AMHF Inducts Two in Joint Meeting with History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

**William Sulzer**  
Born to a New Jersey farming family of German and Dutch ancestry, William Sulzer became a prominent New York attorney and politician, serving on the New York Assembly, as a U.S. Congressman, and finally the Governor of New York State. Sulzer also aggressively pursued mineral development opportunities throughout the Territory of Alaska. Sulzer is perhaps best known to the Alaska mining community for the Jumbo copper mine on Prince of Wales Island and his Chandalar gold district activities in northern Alaska. While in political office, William Sulzer championed many causes for Alaska. Although earlier disgraced by his controversial 1913 impeachment as Governor of New York, at the time of his death in 1941, Sulzer was warmly remembered by Alaskans as a man of vision and a champion of Alaska self determination.

**Joseph Rudd**  
Joe Rudd’s 20-year legal career coincided with Alaska’s first twenty years as a state. After earning an undergraduate degree in geology in 1955 and his law degree in 1959, Joe moved to Alaska and began his legal career in the office of Alaska’s Attorney General. One of Joe's enduring accomplishments was to draft legislation that became the state’s mining law on state lands. Joe left public service in 1961 to become a founding partner of Ely, Guess & Rudd (now Guess & Rudd P.C.). During the next 18 years, Joe’s counsel was highly sought on federal, state, and private natural resource issues. On December 4, 1978, Joe met with the AG’s office in Juneau to discuss a law suit challenging the Carter Administration's implementation of the Antiquities Act. On his return to Anchorage later that day, Joe’s career and life were cut short tragically when the small jet in which he was traveling crashed on landing.
Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation, and

History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association

Supported by the Alaska Miners Association

Induction Ceremony, November 4, 2004
Sheraton Hotel, Anchorage, Alaska

Program

The general public is invited to the jointly sponsored induction ceremony from 7:00 to 9:30PM on November 4, 2004. There is no charge for admission. Refreshments will be served.

Introduction by Master of Ceremonies Curt Freeman

120 Years of Law and Alaskan Mining History

Panel: The Honorable Tom Stewart and J.P. Tangen, Joe Perkins, Tim Lynch, Chuck Hawley, and Tom Bundtzen

Presentation of Inductees:

Joseph Rudd, by Joe Perkins
William Sulzer, by Chuck Hawley

Refreshments and Discussion

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Book Signing: Karen Olson, “The Platinum King, Andrew Olson”

This induction meeting, jointly sponsored by the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation (AMHF) and the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association, celebrates more than 120 years of Alaska’s most interesting mining history. Of many deserving candidates for induction, the bodies have selected two men for the November 2004 AMHF induction ceremony: William Sulzer, an early attorney who mined and contributed to Alaska civil law and early mine development, and Joseph Rudd, a nearly contemporary man, who maintained Alaska’s knowledge of mining law in the early transitional years of Alaskan Statehood.
120 YEARS OF ALASKA MINING AND LEGAL HISTORY

From the 1867 Alaska Purchase to 1880, the Territory of Alaska was largely under a loose military rule mainly administered by the U.S. Army. Prospectors, fisherman and trappers had roamed the vast region assuming that they should operate in the familiar ways of the public land law that governed various jurisdictions in other US states and territories but without a formal body of law or a judiciary to guide them. The discovery of gold at Juneau, was, in many ways, equivalent to the discovery of Nevada’s Comstock Lode, at least in the influence it had on Alaska’s jurisdictional framework. It quickly became apparent that the lode discoveries at Juneau were large and rich enough to implement formal civil and criminal law into Alaska. The law given to Alaska in 1884 was that of the Oregon territory, which carried with it mining law for lode and placer deposits.

Since that time miners and attorneys have necessarily been associated in one way or another throughout Alaska. A significant number of early attorneys mined, and some miners became lawyers. Other attorneys contributed to the civil and criminal law needed as a framework for the more specialized law of discovery, or apex, or tenure that occupied a few mining law practitioners. A few attorneys gave us a great legal scandal at Nome, but others quickly returned the Cape Nome mining district to a legitimate mining law framework.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Charles C. Hawley wrote the biography of William Sulzer, and organized most of the materials for this newsletter, with review and additional contributions from Thomas K. Bundtzen. Joseph Perkins Jr. wrote the biography for Joseph Rudd. The Honor Roll of Alaska Attorneys was compiled by the History Committee of the Alaska Bar Association, Chuck Hawley, and Mary Nordale. Gay Ellen Heath Griffin, Tom Bundtzen and Heather Kelly of Pacific Rim Geological Consulting, Inc. prepared the newsletter for publication.
Previous Inductees, Alaska Mining Hall of Fame

National Mining Hall of Fame Inductees
Six charter members of the Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation were previously elected into the National Mining Hall of Fame in Leadville, Colorado.

Stephen Birch: Founder and developer of Kennecott Copper Mines.
Frederick Bradley: Successful manager of Treadwell and A-J Mines, Juneau.
Earnest Patty: University of Alaska, and manager of Placer Dredging Venture.
Clarence Berry: Prominent Klondike and Interior Alaska miner.

Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation Inductees

Fairbanks Spring 1998
Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Yukon Basin Traders and Prospectors
Alfred Mayo: “Captain Al” well-known Yukon River trader, prospector.
Jack McQuesten: Known as the “Father of the Yukon” grubstaker for prospectors.
Arthur Harper: Well known and respected trader and prospector and promoter of the Yukon.
Howard Franklin: Fortymile prospector, discovered first “bedrock” placer gold in Alaska.
John Minook: Creole-Athabascan prospector who discovered Rampart district.
Felix Pedro: Discoverer of Fairbanks district in 1902.

