

COURTWATCH

THE BALANCE IS UP TO YOU



2000 CourtWatch Report

March 1998 - March 2000

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DEDICATION

After the murder of their family, Sharon Nahorney and Janice Lienhart founded Victims for Justice. In February of 1987 they filed Articles of Incorporation in the State of Alaska as a non-profit organization and in 1988 the CourtWatch program was implemented in Anchorage as a service of Victims for Justice.

The establishment of the CourtWatch program was suggested in the 1984 Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Crime Commission Report and the Alaska Judicial Council also indicated its support for the project.

Over the years, since its inception, CourtWatch has developed into a well-respected organization due to the diligence and personal sacrifice of Sharon and Janice. They both have devoted a great deal of their time and energy to the program. The people they have assisted over the years, through both organizations, number in the hundreds. Kindness and compassion have been their watchwords. They somehow had the ability to turn a most tragic event into something positive for so many Alaskan people.

Sharon, as co-founder of Victims for Justice and Director of CourtWatch and Janice as co-founder of Victims for Justice, have recently retired from their positions with the organizations. As they pursue other fields of endeavor, they take with them the gratitude of all of us who have been privileged to know them, learn from them and serve with them. We thank them both for a job well done and dedicate this, the seventh CourtWatch Biennial Report, to them.

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* 2000 Judicial Retention Candidates

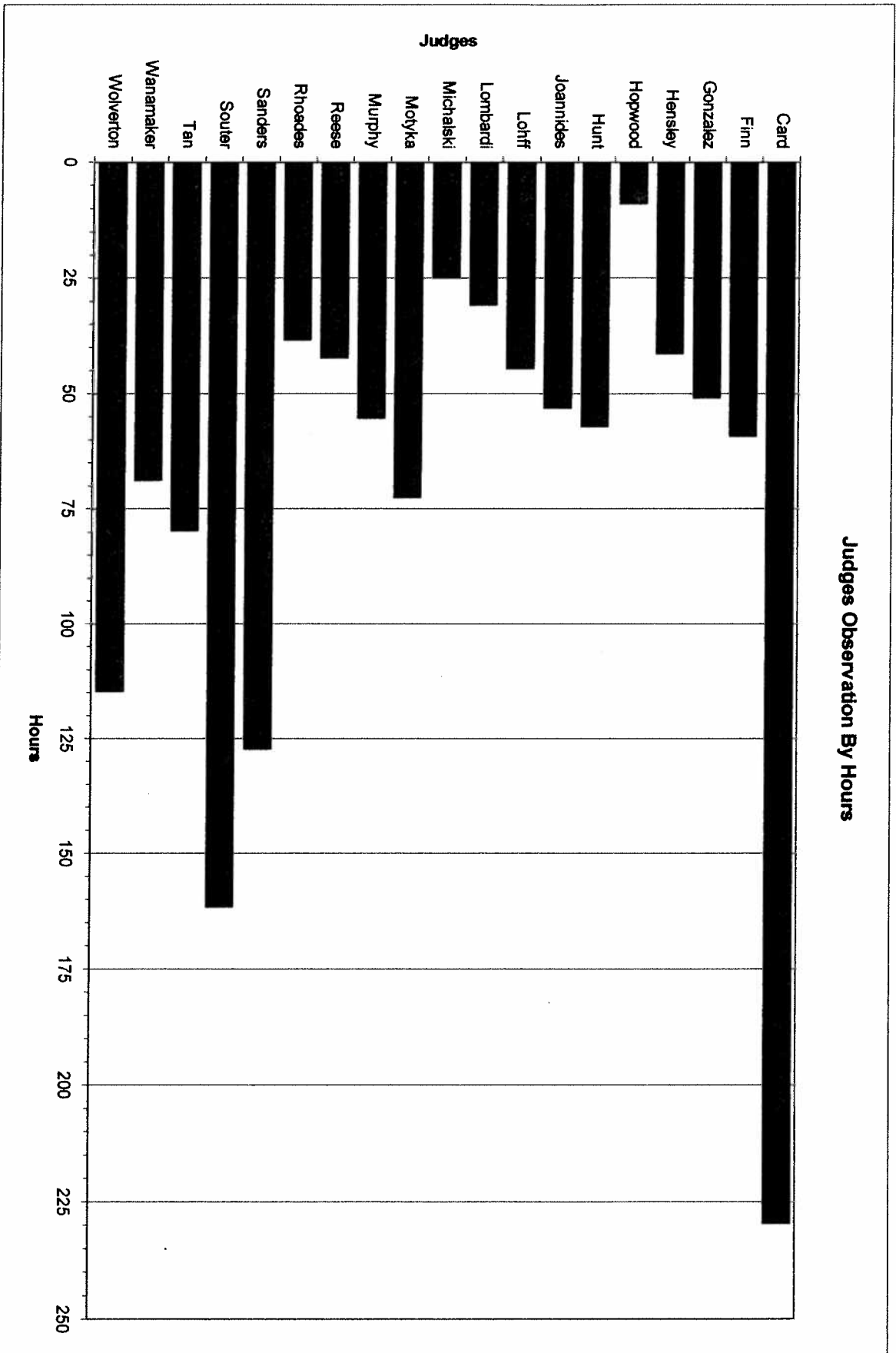
FACT SHEET

49 CourtWatchers
1013 Observations Tallied
1634 Hours of Observations

<u>Number of Observations</u>	<u>Judge</u>	<u>Number of hours</u>
15	Adams	30.2 *
53	Andrews	66.4
61	Ashman	83.9
130	Card	230.0
3	Cutler	2.25 *
44	Finn	59.2
28	Fuld	30.3 *
18	Gonzalez	50.8
17	Hensley	41.3
2	Hopwood	8.8
36	Hunt	57.0
35	Joannides	53.0
32	Lohff	44.5
22	Lombardi	30.8
20	Michalski	24.8
56	Motyka	72.5
48	Murphy	55.3
23	Reese	42.3
37	Rhoades	38.3
71	Sanders	127.2
19	Shortell	50.3 *
88	Souter	161.6
13	Smith	10.3 *
29	Tan	79.7
51	Wanamaker	68.8
62	Wolverton	114.7

*These judges do not appear in this Report.

Judges Observation By Hours



INTRODUCTION

The CourtWatch program was established in order to observe the court procedures, atmosphere and participants. CourtWatchers make observations regarding the perceived skills and behaviors of the participants in the courtroom; i.e., judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys. CourtWatchers also record observations concerning the way the court system affects the lay people who enter it; i.e., victims, witnesses and defendants.

This is the seventh Biennial COURTWATCH REPORT. It is the culmination of 24 months of observing in the Anchorage District and Superior Courtrooms. (March 1, 1998 to March 1, 2000). Court monitors strive to observe each judge for a total of 30 hours per report, however, this is not always possible.

While CourtWatchers use evaluation forms and a rating system, the program is not designed to "grade" anyone. Forms are used to provide continuity and to establish points of comparison. Ratings also help to give structure and guidelines to the CourtWatchers.

CourtWatchers are volunteers representing a cross section of the community. They come from a variety of backgrounds including elementary, high school and university educators, an air traffic controller, a nurse, homemakers, small business owners, Federal Government retirees, college students, a plant operator, retired military personnel and a retired State legislator. CourtWatchers are concerned citizens who want to make a positive contribution to the community and who hope to make a positive change in the system.

They are all interviewed and screened by the CourtWatch Director before they are accepted into the program. Criteria used in selecting CourtWatchers include the following:

They must be objective.

Neither they nor members of their family can be recent victims of a violent crime, or have been arrested or convicted of a crime, or have a case pending before the courts.

CourtWatchers are given a trial observation session in court with a trainer, then the actual 40 hour training session begins. The first session is held at the project office and focuses on the goals and responsibilities of the program. The background and foundation of CourtWatch is presented, as well as the relationship of the program with Victims for Justice, making the separation of the two clearly understood. (CourtWatch is sponsored by Victims for Justice).

Objectivity and impartiality are emphasized. CourtWatchers are taught to presume that the defendant is innocent unless the jury decides otherwise. Their role is not to pass judgment on the defendant, nor to side with the victim. They are instructed to maintain an impartial attitude and not display emotions in the courtroom. They are trained in proper courtroom etiquette, emphasizing courtesy and open-mindedness.

Training continues with an explanation of the judicial process itself - from arraignment to sentencing. It is important CourtWatchers understand the philosophy of the criminal justice system, emphasizing the principles of law, not just the procedures. The roles of the judge, prosecutor, and defense attorneys are explained. Important legal terms and concepts such as "preponderance of the evidence", "reasonable doubt", "prejudice" and "defendant's and victim's rights" are defined.

The different phases of a trial are explained from the jury selection to the final summation. Training sessions are held in court with supervision by an experienced CourtWatcher, aimed at exposing the trainee to each different procedure: arraignment, jury selection, hearings, trials and sentencing. Because most trainees volunteer once a week, it often takes up to three months for the trainee to receive certification and a CourtWatch badge.

When the trainees have an understanding of the basic proceedings and can complete the forms without assistance they receive their CourtWatch Badge, and become recognized CourtWatchers. CourtWatchers are instructed not to follow a case, rather they are to observe a half-day session each week in a different courtroom setting. This is another means of promoting objectivity. We feel CourtWatchers will be less involved with cases if they observe only a portion. Monitors are there to evaluate the system and participants at that session only. In some longer cases they, of course, may attend the same case more than once.

Throughout the year CourtWatch holds continuing educational workshops. The purpose of these workshops is to reinforce the goals of the program, to iron out the flaws, to further educate the CourtWatchers and to share information that would improve their efforts. Special speakers are invited to further inform the volunteers.

In this current Report 49 CourtWatchers spent between three and eight hours a day in the courtroom for a total of 1634 hours. There were 1013 observations made during this 24-month period.

CourtWatchers make interesting comments on what they have observed in the courtroom. It is the program's intent that these observations will prove to be constructive, not destructive; to help shape a process which is efficient, professional and sensitive to the needs of the public it serves; and to educate and inform the public about the way the criminal justice system is seen from a layperson's perspective.

The Judge's Evaluation Criteria

The judge's evaluation form focuses on behavior and attitude on the Bench.

DID THE JUDGE APPEAR TO PAY ATTENTION TO PROCEEDINGS AND PARTICIPANTS?

Did the judge watch for restless or napping jurors? Did the judge pay attention to everyone: witnesses, attorneys, clerk, guard, defendant, victims and spectators?

DID THE JUDGE MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE COURTROOM?

Is the jury quiet and attentive? Is the gallery quiet and in order? Did the judge make sure attorneys behave properly? Are disruptions or bursts of emotion controlled?

DID THE JUDGE SPEAK LOUDLY AND CLEARLY?

Did the judge mumble or enunciate clearly? Can everyone hear the rulings and instructions?

WERE THE JUDGE'S REMARKS UNDERSTANDABLE AND DID THEY MAKE SENSE?

Did the judge speak English or legalese? If a CourtWatcher cannot understand, then conceivably a juror, witness, victim or defendant might not understand. Were all present able to understand the remarks?

DID THE JUDGE SHOW HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION TO THE VICTIM?

