

**Alaska Judicial Council  
Performance Evaluation for:**

**Judge J. Patrick Hanley  
Anchorage District Court**

The Alaska Judicial Council finds Judge Hanley met or exceeded performance standards, and recommends a **“YES”** vote for another term in office

Judge Hanley was appointed to the Anchorage District Court in January of 2005. This is his fourth retention evaluation. Judge Hanley handles criminal and civil cases.

**Performance Summary:**

After conducting its performance review, the Judicial Council determined that Judge Hanley met or exceeded performance standards on all criteria, including legal ability, integrity, impartiality/fairness, temperament, diligence, and administrative skills.

The Council also determined that Judge Hanley met or exceeded educational requirements set by the Alaska Supreme Court.

Because Judge Hanley met or exceeded all performance and professional development standards, the Alaska Judicial Council recommends a “yes” vote on retention in office.

**Performance Findings:**

The Council conducts a thorough performance review of each judge standing for retention. Key findings for Judge Hanley include:

- **Ratings by justice system professionals:** Attorneys and law enforcement officers who appeared before Judge Hanley gave him exceptionally good reviews, as did court employees.
- **Ratings by jurors:** Jurors who served in trials before Judge Hanley during 2018 and 2019 rated him 4.9 overall on a five-point scale. One juror commented, “I felt like the judge did an amazing job of explaining part of the process and what our job as the jury was in each of those steps.”
- **Professional activities:** The Council’s review of Judge Hanley’s professional activities showed significant contributions to his community and to the administration of justice. Judge Hanley served as Chair of the court system’s Criminal Rules Committee, and as a member of the Access to Justice Committee, a group that address the array of justice needs Alaskans face. He is a Training Judge for magistrate judges. He has conducted educational

sessions for school children in his courtroom, and was a member of the Color of Justice, a program that encourages diverse youth from throughout the state to consider legal and judicial careers. He served for a little over a year as a temporary judge for the Alaska Court of Appeals when that court needed extra help.

- **Other performance indicators:** The Council's review of other performance indicators, including Judge Hanley's financial and conflict of interest statements, disqualifications from cases, and appellate reversal rates, raised no performance concerns.
- **Timeliness:** Alaska law requires judges' pay be withheld if a decision is pending longer than six months. The Council verified that Judge Hanley was paid on schedule, and he certified that he had no untimely decisions.
- **Ethics:** There were no public disciplinary proceedings against Judge Hanley, and the Council's review found no ethical concerns.

### **Documents:**

- [Judge Hanley's Judge Questionnaire](#)
- [Judge Hanley's Attorney Survey Ratings](#)
- [Judge Hanley's Peace and Probation Officer Survey Ratings](#)
- [Judge Hanley's Court Employee Survey Ratings](#)
- [Juror Survey Memo](#)
- [Peremptory Challenges Memo](#)
- [Recusal Records Memo](#)



Print Questionnaire

# alaska judicial council

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## Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

### 2020 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 2019

J. Patrick Hanley

Name

Anchorage District Court

Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

a) 35 % civil cases

b) 4 # of jury trials/year

60 % criminal cases

14 # of non-jury trials/year

5 % court administrative work

0 # of administrative appeals/year

100 % Total

2. Please describe your participation on court/bar committees or other administrative activities during your current term of office.

I am the chairperson of the Criminal Rules Committee.

I serve on the Access to Justice Committee, which focuses on removing barriers to justice and helping Alaskans without the funds for an attorney to meet their legal needs.

I also serve on the Anchorage court security committee, which addresses security concerns and strives to create a safe environment for court users and court staff.

I am also a training judge and supervise two magistrate judges in the third judicial district -- one in Kenai and one in Kodiak.

3. Please describe any judicial or legal education you have undertaken or provided during your current term in office.

I participate in the annual judicial conference hosted by the Alaska Court System.

In 2018 I attended the Advanced Evidence course at the National Judicial College.

In October 2019 I participated in a course in Anchorage which taught judges how to coach and mentor magistrate judges.

I have made numerous presentations at the annual judicial conference. In 2019 I had a trial where a grandfather was charged with abusing his grandchild. The prosecutor asked to allow a dog from Crisis Response Canines appear in court to assist the nine-year-old victim. After researching the law and considering argument, I allowed it, with precautions. As a result, Justice Stowers asked me to make a presentation at the October 2019 judicial conference. I presented legal research on the topic and had the golden retriever Alix appear with her handler, who answered questions of the judges.

