guys are going to miss her for two days while she's outside giving a speech. She's never talked to me about it and I'm sure you'll be in her heart and mind the whole time.

Again, he is clearly not taking any of this seriously. He also states that he is not making any decisions on advising the Governor whether or not the above behavior is ethical.

Here is the rest of the exchange:

Ramras: I would look forward to an opinion from the Department of Law on that point...whether the Dept. of Law will endorse a chief executive writing a book and making a multi-city book tour while she's serving in the capacity of the chief executive. On that point we would like to get an opinion from the Department of Law going forward as we have a new Attorney General.

Ross: I think I have a lot more important issues as Attorney General then deciding whether or not the Governor should write a book.

Ramras: I didn't ask you if she should write a book. I asked you if she may take prolonged absences from the State of Alaska on a book tour.

Ross: I don't have all of the knowledge of the issues facing the Department of Law, but when it comes time that I have plenty of extra time for such things I will certainly devote the time appropriate to such an issue

I believe that Mr. Ross needs to read the job description for the State Attorney General a little closer. In a 2007 letter and attachments from the former Attorney General (page 6), Talis Colberg explains his role as AG to Governor Sarah Palin as the person who is supposed to assist her in understanding her responsibilities regarding her own ethical behavior:

Since I serve as your designated ethics supervisor, I want to remind you that the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act requires that all state employees report to their designated ethics supervisors any outside employment or services benefiting their personal or financial interests by July 1 of each year.

So, one of the functions of the Attorney General is to serve as the Governor's designated ethics supervisor, which not only has time-sensitive reporting requirements but would require him to properly advise her if there is a possibility she may be violating the Alaska Executive Ethics Act. I believe that requires Mr. Ross to take action on the issue of ethics whether he has "plenty of extra time for such things" or not. It's an important part of his job.

Further, the letter from the former AG lays out more specific guidelines for chief executives:

However, the Ethics Act also precludes "the head of a principal executive department of the state" from engaging in "outside employment."² *The Office of the Governor is a principal department of the state. Therefore, as head of that office, you may not be engaged in outside employment. We construe "employment" to have its ordinary meaning.*

These definitions are explained in an attachment to the memo for the Governor (page 8), a list of Frequently Asked Questions that looks like it may be given to all new state employees. What's disturbing is that it very clearly raises questions as to the legality of the chief executive officer (Governor Palin) accepting "a book deal." Mr. Ross seems to be completely unaware of this:

3. What does "outside employment" include?

- Any employment for which you are paid, but not your state employment.
- Examples: a job with another employer, **work as an independent contractor, and work in your own business.**

Also, Mr. Ross seems to be unaware that established DOL criteria may already address the issue of leaving the state for extended travel on a book tour:

The statute (AS 39.52. 170(a)) restricts public employees from providing services that benefit a personal interest if those services are incompatible or in conflict with the proper performance of official duties.

Mr. Ross discussed **none** of this when asked pointed questions by Representative Ramras. Instead, Mr. Ross gave flippant answers, seemed to dismiss the importance of Executive Ethics Act enforcement and didn't seem to understand the requirements of the Act himself. While I don't expect Mr. Ross to be up to speed on all the requirements of his potential job, I believe he should have at least a passing understanding of some of the more important duties. Keeping the Governor out of trouble is a VERY important duty and not something to be taken lightly.

Wayne Anthony Ross's disrespectful attitude during the ethics questioning concerns me for another reason. The Alaska Executive Ethics Act does require that the Personnel Board hire an independent investigator in place of the Attorney General when ethics complaints involve the Governor, the Lt. Governor or the AG him/herself. However, the AG is the head of the Department of Law which still the "gatekeeper"—Dept. of Law employees make the decision whether or not the ethics complaint meets the criteria and is sent to the Personnel Board at all. I am concerned that Mr. Ross may not take the process seriously enough to become well-informed and base the fate of ethics complaints upon unbiased legal criteria.

I believe we should all be deeply concerned about the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross for many reasons already presented to both Judiciary Committees. However, no behavior in front of either Judiciary Committee causes more concern and reflects more directly upon how Mr. Ross may perform at his job than the ethics exchange with Representative Ramras. Ethical government should be a high priority for everyone but

especially for the person whose job it is to lead the Department of Law. I urge you to reject the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Kellen
(aka. Linda Kellen Biegel)
House District 29
Senate District O
celticdivaak@yahoo.com
907-830-9458

Jane Pierson

From: Kim Kloecker [kloecker@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 10:19 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Cc: Cindy Smith
Subject: [Fwd: Please, no Wayne Anthony Ross]

Dear Ms. Pierson and Ms. Smith,

I'm hoping that I'm not too late with my comments regarding Mr. Ross. For the record, I am adamantly opposed to his confirmation!

thank you,
Sincerely,

Kim Kloecker

----- Original Message -----
Subject: Please, no Wayne Anthony Ross
From: "Kim Kloecker" <kloecker@acsalaska.net>
Date: Fri, April 10, 2009 10:14 am
To: Representative_Lindsey_Holmes@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Senator_Hollis_French@legis.state.ak.us

Dear Representative Holmes and Senator French,

I am a registered voter in the Spenard/Turnagain area of Anchorage. I'm writing to ask that you take action to ensure that the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross is not confirmed. I am fully supportive of "big" personalities and of our governor's right to appoint someone who shares her views on many issues, however I feel that Mr. Ross is not an acceptable choice for Alaska. I do not believe, as he claims, that he will be a different person representing the state versus private citizens. A vote to confirm him would be an insult to women, Native Alaskans, indeed-- to all Alaskans. Please urge the governor to find a more suitable candidate.

Sincerely,

Kim Kloecker
2908 West 34th Ave
Anchorage AK 99517

907-245-4476

Dana Strommen

From: tristan knutson-lombardo [tristan@juneaumedia.com]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 7:18 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am writing to request you deny Wayne Anthony Ross the confirmation of Alaska's Attorney General. It is my understanding the House Judiciary committee is holding a public hearing on this matter April 10th at 1pm. I am, unfortunately, out of the state and am not able to attend, so I have decided to write to you and voice my disappointment.

Given the outcry from the Native community, and his historical opposition to subsistence preference for Alaska Natives, I see him as a dangerous and disrespectful choice. I think that we should honor and respect the indigenous people of Alaska. To the members of the House Judiciary committee, I am imploring you all to not confirm Ross as AG.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to not only see a "no" vote.

Tristan Knutson-Lombardo
Juneau, Alaska

Dana Strommen

From: c.krzanowski@att.net
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 8:37 PM
To: Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Gene Therriault; Rep. Jay Ramras; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Carl Gatto; Sen. Hollis French; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill
Subject: Mr. Wayne Anthony Ross

04/13/09

Dear Honorable Legislators:

I am a registered Independent voter here in Alaska. Over the weekend I read a statement made by Mr. Wayne Anthony Ross during a public hearing. The statement Mr. Ross made about Governor Palin follows:

"She was provocative. She looked very good in it, didn't she?"

As a woman I am insulted and appalled by his continued disrespect to women. He is offensive and chauvinistic and if this is how Mr. Ross treats women in public, I fear for what he is capable of behind closed doors. I would hope that you to not approve his nomination for Attorney General. Surely, we can do so much better then Mr. Ross.

Sincerely,
Criss Krzanowski
Eagle River, AK

Dana Strommen

From: George & Leslie [georgenleslie@mosquionet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 10:44 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Cc: Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Rep. Jay Ramras; Sen. Gene Therriault
Subject: Please do not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross

I am writing to express my concern over Wayne Anthony Ross's nomination to the post of Attorney General and to request that you cast a NO vote on April 16th during his confirmation hearing.

Rarely have I felt strongly enough to express my opinion in this manner, but Mr. Ross's history of very questionable public statements on many important issues make him too polarizing and divisive a figure. I do not believe he could be reasonably counted upon to uphold the constitutional rights of all Alaskans, without discrimination, when his personal statements and positions over many years show his personal agendas and entrenched beliefs so clearly. After reading his comments yesterday on the potential legal standing of Governor Palin's handling of the replacement for Kim Elton in Juneau, I have become even more unsettled, as he seemed to show more commitment to personal alliances than to the letter, or spirit, of the law.

Please do not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as our next attorney general.
Sincerely,

George LaBar
P.O. Box 61132
Fairbanks, AK 99706
907-488-5254
(House District 7, Senate District D)

Jane Pierson

From: Dick LaFever [dicklafever@ak.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:09 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross/Attorney General Hearing

Representative Ramras:

As a 30+ year Alaskan, a registered nonpartisan, and a concerned citizen, I am convinced that Mr. Ross's appointment as Attorney General would have a detrimental and divisive impact on our state. His philosophy, personal behavior, and record has been one that demonstrates his narrow mindedness, disrespectful and chauvinistic views.

I ask that you not approve Mr. Ross as Attorney General. Our state deserves better!

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. (Dick) LaFever
815 W 19th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska
258.7002
dicklafever@ak.net

Jane Pierson

From: maryla@alaska.com on behalf of Mary La Fever [maryla@alaska.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:55 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: About the Ross appointment

Hello Jane:

I am not certain how to do this, but want my vote/desire to be considered and counted: that these representatives would get my recommendation NOT to approve the appointment of mr. Ross. I am totally against his being in public office at all.

Is it possible for you to forward this to these folks at this late date?
Thank you.

Mary La Fever
Anchorage resident 41 years.

Reps Ramras, Dahlstrom, Coghill, Gatto, Lynn, Gruenberg, and Holmes

Jane Pierson

From: maryla@alaska.com on behalf of Mary La Fever [maryla@alaska.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 3:46 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross

Hello, Rep. Ramras:

I want my vote/desire to be considered and counted: my recommendation DO NOT approve the appointment of mr. Ross. I am totally against his being in public office at all.

Thank you.

Mary La Fever
Anchorage resident 41 years.
815 West 19th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99503

April 8, 2009

Honorable HJUD Chair Ramras and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern over the Governor's nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross for Alaska Attorney General. In my view, Mr. Ross is eminently unqualified for this important position.