Did the judge pay close attention to testimony? Was the judge sensitive to the victim's emotional situation? Was a recess called when a victim became emotional? Did the judge display negative actions to the victim? Did the judge treat the victim with respect and courtesy? Was the judge sensitive without infringing upon a defendant's rights, yet allow for victims to have their rights. Showing compassion and understanding of human nature, when appropriate, is a desirable trait. Also, be especially aware how the attitude is toward a non-present victim. Remember the victim may be deceased. Is the victim referred to by name or treated as a non-enmity? Possibly the victim was barred from the courtroom?

DID THE JUDGE SHOW HUMAN UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION TO THE DEFENDANT?

Did the judge pay close attention to testimony? Was the judge sensitive to the defendant's emotional situation? Did the judge display negative actions to the defendant? Did the judge treat the defendant with respect and courtesy? Showing compassion and understanding of human nature, when appropriate, is a desirable trait. Being able to distinguish between lies and the truth, real tears from "crocodile tears" and knowing the difference is a special quality in a good judge.

DID THE JUDGE MAKE EXPLANATIONS TO THE PARTICIPANTS?

Did the judge explain decisions, procedure, instructions and rights to those involved? At jury selection, are important items explained to prospective jurors (i.e., preponderance of evidence)? Are jury instructions clear and easy to follow? Is time taken to explain complicated questions to the witnesses, etc.?

DID THE JUDGE TREAT ALL PARTIES FAIRLY AND PROFESSIONALLY?

Did the judge remain firm, fair and objective? Did the judge treat attorneys with respect and as fellow professionals? Was the judge courteous? Were the judge's tone and actions impartial?

DID THE JUDGE APPEAR TO FAVOR EITHER SIDE?

Did the judge remain impartial in decisions, statements, attitudes and action? Did the judge insult or undermine either side? Did the judge unfairly overrule one side continually in deference to the other? Did the judge allow each side equal room to present his/her case?

COMMENTS:

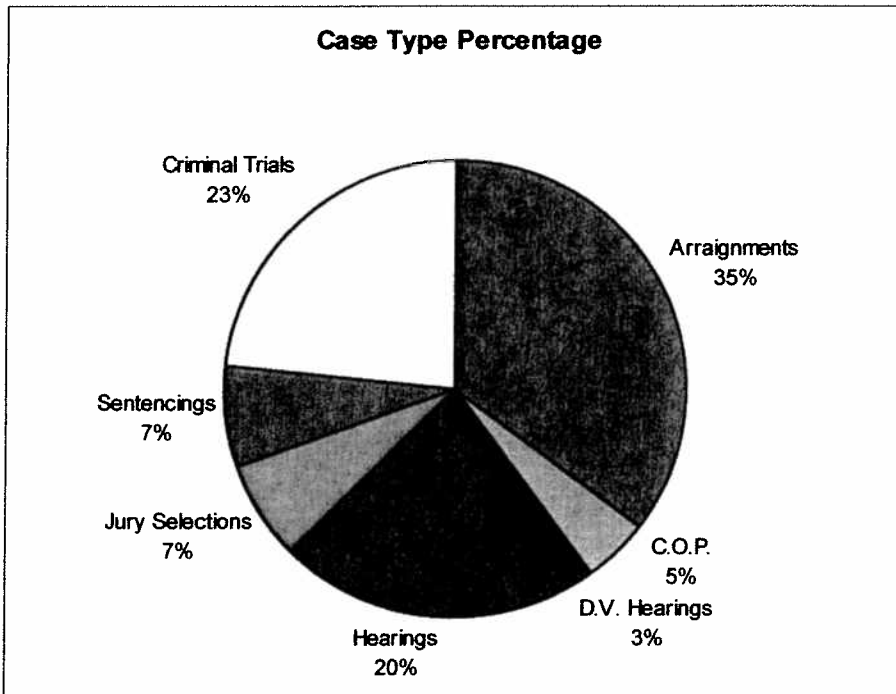
CourtWatchers were encouraged to make constructive, complimentary or critical comments regarding the judge's performance. Quotes that explain or exemplify the comments are encouraged. These comments expressed by the court monitors are not necessarily the opinions of the CourtWatch program or Victims for Justice, but are statements of what and how individuals perceive personalities and procedures on any given day in court.

Lickert Scale

The CourtWatchers use the Lickert scale of 1 – 5 in evaluating the judges.

- 1-Poor**
- 2-Inadequate**
- 3-Acceptable/Average**
- 4-Good**
- 5-Excellent**

The Honorable Elaine M. Andrews



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.3
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.5
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.9
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8

Overall Score: 3.7

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	52 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	4 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	4

Total observation time: 66.4 hours

The Honorable Elaine M. Andrews

Court monitors almost unanimously agree that Judge Andrews is very efficient in her handling of issues that come before her. She is seen as being polite and considerate, but always in control of her courtroom.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 17 different monitors during 53 observations for a total of 66.4 hours. Judge Andrews had 31 positive comments and 12 negative comments recorded by the CourtWatchers. Most negative comments dealt with CourtWatchers' inability to hear her in the courtroom.

Efficient – Relevant remarks to individual defendants – clarified each defendant's understanding of his/her rights.

Efficient, precise, keeps everyone organized – flexible.

Needs to speak up at times.

Acknowledged the victim's family and their ordeal of sitting through trial daily.

Could hear her today had microphone.

Emphatic – to the point – efficient.

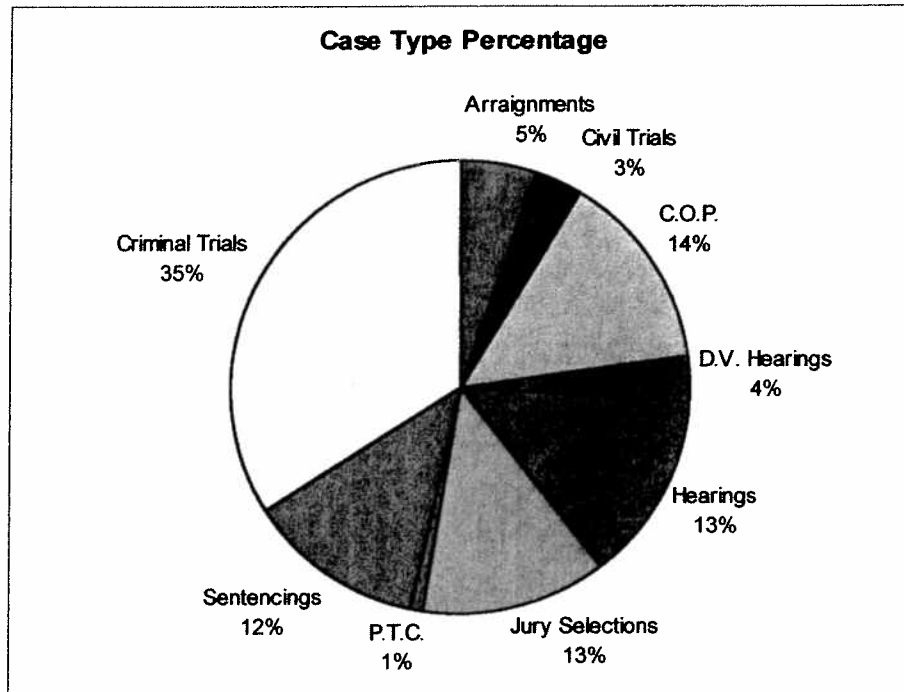
Judge was exceptional.

Concerned for community and always thorough!

I could only hear random remarks made by the judge.

Judge Andrews' decisions are well thought out with common sense added. Her courtroom is well run.

The Honorable Peter G. Ashman



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.3
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.1
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.8
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.1
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	4.0
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.4
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.2

Overall Score: **4.1**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	61 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	7 times
Severe:	1 time

Total sentencings: 8

Total observation time: 83.9 hours

The Honorable Peter G. Ashman

Judge Ashman appears to be thorough and efficient. He is an active participant in the proceedings and his decisions are well thought out. He is seen as being very focused on the events that take place in his courtroom.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 18 different CourtWatchers during 61 observations for a total of 83.9 hours. Judge Ashman had 37 positive comments and 3 negative comments recorded by the monitors. All negative comments dealt with the CourtWatchers' inability to hear him in the courtroom.

Soft spoken, deep voice, but very much in charge. Knowledgeable – explains rulings thoroughly – very professional.

Judge wanted to make sure the victim was fully satisfied with the agreement that was reached.

Matters handled efficiently. All people given their fair time before the judge.

Listens intently – does not hesitate to ask questions for his clarification.

I am always impressed with this judge and his quiet, caring, professional manner. He shows concern for children and spouses involved in domestic violence assaults.

Very thorough – victim conscious. Fashions sentences to fit each individual case.

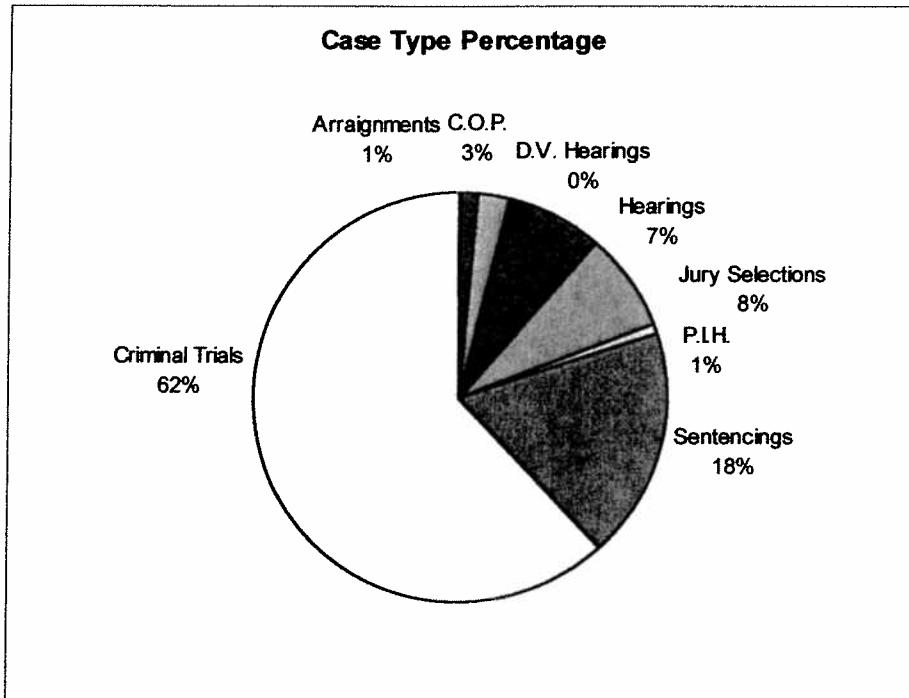
Listened carefully to both sides.

Judge Ashman was perturbed about time wasted by both attorneys who were not ready for trial. Fined both of them. Stayed focused even with all the commotion that occurs at these hearings.

Judge was hard to hear.

He is strict, but compassionate....

The Honorable Larry D. Card



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.0
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.7
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.0
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.0

Overall Score: **3.9**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	129 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	40
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	40

Total observation time: 230.0 hours

The Honorable Larry D. Card

Monitors report that Judge Card is attentive, fair and considerate of those attending his court. He is seen as compassionate, patient and thorough in the matter before him.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 26 different CourtWatchers during 130 observations for a total of 230 hours. Judge Card had 62 positive comments and 7 negative comments recorded by court monitors.