At the April 2019 magistrate judges' conference I co-presented a session on "small claims for small communities" with retired magistrate judge Tracy Blais. At that same conference I also co-hosted an Evidence Cranium session with Judges Dickson and Zwink, which is a game format of difficult evidentiary issues.

At the January 2019 newer judges' conference I made a presentation on the law and gave practice tips on handling cases with self-represented litigants. I have made that presentation several times after attending a course on that topic at the National Judicial College.

I made a presentation at the 2018 newer judges' conference on how to avoid plain error, which I presented at an earlier fall judicial conference.

I have presented at multiple other conferences, which I hope helps other judges and I know makes me a stronger judge.

4. Please describe any public outreach activities.

I have hosted several groups of students on school tours. As part of this, I have created a few exercises to engage them. One is a "burdens of proof" exercise where I explain the burdens of proof that must be established to justify different legal actions. I then have the students get up and work with each other to match the burdens and legal actions.

I also have a witness activity for the students. I place several items around the courtroom and have two participants enter the courtroom, have a conversation, place items into bags, and leave. Then, one student acts as a witness and the other as an attorney. They attorney tries to establish facts by questioning the witness about what was taken, what the participants said and wore, etc.

I have also acted as a judge for the Color of Justice program where I teach and guide the student judges.

5. Please assess, in one or two paragraphs, your judicial performance during your present term. Appropriate areas of comment could include: satisfaction with your judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of law, increases in legal knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of judicial abilities that you believe to be important.

I have enjoyed my time as a district court judge in Anchorage and look forward to going to work every day. The district court is a high-volume court where we handle the same type of cases repeatedly. While this could lead to "burn out," I have found that the essence of my job is not dealing with cases but with people. Each person comes to court with different life experiences, challenges, and strengths. Each hearing is extremely important to the individual participants and provides an opportunity for them to reflect on the choices they have made, how their actions impacted others, and how to make improvements in their lives. It is rewarding to be a part of that process.

I have attended courses at the National Judicial College including general jurisdiction, self-represented litigants, fairness and security, and advanced evidence. A significant number of litigants cannot afford to hire attorneys and represent themselves. I appreciate the position they are in and, through experience and the Judicial College course, have learned to adjust my practices to accommodate self-represented litigants while still honoring the rules of court and due process.

I have made several presentations to my fellow judges and magistrate judges at judicial conferences on a variety of topics, including self-represented litigants (applying concepts I learned at the Judicial College and integrating Alaska law), landlord/tenant matters, hearsay after the United States Supreme Court decision in Crawford v. Washington, plain error after the Alaska Supreme Court's decision in Moreno/Hicks v. State and related cases, and service animals in the courthouse. Making presentations enhances my knowledge of the law and judicial skills, and helping other judges understand and apply these areas of the law has been rewarding for me.

From the end of October 2013 for a little over a year I served as a pro tem judge on the Alaska Court of Appeals. This was followed by a period of about six months of part-time work on the court to a significant extent while transitioning back to the District Court. Serving on the Court of Appeals was both challenging and rewarding. My knowledge of Alaska law grew and my writing skills developed as a result. Having served on the court has made me a stronger trial judge.

6. During your most recent term as a judge, have you:
- a) had a tax lien filed or other collection procedure instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities?  Yes  No
  - b) been involved in a non-judicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise?  Yes  No
  - c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)?  Yes  No
  - d) held office in any political party?  Yes  No
  - e) held any other local, state or federal office?  Yes  No
  - f) had any complaints, charges or grievances filed against you with the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Alaska Bar Association, the Alaska Court System, or any other agency that resulted in public proceedings or sanctions?  
 Yes  No

7. If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers and outcomes.

In August of 2018 my wife and kids and I were visiting my wife's family in Michigan. I was towing our two kids on a tube in a lake behind a boat. All of us were wearing life jackets and I was watching them carefully. I was pulled over by two officers on jet skis and told that it was required in Michigan to have an observer on board. I was not aware of this and told the officer this but accepted responsibility. When he found out I was from out of state, he said he would have given me an educational warning, but since he had started writing the ticket he had to issue it. I explained my circumstances in the response to the ticket and the court reduced the fine from \$115 to \$90. As I explained to the court, I understand the law in Michigan and the importance of following it and have complied ever since then.

8. Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2020 retention elections.

The average of 14 non-jury trials includes small claims trials.

For questions 9 - 12, please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

- 9. Please list your three most recent jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-19-1397CR  
 v. Arthur Gray

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Angela Garay	Name: Nathan Lockwood
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: 900 W. 5th Avenue, Ste. 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-19-3058CR  
 v. Saye Gatei

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Travers Gee	Name: Igor Herbey
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: 750 W. 2nd Ave. Ste. 104
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-19-5712CR  
 v. Karl Thomas

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Angela Garay	Name: Cynthia Franklin
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: 1503 W. 31st Ave., Ste. 202F
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

10. Please list your three most recent non-jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-19-5422CR  
v. Gary Graffeo

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Dustin Pearson	Name: _____
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** Parry **Case Number:** 3AN-19-1058SC  
v. Zaki

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** Vent **Case Number:** 3AN-19-881SC  
v. Nova Property Management

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 11. Please list your three most recent cases, including case names and numbers, which did not go to trial, but on which you did significant work (such as settlement conference, hearings, motion work, etc.). Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-17-2751CR  
 v. Bradley Snowden

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Sarah Stanley	Name: Hank Graper
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: 750 W. 2nd Ave., Ste. 104
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** State of Alaska **Case Number:** 3AN-17-9400CR  
 v. Naila Halilic

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Charles Agerter	Name: Josh Fink
Address: 310 "K" Street, Ste. 601	Address: 750 W. 2nd Ave., Ste. 210
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-17-10253CR  
 v. Timothy Mason, Jr.

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Sarah Stanley	Name: Andrew Dunmire
Address: 632 W. 6th Ave., Ste. 210	Address: P. O. Box 110216
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501	City, State, Zip: Juneau, AK 99811
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 12. *Optional:* If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list up to three other cases during your past term in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**v.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**v.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Case Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**v.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Table 39**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents - Bar Association Members**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Judge</b>		
Direct professional experience	152	85.4
Professional reputation	15	8.4
Other personal contacts	11	6.2
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	136	91.3
Substantial amount of experience	56	36.8
Moderate amount of experience	63	41.4
Limited amount of experience	33	21.7
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	2	1.1
Private, solo	31	17.4
Private, 2-5 attorneys	16	9.0
Private, 6+ attorneys	18	10.1
Private, corporate employee	4	2.2
Judge or judicial officer	35	19.7
Government	54	30.3
Public service agency or organization	4	2.2
Retired	12	6.7
Other	2	1.1
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	1	0.6
5 years or fewer	12	6.7
6 to 10 years	24	13.5
11 to 15 years	15	8.4
16 to 20 years	23	12.9
More than 20 years	103	57.9
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	2	1.1
Prosecution	18	10.1
Criminal	21	11.8
Mixed criminal & civil	65	36.5
Civil	65	36.5
Other	7	3.9
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	2	1.1
First District	6	3.4
Second District	-	-
Third District	161	90.4
Fourth District	7	3.9
Outside Alaska	2	1.1
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	2	1.1
Male	117	65.7
Female	59	33.1

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the judge.

**Table 40**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Detailed Responses - Bar Association Members**

	<i>n</i>	Legal Ability <i>M</i>	Impartiality/ Fairness <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Diligence <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	178	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Experience within last 5 years	136	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8
Experience not within last 5 years	13	4.5	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Substantial amount of experience	56	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Moderate amount of experience	63	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7
Limited amount of experience	33	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.9
Professional reputation	15	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5
Other personal contacts	11	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	28	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8
Private, 2-5 attorneys	13	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7
Private, 6+ attorneys	11	4.7	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.9
Private, corporate employee	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Judge or judicial officer	34	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.9
Government	46	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6
Public service agency or organization	3	4.3	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7
Retired	11	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.5
Other	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	11	4.1	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
6 to 10 years	23	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8
11 to 15 years	13	4.6	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.5	4.8
16 to 20 years	17	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9
More than 20 years	87	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	16	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.4
Criminal	19	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Mixed criminal & civil	60	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8
Civil	50	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8
Other	5	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.0	4.6	4.8
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	4	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Second District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Third District	139	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Fourth District	6	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3
Outside Alaska	1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	101	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7
Female	49	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the judge.