Mr. Ross has gone to some lengths, over the years, to portray himself as outside the mainstream in his personal views and actions. Former legislators, Alaska news media and even the nominee himself have painted him with this brush. Mr. Ross gives the appearance in his word and deed of being out of step with much of the American public, even advocating discrimination and promoting ownership of concealed weapons. One has good cause to wonder if he will focus on these issues to the detriment of other aspects of the role of Attorney General.

Mr. Ross has served as counsel to the Governor in the past. I have concerns that the Governor may seek to use this to invoke attorney-client privilege to avoid or obstruct prosecution in her multiple ethics-related charges.

Mr. Ross has had some ethics quandaries of his own. As a director for the NRA, he was charged with ethics violations in using his role to promote Republican candidates who had not been endorsed by the NRA leadership. Though the charges were dismissed, certainly there are other, equally capable attorneys in Alaska without the taint of impropriety.

Do we need an Attorney General who has been variously termed by the media and legislators as "the hero of his own life", a "goober candidate" and "someone who hates to be wrong"? With all the scandal and mockery of Alaskan politics nationally and internationally, don't the people of Alaska deserve an Attorney General who remains above the fray, rather than being the source of it?

There have been hints that Mr. Ross has been less-than-favorably rated by the Alaska Bar. In trying to research more on this, I noted that although Mr. Ross touts his pro-bono work (much around gun ownership and advancing his own views) he has never been recognized for this by the bar. That seems interesting, considering Mr. Ross's claims.

Do we need an Attorney General who finds it seemly to debate constitutional issues in "Soldier of Fortune" magazine (and apparently, not entirely on the money when it comes to his interpretation).

I am concerned for the potential conflict-of-interest between Mr. Ross's duties as an Attorney General and that of an attorney for Governor Palin's personal matters. Mr. Ross's first duty is to the State, but he doesn't give reason for much confidence that he will exercise his responsibilities with the proper emphasis.

Mr. Ross's nomination has met with consternation by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the Council of Village Presidents, largely over his very public and long-standing opposition to subsistence. He has only recently said he would not make this a central issue if he was appointed to the Attorney General role. How convenient. I believe his appointment is an affront to Alaska Natives, and would oppose his appointment on this issue alone.

Mr. Ross should have reminded the Governor that he is not yet the Attorney General and the announcement on the State web pages are inappropriate at best.

We don't need an Attorney General who is "good enough". We need an Attorney General who is good, and who can help steer Alaska through the various challenges facing us in the upcoming years.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Lagoudakis
P.O. Box 662
Petersburg, AK 99833

4/10/09

Members of the Committee

My name is Joseph Lapp, I live in Homer, and am here representing the organization Alaskans Together For Equality, Inc. Alaskans Together is a new, statewide group which promotes civil equality for all Alaskans, with a special emphasis on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender equality.

I am requesting that this committee not recommend Wayne Anthony Ross for confirmation as State Attorney General. Mr. Ross' history of very negative public statements on the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, his stance on native rights, and his views on women and domestic violence make him an incredibly polarizing and divisive figure, and one who we at Alaskans Together for Equality do not think could be reasonably counted upon to uphold our constituency's constitutional rights without discrimination.

Can someone who thinks of you in terms like "degenerate," "immoral," or "perverse," and feels comfortable enough to use those horrible terms in a public venue possibly put that loathing aside as easily as changing a hat between public and private life? I don't have confidence that Mr. Ross will be able to do that, and it's not a risk that I believe our state can take.

In his public comments Mr. Ross has said that this is a time in our state's history where we need to be getting together, and we agree, which is why we hope that this committee will reject Mr. Ross' confirmation because he can only possibly tear us further apart

Thank you,



Joseph Lapp II

Board Member, Alaskans Together for Equality, Inc.

PO Box 2895

Homer, AK 99603

Dana Strommen

From: Robert Lee [relee42@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 7:21 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Please vote no on WAR

Ross is unqualified to be AG. Please vote no on Ross.

Jane Pierson

From: Nancy Lethcoe [pwsbooks@cvinternet.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:00 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: No to W. A. Ross's confirmation

Alaska ranks among the highest states in the nation in the number of cases of domestic violence and child abuse. We need an attorney general who will enforce laws and be proactive to protect the weakest among us. Mr. Ross is not the man for the job.

Please vote against him.

Respectfully,
Nancy R. Lethcoe

Dana Strommen

From: Dennis Loux [akdennis2003@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2009 3:26 PM**To:** Rep. Bob Buch; Sen. Con Bunde; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Sen. Bettye Davis; Rep. Mike Doogan; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kim Elton; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Sen. Hollis French; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. John Harris; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Rep. Bob Lynn; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Sen. Donny Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Sen. Gene Therriault; Rep. Bill Thomas; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Peggy Wilson**Subject:** Confirmation of prospective AG Wayne Ross

Legislators,

First, allow me thank all of you for your hard work this session. I know this has been a very frustrating and at times divisive legislative session. I appreciate your patience.

I am contacting you because I have serious concerns regarding Governor Palin's selection of Wayne Ross as the replacement for Talis Colberg as Alaska Attorney General. After conducting my own independent research into Mr. Ross's career and personal positions and history I have come to the conclusion that confirming Mr. Ross will not be in the best interests of our state.

Mr. Ross has shown time and again that he has very strong negative feelings toward certain groups who may not be in accord with his personal world view. In light of this I am concerned that Mr Ross's legal decisions will be shaped, at least in part, by his biases. Given his vociferousness in the past I think he will have difficulty administering justice in a fair and impartial manner.

Mr. Ross has stated that he will behave impartially as AG because he will be "wearing his AG hat" during his tenure. He has stated that he will not allow personal feelings and prejudices to effect his ability to equitably administer the law. I truly would like to believe Mr. Ross but he has shown throughout his career that his personal feelings and biases are strongly held indeed and, to a large extent, shape his actions. I honestly do not believe that Mr. Ross will be able determine where Wayne Ross the person with strong beliefs ends and Wayne Ross the AG begins. I fear that Mr. Ross will allow his personal prejudices to effect his office and the fair administration of the law.

Watching Mr. Ross undergo questioning by legislators during the confirmation hearing has only solidified my misgivings about his appointment. Mr. Ross's flippant responses to certain probing questions during his confirmation hearing gives me pause to wonder how seriously he takes the confirmation process and hence the office of the AG itself. And while I appreciate a well developed sense of humor Mr. Ross's repeated flippancy and cavalier attitude during the hearing and in recent correspondence are not in keeping with the gravity of the confirmation process nor indicative of the requisite seriousness necessary in one seeking to be Alaska's top cop.

I do not know Mr. Ross personally and certainly hold no ill will toward the man. I believe that Mr. Ross is absolutely entitled to hold his opinions and world view even though they are not congruent with my own. But the AG does not have the luxury of having a personal opinion. The law is the law. It is not to be shaped to conform to one's personal system of values.

Is Wayne Ross really the best person for the job that the Governor can come up with? I think not. I understand that the Governor is going to select someone sympathetic to her views. But I really believe that she can find someone who fits that bill but who is also more a more impartial attitude toward our diverse cultures and subcultures.

I do not support the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross as Alaska Attorney General and ask that you do NOT confirm him. The Governor surely can find someone else who takes a more balanced approach to Alaska's diverse population and at the same time is able to support the Governor's political positions (not that I'm at all sure that the Governor has a position on *anything* at this point).

Again, thank all for your hard work on behalf of the people of Alaska this session. I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

Dennis Loux
HC 34 Box 2136
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dana Strommen

From: Dennis Loux [akdennis2003@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 2:40 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Ross confirmation

Rep. Ramras,

I contacted you a few days ago regarding my position on the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross as Alaska Attorney General and wish to add something further to support my opposition to his confirmation.

First let me say that if you do not support the confirmation of Mr. Ross I wish to express my heartfelt thanks for putting the welfare of Alaska above political expediency. If you have not yet taken a position regarding Mr. Ross's confirmation I ask that you do not confirm. If you favor the confirmation of Mr. Ross I ask that you reconsider your position for the following reason, if nothing else:

Below is a quote from Mr. Ross that states his position regarding Governor Palin's latest actions in the process to fill the Juneau district Senate seat recently vacated by Kim Elton.

"It seems to me the most important thing that can be done by the Senate is not argue with legal or illegal but to appoint somebody to represent Juneau."

If all that has gone before during Mr. Ross's confirmation hearing (i.e. his history of divisiveness and bias, flippant and cavalier attitude toward legislator's questions and flat out non-responsiveness to questions) has not convinced you of Mr. Ross's unfitness to serve as Alaska Attorney General then the quote cited above should remove any doubt you may have.

Mr Ross is telling the legislative body, in effect, that our *LAW*makers needn't trouble their little minds with minor details like what is *legal* or *illegal*. He and Sarah have determined it's OK so just do what Sarah wants and we will all be happy. I think we need look no farther to see that Mr. Ross possesses the same elastic approach to the law, accepted legislative procedures and ethics that the Governor does.

If you do not feel the same sense of outrage over this latest slap in the face from the Governor's office that I do then you are not fit to serve in the office to which you have been elected by your constituents.

Sarah Palin has caused Alaska to become a laughingstock to the rest of the world. How long will you allow this farce to continue? We will be watching with interest.

Again I ask, no I beg, that you do not confirm Wayne A. Ross as Alaska Attorney General.

Thank you for hearing me on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Loux

HC 34 Box 2136

Wasilla, AK 99654

Dana Strommen

From: nloving@gci.net on behalf of Nancy Lovering [nloving@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Attorney General Nomination
Importance: High

Representative Ramras,

I am writing to voice my overwhelming concern regarding the potential of the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as our Attorney General. In particular his attitudes and opinions regarding women, Alaska Natives and The Office of Children's Services are of significant concern.

As an Alaskan I am requesting that you do NOT confirm Mr. Ross as Attorney General!

Thank you,

Nancy Lovering

Nancy C. Lovering M.S., CCC-SLP
Nancy C. Lovering M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Therapy Services
4325 Laurel Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99508
907-562-8262
nloving@gci.net

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Jane Pierson

From: iceworms@gci.net on behalf of Richard Lynch [iceworms@gci.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:51 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: ATTORNEY GENERAL

Dear Mr. Ramras,

Please DO NOT confirm Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General, he appears to be an extremist, i worry he will not represent all Alaskans. His appointment would be a step backwards.

