

Demise of the FOURTH ESTATE

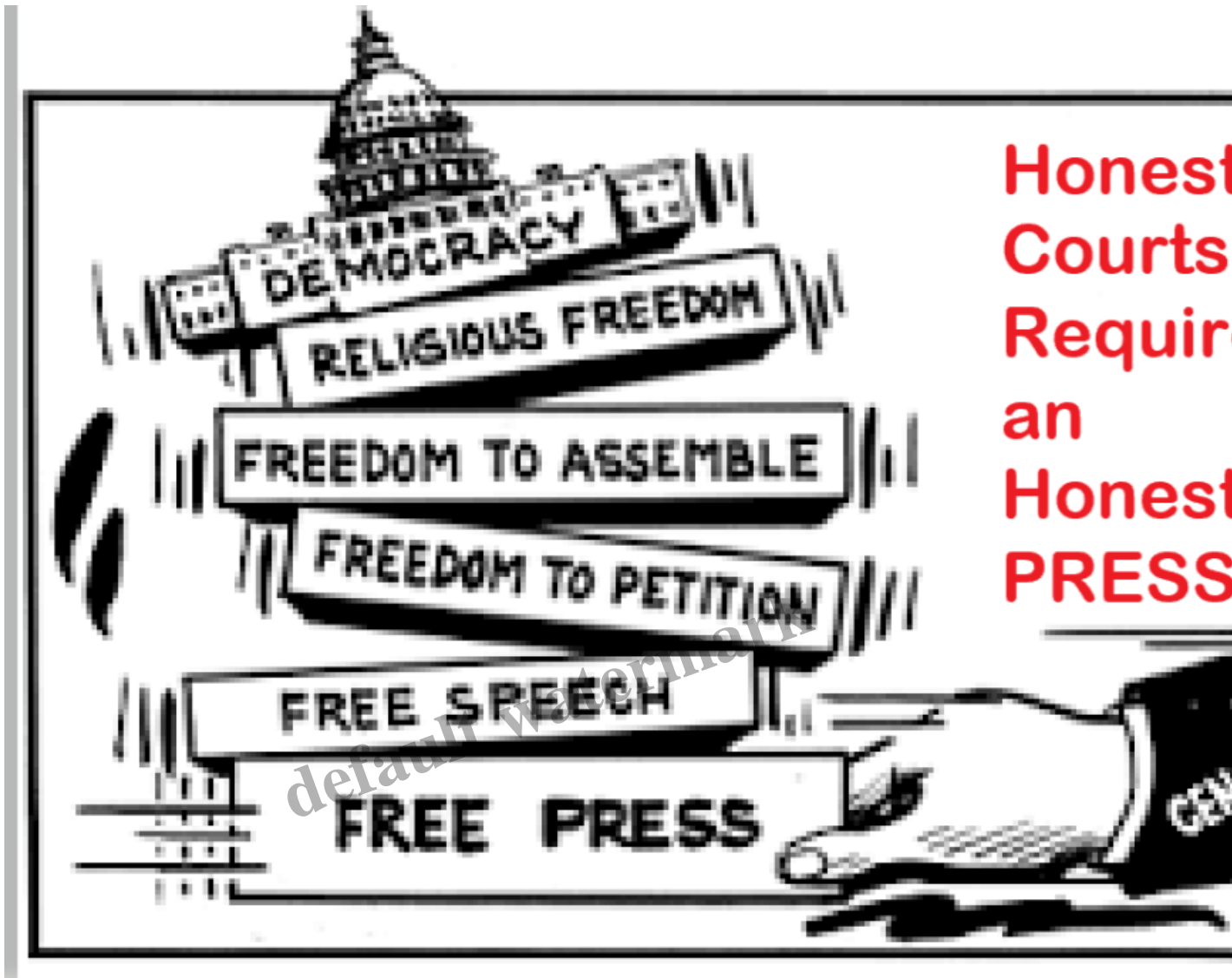
Description

What is Entertainment-NEWS Good For?