Nome Summer 1998
Induction Ceremony Honoring Pioneers of Nome Gold Rush
Erik Lindblom: The eldest of the “Lucky Swedes”, a tailor.
Jafet Lindeberg: The Norwegian of the ‘Lucky Swedes’, president and manager of the very successful Pioneer Mining Company.
Charles D. Lane: Tough and honest miner who helped the Luck Swedes in their legal battles.

Juneau Spring 1999
Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Juneau District
Joe Juneau: Native of Quebec, a California 49er, co-discoverer of gold in Juneau district.
Richard Harris: Irish immigrant, co-discoverer of gold in Juneau district.
George Pilz: German immigrant who sent Juneau and Harris into the Juneau area.
Kawa./ee: Tlingit leader who brought gold samples from Gastineau Channel area to George Pilz
Livingston Wernecke: Geologist-engineer for the Bradley companies of Juneau.
Bartlett Thane: Promoter-founder of the world’s largest gold mine, the Gastineau at Juneau.

Anchorage Fall 1999
Induction Ceremony Honoring Mining Pioneers of Southern/Southwest Alaska

Andrew Olson: Swedish immigrant, innovator at Flat; long-time miner of platinum.
Evan Jones: Welsh immigrant; father of Alaska coal mining.
Wesley Earl Dunkle: Kennecott engineer and innovative geologist, co-founder of Star Air Service, predecessor of Alaska Airlines.

Fairbanks Spring 2000
Induction Ceremony Honoring Early 20th Century Interior Pioneers

Fannie Quigley: Prospector, renowned for her bush skills, legendary Kantishna character.

Juneau Spring 2001
Induction Ceremony Honoring Early Government Role in Mining

Benjamin D. Stewart: State and Federal mining administrator, Alaska constitutional delegate.

Fairbanks Summer, 2001
Induction Ceremony Honoring the Pioneers of the Large Scale Gold Dredging Industry of Nome and Fairbanks Districts

Norman C. Stines: Planned and supervised USSR&M activities in Fairbanks district.
Wendell P. Hammon: Installed the first three dredges in Cape Nome district.
James K. Davidson: Designed and built Miocene and Davidson ditch system.

Anchorage Fall 2001
Induction Ceremony Honoring Discovery of Flat District

John Beaton: Co-discovered Iditarod district with William Dikeman.

Fairbanks Spring 2002
Induction Ceremony Honoring Successful Miners and Engineers of Early 20th Century

Frank G. Manley: Highly successful miner in Fairbanks, Hot Springs District, and Flat. Founder of the First National Bank, Fairbanks
Herman Tofty: Norwegian immigrant who worked prospects near Manley Hot Springs.
Chester Purington: Acclaimed international mining engineer; wrote treatise on Alaska placer fields.
Thomas P. Aitken: Arguably the most successful small scale mine developer during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush; worked both lodes and placers in Alaska and Yukon.

Anchorage Fall 2002
Induction Ceremony Honoring Immigrant Pioneers

Peter Miscovich: Croatian immigrant who settled in Flat, Alaska 1910. Pioneered the use of hydraulic mining techniques.
David Strandberg: Swedish immigrant who joined the Klondike gold rush in 1898 and the Iditarod rush of 1910. Built placer mining dynasty Strandberg & Sons, Inc.
Lars Ostnes: Norwegian immigrant who mined in the Iditarod district and developed placer mines in remote western Alaska for over 50 years.

Fairbanks Summer 2003
Golden Days Induction Ceremony (also recognized during Fall AMA convention)

Kyosuke “Frank” Yasuda and Nevelo Yasuda: Japanese immigrant and his Eskimo wife, discovered Chandalar gold and founded the community of Beaver.

Anchorage Fall 2003
Induction Ceremony Honoring Early and Mid-20th Century Placer Miners

John Gustavus (Gus) Uotila: By 1915, Gus Uotila was known as a tough Iditarod teamster. He mentored placer mining operations throughout Alaska and became a respected overland freighter.

Simon Wible: He mined gold, built water canals, and became a wealthy man in California. When the time the gold rush came along, he pioneered hydraulic mine technology on the Kenai Peninsula.

Fairbanks Spring 2004
Honoring Early Pioneers Associated with USSR&M Dredge Fleet

Roy B. Earling: Built pre-World War II FE Company into one of the efficient and successful dredge mining firms in the world.

James D. Crawford: Well organized manager who acquired new dredge properties and guided FE company into successful post-World War II period of gold mining.

Jack C. Boswell: Engineered the development of the rich Cripple deposit; and helped build giant FE machines used to dig deep placer deposits. Published historian of USSR&M era.

Genevieve Parker Metcalfe: Breakthrough woman mining engineer who developed initial plans for FE Fairbanks operations, wrote a landmark thesis on Alaska placer mining, and was a champion athlete and scholar.