Patricia Lynch
13300 McCabe Circle
Anchorage, Alaska
99516

Dana Strommen

From: Russ Maddox [russmaddox@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 11:51 AM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Rep. Paul Seaton
Cc: Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Donny Olson; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Reggie Joule
Subject: WAR confirmation

In September 2006 there was an event in Seward that featured WAR and his machine-gun club on private property in a residential area in Seward. There were machine guns aimed on exploding targets with shipyard toxic waste as a backstop very close to families and pets with no forewarning. There were many neighbors enraged by the risks of machine guns and explosives posed in our neighborhood for hours and hours. They were asked to stop by neighbors, but did not. They cited their second amendment rights. However by Alaska statute it became an illegal nuisance as soon as they were asked and declined to stop. In 2008 the neighbor again hosted a machine gun turkey shoot but this time instead of featuring Wayne Ross, Don Young was the guest of honor. WAR (and DY) exhibited a severe lack of judgement and by claiming their rights usurped ours certainly does not offer any confidence that he would properly interpret the law as AG. Please deny his confirmation.

<http://dorenelorenz.blogspot.com/search?q=turkey+shoot>

Dorene Lorenz removed WAR's photos from her website, but the public comments are still there and there are witnesses that WAR was indeed present and the guest of honor.

Neighbors besides myself:

Paperman Dave
work 224-8297
mobile 362-1282

Max and Mary Fackler 224 7423

Chris Bailey 224 3793

Mark and Sharon Ganser 224 5482

Regards, Russ Maddox
491-0353

From Seward Phoenix LOG September 2006,

Turkey shoot misses mark

Explosives shake Nash Road

Jane Pierson

From: Pat Malone [packy@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:42 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Representative Ramras,

Wayne Anthony Ross is the wrong person for Alaska's Attorney General.
We do NOT need a divisive figure in this role.
Please reject him, and ask Governor Palin to submit the name of someone who will help bring Alaskans together,
not rend us asunder.

Thank you.

Pat Malone
Kenai

Dana Strommen

From: jentoby@ak.net
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 8:12 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross- opposed to his confirmation

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing you today to ask that you consider voting NO on confirming Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General. I have read and listened to testimony, and I am appalled at his views regarding gay people, women, and Alaska Natives subsistence rights. Alaska deserves someone who will look after the rights of ALL Alaskans, not just those he agrees with. I recognize that confirmation hearings for appointments by a governor can become partisan in nature (whether the governor is Republican or Democrat). I also recognize that it is the governor's right to appoint someone who shares her political views and vision for the future of our state. I just don't see that someone who has the published attitudes about people he has will be good for Alaska.

Furthermore, Mr. Ross's response to the current situation going on between the governor and the Juneau Democrats trying to fill the seat vacated by Kim Elton is alarming in someone who is a lawyer and is being considered for the position of the ranking law enforcement individual in our state. His opinion based on the Legislature's lawyer that the governor is violated the law in her responses and picks to fill the vacant senate seat was: "It seems to me the most important thing that can be done by the Senate is not argue with legal or illegal but to appoint somebody to represent Juneau," - Ross. Based on this response alone, I would hope all partisan politics, all differences of opinion on ideology, would be irrelevant to you. The man who wants to be attorney general DOESN'T THINK THE SENATE SHOULD BOTHER WITH ISSUES OF LEGAL OR ILLEGAL. The same man who says he believes first and foremost in the Alaska Constitution is asking you, the Legislature, to ignore the law.

Alaskans deserves better than this. We are relying on you today to make sure we do not have an attorney general who believes the law is irrelevant when it doesn't suit his or the governor's agenda. We deserves someone who will support the Alaska Constitution for ALL Alaskans, regardless of whether or not he likes them or what they stand for.

Please vote NO on appointing Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General.

Thank you
Jennifer Mason
Anchorage, Alaska

Jane Pierson

From: Megan McCarthy [meganpearl@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 6:38 PM
To: Cindy Smith; Jane Pierson
Subject: NO to Mr W.A.R.

My name is Megan McCarthy and I am a resident of Sitka Alaska.
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to register my complete opposition to the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's Attorney General. His beliefs regarding subsistence rights and his speech regarding women and gay rights are just a few concerns that make him a bad choice to represent "all Alaskans." We deserve better and I hope that your committees see that Mr. Ross is a divisive choice. Thank you for the work that you all do on our behalf.

Rediscover Hotmail®: Get e-mail storage that grows with you. [Check it out.](#)

Jane Pierson

From: Rod McCoy [rodmccoy123@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:29 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please vote no on Ross

I am writing to ask you to please vote NO to Wayne Anthony Ross' confirmation as State Attorney General.

I opposed his nomination for many reasons:

- 1) He is a divisive character, to say the least. That is the LAST thing Alaska needs, further division.
- 2) He is a zealous conservative judicial activist and I do NOT believe he is capable of even-handed, ethical behavior that we need in the state's top attorney. I do not believe he has the heart of a public servant--and apparently the Alaska Judicial Council concurs since they have not once sent his name forward as a potential bench appointee.
- 3) I am strongly opposed to Mr. Ross' opposition to native subsistence rights. While I am wholeheartedly of the belief in equality. I believe that we have a MORAL obligation to ensure the ability of native Alaskans to pursue their subsistence hunting and fishing traditions. (We brought them alcoholism, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases and capitalism in exchange for fur, gold and oil--I feel it is the least we can do to give them first access to game/fish in the event of a shortage of said resources).
- 4) I am absolutely disgusted and mortified by his reported comments concerning women and domestic violence ("If a guy can't rape his wife...who's he gonna rape?" and "There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut.") There is NO excuse for such foul, inappropriate, misogynistic comments. NO man--NO husband should need to "discipline" his wife. Women not children and not chattel!
- 5) I am outraged by his attacks on freedom of speech (defending the guy who poured water on the war protesters). As offensive and emotionally hurtful as his client may have perceived the protesters actions, they still have the right to free speech and peaceful assembly. One of my favorite quotes I discovered in my studies at UAF regarding freedom of speech:

"It is of no moment, in the First Amendment jurisprudence, that some ideas advocated by an association may to some, or to most of us be abhorrent, even sickening. The stifling of advocacy is even more abhorrent, even more sickening. It rings the death knell of a free society. Once used to stifle the thought that we hate.... it can stifle the ideas we love. It signals a lack of faith in people, in its supposition that they are unable to choose in a marketplace of ideas." - David Stivison

Please, PLEASE do NOT confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General. He is NOT the right person for the job and I believe this appointment reflects poorly on Governor Palin.

Jane Pierson

From: Barbara McDaniel [barbara1@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 5:59 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg;
Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Carl Gatto
Subject: Confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross

Mr. Ross' record demonstrates he holds a self-serving belief that men and women do not have equal rights. In addition, his testimony today demonstrates that Mr. Ross would not be the alert, energetic, and up-to-date Attorney General that Alaskans deserve.

Barbara McDaniel
1040 N Craig Stadler Loop
Wasilla, AK 99654
907.373.6977

Dana Strommen

From: housemajority_email@housemajority.org
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 9:44 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Email to Rep. Ramras

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to redsquirrelangst@yahoo.com If suspected Spam please forward
to: support@housemajority.org
+-----+

From: redsquirrelangst@yahoo.com

We live in Virginia but keep our home and voting rights in Alaska--Fairbanks!

Please do not vote for WAR. People are laughing at us--Palin is truly a boastful
ignoramous (per C. Hitchens). Please give Alaskans some dignity and nut up to this
behavior. And, why dont you run for governor yourself? (Watch-out for the governor's
anti-Semitism.)

We miss Pikes!

~ A McIntyre
Zip Code: 22151

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to redsquirrelangst@yahoo.com If suspected Spam please forward
to: support@housemajority.org
+-----+

Jane Pierson

From: jwmelliott@att.blackberry.net
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 1:05 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Attorney General Nominee

I know, as member of the House Judiciary Committee, you often have to determine the veracity of a witness, examining, among other things, the motive behind the person's testimony. In your evaluation of Ms. Leah Burton's written statement to legislators and her subsequent telephone testimony to the House Judiciary Committee regarding the shocking statements she says she personally heard Mr. Ross make about spousal rape and domestic violence and, not surprisingly, his denial of same, I trust you and your legislative colleagues will ask yourselves whom to believe, the daughter of Alaska's former Commissioner of Public Safety, Richard L. Burton, or Mr. Ross? I would submit that it is Mr. Ross, as the nominee for Attorney General, not Ms. Burton, who has the greater motive for being less than truthful.

Additionally, I was appalled to learn today from listening to the archived audio testimony of Mr. Ross to the House Judiciary that I and many other Alaskans who do not support the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's disreputable and scientifically dubious predator control program are, in Mr. Ross's words, "enemies" of Alaska. This is my forty-fifth year living in Alaska, a state I love wholeheartedly. It is my home.

Like Governor Palin, Mr. Ross forgets conveniently that not all Alaskans share his views and hers regarding predator control. Yet, in his view and apparently the Governor's, that makes me and many thousands of Alaskans "enemies" of our beloved state. How patently absurd is that? And this man thinks he is fit to be Attorney General? In my view he clearly is not.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

Dana Strommen

From: Beth Mobley [bambamobley@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 4:28 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: ross appointment

No doubt your mind is most likely made up--however i feel it is necessary to send this just the same.As a Christian white woman with 4 children and someone who has lived here almost 20 years, i am appealing to your sense of ethics and good conscience.

I am asking that you DO NOT appoint Mr.Ross as OUR attorney general.

This man has a questionable appreciation of civil rights and worse yet does not tell the truth.This is a person who will serve simply to assist the governor in furthering her own personal agenda.

My husband is a WHITE hunter, so are my sons, and Mr Ross DOES NOT represent them.

Mr Ross is a bombastic , chauvanistic theocrat who disgustingly uses religion to justify his actions.He is as corrupt as his appointer.Someone so concerned with "protecting" families maybe should think twice before he and his buddies spend 4 hours detonating explosives and shooting off machine guns in a residential neighborhood where children live.

The state of Alaska is number one in Sexual abuse- we need better and i sincerely hope that all of you STRONGLY reconsider this man's appointment.He truly is disgraceful and we CAN do better.

