

## alaska judicial council

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# Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

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ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

### 2012 Candidates for Judicial Retention

### October 2011

Paul R. Lyle	Fairbanks Superior Court
Name	Court
. Please estimate your workload during you	ur present term.
a) 74 % civil cases 24 % criminal cases 2 % court administrative work 100 % Total	b)# of jury trials/year# of non-jury trials/year# of administrative appeals/year
1.b) figures are estimated average ove	er 3.5 years.
. Please describe your participation on couduring your current term of office.	rt/bar committees or other administrative activitie
for Tribal Custody Orders (joint prese	rial Ethics (panel member, prepared but

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.

My areas of emphasis as a lawyer before being appointed to the bench in 2008 were government contract claims, the State Executive Branch Ethics Act and Indian law. While these areas of emphasis have had some carry over into my work as a judge, I primarily adjudicate domestic relations and criminal cases. I have, therefore, devoted a great deal of time to bringing myself back up to speed in criminal law and learning domestic relations law. I have also spent considerable time becoming more fluent in the rules of evidence, especially hearsay and character evidence.

Judges deal with broken relationships, whether that brokenness arises within a family or between an individual and society or between strangers thrust into a broken relationship when their automobiles collide. I have, therefore, tried to maintain a servant's attitude toward those who appear before me and have spent time thinking about how judicial temperament is woven into that servant role. As a servant, I try to ensure parties have the time they feel they need to present their cases, work hard to treat all litigants and lawyers with respect and compassion for their circumstances and schedules and attempt to provide detailed and quiet explanations for my rulings, especially where I must make adverse credibility determinations.

I enjoy the daily challenge of being a trial court judge, the never-ending work, the intellectual satisfaction of learning new areas of law and applying them and the fast pace.

I believe my performance has been satisfactory during the past three and one-half years. I am striving to improve in all of the areas in which I am evaluated as a judge. Careful assessment of each day's performance on and off the bench has helped me to improve my performance from year to year.

4.	During your most recent term as a judge, have you:
	<ul> <li>a) had a tax lien filed or other collection procedure instituted against you by federal, state or local authorities? ☐ Yes ☑ No</li> </ul>
	b) been involved in a non-judicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party of 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 <b>☑</b> 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? ☐ 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.
5.	Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2012 retention elections.

### For questions 7 through 10 please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

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

Case Number 1

Case Name:	State of Alaska	Case Number:	4FA-10-1487 CR
ν.	Lawrence Avery		
		Attorneys Involved:	
Name:	Joseph Dallaire	Name:	Steven Hansen
Address:	455 Third Ave., Ste	150 Address:	529 5th Ave., Ste 1
	Fairbanks, AK 99701		Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
		Case Number 2	
Case Name:	State of Alaska	Case Number:	4FA-09-4098 CR
v.	Brett King	-	
•		Attorneys Involved:	
Name:		ř	Jennifer Hite, Esq.
Address:	455 Third Ave., Ste		
	Fairbanks, AK 99701		Fairbanks, AK 99701
enyromur, esp.	ralibanks, Ak 33701	City, State, Elp.	Talibanks, Ak 33701
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
•		· · ·	
		Case Number 3	
Case Name:	Susanne LaBrenz	Case Number:	4FA-08-1865 CI
ν.	Troy Burns, DDS		
-		Attorneys Involved:	
Name	Togonh Daglerran	Name	John J. Tiemessen
-	P.O. Box 7288	Address:	411 Fourth Ave, Ste. 300
-		City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
	ralibaling, An 33/01	City, Siute, Zip.	ralibaling, Alt 33/01
Na <b>me</b> :		Name;	Lisa Hanby
Address:		Address;	411 Fourth Ave, Ste. 300
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701

8. Please list your three most recent non-jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

	04001		
Case Name:	Crystal Bear	Case Number:	4FA-11-1401 CI
ν.	Kenton Bear		
•	Attorney	s Involved:	
Name:	Amy Tallerico	Name:	Steven Elliott
Address:	711 Gaffney Rd, Ste. 202	Address:	100 Cushman St, Ste. 205
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
		•	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
	Case N	lumber 2	
Case Name:	IMO: D.J.R.	Case Number:	4FA-09-45 CN
ν.		<del></del>	
-	Attorney	s Involved:	
Name:		Name:	Robert Noreen
Address:	100 Cushman St, Ste. 400	Address:	
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701		Fairbanks, AK 99701
•		· ·	
Name:	Natasha Singh	Name:	Amy Bennett
Address:	122 First Ave, Ste. 600	Address:	529 5th Ave., Ste 1
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
_			
	Case N	lumber 3	
Case Name:	Krausz Bentley Manager	Case Number:	4FA-08-2970 CI
ν.	ACS	<del></del>	
-	Attorney	 s Involved:	
Name:	John Foster Wallace	Name:	Daniel C. Kent
	711 Gaffney Rd, Ste. 202		1127 West 7th Ave
-	Fairbanks, AK 99701	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	Anchorage, AK 99501
Name:		Na <b>m</b> e:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:		— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	