**Table 24:**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Description of Respondents' Experiences - Peace and Probation Officers**

	<i>n</i>	%
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Experience with Judge</b>		
Direct professional experience	36	94.7
Professional reputation	2	5.3
Other personal contacts	-	-
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	33	94.3
Substantial amount of experience	9	25.0
Moderate amount of experience	19	52.8
Limited amount of experience	8	22.2

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the judge.

**Table 25:**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Detailed Responses - Peace and Probation Officers**

	<i>n</i>	<b>Impartiality/ Fairness</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Integrity</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Judicial Temperament</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Diligence</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Overall</b> <i>M</i>
All respondents	38	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>						
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Experience within last 5 years	33	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9
Experience not within last 5 years	2	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.0	4.0
Substantial amount of experience	9	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0
Moderate amount of experience	19	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8
Limited amount of experience	8	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6
Professional reputation	2	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Other personal contacts	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the judge.

**Table 33**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Description of Respondents' Experience - Court Employees**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Judge</b>		
Direct professional experience	25	83.3
Professional reputation	2	6.7
Other personal contacts	3	10.0
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	25	100
Substantial amount of experience	6	24.0
Moderate amount of experience	15	60.0
Limited amount of experience	4	16.0

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the judge.

**Table 34**  
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
**Detailed Responses - Court Employees**

	<i>n</i>	<b>Impartiality/ Fairness</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Integrity</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Judicial Temperament</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Diligence</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Overall</b> <i>M</i>
All respondents	30	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>						
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Experience within last 5 years	25	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9
Experience not within last 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-
Substantial amount of experience	6	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Moderate amount of experience	15	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Limited amount of experience	4	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Professional reputation	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Other personal contacts	3	4.3	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.7



# alaska judicial council

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Judicial Council  
**FROM:** Staff  
**DATE:** March 17, 2020  
**RE:** Juror Survey Report

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The Alaska Judicial Council surveyed all jurors who sat in trials during 2018 and 2019. The jurors sat before all of the 20 trial court judges eligible to stand for retention in 2020. A total of 754 jurors responded on Council-provided postcards that judges distributed to jurors at the end of each trial (see attached Juror Survey Card Example). Jurors completed the surveys on the postage-paid cards and mailed them to the Council.

Council staff entered the data from the surveys and ran basic descriptive statistics. This memorandum summarizes the findings. It is distributed to Council members and judges, and posted on the Council's website.

Table 1 shows the distribution of jurors by type of trial reported for each judge. Some jurors only wrote comments and did not rate the judge on the specific variables. Thus, there may be more respondents shown on Table 1 than appear on the judges' individual tables.

<b>Table 1: Distribution of Jurors by Type of Trial, by Judge</b> Alaska Judicial Council 2020 Retention Juror Survey				
<b>Judge</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>No Answer</b>	<b>Total</b>
Christian, Matthew	0	34	0	34
Crosby, Dani	19	0	1	20
DiBenedetto, Romano D.	0	26	2	28
Dickson, Leslie N.	3	72	5	80
Franciosi, Michael	1	46	1	48
Guidi, Andrew	25	29	7	61
Hanley, J. Patrick	4	38	5	47
Henderson, Jennifer	29	3	0	32
Lamoureux, Yvonne	15	12	0	27
Logue, Michael	0	30	1	31
McCrea, Kari	0	28	3	31
Miller, Gregory	1	0	0	1
Montgomery, Will	3	64	14	81
Peters, Nathaniel	1	21	12	34
Reigh, Christina	0	43	3	46
Roetman, Paul A.	4	5	0	9
Wallace, David	1	35	2	38
Washington, Pamela S.	1	37	3	41
Wells, Jennifer	0	39	9	48
Woodman, Jonathan	0	16	1	17

Table 2 shows the distribution of number of days served, as reported by the jurors. Seventy-three percent of the jurors served fewer than five days.