Thank you -Beth Mobley

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Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Please do not support the appointment of W.A Ross for attorney general. He has not proven his support of human rights for all people

Signed: Betty L. Obendorf
Testifier

Representing (optional)
PO Box 2335 Soldotna, Ak 99669
Address
907-262-9898
Phone number

Jane Pierson

From: Wallace Olson [wmolson@ptialaska.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:08 PM
To: Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: One vote

After forty seven years in Alaska, seeing some of the finest and best political appointees, as well as some complete losers. In watching the Gavel to Gavel House questioning of Wayne Ross as nominee for Attorney General, please write down one vote from one individual as a "No Vote."

This man should never be the Attorney General of Alaska. Please ask the Governor to submit the name of a truly qualified person. Alaskans would appreciate your efforts to do so.
Wallace M. Olson, Auke Bay, Alaska

Jane Pierson

From: jana@iialaska.com on behalf of Jana Peirce [janapeirce@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 12:14 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes

Subject: Vote No on Wayne Anthony Ross...please

Palin's pick is unacceptable. An AG needs to uphold the law and protect the rights of all Alaskans. Ross' remarks reveal him to be prejudiced to women, Natives, and those less fortunate than he is. He shows disdain for whole swaths of the electorate. Please uphold your own oath of office by voting no. His confirmation is not in the best interest of Alaskans or Alaska. Is it too much to ask for someone who is professional, competent, reasonably unbiased and uncontroversial?

Jana Peirce
1820 Lilac Ave.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

Jane Pierson

From: christel@gci.net on behalf of Christel [christel@gci.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 10:07 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: WAR Confirmation

Representative Ramras and other members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am very much opposed to the confirmation of Wayne A. Ross as AG after hearing some of his testimony and some of his comments. I urge you to cast a "NO" vote and have the Governor nominate someone qualified; someone less bias, less hateful, less egregious, someone who will work for the people of this state not only the Governor.

Thank you,

Christel Petty

Jane Pierson

From: Miles Pruner [akpruner@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 7:58 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Say NO to WAR

Give ~~peace~~ Alaska a chance!

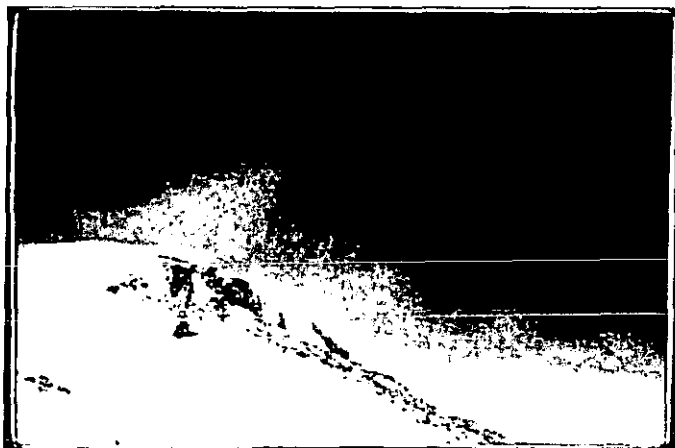
Dear Mr. Ramras

My name is Dana Pruner and I am a resident of Eagle River, Alaska. I am *appalled* and deeply *offended* by Governor Sarah Palin's choice of Wayne Anthony "If a guy can't rape his wife... who's he gonna rape?" Ross for our new Attorney General. My first memory of the man called "WAR" was his defense of Soldotna cold water abuser, Jeff Webster. With each passing day more and more information is released exposing the true nature of this man. I shudder to think of the physical and spiritual destruction this man could cause to our State of Alaska. I'm not as concerned with a person's qualifications as I am their proven CHARACTER. From reading or listening to the confirmation hearings, one can easily ascertain how crude, cold, and divisive Ross is.

I sincerely hope that you will protect our great state, it's resources and it's people, help put and end to the partisan shenanigans of our governor, and *NOT accept Wayne Anthony Ross as the new Attorney General.*

Thank you for your attention in this matter.
Godspeed,

~Dana Pruner



Jane Pierson

From: annelj0206@gci.net
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:05 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Question for Attorney Ross

Ms. Pierson:

I am requesting that one of the house judiciary committee members ask this question of Mr. Ross today:

"You have referred to gays and lesbians as 'degenerates'. Do you think you can treat fairly state employees, including Assistant Attorney Generals, who are homosexual?"

Thank you,
Anne Quistgaard



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
committee name

Committee on Confirmation: Attorney General, dated 4-10-09
bill # / subject public hearing date

Re: The Appointment of Mr. Ross to the position of Attorney General.

I don't believe Mr. Ross has the temperament to carry out the important decisions associated with the position. He is impulsive and offensive when expressing his opinions in connection with substance, women's rights, and the rights of protestors. His public commentaries while expressing his own personal beliefs lead me to believe that he is ^{not} capable of being impartial and supportive of human rights for all people. I do not support his appointment.

Signed:

Donna Rea

Testifier

Representing (optional)

Address

262 6037

Phone number

Jane Pierson

From: Ashley Reed [ashley_reed@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 11:24 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Oppose Ross's confirmation

To the House and Senate Judiciary Committees:

I am writing this to say that I oppose the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross. I expect our attorney general to be someone who has a logical approach to the law, and who keeps in mind the best interests of the state and its citizens. Mr. Ross's past actions have shown him to be someone who will bend the law to his advantage to advance his own personal opinions, which are extreme compared to the majority of Alaskans. He appears to have a very low regard for a significant portion of the state's citizens, based on his comments about Natives and homosexuals, among others. He also seems to have little respect for peoples' protection under the law from the "freedom of expression" of other citizens, even when those expressions come in the form of harassment or physical aggression. He does not appear to have much respect for the federal government, which would make it difficult for him to deal with many of the state's legal opportunities and challenges. His seems to have experience with sensationalist cases that support his narrow sociopolitical agenda, but does not seem to have experience with big picture cases important to the functioning of our government and economy. I hope that you will not confirm Mr. Ross, but instead support someone who is more qualified as an objective interpreter of the law.

Thank you,
Ashley Reed Kalli

Rediscover Hotmail®: Get quick friend updates right in your inbox. [Check it out.](#)

Windows Live™: Keep your life in sync. [Check it out.](#)

Jane Pierson

From: Sheila Reynolds [ukreynolds@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 2:52 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Re: The Confirmation Hearings for Wayne Anthony Ross

Ms. Pierson,

It would be much appreciated if you could forward this to those of the House Judiciary Committee so that my concerns can be related and entered as public record. I will phone you to ensure that this email has been received by your office.

Thank you,
Sheila Reynolds
Eagle River, AK
(907) 622-8222

To the Senate & House Judiciary Committees of the State of Alaska,

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns about the appointment by Governor Palin of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General of Alaska. I sincerely hope that this appointment will not be confirmed.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to homosexuals.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to the issue of domestic violence.

I am a born and raised Alaskan who does not believe that the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives in any way infringe on my rights as an Alaskan or citizen of the United States of America. I do not believe that one person's choice of life partner infringes on my personal freedoms or ability to lead an honest, productive and happy life, nor does it infringe on that of my children.

However, words cannot express the concern that I have in regard to Mr. Ross' stated position in regard to domestic violence. Alaska leads the nation in domestic violence and rape statistics. How, in good conscience, can our leadership possibly justify having an Attorney General that holds the beliefs of Mr. Ross? How can our state expect to address and ameliorate these problems with Mr. Ross as our Attorney General?

Domestic violence is a generational problem; I speak as the granddaughter of a woman beaten and eventually killed by her husband. My mother, my aunts and uncles, my cousins and I have grown up without the love of my grandmother. Children are shaped by exposure to domestic violence. Families are changed forever. What is the cost to individuals and society when the cycle of domestic violence is not addressed and treated?

Should Mr. Ross be confirmed as Attorney General, Alaskans will get an Attorney General more concerned with undermining the rural subsistence rights of Alaskan Natives than with addressing the prejudices and challenges that they face daily. Should Mr. Ross be confirmed, Alaskans will get an Attorney General committed to abolishing the rights of gay, lesbian and transgendered Alaskans, rather than supporting the rights of each and every Alaskan regardless of their sexual orientation or religious beliefs. Finally, if Mr. Ross is confirmed as Attorney General, Alaskans will continue to reap the sorrows perpetrated and perpetuated by domestic violence and rape as he fights for gun rights instead of human rights.

Please do not confirm Mr. Ross as Attorney General of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Sheila Reynolds

Dana Strommen

From: Sheila Reynolds [ukreynolds@yahoo.com]**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2009 2:51 PM**To:** Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Kim Elton; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bob Lynn; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Peggy Wilson**Subject:** Please Do Not Confirm Mr. Ross as Attorney General -- From an Eagle River resident

Dear Senators and Representatives of the State of Alaska,

I write, again, to ask that you not confirm Wayne Anthony Ross as the Attorney General of the State of Alaska.

His well-known and publicized marginalization of the concerns and lifestyles of Alaska Natives must be of critical concern to all Alaskans.

I am a born and raised Alaskan, and have been a registered Republican for most of my adult life. I am not an Alaskan Native. However, I care about all Alaskans, particularly those who are most at-risk due to the actions, or lack thereof, of our government, State, and Federal. The government of the State of Alaska must be part of the solution, not the problem. As such, it is imperative that we establish a course of action that ensures that the needs of all Alaskans are best served, a course of action that will lay a foundation for the best possible outcome for all Alaskans. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Mr. Ross' narrow views and stated priorities will not serve the best interests of Alaska or Alaskans, but rather himself, the Governor who has chosen him, and their narrow-minded supporters.

I have already written to express my concerns about his views on domestic violence. I have met Mr. Ross, I have worked with Mr. Ross, and I can tell you that given my experiences with Mr. Ross, I find it quite credible that he would have made statements undermining women. Regardless of the comments that have made the rounds regarding his comments, some of which could be dismissed as heresay (though I am not saying that they should be dismissed as heresay), my own experience leads me to believe that interpersonal communication skills are not his forte, and that is putting it mildly. Is it in the best interest of Alaska and Alaskans to have a bombastic, dismissive, divisive Attorney General? I have worked with many attorneys in Alaska, and I have met very few who I would consider more potentially damaging to the short- and long-term interests of Alaska.

