

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

## Judge Richard H. Erlich, Superior Court, Kotzebue

### Judicial Council Recommendation

The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska constitution, evaluates judges on a number of criteria, including their legal ability, demeanor, their diligence, their ability to manage their caseloads, and their fairness and integrity. The Judicial Council finds Judge Erlich to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously that the public vote "YES" to retain him as a superior court judge.

### Judicial Council Evaluation

The Judicial Council surveyed 3,036 attorneys, 1,492 peace and probation officers, social workers/guardians ad litem, and child advocates, jurors, and court employees about the judges on the ballot. Respondents were asked to rate judicial performance and to submit comments. The Council also reviewed the ratings and observations of the Alaska Judicial Observers, independent community-based volunteers. The Council reviewed court system records concerning peremptory challenges, recusals, and appellate affirmance and reversal rates; any civil or criminal litigation involving the judge; APOC and court system conflict-of-interest statements; any disciplinary files; and whether a judge's pay was withheld for an untimely decision. The Council investigated judicial conduct in specific cases. The Council interviewed some judges, attorneys, court staff, and others. The Council held a statewide public hearing to obtain comments about judges.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	Social Workers Guardians ad Litem CASAs
Legal Ability	3.6	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.0	3.1	4.7	4.4	5.0
Integrity	4.3	3.7	---	4.6	5.0
Temperament	4.1	3.2	4.7	4.3	4.0
Diligence	4.0	3.4	---	4.4	5.0
Overall	3.9	3.1	4.7	4.6	5.0

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

**Rating Scale**  
 5.0 = Excellent  
 4.0 = Good  
 3.0 = Acceptable  
 2.0 = Deficient  
 1.0 = Poor

### Summary of Survey Information

Attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Erlich on the six categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge Erlich on overall performance was 3.9. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Erlich on five categories, using the 5-point scale above. They gave Judge Erlich a rating of 3.1.

Three other groups also evaluated Judge Erlich's performance, using the same 5-point scale with 5 as the highest rating. Jurors rated him 4.7, court employees gave him 4.6, and social workers, guardians ad litem and CASA volunteers rated him at 5.0.

**Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Richard H. Erlich**

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. Third Avenue, 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](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)

November 2006



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ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

# alaska judicial council

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## Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

### Trial Judge 2006 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 21, 2005

Richard H. Erlich

Superior Court - Kotzebue

Name

Court

1 Describe your workload during your present term

a)	$\frac{30}{55}$ % Civil Cases	b)	$\frac{4}{0}$ # of trials/year
	% Criminal Cases		# Administrative Appeals
	$\frac{15}{100}$ % Court Administrative		
	100 % Total		

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

Fall 1996- Present: Court Improvement Comm.

March 2004- Present: member Therapeutic Courts Advisory Comm.

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

It is Christmas morn, 2006. I just finished two hours at the radio station and am doing weekend arraignments. Your question asks me to summarize the last six years on the job, but the allotted space does not allow for a substantive response, never mind not fully understanding the judge's role in a small court.

Sometimes I am satisfied with my role, sometimes, dissatisfied, sometimes happy, and sometimes sad. The expectations of the community I serve is that I run the police, the lawyers, the jails, the court, and the social workers. Depending on one's perspective that is not true. This morning I heard GREAT news! A juvenile in a delinquency proceeding, who was placed in state custody, called to wish his family a Merry Christmas on the radio. He told me that he is expected to graduate and wants to go to college. Many other cases are not so successful.

The major contribution I have made is in focusing judicial and community education on the neuro-developmental aspects of children and adults. This has implications for what judge's (and lawyers) do. How they deal with individuals. What resources are needed to help. That problems are more complex than a one hour sessions with a therapist once a month. This construct also affords a way to develop more holistic services and ideas, without significantly increasing budgets.

As of now, I am the only person in Kotzebue working in the system who has worked with families, over three generations, counting my time as a lawyer. This means that I may see cases differently than the lawyers and social workers, who are unaware of the family history, which I put on the record.