Judge Card is an active participant in this trial....seems to pay closer attention to proceedings than most other judges.

Handled each defendant and his case with great finesse.

Patience when working with all involved.

Even though it was closing arguments, Judge paid attention to all proceedings.
Read jury instructions slowly and succinctly.

Clear – to the point.

I think the Judge might have been a little lenient in giving this defendant another chance.

Exceptional. Very understanding toward defendant and victims.

Judge showed tremendous compassion for the children's welfare in both cases I observed.

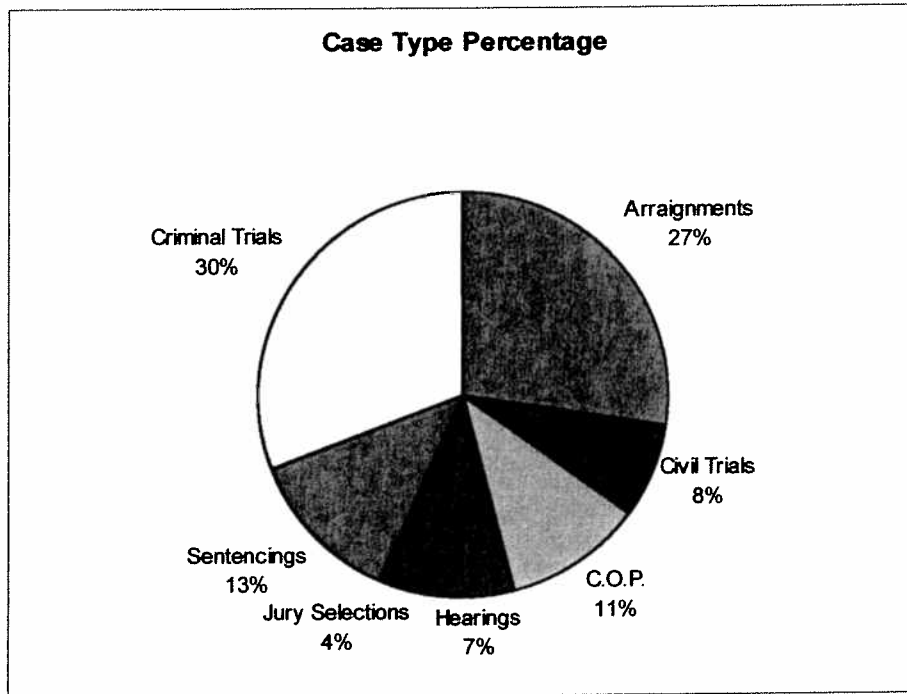
Moved things along with time saving suggestions – very fair to all.

Always conscious of what is going on in his courtroom.

Card – the patience of Job – bending over backwards to assure pro per defendant has every opportunity to defend himself while still upholding the law.

Smooth, cordial temperament even in heated moments

The Honorable Natalie K. Finn



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	3.9
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.6
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.8
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.5
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.0
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8

Overall Score: **3.8**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	44 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	5 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	5

Total observation time: 59.2 hours

The Honorable Natalie K. Finn

Monitors reported that Judge Finn maintains complete control of her courtroom at all times. Her explanations to those who attend court are clear and concise. She is seen as being fair to both victims and defendants.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 17 different CourtWatchers during 44 observations for a total of 59.2 hours. Judge Finn had 23 positive comments and 4 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Excellent referee. Gave a recess (cooling off period?) for two attorneys.

She was attentive and thoughtful. She was also no-nonsense. Very good!

Kept defendant under control with just a few quiet words. Impressed with her handling of this very difficult defendant.

Delayed action on cases where victim not present (mostly domestic assaults).

She needs to turn up sound system. I had a hard time hearing her from the second row in court.

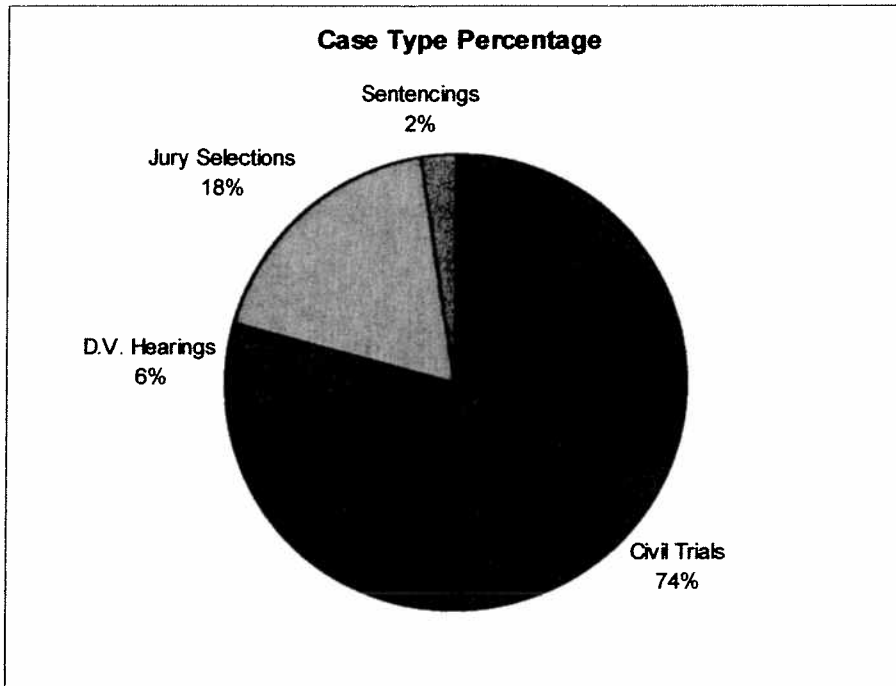
Took her time to wade through the three cases and six changes. She had complete understanding of the cases and the dynamics between the defendant and the victim.

Judge Finn stands at the podium in her courtroom. Gives off the feeling that she is in total control of her courtroom. Considerate of jury.

Reminded folks that the courtroom needed to be quiet. Spoke up at all times.

The judge is very considerate to all in her court. She speaks clearly and controls her courtroom well.

The Honorable Rene J. Gonzalez



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.0
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.3
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.6
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.9
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.9
Overall Score:	3.7

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	17 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1

Total observation time: 50.8 hours

The Honorable Rene J. Gonzalez

Judge Gonzalez handles many cases involving children and families. His concern for the welfare of children and his patience with those appearing in his court has been noted by CourtWatchers.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 9 different monitors during 18 observations for a total of 50.8 hours. Judge Gonzalez had 8 positive comments and 4 negative comments recorded by the monitors. Most negative comments dealt with CourtWatchers' inability to hear him in the courtroom.

Pays close attention – rules on objections quickly and explains his rulings.

He is very serious and thorough explaining civic duty and oath to jurors.

Judge Gonzalez still mumbles and as a result, following his instructions is sometimes difficult.

Had good eye contact with all participants. Good listener. Had good speaking voice – I could hear him very clearly sitting in back row of courtroom.

Very fair – paid close attention to both closing arguments.

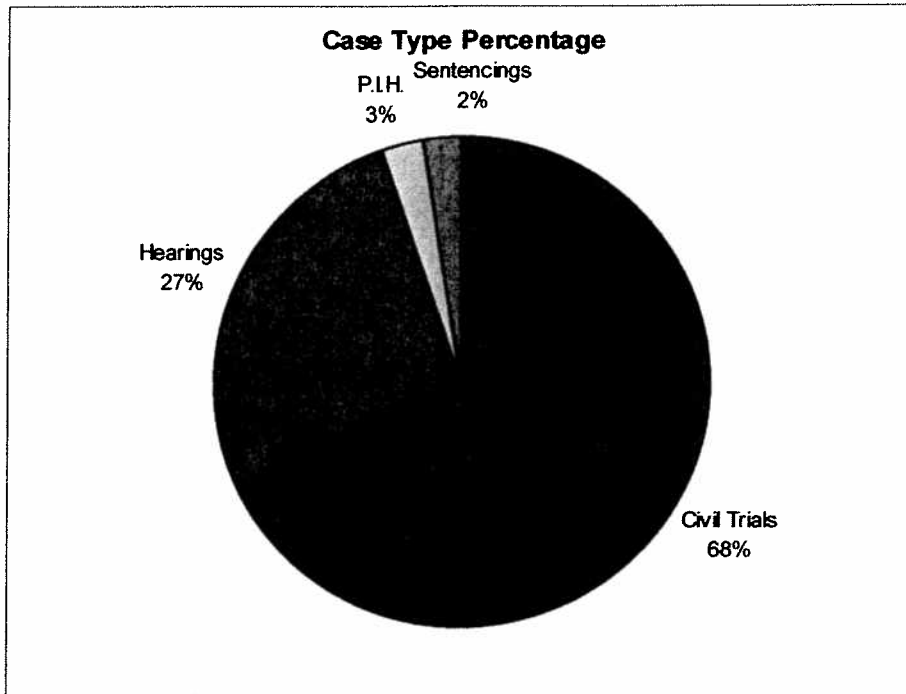
Judge was very passionate in his presentation. He strongly believed in his sentence and his loud, strong voice made that point.

Kept the concern of well being for the child to the forefront.....

Very patient with both parties and listened to their explanations with great interest.

Still soft spoken.

The Honorable Dan A. Hensley



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.3
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.1
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.6
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.8
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.6
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.9
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.9
Overall Score:	3.9

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	17 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1

Total observation time: 41.3 hours

The Honorable Dan A. Hensley

Court monitors see Judge Hensley as knowledgeable, intense and detail oriented. He pays close attention and CourtWatchers noted that he always has complete control of his courtroom.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 7 different monitors during 17 observations for a total of 41.3 hours. Judge Hensley had 12 positive comments and no negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Main concern is for young children.

Watched all participants closelyexcellent control of courtroom.

He "zeros" in on the proceedings. He is very intense. Nothing escapes his attention.

Meticulous in attending to details...Periodically reviewed and clarified statements made by both parties and witnesses.

Read rulings of cited cases as presented by both sides. Left the court so "I can do my own research on this ruling".

