

From: [Joan Travostino](#)
To: [Julie Burgess](#); [Lewis, Brian L.](#)
Subject: Benjamin Spiess nomination support email
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 9:38:24 AM

Julie- If the below needs to be in letter format, I can do that Monday with docusign. Let me know.

Dear ACREL Membership Nominations Committee:

I nominate Benjamin W. Spiess for membership in ACREL, as a member from the State of Alaska. Alaska has varied and unique real estate issues; its land mass is one-fifth of the contiguous 48 states. That is a notable amount of real estate.

I have worked with Ben as opposing counsel on a number of transactions over the last seven years as he has developed his practice in real estate matters. In the most recent transaction, I found Ben's approach to be diligent and creative in finding solutions to challenges in the transfer of real estate interests in one of the country's busiest commercial fishing ports. Ben has the experience mix of real estate clients that provide contact with the varied real estate issues in Alaska that make him a highly regarded lawyer: commercial clients, Alaska Native corporation clients, land based clients, and clients with submerged land issues. A pause for a note of explanation: Alaska Native corporations have title to more than one-tenth of the land mass in Alaska. A highly regarded real estate lawyer in Alaska must have experience representing Alaska Native corporations. Alaska has 33,000 miles of coastline and 125 ports and harbors. Representing entities with submerged land issues is part of being a highly regarded real estate lawyer in Alaska.

Ben has a balanced mix of speaking for CLE events and writing on real estate topics for professional publications demonstrating his knowledge of real estate issues and his willingness to share that knowledge. His representation of Alaska Public Media for multiple years as a pro bono project demonstrates his commitment to an organization that is critical to providing public news casts to all of Alaska.

I request that the Committee vote to accept Ben's application for membership in ACREL.

Joan Travostino
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