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# alaska judicial council

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## Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

### 2024 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Deadline: November 17, 2023

Kari McCrea	Anchorage District Court
Name	Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| a) <u>25</u> % civil cases            | b) <u>5</u> # of jury trials/year         |
| <u>65</u> % criminal cases            | <u>20+</u> # of non-jury trials/year      |
| <u>10</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.

Federal Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel  
 Statewide Magistrate Judge Evaluation Panel  
 Fairness Diversity and Equity Committee Co-Chair  
 Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct Special Committee  
 Third Judicial District Training Judge  
 Alaska Bar Association Diversity Commission  
 Newer Judges Training Committee

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

Annually, I attend the Alaska Court System Judicial Conference and various CLE's sponsored by the Alaska Bar Association, National Association of Women Lawyers and Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers. I have presented at the Newer Judges Training Conference, Magistrate Judge Conference, and the Clerk of Courts Conference on domestic relations, domestic violence, judicial ethics, remote hearings, and access to justice.

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

Color of Justice - Speaker and mentor for youth interested in law-related careers.  
YWCA Justice Camp - organizer and host youth summer camp program exploring careers in the justice field.  
Success Inside and Out (Hiland Mountain Correctional Center) - Mentor and support inmates who are preparing to re-enter the community.  
MLK Law Day Pro Bono Legal Clinic - Volunteer.  
Alaska Youth Court - Volunteer/speaker.  
Catholic Charities Refugee Assistance and Immigration Services - Volunteer/Speaker  
UAA Native Student Services - Volunteer/mentor

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.

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.

I have been honored to serve as a district court judge in Anchorage. With my experience, I have learned to balance the need to render timely, well-reasoned decisions with the importance of allotting sufficient time for the parties and the public to understand the process and the rationale behind my decisions. I've also developed the knowledge and insight to readily adjust to the varying needs of the litigants in a kind and respectful manner that honors due process and the rule of law.

The demands presented by the pace and volume of the caseload in district court offer frequent opportunities to engage in meaningful interactions with the public. Much of my work involves explaining foundational concepts of our legal system to those who need more understanding or feel intimidated by the process. I welcome these exchanges, as they present the opportunity to instill public faith and trust in the justice system.

During my term, I've also had the challenging and rewarding experience of sitting as a pro tempore judge on various superior courts and several cases before the Alaska Court of Appeals. These experiences have challenged me professionally and allowed me to foster new relationships with my colleagues on other courts.

Outside the courtroom, I serve on several court committees focused on judicial education and improving access to the courts for all Alaskans. Additionally, I completed a judicial fellowship focused on enhancing judicial skills in domestic violence cases and increasing access for victims from underrepresented groups. I have since worked to simplify protective order forms and instructions and improve language access, especially in rural courts with high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault.

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.

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.

I appreciate the diversity of litigants and issues in district court. I strive to apply the law fairly while treating everyone with dignity and respect. It is an honor and a privileged to serve the State of Alaska as an Anchorage District Court Judge, and I welcome the opportunity to continue doing so.

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: 3SP-23-00001CR

v. Carolyn Dushkin

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Connor Campbell, District Attorney's Office

Name: Caitlyn McFadden

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520

Address: 518 West Marine Way

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Kodiak, AK 99615

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Case Number 2**

Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage Case Number: 3AN-22-00632CR

v. Terrance Stokan

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Tyra Boose, Municipality of Anchorage

Name: William R. Satterberg, Jr.

Address: 632 West 6th Avenue

Address: 709 4th Avenue

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK, 99519

City, State, Zip: Fairbanks, AK 99701

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Case Number 3**

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3AN-17-00518CR

v. Lance Whittaker

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: Connor Campbell, District Attorney's Office

Name: Lars Danner, Public Defender Agency

Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520

Address: 900 West 5th Avenue, Suite 200

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Jesslin Wooliver, Public Defender Agency

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 900 West 5th Avenue, Suite 200

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

City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

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: PTP Management Case Number: 3AN-23-07782CI
v. Downtown Rentals, LLC

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Zoe A. Eisberg Name: Justin Facey
Address: 510 L. Street, Suite 700 Address: 825 W. 8th Avenue
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Case Number 2

Case Name: Alaska Events and Catering, LLC Case Number: 3AN-22-01248SC
v. Kimberly Ryals

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Christopher Cromer Name: Self-Represented
Address: 1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 403 Address:
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 City, State, Zip:

Case Number 3

Case Name: Karl Marx Thomas Case Number: 3AN-21-01168SC
v. Elizabeth Johnson

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Scott Dinkel Name: Zoe A. Eisberg
Address: 800 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 300 Address: 510 L. Street, Suite 700
City, State, Zip: Wasilla, AK 99654 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

- 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 Re Search Warrant 3AN-22-04449SW **Case Number:** 3AN-22-04449SW

**v.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys Involved:**

<b>Name:</b> <u>Michael Branson</u>	<b>Name:</b> <u>Linda Johnson, MOA</u>
<b>Address:</b> <u>813 West Third Avenue</u>	<b>Address:</b> <u>PO Box 196650</u>
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99519</u>

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-21-03408CR

**v.** Heather Holiday

**Attorneys Involved:**

<b>Name:</b> <u>Helen Poitra-Chalmers, MOA</u>	<b>Name:</b> <u>Joshus Fink</u>
<b>Address:</b> <u>6332 West 6th Avenue</u>	<b>Address:</b> <u>750 West 2nd Avenue, Suite 207</u>
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-22-06289CR

**v.** Ruth Soto

**Attorneys Involved:**

<b>Name:</b> <u>Helen Poitra-Chalmers, MOA</u>	<b>Name:</b> <u>Sarah Murtada</u>
<b>Address:</b> <u>6332 West 6th Avenue</u>	<b>Address:</b> <u>750 W 2nd Avenue #104</u>
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

<b>Name:</b> _____	<b>Name:</b> _____
<b>Address:</b> _____	<b>Address:</b> _____
<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____	<b>City, State, Zip:</b> _____



- 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: _____