I am hopeful that the legislators of the State of Alaska will not only deny the confirmation of Mr. Ross as Attorney General of the State of Alaska, but will also ensure that the Governor understands that nominating an attorney for that position that meets her own personal & ideological criteria while undermining those of the best interests of the State is unacceptable.

Regards,
Sheila Reynolds
16132 Stineburg Drive
Eagle River, Alaska
(907)622-8222

Jane Pierson

From: Mark Richards [kandik@starband.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 6:55 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross confirmation hearings

Hi Jay,

I know you're busy, just a short note on the Ross confirmation hearings. I am co-chair of a hunting and fishing organization that disagrees with some of Governor Palin's and Ross' opinions on wildlife management, but I'm writing now just speaking for myself.

I just wanted to get across, respectfully (I really respect the way you come across as a Representative, and we agree on much), that I think you really did a disservice to all Alaskans by saying today *prior *to public testimony that you looked forward to nominating Ross for AG. I have seen where the public process of input and testimony on various issues has been watered down. People don't feel their voice is really heard. And often it is because of statements like you made earlier today alluding that the public wouldn't have any influence in your vote on confirmation.

I should say that I really respect Ross for speaking his mind. For being the type of man who doesn't ride the fence, even if I disagree with him on some issues. And even though I personally oppose him as AG. For me it is never personal.

This note isn't about whether or not I support or oppose Ross as AG; rather it is directed to you as a man I very much respect, as a legislator, to say that when you state you will vote for something before hearing the input of those you represent...you have taken our voice away, and I really have a hard time with that.

Hope to get with you sometime in Fbks. I'm up north, remote, in the bush, writing via satellite internet. I do appreciate your service to Alaska, really have a lot of respect for you. I hope you would in turn respect those you represent.

Sincerely,
Mark Richards

Dana Strommen

From: ccr349@aol.com**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2009 4:39 PM**To:** Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Gene Therriault; Sen. Con Bunde; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. David Guttenberg; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Beth Kerttula; Rep. Bob Lynn; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Alan Austerman; Sen. Joe Paskvan**Subject:** Attorney General Confirmation

Dear Alaska Legislators,

I am writing to you as an Alaskan resident since 1956, as a woman, and as a Native American. I am a registered voter in Seward, and have voted faithfully in all local, state and national elections.

I urge all of you, in the strongest terms possible, to vote "NO" in the matter of the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross for Attorney General for the State of Alaska. I make this request in light of his testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, as well as his published statements and opinions. It is my opinion that Mr. Ross has clearly demonstrated his preference for flamboyancy over substantive, thoughtful, legal proceedings. I am deeply concerned that his predilection for divisiveness could have a negative impact on the well-being of the majority of Alaska citizens for years to come.

Please consider this carefully and vote "No".

Thank you,
Catherine Richardson
Seward, AK

The Average US Credit Score is 692. See Yours in Just 2 Easy Steps!

Jane Pierson

From: Gayle Roth [rothgrk@alaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 4:42 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: W.A. Ross

Please vote NO! for Ross
Thank you,
Gayle Roth

Jane Pierson

From: housemajority_email@housemajority.org
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 8:51 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Email to Rep. Ramras

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to naomi@17th.com If suspected Spam please forward to:
support@housemajority.org
+-----+

From: naomi@17th.com

Dear Representative,

This proposed AG candidate Mr. Ross will prove a terrible embarrassment to your state and
your party. I urge you to reject the appointment and request that the governor pick
someone fair and competent. If you alienate the women and the native people of the state,
you may find the party majority endangered. This person does not appear qualified nor
wise. Why accentuate the impression of Alaska as a political joke?

Regards,

Naomi Schiff

~ Naomi Schiff
Zip Code: 94611

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to naomi@17th.com If suspected Spam please forward to:
support@housemajority.org
+-----+

Jane Pierson

From: Jamie [nuggets@alaska.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 9:33 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: re: Ross nomination hearing

Dear Representative Ramras and members of the Alaska House Judiciary Committee;

I am a twenty-five year resident of Fairbanks, and a registered voter in the state of Alaska. I am writing to you regarding the nomination of one Wayne Ross to the position of Attorney General.

Given this candidate's own personality, history and documented positions on a wide range of issues, and considering the transparent agenda Governor Palin seeks to advance for her own interests, it would be irresponsible, ignorant and insulting to the residents of Alaska to allow this divisive and polarizing nominee to be confirmed.

On the other hand, given the political history of our elected officials, "Corrupt Bastards" behind closed doors etc. I, along virtually everyone else in my community, don't have much faith in the legislative process.

Please prove us wrong.

Sincerely,

Jamie Smith
PO Box 453, Ester, AK 99725
(907) 457-4330
nuggets@alaska.net

Jane Pierson

From: Michael Sobocinski [msobocin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 7:52 AM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Attorney General Nomination

April 10, 2009

House Judiciary Committee
Jane Pierson, Committee Aide
jane_pierson AT legis.state.ak.us
907-465-4990

To Representatives Ramras, Dahlstrom, Coghill, Gatto, Lynn, Gruenberg, and Holmes:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross to the position of Attorney General.

Mr. Ross's behaviors over time seem to demonstrate a lack of professionalism coupled with at least an insensitivity to the needs of many people in our state whose values and views differ from his own. Unfortunately his actions may well represent intolerance and lack of respect for others. In many instances these are people who are relatively disempowered (e.g., victims of domestic violence) in the political system, and who require an advocate in the person of the Attorney General. Mr. Ross has given us serious reason to doubt his ability to represent the best interests of all Alaskans.

In addition, his antagonistic stance regarding the relationship between the United States Government and the State of Alaska indicates either an unwillingness or an inability to enter into productive, solution-focused dialogue on complex issues that impact the well-being of Alaskans.

I urge you to reject Mr. Ross's appointment to the position of Attorney General.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Michael Sobocinski
20021 New England Drive
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-622-5759

Jane Pierson

From: Tim Stallard [tim@outinalaska.com]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:21 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please oppose WAR for our AG

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am emailing today to ask you to oppose Governor Palin's Attorney General nominee Wayne Anthony Ross. While in general, I believe the Governor should get her pick for appointed positions, I am concerned that W.A.R. is far too radical and ideological to effectively or fairly work for the people of Alaska.

As a gay Alaskan and respected member of the Fairbanks community, I am deeply offended that W.A.R. referred to gay Alaskans in a letter to the Alaska Bar Association as 'degenerates' and 'immoral.' I was born the way that God and nature made me – being gay is not a 'perversion' as W.A.R. stated in his letter. As a (fairly young) 34 year old Alaskan, Ross sounds like such a "wacko extremist" that it makes me laugh, but clearly such hateful speech is dangerous and even promotes discrimination and violence. To me and other reasonable Alaskans it would be a travesty to see such an extremist appointed to this important position. We need an Attorney General who will represent all Alaskans and our interests, not his own well documented extreme agenda.

Clearly Alaska Natives do not feel that WAR could fairly represent their interests and such a divisive figure would be very unhealthy to Native/non-Native relations in our state. Lets not go there.

W.A.R. has come up for two recent judicial advancements, but was not recommended by the Alaska Bar Association, who gave him only mediocre ratings.

Alaska deserves better! I urge you to oppose Wayne Anthony Ross for our Attorney General.

Thank you,

Tim Stallard
P.O. Box 82096
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Dana Strommen

From: Ron [wildwingr@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 1:05 PM

To: Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Anna Fairclough

Subject: 6 Please Vote No on Ross as AG

Dear Representatives:

My name is Ronald T. Stanek, and I strongly oppose the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska Attorney General!! Please Do Not Confirm His Appointment.

He does not represent me or my interests.

I have lived in Anchorage for over 30 years. I moved to Alaska for jobs related to my university degrees in wildlife and parks management.

I worked in those fields in the State and Federal governments for 29 years.

I am an avid outdoorsman, actively participating in hunting, sport and commercial fishing, shotgunning, hiking, birding, boating, and many other outdoor activities.

I am also knowledgeable in the human cultural characteristics of Alaska having been an applied anthropologist for almost all of my working career in Alaska, and additional time in Africa.

Mr. Ross' past actions and current views toward natural resource management have resulted in very damaging natural resource management practices and relationships among several public interest groups and Government agencies.

His (and his associates') actions in removing the Rural Subsistence Preference only in times of resource shortages have confounded both Federal and State management of sport and subsistence hunting and fishing activities .

Repealing the Rural Preference took away much of the State's right to manage its resources.

Doing so robbed the State of Alaska of Tens of Millions of dollars in Federal funding for wildlife management.

It created a cumbersome, and often confusing dual management system.

It drove a wedge between rural and urban residents akin to the discriminatory, racist practices that persisted in Alaska during the early part of the 1900s.

Other of Mr. Ross' and his associates' actions influenced the State Legislature to deprive the residents of Alaska the opportunity to their constitutional right to a free and fair VOTE on an issue- (amending the state constitution).

If you attribute these problems to provisions in ANILCA, that is wrong, the people passed the Subsistence Law and this reflects Alaskans' recognition of the importance of natural resources as FOOD and CULTURAL IDENTITY to rural and urban residents.

Mr. Ross and his associates (Mr.Rod Arno and others) claim to represent Alaska Sports Hunters and Fishermen. NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH. They certainly do not represent me and my hunting and fishing partners and my family. In this regard, by appointing Mr. Ross to the AGs office, you will be laying a red carpet for rabid anti-subsistence sorts to influence that office. As you know, or at least you should know or learn, the aforementioned people, and a few others like-minded sorts, have caused untold damage to resource management in Alaska through their positions and influence of committees and the Boards of Game and Fish and the legislature.

