



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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

By unanimous vote today, the members of the Alaska Supreme Court have selected Justice Dana Fabe to serve as Chief Justice commencing July 1, 2012, for a three-year term. Justice Fabe follows Chief Justice Walter L. Carpeneti, whose three-year term expires June 30, 2012.

Justice Fabe was the first woman appointed to serve on the Alaska Supreme Court and was the first woman to serve as Alaska's Chief Justice from July 2000 through June 2003. She served a second term as Chief Justice from July 2006 through June 2009. During both of her previous terms as Chief Justice, she served as second vice-president of the national Conference of Chief Justices. She is only the second supreme court justice in Alaska's history to be elected to a third term as Chief Justice; Justice Jay Rabinowitz served four terms as Chief Justice. 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, provides policy direction for all courts statewide, and appoints presiding judges for all judicial districts. A justice may serve more than one three-year term as Chief Justice but may not serve consecutive terms in that office.

Justice Dana Fabe has served on the Supreme Court since March 1996. Justice Fabe was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1951 and holds a B.A. degree from Cornell University and a J.D. degree from Northeastern University School of Law. Justice Fabe clerked for Justice Edmond W. Burke of the Alaska Supreme Court in 1976-77. She served as a staff attorney for the Alaska Public Defender Agency from 1977-81, and in 1981 she was appointed by the governor to be Chief Public Defender for Alaska. She was a member of the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association in 1987-88. Justice Fabe was appointed to the superior court bench in Anchorage in 1988 and was Deputy Presiding Judge of the Third Judicial District from 1992-95, as well as a Training Judge for the Third Judicial District. She currently chairs the Alaska Supreme Court's Civil Rules Committee and the Alaska Supreme Court's Fairness, Diversity, and Equality Committee. Justice Fabe serves on the Advisory Council of the American Judicature Society and is chair of its Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee. She is a past President of the National Association of Women Judges and is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Justice Fabe is married to Randall Simpson and they have a daughter.

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