

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Natalie K. Finn, District Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Finn to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously (6-0) that the public vote "YES" to retain her as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. In a survey sent to all 2,644 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Finn was rated in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.1, see graph). She scored highest (4.3) in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" and "ability to control courtroom." She scored 3.9 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Report
Legal Ability	4.1	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.5	4.8	---	3.8
Integrity	4.2	4.5	---	4.2	---
Temperament	4.1	4.2	4.9	4.1	3.7
Diligence	4.2	4.2	---	4.2	---
Special Skills	4.2	4.3	---	4.1	---
Overall	4.1	4.4	4.7	4.1	3.8

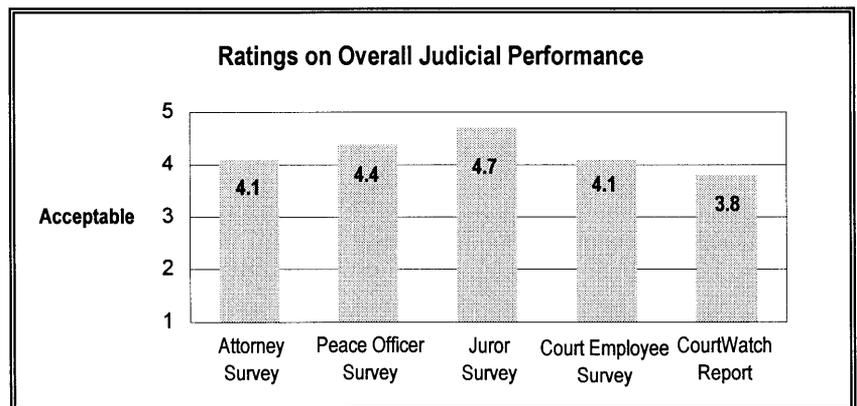
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Range Description
 4.0 - 5.0 = Excellent
 3.5 - 3.9 = Good
 3.0 - 3.4 = Acceptable
 2.5 - 2.9 = Below Acceptable
 1.0 - 2.4 = Poor

A survey of all 1,890 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Finn in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.4, see graph). She scored highest (4.5) in the categories of "sense of basic fairness and justice," "conduct free from impropriety" and "ability to control courtroom." She scored 4.3 or better in all thirteen categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Finn in 1998 and 1999 rated her in the excellent range (4.7) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her in the excellent range (4.1) on overall performance. The independent CourtWatch Report gave Judge Finn a 3.8 overall rating.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system, a review of any withheld salary warrants and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Finn

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

www.jc.state.ak.us



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AK Judicial Council

alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

Trial Judge 2000 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 19, 1999

NATALIE K. FINN

District Court - Anchorage

Name

Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

a) 25 % Civil Cases
75 % Criminal Cases
 % Court Administrative
100 % Total

b) 100 # of trials/year (mixed civil, criminal, small claims)
 # Administrative Appeals

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

Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct - Rules Revision Committee

3. On a separate sheet of paper 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

3. In the last two years, several of the district court judges have worked on revising how cases are scheduled in an effort to streamline our sometimes repetitive procedures. It has been a long process, and we are not done yet.

During this past term I have been assigned as a "pro tem" superior court judge to hear children's cases. I have seen the importance of crisis intervention for these kids and how hard it is to try to solve what seem like insoluble problems.

I have particularly enjoyed being a settlement judge in civil cases lately.

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.

4. 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 X.
- b) been involved in a nonjudicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise? Yes _____ No X.
- c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)? Yes _____ No X.
- d) held office in any political party? Yes _____ No X.
- e) held any other local state or federal office? Yes _____ No X.

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

n/a

Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2000 retention elections.

5. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent jury cases tried before you, identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1	<u>MOA v. Leroy Stansberry</u>	<u>3AN-M98-09488 Cr.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: John Darnell
Address: P.O. Box 773495
Eagle River, AK 99577

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Stuart Ross
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

2	<u>SOA v. Jimmy A. Lampley</u>	<u>3AN-S98-00397 Cr.</u>
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Attorneys Involved

Name: Keri Scott
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Jill Farrell
Address: 900 W, 5th Ave, Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

3	<u>MOA v. Darryl Wilson</u>	<u>3AN-M98-03889 Cr.</u>
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Attorneys Involved

Name: Pamela Dale
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Jason Steen
Address: 19725 S.E. Heuke Rd
Boring, OR 97009

