



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

2024 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Deadline: November 17, 2023

Matthew Christian
Name

Fairbanks District Court
Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a) <u>35</u> % civil cases | b) <u>12</u> # of jury trials/year |
| <u>65</u> % criminal cases | <u>5</u> # of non-jury trials/year |
| <u> </u> % court administrative work | <u>0</u> # of administrative appeals/year |
| 100 % Total | |

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

I currently serve as a Magistrate Training Judge and on the Magistrate Review Committee. I have previously served as the Deputy Presiding Judge for the Fourth judicial District, and I served on the Judicial Education Committee for approximately eight or nine years.

3. Please describe any judicial or legal education you have undertaken or provided during your current term in office.

I attended an advanced evidence course through the National Judicial College in Washington D.C. I have also attended the annual Judicial Conferences. I have often served as a presenter on topics ranging from decision making and legal theory of bail, search warrants, and general District Court subjects at both the Judicial Conference and the Magistrate Conference. Over my tenure, I have also been a presenter at Tanana Chief Conference events in Fairbanks and in rural areas, such as Arctic Village and Fort Yukon, on areas such as managing in-court proceedings to aid in the improvement of Tribal Courts.

4. Please describe any public outreach activities during your current term in office.

While covid limited opportunities during the past term, In February 2023, I participated in an event with the Nenana Healing Circle exploring alternative methodologies to reduce and address criminal conduct in the smaller communities the Fourth District serves. I also had the opportunity to be a speaker at an event at Tanana Chiefs. Prior to this tenure, I have volunteered in the community in various manners such as coaching little league and 12U softball.

5. This question pertains to Superior Court judges only.

State law requires the Council to conduct an evaluation of judges standing for retention, and to provide information to the public about the judges. Under a provision added in 2013, the information the Council provides to the public "shall include the judge's consideration of victims when imposing sentence on persons convicted of felony offenses where the offenses involve victims" (see AS 22.10.150).

Please submit a short statement about how you consider victims when imposing sentences in felony offenses.

N/A

6. 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.

Serving as a Judicial Officer for the State of Alaska is a true honor. It is a privilege to be placed in such a position of trust in the community. Over my tenure, I have tried to improve the practice of fellow judges by teaching various subjects at judicial conferences, and by mentoring our Magistrate Judges in their professional roles, which are so valuable to our urban and rural communities. To that end, I make myself available at all possible times to the Magistrates for any assistance they may need. While all professions have days which are stressful and difficult, and the judiciary is no different, all in all, resolving conflict and ensuring to my utmost ability a fair and impartial platform to litigate or resolve disputes is highly rewarding.

7. 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
 - 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, the Alaska Court System, or any other agency that resulted in public proceedings or sanctions?
 Yes No
8. If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers, and outcomes.

I, along with several other judges, was sued by a State Court criminal defendant in Federal Court in relation to his criminal matter. I was not involved in his State Court criminal proceeding in any capacity or manner, and I did not preside over any of his criminal proceedings. I, however, was named as a defendant in his federal lawsuit.

9. Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2024 retention elections.

In this past term, I have held several presumptive death jury trials for pro per petitioners. These cases are often incredibly emotional for family members as they involve the loss of life where either a body could not be found or was not recoverable. In doing so, the proceedings brought closure to multiple persons. These cases are as follows: In the matter of William Arnold the 2nd; 4FA-20-02363 CI; In the Matter of Alfaz Khan; 4FA-20-1660 CI; In the Matter of Donald Hussen; 4FA-20-01048 CI; In the Matter of Jason Tucker; 4FA-23-02036 CI

For questions 10 - 13, please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

- 10. Please list your three most recent jury trials during your current term in office including case names and numbers. Please list the names and 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-22-01571 CR
 v. HelenGeffe

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Steven Miller</u>	Name: <u>Ethan Vandewall</u>
Address: <u>529 5th Avenue; Suite 1</u>	Address: <u>510 2nd Avenue; Suite 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 4FA-22-02617 CR
 v. Joules Evergreen

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Mary Kennedy</u>	Name: <u>Ethan Vandewall</u>
Address: <u>529 5th Avenue; Suite 1</u>	Address: <u>510 2nd Avenue; Suite 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 4FA-23-00155 CR
 v. George Romero

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Mary Kennedy</u>	Name: <u>Anna Ralph</u>
Address: <u>529 5th Avenue; Suite 1</u>	Address: <u>510 2nd Avenue; Suite 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 11. Please list your three most recent non-jury trials during your current term in office including case names and numbers. Please list the names and 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 Farm Fire and Casualty **Case Number:** 4FA-21-01228 CI
 v. Ashley Williams

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Kevin Sullivan</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>4300 B. Street; Suite 206</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Ak 99503</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Comerstone Quarters / Timonhy Balty and Carolyn Balty **Case Number:** 4FA-21-01736 CI
 v. Elijah Coker

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Eric K. Ringstad</u>	Name: <u>J. Robert Woofter</u>
Address: <u>29 College Road; Suite 5</u>	Address: <u>1016 W. 6th Avenue; Suite 102</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Ak 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: <u>Christopher Cromer</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>1016 W. 6th Avenue; Suite 201</u>
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Ak 99501</u>

Case Number 3

Case Name: J and L Properties, Inc. **Case Number:** 4FA-22-02404 CI
 v. Ellenore Kirsteatter

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Zane Wilson</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>714 Fourth Avenue; Suite 200</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 12. Please list your three most recent cases during your current term in office, 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 and 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: In the Matter of John McClelland Case Number: 4FA-21-01155 CI

v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Valerie Therrien</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>208 Barnette Street</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 4FA-20-01724 CR

v. David Catllier

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Tylor Schmitt</u>	Name: <u>Jon-Marc Peterson</u>
Address: <u>510 2nd Avenue; Suite 200</u>	Address: <u>750 W 2nd Avenue; Suite 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Ak 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Ak 99501</u>

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: In the Matter of William Peacock Case Number: 4FA-21-01516 CI

v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Jason Doxey</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>100 Cushman Street; Suite 310</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Fairbanks, Alaska 99701</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 13. *Optional:* If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list up to three other cases during your current term in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. Please list the names and 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: _____ Case Number: _____
 v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: _____ Case Number: _____
 v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: _____ Case Number: _____
 v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____