JUDGE MURPHY TRIAL FOR PERJURY LIVESTREAM LINK:

<https://courts.alaska.gov/#:~:text=%E2%96%B8%203KN%2D23,2023%20%40%2010%3A00am>

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For boomers like this writer, NEWS was something boring that our parents watched after dinner before entertainment programs on black & white televisions. Today the legacy NEWS is entertainment and little more.

[1]Confessions of a Boomer

Later, as a cub reporter at the *Anchorage Daily News* during the mid-1970s I learned that the PRESS is the **Fourth Estate**; established under the **US Constitution** to be independent of any government institutions including the **Executive, Legislative** or **Courts** except in the case of wrongdoing. This was and remains an important responsibility of the PRESS—requiring a sober review of what the government is doing, who is doing it, and why what is being done by government may or may not be in the public interest.

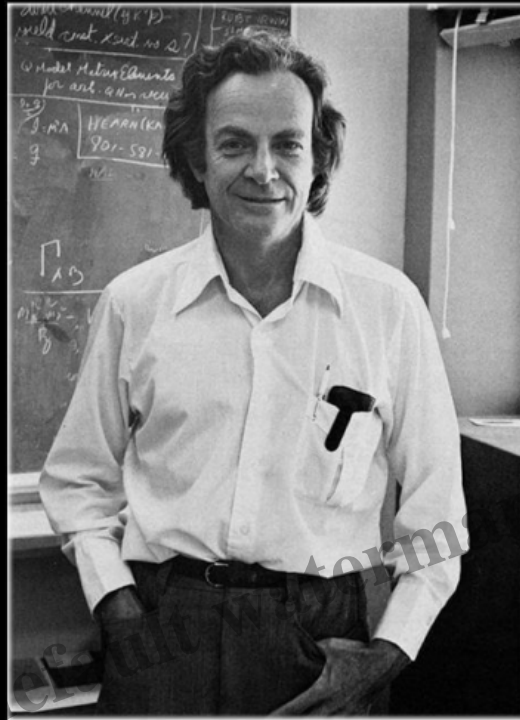
After all, rights of the PRESS come from the same constitution that established Executive, Legislative and Courts as institutions.

Where did the Idea of a *Fourth Estate* Come From?

Having fought a war against the most powerful nation in the world in the late 1700s and won, founding fathers of the ***United States of America*** did not trust government and envisioned a FREE PRESS to serve as one check on government abuse by informing the citizenry without constraint. Of course this assumed schools teaching literacy, math, how government works, and why every citizen has a responsibility to be informed, vote, and participate in making government accountable.

Government public education quit doing that a long time ago.

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“Knowledge isn't free.
You have to pay attention.”

