Alaska Judicial Council 2008 Judicial Retention Performance Evaluation Materials Justice Robert L. Eastaugh Alaska Supreme Court

The Alaska Judicial Council evaluates judges on a number of criteria, including legal ability, demeanor, diligence, ability to manage their caseloads, and fairness and integrity. The Judicial Council finds Justice Eastaugh to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously that the public vote **"YES"** to retain him as a supreme court justice.

Retention evaluation materials for this judge

1. Voter p	pamphlet page	2
•	questionnairejudge's response to a Judicial Council questionnaire.	3
3. Survey	scores in 2008 view survey scores for all judges on the ballot go to main 2008 retention page.)	
a.	Attorney scores.	17
b.	Court employee survey scores	23
4. Survey	scores in previous retention evaluations	24

Retention evaluation materials for all judges on the ballot

(To view these materials go to main 2008 retention page.)

1. Peremptory challenge memo

Analysis of peremptory challenge rates for judges.

2. Recusal memo

Evaluation of judge's record of self-disqualification from cases, or "recusals."

3. Appellate Review Memo

Analysis of appellate decisions involving each trial judge's cases.

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation Justice Robert L. Eastaugh, Alaska Supreme Court

Judicial Council Recommendation

The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska constitution, evaluates judges on criteria that include legal ability, demeanor, diligence, ability to manage their caseloads, and fairness and integrity. The Judicial Council finds Justice Eastaugh to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously that the public vote "YES" to retain him as a supreme court justice.

Judicial Council Evaluation

The Judicial Council surveyed 2,884 attorneys together with court employees about the appellate judges on the ballot. Respondents were asked to rate judicial performance and to submit comments. The Council reviewed court system records concerning any civil or criminal litigation involving the judge; APOC and court system conflict-of-interest statements; any public 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, and held a statewide public hearing to obtain comments about judges.

	Attorney Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	4.5	
Impartiality	4.4	4.6
Integrity	4.6	4.7
Temperament	4.5	4.2
Diligence	4.5	4.6
Overall	4.5	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 Justice Eastaugh on the six categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Justice Eastaugh on overall performance was 4.5.

Court employees gave Justice Eastaugh a 4.5 on overall performance.

Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Justice Robert L. Eastaugh

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 2008



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ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

Appellate Judge 2008 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 21, 2008

Supreme Court

Robert L. Eastaugh

	Name	Court
1.	Please estimate your workload during your	present term.
	a) 70 % civil cases 20 % criminal cases 10 % court administrative work 100 % Total	b)0_# of trials/year (as trial judge, if any)
2.	Please describe your participation on court/b during your current term of office.	par committees or other administrative activities
	See Attachments	
	Page 1 of	. 10

Attachments

Answer to Question 2

- (a) Co-chair since 1998, Alaska Supreme Court Fairness and Access Implementation Committee (addressing fairness and access issues to ensure that ethnic and racial minorities are not disfavored in the Alaska justice system;
- (b) Member since 1985, Appellate Rules Committee (drafting and recommending rules concerning appellate procedure);
- (c) Member of the court primarily responsible for calendaring oral arguments and law conferences, and for overseeing annual training for the law clerks for the two appellate courts.

Alaska Judicial Council Appellate Judge Questionnaire Retention

3.	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.
	See Attachments

It sounds self-serving and glib for me to say that the quality and speed of my judicial performance have improved during the last term, but I think that assessment is objectively accurate. The quality of my work has improved, particularly in my drafts and conference recommendations to the full court. Reducing appellate delay is an important institutional goal, and of particular interest to me. I have made special efforts to speed up my own work and have proposed measures that the court adopted to deal more expeditiously with cases. Particularly over the last three-five years, nearly all of my draft opinions, as well as my votes and most of my separate opinions, have met the court's internal aspirational time guidelines. I have special efforts to speed up the process of "reconciling" my draft opinions (responding to or adopting the voting comments of the other justices) to accelerate publication dates. I am pleased at these improvements, but not satisfied. Institutional appellate delay remains a problem. The variety of issues before our court means that we rarely develop substantive expertise. My own improvements are due to conscious effort by me, increased efficiency and effort in chambers, and my own increased substantive knowledge.

