

# <u>alaska judicial council</u>

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# Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

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NOV 28 2011

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

### 2012 Candidates for Judicial Retention

### October 2011

Michael P. McConahy	Fairbanks Superior Court
Name	Court
Please estimate your workload during you	ir present term.
a) 45 % civil cases by criminal cases 10 % court administrative work 100 % Total	b) _5-8_# of jury trials/year 9-18_# of non-jury trials/year 4-6_# of administrative appeals/year
Civil and criminal cases fairly evenly original divorce/custody actions, modi and CINA hearings ranging from emergen determination, and placement review. A committee work and magistrate training	fication hearings of custody/visitation, acy custody, adjudication, permanency administrative work includes court

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

Member of the Supreme Court Access to Justice Committee and ad hoc member of its sister committee regarding diversity. Magistrate Training Judge for 4th Judicial District. Member of Legal Issues Committee regarding implementation of new bail project. Member of Board of Directors for North Star Youth Court and participate in training/swearing in of members. Repeat court representative/speaker for National Adoption Day. Speaker at local high schools on court system and promotion of the Supreme Court Live program. Member of local judge group initiating outreach to local bar and local young lawyers encouraging diversity in the judicial application and selection process.



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 experience as a trial attorney developed a skill set necessary to comprehend and analyze the factual and legal issues in each case. I am sensible of the uniqueness of each case and the rigors required to bring to bear the full attention of the court to the specific issues in that case. It is a challenge I enjoy. As with any skill, I hope to continue to develop and improve my performance.

I had substantial experience in a specific branch of statutory/administrative law before becoming a judge. I did not have direct experience with CINA matters. This area of law is statutorily and rule specific. There was an immediate learning curve, but I believe I have grasped (although certainly not mastered) this area of law. I have had several occasions to address new Court Appointed Special Assistants in the CINA area and have encouraged them to have patience in the process. I appreciate the attorneys and professionals that work in this field, and I hope to continue to improve my handling of these sensitive matters.

The case load is substantial. My goal is to be effective and, if possible, efficient. But the emphasis is always on effectively providing a fair, just, and predictable decision based in fact and law.

I have been honored to serve as a judicial officer since 2009 and look forward to further service. I find the service to be professionally and personally satisfying and remain hopeful that efforts to promote awareness of the benefit of diversity in all aspects of the judicial process will bear fruit.

4.	Du	uring 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?   Yes No
5.		your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, ets, case numbers and outcomes.
N	/A	
5.	coi	ease provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in inducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2012 retention ections.
		a judicial applicant for two previous openings for the Superior Court in nks. Judges MacDonald and Lyle were selected in those instances. Those

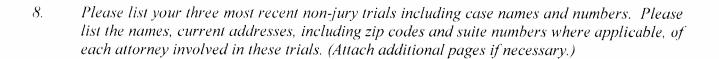


### For questions 7 through 10 please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

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	Case Number:	4FA-10-1604CR
ν.	Lee W. Chapman		
	Attor	neys Involved:	
Name:	Scott Mattern	Name:	Justin Racette
Address:	455 3rd Ave., #150	Address:	900 W. 5th Ave., #20
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
	Cas	e Number 2	
Case Name:	State	Case Number:	4FA-10-791CR
ν.	Shawn Justice		
•	Attor	neys Involved:	
Name:	Gayle Garrigues	•	Nelson Traverso
-	455 3rd Ave., #150	<del></del>	312 5th Ave.
-	Fairbanks, AK 99701	-	Fairbanks, AK 99701
•		· •	
Name:		Name:	Steven Hansen
Address:		Addrage	900 W. 5th Ave., #20
City, State, Zip:			Fairbanks, AK 99701
	Cas	e Number 3	
Case Name:	State	Case Number:	4FA-09-4508 CR
<i>v</i> .	Lyndon Pasilon	-	
-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	neys Involved:	
Name:	Corinne Vorenkamp	Name:	Karla Taylor-Welch
Address:	455 3rd Ave., #150	Address:	100 Cushman St., #502
-	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
A	Tarrama, In 55,01	c ny, piane, pip.	rarrams, in joint
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	



	Case	Number 1	
Case Name:	Hill	Case Number:	4FA-10-3077CI
v.	Marinez	•	
•	Attorn	eys Involved:	
Name:	Craig Partyka	•	Kristin Farleigh
-	714 4th Ave., #200		1008 16th Ave., #200
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701		Fairbanks, AK 99701
·		-	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
	_		
	Case	Number 2	
Case Name:	Lesser	Case Number:	4FA-10-2057CI
ν.	Lesser		
	Attorn	eys Involved:	
Name:	Mila Neubert	Name:	Jason Weiner
Address:	330 Wendell St., #E	Address:	1008 16th Ave., #200
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name: -		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
		Number 3	
Case Name: _	Holladay	Case Number: _	4FA-10-1643CI
ν	Holladay		
	Attorna	eys Involved:	
Name:	Dennis Cook		Jason Weiner
Address:	714 4th Ave., #200	Address:	1008 16th Ave., #200
City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701	City, State, Zip:	Fairbanks, AK 99701
Name: _			
Address: _		Address:	
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	