— Richard P. Feynman

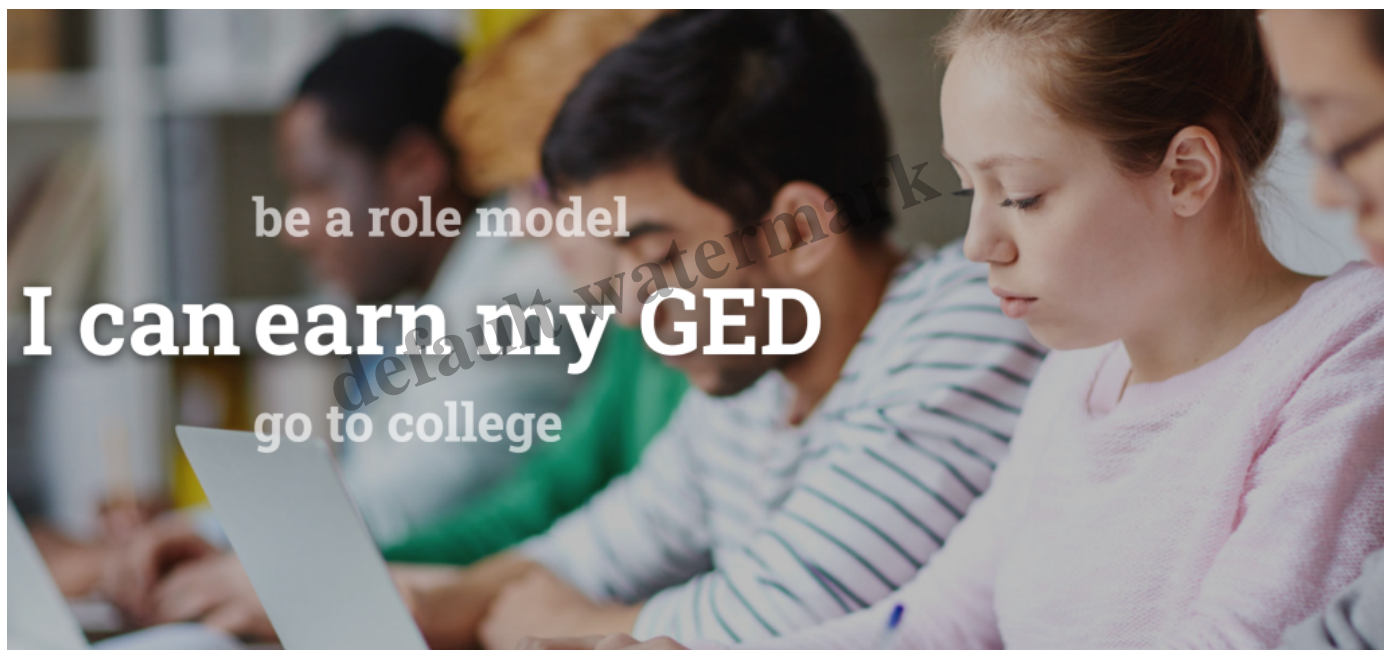
As an aspiring career NEWS reporter I also learned from **University of Alaska** classes in journalism that honest reporting by honest reporters means different viewpoints; the goal is to inform voters having different persuasions—who may then elect honorable public officials who serve the people who elected them—over diabolical influence of **Special Interests**.

For instance: Parents with kids in public schools are not Special Interests, the unions who control their

teachers are Special Interests. When school board members are elected with major Public Sector Union contributions and campaign assistance, those elected officials must serve their Special Interest master over parents who have expectations of their schools, or even the majority of voters who elected them. Union **Collective Bargaining Agreements** negotiated between the union and management, then brought before school board members elected with union support, represent deceptive negotiating from both sides of the table by the Special Interest unions.

This also politicizes our schools as fountains of propaganda alien to rational and caring parents' likely desires for influences on their children outside of the family.

I personally know this as an Employee of the largest teacher union, **NEA-Alaska**, in Juneau Nine Years. This writer was part of the campaign promoting the lie that more money is required for quality education. I lived and breathed that lie before becoming a certified teacher myself and seeing first-hand what a joke our money pit Education Factory schools have become.



The GED is normed nationally at 12th grade while most Alaska School District diplomas are normed at 10th-11th grade. Employers know this.

<http://GED.com>

Further, Dear Readers, you will not see any reporting of the deleterious effect of Special Interest influence from traditional Alaska Media sources; Special Interests buy advertising while readers buy only subscriptions, at best.

How NEWS Became Primarily Entertainment

This shift from an information-based non-governmental PRESS to a vehicle for entertainment and propaganda has been visible to anyone interested in good government. The non-profit **Corporation for Public Broadcasting** is government PRESS. I remember when it started, and I have seen its impact upon Alaskans who receive biased entertainment programming presented as unbiased NEWS.

For background: After the calamity of the **Lyndon Johnson** presidency, Democrats needed to change the public narrative from the unnecessary 60,000 American soldiers killed in Vietnam and false hopes of liberal policies like the **War on Poverty**, to Nixon's likely complicity in a two-bit burglary of the Democrat's Campaign headquarters in the **Watergate Office Complex** during an election in which Nixon was swept into office in a landslide. From this time forward every NEWS cycle by traditional alphabet news sources and the **New York Times** trended Liberal, using every imaginable local, state or national occurrence as an opportunity to crowd the brains of Americans with entertainment over TRUTH. The loud-mouth Liberal establishment scoffed at Nixon's appeal to the **Silent Majority** with the result that people of conservative inclinations ignored them and went about their lives. During this era **Earth Day** called for saving the planet while killing inconvenient babies was alright because the **US Supreme Court** decision in **Row v. Wade** said **some murder was alright under the Constitution**.