The upside of this position is the intellectual challenge of solving all sorts of legal problems, trying to do so correctly, and explaining in writing exactly and clearly why are reaching a particular result, issue by issue. Also very satisfying is the work environment, among brilliant and pleasant colleagues and law clerks. The downside is the harried process of judging. There is invariably too much to do, and not enough time. There is rarely enough time to prepare for arguments or law conferences as thoroughly as we would like, or to reflect more deeply about the disputes during research and writing. There is always extreme time pressure when preparing for arguments and conferences; we are usually in overload for days before. A significant amount of time is spent on motion and petition practice and administrative matters that would be delegated to staff in many courts. Even the administrative time is short-changed. There is much more to be done on my Fairness and Access Committee, for example, but I have little time to do what is needed.

Alaska Judicial Council	
Appellate Judge Questionna	ire
Retention	

4.	Duri	ng 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 non-judicial 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
	f)	had any complaints, charges or grievances filed against you with the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Alaska Bar Association, or with the Alaska Court System that resulted in public proceedings or sanctions?
5.	-	ar answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, case numbers and outcomes.
	See .	Attachments
 .		e provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in acting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2008 retention ons.
		Attachments

I was just informed in November of the existence of a class-action lawsuit known as *In re Currency Conversion Fee Antitrust Litigation*, MDL 1409, brought to recover foreign exchange fees charged without notice by various credit card companies between 1996 and 2006, and that I am an eligible class plaintiff in that case and that the case has tentatively settled. I will probably make a claim (worth about \$25) to share in the negotiated settlement proceeds for that lawsuit.

I may make a claim against a bus company whose bus knocked me down and nearly drove over my legs in early 2007.

Being a member of this court is a wonderful and exciting experience, but it takes a great deal of effort. I took office in April 1994 and have devoted the energy needed to do the job to the best of my ability. I would like to think I have made real contributions to this court institutionally and to decisional law in Alaska. The years have passed quickly, but I doubt that I can continue until age 70 (in 2013). I am likely to retire sometime in 2009, but have no specific date, or even season, in mind.

Alaska Judicial Council Appellate Judge Questionnaire Retention

7. Please list your six most recent opinions including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in these appeals. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name:	See Attachments	Case Number:	
v		_	
	Attorney	s Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
	Case N	lumber 2	
Case Name:		_Case Number:	MANAGE
v	Attour	_ g Immolwada	
Name:	·	s Involved:	
Address:			
			A description of the second se
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
	Case N	lumber 3	
Case Name:		Case Number:	
ν			
	Attorney	s Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		_ City, State, Zip:_	and the second s
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			

Alaska Judicial Council Appellate Judge Questionnaire Retention

	Case Number 4
Case	Casa Numban
	Case Number:
ν.	Attorneys Involved:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address
City, State, Zip:	
Name:	Marro
Address	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:
	Case Number 5
Case	
	Case Number:
ν	Attorneys Involved:
Name:	Namai
Address:	A 11
City, State, Zip:	
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:
	Case Number 6
Case	
Name:	Case Number:
v	Attorneys Involved:
Name:	·
Address:	Name:
City, State, Zip:	Address:
City, State, Zip.	City, State, Zip:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:

(Opinions issued before 12/21/07)

Case Number 1

Lee Williams v. Larry Fagnani

Hal P. Gazaway 8620 Boundary Avenue Anchorage, AK 99504 Tel.: 338-8111

Cheryl Mandala 3000 A Street, Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99503 Tel.: 563-8844 Case No.: S-12192

Op. No.: 6205 (11/23/07)

Randall Simpson 3000 A Street, Suite 300 Anchorage, AK 99503 Tel.: 563-8844

Case Number 2

Alaska Trademark Shellfish, LLC v. State, Department of Fish and Game

LLC Case No.: S-12120 and Game Op. No.: 6204 (11/23/07)

Bruce B. Weyhrauch 114 S. Franklin Street, Suite 200 Juneau, AK 99801 Tel.: 465-3600 Joanne M. Grace 1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-5100

Case Number 3

Richard Godfrey d/b/a Mendenhall Valley Tesoro v. State, Department of Community and Economic Development (Petition for rehearing still pending)