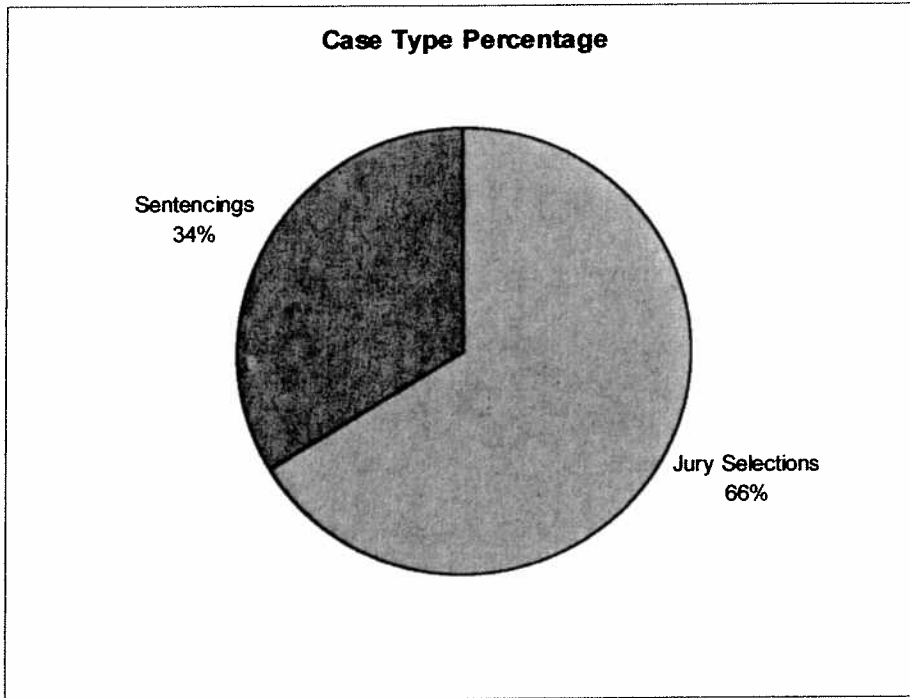
This case was about child sexual abuse and the judge was sensitive to that.

Asked witnesses to speak up. Praised everyone for their honesty.

As I've stated before, the judge misses nothing. Looks directly at everyone and everything in the court.

Pays very close attention to all aspects of the case. Judge's eyes never miss anything. He is an intense listener and observer.

The Honorable Donald D. Hopwood



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.5
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.5
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.5
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.5
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	4.0
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.0
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.5
Overall Score:	4.2

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	2 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1

Total observation time: 8.8 hours

The Honorable Donald D. Hopwood

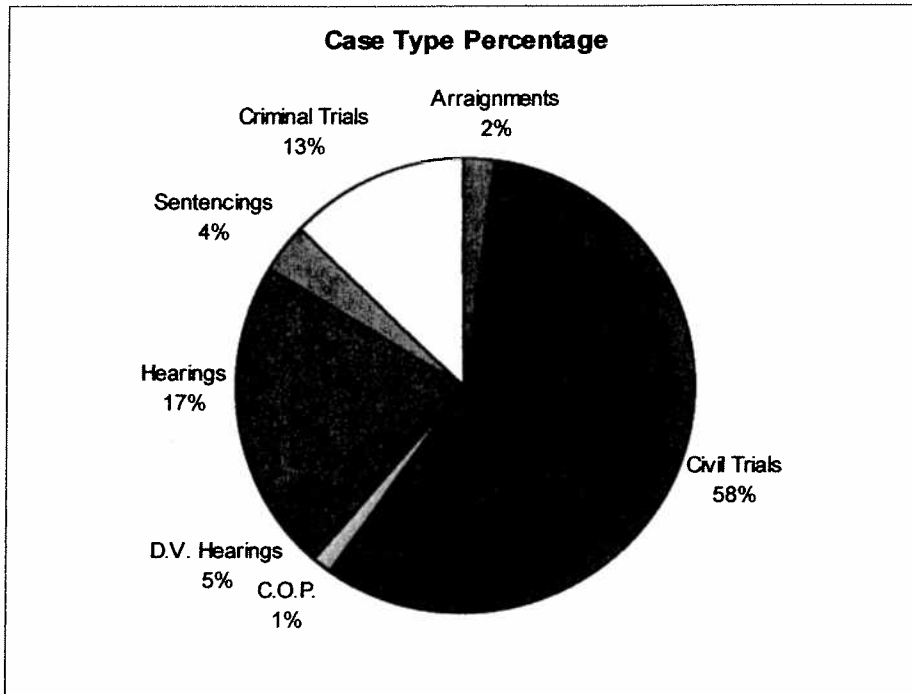
Judge Hopwood serves the court system in Kodiak. He was observed by CourtWatchers while serving on the bench in Anchorage for a short period of time. Previous reports state that he is professional, attentive and fair to both sides.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 1 CourtWatcher during 2 observations for a total of 8.8 hours. Judge Hopwood had 2 positive comments and no negative comments recorded by the monitor.

Soft spoken, but controls his courtroom with explicit instructions and precise, logical answers to questions.

Judge Hopwood has the patience of Job – So polite and fair. Asks in-depth questions of attorneys making statements.

The Honorable Karen L. Hunt



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.9
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.6
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.3
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.9
Overall Score:	3.9
Did the judge favor either side?	
No:	34 times
The defense:	2 times
The prosecution:	none
Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).	
Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	2 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	2
Total observation time:	57.0 hours

The Honorable Karen L. Hunt

CourtWatchers view Judge Hunt as being concise, focused and professional. Her explicit instructions and explanations to all that attend court are attributed to her background as an educator.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 13 different monitors during 36 observations for a total of 57.0 hours. Judge Hunt had 22 positive comments and 6 negative comments recorded by the monitors. All negative comments dealt with the CourtWatchers' inability to hear her in the courtroom.

Her remarks, questions and explanations to the defendants were very clear, concise and well spoken.

Jury knew exactly what to expect due to her always thorough, easily understood explanations.

Could not hear the judge. She seemed to be very tired and very impatient.

Handed out and went over packets to the jurors that explained all aspects of trial. Calm, respectful to all. Runs tight courtroom.

Did a good job with crying victim.

Hunt attentive - professional - proper - polite. Deals with objections quickly and efficiently.

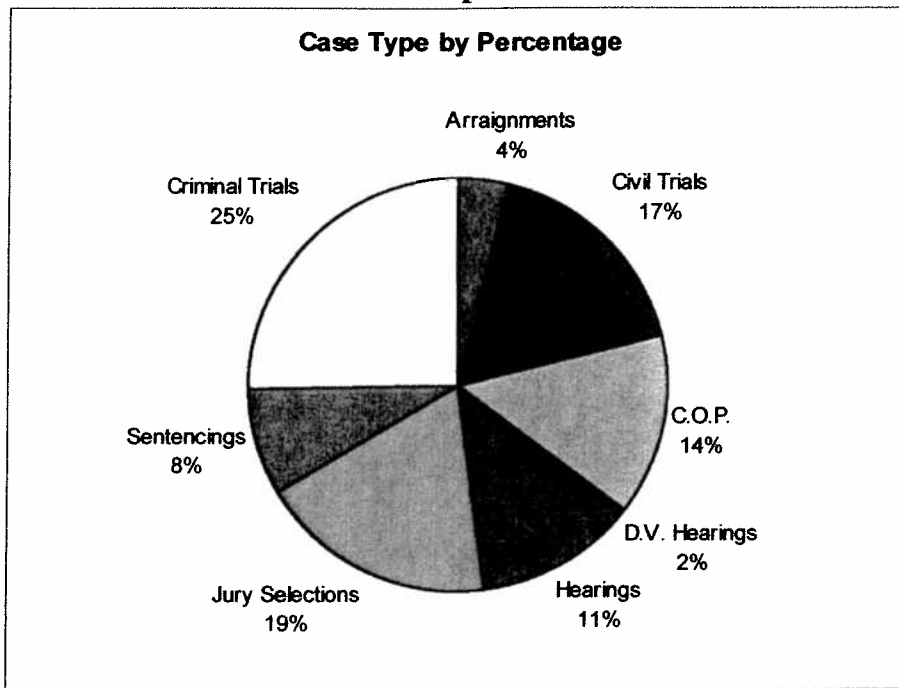
Speak up!! Clearly favored the defense.

In top form for this case. You could tell from her questions that she had thoroughly studied the case and its ramifications on the two children.

I had a problem hearing her at all times. The lawyers also had to have her repeat herself on more than one occasion. Other than that she did her usual excellent job of running her courtroom.

Judge Hunt took a lot of time to coach the defendant on defending himself. Very much in control of her courtroom. All business, but room for compassion.

The Honorable Stephanie E. Joannides



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.0
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.1
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.7
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.2
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.1
Overall Score:	4.0

Did the judge favor either side?

No: 35 times
 The defense: none
 The prosecution: none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient: 1 time
 Reasonable: 5 times
 Severe: none
 Total sentencings: 6

Total observation time: 53 hours

The Honorable Stephanie E. Joannides

CourtWatchers' comments regarding Judge Joannides mention that she is calm, composed, thoughtful and articulate. She comes to her courtroom well prepared. She is seen as being fair to both sides.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 11 CourtWatchers during 35 observations for a total of 53 hours. Judge Joannides had 23 positive comments and 1 negative comment recorded by the monitors.

Joannides – calm and careful – used a lot of time and excellent judgement to avoid a mistrial and still be impartial.

Judge Joannides showed that she treats everyone before her equally and is concerned for both victims and defendants.

Her composure was awesome – there was no change in her facial expression at any time. She did her duty and carried out the details of the hearing in a highly professional manner. Very impressed with her!

The courtroom seemed very busy and the judge didn't have everyone's attention most of the time.

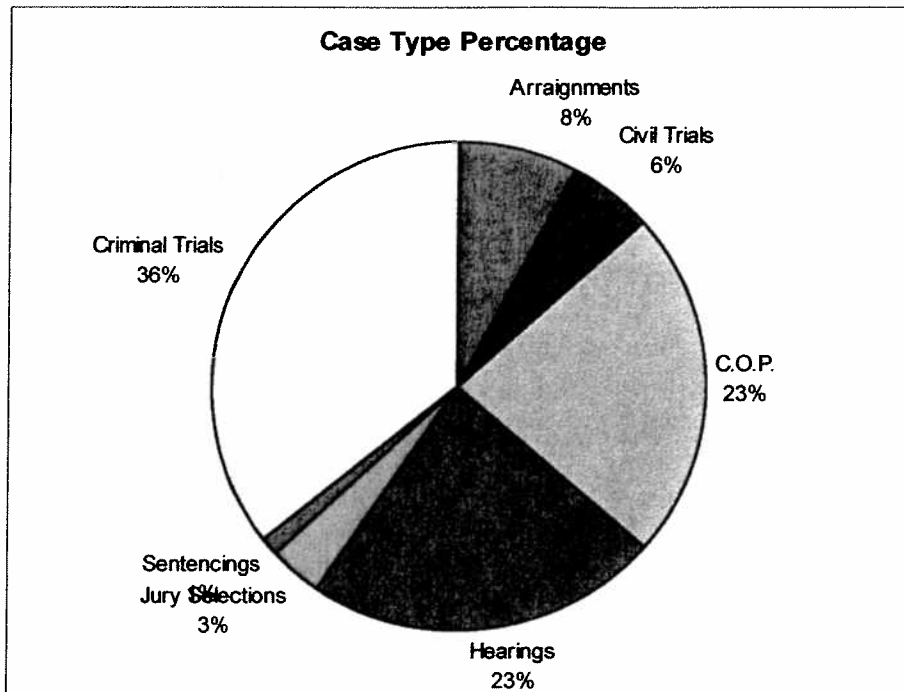
Kept close eye on jurors – suggesting "stand and stretch" when audio tape put a couple jurors to sleep.

Came into the case very well prepared. I'm impressed with her in that she has a list of questions prepared to ask each side....

She shows genuine concern for those who come to her court and doesn't make her court a revolving door.

Very involved and intelligent judge. Good recall of previous testimony.

