# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation Judge John W. Wolfe, District Court, Palmer

#### **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 Wolfe to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously that the public vote "Yes" to retain him as a district 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	4.0				
Impartiality	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.4	
Integrity	4.3	4.3		4.4	
Temperament	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.4	
Diligence	4.3	4.3		4.5	
Overall	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.5	

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 Wolfe on the six categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge Wolfe on overall performance was 4.1. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Wolfe on five categories, using the 5-point scale above. They gave Judge Wolfe a rating of 4.1.

Four other groups were also asked to evaluate Judge Wolfe's performance, using the same 5-point scale with 5 as the highest rating. Jurors rated him 4.7, and court employees gave him 4.5. There were no responses from social workers, guardians ad litem and CASA volunteers. The Alaska Judicial Observers rated him 2.9.

# Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge John W. Wolfe

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

November 2006



1029 W. Third Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1969 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046 http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail. postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Larry Cohn NON-ATTORNEY MEMBERS Eleanor Andrews Bill Gordon Christena Williams

Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

Trial Judge

ATTORNEY MEMBERS Douglas Baily Robert B Groseclose Susan Orlansky

CHAIR, EX OFFICID Alexander O Bryner Chief Justice Supreme Court

2006 Candidates for Judicial Retention November 21, 2005

John Wolfe Name Mer Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

ESt. a) <u>10</u>% Civil Cases <u>90</u>% Criminal Cases 0% Court Administrative 100 % Total

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

None

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Alaska Judicıal Council Trial Judge Questionnaire 2006 Retentıon

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.

I have enjoyed District Court my firs year 95 4 udge 40 JG honor 44: state in was he Desi ÓG ntellectually for meand cha 9/50 busy Court. Ke Q who the 14 enjoy des in th People APPEQU 411 500 being 9 / 6 and ma lives POS 9 impression 16  $\alpha$ favorable 5 0 parma ot ust our 6/e ma 200 a ингон 1 felt 4<u>4e</u> 5 5 am P as haur this N on psition s ec fee <u>)e</u> eh 0 9 vi ood have e 500 o 14 40 ¥ 949 50 10 6001 een 24044 en JG then cour n CAUPPI S 44 As do 3 q bb a 50 m or things judge, Min Serve as 4rin aver advoc G m 1.529 и d' avoid and +~ 40 thos + ngits habits

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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 \_\_\_\_.
- e) held any other local state or federal office? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No <u>></u>\_\_\_\_.
- 5. If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers and outcomes.

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. As a fairly new judge, I know that there are many ways I can improve. Fact day after court, I reflect on the day's events and think abo what I could do differently in the future Freating people vespect, fulfill my duties while 40 with 00 appear and patien Courtes

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Alaska Judicial Councıl		
Trial Judge Questionnaire		
2006 Retention		

 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)

Case Number 1 Case State of Alaska Case Number: 3PA-05-2018 CR Matthew Desalvo Name: v. Attorneys Involved: Name Jerom Bangerter Name Scott Sterling Address 11921 Palmer-Was, 1/9 HWy Steloop Address. 851 E. Wostpoint Dr., Ste 201 City, State, Zip Palmer, Algska 99645 City, State, Zip Was: 11, Ak. 99654 Name. Name Address Address City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip Case Number 2 Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3PA-05-2037 N. Jack Voge Name. Jerom Bangerter Address. 11921 Palmer-Was: 1/9 Hwy Steloo City, State, Zip: Palmer, Ale. 99645 City, State, Zip: Palmer, Aleska 99645 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name -----Address Address City, State, Zip City, State, Zip Case Number 3 Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3PA-05-1595 v. Jeffrey Fisher Attorneys Involved: Name Jerom Bangerter Address 11921 Palmer-Was: 1/19 Huy Ste. Palmer, Josh Fannon Address 11921 Palmer-Was: 1/19 Huy Ste. Palmer, Alaska 99645 City, State, Zip Palmer, Alaska 99645 City, State, Zip Palmer, Alaska 99645 Name Name. Address Address: City, State, Zip City, State, Zip