Earl Richard Pilgrim: First Professor of Mine Engineering at University of Alaska. independent Kantishna miner and FE consultant, “Mr. Antimony” in the US.
WILLIAM SULZER (1863-1941)

By Charles C. Hawley,
with contributions by T.K. Bundtzen

A ghost town on the north end of Hetta Inlet on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska is named Sulzer. In its final years, the town was a cannery and fishing site. Earlier it had been the bustling headquarters for copper mines on Jumbo Mountain a few miles to the south. The abandoned village is named after William Sulzer who formed the Alaska Industrial Company that developed the mines. William Sulzer is almost forgotten today, but in his day he had a national reputation and was well known in New York and Alaska. William Sulzer was born in New Jersey in 1863 to Thomas Sulzer, a German immigrant, and Lydia Jelleme Sulzer, of Dutch Scot-Irish heritage. Sulzer’s father farmed and young William, “Bill”, helped on the farm. While exploring the nearby fields and brooks, he collected and tried to classify rocks and minerals that he picked up in the neighborhood. Later he speculated that this early activity led to a lifetime interest in mines and geology. When William was twelve years old, he ran away from home and signed on as cabin boy on a sailing ship that rounded Cape Horn and visited trading ports along the west coast of South America. When Sulzer tired of adventure and returned home nearly a year later he completed his public education. At the age of fourteen Bill moved to the lower east side of Manhattan, the quintessential American melting pot. In the daytime, Bill worked as a clerk in a wholesale grocer; in the evenings, he continued his education with the free classes offered at Cooper Union.

In New York, young Sulzer caught the attention of John Reilly, a precinct leader for Tammany Hall. Reilly found that Bill Sulzer was a natural orator and soon Sulzer was known as Reilly’s “boy spellbinder.” Reilly urged Sulzer to study law, and in 1884 at twenty-one years of age he passed the New York bar. Sulzer’s elected political career began five years later when he was elected to the New York Assembly, the lower house of the New York legislature, where he rose rapidly serving within a few years as Majority Leader, then Speaker of the legislative body in 1893.

In 1893, William Sulzer made his first trip to Alaska, the first of more than thirty visits in his lifetime. In 1895, Sulzer was elected as a Representative to the U.S. Congress. Sulzer again visited Alaska in 1899, when he began his search for mining prospects. In southeast Alaska, he met Aaron Shellhouse who had made some copper discoveries that interested Sulzer. In 1897, Shellhouse discovered a copper lode he named the Jumbo that was at least twenty-five feet wide and traceable for up to one thousand feet along the flank of Jumbo Mountain, in west-central Prince of Wales Island. The famed #4 Jumbo claim would produce more than half of the ore for the future mining operation. Sulzer acquired the Jumbo claims from Shellhouse and his partner, John Loomis Gould. To develop the mines, Sulzer formed the Alaska Industrial Company. His first attempt to develop the Jumbo copper mine was unsuccessful.
more than 2,500 tons of high grade ore. Although monthly production increased from 1,000 tons to Charles Sulzer's direction, the Jumbo copper mine mine camp to tide water on Hetta Inlet. Under a aerial tramway with drop of 1,500 feet from the and bunkers were connected by an 8,500 foot a wharf and bunker complex on the shore. Mine built a mining camp on the outcrop of the ore and project. To develop the deposit, Charles Sulzer effective manager for a technically difficult and engineering skills and soon proved to be an inexperienced, Charles August Sulzer had ability Alaska Industrial Company. Although to Alaska to exp American war, dropped out of West Point to com brother, Charles, a veteran of the Spanish- In 1901, William Sulzer’s youngest brother, Charles, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, dropped out of West Point to come to Alaska to explore and develop the mines of the Alaska Industrial Company. Although inexperienced, Charles August Sulzer had ability and engineering skills and soon proved to be an effective manager for a technically difficult project. To develop the deposit, Charles Sulzer built a mining camp on the outcrop of the ore and a wharf and bunker complex on the shore. Mine and bunkers were connected by an 8,500 foot aerial tramway with drop of 1,500 feet from the mine camp to tide water on Hetta Inlet. Under Charles Sulzer’s direction, the Jumbo copper mine monthly production increased from 1,000 tons to more than 2,500 tons of high grade ore. Although a small copper smelter had been constructed at nearby Copper Harbor, ores from the Jumbo were shipped offsite for smelting. The Jumbo mine operated continuously from 1907 until 1918, and was the second largest producer of copper in southeast Alaska until it closed down, at least in part because of the crash in copper price at the close of World War I, and partly by the untimely death of William’s brother Charles Sulzer in early 1919. The Jumbo mine also produced substantial amounts of byproduct silver and gold as well as copper. The Jumbo copper mine reopened briefly in 1923, but was closed for good later that year.

The early 20th century era was the heyday of the early mining boom in southeast Alaska. Sulzer’s Jumbo mine produced slightly less total copper than the Mamie-Mt. Andrew mines on Kasaan Peninsula, but at a much higher grade—more than 4.0 percent copper, compared to a 2.5 percent copper grade for the Kasaan Peninsula mines.

At the same time, William Sulzer did not neglect the politics of his favorite home away from home. His first Alaska cause in 1899 was the Alaska boundary issue. The boundary was not yet surveyed and after the discovery of gold in the Klondike it became a contentious problem. Sulzer believed that England wished to reopen the boundary issue to claim more gold-favorable ground for its Dominion Canada. Sulzer chastised President William McKinley for not taking a harder line on the issue, and became a well-known figure by his forceful stand in favor of Alaska.
In the early 1900s Sulzer became active in a more substantial Alaska issue—home rule. The issue, whether Alaska should have an elected delegate to Congress and legislature to be effectively self-governing, or continue to be an ill-favored colony, was debated for more than a decade. Less forceful politicians would have settled for either delegate or legislature. Sulzer was one of a few early visionaries that fought for both delegate and territorial legislative representation. He often led the attack for home rule from his increasingly senior seat in the US House of Representatives.