<b>Table 2: Distribution of Days Served</b> Alaska Judicial Council 2020 Retention Juror Survey		
<b>Number of Days Served</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>
1 - 2 Days	20	152
3 - 4 Days	53	397
5 - 7 Days	15	114
8 - 10 Days	6	46
11 - 20 Days	2	11
21 or More Days	0	1
No Answer	4	33
Total		754



Juror Survey Results 2020  
Retention Evaluation  
**Hanley, J. Patrick**

<b>Survey Category</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Poor (1)</b>	<b>Deficient (2)</b>	<b>Acceptable (3)</b>	<b>Good (4)</b>	<b>Excellent (5)</b>	<b>Total Responses</b>
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	3	44	47
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	1	46	47
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	3	44	47
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	6	41	47
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	4	43	47
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	5	42	47



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Judicial Council  
**FROM:** Staff  
**DATE:** July 15, 2020  
**RE:** Peremptory Challenges of Judges Eligible for Retention in 2020

---

### **I. Introduction**

In Alaska, a defendant has a right to a fair trial before an unbiased judge and the right to preempt a judge without proving bias or interest.<sup>1</sup> Two different authorities govern the challenge right. The legislature created the substantive right and defines its scope by statute.<sup>2</sup> The court regulates peremptory challenge procedures by court rules.<sup>3</sup> In general, each side in a case gets one peremptory challenge.<sup>4</sup>

This memo examines peremptory challenge records for judges who are eligible to stand for retention in November 2020. The tables display civil and criminal case challenges for each judge, by year. Because superior court judges' terms are six years, a six-year period is examined for them. Because district court judges' terms are four years, a four-year period is examined for them. Parties have no right to challenge an appellate judge, so those judges are not discussed.

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<sup>1</sup>See *Gieffels v. State*, 552 P.2d 661 (Alaska 1976).

<sup>2</sup>See *id.*; AS 22.20.020.

<sup>3</sup>See Alaska R. Crim. P. 25(d); Alaska R. Civ. P. 42(c).

<sup>4</sup>See *id.*

## **II. Context for evaluating peremptory challenge data**

Although the peremptory challenge provisions were designed to ensure each litigant's right to a hearing by a fair and impartial judge, in practice many factors prompt litigants or attorneys to challenge judges. Some parties might challenge a judge because they perceive the judge to be unfair in a certain type of case, while others might challenge a judge because they perceive the judge to be "too fair," and hope their case will be reassigned to a judge who they perceive as being more favorable to their case. Such a scenario can be especially relevant in smaller judicial districts and communities, where attorneys often can predict which other judge will receive the reassigned case. Other reasons parties might challenge judges include unfamiliarity with a new judge or seeking to avoid the demands of a judge who insists on high standards of practice or timeliness. Sometimes an attorney will use a peremptory challenge with the hope that a change of judge will result in additional time to prepare the case.

The Alaska Court System provides the Council with data regarding "disqualifications." The data are categorized into disqualifications brought in criminal cases by defense attorneys or prosecutors, those brought in civil cases by plaintiffs or defendants, and those initiated by the judges themselves. Judge-initiated disqualifications are discussed in a separate memorandum. Children's delinquency cases are included among criminal cases in this analysis because that is how they are accounted for in the court's case management system. Child in Need of Aid cases are included in the civil category.

Please note that in Child in Need of Aid cases, guardians ad litem and parents have the right to preempt the judge. These are noted as "other" on the following charts. Please also note that a CINA "case" that a judge may handle may include several consolidated cases because each child in a family is assigned a different case number. So if a judge receives a peremptory challenge in a consolidated CINA case, challenges are recorded for each individual child's case, magnifying the effect of challenges in CINA cases.

One system was used for compiling the disqualification data. Over the past fourteen years, the court has instituted a computerized case management system (CourtView) that has facilitated the collection and reporting of more detailed and accurate data for all court locations in the state. All of the CourtView data were compiled and reported by the Alaska Court System to the Alaska Judicial Council.

Care must be taken when comparing judges because they have different caseloads. Judges with higher-volume caseloads generally will have more peremptory challenges than those with lower-volume caseloads. Presiding judges sometimes ease one court's heavy caseload by assigning cases to judges from other venues within their judicial district, and to *pro tem* judges. Moreover, superior courts with heavy caseloads may ease their burden somewhat by assigning the bulk of a case to masters and/or magistrates. Similarly, district court judges may have very different caseloads. Cases may be handled by magistrates as well as by district court judges. The court system's caseload data do not reflect when a judge regularly travels to another community

to hear cases. Finally, consideration must be taken of judges who handle predominately criminal or predominately civil caseloads, as superior court judges in Anchorage do, versus those judges who handle all cases.