Lastly, Mr. Ross can not, as a result of his prejudices, be a fair and unbiased representative the interests of the people of Alaska. He does not currently, nor will he be, representative of even a significant fraction of Alaska residents, but rather of a small, very narrow-minded minority. A number of pending lawsuits challenge decisions made by the Boards of Game and Fish. I fear that

**Mr. Ross will not adequately defend the Boards' decisions in these matters. Furthermore, it is likely that Mr. Ross will use the AGs office to advance an effort to remove subsistence provisions in ANILCA, this is wrong and not respectful of the needs of rural and urban residents. Please vote against Mr. Ross's confirmation as AG. Strive to put forth someone who will fairly and equitably represent and defend the people and laws of Alaska.
Thank You!**

Jane Pierson

From: Eva Stassen [evastassen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 5:39 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: Attorney General Nomination

House Judiciary Committee
Ms. Pierson,

I am appalled by the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross to be our next Attorney General. Public statements he has made in the past (and during his confirmation hearings) make it plain that he will not follow our laws any more than the previous Attorney General did. Apparently, he and Governor Palin are not clear about what the job of Attorney General actually entails. The appointment of Mr. Ross is an affront to all Alaskans, especially natives and women. I strongly urge the judiciary committee to vote "No" on this nominee.

Eva Stassen
11521 Discovery View Dr., Anchorage, AK 99515
907-830-6590

Jane Pierson

From: LIO Cordova
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 11:26 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: FW: House Judiciary Committee

Michelle Hahn O'Leary
Cordova Legislative Information Officer
907-424-5461 Fax 907-424-5462
Cordova_LIO@legis.state.ak.us

From: Mark Steen [<mailto:alaskan@alaska.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 10:26 AM
To: LIO Cordova
Subject: House Judiciary Committee

RE: Wayne Anthony Ross

Written testimony to be entered into the record:

I oppose the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General of Alaska. His extreme social positions and biases are well-known and documented. His appointment as AG would be divisive and troubling at a time when Alaskans need to be united for the common good. Surely there are better qualified candidates for this important position.

Mark Steen
Box 1310
Cordova, Alaska
99574

alaskan@alaska.com
907-424-5445

Jane Pierson

From: Constance Steeples [c.steeple@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 8:51 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Ross appointment

Representative Ramras:

Although I am not a resident of Alaska, I have followed your state's politics closely, due to Governor Palin's candidacy for Vice President. I am alarmed and deeply concerned about Ross' proposed appointment as Alaska's Attorney General.

For what I have read in many sources, as well as his own comments, I feel Ross is not only divisive, but discriminatory. He has made derogatory comments not only about gays/lesbians, but also about Native Alaskans and subsistence rights. Even more alarming are his views about men's rights in marriage; they seem to condone marital abuse. This is a person who would not uphold the laws that guarantee equal rights to all Alaskans; although Ross has said he would act differently if approved as Attorney General, I seriously doubt he would change such deeply held views.

I know there are other honorable, experienced Alaskan lawyers who would be fine candidates for Attorney General; I hope you and the other legislatures will insist on selecting one of them.

Thank you for listening to my opinion.

Sincerely,

Constance Steeples
Littleton, Colorado

Jane Pierson

From: Sarah Stern [allenestern@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 2:18 PM
To: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith
Cc: Rep. Les Gara
Subject: say NO to W.A.R. (updated)

I read the testimony of Leah Burton since sending an email to my legislator and now have new reasons that I oppose Ross as AG. As a woman, Ross cannot represent me, because he condones rape and violence towards women. Also appointing a sexist and potentially misogynistic man to a position in Alaska's state government does nothing for women's progress in Alaska.

There is a culture of sexism and racism on our north slope oil fields that is not only fostered but *encouraged*. I don't know how many times I heard the joke "what do you tell a woman w/ 2 black eyes?" "nothing, you already told her twice." There are still contractors that hire out of The Bush Company. If you're an educated woman who's skilled in a trade? Forget it, if you survive the months or years of hazing they'll eventually find a way to lay you off. This culture will never change if men like Ross are appointed to positions of power in Alaska.

Please represent the hard working women of Alaska and reject this appointment.

--- On Thu, 4/9/09, Sarah Stern <allenestern@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Sarah Stern <allenestern@yahoo.com>
 Subject: say NO to W.A.R.
 To: Representative_Les_Gara@legis.state.ak.us
 Date: Thursday, April 9, 2009, 12:42 PM

Sir,

I know I don't have to tell you, but I am writing to voice my opposition to the appointment of Ross to AG.

Of particular concern to me is his very intense form of the bourgeois mentality so many 'real' Alaskans have for 'outsiders'. I get it, Alaska is beautiful, you don't want to share it. Alaskans have a deep emotional sense of propriety towards their land. I'm a land surveyor by trade, I understand property rights and boundary law and how emotional those issues are. But that nonsense has no place in the grown up business of running government.

It's not that I feel bad about being and 'outsider'. Because I am a will always be a Minnesota girl. It's just that, in Minnesota, we protect our wolves. And we have a healthy and bountiful deer hunting season. I'm not an expert so I don't know exactly how officials in MN manage our wildlife, I just know that it can be done w/ out killing wolves. Outside of the horrifying way it's carried out (aerial hunting and denning) I am opposed to it. W.A.R. makes it clear he views caribou and moose as 'resources' to be 'developed'. I disagree w/ that philosophy whole

heartedly.

Finally, I'd like to see a gas pipeline built in my lifetime, as a surveyor I stand to make some bank from that work, I might even be able to afford to build a home and have kids because of it. I'm not getting any younger. WHY are we wasting SO much precious time on Sarah Palin and her appointment dramas? If there was a way that she could become irrelevant Alaska would be so much better off. Also, the construction of the Colville River Road to Nuiqsut (and potentially to Barrow) and the Bullen Point Road to Pt. Thompson, good projects - look into it please. Palin killed both. Let's get those going and stop the obsession w/ ANWR - a road to Barrow and better access to NPRA = **responsible resource development**. Palin and Ross don't have a clue what they're talking about.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stern
Condo Owner
525 W. 3rd Ave. Unit 111
Anchorage Alaska 99501

Jane Pierson

From: Ann Strongheart [nunamiquayouth@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 6:37 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Gene Therriault

Subject: OBJECTION TO: Appointment of New Attorney General

To the Senate & House Judiciary Committees of the State of Alaska,

I am writing this letter to voice my concerns about the appointment by Governor Palin of Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General of Alaska. I sincerely hope that this appointment will not be confirmed.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to homosexuals.

I am certain that you have already heard many constituents voice their quite justified concerns about the position that Mr. Ross has taken in regard to the issue of domestic violence.

I am a native Alaskan who does not believe that the subsistence rights of Alaska Natives in any way infringe on any rights of Alaskan or citizen of the United States of America. I do not believe that one person's choice of life partner infringes on my personal freedoms or ability to lead an honest, productive and happy life, nor does it infringe on that of my children.

However, words cannot express the concern that I have in regard to Mr. Ross' stated position in regard to domestic violence. Alaska leads the nation in domestic violence and rape statistics. How, in good conscience, can our leadership possibly justify having an Attorney General that holds the beliefs of Mr. Ross? How can our state expect to address and ameliorate these problems with Mr. Ross as our Attorney General?

Domestic violence is a generational problem; What is the cost to individuals and society when the cycle of domestic violence is not addressed and treated?

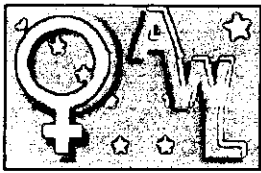
Should Mr. Ross be confirmed as Attorney General, Alaskans will get an Attorney General more concerned with undermining the rural subsistence rights of Alaskan Natives than with addressing the prejudices and challenges that they face daily.

Should Mr. Ross be confirmed, Alaskans will get an Attorney General committed to abolishing the rights of gay, lesbian and transgendered Alaskans, rather than supporting the rights of each and every Alaskan regardless of their sexual orientation or religious beliefs. Finally, if Mr. Ross is confirmed as Attorney General, Alaskans will continue to reap the sorrows perpetrated and perpetuated by domestic violence and rape as he fights for gun rights instead of human rights.

Please do not confirm Mr. Ross as Attorney General of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Ann Strongheart ☺
Nunam Iqua Food Drive
c/o Ann Strongheart
P.O. Box 7
Nunam Iqua, AK 99666



ALASKA WOMEN'S LOBBY

AWL Mission: To defend and advance the rights and needs of Women, Children and Families in Alaska

P.O. Box 20891
Juneau, Alaska 99802-0891
www.akwomenslobby.org

**2009
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Geran Tarr,
Chair

Jayne Andreen

Nancy Courtney

Grace Danborn

Torie Foote

Cady Lister

Patricia Macklin

Rebecca Madison

Jorden Nigro

Taber Rehbaum

Nancy Scheetz-
Freymler

Libby Silberling

Rose Wysocki

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Alaska Women's Lobby to express our concern with the appointment of Wayne Anthony Ross to the position of Alaska's Attorney General and to urge you to vote against his confirmation. There are many reasons to object to this appointment.

Following his appointment, it was brought to our attention that at a panel discussion cosponsored by Alaska Moms for Custodial Justice and UAA, Mr. Ross' comments regarding domestic violence were anti-victim and lacked any compassion for the difficult situation many women in Alaska face. During this panel, held a few years ago, Mr. Ross made comments alluding to domestic violence being the fault of the women's movement and that many domestic violence victims were liars. We hope that you will ask Mr. Ross about this panel and specifically question his views on domestic violence. We also encourage you to have a conversation with the organizers to learn more about his comments. As you know, Alaska has alarmingly high rates of domestic violence and to have an Attorney General that does not fully understand the gravity of this situation would be a disservice to the citizens of our state.

In addition to this, it was recently reported in the Anchorage Daily News that "during a fight several years ago over gay rights, [Allison] Mendel helped organize Anchorage lawyers in support of an anti-discrimination ordinance. Ross wrote a nasty letter to the Bar Association newsletter, using words like 'immoral', 'perversion' and 'degenerates'. The language went way beyond reasonable disagreement, Mendel and others said." This public display of disrespect for members of our community is of great concern to the Women's Lobby and again, we ask that you question Mr. Ross regarding his feelings about gay rights and equal rights as protected by the constitution of our great state.

The Lobby is also concerned with Mr. Ross' pro-gun, anti-choice and anti-subsistence rights views. Throughout the confirmation process, we hope that you will take a close look at Mr. Ross' expressed views as they are divisive for the Office of Attorney General and may be harmful to our state.

