

5. 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.

A more experienced judge told me it takes three to five years to feel comfortable in the job. He was right. Seven years later, I have adjusted to my role on the bench and really enjoy it. The Anchorage District Court is a high-volume trial court and the ten judges really work as a team with our block calendaring. It can be frustrating as each litigant may only receive a small amount of our time due to heavy calendars, although their issue is important to them and can result in significant consequences in their lives. I believe my compassion, and ability to communicate and listen, assists litigants through what can be a daunting process. Many of our litigants are self-represented and it is important for them to understand what is happening to them. I enjoy meeting the hundreds of jurors who make sacrifices to serve, and am consistently impressed by how hard they work to make decisions on difficult cases.

We have a great team in place and I couldn't be happier with the job, my colleagues and our supportive and excellent court staff. I have acted as a mentor judge for one of our new judges and that has been a fulfilling experience. I still learn new things every week, which makes the job challenging, interesting and fun.