The Kotzebue area could be classified as a colonial outpost of the State. First, there are no administrative policy makers located in Kotzebue, only front line workers of state administrative agencies. Second, most state employees are on a 2-3 year rotation cycle. Further, most lack the cultural context to understand the issues. It is difficult to put the legal system into a cultural context. How do you explain to a community that four men who commit the same crime get four different sentences ranging in years, depending on the charge, the prior felony history, and other such considerations? Try it - it's a challenge.

Am I still excited about my work - Yes. Is it still challenging-Yes. Do I think I have something to contribute-Yes. Do I find the job frustrating at times-Yes. Am I planning my retirement - Yes. Do I want to be retained-Yes.

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
  - b) been involved in a nonjudicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise?     Yes     No
  - c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)?     Yes     No
  - d) held office in any political party?     Yes     No
  - e) held any other local state or federal office?     Yes     No
5. If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers and outcomes.

6. Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2006 retention elections.

1. 2002-2004 Kotzebue Court was involved in testing the SCRAM alcohol monitoring bracelet [Our Probation Officer at the time, Andrew Kapalko was instrumental in initiating this project.]

2. In 1998, 2000, 2003 & 2004 - organized and Presenter in community conferences "Our Children, Our Families, Our Communities, Our Future. These two day conferences had over 100 people in attendance and were broadcast live on the radio.

3. From Sept 2001- November, 2002 conducted a Kotzebue MCA (Minor Consuming Alcohol) court. This was held in the evening, every two weeks and involved volunteers from the community to conduct sessions. Except for vacations I was present at all sessions.



8. 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 )

**Case Number 1**

**Case Name:** Mark A. Johnson **Case Number:** 2NO-03-50 CI  
v. Louise Johnson

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name	<u>G.P. Eschbacher Esq</u>	Name	<u>F. Shepherd, Esq</u>
Address	<u>718 Barrow St</u>	Address	<u>800 E DIMOND BLVD, 3-620</u>
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	<u>ANCHORAGE, AK 99515</u>
Name	_____	Name	_____
Address	_____	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	_____	City, State, Zip	_____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** ITMO: DC; WCIII; PC; JO; SO; **Case Number:** 2KB-01-16/18/19/20CP 02-32C  
v. \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name	<u>John Earthman, Dist Atty</u>	Name	<u>Diane Foster, Asst. P.D</u>
Address	<u>P.O. Box 160</u>	Address	<u>268 E. Fireweed</u>
City, State, Zip	<u>Nome, AK 99762</u>	City, State, Zip	<u>Palmer, AK 99645</u>
Name	<u>Robert Lewis, Esq.</u>	Name	<u>William Oberly, Esq.,</u>
Address	<u>P.O. Box 61</u>	Address	<u>135 Christensen, Suite 300</u>
City, State, Zip	<u>Nome, AK 99762</u>	City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** ITMO: PC, DC **Case Number:** 2KB-00-53/51 CP  
v. \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name	<u>M. Wyatt, Asst. A.G</u>	Name	<u>D. Foster, Asst. P D.</u>
Address	<u>301 K. Street</u>	Address	<u>268 E. Fireweed</u>
City, State, Zip	<u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip	<u>Palmer, AK 99645</u>
Name	<u>R. Lewis, Esq.</u>	Name	_____
Address	<u>P O Box 160</u>	Address	_____
City, State, Zip	<u>Nome, AK 99762</u>	City, State, Zip	_____



10. 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.)

**Case Number 1**

*Case Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Case Number:* \_\_\_\_\_  
v. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Attorneys Involved:*

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

**Case Number 2**

*Case Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Case Number:* \_\_\_\_\_  
v. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Attorneys Involved:*

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

**Case Number 3**

*Case Name:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Case Number:* \_\_\_\_\_  
v. \_\_\_\_\_  
*Attorneys Involved:*

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



SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
AT KOTZEBUE  
605 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 317  
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-00317



**RICHARD H. ERLICH**  
**SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE**

E-MAIL: [rerlich@courts.state.ak.us](mailto:rerlich@courts.state.ak.us)  
TEL: [907]442-3664 FAX: 442-3974

December 26, 2005

Re: Addendum the Retention Questionnaire  
Richard H. Erlich

In reviewing my responses, I noticed that Ms. Windy East, who was the Kotzebue Assistant District Attorney for approximately 3-4 of this term, was not listed as a recent attorney. I would recommend her as someone to contact to evaluate my performance. Ms. Windy East, Office of Public Advocacy, 268 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 101, Palmer, AK 99645-6665