We hope that you will be probing and methodical in your confirmation hearings for Wayne Anthony Ross. We feel strongly that voting to confirm Mr. Ross as Alaska's Attorney General would be a step backward. We believe his views are out of line with a majority of Alaskans and he is therefore not qualified to serve in this position. An appointment of someone with such extreme views is not appropriate for a position of such authority. We thank you for taking the time to look into this matter further and for thinking of the best interest of the state and all its' citizens while going through the confirmation process of Mr. Ross.

Sincerely,

Geran Tarr
Chair

Cc: Representatives Dahlstrom, Coghill, Gatto, Lynn, Gruenberg, Holmes

Dana Strommen

From: TB Who [tbnak54@hotmail.com]**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2009 10:08 PM**To:** Rep. Alan Austerman; Rep. Bob Buch; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Sharon Cissna; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. Mike Doogan; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Anna Fairclough; Rep. Richard Foster; Rep. Les Gara; Rep. Berta Gardner; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. John Harris; Rep. Mike Hawker; Rep. Bob Herron; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Kyle Johansen; Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Mike Kelly; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Cathy Munoz; Rep. Mark Neuman; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Pete Petersen; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Woodie Salmon; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Bill Stoltze; Rep. Bill Thomas; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. Peggy Wilson**Subject:** Statement Re: AG Nominee Wayne Anthony Ross

Honorable Representatives of the Alaska Legislature:

Prior to the announcement of Gov. Palin's nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross as the Attorney General designee the major joke circulating around local work places & social gatherings was "Oh, she'll probably pick Wayne Anthony Ross", ... and then everybody would erupt in laughter knowing how ridiculous that had to be. Imagine the astonishment in those work places & social gatherings the day it was in fact a reality. Still stunned, I watched the confirmation hearings of Mr. Ross in both the Senate and House Judiciary committees in an effort to dispel the "wild west" reputation he has proudly cultivated and to hopefully see someone who exhibited, at the very least, basic standards that reasonable minds would expect to see in a choice for such a consequential position. . . A person who is circumspect and judicious in their approach to legal issues. . . A person who has compassion for & is accepting of people of ALL types. . . A person who does not see an enemy behind every rock and every problem as a battle or a "war".

Instead I was troubled that the Governor has put forth a person who comes across more like a cartoon character, shooting from the hip and unable (or unwilling) to offer a clear, articulate response to pointed questions (of which there were too few) without digression into folksy yarns about the past. I was highly disturbed that he sees the US Government (among others) as "the enemy". As this legislature is poised on the brink of voting on whether to confirm this nominee I come away from these hearings with a heavy sense of disillusionment. Especially in light of Rep. Ramras' multiple comments indicating that it was pretty much a done deal that he would be confirmed. Has some deal been cut that we the people are unaware of? I had hopes for some semblance of intelligence & convention to begin to take place after this last year of bizarre politics & divisiveness. I had hopes for the legislature to expect & demand if necessary, that our Governor put forth nominees, not driven by personal ideology, but with the best interest of the state in mind. It is apparent to me after listening to Mr. Ross that he is there first & foremost to protect & promote Governor Palin personally as well as her agendas, with the state's interests coming in second. In the days since the hearings his public writings have also demonstrated an amazing lack of decorum, professionalism & sensitivity required in a high ranking government position. Frankly, they are an embarrassment.

One thing I did hear that I DO agree with Mr. Ross on is that the whole nation is very interested & paying attention to Alaska more than ever. It is imperative that Alaska and its government be taken seriously on a national level in this current economic situation. No good can come from becoming the laughingstock of the nation by elevating this person to a position of such importance & so far out of their league. I don't believe that Mr. Ross is the right person to represent Alaska in this role. We have some brilliant legal minds in this state. Please do not make us settle for less than we as a great state deserve.

I am a 20+ year voter in Alaska . Thank you for your consideration.

Terri

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Dana Strommen

From: JoMarie Thomson [jomarie@akalt.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 2:39 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

I am asking you to vote no to Wayne Anthony Ross' confirmation as State Attorney General.

I was shocked to learn about many of his positions especially when it comes to the abused children and women of our community. Moreover, the disdain in which he holds OCS case workers is appalling. One of my best friends worked for DFYS as a case worker and then supervisor. I know how desperately they need the full support of the State to do an impossible job.

His statements *"If a guy can't rape his wife...who's he gonna rape?"* and *"There wouldn't be an issue with domestic violence if women would learn to keep their mouths shut."* should disqualify him without any further examination.

Even if he has experienced a "Road to Damascus" conversion, his history is one of divisive politics. This will mean that he starts out without the confidence of the public. After the last 12 months, Alaska needs public servants who can do their job without the cloud of partisan fanaticism. We need to be able to trust that his priority is Alaska/ns and not an agenda. Mr. Ross has abrogated that trust..

Please vote "NO" on the Wayne Anthony Ross confirmation.

Thank you.

JoMarie Thomson
<http://www.crucibledesigns.com>
<http://www.akalt.net>

907-349-3984

Dana Strommen

From: Lane Thompson [lane@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Jay,

If this Thursday, April 16, the Alaska Legislature confirms Wayne Anthony Ross as Attorney General, his bluster, intemperate speech and embrace of extreme ideology will ensure that Governor Palin remains in the national spotlight.

His confirmation will also divide Alaskans and divert them from working together to solve our real, non-ideological problems.

On the plus side, if Wayne Anthony Ross is confirmed, his foolishness would provide months of amusement for Alaska and the nation and could help to elect a Democratic governor in the next election.

I remind you that the Legislature is not a mere rubber stamp for the Governor. When the Governor makes a serious mistake in an appointment the Legislature can come to her aid by rejecting the appointee.

Every Legislator who votes to confirm Mr. Ross carries the same responsibility as does the Governor for the future excesses of this man who has a long history of excesses.

Please keep me informed on this vote.

Lane Thompson

P.O. Box 80368
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

907 479 6712

Jane Pierson

From: Turner, Michelle [Michelle.Turner@asrcenergy.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 6:39 PM
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. Craig Johnson
Cc: Jane Pierson; Cindy Smith
Subject: Attorney General Confirmation

Dear Ms. McGuire & Representative Johnson:

I am writing you to request that you do not confirm Mr. Wayne Anthony Ross for the position of State Attorney General.

I believe that Mr. Ross does not have the disposition to be able to carry out the duties of the State Attorney General in a fair and impartial manner and for the benefit of ALL Alaskans. The obvious disdain with which Mr. Ross' holds people who disagree or who live lives unlike his own make it impossible to for me to think that he will carry out the responsibilities of the Attorney General.

Mr. Ross' opinion that there should be no subsistence preference bizarre and offensive, since there is literally no other way for people in rural Alaska to subsist. The opinions he has stated are one straw short of outright bigotry. His statements (for example testimony at yesterdays hearing) betray his view of the world: WAR. He likens the Federal government to a bear or giant out to devour Alaskans, and likens himself to a general at war (with the Feds?). He finds gays "degenerate," dismisses tribal sovereignty, and opposes the women's rights movement. If these are the people he does not represent, who are left? Is this really the best person Alaska can find to stand up and fight for our rights when we have been victims of violence or a miscarriage of justice?

Thank you for considering this opinion,
Michelle Turner

Michelle T. Turner
Senior Scientist
ASRC Energy Services Regulatory & Technical Services 2700 Gambell Street, Suite
201Anchorage, AK 99503
Ph: 907.339.5460 I Fax: 907.339.5475 I Cell: 907.351.6342

Michelle.Turner@asrcenergy.com www.asrcenergy.com Effective and dynamic solutions for our clients and their projects form the cornerstone of our operations.

Dana Strommen

From: pturner@gci.net on behalf of Mike and Patsy Turner [pturner@gci.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2009 8:53 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: NO on Ross for AG

As a citizen of the Palmer, Alaska and a lifelong (61 yrs) Alaskan I am writing to urge you to vote AGAINST Wayne Anthony Ross for Alaska State Attorney General. I don't believe it is in the best interest of Alaska to have him as State Attorney General.

Mr. Ross is an EXTREMELY controversial and divisive individual. But not only that, he appears to be someone who scoffs at the law if it doesn't meet his opinion of what it should be. I listened to some of the hearings and I was appalled at some of his responses. I have also re-read some of his editorial comments in the newspapers. His comments about the federal government being 'the enemy' shows that he has a definite hostility towards the federal government. He also seems hostile towards many members of the Alaskan citizenry as you should be aware of the many citations by people regarding what he has written or said. I am beyond calling Gov. Palin reasonable at this point, but I expect that reasonable law makers would rather the State's interests be represented by a more balanced, fair and articulate individual. I am afraid this is not the image Mr. Ross has cultivated his entire career. He has a long and very public record of making inflammatory statements regarding some very extreme political and social positions he holds. Most disturbingly to me, are his expressed views (in the past AND present) about child welfare, domestic violence and sexual assault. We have some of the highest rates for these crimes against women, and children in the nation. I for one, don't really care to be the laughing stock of the US, but not to address this urgent problem because you don't agree it is one, cannot be tolerated. We need a person who's first love is the law, and not some radical conservative ideologies. AND, since Gov. Palin has some kind of mental block about what is truth and what is ethical behavior and what isn't, although some may say have been small issues, like conflict of interest, whether she said Begich should resign, etc, treating her husband like a State official, Mr. Ross will be her main ethics advisor and he stated in the hearings that he had bigger things to worry about as a response to a question about the Governor's activities. We are a nation of laws, our rights and responsibilities are based upon the law. We cannot have the head of the 'law' in Alaska be someone who scoffs at the laws and wants to spend all of his energy challenging State and Federal law based upon what his extremist views of what he thinks it should be...

PS, Rep. Gatto, was quoted in the Anchorage Daily News as saying he gave the "Burton" letter no credibility. I guess he also gave Ms. Burton no credibility in her testimony as well. I suggest you read the highly circulated letter former Commissioner of Public Safety, Richard L.

Burton's wrote to Mr. Ross regarding his daughter, Ms. Burton and his experience as a law enforcement officer and commissioner on issues that Mr. Ross has spoken openly about.

You were quoted as saying: "let's hope he grown since then" Well, I for one don't believe he can grow out of his extremist views. I am not 'hoping' for anything in forming my opinion and I don't expect you to use your legislative position to make decisions based upon your 'hopes'.