Address: City, State, Zip:



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 Number 1 Case Number: 4FA-10-01862 CI Case Name: John v. Yukon Flats School District Attorneys Involved: Name: Matthew Singer Name: Ward Merdes Address: 455 3rd Ave., #225 Address: 3000 A Street, Suite 300 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503 Address: Address: City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Case Number 2 Case Number: 4FA-11-1474CI Case Name: AFWCF State/Ahtna Attorneys Involved: Name: Kevin Saxby Michael Kramer Address: 1031 W. 4th Ave., #200 Address: 100 Cushman St., #311 Fairbanks, AK 99707 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 City, State, Zip: Name: John Starkey Address: 4800 Snow Cir City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508 City, State, Zip: Case Number 3 Case Name: Perry Case Number: 4FA-11-00973CI Treadwell/State Attorneys Involved: Name: Thomas Wickwire Name: Laura Fox Address: 2775 Hanson Road, #1 Address: 1031 W.4th Ave., #200 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99709 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip:



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: State Case Number: 4FA-10-639CR Katairoak Attorneys Involved: Name: Andrew Baldock Name: Robert John Address: 455 3rd Ave., #150 Address: POB 73570 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99707 Address: Address: City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Case Number 2 Case Name: Attla Case Number: 4FA-11-1424CI Trans World Insurance Attorneys Involved: Name: Ward Merdes Name: Zane Wilson Address: 455 3rd Ave., #225 Address: 714 4th Ave., #200 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip: Case Number 3 Case Number: 4FA-10-1042CI Case Name: Kozhanova v. State Attorneys Involved: Name: Dawn Austin Name: Elizabeth Crail Address: 310 K. Street, #200 Address: 455 3rd Ave., #150 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701 Address:

City, State, Zip: City, State, Zip:

# Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation Judge Michael P. McConahy, 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 McConahy 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	4.2	4.2	4.8	4.3	3.5
Integrity	4.3	4.3		4.3	4.0
Temperament	4.3	4.2	4.9	4.1	4.0
Diligence	4.3	4.2		4.2	3.5
Overall	4.2	4.3	4.9	4.2	4.0

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**

Survey respondents rated Judge McConahy on the categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge McConahy on overall performance was 4.2. Peace and probation officers gave Judge McConahy a rating of 4.3. Jurors rated him 4.9 overall, court employees gave him 4.2, and social workers and guardians ad litem rated him at 4.0.

Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Michael P. McConahy

Judge Michael P. McConahy: Detailed Information Responses Alaska Bar Association Members

	Leg Abili		Imparti Fairn		Intom	Integrity T		cial	Dilige	nao	Over Evalua	
	Mean	ny N	Mean	ess N	Mean	rity N	Temper Mean	ament N	Mean	nce N	Mean	ation N
Basis for Evaluation												
No Response		10		6		7		8		15		9
Direct Professional	4.2	88	4.2	92	4.3	90	4.3	90	4.3	86	4.2	90
Experience in last 5 yrs	4.2	83	4.2	86	4.3	85	4.3	86	4.3	81	4.1	85
Experience not in last 5 yrs	4.0	3	4.3	3	3.3	3	4.5	2	4.3	3	4.5	2
Professional Reputation	4.1	19	4.3	18	4.3	18	4.3	18	4.3	18	4.3	18
Other Personal Contacts	4.8	5	4.7	6	5.0	7	4.8	6	5.0	3	4.8	5
Type of Practice												
No Response		4		0		2		2		6		2
Private, Solo	4.3	16	4.1	18	4.3	16	4.3	16	4.4	16	4.2	17
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	3.9	19	3.9	19	4.1	19	4.1	19	4.1	18	3.8	18
Private, 6+ Attorneys	4.5	10	4.5	11	4.5	11	4.6	11	4.6	10	4.5	11
Private, Corporate Employee		0		0		0		0		0		(
Judge or Judicial Officer	4.5	15	4.6	15	4.6	15	4.6	15	4.5	14	4.5	15
Government	4.1	28	4.1	29	4.1	29	4.1	29	4.2	28	4.1	29
Public Service Agency/Org		0		0		0		0		0		(
Other		0		0		0		0		0		(
Years of Practice in Alaska												
No Response		4		0		2		2		6		2
5 Years or fewer	4.4	10	4.2	10	4.5	10	4.5	10	4.5	10	4.3	10
6 to 10 years	4.2	11	4.3	12	4.3	12	4.4	12	4.5	12	4.2	12
11 to 15 years	4.1	9	3.8	9	4.0	9	4.0	9	3.9	9	3.9	9
16 to 20 years	3.6	7	3.9	7	3.6	7	3.6	7	3.9	7	3.7	7
21 years or more	4.3	51	4.3	54	4.3	52	4.4	52	4.4	48	4.2	52
Gender												
No Response		4		0		2		2		6		2
Male	4.3	59	4.3	61	4.4	59	4.4	59	4.4	58	4.3	59
Female	3.9	27	3.9	29	4.0	29	4.0	29	4.0	26	3.9	29
Cases Handled												
No Response		4		0		2		2		5		2
Prosecution	4.8	10	4.8	10	4.9	10	4.9	10	4.9	10	4.8	10
Mainly Criminal	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.5	2	4.0	2
Mixed Criminal & Civil	4.0	28	3.9	29	4.1	28	4.1	29	4.2	28	3.9	28
Mainly Civil	4.3	41	4.3	43	4.3	42	4.4	42	4.3	40	4.2	43
Other	3.8	6	3.7	7	3.7	7	3.7	6	4.0	6	3.8	6
Location of Practice												
No Response		4		0		2		2		5		2
First District		0		0		0		0		0		(
Second District	4.5	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2
Third District	4.3	29	4.4	31	4.2	30	4.4	29	4.3	29	4.3	29
Fourth District	4.1	55	4.0	57	4.2	56	4.2	57	4.3	54	4.0	57
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 Michael P. McConahy Peace and Probation Officers

