



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Alaska Supreme Court Selects Next Chief Justice**

**Anchorage, Alaska (June 3, 2015):** By unanimous vote today, the members of the Alaska Supreme Court have selected Justice Craig Stowers to serve as Chief Justice commencing July 1, 2015, for a three-year term. Justice Stowers follows Chief Justice Dana Fabe, whose third three-year term as Chief Justice expires June 30, 2015.

Under Alaska's Constitution, the Chief Justice is selected from among the justices of the supreme court by majority vote of the justices. The Chief Justice serves as the administrative head of the judicial branch of government, presides over supreme court arguments and conferences, appoints presiding judges for all judicial districts, and serves as the chair of the Alaska Judicial Council. A justice may serve more than one three-year term as Chief Justice but may not serve consecutive terms in that office.

Justice Craig Stowers has served on the Supreme Court since December 2009. Justice Stowers was raised in Yorktown, Virginia and received a bachelor's degree with honors, with a major in biology, from Blackburn College in 1975. Before attending law school, he was park ranger at Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia. In 1977, he transferred to Denali National Park where he served first as the East District Naturalist and then as the West District Ranger.

He earned his J.D. in 1985 from the University of California Davis School of Law (Order of the Coif). While in law school, he was employed for two years by Professor Daniel Fessler and the Alaska Code Revision Commission to research and prepare drafts of what became the Alaska

Corporations Code, the Alaska Nonprofit Corporations Code, and the official commentary to those acts.

He served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Robert Boochever of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Juneau and for Justice Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court in Anchorage. He was a partner with Atkinson, Conway & Gagnon, and subsequently co-founded the Anchorage-Fairbanks law firm of Clapp, Peterson & Stowers. His law practice included trial practice, medical and attorney malpractice defense, business and insurance law, and complex civil litigation. He was appointed to the Alaska Superior Court in Anchorage by Governor Frank Murkowski in 2004 and to the Alaska Supreme Court by Governor Sean Parnell in 2009.

During his legal and judicial career, he has served on various Alaska Bar Association committees, including the Law Examiners Committee, and various Alaska Supreme Court committees, including as chair of the Child in Need of Aid Rules Committee. He also serves as chair of the court's Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee and as a member of Alaska's delegation to the Uniform Law Commission. He also has served on several nonprofit corporation boards, including terms as board president of the Alaska Natural History Association (now known as Alaska Geographic) and board president of Christian Health Associates. He is married to Monique Stowers.

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