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Alaska Judicıal Council		
Trial Judge Questionnaire		
2006 Retention		

 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: State of Alaska Case Number: 3PA-04-2967 CR v. Jacquelme E. Koch Attorneys Involved: Name Richard Payme Name Verue Ryoxiaht
Name <u>Richard Payne</u> Address. <u>11921 E Palmer-Wasilla Huy Ste. 10 Raddress</u> City, State, Zip <u>Palmer</u> , A.K. 99645 City, State, Zip <u>Wasilla</u> , A.K. 99654
Name Name   Address Address:   City, State, Zip City, State, Zip
Case Number 2
Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3PA-04-3722 CR V. Justin Day
Name Elizabeth Friedman Name Liss Valenta
Address 11912 E Palme-Was: 119 Hwy Stell Rddress 268 E, Fireweed Ave. City, State, Zip Palme- Rk. 99645 City, State, Zip Palmer, Ak. 99645
Name Name
Address Address
City, State, Zip City, State, Zip:
Case Number 3
Case Name: Marcie Doppelt Case Number: <u>3PA-05-1281</u> et v. Theresa Lockhart
Attorneys Involved:
NameNAMNameNAM
Address Address
City, State, Zip City, State, Zip
Name Name
Address Address
City, State, Zip City, State, Zip

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Alaska Judicial Councıl			
Trial Judge Questionnaire			
2006 Retention			

9. 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)

Case Number 1	
Case Tamara Smid Case Number	<u> 3PA-04-1336 ci</u>
v. Lewis Roberts Attorneys Involved:	
	Swan T. Ching
	1563 E. Tudor
	Anchorage, Ak. 99507
Name Name	
Address Address	
City, State, Zip	
Case Number 2	
Case The Peder Come on the	284 01-2011
Name: John Richard Carr Corp. Case Number: v. Victoria Kindrick	51H-09-209 SE
Attorneys Involved:	
Name. L. Androw Robinson Name	William F. Tull
Address 348 E. Elmwood Ave Address	634 5, Bailey St. # 201
City, State, Zip: Palmer Ate. 99645 City, State, Zip	Palmer, Ak. 99645
	)
NameName	·
City, State, Zip	·
Case Number 3	
Case Name: <u>Matenus ka Electric Bosn, Inc.</u> Case Number:	3PA-04-102/05
V. Sopetune Disting The	
v. <u>Specture</u> Printing, Inc. Attorneys Involved:	
Name James L. Walker Name	R.N. Sutliff
	125 Christensen Dr. #1
	Anchorage, Ake. 99501
Name Name	
Address Address	
City, State, Zip City, State, Zip	

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Alaska Judicial Council	
Trial Judge Questionnaire	
2006 Retention	

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.)

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	Case Number 1	
Case		
Name: v.	Case Number:	
	Attorneys Involved:	
Name.	Name.	
Address		
City, State, Zip.	City, State, Zip	
Name	Nome	
Address.		
City, State, Zıp		
Case	Case Number 2	
	Case Number:	
ν		
	Attorneys Involved:	
Name	Name	
Address	Address	
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip.	
Name.	Name:	
Address		
City, State, Zip.		
	Case Number 3	
Case	Case Humber C	
Name:	Case Number:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
<i>v</i>		
	Attorneys Involved:	
Name.	Name	
Address.	Address	
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip	
Name	Name	
Address		
City, State, Zip		

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## 59. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN W. WOLFE

#### A. Alaska Bar Association

# **Demographic Description (N=92)**

		Ν	%
Type of Practice			
	No Response		0
	Private, Solo	19	20.6%
	Private, 2-5 Attorneys	18	19.5%
	Private, 6+ Attorneys	5	5.4%
	Private, Corporate Employee	2	2.1%
	State Judge or Judicial Officer	12	13.0%
	Government	32	34.7%
	Public Service Agency or Organization (not govt)	2	2.1%
	Other	2	2.1%
Length of Alaska Practice			
	No Response	2	2.1%
	5 Years or fewer	13	14.1%
	6 to 10 years	15	16.3%
	11 to 15 years	13	14.1%
	16 to 20 years	16	17.3%
	21 years or more	33	35.8%
Gender			
	No Response		C
	Male	62	67.3%
	Female	30	32.6%
Cases Handled			
	No Response	1	1.0%
	Prosecution	17	18.4%
	Mainly Criminal	11	11.9%
	Mixed Criminal & Civil	41	44.5%
	Mainly Civil	19	20.6%
	Other	3	3.2%
Location of Practice			
	No Response		C
	First District	2	2.1%
	Second District		0
	Third District	83	90.2%
	Fourth District	6	6.5%
	Outside of Alaska	1	1.0%