	Impartiality/		T 4	•4	Judio		D'II		Ovei	
	<b>Fairn</b> Mean	iess N	Integ Mean	<b>Integrity</b> Mean N		ament N	Diligo Mean	ence N	Evalua Mean	ation N
Basis for Evaluation	1110411		1110411		Mean		1110411		1110411	
No Response		2		2		2		2		2
Direct Professional	4.2	23	4.3	23	4.2	23	4.2	23	4.3	23
Experience in last 5 yrs	4.2	23	4.3	23	4.2	23	4.2	23	4.3	23
Experience not in last 5 yrs		0		0		0		0		0
Professional Reputation	4.0	8	4.1	8	4.1	8	4.1	8	4.1	8
Other Personal Contacts		0		0		0		0		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
State Law Enforcement Officer	4.7	6	4.7	6	4.7	6	4.7	6	4.7	6
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.0	5
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)		0		0		0		0		0
Probation/Parole Officer	4.0	12	4.2	12	4.1	12	4.0	12	4.2	12
Other		0		0		0		0		0
<b>Length of Experience</b>										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
5 Years or fewer	4.3	10	4.5	10	4.5	10	4.4	10	4.5	10
6 to 10 years	4.2	6	4.2	6	4.2	6	4.2	6	4.2	6
11 to 15 years	4.0	6	4.0	6	3.8	6	3.8	6	4.0	6
16 to 20 years	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
21 years or more		0		0		0		0		0
Gender										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Male	4.3	12	4.3	12	4.3	12	4.3	12	4.3	12
Female	4.1	11	4.2	11	4.2	11	4.0	11	4.2	11
Location of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
First District		0		0		0		0		0
Second District		0		0		0		0		0
Third District	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Fourth District	4.2	22	4.3	22	4.2	22	4.2	22	4.3	22
<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	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.2	5	4.0	5	4.0	5
Over 35,000	4.2	18	4.3	18	4.2	18	4.2	18	4.3	18

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

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Judge Michael P. McConahy Social Workers and Guardians ad Litem

	Impartiality/		<b>.</b>		Judici		<b></b>		Over	
	<b>Fairne</b> Mean	ess N	Integri Mean	ity N	Temperan Mean	ment N	Diliger Mean	ice N	Evalua Mean	ition N
Basis for Evaluation	Ivican		1110411	11	man	- 11	Iviouii	- 11	1110411	
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Direct Professional	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2
Experience in last 5 yrs	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2
Experience not in last 5 yrs		0		0		0		0		0
Professional Reputation	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Other Personal Contacts		0		0		0		0		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Social Worker	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2
Guardian ad Litem		0		0		0		0		0
<b>Length of Experience</b>										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
5 Years or fewer	4.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
6 to 10 years	3.0	1	3.0	1	3.0	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		0		0		0		0		0
Gender										
No Response		0		0		0		0		0
Male		0		0		0		0		0
Female	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2
Location of Work										
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	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2
<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	3.5	2	4.0	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	4.0	2

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

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# Distribution of Court Employee Ratings\* 2012 Retention Evaluation Michael P. McConahy

	Number of Responses										
Survey Category	Total	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Deficient	Poor	Mean				
Impartiality/Fairness	32	18	9	3	1	1	4.3				
Integrity	33	21	5	5	1	1	4.3				
Judicial Temperament	35	18	8	4	3	2	4.1				
Diligence	33	19	7	3	3	1	4.2				
Overall Evaluation	35	18	10	5	1	1	4.2				

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

## Juror Survey Results 2012 Retention Evaluation Michael P. McConahy

Survey Category	Mean	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Deficient	Poor	Total Responses
Impartiality/Fairness	4.8	34	6	1	0	0	41
Respectful/Courteous	4.9	37	3	1	0	0	41
Attentive during Proceedings	4.8	35	4	2	0	0	41
Control over Proceedings	4.8	34	6	1	0	0	41
Intelligence/ Skill as a Judge	4.9	36	4	1	0	0	41
Overall Evaluation	4.9	37	4	0	0	0	41