Parties who have not previously exercised their right of peremptory challenge may challenge a judge when one is newly assigned midstream, as if their case had been newly filed. Consequently, challenges often increase when a judge is assigned to a different caseload (e.g., from civil to criminal). Challenges also often occur when a new judge is appointed because those judges are newly assigned to existing cases and because that judge is “unknown” and thus less predictable. Another factor to consider is that some communities have only one or two assistant district attorneys or assistant public defenders. If an assistant DA or PD perceives a reason to categorically challenge a particular judge, that judge’s criminal peremptory challenge rate will be high, even though just one or two attorneys might be responsible for virtually all of that judge’s challenges. This may also occur in high-volume civil cases that involve only a few public attorneys, such as in Child in Need of Aid practice.

Care must also be taken when comparing judges across judicial districts. In 1995, the Anchorage Superior Court consolidated into civil and criminal divisions. Since then, all civil cases (including domestic relations, Child in Need of Aid, and domestic violence protective order cases) have been assigned equally to each of the Anchorage Superior Court judges in the civil division. Criminal division judges handle criminal and child delinquency cases, but do not routinely handle domestic cases. For this reason, it may be misleading to compare the peremptory challenges of a superior court judge in Anchorage with the rate of a superior court judge in another judicial district. Also, some judges in some judicial districts currently handle the therapeutic courts, such as Wellness Court. The impact of those caseloads on a judge’s challenge rate is unknown.

Because so many factors may potentially affect the number of peremptory challenges filed, these numbers should only be used as a signal of a potential issue with a judge. Once a high number of challenges is identified from the table, please refer to the explanatory text on the following pages which gives context for the judge’s caseload and potential factors which may have affected his or her challenge rates.

Blank spaces in the tables represent years that preceded the judge’s appointment to his or her current position. “Other” signifies a parent, or guardian ad litem in a Child in Need of Aid case.

III. Peremptory Challenge Records - Superior Court Judges

Peremptory Challenges of Judges - Superior Court																	
Judicial District	Judge	Party	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		Summary		
			Civil	Criminal	Total	Mean*	Median*										
Second	DiBenedetto, Romano D	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	1	1	1	0	2	21	7	5
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	0	0	1	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	0	0	0	2	0			
	Roetman, Paul A	Defendant	0	1	1	3	0	9	0	5	0	0	0	0	32	5.3	5
		Plaintiff	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	3	0			
		Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0			
<b>Summary</b>															<b>53</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5</b>
Third	Crosby, Dani R	Defendant	.	.	0	0	5	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	28	5.6	6
		Plaintiff	.	.	3	0	4	0	5	0	0	0	3	0			
		Other	.	.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
	Guidi, Andrew	Defendant	6	0	2	0	2	0	6	1	9	0	31	1	157	26.2	21
		Plaintiff	7	0	11	0	14	0	23	0	16	0	22	0			
		Other	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0			
	Henderson, Jennifer S	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	3	0	0	0	28	9.3	10
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	0	3	0	4	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	8	0	0	0			
	Lamoureux, Yvonne	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	0	2	0	1	0	21	7	9
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	1	0	2	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	6	0	0	0			
	Miller, Gregory A	Defendant	7	0	3	0	8	1	4	1	11	0	13	0	106	17.7	18
		Plaintiff	4	0	0	0	10	1	9	0	10	0	7	7			
		Other	3	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0			
	Reigh, Christina L	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	0	1	2	0	9	3	2
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	0	0	0	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	0	0	0	0	0			
	Wells, Jennifer K	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	1	3	0	5	3	38	12.7	11
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	3	1	2	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	0	4	0	0	0			
Woodman, Jonathan A	Defendant	.	.	.	.	1	0	1	1	2	3	6	6	37	9.2	8	
	Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	0	0	1	0	3	0	8	0				
	Other	.	.	.	.	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0				
<b>Summary</b>															<b>424</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>10</b>
Fourth	Peters, Nathaniel	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	22	1	5	3	6	37	12.3	9
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0			
		Other	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>All</b>	<b>Summary</b>														<b>514</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>9</b>

. = No value

Defendant = defendant in both criminal and civil cases

\* Mean and median unit of analysis is judge/year

Plaintiff = plaintiff in civil cases and prosecutor in criminal cases

Other = Judge Disqualified for Cause; Peremptory Disqualification by Father/Mother/GAL/State

**Overall:** The average number of peremptory challenges for the superior court judges on the ballot for 2020 was 11.4 per year. The number of peremptory challenges averaged over the last five election cycles was 27.8 (2010-2018). Since 2006, average numbers of peremptory

challenges for judges eligible for retention have ranged from a low of 11.4 (2020) to a high of 36 (2006 and 2008). The peremptory challenge average was 14.4 in 2018.