I don't believe the Council members really understand the life of a single court judge. My experiences may be at the extreme end of the range, but think it important to note the highlights of this term. Until a month ago, I would use my truck to pick up Goldstreaks and other packages for the court from the airport. I have shoveled the courthouse steps. During this term, all the employees resigned in protest and for an extended period of time, I was clerking my own hearings. The Kotzebue Jail was closed that made it necessary for daily prisoner transports to Kotzebue from Nome. This created more upheaval as it was during the period we were short staffed. The State replaced two Assistant District Attorneys. It was during the Kotzebue Jail closure that we tested a video-conferencing technology with Anvil Mountain Correctional Facility. I even got to serve as a jailer one time. Finally, we moved into a new facility.

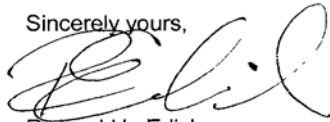
I have reviewed the 2004 Retention Survey and notice many comments are directed to my administrative skills. First, given the above comment, I think much of the problem is related to the Clerk's Office, which the judicial officer does not control. Except for one year, out of 14, the Kotzebue Clerk's Office has always been an issue. On the other hand, I don't believe people understand the volume of cases addressed. One former Clerk, who also worked in Palmer, commented that on a per capita basis

Kotzebue Clerks were as busy as Palmer Clerks.

Additionally, each time a new lawyer or player comes into the system; it creates change for the entire system. People work differently and changes have to be made. Most do not recognize the system implications of such change, whether for counsel on the opposing side, jailers, Troopers, Probation Officers, Children's workers, and Clerks. Hence, some of the comments directed towards the administration of the Kotzebue Court properly belong with court administration. I readily admit that I am slow in some things, but would assert that part of that is due to my other duties I am forced to assume.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Erlich', written in a cursive style.

Richard H. Erlich  
Superior Court Judge

**32. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RICHARD H. ERLICH**

**A. Alaska Bar Association**

**Demographic Description (N=235)**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No Response	4	1.7%
Private, Solo	39	16.5%
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	31	13.1%
Private, 6+ Attorneys	39	16.5%
Private, Corporate Employee	5	2.1%
State Judge or Judicial Officer	42	17.8%
Government	56	23.8%
Public Service Agency or Organization (not govt)	8	3.4%
Other	11	4.6%
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No Response	2	0.8%
5 Years or fewer	17	7.2%
6 to 10 years	15	6.3%
11 to 15 years	26	11.0%
16 to 20 years	36	15.3%
21 years or more	139	59.1%
<b>Gender</b>		
No Response	4	1.7%
Male	157	66.8%
Female	74	31.4%
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No Response	3	1.2%
Prosecution	12	5.1%
Mainly Criminal	21	8.9%
Mixed Criminal & Civil	70	29.7%
Mainly Civil	114	48.5%
Other	15	6.3%
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No Response	3	1.2%
First District	18	7.6%
Second District	18	7.6%
Third District	169	71.9%
Fourth District	26	11.0%
Outside of Alaska	1	0.4%

**Evaluation of Judge Richard H. Erlich:  
Alaska Bar Association Members**

**Summary of Findings**

Judge Richard H. Erlich was evaluated by 190 Alaska Bar Association members who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 3.9. The highest mean score was obtained on *integrity* (4.3) and the lowest score was obtained on *legal ability* (3.6). Details are present in the two tables that follow.