[2]Richard Nixon's Silent Majority speech

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We were fighting Communism there so we wouldn't have to fight it at home

Smart people have seen that the easiest way to control what people know is to be selective in what they are told. Smart people are now finding better sources of authentic NEWS on the Internet and leaving government schools when possible. *This writer aspires to attract smart people of conscience.*

NPR to quit Twitter after being labelled 'state-affiliated media'

Radio network 'officially de-emphasizing Twitter across the organization' after platform refused to remove 'inaccurate' label



📷 NPR is a non-profit media organization that syndicates more than 1,000 local public radio stations across the US. Photograph: Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images

Alaska's NEWS Transformation to Entertainment

In Alaska the struggle between two daily Anchorage newspapers saw the switch from NEWS to entertainment when the California-based **McClatchy News** Chain in 1979 bought ADN to force the **Anchorage Times** out of business. When McClatchy sold ADN to **Alice Rogof** in April of 2014 for \$34 million so it could be a beacon of liberal claptrap, most reporters with integrity left.

[3]Former ADN Editor Speaks About Sale

There's one thing I think is important for the community to understand — and by community I mean both the Alaska community and the journalists across the country who are trying to chart a course for the future of our industry — and that is this:

The sale of the Daily News to the Dispatch is not the story of a feisty little website that persevered and toppled the old media giant. Rather it's the story of an heiress, married to a billionaire, who was willing to pay whatever it took to buy Alaska's most influential newspaper and most successful website.

That's all that happened. The *Alaska Dispatch* was a money-losing website that was going to remain that way as far as anyone could see into the future. Alice Rogoff had the money and the will to buy the profitable newspaper and its website and so she did.

Pat Dougherty
Former Editor, Anchorage Daily News (1998-2014)

ADN did not remain profitable

Ultimately through bankruptcy Rogof sold ADN to the Fairbanks Binkleys for \$1 million, and its entertainment value rose to new heights. While still a powerful force, the ADN NEWS brand has been gravely diminished with an inability to dig out of the Liberal Anchorage mudflats. Traditional media overall is becoming irrelevant, unable to promote propaganda for Special Interests any more, although some former reporters have blogs now that demonstrate they are still hacks even in retirement.

[4]Unsupervised Youth in Anchorage, this writer's ADN Experience from newsboy to reporter.

Traditional news media throughout the state now have digital platforms and some don't even print a newspaper for people with tactile learning styles anymore. Those bedrock NEWS platforms now must tolerate a number of independent journalists like this writer who dare to challenge the status quo reporting of Entertainment-NEWS, with stories beyond their visions for Alaska. Back in the day my colleagues at ADN tended toward the liberal perspective and that influenced me as I considered being an investigative reporter like the famous Washington Post celebrities Woodward and Bernstein who

had helped hound **Richard Nixon** out of office to great lynch mob fanfare.

Today those two Entertainment-NEWS Dinosaurs are pathetic.

[5]Watergate Scandal
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>

Imagine what the courts and the PRESS would have done to Nixon had his son set up a business in China to sell out American interests with kickbacks to Dad for talking on command like a trained seal to people on the telephone seeking influence .

MAINSTREAM MEDIA REACTS to BIDEN CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS



The public spectacle of Watergate was one example of the transformation of boring news into entertainment, and I watched and participated in it first-hand at a liberal Anchorage newspaper even then on the brink of bankruptcy. Publisher **Kay Fanning** needed a **Pulitzer Prize** at any cost to show The **Anchorage Daily News** was relevant. My former reporter colleague **Howard Weaver** and some others were able to gain that coveted Pulitzer Prize with a series of stories about corrupt practices of the **Teamsters Union during Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction**.

Oh Wow, deep investigative reporting in Alaska!

By then I had already left the paper to start my own publishing and public relations business.

