

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Mark I. Wood, District Court, Fairbanks

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

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. In a survey sent to all 2,644 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Wood was rated in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.1, see graph). He scored highest in the category of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.3). He scored 4.0 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	4.1	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.2	4.8	---
Integrity	4.2	4.2	---	4.5
Temperament	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.6
Diligence	4.2	4.2	---	4.5
Special Skills	4.2	4.2	---	4.4
Overall	4.1	4.2	4.8	4.5

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

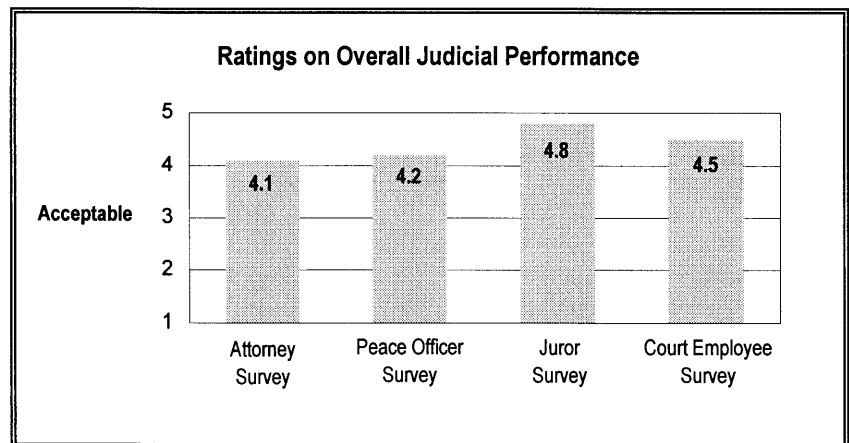
Range Description

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 Wood in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.2, see graph). He scored highest (4.3) in the categories of "makes decisions without regard to possible public criticism" and "human understanding and compassion." He scored 4.1 or better in all thirteen categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Wood in 1998 and 1999 rated him in the excellent range (4.8) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him in the excellent range (4.5) on overall performance.

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 Wood

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.ajc.state.ak.us



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

Trial Judge 2000 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 19, 1999

Mark I. Wood

Fairbanks District Court

Name

Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

- a) 20 % Civil Cases b) 20± # of trials/year
75 % Criminal Cases 6 # Administrative Appeals
5 % Court Administrative
100 % Total

Most of my administrative involvement is the calendar
call for the Fairbanks District Court and Healy/Nenana.

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

I am serving on the Jury Implementation subcommittee
of the Fairness and Access Committee. I was on the
selection committee for the new Galena magistrate (1999).

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

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.)

Name of Case	Case Number
1 State v. Craig Langman	4FA-S99-1462CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Larry Kao
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
604 Barnette St. #247
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: James Cannon
Address: Public Defender Agency
528 Fifth Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name of Case	Case Number
2 State v. Amos Phillips	2BA-S99-353CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Mary Fischer
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
PO Box 490
Barrow, AK 99723

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Stacy Hoagland
Address: Public Defender Agency
PO Box 429
Barrow, AK 99723

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name of Case	Case Number
3 State v. Marie Reed	4FA-S99-1115CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Gene Gustafson
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
604 Barnette St. #247
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Geoffrey Wildridge
Address: Public Defender Agency
528 Fifth Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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 State v. Delbert DeMeritt	4FA-S99-1817CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Corinne Vorankamp
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
604 Barnette St. #247
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Kenneth Covell
Address: 712 Eighth Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2 State v. Dan White	4FA-S99-1002CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Steve Elliott
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
604 Barnette St. #247
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Geoffrey Wildridge
Address: Public Defender Agency
528 Fifth Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3 State v. Mark Duclos	4FA-S99-943CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Larry Kao
Address: District Attorney Ofc.
604 Barnette St. #247
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Christopher Zimmerman
Address: 711 Gaffney Rd. #202
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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	Baldwin v. Simms	4FA-97-1606CI

Attorneys Involved

Name: Joseph Paskvan
Address: PO Box 73888
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Kenneth Schoolcraft
Address: 510 L Street #601
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2	Stosh's IM v. FNSB	4FA-98-308CI

Attorneys Involved

Name: Renee Broker
Address: Borough Attorney Ofc.
PO Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Richard Wright
Address: 250 Cushman St. #500
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3	Jones v. Marrero	4FA-99-162CI

Attorneys Involved

Name: Barry Donnellan
Address: PO Box 73795
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Name: Peter Aschenbrenner
Address: PO Box 73998
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Name: Sheila Bishop
Address: PO Box 73998
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Name: Roger Brunner
Address: PO Box 70527
Fairbanks, AK 99707

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.)