Sulzer also took an active role in most of the other Alaska political issues of the day. He was concerned with the apparent depletion of fur seals and salmon, earlier believed to be of limitless supply, and found appropriations for trails and roads for the Territory of Alaska. In 1911, Sulzer obtained an appropriation for the Iditarod trail. Before Bill Sulzer left Congress in 1912, he introduced legislation authorizing a railroad from Seward to the Matanuska Coal Field, and thence to the Yukon River via the Susitna and Tanana valleys. This is essentially the route finally adopted for the Alaska Railroad. Sulzer also helped obtain federal funds for construction of a pioneer road from Beaver to Caro, the supply route for the Chandalar gold camp.

Sometimes it is difficult to see how Sulzer had time for his Manhattan district with all the time that he spent on Alaska, but William did, and he was a very effective and almost unbeatable congressman in a district that was the most cosmopolitan in the United States at that time.

About the time that Sulzer worked with Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota to pass the first successful Alaska delegate bill (May 1906), he became aware of another Alaska mineral opportunity—in the Chandalar region in the eastern Brooks Range. Samuel Marsh, a geologist-prospector, took news of the rich strike back to the eastern United States where Congressman William Sulzer heard of it. Sulzer sent Marsh back to Chandalar in the winter of 07-08. Marsh was authorized to locate or buy claims for Sulzer. By 1911 Marsh had acquired several promising lode deposits for Sulzer who subsequently bought the interests of Thomas Grant and Frank Yasuda who had discovered the district in 1905.

With the discovery of gold in the Chisana region in the eastern Wrangell-Alaska Range in 1913, Sulzer also entered that region acquiring copper claims in the White and Snag River regions.

Sulzer’s mining acquisitions in central and northern Alaska never gained the success of the earlier day Jumbo copper mine in the more accessible southeast Panhandle, but the Chandalar gold mines in particular were modestly successful. Today, nearly 100 years from its discovery, the Chandalar mining district is still regarded as incompletely assessed, with significant lode and placer gold potential. William Sulzer remained active in the Chandalar district from 1909 until his death in 1941.

William Sulzer never tired of promoting Alaska. Beginning in the early 1900s, he delivered a speech titled, “Alaska, the Wonderland of the World.” It changed in detail over the years as new data became available but basically it was a statistics-packed promotional piece delivered by a skilled orator. Sulzer’s congressional colleagues and cynical newsmen often tired of Sulzer’s talk, referring to him as ‘Seltzer or the Fountain of Debate’. Alaskans, who heard from Sulzer less frequently, seemed never to tire of his oratorical hyperbole. While representing New York as a U.S. Congressman, he, in many ways, also served as a de-facto representative of the diverse needs of the Alaska Territory. After leaving public office, Sulzer noted in a 1915 speech to the Pioneers of Alaska meeting in New York that that the copper production in 1915 was about eight times that of the preceding year. He also told the pioneers that: “The total value of Alaska’s mineral production since 1880 is, in round figures, $306,000,000 or more than 43 times the sum paid to Russia for the territory.”
In 1912 William Sulzer left the relative political safety of a Congressional seat to run for governor of New York. Sulzer had long held gubernatorial ambitions kept in check by Charles F. Murphy, the boss of Tammany Hall. In 1912, however, the candidates for governor included a strong regular party Republican and Oscar Solomon Straus, running as a reform candidate affiliated with Teddy Roosevelt’s Bull Moose party. To counter these strong contenders Murphy needed a candidate who could pull votes out of the lower East Side of Manhattan—votes which otherwise would go mainly to Straus. Sulzer had long been unbeatable in the district, outpolling both Republicans and ‘Tammany’ Democrats. Murphy, with some doubts on the reliability of Sulzer to follow the party line, allowed Sulzer to head the Democrat ticket and Sulzer was elected Governor of New York by a substantial margin.

Sulzer’s first few months in office were productive as the legislature moved a mildly reformist package of legislation that could be endorsed by both Sulzer and Murphy. Relations between Sulzer and Murphy and the legislature soon began to deteriorate. Sulzer-appointed committees identified deeply entrenched corruption in Tammany Hall, which Sulzer wanted to cure. Differences with the legislature were accentuated by a major battle over worker’s compensation legislation. Sulzer vetoed a compromise bill which he considered to be too weak. Those issues were dwarfed by the direct primary. At that time, Murphy had almost unlimited control of minor political positions, which Sulzer proposed to fill by direct election. In effect Sulzer challenged Murphy for control of the Democratic party in New York, a battle that Murphy was not going to lose and one that led to Sulzer’s impeachment.

Sulzer’s impeachment was messy and, almost 100 years later, is still controversial. While his votes were never for sale, Sulzer freely used campaign funds for his personal needs and desires and thus was in a vulnerable position. Less than a year after his election, Sulzer was removed from office.

Within a week of his removal from office, Sulzer was returned to the legislature by his faithful Manhattan constituency, but after his term expired, Sulzer left the political arena forever to concentrate on his law practice and Alaska mining ventures.

In Alaska, William Sulzer held political influence for a few more years through his brother Charles. Charles was later elected to the first Alaska Territorial Senate and subsequently was later elected as Alaska’s Delegate to US Congress. In the Alaska Territorial Legislature, Charles Sulzer introduced and saw enacted Alaska’s first legislation on worker’s compensation, something then urgently needed in Alaska’s dangerous resource-based industries. William assisted his brother’s draft workers compensation legislation.
Charles Sulzer’s career as Alaska delegate to Congress was cut short by an early death in 1919 at age 40. It was a doubly severe blow to William, as Charles had been not only a political ally but also the competent mine operator of the Alaska Industrial Company. The close brothers’ divergent skills had complimented each other for nearly 20 years.