### Paul R. Lyle Trial Judge Questionnaire (2012 Candidate for Judicial Retention)

### Page 5, Question 8:

Case Number 2:

Attorney Involved:

Eric Bills 100 Cushman St., Ste. 502 Fairbanks, AK 99701

Mr. Bills is longer employed by OPA. He moved to Canada.

9. Please list your three most recent cases, including case names and numbers, which did not go to trial, but on which you did significant work (such as settlement conference, hearings, motion work, etc.). Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

	Case Nu	mber 1	
Case Name:	State of Alaska	Case Number:	4FA-10-774 CR
ν,	Gareth Lolnitz	_	
	Attorneys I	- Involved:	
Name:	Elizabeth Crail, Esq.	Name:	James H. Cannon
Address:	455 Third Ave., Ste 150	Address:	402 Seventh Ave.
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK, 99701
Name: _		Name:	
Address: _	***************************************	Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
	O N .		
	Case Nu		
Case Name: _	State of Alaska	_Case Number: _	4FA-10-2552 CR
ν	Troy Linnear	-	
	Attorneys I	Involved:	
Name: _	Elizabeth Crail, Esq.	Name:	Jason A. Gazewood
Address:	455 Third Ave., Ste 150	Address:	1008 16th Ave. Ste.200
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip: _	Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name:		. Name: _	
Address: _		Address: _	
City, State, Zip: _		. City, State, Zip: _	
	Case Nu	mher 3	
Casa Nama			4EX 10 2120 c 2121 CD
_		Cuse Number	4FA-10-2120 & 2121 CR
v	K. Benson & J. Baldridge		
	Attorneys I	nvolved:	
Name: _	Elizabeth Crail, Esq.	. Name: _	William R. Satterberg, Jr.
Address:	455 Third Ave., Ste 150	. Address: _	709 Fourth Ave.
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip: _	Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name:		A7	Laurengo E. Darra
Address:		Name: _ Address:	Lawrence F. Reger 100 Cushman St., Ste 205
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701

10. 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, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

### Case Number 1 Case Name: 23 Members Corinthian Chur. Case Number: 4FA-08-2838 CI v. Flanagan et. al. Attorneys Involved: Name: J. John Franich Name: Gregory G. Silvey Address: 325 Baranoff Ave Address: 510 L. St, Ste 700 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 Name: Matthew Cooper Address: Address: 100 Cushman St. Ste 500 City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 Case Number 2 Case Number: Case Name: Attorneys Involved: Address: City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Name: City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Case Number 3 Case Number: Case Name: Attorneys Involved: Address: City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Address:

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

### Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

### Judge Paul R. Lyle, Superior Court, Fairbanks

#### **Judicial Council Recommendation 2012**

The Alaska Judicial Council is a non-partisan citizens' commission established by the Alaska constitution. Alaskan law requires the Council to evaluate judges' performance and authorizes the Council to recommend to voters whether judges should be retained in office. The Judicial Council reviews judges' integrity, diligence, legal ability, fairness, demeanor, ability to manage their caseloads, and overall performance of their judicial responsibilities in and out of the courtroom. The Judicial Council finds Judge Lyle 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 thousands of Alaskans including peace and probation officers, court employees, attorneys, jurors, social workers and guardians ad litem 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 the judge's peremptory challenge, 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 involving the judge; and whether a judge's pay was withheld for an untimely decision. The Council reviewed other court records and investigated judicial conduct in specific cases. The Council interviewed some judges, attorneys, and court staff, and 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
Legal Ability	4.2				
Impartiality	4.3	3.8	4.7	4.5	4.6
Integrity	4.4	3.9		4.6	4.6
Temperament	4.0	3.5	4.8	4.2	3.8
Diligence	4.3	3.8		4.7	4.4
Overall	4.2	3.6	4.7	4.4	4.2

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** 

Survey respondents rated Judge Lyle on the categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge Lyle on overall performance was 4.2. Peace and probation officers gave Judge Lyle a rating of 3.6. Jurors rated him 4.7 overall, court employees gave him 4.4, and social workers and guardians ad litem rated him at 4.2.

Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Paul R. Lyle

For more information go to www.knowyouralaskajudges.com

Judge Paul Lyle: Detailed Information Responses Alaska Bar Association Members

	Leg		Imparti		Inton	Integrity T		cial	Dilias	<b>n</b> 00	Overall Evaluation	
	<b>Abil</b> i Mean	ity N	<b>Fairn</b> Mean	ess N	Mean	rity N	Temper Mean	ament N	<b>Dilige</b> Mean	nce N	<b>Evalua</b> Mean	ation N
Basis for Evaluation												
No Response		6		6		3		7		8		۷
Direct Professional	4.2	88	4.3	89	4.4	89	4.0	90	4.3	89	4.2	9(
Experience in last 5 yrs	4.2	82	4.3	83	4.5	83	4.0	84	4.4	83	4.2	84
Experience not in last 5 yrs	3.8	4	3.8	4	3.8	4	4.0	4	4.0	4	4.0	۷
Professional Reputation	3.9	14	3.9	13	4.2	15	3.6	11	4.0	12	4.0	14
Other Personal Contacts	4.8	6	4.5	6	4.7	7	4.7	6	4.8	5	4.7	6
Type of Practice												
No Response		2		1		1		0		1		(
Private, Solo	4.4	13	4.3	13	4.6	12	4.3	13	4.5	13	4.2	13
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	4.7	14	4.7	14	4.8	14	4.3	14	4.5	14	4.7	14
Private, 6+ Attorneys	4.6	12	4.8	12	4.8	12	4.7	12	4.3	12	4.5	12
Private, Corporate Employee		0		0		0		0		0		(
Judge or Judicial Officer	4.3	14	4.4	14	4.5	15	4.1	15	4.4	14	4.3	15
Government	3.8	31	3.8	32	4.1	32	3.5	32	4.2	32	3.8	32
Public Service Agency/Org	3.5	2	3.5	2	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	4.0	2
Other	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.5	2	3.5	2	4.5	2	4.5	2
Years of Practice in Alaska												
No Response		2		1		1		0		1		(
5 Years or fewer	4.1	10	4.3	10	4.5	10	4.0	10	4.3	10	4.2	10
6 to 10 years	4.2	10	4.2	10	4.3	10	3.8	10	4.1	10	4.1	10
11 to 15 years	4.4	9	4.2	9	4.4	9	3.8	9	4.4	9	4.2	Ģ
16 to 20 years	4.1	7	4.3	7	4.7	7	4.0	7	4.3	7	4.3	7
21 years or more	4.2	51	4.3	52	4.4	52	4.1	53	4.4	52	4.2	53
Gender												
No Response		2		1		1		0		1		(
Male	4.1	58	4.2	58	4.5	58	4.1	59	4.4	58	4.2	59
Female	4.3	28	4.2	29	4.3	29	3.9	29	4.2	29	4.1	29
Cases Handled												
No Response		2		1		1		0		1		(
Prosecution	2.6	10	2.8	10	3.5	10	2.3	10	3.6	10	2.8	10
Mainly Criminal	4.0	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.0	2
Mixed Criminal & Civil	4.2	27	4.2	27	4.4	28	3.9	28	4.3	27	4.1	28
Mainly Civil	4.5	43	4.6	43	4.6	42	4.4	43	4.5	43	4.5	43
Other	4.8	5	4.7	6	4.7	6	4.5	6	4.5	6	4.7	6
Location of Practice												
No Response		2		1		1		0		1		(
First District		0		0		0		0		0		(
Second District	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	
Third District	4.2	27	4.1	28	4.3	28	4.3	28	4.3	28	4.3	28
Fourth District	4.2	58	4.3	58	4.5	58	3.9	59	4.3	58	4.1	59
Outside of Alaska	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1