#### **Evaluation of Judge John W. Wolfe: Alaska Bar Association Members**

#### Summary of Findings

Judge John W. Wolfe was evaluated by 73 Alaska Bar Association members who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 4.1. The highest mean scores were obtained on *integrity* (4.3) and *diligence* (4.3) and the lowest scores were obtained on *legal ability* (4.0) and *impartiality/fairness* (4.0). Details are present in the two tables that follow.

	F	Poor	De	ficient	Ac	ccept	G	food	Ex	cellent	
	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Mean
Legal Ability	2	2.7%	6	8.3%	9	12.5%	29	40.2%	26	36.1%	4.0
Impartiality/Fairness	3	4.1%	6	8.2%	10	13.6%	24	32.8%	30	41.0%	4.0
Integrity	2	2.7%	1	1.3%	8	11.1%	21	29.1%	40	55.5%	4.3
Judicial Temperament	3	4.2%	1	1.4%	10	14.0%	22	30.9%	35	49.2%	4.2
Diligence	1	1.4%	1	1.4%	10	14.9%	23	34.3%	32	47.7%	4.3
Overall Rating	2	2.7%	4	5.5%	11	15.2%	25	34.7%	30	41.6%	4.1

## Judge John W. Wolfe: Detailed Information Responses Alaska Bar Association Members

			Impart	iality	/		Judi	icial			Ove	rall
	Legal A	Ability	- Fairı	iess	Integ	rity	Tempe	rament	Dilig	ence	Rat	ing
	Mean	Ν	Mean	Ν	Mean	Ν	Mean	Ν	Mean	Ν	Mean	Ν
Basis for Evaluation of Judge												
No Response	4.0	2	4.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	4.5	2	5.0	2
Direct Professional	4.0	72	4.0	73	4.3	72	4.2	71	4.3	67	4.1	72
Professional Reputation	4.2	12	4.3	12	4.4	12	4.3	11	4.3	12	4.3	12
Other Personal Contacts	4.0	3	4.0	3	4.3	3	4.7	3	4.3	3	4.3	3
Type of Practice												
No Response		0		0		0		0		0		0
Private, Solo	3.8	16	3.9	17	4.5	16	4.1	16	4.5	14	4.1	17
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	4.2	15	4.2	14	4.4	15	4.4	14	4.2	14	4.3	14
Private, 6+ Attorneys	3.3	3	3.3	4	3.0	3	3.5	4	3.0	3	3.0	3
Private, Corporate Employee	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1
State Judge or Judicial Officer	4.2	9	4.3	9	4.8	9	4.6	9	4.6	7	4.4	9
Government	3.9	25	3.8	25	4.2	25	4.2	25	4.2	25	3.9	25
Public Service Agency or Organization												
(not govt)	4.5	2	4.5	2	4.5	2	4.0	1	4.5	2	4.5	2
Other	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Years Experience												
No Response	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
5 Years or fewer	3.8	10	3.9	11	4.1	9	3.9	10	4.2	9	3.9	10
6 to 10 years	4.1	11	3.9	11	4.5	11	4.5	11	4.3	11	4.1	11
11 to 15 years	4.1	10	4.0	9	4.2	10	4.1	9	4.0	9	4.1	9
16 to 20 years	3.9	14	3.7	14	4.3	14	4.2	13	4.2	12	3.9	14
21 years or more	4.0	26	4.1	27	4.4	27	4.2	27	4.4	25	4.2	27
Gender												
No Response		0		0		0		0		0		0
Male	4.0	48	4.0	49	4.3	49	4.2	48	4.3	45	4.1	48
Female	4.0	24	3.9	24	4.4	23	4.2	23	4.2	22	4.0	24
Majority of Practice Consists of												
No Response	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1
Prosecution	4.5	11	4.6	11	4.7	11	4.7	11	4.7	11	4.5	11
Mainly Criminal	3.9	10	3.5	11	4.1	10	4.1	11	4.1	10	3.7	10
Mixed Criminal & Civil	3.8	34	3.9	34	4.3	35	4.2	33	4.0	31	4.0	34
Mainly Civil	4.1	13	3.9	13	4.4	12	4.1	13	4.6	11	4.2	13
Other	4.0	3	4.0	3	4.0	3	3.5	2	4.0	3	4.0	3
Location of Practice												
No Response		0		0		0		0		0		0
First District	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Second District		0		0		0		0		0		0
Third District	4.0	65	4.0	66	4.3	65	4.2	64	4.3	60	4.1	65
Fourth District	3.8	5	3.6	5	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.0	5	3.8	5
Outside of Alaska	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1