William Sulzer kept in the public eye in Alaska throughout the 1920s and 30s. He continually boosted Alaska and occasionally had enough influence to provide needed infrastructure for his Alaska mines and other projects. His earnings as a New York attorney were sufficient for a comfortable living, but not enough to build the mining empire that had been his initial aim.

When William Sulzer died in November 1941, the New York Times noted that he had long been absent from the public view, but the newspaper speculated, “if Sulzer had been duly docile to Charles F. Murphy . . . the loss [contributions] would probably have never been noted, and he might have lived and died in public honor.” He was remembered with favor in Alaska. As noted in the Alaska Fishing News of Nov. 26, 1941, “Sulzer was a man of vision and always active in the interests of Alaska. He made war on long-distance bureau control of Alaska and declared statehood as the remedy. There is a warm spot in the hearts of all old time Alaskans for Bill Sulzer.”

Sources:


New York Times, Obituary notes and articles on William Sulzer, November 7, 1941


Samuel J. Marsh, Report on property purchased, located or otherwise acquired from July 23, 1908 to August 15, 1909 in the Chandalar Mining District, Alaska, 30 pages.

Samuel J. Marsh, Letter to Wm. Sulzer on Venus, Jupiter, Woodchuck, Bonanza, Eneveloe, and Last Chance Claims, 1911, 2 pages


JOSEPH RUDD (1933-1978)

Photo from Alison Rudd Lausten

Written by Joseph J. Perkins, Jr.

Joe Rudd's 20-year legal career coincided with Alaska's first twenty years as a state. During the first decade of statehood, Alaska witnessed the early implementation of the Statehood Act, the Great Alaska Earthquake of March 27, 1964 (magnitude 9.2 on the Richter Scale), the political awakening of Alaska's Native people, the discovery of the largest oilfield in North America, and a federal land freeze which halted the conveyance of federal lands to the state and threatened the promises of statehood. The second decade saw the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the construction of the 800-mile long trans-Alaska pipeline, and the political battle over what lands in Alaska should be designated as federal parks, refuges, or other conservation areas. (This political battle became known as "D-2"—named after the temporary withdrawals made in the early 1970s pursuant to section 17(d)(2) of ANCSA.) During his career, Joe Rudd was involved in significant ways in virtually every one of these events.

Joseph Rudd was born August 30, 1933, in Utica, New York. He received his B.A. degree in geology from Williams College in 1955, then moved west to study law at the University of Denver College of Law. During his law school years, Joe also worked as a well-site geologist for an independent oil and gas company in Colorado. After graduating from the University of Denver College of Law in 1959, Joe and his wife Lisa moved to Alaska where Joe had worked part-time during college for United States Smelting, Refining & Mining Co. and where Joe and Lisa had traveled on their honeymoon in 1955.

Early Work in the Attorney General's Office (1959-1961)

Joe began his legal career in 1959 in the State of Alaska Attorney General's Office in Anchorage, first as an Assistant Attorney General and then as an Assistant District Attorney. During his two years in the AG's Office, Joe worked extensively with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on both mining issues and oil and gas issues. One of Joe's enduring accomplishments in the mining area while in the AG's Office was to write the 1961 legislation that became the State of Alaska's new mining law for state lands (AS 38.05.185-38.05.275).

The enactment of the state's new mining law was the culmination of an 18-month effort. At the beginning of this effort in 1960, Joe worked closely with James A. (Jim) Williams (Director, Division of Mines and Minerals within DNR) and others to develop a proposed set of mining regulations that would apply to the 100 million acres of land to be acquired by the state pursuant to the Statehood Act. In undertaking to develop these regulations, DNR and Joe initially took their direction solely from the limited but very important language of Article VIII of the Alaska Constitution regarding mining. As DNR's and Joe's efforts progressed, however, it became apparent to them that the enactment of a new statutory framework for "locatable" minerals on state lands would provide much needed guidance.
At DNR’s request Joe Rudd wrote the proposed legislation, and its enactment in 1961 gave Alaska its own mining law, modeled after the federal mining law to the extent possible but modernized in several significant respects. See 1961 SLA ch. 123-1 (codified at AS 38.05.185-38.05.275).

Early Years in Private Practice (1961-69)

In July 1961 Joe Rudd left his state position and entered private practice as one of the founding members of the law firm of Ely, Guess & Rudd (now Guess & Rudd P.C. and referred to herein simply as "the firm"). He remained with the firm until he died.