	Poor		Deficient		Accept		Good		Excellent		Mean
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Legal Ability</b>	6	3.1%	18	9.4%	57	30.0%	68	35.7%	41	21.5%	3.6
<b>Impartiality/Fairness</b>	5	2.6%	10	5.2%	43	22.7%	61	32.2%	70	37.0%	4.0
<b>Integrity</b>	2	1.0%	7	3.7%	28	14.9%	55	29.4%	95	50.8%	4.3
<b>Judicial Temperament</b>	2	1.0%	7	3.6%	45	23.6%	61	32.1%	75	39.4%	4.1
<b>Diligence</b>	2	1.0%	13	6.9%	32	17.2%	77	41.3%	62	33.3%	4.0
<b>Overall Rating</b>	4	2.1%	16	8.4%	32	16.9%	76	40.2%	61	32.2%	3.9

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

**Judge Richard H. Erlich: Detailed Information Responses  
Alaska Bar Association Members**

	Legal Ability		Impartiality/ Fairness		Integrity		Judicial Temperament		Diligence		Overall Rating	
	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
<b>Basis for Evaluation of Judge</b>												
No Response	4.0	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3
<b>Direct Professional</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>189</b>
Professional Reputation	3.7	36	3.8	35	3.9	36	3.9	34	3.8	32	3.7	37
Other Personal Contacts	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.3	3	3.3	3	4.0	2	4.0	2
<b>Type of Practice</b>												
No Response	3.5	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4.0	4	4.0	4	3.8	4
Private, Solo	3.8	36	4.2	36	4.4	34	4.2	36	4.0	36	4.1	36
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	3.5	26	3.9	26	4.2	25	4.2	26	3.8	26	3.9	26
Private, 6+ Attorneys	3.2	33	3.6	34	3.8	34	3.7	34	3.6	34	3.5	34
Private, Corporate Employee	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	3
State Judge or Judicial Officer	4.1	35	4.5	35	4.8	35	4.4	35	4.3	33	4.4	35
Government	3.5	42	3.7	40	4.0	41	3.8	41	3.9	39	3.6	42
Public Service Agency or Organization (not govt)	3.1	7	3.7	7	4.6	7	4.0	7	4.1	7	3.6	5
Other	4.3	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4.3	4	4.3	4	4.3	4
<b>Years Experience</b>												
No Response	3.5	2	3.5	2	3.5	2	3.5	2	3.0	2	3.5	2
5 Years or fewer	3.8	11	3.7	11	3.9	11	3.6	11	3.7	11	3.6	11
6 to 10 years	3.7	14	3.8	13	4.4	13	4.1	14	4.2	13	3.9	14
11 to 15 years	3.7	23	4.2	22	4.3	23	4.0	23	4.0	22	4.0	23
16 to 20 years	3.6	31	4.0	31	4.2	30	4.1	31	3.9	29	3.9	30
21 years or more	3.6	109	4.0	110	4.3	108	4.1	109	4.0	109	3.9	109
<b>Gender</b>												
No Response	3.7	3	3.7	3	4.0	3	3.7	3	4.3	3	3.7	3
Male	3.6	125	4.0	126	4.2	123	4.1	126	4.0	125	3.9	125
Female	3.6	62	3.9	60	4.3	61	4.0	61	4.1	58	3.9	61
<b>Majority of Practice Consists of</b>												
No Response	3.5	2	3.5	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.5	2	3.5	2
Prosecution	3.8	10	3.9	9	4.3	10	4.0	10	4.0	9	3.7	10
Mainly Criminal	3.5	17	3.8	16	4.1	16	3.9	17	3.9	16	3.7	17
Mixed Criminal & Civil	4.1	57	4.4	57	4.6	56	4.3	57	4.4	54	4.3	57
Mainly Civil	3.4	95	3.8	96	4.0	94	3.9	95	3.8	96	3.7	94
Other	3.9	9	3.9	9	4.3	9	3.9	9	4.1	9	4.2	9
<b>Location of Practice</b>												
No Response	3.7	3	3.7	3	3.7	3	3.7	3	3.7	3	3.7	3
First District	3.6	11	3.9	11	4.3	11	4.0	10	4.1	10	3.8	11
Second District	4.1	15	4.3	15	4.7	15	4.1	15	4.1	14	4.1	15
Third District	3.6	139	3.9	138	4.2	136	4.1	140	4.0	137	3.9	139
Fourth District	3.5	21	3.9	21	4.3	21	4.0	21	3.9	21	3.9	20
Outside of Alaska	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