The Honorable John R. Lohff



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.8
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.1
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.3
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.4
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.1
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.9
Overall Score:	3.8
Did the judge favor either side?	
No:	31 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	1 time
Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).	
Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1
Total observation time:	44.5 hours

The Honorable John R. Lohff

Judge Lohff has a pleasant, friendly demeanor, but he will not tolerate any disrespectful behavior in his courtroom. He is patient with those who are unfamiliar with the workings of the court system.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 9 different CourtWatchers during 32 observations for a total of 44.5 hours. Judge Lohff had 26 positive comments and 2 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Judge was very courteous and careful with explanations to defendant without an attorney.

Always able to hear and understand Judge Lohff.

Like the way the judge pays close attention to all facets of the trial. Maintains constant eye contact with participants. Pleasant, friendly attitude and demeanor.

Judge Lohff speaks with great eloquence.

Judge Lohff was not very tolerant of the defendant. Short tempered today.

He told three defendants to show respect, be quiet and had security called to let them know he meant business. Very powerful today.

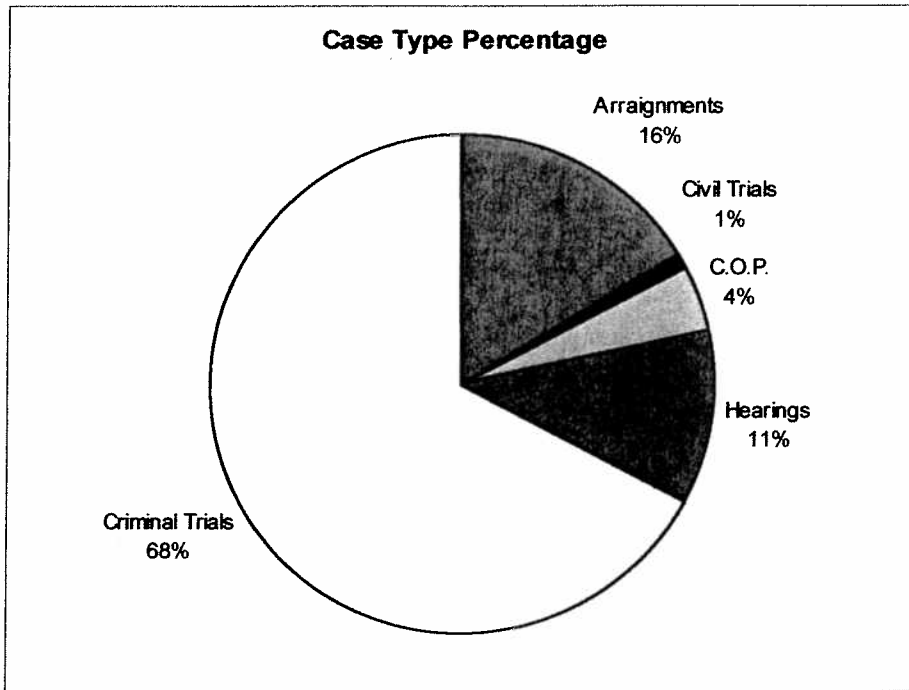
Judge Lohff tries hard to help pro per people who are unfamiliar with court requirements and proceedings. Very patient with defendants. Judge offered to help in the area of courtroom proceedings. It helped move the case along.

Patient with defendant who was mildly retarded. Made sure person understood the proceedings.

Very patient-many defendants wouldn't listen to judge-others argumentative.

He asked those arriving for the next proceeding to stop talking or leave. This helped, since the disruptions are very distracting and not fair to those in the current proceeding.

The Honorable Suzanne Lombardi



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.0
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.0
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.4
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.7
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.8
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8

Overall Score: **3.8**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	21 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	1 time

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	none
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	0

Total observation time: 30.8 hours

The Honorable Suzanne Lombardi

Court monitors note that Judge Lombardi's smile and pleasant demeanor on the bench help to put people at ease in her courtroom. She is seen as being efficient, attentive and handling proceedings in a timely manner.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 10 different CourtWatchers during 22 observations for a total of 30.8 hours. Judge Lombardi had 13 positive comments and 1 negative comment recorded by the monitors.

Was extremely attentive... Smiled to put people at ease on the stand. Showed sense of humor when something was funny. Then was all business.

Tried to quicken pace....Was exceedingly fair to pro-per defense.

Very pleasant demeanor and radiant smile. Keeps a close watch on proceedings and controls her courtroom well.

Judge spoke clearly and directly to defendant...

Judge Lombardi was getting frustrated with the defense attorney....Judge had to continuously ask the defense attorney to get to the point...

Gave good ongoing advice for staying out of trouble in the future.

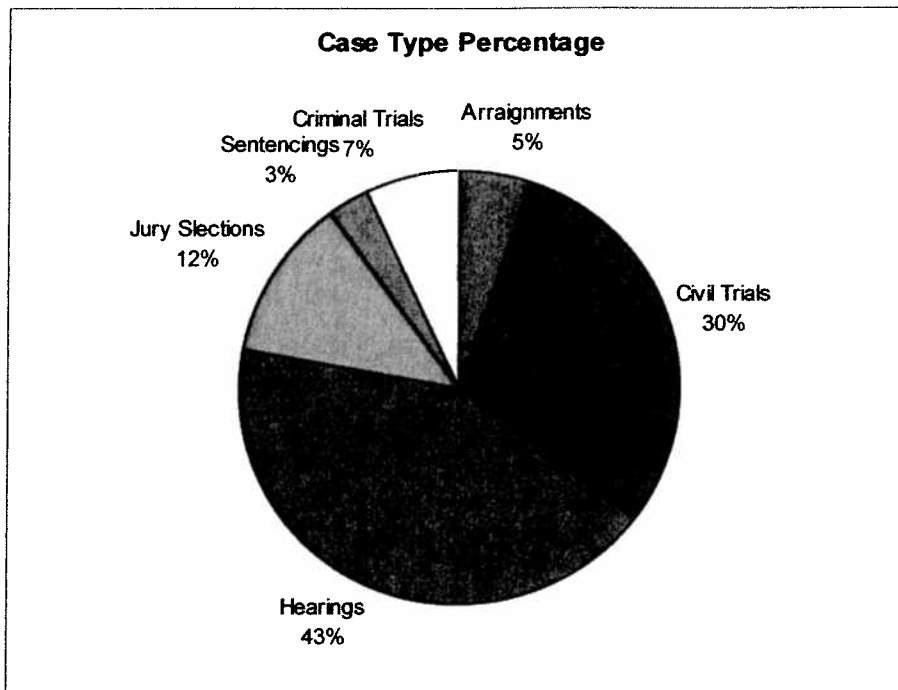
Reprimanded defendant for speaking while she was explaining an item. She was courteous to all attendees, also kept things moving along. Could easily hear the judge.

Judge Lombardi is just different. She keeps a calm control over her courtroom just by her voice...

This judge is very courteous to all parties in the courtroom.

The judge showed a great deal of compassion to one of the first time defendants with hopes of not seeing him in court again.

The Honorable Peter A. Michalski



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	3.8
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.8
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.3
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.5
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.9
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8
Overall Score:	3.7

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	20 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1

Total observation time: 24.8

The Honorable Peter A. Michalski

Judge Michalski is viewed as careful and thoughtful by court monitors. He explains well and is seen, in some cases, as a mediator. The few negative comments made dealt with the inability of monitors to hear him at times.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 7 different monitors during 20 observations for a total of 24.8 hours. Judge Michalski had 9 positive comments and 3 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Was understanding of plaintiff's mental illness. Tried to maintain stability of child involved. Paid close attention to proceedings.

Can hear the first part of his sentence, then trails off.

Explains process well.

Careful, thoughtful, intelligent rulings.

Thorough explanations of how he handles jury selection process to attorneys that were new to his court. Adjusted sound system so people could hear him in court. He needs to do this since he is very soft spoken.

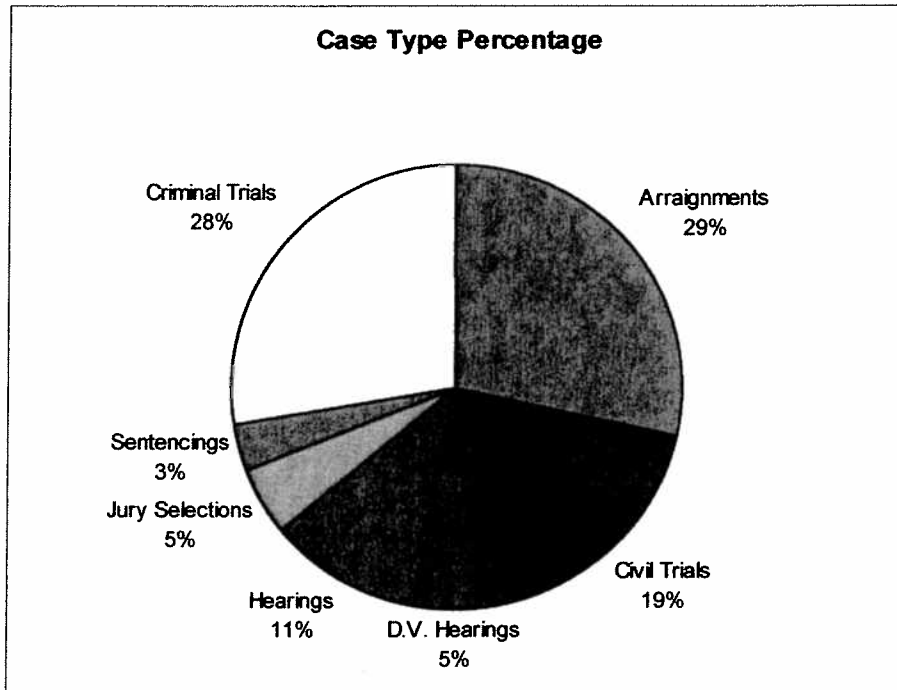
Sentences start off loud then trail off.

Good in explaining process

Body language indicates passion in ruling.

Became mediator and voice of reason and compromise when things broke down and was able to get parties to come to an amicable agreement.

The Honorable Gregory J. Motyka



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	3.9
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.8
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.9
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.8
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.6
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.8
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.9
Overall Score:	3.8

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	56 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	3 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	3

Total observation time: 72.5 hours

The Honorable Gregory J. Motyka

Court monitors see Judge Motyka as being firm but fair. They note that he is attentive to the happenings in his court and shows compassion to both the defendant and the victim.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 19 different CourtWatchers during 56 observations for a total of 72.5 hours. Judge Motyka had 29 positive comments and 1 negative comment recorded by the monitors.

Straightforward and down to business.

Ordered restitution in one case of malicious destruction of property.

Runs a good court for these proceedings. Each person gets personal attention/concern of the judge.

Very fair – followed requests but voiced his own concerns where children were involved.

He takes the greatest care to listen and he always speaks slowly and clearly.

I thought the judge was quite lenient to the defendant by giving him no jail time.....