After making the move into private practice, Joe quietly began (through both his work product and his ongoing involvement in the legal profession on natural resource issues) to build his reputation as a knowledgeable, thorough, and thoughtful natural resources lawyer. During these early years in private practice, the performance of quality work earned for Joe both repeat business plus a word-of-mouth reputation that reached beyond Alaska. Some of Joe's clients during the 1960s were junior exploration company ALVENCO, mining giant ASARCO, the Evan Jones Coal Co., Kaiser Cement-Gypsum (see United States v. City of Anchorage, 437 F.2d 1081 (9th Cir. 1971)), Seward Peninsula placer miner Dick Lee (see Alaska Placer Co. v. Lee, 455 P.2d 218 (Alaska 1969)), and on the oil and gas side of his practice, BP Exploration and Shell Oil (see Pan Am. Petroleum Corp. v. Shell Oil Co., 455 P.2d 12 (Alaska 1969)). During the early years of his career, Joe also continued to work both informally and formally with DNR on issues relating to the new state, its lands and resources, and access thereto. Indeed, according to John Havelock (one of Joe's former partners), "sometimes to the annoyance of his successors [in the AG's Office], Joe Rudd remained for years the oracle for the professional level employees of the state division of lands." Among those with whom Joe corresponded or worked during these years were Jim Williams, Roscoe Bell (Director of the Division of Lands), and Charles F. (Chuck) Herbert (then Deputy Commissioner of DNR). This work allowed Joe to continue to build upon his knowledge of Alaska's lands and to keep abreast of the legal issues relating to them while simultaneously building a base for occasional referrals. Similarly, Joe worked during these early years of statehood with the Alaska Miners Association and others to provide comments to the Department of the Interior and Congress, either directly or through the American Mining Congress, on mining issues affecting Alaska.

Early in his career Joe also developed and taught an evening course in mining law through the University of Alaska. First taught by Joe during the spring semester of 1962 and last taught by Joe in 1967, this course was attended by military and civilian personnel in search of interesting college credits, by employees of various federal and state agencies, and by the occasional miner. For example, in 1966 the class roster for Joe's course included several DNR employees. Among those taking the class that year were Erle Mathis (Minerals Officer within DNR) and Ethel H. "Pete" Nelson (then a Land Law Examiner). Mining engineer Dan Renshaw also took the class and certainly used some of the information in the practical mining class that he taught in the evenings.

In 1964 Joe served as chairman of the Alaska Bar Association's annual convention, held that year in Anchorage only six weeks after the Great Alaska Earthquake. One of the convention's social functions that year was a tour of areas affected by the earthquake—an event that Joe (who, in the days immediately following the quake, had volunteered with other geologists to help map devastated areas in Anchorage as part of the effort to obtain federal disaster monies) would be sure to include. Around this point in his career Joe also wrote a paper and gave a talk—probably for a meeting of the Alaska Geological Society or another industry association in early 1964—titled "Land Status Problems in Locating Mining Claims".

Learning how to work with and advise natural resource clients on land status problems in Alaska became a key component of Joe's expertise as a lawyer. So when the Public Land Law Review Commission (PLLRC) came to Alaska in 1966 to hold hearings, Joe testified before the PLLRC in Anchorage (July 6, 1966) on land status and other problems confronting resource development in Alaska. Later, when the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska was
preparing its report on Native land claims and the University of Wisconsin (!) simultaneously was preparing its study for the PLLRC regarding Alaska, Joe and others within the firm were retained to contribute to the studies.

In 1967, Joe prepared and presented another paper. This paper—titled "The Objectives of Government Mineral Surveys"—was delivered at the 1967 Alaska Purchase Centennial Minerals Conference held in College, Alaska, on May 23-26, 1967. The mineral surveys addressed by the paper were not the "mineral surveys" undertaken in connection with mineral patent applications but instead were the geological and mineral investigations typically undertaken by government agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Division of Mines and Minerals. In addressing this rather arcane topic, Joe drew upon all of his past experience and knowledge as a geologist, lawyer, Alaskan, and student of both government and the free enterprise system. His ability to do this would hold him in good stead when the world around him changed forever less than one year later.

Later Years in Private Practice (1969-1978)

The discovery of the Prudhoe Bay Oilfield on the North Slope of Alaska was announced to the public on March 13, 1968, and just as Alaska was forever changed, so too was Joe Rudd's practice.

BP Exploration became Joe's most significant client, and Joe became involved in virtually everything affecting the development of the Prudhoe Bay field and the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Prince William Sound. Joe prepared title opinions on BP's Prudhoe Bay leases, he represented BP in connection with the formation of the Prudhoe Bay Unit, he represented BP and other oil companies in their challenge to the formation of the North Slope Borough (see Mobil Oil Corp. v. Local Boundary Comm'n, 518 P.2d 92 (1974)), and he represented BP and others in the North Slope "trespass case" (United States v. Atlantic Richfield Co., 435 F. Supp. 1009 (D. Alaska 1977), affirmed, 612 F.2d 1132 (9th Cir. 1980), cert. denied, 449 U.S. 888 (1980)). Joe and the firm also became heavily involved on behalf of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and its owners in legal matters arising in connection with the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline and, later, in connection with the tariffs to be charged on the shipment of oil through the pipeline. But this substantial increase in oil and gas work did not cause Joe's mining practice to founder—in fact, the truth is quite to the contrary. Following the enactment of ANCSA in 1971, many major mining companies began taking serious looks at Alaska. What they saw respecting land status was a rapidly changing puzzle. Much of Joe's and the firm's mining practice in the 1970s involved either (1) writing agreements to provide adequate flexibility and certainty for mining clients or (2) performing "due diligence" investigations of the status of particular lands or claims to provide mining clients with adequate comfort and assurances.

Joe's work on the Lost River fluorite-tin-tungsten project on the Seward Peninsula northwest of Nome may be the earliest example of this type of work. Many land issues were involved: The project included patented claims, unpatented claims, and selections by three Native village corporations. In addition, both a city and a port would need to be built. A final feasibility report was delivered on the project in 1973, and financing discussions had begun when, due to plunging prices for its key mineral products, the project was shelved in 1974.