Case No.: S-11894 Op. No.: 6203 (11/23/07)

Paul M. Hoffman 9360 Glacier Highway, Suite 202 Juneau, AK 99801

Tel.: 586-3340

Cynthia C. Drinkwater 1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-5200

Case Number 4

Evadine Turner v. Municipality of Anchorage

Case No.: S-11958 171 P.3d 180 (Alaska 2007)

Jeffrey J. Barber 821 N Street, Suite 103 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 276-5858 Scott Hendricks Leuning 711 H Street, Suite 620 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 272-9270

Case Number 5

State v. Michael Jeffery Case No.: S-12101 170 P.3d 226 (Alaska 2007)

Joanne M. Grace 1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-5100 Jonathon A. Katcher 421 W. 1st Avenue, Suite 220 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 272-8577

Eric T. Sanders 500 L Street, Fourth Floor Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel.: 272-3538

Case Number 6

State v. Lina I. Garrison Case No.: S-12381 171 P.3d 91 (Alaska 2007)

Diane L. Wendlandt 310 K Street, Suite 308 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-6250 Renee McFarland 900 W. Fifth Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 334-2400

Two opinions involving pro se parties were issued during this period. I assume you are not interested in contacting the parties in those cases.

Pro se cases:

Jake Olivit, Sr. v. City and Borough of Juneau

Case No.: S-12216

Op. No.: 6206 (11/23/07]

Clarito Villaflores v. Alaska State Commission for Human Rights

Case No.: S-12309

Op. No.: 6201 (11/16/07)

Alaska Judicial Council Appellate Judge Questionnaire Retention

8. Optional: If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list up to three other cases during your past term in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in these appeals. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name:	See Attachments	Case Number:	
	Attor	neys Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
	Cas	e Number 2	
Case Name:		Case Number:	
ν			
	Attor	neys Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
	Cas	e Number 3	
Case Name:		Case Number:	
ν.			
	Attor	neys Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	

Case Number 1

Michael V. Jeffries v. State

Case No.: S-11507 169 P.3d 913 (Alaska 2007)

Quinlan Steiner 900 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 264-4400 Kenneth M. Rosenstein 310 K Street, Suite 308 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-6250

Case Number 2

Michael Grunert v. State Case No.: S-10841 109 P.3d 924 (Alaska 2005)

Arthur S. Robinson 35401 Kenai Spur Highway Soldotna, AK 99669 Tel.: 262-9164 Lance B. Nelson 1031 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, AK 99501 Tel.: 269-5241

Gregory F. Cook P.O. Box 240618 Douglas, AK 99824 Tel.: 586-9717

Case Number 3

Joe Joseph v. State Case No.: S-8518 26 P.3d 459 (Alaska 2001)

C.R. Kennelly (Deceased)

Michael A. Stepovich 543 Second Avenue, Suite A Fairbanks, AK 99701 Tel.: 456-6600

Richard Keck Resigned 2006 Last known address: 129 High Street Ashland, Oregon 97520

29. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ROBERT L. EASTAUGH

A. Alaska Bar Association

Demographic Description (N=434)

		N	%
Type of Practice			
	No Response	12	2.7%
	Private, Solo	99	22.8%
	Private, 2-5 Attorneys	82	18.8%
	Private, 6+ Attorneys	83	19.1%
	Private, Corporate Employee	11	2.5%
	Judge or Judicial Officer	50	11.5%
	Government	76	17.5%
	Public Service Agency or Organization		
	(Not Govt)	8	1.8%
	Retired	13	2.9%
	Other		0.0%
Length of Alaska Practice			
	No Response	22	5.0%
	5 Years or fewer	16	3.6%
	6 to 10 years	33	7.6%
	11 to 15 years	34	7.8%
	16 to 20 years	51	11.7%
	21 years or more	278	64.0%
Gender	•		
	No response	17	3.9%
	Male	310	71.4%
	Female	107	24.6%
Cases Handled			
	No Response	14	3.2%
	Prosecution	6	1.3%
	Mainly Criminal	18	4.1%
	Mixed Criminal & Civil	96	22.1%
	Mainly Civil	284	65.4%
	Other	16	3.6%
Location of Practice			
	No Response	12	2.7%
	First District	55	12.6%
	Second District	5	1.1%
	Third District	322	74.1%
	Fourth District	34	7.8%
	Outside of Alaska	6	1.3%
	Outside of Alaska	U	1.5%