Today that's all water under the bridge. Readers are now able with the benefit of alternative independent media sources to arrive at their own conclusions on any topic. That's why this writer documents the sources of all claims in References at the end of every story.

What Consumers Miss with Entertainment-NEWS

Recently Alaskans have learned that Retired Homer Judge **Margaret Murphy** has been indicted for perjury. During her time on the bench Judge Murphy likely ruled on hundreds of cases, and happened to have ruled in the **State of Alaska** case against **David Haeg**, who for more than 18 years has declared he was illegally framed by the **AK Department of Fish & Game**. Ultimately Haeg was able to convince a **Grand Jury** to hear his case and some months later Judge Murphy was indicted.

3KN-23-00416CR State of Alaska vs. Murphy, Margaret

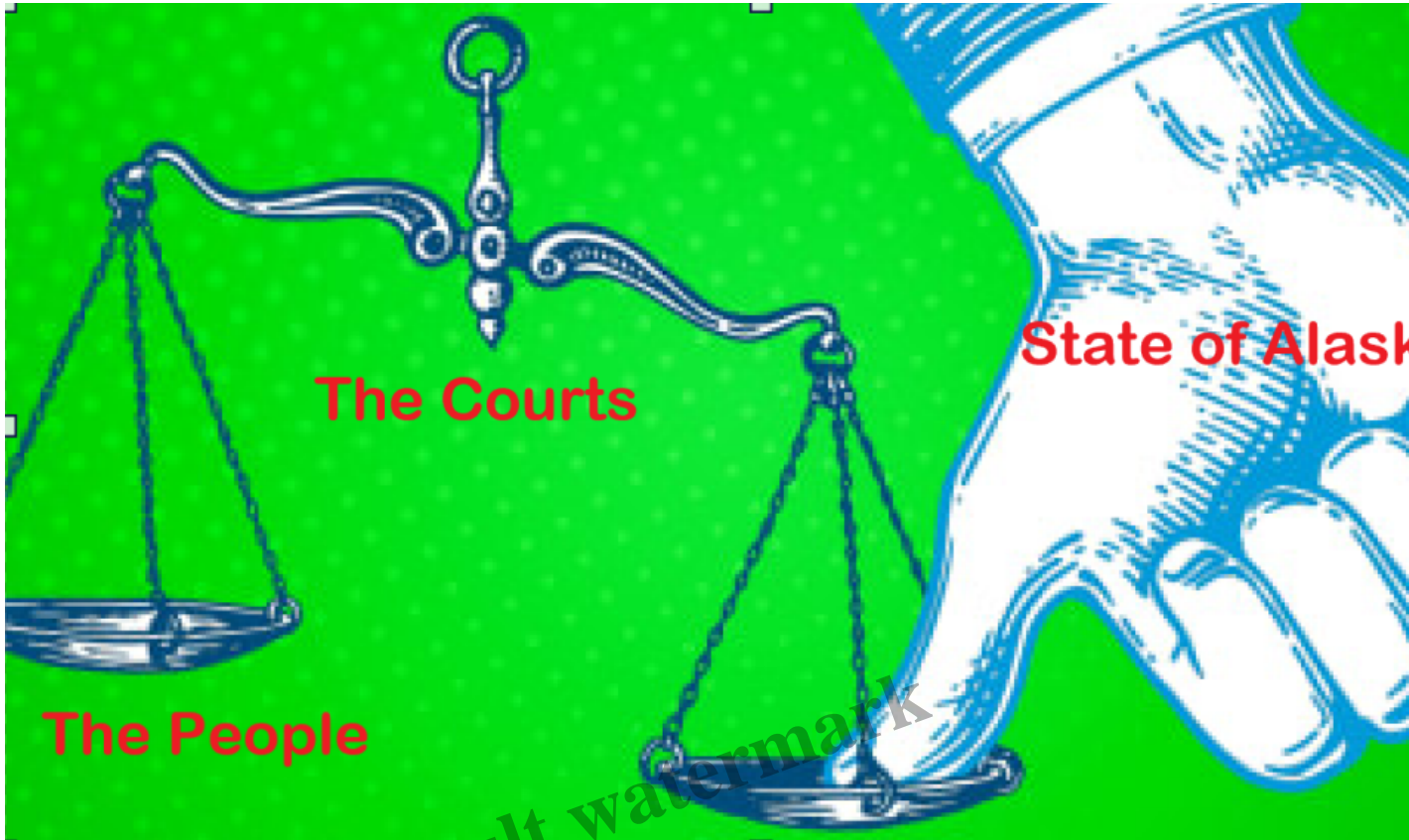
will be livestreamed on August 18, 2023 beginning at 10