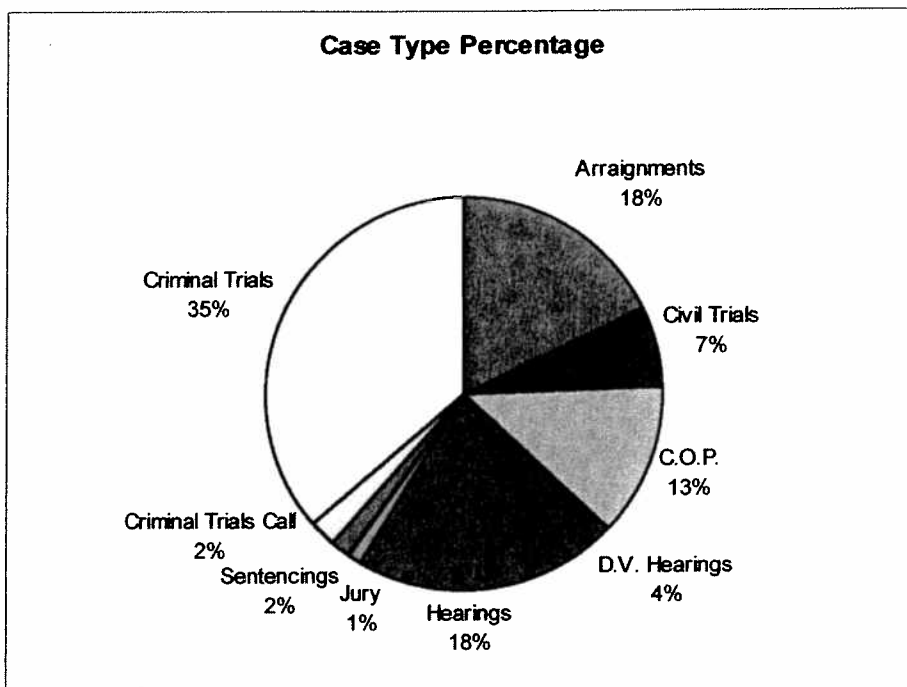
Judge managed his courtroom well. Showed compassion to young defendant.

Judge Motyka continued the hearing so that the victim could provide additional evidence. This appeared to be a special effort to assist the victim.

You could probably hear him on the third floor!! Always speaks up.

Judge Motyka was fair and showed compassion to all parties (some being minors). In complete control of his courtroom.

The Honorable Sigurd E. Murphy



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.9
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.8
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.2
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.2

Overall Score: **4.0**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	47 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	1 time
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	1

Total observation time: 55.3

The Honorable Sigurd E. Murphy

CourtWatchers find Judge Murphy to be kind and concerned for everyone who enters his courtroom. The one word that is constantly repeated in his evaluations is "patient". He spends time giving explicit explanations to all the parties involved.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 15 different CourtWatchers during 48 observations for a total of 55.3 hours. Judge Murphy had 30 positive comments and 4 negative comments recorded by the monitors. All 4 negative comments dealt with the CourtWatchers' inability to hear the judge.

Patience plus! Maintained a positive attitude despite "glitches". Quietly, firmly assisted defense attorney in phrasing questions and explaining points of Alaska law.

Judge sanctioned defense attorney for causing mistrial. (\$210. - cost of jurors)

Took extra time to talk to victims of domestic violence assault. Strongly stressed impact violence has on the children and how it will be repeated in children if the adults continue to think just about themselves. Strong advocate for the innocent victims (the children).

Handled defense attorney in a firm manner. Remained in control of situation with his decisiveness.

Judge Murphy sticks to his guns to protect the community's safety.

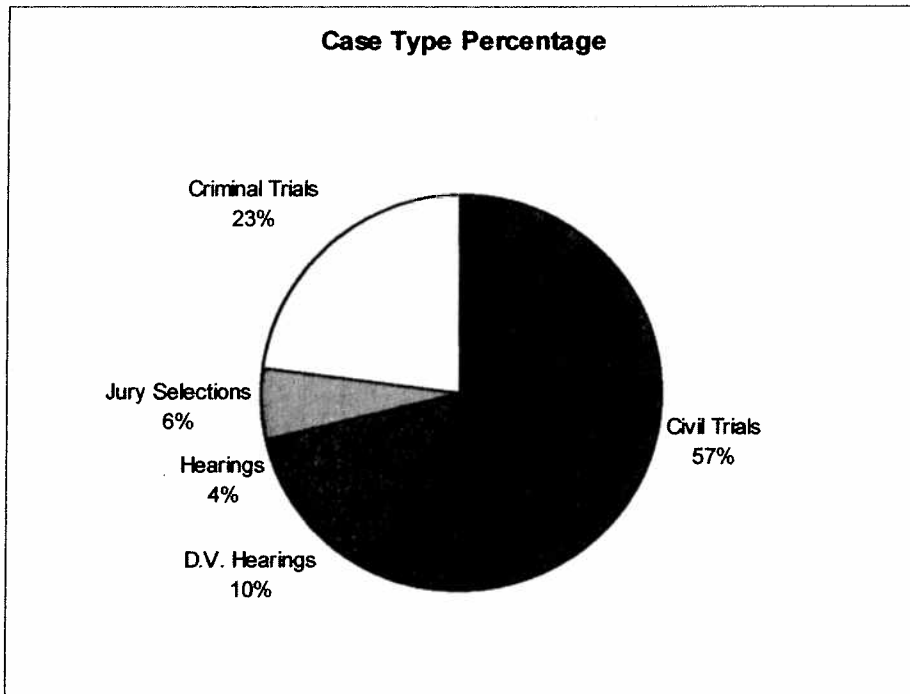
Voice difficult to hear at times – fast – monotone

Handled each in a timely manner-asking questions when appropriate to understand essence of case.

He spent time talking to several young defendants, including one young native man who he spoke to about obligations to himself, family and heritage. He put off his fine for one year so that his money could be used to pay for alcohol rehab program.

Judge Murphy – fair to all parties, well controlled courtroom. Appropriate directions. Good job!

The Honorable John E. Reese



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.1
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.7
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.7
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.7
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.7

Overall Score: **3.8**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	22 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	1 time

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	none
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	0

Total observation time: 42.3 hours

The Honorable John E. Reese

Observations by CourtWatchers state that Judge Reese is fair to both sides and shows concern for all. He makes in depth explanations to his jurors and keeps the participating attorneys on track. He is seen as being a good listener.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 11 different CourtWatchers during 23 observations for a total of 42.3 hours. Judge Reese had 11 positive comments and 4 negative comments recorded by court monitors.

Close attention paid to all proceedings.

Concerned about both parties in domestic violence case.....Concerned about children involved in these cases.

Listens intently, called absent party on phone to hear other side, always gives helpful agencies info to parties as well as possible solutions to problems.

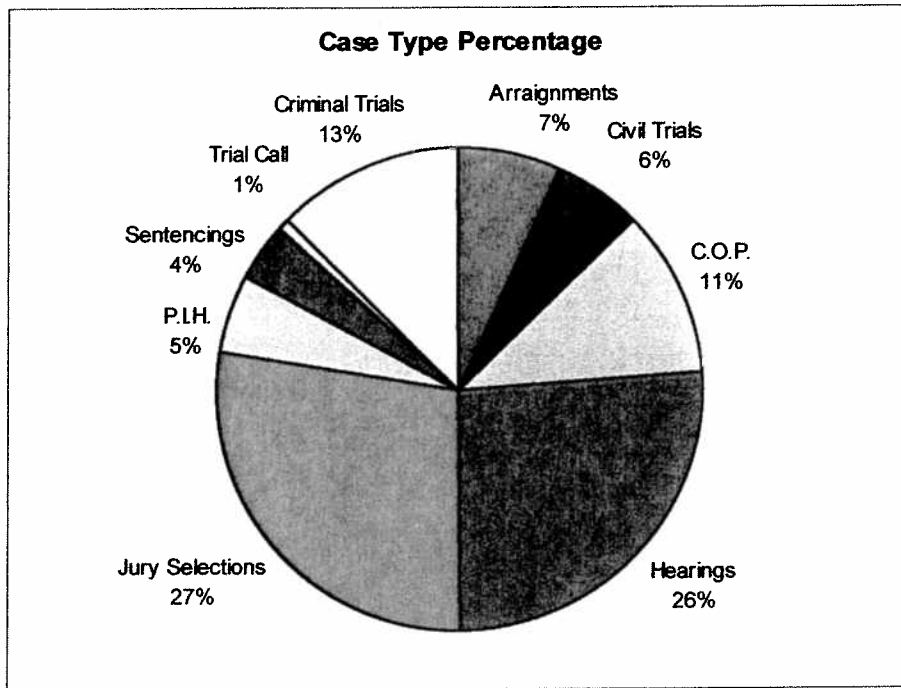
Nice control of witness and attorneys.

At times Judge Reese seemed to be almost asleep during the attorneys very long closing statement.

The judge paid close attention to the proceedings and was very alert to what was happening.

Asked questions of the witnesses and paid close attention to the financial details given.

The Honorable Stephanie Z. Rhoades



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.2
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.1
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.0
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.3
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.8
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.2
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.0
Overall Score:	4.0

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	37 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	3 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	3

Total observation time: 38.3 hours

The Honorable Stephanie Z. Rhoades

Monitors report that Judge Rhoades moves things along quickly and efficiently in her courtroom. She is seen as patient and concise in her explanations to all that attend court.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 9 different CourtWatchers during 37 observations for a total of 38.3 hours. Judge Rhoades had 20 positive comments and 1 negative comment recorded by the monitors.

She saves time by explaining standard rights to all defendants at once. Uses a loud, clear voice.

Judge handled this case well. Showed concern for the defendant and for her elderly mother. Spoke to both in a kindly manner.

The judge is very precise and orderly in her court and her explanations seem to be very concise.

Had many domestic violence assaults. Made sure victims were notified. Gave these people high fines plus third party custody.

Concerned with community safety. Very thorough. I'm impressed!

She is very understanding and patient with defendants in this situation.

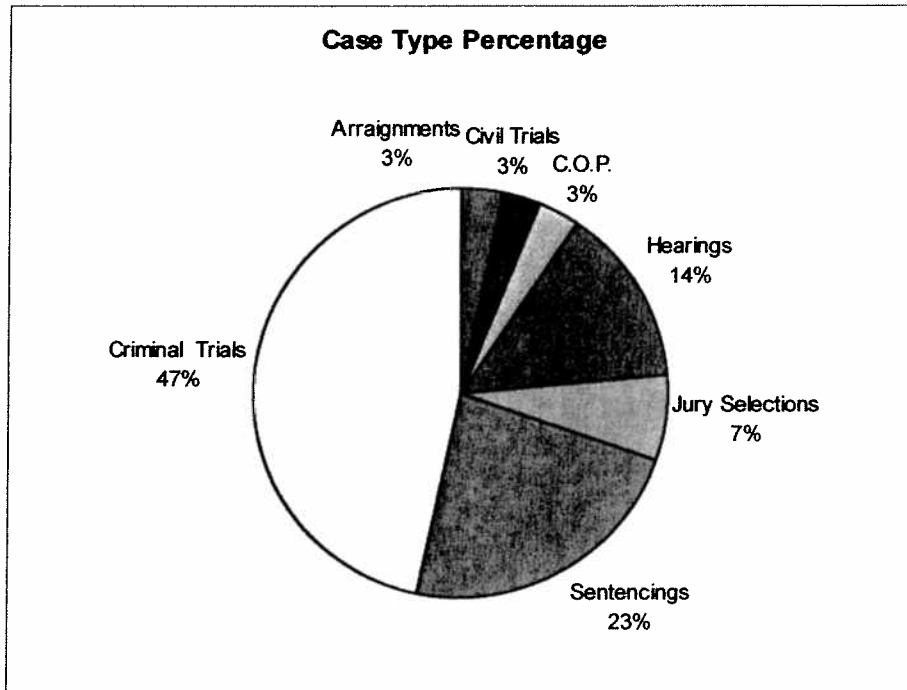
Judge yawning during instruction to jury – called recess for “them” to get a snack for energy – came back for trial in much better shape.