**First Judicial District:** No judges are eligible for retention in the First Judicial District in 2020.

**Second Judicial District:** None of the superior court judges in the Second Judicial District received unusually high numbers of peremptory challenges. Judge DiBenedetto and Judge Roetman received low averages of 7 and 5.3, respectively.

**Third Judicial District:** None of the superior court judges in the Third Judicial District received unusually high numbers of peremptory challenges. Although the number of challenges Judge Guidi received was higher than that received by other judges in this particular group, the number was not unusual when compared to judges' averages over the last ten years.

**Fourth Judicial District:** None of the superior court judges in the Fourth Judicial District received unusually high numbers of peremptory challenges.

**IV. Peremptory Challenge Records - District Court Judges**

Peremptory Challenges of Judges - District Court													
Judicial District	Judge	Party	2016		2017		2018		2019		Summary		
			Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Total	Mean*	Median*
Third	Dickson, Leslie N	Defendant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2.2	1.5
		Plaintiff	1	0	3	3	1	1	0	0			
	Franciosi, Michael J	Defendant	.	.	0	0	0	1	1	0	6	2	2
		Plaintiff	.	.	0	0	1	2	0	1			
	Hanley, J Patrick	Defendant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1.8	1
		Plaintiff	0	5	0	1	0	1	0	0			
	Logue, Michael B	Defendant	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	9	4.5	4.5
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	0	2	1	6			
	McCrea, Kari L	Defendant	.	.	0	0	1	0	0	0	18	6	7
		Plaintiff	.	.	0	0	0	10	0	7			
Wallace, David R	Defendant	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	1	
	Plaintiff	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0				
Washington, Pamela S	Defendant	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	2	6	6	6	
	Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1				
<b>Summary</b>											<b>59</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2</b>
Fourth	Christian, Matthew C	Defendant	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	4.8	3
		Plaintiff	0	12	0	5	0	0	0	0			
	Montgomery, William T	Defendant	.	.	.	.	0	4	0	3	7	3.5	3.5
		Plaintiff	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0			
<b>Summary</b>											<b>26</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>Summary</b>										<b>85</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2</b>

. = No value

Defendant = defendant in both criminal and civil cases

\* Mean and median unit of analysis is judge/year

Plaintiff = plaintiff in civil cases and prosecutor in criminal cases

**Overall:** The mean number of peremptory challenges for a district court judge appearing on the ballot in 2020 was 3.1. This mean was much lower than in 2018 when the average was skewed upward largely due to one judge's numbers to 34.9.

**First Judicial District:** No district court judges in the First Judicial District are eligible for retention in 2020.

**Second Judicial District:** The Second Judicial District has no district court judges.

**Third Judicial District:** District court judges in the Third Judicial District received an average of 2.8 peremptory challenges per year. Judge Washington has no data from 2016 to 2018 because she served temporarily on the Anchorage Superior Court during that time. She received only six challenges during the year she served on the Anchorage District Court, the court to which she was appointed.

**Fourth Judicial District:** The two district court judges from the Fourth Judicial District eligible for retention received very few challenges. Judge Christian received an average of 4.8 challenges per year and Judge Montgomery received an average of 3.5 challenges per year.



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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Judicial Council  
**FROM:** Staff  
**DATE:** July 15, 2020  
**RE:** Recusal Records of Judges Eligible for Retention in 2020

---

### **I. Introduction**

One tool that the Judicial Council uses for evaluating judges is a judge's record of self-disqualification from cases, or "recusals." Judges are required to disclose potential reasons for disqualification and then step down from cases when there is a conflict. If a judge's activities prevent him or her from sitting on an inordinate number of cases, however, that judge may not be as effective as other judges in handling his or her caseload. This memo examines recusal records of those judges who are eligible for retention in 2020.

### **II. Context for interpreting recusal data**

Alaska Statute 22.20.020 sets forth the matters in which a judge may not participate. Judges may not act in matters: when the judge is a party; when the judge is related to a party or an attorney; when the judge is a material witness; when the judge or a member of the judge's family has a direct financial interest; when one of the parties has recently been represented by the judge or the judge's former law firm; or when the judge for any reason feels that a fair and impartial decision cannot be given. Judicial officers must disclose any reason for possible disqualification at the beginning of a matter.

Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 3E presents even broader bases for recusal. The canon states that a judge is disqualified whenever the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. The rule also requires a judge to disclose on the record any information that the parties or their lawyers might consider relevant to the question of disqualification, even if the judge believes there is no real basis for disqualification. The canon provides examples, including instances when the judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or an attorney, the judge has personal knowledge of the disputed facts, the judge or the judge's former law partner served as a lawyer in the matter in controversy, or when the judge knows that he or she, or the judge's spouse, parent, or child has an economic or other interest in the matter, or is likely to be a material witness in the proceeding.

Canon 4 requires judges to conduct their extra-judicial activities so as to comply with the requirements of the Code and so that the activities do not cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge, demean the judicial office, or interfere with the proper performance of judicial duties. Canon 4 restricts a judge's activities so as to minimize the instances that would require disqualification.

Conflicts and resulting disqualifications are unavoidable. Judges must recuse themselves when conflicts arise. Recusals do not necessarily indicate that a judge has failed to sufficiently regulate his or her extra-judicial activities. Only very high disqualification rates should trigger an inquiry about whether a judge is comporting him or herself so as to perform his or her judicial duties effectively.

The following tables list the number of instances each judge recused him or herself in the preceding six (for superior court judges) and four (for district court judges) years. Blank cells indicate that the judge had not yet been appointed to his or her current position.

### III. Recusal Records - Superior Court Judges

Judge Recusals - Superior Court																
Judicial District	Judge	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		Summary		
		Civil	Criminal	Total	Mean*	Median*										
Second	DiBenedetto, Romano D	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Roetman, Paul A	2	0	1	1	7	1	12	0	5	0	11	0	40	6.7	6.5
	<b>Summary</b>													<b>40</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>2</b>
Third	Crosby, Dani R	.	.	1	0	18	0	26	0	11	0	8	0	64	12.8	11
	Guidi, Andrew	6	0	3	0	11	0	6	0	6	0	3	0	35	5.8	6
	Henderson, Jennifer S	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	0	4	0	8	0	18	6	6
	Lamoureux, Yvonne	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0	1	0	2	0	4	1.3	1
	Miller, Gregory A	6	0	8	0	6	0	5	3	3	0	2	0	33	5.5	6
	Reigh, Christina L	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	0	0	2	5	1.7	2
	Wells, Jennifer K	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	0	3	0	5	0	13	4.3	5
	Woodman, Jonathan A	.	.	.	.	3	1	1	1	5	0	6	3	20	5	4.5
<b>Summary</b>													<b>192</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5</b>	
Fourth	Peters, Nathaniel	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	2	2	0	2	6	2	2
<b>All</b>	<b>Summary</b>													<b>238</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4</b>

. = No value

\* Mean and median unit of analysis is judge/year

The recusal rates for superior court judges eligible for retention election in 2020 are unremarkable. The judge with the highest number of recusals (though still low) was Judge Crosby, who averaged 12.8 recusals per year. Most of these came in her first two years on the bench, with declining numbers afterwards. Judge Crosby had previously been in private practice in Anchorage, and her numbers likely reflect her previous activity as a practicing lawyer.

**IV. Recusal Records - District Court Judges**

Judge Recusals - District Court												
Judicial District	Judge	2016		2017		2018		2019		Summary		
		Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Total	Mean*	Median*
Third	Dickson, Leslie N	4	0	2	0	2	0	2	0	10	2.5	2
	Franciosi, Michael J	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hanley, J Patrick	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.5	0.5
	Logue, Michael B	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	McCrea, Kari L	.	.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.3	0
	Wallace, David R	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2	0
	Washington, Pamela S	3	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	11	2.8	3
	<b>Summary</b>									<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Fourth	Christian, Matthew C	3	0	1	4	1	0	4	0	13	3.2	3.5
	Montgomery, William T	.	.	.	.	1	25	0	9	35	17.5	17.5
		<b>Summary</b>								<b>48</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4.5</b>
All	<b>Summary</b>									<b>73</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1</b>

. = No value

\* Mean and median unit of analysis is judge/year

District court judges typically recuse themselves infrequently. The recusal data for all district court judges standing for retention in 2020 was unremarkable.