a.m.

Traditional news stations have picked up this story now and Haeg is rallying his supporters to arrive at the courthouse or call in at trial to see what happens. To be honest, justice shouldn't be influenced by a bunch of people watching from the gallery but this is Alaska.

For this independent journalist the real story is how our bureaucratic-bound judiciary now denies direct appeal to a grand jury for the intent established in the Constitution by the founders of this state. It appears Haeg's case has puckered them and they want to protect lying judges from discovery by **Independent Grand Juries** with findings not approved by the Dunleavy-appointed **Attorney General**—now being accused of colluding with the **Alaska Supreme Court** to put its oversized thumb on the scale of justice with **Supreme Court Order (SCO) 1993**.

[6]Court explanation of SCO 1993



We haven't heard anything about this underhanded act in traditional media because it is complicated and not as sexy as a lying judge getting caught. But the issues being brought before the **Alaska Supreme Court** by private citizen **Thomas Garber** have far more significant implications than whether **David Haeg** gets his confiscated airplane back.

Garber has long challenged the **AK Office of Children's Services** for practices harming Alaska families by misguided social workers with undeserved powers causing families in distress to become entangled in the legal labyrinth that is our **Alaska Court System**.

[7]Alaska OCS Crisis; Parents are Pursuing Accountability

Garber's hearing was originally set for December 14, 2023. Garber asserts that SCO 1993 violates Art. 1 Sec. 8 of the **Alaska Constitution** and a whole bunch of statutes. He says it was illegally formed in collusion between the Executive Branch and the Court as an unlawful hinderance of the independent power of the **Grand Jury** and violates the **Doctrine of Separation of Powers**. This law was influenced by individuals who were subject to pending grand jury investigations requested by Alaska citizens, and is an abomination of the ethical responsibilities imposed upon Alaska lawyers and judges through the **Rules of Professional Conduct** and the **Code of Judicial Conduct**. Additionally, SCO 1993 represents actions taken by public officers in violation of the **Oath of Office** under Article XII, Section 5 of the **Alaska Constitution**. SCO 1993 infringes on the common law powers of the court to request a grand jury investigation that results in an indictment and more. He is asking the AK Supreme Court to stop this nonsense.

In a nutshell the Supreme Court appears to have done the bidding of the **Dunleavy Administration** to get more power for the **Attorney General**, hoping a few crazies in Kenai wouldn't get traction in the Entertainment-PRESS before the court can hear the arguments and

likely rule against Garber and Alaska's Founding Fathers.

That's what we can expect in Alaska now that the *Oil Rush* is over and we are finding out how this state really runs.