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1	State v. Evan Ramsey	4BE-S97-167CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Renee Erb
Address: OSPA
310 K Street #300
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Wally Tetlow
Address: Public Defender Agency
900 W Fifth Ave. #200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2	IMO: J.R.	4BE-97-16CP

Attorneys Involved

Name: Renee Erb
Address: OSPA
310 K Street #300
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Mitchell Schapira
Address: 310 K Street #200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3	IMO: M.C.	4BE-97-15CP

Attorneys Involved

Name: Renee Erb
Address: OSPA
310 K Street #300
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Sydney Billingslea
Address: 604 W Second Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

3. Assessment of Judicial Performance

In my brief tenure as a judge I have been acquiring an increased knowledge of the people of this state through frequent travel to a variety of court locations. In just this four year term I completed a three year stint as a Bethel Superior Court Judge pro tempore which involved approximately a week a month for over three years. In 1998, I presided over the Evan Ramsey Bethel high school murder case, which included two separate juvenile co-defendants, spending a month in trial in Dillingham, 10 weeks in Anchorage, and another week in Bethel for the sentencing and disposition hearings. In 1999, I have presided over a felony trial in Barrow. I believe that substantial pro tempore service in these areas and in Fairbanks has resulted in a time saving to other superior court judges who would have otherwise been taken from their busy desks and benches and a cost saving to the court system in the differential between the actual cost of a pro tempore superior court judge and my district court salary. During this term I have also presided over trials in Healy, Nenana, Tok, Delta Junction, and Galena.

In terms of other contributions to the judiciary and the administration of justice I have been an active participant on the Jury Implementation subcommittee of the Fairness and Access Committee chaired by Judge Larry Zervos. I was also involved in the committee which selected the new magistrate in Galena. Recently I have been instrumental in instituting a new calendar call procedure in the Fairbanks District Court.

While I am more comfortable this term in handling complex cases and in making trial rulings from the bench, I realize that there is so much more to learn about being a good judge. In addition to the judicial conferences, I have tried to continue my education as a judge by taking courses at the National Judicial College in Reno in the following subjects: advance evidence, handling a capital case, community judging, and a faculty instructor workshop to train judges as adult educators.

This is the most satisfying position I have ever held because of my co-workers and fellow judges, the engaging nature of the task of judging, and the interesting people I encounter everyday in my courtroom.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Staff
DATE: May 16, 2000
RE: Comparison of Previous Survey Results - Mark I. Wood

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

Judge Wood previously stood for retention in 1996. He was evaluated with the other non-retention judges in 1994 and 1998.

Judge Wood applied for and was appointed to the Fairbanks District Court in 1992. He applied for the Fairbanks District Court in 1984 and 1992, the Palmer District court in 1987, the Court of Appeals in 1997 and the Fairbanks Superior Court in 1997. He was nominated for all positions.

Judge Mark I. Wood								
Retention surveys								
	2000 Retention		1998 Retention Preview		1996 Retention		1994 Retention Preview	
	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO
Legal Ability	4.1	—	3.8	—	3.9	—	3.8	---
Fairness	4.1	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.6	4.2
Integrity	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.3
Judicial Temperament	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.2
Diligence	4.2	4.2	—	—	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.2
Administrative Skills	4.2	4.2	—	—	4.0	4.1	3.8	4.2
Overall Performance	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.4	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.2

Judge Mark I. Wood									
appointed to Fairbanks District Court 1/21/93									
	1997 Fairbanks Superior		1997 Court of Appeals		1992 Fairbanks District		1987 Palmer District		1984 Fairbanks District
	Score	Range	Score	Range	Score	Range	Score	Range	
Professional Competence	3.9	Good	3.7	Good	3.9	High Acceptable	3.88	High Acceptable	3.8
Integrity	4.2	Excellent	4.1	Excellent	4.0	Good	4.17	Good	4.1
Fairness	3.9	Good	3.7	Good	3.6	High Acceptable	3.66	High Acceptable	3.6
Judicial Temperament	4.0	Excellent	3.8	Good	3.6	High Acceptable	—	—	3.6
Suitability of Experience	3.9	Good	3.6	Good	—	—	3.75	High Acceptable	—
Overall Performance	3.9	Good	3.7	Good	3.7	High Acceptable	—	—	3.6