Though the Lost River Project was not built, it served as the beginning of the friendship and attorney-client relationship between Joe Rudd and Jack McOuat. In July 1972 Jack's company, Watts, Griffis and McOuat Limited, through its subsidiary WGM Inc., opened an Anchorage office and began mineral exploration in Alaska for many mining company clients, often pursuant to exploration agreements written by Joe Rudd or others in the firm under his tutelage during the uncertain land status situation of the 1970s. Lands in Southeast Alaska, lands in the Ahtna Region, lands in the Doyon Region, and lands in Western Alaska all were explored pursuant to one or more such agreements, and many mineral prospects and deposits were identified as a direct result.

WGM Inc. was not Joe's only mining client in the 1970s. Other mining clients of Joe and the
firm during the 1970s included AMAX, BP Minerals, Cities Service Minerals, GCO Minerals, Gulf Minerals, Placer Amex, and Union Carbide. Last but certainly not least during the 1970s, Joe Rudd represented the Northwest Alaska Native Association (later to become NANA Regional Corporation, Inc., one of Alaska's 12 resident Native regional corporations). The existence of the rich Red Dog zinc-lead-silver deposit was known and believed to be significant, so NANA selected it under ANCSA upon advice from the firm to do so, even though this initial selection was of doubtful validity. Today, the Red Dog Mine (owned by NANA and leased to Teck Cominco) is the largest zinc-lead-silver mine in the world.

The firm is mentioned above for two important reasons: First, after the discovery of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield there simply was more natural resources legal work coming Joe's way than one or two resource lawyers could handle—so the firm necessarily grew. Second, during this period Joe's kidneys were failing. Ultimately, in 1973, Joe became the first Alaskan to receive a successful kidney transplant. The kidney was donated by his brother.

After Joe's successful kidney transplant, his life improved and so his scholarly efforts resumed. In 1974 Joe delivered a paper at the 20th Annual Institute of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (RMMLF) titled "Who Owns Alaska?—Mineral Rights Acquisition Amid Rapidly Changing Land Ownership", 20 Rocky Mt. Min. L. Inst. 109 (1974). Then in October of that year, Joe served on the faculty of a two-day course in Anchorage sponsored by Alaska Methodist University and the University of Denver College of Law on "The Law of Public Lands in Alaska, with Special Emphasis on Energy, Native Rights, and the Environment". On that faculty with Joe were Professors John Carver and Alan Merson of the University of Denver College of Law and Alaska lawyers Bob Goldberg, Joe Josephson, John Katz, and Esther Wunnice. Later in 1977 Joe served with many of the same lawyers on the faculty of a "Seminar on Alaska's Lands Laws" sponsored by the University of Alaska-Anchorage. Finally, in what would be his last volunteer effort on behalf of the RMMLF, Joe developed and served as Program Chairman for a successful two-day RMMLF Special Institute on Alaska Mineral Development in September 1978 in Anchorage.

Joe's involvement on policy matters likewise continued during the 1970s. The "D-2" battle in which Alaska was engaged during the 1970s became a battle of epic proportions in late 1978 when—in one of the 20th Century's most dramatic uses of federal power against the desires of a state and many of its people—officials within the Carter Administration, and then President Carter himself on December 1, 1978, acted to withdraw millions of acres of federal land in Alaska prior to the automatic expiration of the withdrawals made in the early 1970s under section 17(d)(2) of ANCSA. While history may prove that these 1978 withdrawals had more political than legal significance, such actions nevertheless required an immediate legal response. Citizens for Management of Alaska Lands (CMAL) had lobbied in Congress against the Carter Administration's proposals regarding Alaska, and it thus was CMAL who retained Joe Rudd in December 1978 to challenge these withdrawals in court. On December 4, 1978, Joe conferred with officials in the Attorney General's Office in Juneau about this matter. While in Juneau, Joe met Senator Ted Stevens, Tony Motley, and Clarence Kramer, who had traveled to Juneau to meet with Governor Hammond about the recent withdrawals. When they learned that Joe was headed home to Anchorage, they offered him a ride in the private jet in which they were going to fly to Anchorage. When that plane crashed on landing at Anchorage International Airport, only Ted Stevens and Tony Motley survived: Ann Stevens, Clarence Kramer, Joe Rudd, and both pilots were killed. When Joe died that day, Alaska lost a preeminent natural resources lawyer and a great friend to many.

Joe Rudd and the RMMLF

Joe became aware of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, its publications, and educational activities at least as early as 1960. We know from his correspondence that, while working in the Attorney General's Office crafting a new mining law and regulations for Alaska in 1960-1961, Joe relied heavily upon the RMMLF's
just-published *American Law of Mining* (1st ed. 1960) for its thorough and scholarly analysis of the federal mining laws and the decades of judicial decisions construing them. Later, while in private practice Joe became a member of the RMMLF and began attending its annual institutes. Eventually, through the efforts of Joe Rudd, the Alaska Bar Association became a governing organization of the RMMLF in 1972, and from 1972 until his death in 1978 Joe served as a Trustee of the RMMLF representing the Alaska Bar Association. As noted above, Joe also delivered a paper on Alaska lands and minerals at the 20th Annual Institute of the RMMLF in 1974, and in 1978 Joe served as Program Chairman for the RMMLF *Special Institute on Alaska Mineral Development*.

Given Joe's longstanding commitment to the practice of natural resources law, to legal scholarship in that area, and to the RMMLF, it was perhaps the most fitting tribute possible for Joe Rudd—upon his untimely death in December 1978—that his colleagues, friends, and family would undertake to establish and contribute to a scholarship fund in his name under the auspices of the RMMLF. Joe would be pleased to know that, through 2004, the RMMLF has awarded 93 Joe Rudd Scholarships totaling $350,000 to natural resources law students attending governing law schools of the RMMLF.