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

Judge Paul Lyle Peace and Probation Officers

	Impartiality/		<b>.</b>	Judio	<b>D</b> 111		Over			
	Fairn Mean	iess N	Integ Mean	rity N	Tempera Mean	ament N	<b>Dilig</b> Mean	ence N	Evalua Mean	ation N
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>	Ivican	- 11	Ivicuit		- Iviouri		Titoun	11	Tyloun	
No Response		0		1		0		1		1
Direct Professional	3.8	30	3.9	30	3.5	30	3.8	29	3.6	30
Experience in last 5 yrs	3.9	29	4.0	29	3.6	29	3.8	28	3.7	29
Experience not in last 5 yrs	3.0	1	3.0	1	2.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	1
Professional Reputation	3.3	3	3.5	2	3.3	3	4.3	3	3.3	3
Other Personal Contacts	5.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		1		0
State Law Enforcement Officer	4.4	8	4.6	8	3.6	8	4.0	7	4.0	8
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	3.9	9	3.9	9	3.8	9	4.2	9	3.9	9
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1	1.0	1
Probation/Parole Officer	3.7	12	3.8	12	3.4	12	3.6	12	3.4	12
Other		0		0		0		0		0
Length of Experience										
No Response		0		0		0		1		0
5 Years or fewer	4.1	10	4.2	10	3.4	10	3.9	10	3.8	10
6 to 10 years	4.1	8	4.1	8	3.9	8	3.8	8	3.9	8
11 to 15 years	3.3	8	3.4	8	3.1	8	3.5	8	3.0	8
16 to 20 years	3.8	4	4.0	4	3.8	4	4.3	3	4.0	4
21 years or more		0		0		0		0		0
Gender										
No Response		0		0		0		1		0
Male	3.9	20	4.1	20	3.6	20	3.9	19	3.8	20
Female	3.7	10	3.7	10	3.3	10	3.6	10	3.4	10
Location of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		1		0
First District		0		0		0		0		0
Second District		0		0		0		0		0
Third District		0		0		0		0		0
Fourth District	3.8	30	3.9	30	3.5	30	3.8	29	3.6	30
<b>Community Population</b>										
No Response		0		0		0		1		0
Under 2,000	3.0	2	2.5	2	3.0	2	3.0	2	3.0	2
Between 2,000 and 35,000	4.1	9	4.1	9	3.9	9	4.2	9	3.9	9
Over 35,000	3.7	18	3.9	18	3.3	18	3.6	17	3.5	18

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

Judge Paul Lyle Social Workers and Guardians ad Litem

	Impartiality/				Judici				Overall	
	Fairness N		Integrity		Temperament		Diligence		Evaluation Moon N	
Basis for Evaluation	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N
		0		0		0		0		0
No Response	4.6		4.6		2.0		4.4		4.3	
Direct Professional	4.6	5	4.6	5	3.8	5		5	4.2	5
Experience in last 5 yrs	4.6	5	4.6	5	3.8	5	4.4	5	4.2	5
Experience not in last 5 yrs		0		0		0		0		0
Professional Reputation		0		0		0		0		0
Other Personal Contacts		0		0		0		0		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Social Worker	4.5	4	4.5	4	3.8	4	4.3	4	4.0	4
Guardian ad Litem		0		0		0		0		0
<b>Length of Experience</b>										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
5 Years or fewer	5.0	2	5.0	2	4.0	2	5.0	2	4.0	2
6 to 10 years	3.0	1	3.0	1	2.0	1	2.0	1	3.0	1
11 to 15 years		0		0		0		0		0
16 to 20 years		0		0		0		0		0
21 years or more	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Gender										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Male	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Female	4.3	3	4.3	3	3.3	3	4.0	3	3.7	3
<b>Location of Work</b>										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
First District		0		0		0		0		0
Second District		0		0		0		0		0
Third District		0		0		0		0		0
Fourth District	4.3	3	4.3	3	3.7	3	4.0	3	4.3	3
<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	4.5	4	4.5	4	3.8	4	4.3	4	4.0	4

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

## Distribution of Court Employee Ratings\* 2012 Retention Evaluation Paul Lyle

		Number of Responses										
Survey Category	Total	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Deficient	Poor	Mean					
Impartiality/Fairness	36	25	6	3	2	0	4.5					
Integrity	36	26	5	4	1	0	4.6					
Judicial Temperament	36	18	9	7	2	0	4.2					
Diligence	36	28	5	2	1	0	4.7					
Overall Evaluation	36	20	11	4	1	0	4.4					

<sup>\*</sup> Ratings are based on direct professional experience.

### Juror Survey Results 2012 Retention Evaluation Paul Lyle

Survey Category	Mean	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Deficient	Poor	Total Responses
Impartiality/Fairness	4.7	75	23	2	1	0	101
Respectful/Courteous	4.8	84	14	4	0	0	102
Attentive during Proceedings	4.7	76	24	2	0	0	102
Control over Proceedings	4.7	75	22	4	0	1	102
Intelligence/ Skill as a Judge	4.7	74	28	0	0	0	102
Overall Evaluation	4.7	74	25	3	0	0	102