Very, very patient. Took time to make the defendant at ease....

Judge Rhoades was in control of her courtroom.

Judge Rhoades moves cases through her court very swiftly.

The Honorable Eric T. Sanders



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.3
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.2
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	4.1
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	4.2
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.8
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.7
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.3
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.2

Overall Score: **4.1**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	69 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	1 time

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	1 time
Reasonable:	21 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	22

Total observation time: 127.2 hours

The Honorable Eric T. Sanders

Compassion and fairness to all parties are qualities that are often mentioned when monitors evaluate Judge Sanders. He is seen as being considerate of all that attend his court and thoughtful in making his decisions.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 19 different monitors during 71 observations for a total of 127.2 hours. Judge Sanders had 34 positive comments and 8 negative comments recorded by CourtWatchers.

Explicit in considerations of aggravators; made certain all had opportunity to speak; weighed all factors before determining sentence.

Concern for fairness for both victims and defendant – evident in his discussion with the two attorneys.

Very active participation with the individual jurors. Specific in his explanations – detailed for both jury pool and attorneys.

I thought the court was a little lenient in behalf of defendant being it was not her first time.

Judge Sanders did an exceptional job at this sentencing....He took a time out to make sure he was imposing a sentence based on concrete guidelines and not emotional reaction. He cited the victims and their horrible experience in the sentencing. Judge Sanders did an excellent job.

Needs to speak up – couldn't hear beginning statements.

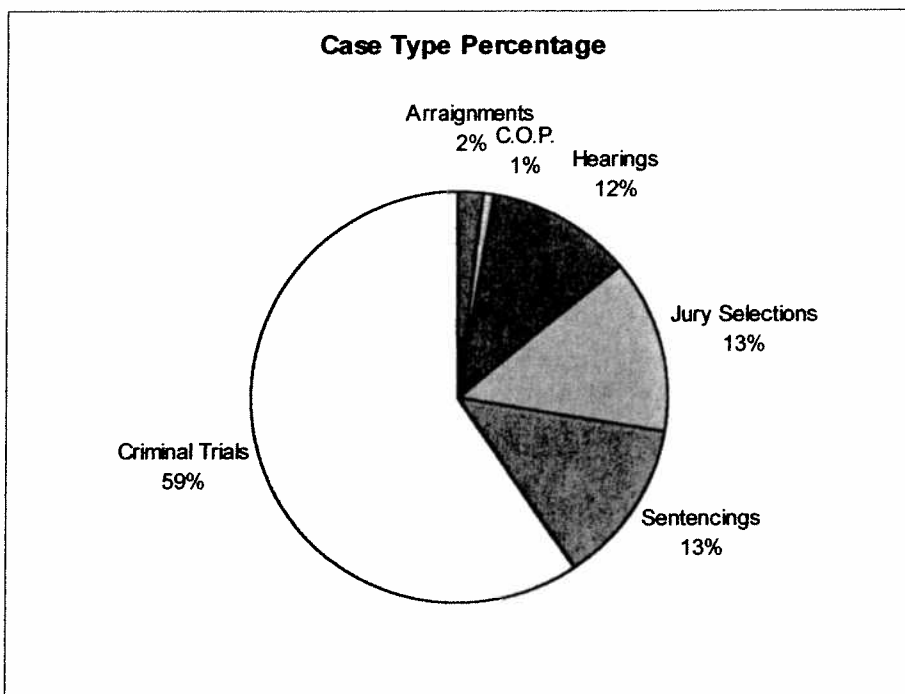
Efficient, thorough, thoughtful.

He is always considerate of jurors' time and State's expense.

Since the victim was a nervous minor (age 13), he tried to make her feel as comfortable as possible in order to answer questions.

Always goes out of his way to explain all aspects of the pleas and sentencing. Very patient.

The Honorable Milton M. Souter



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	3.9
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.7
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.8
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.5
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.5
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.9
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8

Overall Score: **3.8**

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	85 times
The defense:	3 times
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	19 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	19

Total observation time: 161.6 hours

The Honorable Milton M. Souter

Judge Souter is critical of those whose actions waste the court's time and the taxpayers' money. He is viewed by monitors as being quick to show his displeasure at anyone or anything that interferes with the efficiency of his court.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 17 CourtWatchers during 88 observations for a total of 161.6 hours. Judge Souter had 47 positive comments and 8 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Even though this was a crowded courtroom filled with many emotional people, the judge maintained excellent control and treated all participants compassionately.

Judge had tough job – he handled himself with dignity.

Got appropriately upset with both sides dragging out the proceedings and even became sarcastic about the amount of time the jury was being kept out of the courtroom.....

Very concerned about victim. Questioned her thoroughly as to extent of her wounds...

Very interested in witnesses. Constant eye contact with the jury. He seems to really care.

Judge Souter seemed distracted, bored and tired. (yawning)

Went to great lengths to inform defendant of rights, explained sentencing – no contest plea.

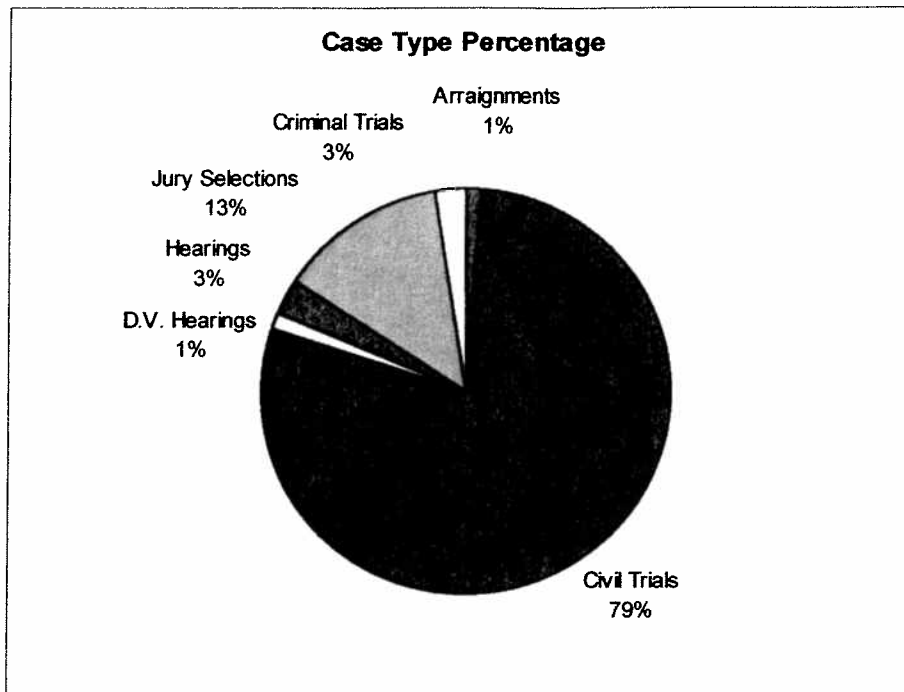
Judge Souter criticized (obliquely) prosecutor's penchant for slow, drawn out questioning – concerned for comfort of jury.

Needs to speak up! He mumbled and one couldn't understand him on many occasions.

Judge Souter, as in all his cases involving a child, was absorbed in the information given by the witnesses.

Clearly told attorneys that they should have done change of pleas before jurors were called. Waiting to this point was a waste of taxpayers money and jurors time.

The Honorable Sen K. Tan



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.2
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.9
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.7
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.9
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.8
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	4.1
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	4.1
Overall Score:	3.9
Did the judge favor either side?	
No:	28 times
The defense:	1 time
The prosecution:	none
Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).	
Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	none
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	0
Total observation time:	79.7 hours

The Honorable Sen K. Tan

Judge Tan is seen as being very concerned with the comfort of his jurors. He is respectful, attentive and alert to all that is happening in his courtroom.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 15 different CourtWatchers during 29 observations for a total of 79.7 hours. Judge Tan had 20 positive comments and one negative comment recorded by the monitors.

Intense observer of case. Took very few notes. Aware of jury and their needs. He makes the courtroom a comfortable and pleasant place to be in.

The judge was very attentive – and open to both sides of the case.

Active listener and observer. Very pleasant to all participants.

He seems to have a lot of compassion for people who come into his court and, in some instances, drops his role as judge and becomes an advisor instead.

Long drawn out testimony but always looked like he was paying close attention. After long testimony, he asked jurors if they were comfortable or if they needed a break.

Looked at both sides at all times.

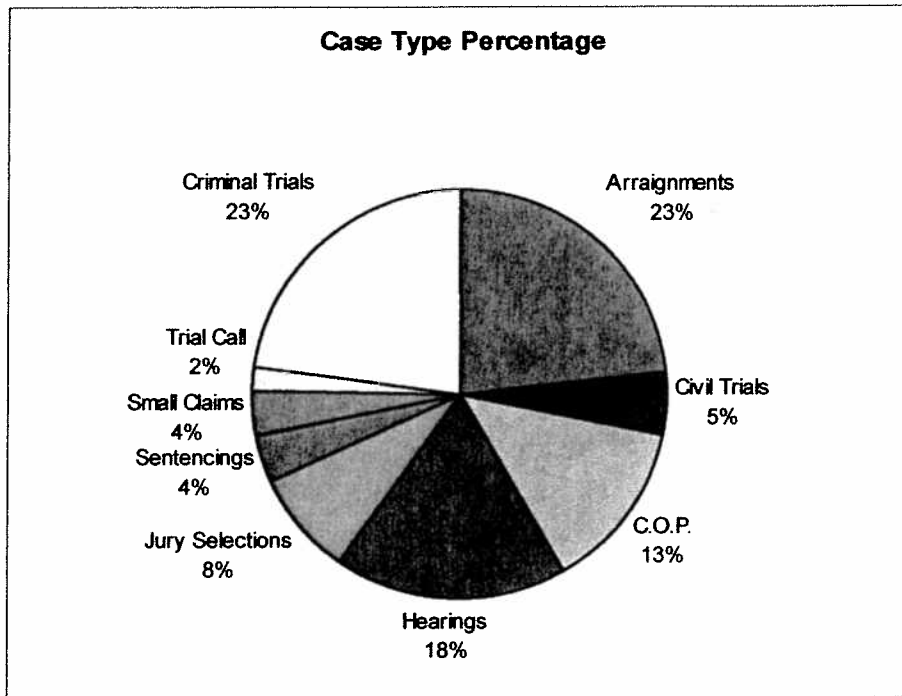
He was very concerned about finding a way to get this couple to co-parent.

Had concerns that the jury was “ok” and comfortable. Pays close attention to details.

Kept things moving; alert to everything happening in his courtroom.