Evaluation of Justice Robert L. Eastaugh: Alaska Bar Association Members

Summary of Findings

Justice Robert L. Eastaugh was evaluated by 323 Alaska Bar Association members who reported having direct professional experience with the judge. The mean score on *overall evaluation* was 4.5. The highest mean score was obtained on *integrity* (4.6) and the lowest score was obtained on *impartiality/fairness* (4.4). Details are presented in the two tables that follow.

	Poor		Def	Deficient		Accept		Good		Excellent	
	N	% N %		%	N	%	N	%	N	%	Mean
Legal Ability	5	1.5%	7	2.1%	23	7.1%	69	21.3%	219	67.8%	4.5
Impartiality\Fairness	7	2.1%	7	2.1%	31	9.6%	78	24.3%	197	61.5%	4.4
Integrity	1	0.3%	5	1.5%	27	8.5%	50	15.9%	231	73.5%	4.6
Judicial Temperament	3	0.9%	4	1.2%	35	10.9%	70	21.8%	208	65.0%	4.5
Diligence	1	0.3%	7	2.3%	29	9.5%	67	22.0%	200	65.7%	4.5
Overall Evaluation	2	0.6%	15	4.6%	24	7.4%	69	21.4%	212	65.8%	4.5

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

Justice Robert L. Eastaugh: Detailed Information Responses Alaska Bar Association Members

			Impar	tiality/			Judi	icial			Ove	rall
	Legal	Ability	Fair	ness	Integrity		Temperament		Diligence		Evalu	ation
	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
Basis for Evaluation												
No Response	4.1	8	4.1	8	4.4	8	4.5	8	4.5	8	4.3	8
Direct Professional	4.5	323	4.4	320	4.6	314	4.5	320	4.5	304	4.5	322
Professional Reputation	4.6	94	4.4	92	4.6	93	4.6	90	4.5	89	4.5	94
Other Personal Contacts	4.7	6	4.5	6	4.7	6	4.3	6	4.5	4	4.5	6
Type of Practice												
No Response	3.9	9	3.6	9	3.9	9	3.8	9	4.3	9	3.9	9
Private, Solo	4.4	68	4.4	67	4.5	66	4.5	66	4.4	64	4.4	68
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	4.6	67	4.3	67	4.6	66	4.4	67	4.5	63	4.4	67
Private, 6+ Attorneys	4.4	65	4.4	64	4.5	63	4.4	65	4.4	62	4.4	65
Private, Corporate Employee	4.8	6	4.7	6	5.0	5	4.8	6	4.8	5	4.8	6
Judge or Judicial Officer	4.9	40	4.8	40	4.9	39	4.7	40	4.7	37	4.9	40
Government	4.6	54	4.5	54	4.7	53	4.5	54	4.6	52	4.5	54
Public Service Agency or Organization												
(Not Govt)	3.8	5	3.2	5	3.8	5	4.0	5	3.8	4	3.6	5
Retired	4.8	9	4.8	8	4.9	8	4.9	8	4.9	8	4.6	8
Other		0		0		0		0		0		0
Years of Practice in Alaska												
No Response	4.1	16	3.9	16	4.2	16	4.1	16	4.4	16	4.2	16
5 Years or fewer	5.0	8	4.9	7	5.0	7	4.7	7	5.0	7	5.0	7
6 to 10 years	4.5	21	4.4	21	4.6	19	4.6	21	4.6	19	4.6	21
11 to 15 years	4.5	24	4.4	24	4.5	23	4.5	24	4.5	22	4.5	24
16 to 20 years	4.5	37	4.2	37	4.5	36	4.3	36	4.3	35	4.3	37
21 years or more	4.5	217	4.5	215	4.7	213	4.5	216	4.5	205	4.5	217
Gender												
No response	3.9	13	3.8	13	4.1	13	4.0	13	4.2	13	3.9	13
Male	4.5	230	4.4	227	4.6	224	4.5	227	4.5	217	4.5	229
Female	4.6	80	4.5	80	4.7	77	4.5	80	4.6	74	4.6	80
Cases Handled												
No Response	3.9	9	3.6	9	3.9	9	3.8	9	4.3	9	3.9	9
Prosecution	5.0	4	5.0	4	5.0	4	5.0	4	5.0	4	5.0	4
Mainly Criminal	4.6	11	4.4	11	4.7	11	4.5	11	4.6	10	4.6	11
Mixed Criminal & Civil	4.6	74	4.5	73	4.7	71	4.5	73	4.6	70	4.6	73
Mainly Civil	4.5	214	4.4	212	4.6	208	4.5	212	4.4	200	4.4	214
Other	4.9	11	4.7	11	4.9	11	4.8	11	4.9	11	4.8	11
Location of Practice												
No Response	3.9	9	3.6	9	3.9	9	3.8	9	4.3	9	3.9	9
First District	4.5	35	4.5	34	4.6	33	4.5	34	4.5	30	4.5	34
Second District	4.2	5	4.4	5	4.8	5	4.6	5	4.3	3	4.2	5
Third District	4.6	245	4.4	243	4.7	241	4.5	243	4.5	239	4.5	244
Fourth District	4.2	24	4.3	24	4.2	21	4.3	24	4.1	18	4.1	25
Outside of Alaska	4.8	5	4.6	5	4.6	5	4.6	5	4.6	5	4.6	5

