

DISTRICT OF ALASKA



June 14, 2018

DISTRICT OF ALASKA'S REPORT TO THE NINTH CIRCUIT (2017-2018)

By Mary B. Pinkel, LRCC Alaska Representative

LAWYER REPRESENTATIVES

The District of Alaska has four lawyer representatives: Andrea Hattan, an Assistant United States Attorney in Anchorage; Jamie McGrady, an Assistant Federal Defender in Anchorage; Richard Monkman, a private practitioner in Juneau; and Mary Pinkel, an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska in Anchorage.

Darrel Gardner, an Assistant Federal Defender, serves as the chair of the Lawyers Representative Coordinating Committee (LRCC) for the Ninth Circuit and as the Vice-President of the Federal Bar Association of the Ninth Circuit.

Contact information for the Alaska District's Lawyer Representatives is as follows:

(1) Andrea Hattan, Assistant United States Attorney; (907) 271-5071;

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(2) Jamie McGrady, Assistant Federal Defender; (907) 646-3400;

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(3) Richard Monkman; (907)586-5880; dick@sonoskyjuneau.com; and

(4) Mary Pinkel, Assistant Attorney General; (907) 269-5190;

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JUDICIAL NEWS

The Alaska District Court, under the leadership of Chief Judge Timothy Burgess, is in the planning process for a new courthouse, is revising both the local civil and criminal rules, and is in the process of hiring a new full-time Magistrate Judge.

Judge Sharon Gleason has been working steadfastly with a local committee of attorneys to revise the local civil rules. She anticipates that the draft proposed new rules will be circulated for comment later this summer and that the revised rules will be in place by December 1, 2018, the date amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure become effective.

In addition to carrying a significant caseload, Senior Judge Ralph Beistline edits the Alaska Bar Rag, the insightful and informative quarterly newspaper published by the Alaska Bar Association.

Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas, accompanied by Judge Consuelo M. Callahan and Judge Carlos Bea, visited Anchorage the week of June 11th to hear oral arguments in Alaska cases pending before the Ninth Circuit. Judge Morgan Christen, a Ninth Circuit Judge who is also an Alaskan, graciously hosted a reception in their honor at the Herbert A. Ross Historic Courtroom in the Old Federal Building. Alaska attorneys enjoyed hearing Judges Thomas, Callahan and Bea speak about their backgrounds and interests. Not to be out-done, a black bear visited the federal courthouse the next day, reportedly inquiring about an environmental matter under consideration by the visiting panel.

ALASKA CHAPTER OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

Under the energetic leadership of Andrea Hattan, the Alaska Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has had a very successful year.

In September 2017, the chapter, in cooperation with the federal court and the Alaska Bar, held a free CLE aimed at encouraging and training local attorneys to volunteer in prisoner civil rights cases through the Federal Pro Bono Project. One of the highlights of the CLE was Judge Gleason's presentation on "Section 1983 Litigation in a Nutshell."

Other noteworthy CLE events were a presentation on cybersecurity by Bill Walton of the FBI; a presentation on Alaska legal history by Tom Alton, a retired professor and writer from Fairbanks; a presentation on mental health in litigation by David Sperbeck, a local psychologist; and a CJA panel discussion led by local criminal defense practitioner John Murtaugh. Lawyer representative Jamie McGrady also

participated in the panel. The chapter held a volunteer event at Covenant House in April.

The chapter will be hosting its annual conference on August 14, 2018. Marcia Coyle, a noted journalist and attorney, will be the keynote speaker. Other featured guests are the visiting Ninth Circuit court of Appeals Judges; Karen Korematsu, the daughter of Fred T. Korematsu, who will offer a personal perspective on her father's experience; and Jeffrey Feldman and Eric Glatt, who will discuss *Korematsu v. United States* and its relevance today.

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Rhonda M. Langford, Chief of U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services for the District of Alaska, will travel to Guam the week of June 18 to lead an internal assessment of probation services for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Along with probation supervisors from Hawaii, she will review a random sample of the case files and reports for the Districts of Guam and Northern Mariana Islands and make recommendations to Chief Judge Kim Walmsley. Ms. Langford also manages a busy local office here in Anchorage.

HOPE COURT

The Alaska Hope court was founded in May 2015 and focuses on successful reentry for individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system. In September 2017, Judges Deborah Smith and Ralph Beistline presented its first graduate, Rashad Arnsworth, with his diploma.

PRO BONO REPRESENTATION FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS

The District of Alaska has started a pro bono prisoner project in which local attorneys volunteer to assist pro se prisoners with federal Section 1983 cases. The court allows limited appointment in these cases. For example, an initial appointment might consist of assisting the prisoner with discovery-related issues only.