



alaska judicial council

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council
FROM: Staff
DATE: April 16, 2004
RE: Juror Survey Report

The 2004 juror survey included 750 jurors who sat on trials before ten judges in 2002 and 2003. The Council surveys jurors to supplement its Bar, peace and probation officer and other surveys with a public perspective on judicial performance. Council staff entered data from the surveys and ran basic descriptive statistics.

In July, 2003, the Council changed procedures for contacting jurors. Prior to that date, judge's secretaries sent lists of juror names and addresses to the Council, and staff sent questionnaires to the jurors. To make the process more efficient, the Council now sends postcards to the judges who distribute them to jurors at the end of each trial. The business reply postcard contains the same questions as the original questionnaire. The original questionnaire permitted respondents to provide comments in response to each question. The postcard gives general comments. The change in format is the reason for the inconsistent format in which these comments are reported here.

This memorandum summarizes the data from the survey and reports the transcribed comments. The Council will send it to Council members and judges, and will publish it on the website at www.ajc.state.ak.us.

Jurors reported whether they served on a criminal or civil trial. Table 1 shows the distribution of type of trial reported for each judge.

Table 1: Distribution of Type of Trial by Judge Alaska Judicial Council 2004 Retention Juror Survey			
Judge	Civil Jurors Responding	Criminal Jurors Responding	No Answer
Christen	19	0	5
Cutler	20	45	3
Funk	7	169	10
Gleason	55	10	0
Jeffery	1	63	3
Joannides	9	79	6
Nolan	16	27	7
Rindner	60	8	7
Steinkruger	6	52	3
Stephens	3	55	2

Table 2 shows the distribution of number of days served, as reported by the jurors. More than half of the jurors served fewer than five days.

Table 2: Distribution of Days Served		
Number of Days Served	%	N
1 - 2 days	25%	184
3 - 4 days	33%	245
5 - 7 days	23%	175
8 - 10 days	7%	54
11 - 20 days	10%	72
21 or more days	.3%	2
No Answer	2%	18
	100%	750

Individual Results

Table 3 shows the mean score for each judge for each question on the survey. Individual survey results are reported in Tables 4 through 14. Jurors used a five-point scale as follows: excellent (5), good (4), acceptable (3), deficient (2), unacceptable (1). The mean score and number of responses appear for each variable. In future surveys including these judges, the Council will modify its scale to conform with other retention surveys and selection surveys, as follows: excellent (5), good (4), acceptable (3), deficient (2), poor (1).

**Table 3: Mean Score for Each Variable and for "Overall Performance," by Judge
Alaska Judicial Council 2004 Retention Juror Survey**

	Fair and impartial to all sides	Respectful and courteous to parties	Attentive During Proceedings	Exercised control over proceedings	Intelligence and skill as a judge	Overall Performance	
						Mean	Total N
Christen	4.5	4.96	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.4	19
Cutler	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	65
Funk	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	176
Gleason	4.9	4.98	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	65
Jeffery	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.5	64
Joannides	4.9	4.98	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	88
Nolan	4.9	4.96	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	43
Rindner	4.9	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.9	68
Steinkruger	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	58
Stephens	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	58

**Table 4:
Juror Survey Results for Morgan Christen
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 24
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	55% 12	41% 9	5% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.5	22
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	96% 23	4% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.96	24
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	42% 10	58% 14	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.4	24
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	46% 10	50% 11	5% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.4	22
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	90% 9	10% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	10
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	46% 11	46% 11	8% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.4	24

**Table 5:
Juror Survey Results for Beverly Cutler
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 68
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	82% 56	15% 10	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	68
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	87% 59	12% 8	0% 0	2% 1	0% 0	4.8	68
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	72% 49	22% 15	6% 4	0% 0	0% 0	4.7	68
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	84% 57	13% 9	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	68
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	82% 56	15% 10	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	68
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	82% 56	15% 10	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	68

**Table 6:
Juror Survey Results for Raymond Funk
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 186
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	77% 143	19% 35	4% 7	1% 1	0% 0	4.7	186
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	83% 155	11% 21	4% 8	1% 2	0% 0	4.8	186
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	78% 145	16% 29	6% 11	1% 1	0% 0	4.7	186
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	82% 151	12% 23	5% 9	1% 2	0% 0	4.8	185
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	76% 141	18% 33	3% 6	3% 5	0% 0	4.7	185
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	77% 143	17% 32	3% 5	3% 5	0% 0	4.7	185

**Table 7:
Juror Survey Results for Sharon L. Gleason
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 65
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	89% 58	11% 7	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	65
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	99% 64	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.98	65
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	88% 57	9% 6	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	65
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	86% 56	9% 6	5% 3	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	65
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	88% 57	11% 7	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	65
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	92% 59	8% 5	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	64

**Table 8:
Juror Survey Results for Michael I. Jeffery
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 67
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	51% 34	40% 27	9% 6	0% 0	0% 0	4.4	67
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	64% 43	30% 20	6% 4	0% 0	0% 0	4.6	67
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	47% 31	44% 29	8% 5	2% 1	0% 0	4.4	66
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	52% 35	37% 25	10% 7	0% 0	0% 0	4.4	67
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	65% 42	28% 18	8% 5	0% 0	0% 0	4.6	65
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	63% 42	28% 19	8% 5	0% 0	2% 1	4.5	67

**Table 9:
Juror Survey Results for Stephanie E. Joannides
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 94
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	90% 85	10% 9	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	94
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	98% 92	2% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.98	94
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	77% 72	23% 22	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	94
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	80% 75	18% 17	1% 1	1% 1	0% 0	4.8	94
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	82% 77	18% 17	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	94
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	82% 77	18% 17	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	94

**Table 10:
Juror Survey Results for Nancy J. Nolan
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 50
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	94% 46	6% 3	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	49
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	96% 47	4% 2	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.96	49
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	92% 45	8% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	49
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	92% 45	8% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	49
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	92% 45	8% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	49
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	92% 45	8% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	49

**Table 11:
Juror Survey Results for Mark Rindner
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 75
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	87% 65	13% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	75
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	89% 66	10% 7	1% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	74
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	73% 55	21% 16	4% 3	1% 1	0% 0	4.7	75
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	85% 63	12% 9	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	74
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	85% 62	15% 11	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	73
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	87% 64	12% 9	1% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	74

**Table 12:
Juror Survey Results for Niesje J. Steinkruger
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 61
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	84% 51	16% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	61
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	87% 53	13% 8	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	61
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	87% 53	13% 8	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	61
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	87% 53	13% 8	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	61
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	90% 55	8% 5	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	61
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	87% 53	13% 8	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.9	61

**Table 13:
Juror Survey Results for Trevor Stephens
2004 Alaska Judicial Council Retention Juror Survey**

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Mean	Total returned = 60
Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	83% 50	15% 9	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	60
Was the judge respectful and courteous?	85% 51	13% 8	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	60
Was the judge attentive during proceedings?	77% 46	18% 11	3% 2	2% 1	0% 0	4.7	60
Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	75% 44	24% 14	2% 1	0% 0	0% 0	4.7	59
How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	81% 48	15% 9	3% 2	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	59
How would you evaluate the judge overall?	83% 49	17% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	4.8	59