**32. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RICHARD H. ERLICH**

**B. Peace and Probation Officers**

**Demographic Description (N=33)**

	N	%
<b>Type of Work</b>		
No Response	--	0.0%
State Law Enforcement Officer	12	36.3%
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	5	15.1%
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	--	0.0%
Probation/Parole Officer	16	48.4%
Other	--	0.0%
<b>Length of Alaska Experience</b>		
No Response	--	0.0%
5 Years or fewer	7	21.2%
6 to 10 years	8	24.2%
11 to 15 years	6	18.1%
16 to 20 years	6	18.1%
21 years or more	6	18.1%
<b>Gender</b>		
No Response	--	0.0%
Male	26	78.7%
Female	7	21.2%
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No Response	--	0.0%
First District	2	6.0%
Second District	14	42.4%
Third District	12	36.3%
Fourth District	5	15.1%
Outside of Alaska	--	0.0%
<b>Community Population</b>		
No Response	--	0.0%
Under 2,000	1	3.0%
Between 2,000 and 35,000	17	51.5%
Over 35,000	15	45.4%

**Evaluation of Judge Richard H. Erlich  
Peace and Probation Officers**

**Summary of Findings**

Judge Richard H. Erlich was evaluated by 18 Peace and Probation Officers who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 3.1. The highest mean score was obtained on *integrity* (3.7) and the lowest score was obtained on *impartiality/fairness* (3.1). Details are present in the two tables that follow.

	Poor		Deficient		Accept		Good		Excellent		Mean
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Impartiality/Fairness</b>	4	22.2%	3	16.6%	2	11.1%	5	27.7%	4	22.2%	3.1
<b>Integrity</b>	1	5.5%	1	5.5%	5	27.7%	6	33.3%	5	27.7%	3.7
<b>Judicial Temperament</b>	4	22.2%	3	16.6%	3	16.6%	2	11.1%	6	33.3%	3.2
<b>Diligence</b>	2	11.7%	4	23.5%	2	11.7%	4	23.5%	5	29.4%	3.4
<b>Overall Rating</b>	3	16.6%	4	22.2%	3	16.6%	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	3.1

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

## Judge Richard H. Erlich: Detailed Information on Responses Peace and Probation Officers

	Impartiality/ Fairness		Integrity		Judicial Temperament		Diligence		Overall Rating	
	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
<b>Basis for Evaluation of Judge</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Direct Professional</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>18</b>
Professional Reputation	3.7	14	3.9	14	3.7	14	4.1	13	3.9	14
Other Personal Contacts	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Type of Work</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
State Law Enforcement Officer	3.0	10	3.9	10	2.9	10	3.2	9	3.1	10
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	3.3	3	4.0	3	3.7	3	3.7	3	3.3	3
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Probation/Parole Officer	3.2	5	3.2	5	3.4	5	3.4	5	3.0	5
Other	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Years Experience</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
5 Years or fewer	3.3	4	3.8	4	3.3	4	3.8	4	3.0	4
6 to 10 years	2.7	3	3.0	3	3.3	3	2.7	3	2.7	3
11 to 15 years	2.3	4	3.3	4	2.0	4	2.3	4	2.3	4
16 to 20 years	3.3	3	4.3	3	3.3	3	3.7	3	3.7	3
21 years or more	4.0	4	4.3	4	4.0	4	4.7	3	4.0	4
<b>Gender</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Male	3.2	16	3.9	16	3.3	16	3.4	15	3.3	16
Female	2.5	2	2.5	2	2.5	2	3.0	2	2.0	2
<b>Location of Practice</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
First District	3.0	1	5.0	1	3.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Second District	3.0	10	3.8	10	3.0	10	3.2	10	2.9	10
Third District	3.2	6	3.3	6	3.2	6	3.4	5	3.2	6
Fourth District	4.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Outside of Alaska	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Community Population</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Under 2,000	3.0	1	5.0	1	3.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Between 2,000 and 35,000	2.7	10	3.5	10	2.8	10	3.0	10	2.7	10
Over 35,000	3.7	7	3.9	7	3.7	7	3.8	6	3.6	7

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.