## 59. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN W. WOLFE

#### **B.** Peace and Probation Officers

# **Demographic Description (N=38)**

		Ν	%
Type of Work			
	No Response		0
	State Law Enforcement Officer	13	34.2%
	Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	17	44.7%
	Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	1	2.6%
	Probation/Parole Officer	6	15.7%
	Other	1	2.6%
Length of Alaska Experience	2		
	No Response	1	2.6%
	5 Years or fewer	13	34.2%
	6 to 10 years	10	26.3%
	11 to 15 years	7	18.4%
	16 to 20 years	3	7.8%
	21 years or more	4	10.5%
Gender			
	No Response		C
	Male	30	78.9%
	Female	8	21.0%
Location of Practice			
	No Response		C
	First District		C
	Second District		C
	Third District	37	97.3%
	Fourth District	1	2.6%
	Outside of Alaska		C
Community Population			
	No Response		C
	Under 2,000	3	7.8%
	Between 2,000 and 35,000	20	52.6%
	Over 35,000	15	39.4%

#### **Evaluation of Judge John W. Wolfe Peace and Probation Officers**

#### Summary of Findings

Judge John W. Wolfe was evaluated by 27 Peace and Probation Officers who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 4.1. The highest mean scores were obtained on *integrity* (4.3) and *diligence* (4.3) and lowest score was obtained on *impartiality/fairness* (4.1). Details are present in the two tables that follow.

	Poor		Deficient		А	ccept	Good		Excellent			
	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Ν	%	Mean	
Impartiality/Fairness		0	1	3.7%	5	18.5%	10	37.0%	11	40.7%	4.1	
Integrity	1	3.8%		0	3	11.5%	8	30.7%	14	53.8%	4.3	
Judicial Temperament		0		0	5	18.5%	11	40.7%	11	40.7%	4.2	
Diligence		0		0	3	11.5%	12	46.1%	11	42.3%	4.3	
Overall Rating		0	1	3.8%	5	19.2%	10	38.4%	10	38.4%	4.1	

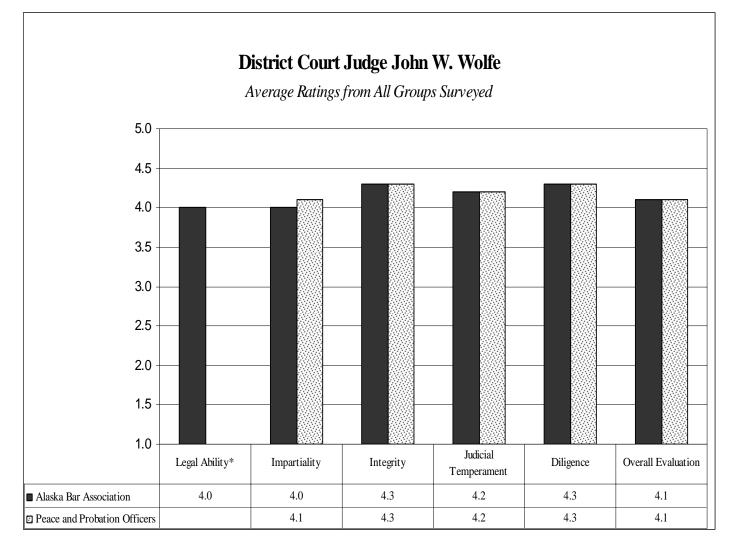
## Judge John W. Wolfe: Detailed Information on Responses Peace and Probation Officers