Not a good man for top law man. He will be Palin's own Gonzales and tell her she can do anything she wants, just like he told you he wouldn't look into your question about writing a book, or like wearing husband's sponsor's clothing to public events as Governor.

It doesn't sound like someone who has grown to me. Sounds like a bully.

Sincerely,

Patricia Turner
460 N Wilderness Drive
Palmer, AK 99645 907 376 5171

Dana Strommen

From: pturner@gci.net on behalf of Mike and Patsy Turner [pturner@gci.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 11:18 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: More reasons to vote against Mr. Ross

I am a life long Alaskan (61 years) and I am again urging you to vote AGAINST confirmation of Wayne Ross for AG.

TODAY, according to the adn.com Mr. Ross. said the Democrats should "not argue with legal or illegal but appoint somebody to represent Juneau" ...

The first thing that Mr. Ross needs to learn is he has been nominated to a job that is to uphold the law as the Attorney General of this state and EXPLICITLY NOT offer his opinions on what politicians should or shouldn't do.

This is ANOTHER REASON he is an inappropriate choice for AG. I trust that you and the rest of the lawmakers in Juneau can see the truth of this.

Sincerely,

Patricia Turner

460 N Wilderness Drive

Palmer, AK 99645 907 376 5171

Jane Pierson

From: Muktukmary@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 5:39 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: (no subject)

Hi Jay,

I have been reading all I can about Wayne Ross and frankly he scares the heck out of me. Surely there has to be someone better than this. The talk all over town is that no one can believe the Legislature would approve of this horrible person.

Hope you are doing OK.

Mary VanTreeck

New Deals on Dell Netbooks - Now starting at \$299

Jane Pierson

From: Sharon Waisanen [janibear@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2009 2:31 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Please vote no on W.A.R.

Having lived in Alaska since 1969, I can say with confidence that Mr. Ross would be the least effective Attorney General in our history. His long standing attitude of right wing representation bodes poorly for anticipating fairness and freedom for Alaskans from all walks of life.

He has been a strong advocate for very narrow interest groups through the years.

As a legislator, you have the opportunity to oppose this confirmation. As a legislator, you have the opportunity to ensure that all Alaskans have confidence they will be represented fairly and adequately in one of the highest offices in our state.

There are many attorneys in this state who would be heads above Mr. Ross as Attorney General. Please seek them out and encourage an appointment of someone who can be respected and can adequately lead the judicial branch of government.

Personally, I feel that this appointment was more of a revenge against legislators by the Governor. A "disagree with me, and I'll show you," type of response. It is a blatant power move on her part and also part of her "planned performance" as she seeks candidacy for a national office.

Please, do Alaskans a favor, and vote "NO!"

Thank you.

Sharon Waisanen
44932 Eddy Hill Dr.
Soldotna, AK 99669
262.6298

Dana Strommen

From: Bob Weinstein [bobalaska@kpu.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 7:35 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes
Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross Nomination

Dear Jay:

I am writing to urge you not to support the nomination of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska's next attorney general. For your information, this is the first nomination by any governor which has caused me to write to state legislators.

I am concerned about:

1. His position that some people are subhuman: Of great concern to me is his statement of a number of years ago that gays are 'degenerates' and 'immoral'. As you know, he recently refused to answer questions at a Senate hearing as to whether that still represented his personal opinion.

The only reasonable conclusion one can draw from his refusal is that it does in fact represent his current thinking. That in and of itself should be enough to disqualify him to be the state's chief law enforcement officer and legal advisor to the governor.

Let's say for a moment that instead of gays he had been referring to Jews. Would you be supporting him, especially under circumstances where he refused to tell you if a previous statement that Jews are "degenerates" represented his current thinking. I don't think you would.

2. Domestic Violence: Ross's record is replete with statements that indicate that he thinks the problem of domestic violence is overblown. The fact that, if confirmed, he will be in charge of rigorously enforcing domestic violence laws in a state with one of the highest rates of crimes against women and sexual abuse of minors frankly makes me nervous.

3. Ethics: I know that you are very concerned about executive branch ethics, and have been outspoken in this regard. Given Ross's statements, do you think he will enforce the spirit and letter of the law? I do not.

Do you think he would insist that legislative subpoenas be honored? I do not.

Jay, in conclusion, I think Alaska deserves better.

Bob Weinstein

Jane Pierson

From: lwhiting@arctic.net
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 10:49 PM
To: Jane Pierson
Subject: NO WAR

Greetings,

Please vote Against confirmation of Wayne A Ross for attorney general.

We need to work with the federal government on many issues, including the sensible management of all our natural resources. I see Mr Ross as a very divisive person not only among Alaskans but in his remarks about the federal government.

Charlene Whiting
Big Lake

If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark wi

Dana Strommen

From: P Wingo [pwingo@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2009 8:07 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Max Gruenberg;
Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Carl Gatto

Subject: Wayne Anthony Ross

Dear Legislator,

I am writing to say I oppose W.A. Ross' appointment to Attorney General due to his past actions of sexist behaviors and bizarre actions in divorce court.

Thanks,
Penny Wingo

Jane Pierson

From: housemajority_email@housemajority.org
Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 11:02 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Email to Rep. Ramras

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to candacewinkler@hotmail.com If suspected Spam please forward
to: support@housemajority.org
+-----+

From: candacewinkler@hotmail.com

Dear Rep. Ramras:

I am not a constituent but I am a concerned Alaskan and did recently stay at Pikes, and had a wonderful stay...I am writing to express my concern about Governor Palin's pick for Attorney General of Alaska. I believe he is an extremely controversial choice at a time when Alaska needs to pull together to address many challenging issues. I am particularly concerned about his comments regarding domestic violence, child protection, and rape. Your work with the Alaska Children's Trust and on the Fairbanks Mush for Kids demonstrates your personal concern regarding child abuse and neglect prevention. Ross's comments are diametrically opposed to those efforts. I also believe he will only exacerbate the urban-rural challenges. I hope you will NOT confirm Ross for AG. I appreciate your consideration of my thoughts. Thank you. Candace Winkler

~ Candace Winkler
Zip Code: 99516

+-----+
DO NOT REPLY DIRECTLY TO THIS EMAIL: your reply will go to enews@housemajority.org To
correspond with the author Hit 'Reply' or 'Forward'.
Then change the TO: address to candacewinkler@hotmail.com If suspected Spam please forward
to: support@housemajority.org
+-----+

441 W. Lone Cub Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654
April 13, 2009

Honorable Members of the
Alaska House of Representatives
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Representatives:

I am writing in opposition to the confirmation of Wayne Anthony Ross as Alaska Attorney General.

At this time when we most need to be working together on the issues that face our state, Mr. Ross is a very divisive figure. He clearly has strong opinions on a number of issues, and from what I have heard from him during the course of the proceedings before the Judiciary Committee and from what is already in the public record, I am in agreement with the Alaska Natives, advocates for the abused, those in the gay community and others whose public testimony indicates their very reasonable fear he will not be able to set aside his personal bias sufficiently to represent the interests of all Alaskans fairly. As you know, perception is key in any public office, and it would be unwise to select a nominee who is already perceived by so many to be strongly against them and their interests.

In addition, it concerns me that when he has applied for judicial vacancies his peers have so poorly rated him. Our new attorney general should be someone highly respected by the members of his own profession. It does not appear Mr. Ross meets that criterion.

His reply to Leah Burton's letter and his response to the letter her father wrote afterwards were very unprofessional at best. If this is how he handles concerns from members of the public while he is on his best behavior hoping to be confirmed, I hate to think how he will handle citizen concerns and criticism later.

Alaska is fortunate to have many great legal minds whose fairness is not in question. It is my hope that you will reject Mr. Ross and insist on a better candidate.

It should be noted that I am a member of the Wasilla city council, but that the opinions expressed in this letter are solely my own as a private citizen and in no way reflective of the opinions of other council members or the City of Wasilla.

On that note, however, as a person who has been in public service I was appalled by the treatment of the members of the public who called in to testify before the House Judiciary Committee on Friday evening, April 10.

It has been my experience as a former member of the Mat-Su Borough planning commission, a current member of the Wasilla city council, and frequent attendee of the meetings of other local government bodies, that the fastest way to let the public know you don't care what they think is to announce you have already made up your mind before hearing all the testimony and to be disrespectful while they are testifying.

The chair of this meeting apparently forgot that during public testimony it is the chair's job to listen attentively, make sure time limits are observed, and ask clarifying questions of speakers if need be. It is not to tell speakers that he has already made up his mind, he believes the legislature has already made up their minds, or to be condescending, rude or argumentative with speakers who do not share his previously expressed views.

The other members of the committee had a duty to listen attentively, ask clarifying questions, and remind the chair that his opinions should be reserved for committee debate after the public testimony had all been heard. Instead, members were observed fiddling with papers and Blackberries, wandering around with a book, and even wandering in and out of the room, thus giving the impression that members of the public who took time out of their schedules to testify were simply wasting their time.

The next time this group holds a public hearing, I hope they remember that they are being televised and their constituents are watching and listening.

Sincerely,

Dianne Woodruff
By e-mail

Dana Strommen

From: Cathy Zeitler [catyzeitler@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2009 11:47 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Attorney General

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am an Alaskan resident and registered voter. I feel that Wayne Anthony Ross is a very poor choice for the position of Attorney General of Alaska. He has shown himself to be a very divisive person that has little or no respect for women or children. That is just a small reason this person is not a good choice for Alaska.

Please take my opinion into consideration.

Thank You for your interest in this matter.

Yours Truly

Cathy Zeitler

PO Box 81

Manley Hot Springs, Alaska

99756

907-672-3853

Dana Strommen

From: zeller@acsalaska.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Rep. Max Gruenberg; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Rep. John Coghill; Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: WAR

Senators and Representatives:

As a life-long Alaskan, I encourage you to vote NO on the appointment of Wayne A Ross as our Attorney General. His divisiveness is not what our state needs. And while I am an advocate of free speech, sometimes you need to know when to shut up.

Especially when in public office. His antagonistic attitude toward the Legislature and minorities and women and homosexuals and ANYONE who disagrees with him is not the way to move our state forward.

PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE APPOINTMENT OF WAYNE A ROSS.

Thank you
Lyndsey Zeller
Juneau