Took a few notes, but mainly focused on interaction between parties involved in case. You could hear him clearly. Made very clear and fair rulings.

The Honorable James N. Wanamaker



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	3.9
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	3.8
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.8
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.5
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.5
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.8
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.5
Overall Score:	3.7

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	50 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	1 time

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	none
Reasonable:	3 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	3

Total observation time: 68.8 hours

The Honorable James N. Wanamaker

Judge Wanamaker is a patient listener. Court monitors find him to be accommodating and his easy manner puts court participants at ease. He is seen as being firm but fair to all in his courtroom

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 13 different CourtWatchers during 51 observations for a total of 68.8 hours. Judge Wanamaker had 21 positive comments and 8 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Uses a microphone so all can hear him. Gave a "pep talk" to those convicted of DWI's, tried to impress on them safety issues as they apply to the general public.

Held his own ground. Appropriate, firm decisions despite badgering and "game playing" by defense attorney.

Very thorough and helpful....

Did admirable job of containing the two attorneys who were rather excitable. Became the mediator between both parties. Calm manner throughout proceedings was very apparent.

Denied motion to release defendant on bail pending outcome of hearings. Noted repeated contact with victim and thought defendant posed a threat to the victim.

Paid careful attention to each presentation. Asked appropriate questions of each side. Took the time to think about his decision of how to handle the case.

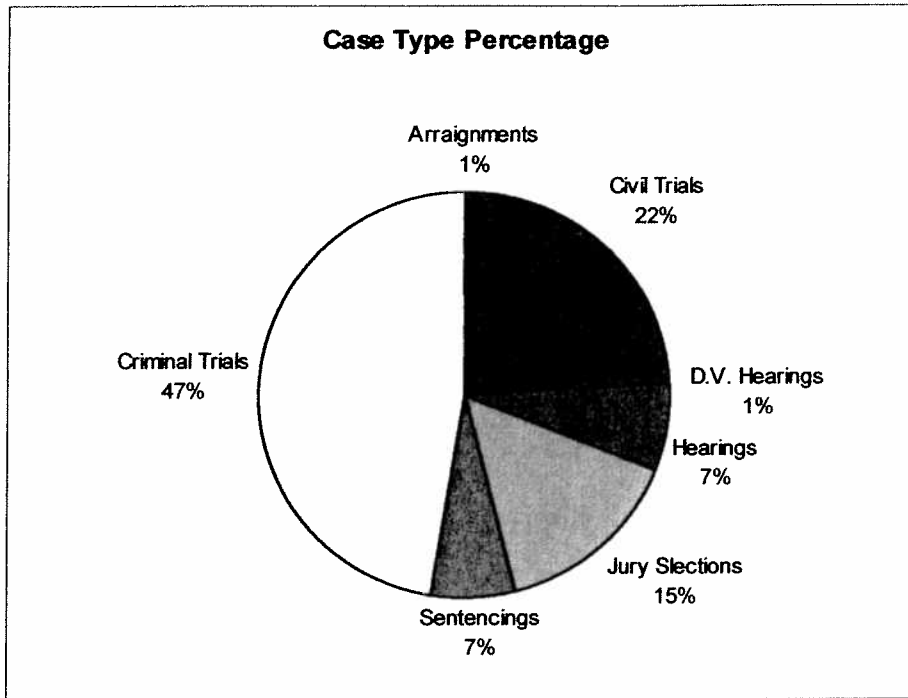
Priors did not seem to matter to him.

Listened intently to both sides.

The judge took extra care and time to explain all rights.

Treated each defendant with patience.

The Honorable Michael L. Wolverton



Scoring:

Did the judge appear to pay attention to proceedings and participants?	4.0
Did the judge maintain control of the courtroom?	4.0
Did the judge speak loudly and clearly?	3.9
Were the judge's remarks understandable and did they make sense?	3.7
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the victim? (whether present or not)	3.6
Did the judge show human understanding and compassion to the defendant?	3.6
Did the judge take the time to explain to the participants?	3.8
Did the judge treat all participants fairly and impartially?	3.8
Overall Score:	3.8

Did the judge favor either side?

No:	62 times
The defense:	none
The prosecution:	none

Was the judge: (In this category, judges were evaluated on sentencings only).

Lenient:	1 time
Reasonable:	12 times
Severe:	none
Total sentencings:	13

Total observation time: 114.7 hours

The Honorable Michael L. Wolverton

Judge Wolverton is seen as being patient and attentive to detail. He is in command of his courtroom and is concerned for the welfare of children involved in the issues before his court.

The following comments are representative of those recorded by 15 different CourtWatchers during 62 observations for a total of 114.7 hours. Judge Wolverton had 33 positive comments and 2 negative comments recorded by the monitors.

Gave clear, practical directions to jury. Projected a concerned, empathetic attitude.

The judge had a real deep concern for the welfare of the two children as well as a desire for good communication between the parents.

Maintained his "cool" during some "testing" by one attorney. Firmly, professionally, established who is in charge in the courtroom.

Gives detailed reasons for his rulings.

Observant. Takes short notes. Makes eye contact with all in court.

Very alert to the needs of his jurors – calls for frequent breaks. Controls his courtroom well.

At 1:30pm the next cases were coming in and the courtroom became "unruly"- wish he would have made the folks more respectful.

Attentive and able to add touch of levity when appropriate.

Greatest line – "I wear the robe".

Judge Wolverton took extra time so interpreter could keep up and so defendant could clearly understand.

The Judge was an active participant in the questioning of the jurors.

Current and Prior Overall Scores

Superior Court Judge Elaine M. Andrews

2000 Overall Score: 3.7
1998 Overall Score: 4.2
1996 Overall Score: 4.1

District Court Judge Peter G. Ashman

2000 Overall Score: 4.1
1998 Overall Score: 4.5

Superior Court Judge Larry D. Card

2000 Overall Score: 3.9
1998 Overall Score: 4.4
1996 Overall Score: 4.6

District Court Judge Natalie K. Finn

2000 Overall Score: 3.8
1998 Overall Score: 4.0
1996 Overall Score: 3.6
1994 Overall Score: (not evaluated)
1992 Overall Score: 4.2

Superior Court Judge Rene Gonzalez

2000 Overall Score: 3.7
1998 Overall Score: 3.8
1994 Overall Score: 3.9
1992 Overall Score: 3.5

Superior Court Judge Dan A. Hensley

2000 Overall Score: 3.9
1998 Overall Score: 4.3

Superior Court Judge Donald D. Hopwood

2000 Overall Score: 4.2
1998 Overall Score: 4.1

Superior Court Judge Karen L. Hunt

2000 Overall Score: 3.9
1998 Overall Score: 4.2
1996 Overall Score: 4.3
1994 Overall Score: 4.3
1992 Overall Score: 4.3

District Court Judge Stephanie E. Joannides*

2000 Overall Score: 4.0
1998 Overall Score: 4.4
1996 Overall Score: 4.1

District Court Judge John R. Lohff

2000 Overall Score: 3.8
1998 Overall Score: 4.0
1996 Overall Score: 4.2
1994 Overall Score: 4.1

District Court Judge Suzanne Lombardi

2000 Overall Score: 3.8

Superior Court Judge Peter A. Michalski

2000 Overall Score: 3.7
1998 Overall Score: 4.0
1996 Overall Score: 3.8
1994 Overall Score: 3.6
1990 Overall Score: 3.8
1988 Overall Score: 3.3**

District Court Judge Gregory J. Motyka

2000 Overall Score: 3.8
1998 Overall Score: 4.1
1996 Overall Score: 4.3
1994 Overall Score: 4.2

District Court Judge Sigurd E. Murphy

2000 Overall Score: 4.0
1998 Overall Score: 4.4
1996 Overall Score: 4.4
1994 Overall Score: 4.5

District Court Judge John E. Reese

2000 Overall Score: 3.8
1998 Overall Score: 4.2
1996 Overall Score: 3.9
1994 Overall Score: 4.0
1992 Overall Score: 4.0

*Judge Joannides is now a Superior Court Judge, but was evaluated as a District Court Judge.

**1988 - 4.0 Highest Score - Lickert Scale not used.

District Court Judge Stephanie Z. Rhoades

2000 Overall Score: 4.0

1998 Overall Score: 4.0

1996 Overall Score: 4.1

1994 Overall Score: 3.9

Superior Court Judge Eric T. Sanders

2000 Overall Score: 4.1

1998 Overall Score: 4.4

Superior Court Judge Milton M. Souter

2000 Overall Score: 3.8

1998 Overall Score: 4.2

1996 Overall Score: 3.9

1994 Overall Score: 4.1

1992 Overall Score: 3.6

Superior Court Judge Sen K. Tan

2000 Overall Score: 3.9

1998 Overall Score: 4.3

District Court Judge James N. Wanamaker

2000 Overall Score: 3.7

1998 Overall Score: 4.2

1996 Overall Score: 4.0

Superior Court Judge Michael L. Wolverson

2000 Overall Score: 3.8

1998 Overall Score: 4.4

1996 Overall Score: 4.1

1994 Overall Score: 4.2

Lickert Scale

The Court Watchers use the Lickert scale of 1-5 in evaluating the judges.

1-Poor

2-Inadequate

3-Acceptable/Average

4-Good

5-Excellent



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CourtWatch would like to express a special acknowledgment to the many people and organizations who have made, and continue to make, CourtWatch a successful and important program for the Anchorage and Palmer areas.

Susan Phair Bennevilee, 1988 Creator of Alaska Court Watch
Cook County Court Watchers, Inc.
Sharon Nahorney, Past Director, Alaska CourtWatch
Pat Gallagher, Assistant Director, Research and Writing
Dru Whitaker, Research, Computer Program revision, Data Entry
Rosemary Whitaker, Research, Computer Entry
Pat Rapp, Research, Computer Entry
Janice Lienhart, Research
Alaska Judicial Council
Alaska Bar Foundation, IOLTA Grant

COURTWATCHERS

By Kathleen Rice, Director

CourtWatch is very fortunate to have a special group of dedicated men and women volunteers who donated their time to view the Anchorage and Palmer courts. Without these wonderful folks, CourtWatch would not be able to maintain its high standards of judicial evaluations. They give their valuable time to learn more about the courts that impact our lives. I want to thank them so very much for their devotion, and let them know how privileged I feel to work with each and every one of them.

Pat Gallagher-10 years
Dr. Judie Samter-3 years
Don Corey
Kristin DeGross-Lander
John Isgrigg
Kathy Richard
Kathleen Wood
Jean Whitney
Don Corey
Ann Robison
Kendra Conory
Glen Denning
Judy Paxson

Rosemary Whitaker-6 years
Sharon Nahorney-12 years
Glenn Hudson-2 years
Linda Myers-Steele
Patricia Higgs
Terry Stimson
Thelma Ingram
John Wolfe
Barbara Ross
Flo Whinery
Bill Johnson
Robert Gill
Richard Wigginton

Pat Rapp-9 years
Sue Alexander-5 years
Donna Jefferies
Paul Baer
Stella Marshall
Sharon Antisdell
Mary Bloes
Jane Melarvie
Mary Avila
Patty Witt
Mary Wolfe
Otto Shropp
Rita Broussard