	Impartiality/ Fairness		Integrity		Judi Temper		Diligence		Over Rati	
	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
Basis for Evaluation of Judge	• •						• •		•	
No Response	4.5	2	4.5	2	4.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	1
Direct Professional	4.1	27	4.3	26	4.2	27	4.3	26	4.1	26
Professional Reputation	3.8	10	3.9	10	3.8	9	3.9	10	3.8	10
Other Personal Contacts		0		0		0		0		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
State Law Enforcement Officer	4.2	11	4.5	11	4.2	11	4.2	11	4.1	11
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	4.1	15	4.1	14	4.2	15	4.4	14	4.1	15
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)		0		0		0		0		0
Probation/Parole Officer		0		0		0		0		0
Other	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1		0
years										
No Response	3.0	1		0	3.0	1		0	2.0	1
5 Years or fewer	4.2	9	4.3	9	4.3	9	4.4	9	4.3	9
6 to 10 years	3.7	6	3.8	6	3.7	6	3.8	6	3.7	6
11 to 15 years	4.2	5	4.4	5	4.6	5	4.2	5	4.2	5
16 to 20 years	4.7	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	5.0	2
21 years or more	4.7	3	4.3	3	4.0	3	4.3	3	4.3	3
Gender										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Male	4.2	22	4.3	21	4.2	22	4.3	21	4.1	22
Female	4.0	5	4.2	5	4.4	5	4.2	5	4.0	4
Location of Practice										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
First District		0		0		0		0		0
Second District		0		0		0		0		0
Third District	4.1	27	4.3	26	4.2	27	4.3	26	4.1	26
Fourth District		0		0		0		0		0
Outside of Alaska		0		0		0		0		0
Community Population										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Under 2,000	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.0	2
Between 2,000 and 35,000	4.1	16	4.3	15	4.3	16	4.4	15	4.1	15
Over 35,000	4.2	9	4.3	9	4.2	9	4.1	9	4.2	9

#### 59. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE JOHN W. WOLFE

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

There were no respondents for Judge John W. Wolfe for this group.



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

Juror Survey Results 2006 Retention Evaluation John W. Wolfe												
Distribution of Ratings												
Survey Category	Mean	ExcellentGoodAcceptableDeficientPoorTotal%(n)%(n)%%(n)Returned = 57										Total Returned = 51
Impartiality/Fairness	4.8	78%	40	20%	10	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	51
Respectful/Courteous	4.8	80%	41	16%	8	4%	2	0%	0	0%	0	51
Attentive during Proceedings	4.5	61%	31	29%	15	10%	5	0%	0	0%	0	51
Control over Proceedings	4.7	73%	37	26%	13	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	51
Intelligence/Skill as a Judge	4.7	71%	36	24%	12	4%	2	0%	0	0%	0	50
Overall Evaluation	4.7	73%	37	26%	13	2%	1	0%	0	0%	0	51

Court Employee Survey Results 2006 Retention Evaluation John W. Wolfe												
Distribution of Ratings												
Survey Category	Mean	Excellent Good % (n) % (n)				Acceptable % (n)		Deficient % (n)		Poor % (n)		Total Returned = 24
Impartiality/Fairness	4.4	42%	10	38%	9	8%	2	0%	0	0%	0	21
Integrity	4.4	46%	11	38%	9	8%	2	0%	0	0%	0	22
Judicial Temperament	4.4	42%	10	42%	10	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	21
Diligence	4.5	54%	13	33%	8	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	22
Overall Evaluation	4.5	54%	13	33%	8	4%	1	0%	0	0%	0	22