Name: _____
Address: _____

6. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent non-jury cases tried before you, identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1 <u>MOA v. Ralph Winters</u>	<u>3AN-99-05338 Cr.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Joe O'Connell
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: Jim Gould
Address: 737 M Street
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2 <u>Dewey & Rutter v. Allen & Harris</u>	<u>3AN-97-02338 Ci.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Dennis P. James
Address: 1500 W. 33rd, Suite 100
Anchorage AK 99503-3639

Name: William Carey
Address: 1502 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage AK 99503

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3 <u>Vinson v. Forsythe</u>	<u>3AN-98-11683 Ci.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Robert C. Erwin
Address: 4041 B Street Suite 210
Anchorage AK 99503

Name: Maurice N. Ellis
Address: 731 I Street, Suite 103
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

7. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent cases which did not go to trial, but on which you did significant work (such as settlement conference, hearings, motion work, etc.), identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1 <u>St. v. Timothy Wagner</u>	<u>3AN-S98-10261 Cr.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Bob Collins
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Meg Simonian
Address: 900 W. 5th Ave, Suite 525
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2 <u>Davidson/Marques dba Knik Landscaping v. Belgarde</u>	<u>3AN-98-08925 Ci.</u>

Attorneys Involved

Plaintiff's Atty:
Name: Leonard R. Anderson
Address: 405 W. 36th, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

Defendant & 3rd Party Pltf.
Name: Kelly C. Fisher
Address: 800 E. Dimond Blvd, Suite 3620
Anchorage AK 99515

Defendants Atty:
Name: Mark Wilkerson
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 405
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3 <u>Gary Lund v. Wm. Batsell Jr & Sarah Batsell</u>	<u>3AN-98-09316 Ci</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Wayne Watson
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Dale Walther
Address: 1029 W. 3rd Ave, Suite 250
Anchorage AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

8. If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list the name, case number and attorneys' names and current addresses of any other cases during your judicial career in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

1

Name of Case
I.M.O. L.M.

Case Number
3AN-97-00148 CP

Attorneys Involved

Name: Julie Bryant
Address: 1031 W 4th Ave Suite 200
Anchorage AK 99501

and
Name: Steve Wallis
Address: 323 Carolyn St
Kodiak AK 99615

Name: Vince DiNapoli
Address: P.O. Box 898
Cordova, AK 99574

Name: Colleen Ray
Address: 1101 W. 7th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501

2

Name of Case

Case Number

Attorneys Involved

Name: _____
Address: _____

3

Name of Case

Case Number

Attorneys Involved

Name: _____
Address: _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Staff
DATE: May 16, 2000
RE: Comparison of Previous Survey Results - Natalie K. Finn

Natalie K. Finn is standing for retention in 2000. The tables on the following page compare retention and selection survey scores for Judge Finn. Changes in the form and content of the various surveys should be noted carefully in making any comparisons.

Judge Finn previously stood for retention as a district court judge in 1984, 1988, and 1992. She was evaluated with the other non-retention judges in 1990, 1994, and 1998.

Judge Finn applied for and was appointed to the Anchorage District Court in 1983. She applied for the Fairbanks District Court in 1980.

Judge Natalie K. Finn																
Retention surveys																
	2000 Retention		1998 Retention Preview		1996 Retention		1994 Retention Preview		1992 Retention		1990 Retention Preview		1988 Retention		1984 Retention	
	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO
Legal Ability	4.1	—	4.0	—	4.1	---	4.0	---	4.0	—	3.9	—	4.0	—	4.0	---
Fairness	4.1	4.5	3.8	4.6	4.0	4.4	3.9	4.3	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
Integrity	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1
Judicial Temperament	4.1	4.2	3.7	4.6	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.0
Diligence	4.2	4.2	—	—	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	---
Administrative Skills	4.2	4.3	—	—	4.1	4.5	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0
Overall Performance	4.1	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.3	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1

Judge Natalie K. Finn		
appointed to Anchorage District Court 3/31/83		
	1983 Anchorage District	1980 Fairbanks District
Professional Competence	4.1	4.3
Integrity	4.2	4.3
Fairness	4.0	4.0
Diligence	4.0	4.1
Freedom from Arrogance	4.0	3.9
Decisiveness	4.0	4.1
Good Character	4.2	4.3
Understanding	4.0	4.0
Judgment	4.0	4.1
Reasonableness	4.0	4.1

Good Judge	4.0	4.1
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