**Joe's Legacy at the Firm**

Finally, Joe Rudd's legal legacy lives within the firm he co-founded in 1961. Guess & Rudd P.C. now employs 18 lawyers in Anchorage and two lawyers in Fairbanks (both of whom are shareholders of the firm)—and the practice of natural resources law for mining clients, oil and gas clients, and Native corporations remains a significant part of the firm's practice. More important than any firm, however, are the more subtle places where Joe's legacy remains with us today—such places as in the language of the state mining law, in the projects that came to pass as a result in part of his good counsel, and in the wise, judicious, and craftsman-like manner in which he practiced law and mentored others in the practice of law. That legacy endures today.

**Sources:**
1. Papers of Joseph Rudd (part of the Joseph and Lisa Rudd Collection), Archives and Manuscripts Department, University of Alaska-Anchorage.
3. Publications and records of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation
4. Correspondence of Lisa Rudd (courtesy of Alison Rudd Lausten).
5. *Anchorage Daily News and Anchorage Times*, December 5-10, 1978

Joe Rudd sailing on Kachemak Bay, circa 1970's. Photo from Alison Rudd Lausten.
AN HONOR ROLL:

Attorneys Prominent in Alaska Mining History


John A. Clark (1876-1931). Arrived in Fairbanks 1906; practiced law with Thomas A. MacGowan. Clark was a historian of early day Fairbanks. (In Sourdough Sagas, Heller, editor).

Orville D. Cochran (1871-1948). J.D. Oregon 1898, N 1900-1948; corporate attorney for Hammon Consolidated Goldfields (merged with USSR&M); territorial House and Senate.

William Colby. Admitted to bar in California. Associate and protégé of Curtis Lindley, Board of Directors of the Alaska Juneau Mining Company.

E. B. Collins (1873-1967). Miner in Fairbanks 1904-1918; read law; Territorial House and Senate; Mayor of Fairbanks; Constitutional delegate.

John C. Corson (1881-1916). Read law Nome in 1900, later attorney for Guggenheim interests.


Alfred J. Daly (1873-1912). Read law. Private attorney Nome and Iditarod; successful part-time placer miner. Democrat National Committee.


Luther C. Hess (1865-?). Stampeded to the Klondike 1898, admitted to bar in Alaska 1901. US Dist. Attorney Fairbanks, 1902-05, later Territorial representative.

Oliver Perry Hubbard (1857-1948). Law Degree, Georgetown University., came to Alaska as a railroad promoter. Nome gold rush in 1899 where he practiced law until 1901. Hubbard and partner represented the claim jumpers at Nome, and traveled to Great Britain, New York, and Washington, D.C. winter of 1899-1900 to obtain buyers for jumped claims. Obtained the interest of Alexander McKenzie, who then became the mastermind of the Nome gold conspiracy.


Samuel Knight (1863-1943). Admitted to bar, California. Represented Charles Lane and Lane’s Wild Goose Mining Company in Nome conspiracy in 1900-01. Worked with Metson of Pioneer Mining with submissions to Appeals Court Judge William Morrow in San Francisco to outmaneuver Judge Arthur Noyes. Later prominent environmental attorney in California.


William H. Metson (1864-?). Graduated from Hastings Law School, University of California. In Nome, Metson represented the Pioneer Mining Company (The “Lucky Swedes”) with Samuel Knight in forestalling the Nome gold conspiracy of Noyes-McKenzie. President of the Miocene Ditch Company in Nome.

James J. Mulalley (1879-1933). To Fairbanks in 1907 where he was a miner, businessman, and attorney.


Joseph H. Murray (1877-1944). Admitted to NY bar 1900; miner-attorney near McCarthy 1903-1926; private law practice Cordova.


JOE RUDD (1933-1978). See article, this issue


WILLIAM SULZER (1863-1941). See article, this issue.


Principal Sources


Distinguished Alaskans Aid Foundation as ‘98ers

The Alaska Mining Hall of Fame Foundation was incorporated as an Alaskan non-profit corporation on April 27, 1997. The Foundation was organized exclusively for educational and charitable purposes, including donations to organizations that are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal tax code. On September 17, 2003, the IRS confirmed the 501(c)(3) status of AMHF, and further categorized the organization under codes 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(6).

The foundation is a non-membership corporation that depends on services provided by its officers and directors, others interested in Alaskan mining, and on donations and grants.

The Foundation is especially indebted to fifteen persons who have each contributed $1,000 to become 98ers, in honor of the first stampeded to Alaska in 1898 at Nome.

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Earl Beistline
Thomas K. Bundtzen
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Douglas Colp
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Walter Johnson
Wallace McGregor
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William Stroecker
Robert H. Trent
Mitch Usibelli
Joe Usibelli, Sr.
William R. Wood*

*deceased

Most of the 98ers are recognizable as miners of national or international reputation. The late William R. Wood was President, Emeritus, of the University of Alaska. Dr. Wood suggested the organization of the Foundation. The late Elmer E. Rasmuson was an Alaska banker and benefactor, long interested in Alaska natural resource history. Dr. Walter Johnson knew many pioneer Alaskans. His research has taken him to Sweden and Norway in search of the true story of the so-called “three Lucky Swedes” of fame at Nome.

The Foundation is seeking about ninety more 98ers, but it welcomes contributions at every level. For further information contact:

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1212 N. Washington, Ste 12
Spokane, WA 99201
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