**4. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RICHARD H. ERLICH**

**C. Social Workers, Guardians ad Litem, and CASA Volunteers**

**Demographic Description (N=2)**

		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Type of Work</b>			
	No Response	--	0.0%
	Social Worker	1	50.0%
	Guardian ad Litem	1	50.0%
	CASA Volunteer	--	0.0%
	Other	--	0.0%
<b>Length of Alaska Experience</b>			
	No Response	--	0.0%
	5 Years or fewer	--	0.0%
	6 to 10 years	--	0.0%
	11 to 15 years	1	50.0%
	16 to 20 years	1	50.0%
	21 years or more	--	0.0%
<b>Gender</b>			
	No Response	--	0.0%
	Male	--	0.0%
	Female	2	100.0%
<b>Location of Practice</b>			
	No Response	--	0.0%
	First District	--	0.0%
	Second District	1	50.0%
	Third District	1	50.0%
	Fourth District	--	0.0%
	Outside of Alaska	--	0.0%
<b>Community Population</b>			
	No Response	--	0.0%
	Under 2,000	--	0.0%
	Between 2,000 and 35,000	1	50.0%
	Over 35,000	1	50.0%

**Evaluation of Judge Richard H. Erlich  
Social Workers, Guardians Ad Litem, and CASA Volunteers**

Judge Richard H. Erlich was evaluated by one Guardian Ad Litem who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 5.0. The highest mean scores were obtained on *impartiality/fairness* (5.0), *integrity* (5.0) and *diligence* (5.0) and the lowest score was obtained on *judicial temperament* (4.0). Details are present in the two tables that follow.

	Poor		Deficient		Accept		Good		Excellent		Mean
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
<b>Impartiality/Fairness</b>	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	1	100.0%	5.0
<b>Integrity</b>	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	1	100.0%	5.0
<b>Judicial Temperament</b>	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	1	100.0%	--	0	4.0
<b>Diligence</b>	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	1	100.0%	5.0
<b>Overall Rating</b>	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	--	0.0%	1	100.0%	5.0

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

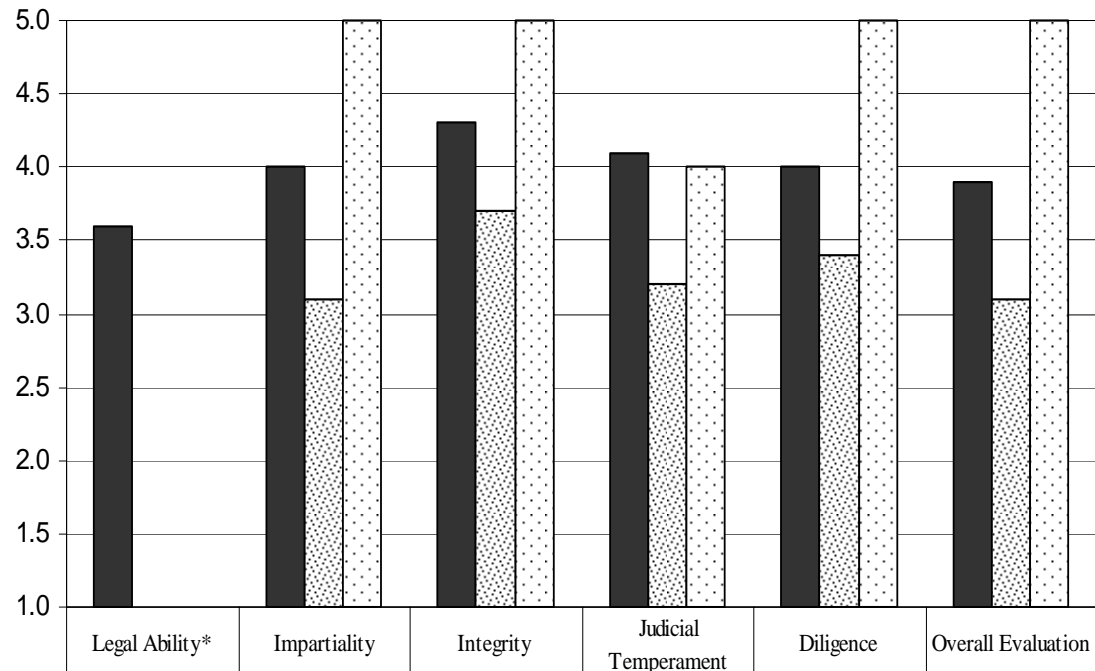
**Judge Richard H. Erlich: Detail Information on Responses  
Social Workers, Guardians Ad Litem, and CASA volunteers**