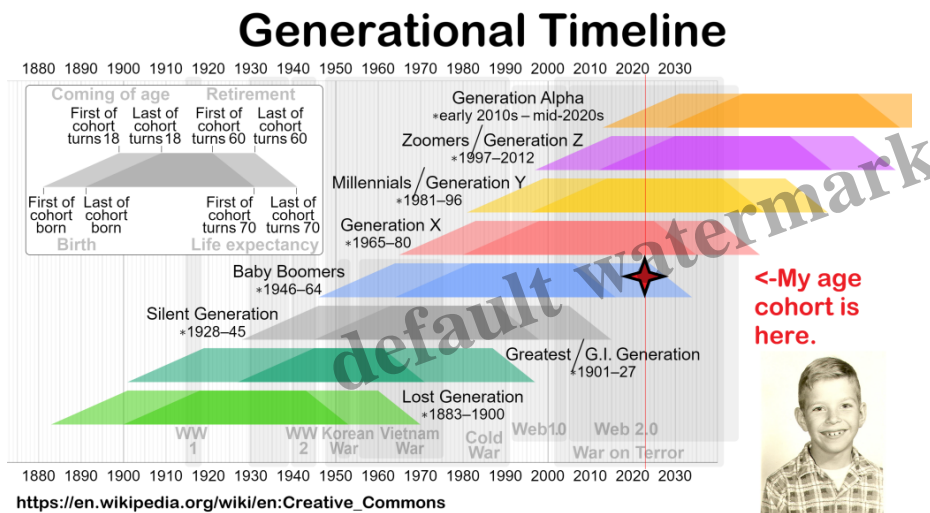
Please forward this story to anybody you know who cares about what is happening to this state.

Copy and paste this link: <https://donnliston.net/2023/08/demise-of-the-fourth-estate/>

References:

[1]Confessions of an Alaska Boomer

<https://donnliston907.substack.com/p/confessions-of-an-alaska-boomer>



[2]Richard Nixon's Silent Majority speech

<https://youtu.be/TpCWHQ30Do8>

[3]Former ADN Editor Speaks About Sale

["Former Editor speaks about sale" Archived](#) 2014-07-29 at the [Wayback Machine](#), [Alaska Mudflats](#), Jeanne Devon, May 27, 2014. Retrieved 20 June 2014.

[4]Unsupervised Youth in Anchorage, this writer's ADN Experience from newsboy to reporter

<https://donnliston.net/2017/09/unsupervised-youth-in-anchorage-anchorage-daily-news-on-the-brink/>

[5]Watergate Scandal

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>

[6]Court explanation of SCO 1993 [6]Court explanation of SCO 1993



Alaska Court System

New Information About Grand Jury Investigation Process

What is a grand jury and what does it do?

A grand jury is a group of 12-18 citizens who decide whether there is enough evidence to charge a person with a felony crime. The prosecutor presents evidence to the grand jurors and calls witnesses to testify. Neither the defense nor a judge is in the room. However, at the request of the defendant, the grand jury may decide to hear testimony from the defendant. The grand jurors do not determine whether the defendant is guilty or innocent, only whether there is probable cause to charge the defendant with violating a criminal law. If so, they issue a document called an indictment prepared by the prosecutor to charge a defendant with a felony. During the jurors' term, the prosecutor presents multiple cases to the grand jury. The proceedings are secret.

In addition, the Alaska Constitution provides that the grand jury also has the power to investigate and make recommendations concerning the public welfare and safety. Grand jury investigations have been extremely rare. Prior to 2022, grand juries issued only a handful of investigative reports concerning public welfare and safety since statehood in 1959.

Who presents cases to the grand jury when it considers criminal charges?

The prosecutor (Department of Law) presents cases to the grand jury. The prosecutor will identify who the State wants to charge with a crime, describe what the person allegedly did, and explain the statutes the prosecutor believes that the person violated. The prosecutor will present evidence to the grand jurors. The prosecutor will prepare a proposed indictment and act as the grand jury's legal advisor, explaining the applicable law and answering the grand jurors' questions about the law and procedure. Though all grand jury proceedings are secret, all the proceedings—including witness testimony, prosecutor statements, and any statements by or questions of the jurors—must be electronically recorded and may be referred to later in the criminal case.

What is the Constitutional right to investigate a matter of public welfare and safety?

Article 1, section 8 of the Alaska Constitution states, "The power of grand juries to investigate and make recommendations concerning the public welfare or safety shall never be suspended." The Alaska Constitution gives grand juries the right to investigate and make recommendations concerning the public welfare or safety; it does not provide that a citizen has a right to have a grand jury investigate a matter that the citizen thinks is important. Alaskan citizens have *never* had a constitutional right to bring any issue directly to a grand jury for investigation. The Constitution does not state or imply that a citizen who is unhappy with something has the right to take that issue to a grand jury to investigate. The few grand jury investigations that have occurred in Alaska were all brought to the grand jury by the Department of Law. However, as described below, there is a procedure for a citizen to make a request for the grand jury to investigate matters of public welfare or safety.



