



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 20, 2019

Alaska Judicial Council
510 L Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, AK 99501-1295

Dear Judicial Council Members:

I have selected a candidate to fill one of the positions on the Palmer Superior Court from the three candidates the Council forwarded. I will not be selecting a second candidate from this truncated list.

For the two positions on the court, the Council received 11 applications. From this field of candidates, you only nominated three candidates for two positions. After reviewing the list of nominated and non-nominated candidates, I believe there are qualified candidates that the Council inexplicably did not nominate for this position. In addition, you declined to nominate, for the Palmer Superior Court, a candidate that you previously nominated for the Anchorage Superior Court and have currently nominated for the Anchorage District Court. Alaska's constitutional judicial selection process is supposed to be merit and qualifications based. The list you provided me does not appear to uphold this important standard.

My authority under Article IV, Sections 4 and 5, of the Alaska Constitution to appoint members to the bench carries with it the obligation to exercise that authority thoughtfully and responsibly. This is an obligation that we both share. My office has requested more information from the Council on candidates that were not recommended, including the Council's reasoning for excluding some candidates. Thus far you have declined to provide me more information. I would like an opportunity to review and consider the Council's reasoning to determine whether additional qualified candidates could be nominated by the Council for this position.

I look forward to working with the Council to fulfill our joint constitutional obligations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Dunleavy".

Michael J. Dunleavy
Governor