	Impartiality/ Fairness		Integrity		Judicial Temperament		Diligence		Overall Rating	
	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
<b>Basis for Evaluation of Judge</b>										
No Response	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1
<b>Direct Professional</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>1</b>
Professional Reputation	2.0	1	3.0	1	1.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1
Other Personal Contacts	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Type of Work</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Social Worker	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Guardian ad Litem	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
CASA Volunteer	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Other	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Years Experience</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
5 Years or fewer	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
6 to 10 years	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
11 to 15 years	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
16 to 20 years	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
21 years or more	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Gender</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Male	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Female	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
<b>Location of Practice</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
First District	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Second District	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Third District	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Fourth District	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Outside of Alaska	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
<b>Community Population</b>										
No Response	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Under 2,000	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Between 2,000 and 35,000	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	0
Over 35,000	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

## Superior Court Judge Richard H. Erlich

*Average Ratings from All Groups Surveyed*



■ Alaska Bar Association	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9
▨ Peace and Probation Officers		3.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.1
▩ Social Workers/ GALSCASA Volunteers		5.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	5.0

\*Legal Ability items are only completed by Alaska Bar Association members.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Juror Survey Results                      2006 Retention Evaluation                      Richard H. Erlich</b></p>											
		<b>Distribution of Ratings</b>									
<b>Survey Category</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Excellent % (n)</b>	<b>Good % (n)</b>	<b>Acceptable % (n)</b>	<b>Deficient % (n)</b>	<b>Poor % (n)</b>	<b>Total Returned = 35</b>				
<b>Impartiality/Fairness</b>	<b>4.7</b>	71% 25	23% 8	6% 2	0% 0	0% 0					
<b>Respectful/Courteous</b>	<b>4.7</b>	74% 26	20% 7	6% 2	0% 0	0% 0					
<b>Attentive during Proceedings</b>	<b>4.5</b>	63% 22	29% 10	9% 3	0% 0	0% 0					
<b>Control over Proceedings</b>	<b>4.6</b>	63% 22	26% 9	9% 3	0% 0	0% 0					
<b>Intelligence/Skill as a Judge</b>	<b>4.7</b>	74% 26	20% 7	6% 2	0% 0	0% 0					
<b>Overall Evaluation</b>	<b>4.7</b>	74% 26	20% 7	6% 2	0% 0	0% 0					

<b>Court Employee Survey Results                      2006 Retention Evaluation                      Richard H. Erlich</b>											
		<b>Distribution of Ratings</b>									
<b>Survey Category</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Excellent % (n)</b>	<b>Good % (n)</b>	<b>Acceptable % (n)</b>	<b>Deficient % (n)</b>	<b>Poor % (n)</b>	<b>Total Returned = 30</b>				
<b>Impartiality/Fairness</b>	<b>4.4</b>	60% 18	13% 4	17% 5	3% 1	0% 0	28				
<b>Integrity</b>	<b>4.6</b>	70% 21	13% 4	13% 4	0% 0	0% 0	29				
<b>Judicial Temperament</b>	<b>4.3</b>	53% 16	30% 9	10% 3	7% 2	0% 0	30				
<b>Diligence</b>	<b>4.4</b>	60% 18	20% 6	17% 5	3% 1	0% 0	30				
<b>Overall Evaluation</b>	<b>4.6</b>	67% 20	17% 5	13% 4	0% 0	0% 0	29				

Judge Richard H. Erlich  
 Prior Scores Summary  
 Retention 2006  
 Appointed 03/08/91 to Kotzebue Superior Court

<b>Bar Survey</b>						
2006 Retention	3.6	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.9
2004 Interim	3.6	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8
2000 Retention	3.7	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.9
1994 Retention	3.5	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7
	Legal Ability	Impartiality	Integrity	Judicial Temperament	Diligence	<b>Overall Performance</b>

<b>Peace &amp; Probation Officer Survey</b>					
2006 Retention	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.1
2004 Interim	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.2
2000 Retention	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.0
1994 Retention	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.8
	Impartiality	Integrity	Judicial Temperament	Diligence	<b>Overall Performance</b>