Alaska Court System

What are Supreme Court Order (SCO) Nos. [1993](#) and [2000](#)?

In 2022, three citizens in three court locations before three different judges asked for issues to be investigated by a grand jury. There was no process for how citizen requests should be handled. To provide a consistent process, the Alaska Supreme Court, which has rule making authority for grand jury procedures, authorized [SCO No. 1993](#). The order amends Criminal Rule 6.1 and provides procedures for (1) the grand jury to investigate a matter of public welfare and safety, and (2) a citizen or a grand juror to request that the grand jury investigate a matter of public welfare and safety. Prior to that SCO becoming effective in December 2022, there was no established process in place for citizen requests.

Shortly thereafter, the Alaska Supreme Court issued another order, [SCO No. 2000](#), that further amends Criminal Rule 6.1 to remove language that restricted the same grand jury panel investigating a public welfare or safety matter from also issuing an indictment for criminal conduct based on its investigation.

Did the Supreme Court suspend the grand jury's powers?

No. The Supreme Court order amended Criminal Rule 6.1 to make it clear that the grand jury has authority to investigate matters of public welfare and safety and issue reports. It creates two processes for (1) grand juror requests to investigate, and (2) citizen requests for the grand jury to investigate.

Do these Grand Jury Orders take away Alaskans' rights?

These orders do not take away any rights. Instead, the orders set out the process: when a citizen believes that a grand jury should investigate a matter, the citizen presents that request to the Department of Law (DOL). Their attorneys decide whether the issue is in fact one of public welfare and safety as the constitution requires, and determines whether or not the request deserves further attention. If there is a conflict of interest with the citizen's request being reviewed by the DOL, the DOL will appoint a neutral prosecutor to handle the matter. The DOL considers whether the facts as presented have merit and would amount to something actionable that potentially violates a law. This is exactly the type of screening decisions that the DOL makes every single day when it considers whether an incident should be pursued before a grand jury to seek a felony indictment.

Are grand jury investigations supposed to be for citizens to relitigate court case outcomes they do not like?

No. The Constitution provides that to be investigated, a matter must concern the public welfare or safety. For example, systemic issues or an ongoing, recurring issue impacting the general public could be within the scope of a grand jury investigation. But purely private matters such as, for example, an investigation into any individual court case, or an investigation into the DOL's decision not to prosecute a particular incident as a crime, or an investigation into any private dispute between or among citizens that could appropriately be the basis for a civil or other court



Alaska Court System

case, are not generally matters of public welfare or safety within the scope a grand jury's investigative authority.

Litigants can use existing procedures to file an appeal or a motion for reconsideration if they are unhappy with their court case outcome because they think a judge made a legal mistake.

Why didn't the rule changes in SCO 1993 go through the criminal rules committee before the Supreme Court signed the order?

The Supreme Court has specific authority to adopt rules of practice and procedure under the Alaska Constitution. The Chief Justice appoints rules committee members, who make recommendations on proposed rules and changes to the Supreme Court for its consideration. The court's typical (but not exclusive) process for changing rules is to refer proposals to a rules committee to review proposed changes. The rules committee process is thoughtful and thorough, and may take many months or even more than a year to consider a proposal before making recommendations to the court.

The Supreme Court adopted SCO 1993 as an expedited rule change to create a consistent process for citizen requests for grand jury investigations, because there were three different requests made in a short amount of time before three different judges. The Court may take expedited action when necessary. The Court simultaneously referred the amended rules to the criminal rules committee for additional review and input. The rules committee is considering whether to recommend that the court adopt any additional or different amendments to Criminal Rules 6 and 6.1. As part of its review, there will be a regular public comment period; as of this writing, the committee process is underway.

What happens at the end of a grand jury investigation?

The grand jury can write a report in which it makes recommendations about the matter it investigated. The grand jury then submits the report to the presiding judge of the judicial district.

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