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

29. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ROBERT L. EASTAUGH

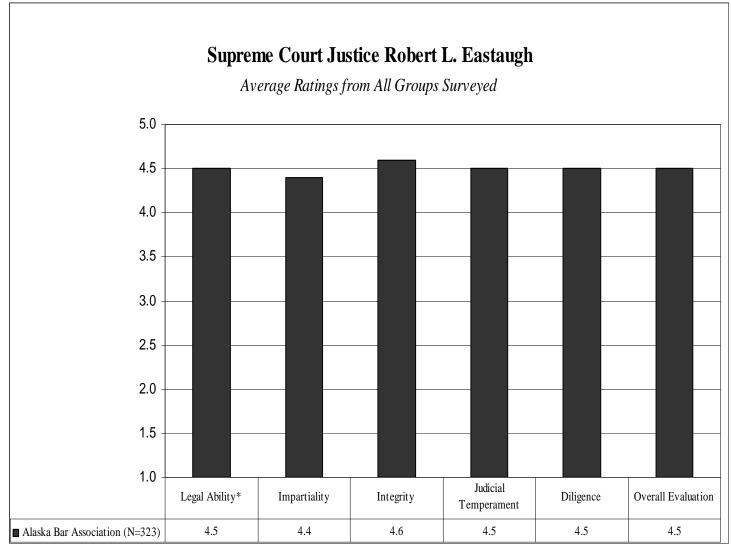
B. Peace and Probation Officers

Peace and probation officers were not surveyed on this justice.

29. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ROBERT L. EASTAUGH

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

Social workers, guardians ad litem, and CASA volunteers were not surveyed on this justice.



^{*}Legal Ability items are only completed by Alaska Bar Association members.

Court Employee Survey Results 2008 Retention Evaluation Robert L. Eastaugh

Question	Exce %	llent (n)	Go:	od (n)	Accer %	otable (n)	Defic	cient (n)	P (oor (n)	Mean	Total Returned = 50
Impartiality/Fairness	64%	30	30%	14	4%	2	2%	1	0%	0	4.6	47
Integrity	76%	35	20%	9	4%	2	0%	0	%	0	4.7	46
Judicial Temperament	55%	26	23%	11	15%	7	2%	1	4%	2	4.2	47
Diligence	71%	32	22%	10	7%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.6	45
Overall Evaluation	61%	30	33%	16	4%	2	2%	1	0%	0	4.5	49

Justice Robert L. Eastaugh Alaska Supreme Court: Retention 2008 Appointed 1/29/94

Bar Survey										
2008 Retention	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5				
1998 Retention	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.4	4.4				
1996 Interim	4.4	N/A	N/A	4.4	4.2	4.3				
	Legal Ability	Impartiality	Integrity	Judicial Temperament	Diligence	Overall Performance				