

MATTHEW COOPER

SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

Senior attorney and leader with more than two decades of experience in Alaska, including executive leadership as General Counsel for the University of Alaska. Deep expertise in higher education law, Title IX, board governance, and complex institutional risk management. Trusted advisor to public entities, nonprofit organizations, and business leaders, with a proven record of navigating politically and legally complex matters. Strong community ties through extensive history of public service.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska

Of Counsel, 2024 – Present

- Advise lenders in complex middle-market financing transactions, ranging in value from \$10 million to \$200 million. Prepare all required loan due diligence and documentation.
- Provide general corporate and governance advice to a variety of Alaska based businesses ranging in size from local small businesses to Alaska Native corporations and tribal health corporations.
- Represent clients in large commercial real property transactions, including purchase and sale agreements and long-term commercial leases, with an average value of \$10 million.

University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska

General Counsel, 2020 – 2024

- Provided legal, policy, and governance advice to the Board of Regents, President, Chancellors, and executive team across the University of Alaska system.
- Lead and developed an office of five attorneys and two staff members providing centralized legal advice to the entire University system.
- Ensured maintenance of the University of Alaska's corporate status, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and overall management of all legal matters, including litigation.
- Collaborated with the executive team to successfully navigate the University through COVID. No legal challenges were brought based on the University's COVID policies.
- Negotiated the final stages of the United Academics faculty collective bargaining agreement following months of contentious and stalled negotiating between the bargaining teams.
- Refocused the service model for the General Counsel's office to be more customer-focused and accountable by implementing a new case management system that provides real time metrics.
- Served as a trusted partner across the University system to help achieve goals at all levels within the institution.

Associate General Counsel, 2011 – 2020

- Provided legal advice to units across the University system on a wide variety of legal issues, including human resources, labor, Title IX, contracts, land issues, and matters subject to Board of Regents' Policy and University Regulations.
- Designated as the Associate General Counsel to advise the UA Land Management Office on all matters related to real property, including purchases and sales, leasing, permitting, and other land use matters.

- Served as part of the team guiding the University system through the state budget reductions and financial exigency.
- Advised the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the University of Alaska Anchorage on all matters related to collegiate athletics, including NCAA compliance matters.
- Assisted the UAF Design and Construction team with negotiating and drafting the contracts for the acquisition of the boiler and steam turbine for the Combined Heat and Power Plant, with a total project cost of approximately \$250 million.
- Assisted the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft System Integration (“ACUASI”) from its inception as a separate department in 2012, including developing policy and regulation, interfacing with the Federal Aviation Administration, and collaborating with other universities, test sites, and research partners to test the integration of unmanned aircraft in the national airspace.
- Negotiated with FedEx and the Municipality of Anchorage for the delivery and landing of a retired Boeing 727 at Merrill Field and Fairbanks International Airport.

Guess & Rudd P.C., Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska

Shareholder, 2009 – 2011

Associate, 2003 – 2009

- Defended clients on behalf of insurers in a variety of litigation cases, including automobile accidents, aircraft accidents, and product liability.
- Advised clients, including Alaska Native corporations, on land and natural resources issues, including RS 2477 right of way issues and oil and gas development.
- Represented both public utilities and customers in regulatory matters before the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.
- Advised a variety of local small businesses on corporate, governance, and real property matters.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

- *Director*, 2025 – Present
 - Advocate for and advance the interests of the local business community, including the University of Alaska.

KUAC Friends Group

- *Director*, 2025 – Present
 - Promote and raise funds for the ongoing operations of public radio in Interior Alaska.

Fairbanks North Star Borough

- *Assembly Member*, 2015 – 2022; *Presiding Officer*, 2018 – 2020
 - Managed the nine-person assembly and clerk’s office staff as Presiding Officer.
 - Managed the Assembly budget process for two years as Finance Committee Chair and as Presiding Officer for an approximately \$200 million budget.
 - Interfaced regularly with state and federal lawmakers to advocate for and advance Borough legislative priorities.
 - Familiarity the local and state legislative process.
 - Accountable to borough taxpayers.
- *Assembly Board of Ethics*, 2023 – 2025
 - Chaired the committee to hear ethics complaints against Borough Assembly members.
 - Set the course for committee policies and precedent as the first committee to hear ethics complaints under a revised code.

- *Road Service Area Commissioner, 2011 – 2015*
 - Ensured maintenance for 7 miles of road. Accountable to service area taxpayers for responsible use of funds.

Midnight Sun Council, Scouting America

- *Scoutmaster, Troop 38, 2021 – 2026*
 - Provided the Scouting America youth program to young men and women aged 11 through 18, focusing on character, leadership, service to others, fitness, and outdoor skills.
 - Mentored more than 18 young men and women in achieving the Eagle Scout rank.
- *Council Commissioner, 2023 – Present*
 - Responsible for ensuring Scouting units have the resources to be successful.
- *Council President, 2020 – 2023*
 - Responsible for overall leadership of the council, a non-profit corporation, including overseeing a \$1 million budget.
 - Engaged with the community to promote Scouting and raise funds to support the council.
 - Managed the impact of losing approximately 600 youth due to the national loss of a major chartering partner, the effects of COVID, and the contribution of \$1 million to the national bankruptcy settlement fund to support survivors of prior sexual abuse in Scouting. Maintained a balanced budget, positive cash flow, and required revenue despite these challenges.
- *Director, 2015 – Present*
 - Serve as a director of the non-profit corporation.

Presbyterian Hospitality House

- *Director, 2004 – 2023*
 - Served as a director and Board President for the non-profit corporation. PHH owns and operates residential living homes in Fairbanks and Wasilla for at-risk youth, usually placed by the State of Alaska.
 - PHH employs the teaching family model, which places youth with teaching parents and creates a family model for growth and treatment.
 - Managed an annual budget of \$12 million through Medicaid and state funding uncertainty.

Rotary Club of Fairbanks

- *Member, 2025 – Present*
 - Engage with community members and provide service to the community.

EDUCATION

University of Washington School of Law

Juris Doctor, 2001

- Online Editor, Pacific Rim Law & Policy Journal

University of Puget Sound

Bachelor of Arts, 1998

- Major: Politics & Government
- Minor: African American Studies