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Alaska Judicial Council

alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

2024 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Deadline: November 17, 2023

Pamela Scott Washington

Anchorage District Court

Name

Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

a) 30 % civil cases

b) 5 # of jury trials/year

50 % criminal cases

30 # of non-jury trials/year

20 % court administrative work

0 # 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 am the Deputy Presiding Judge of the Anchorage District Court and am involved in leadership decisions related to court policies, process and procedures, the court calendar, cases, building security, judicial leave, and other matters assigned by the Presiding Judge; I preside over the Anchorage Mental Health Court and my duties include holding stakeholder meetings, addressing policies & procedures, speaking at trainings on mental health and crisis intervention; I am co-chair of the Alaska Supreme Court Fairness, Diversity, & Equality Commission; I serve as the Anchorage Chair of the Court's Color of Justice Program and serve on the planning team for Sitka Color of Justice; I have served as a Vice President of Districts and Publication in the National Association of Women Judges for the past 4 years; and I serve on the American Bar Association Judicial Editorial Board.

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

I am a conference speaker/ educator on Implicit Bias & Racial Disparities in the Courts, Addressing Lawyer Competency and Effectiveness, and Importance of Judicial Community Outreach.

I attend Alaska's Judicial Conference and National Association of Women Judges Conference each year. Both conferences provide continuing legal education and include judicial ethics.

I attend the annual Reducing Recidivism & Reentry Conference each year and various Alaska Therapeutic Court Trainings. I receive education and training on best practice in the treatment of Mental Health, Addiction, Trauma, FASD, and the use of Medication Assisted Treatment.

I will be attending be attending the National Judicial College 40-hour Live-Online Civil Mediation Workshop December 5-15th, 2023.

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

Teacher, Anchorage Youth Court
Judge, We the People, ASD
Organizer & Volunteer, Color of Justice in Anchorage and Sitka
Volunteer, Success Inside & Out Conference, Hiland Mountain Correctional Facility
Program Leader, NSBR Jr STEM Program, Links, Inc.
Volunteer, Law Day Legal Clinic, Mt View Boys & Girls Club
Volunteer, After School Program, Mt View and Tyson Elementary Schools
Announcer, Scripps Spelling Bee, Russian Jack Elementary School

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.

I have been on the bench 13 years and in this judicial term, I have seen and experienced the public's frustration with increasing discord and distrust of all branches of government, including the Judicial Branch, like never before. Our communities want answers and assurances that the administration of justice is fair and impartial, and that Judges can be trusted. As co-chair of the Alaska Supreme Court's Fairness, Diversity, and Equality Committee, and Cultural Competency Sub-Committee, I have played a role in bringing awareness to the issue of unconscious bias and how it can impact judicial decision making. I was part of drafting and implementing a Supreme Court policy requiring judicial education on Implicit bias & Cultural Competency to be included at all Judicial Conferences. As Vice President of Districts for the National Association of Women Judges, I helped develop an education program called Racial Disparities in the Courts which has been widely used by courts across the nation. I have presented the educational program for judge audiences on webinars and in person in Washington DC, Nashville, Tennessee, and here at home at our 22 Fall Judicial Conference in Girdwood, Alaska. I was asked by the Alaska Bar Association to write a position article about making implicit bias education and training a mandatory Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for the bar. The article, "Understanding implicit bias is a matter for mandatory CLE" was published in the January - March 2022 issue of The Alaska Bar Rag.

The pandemic has brought us challenges but increased our use of technology and appreciation of its impact on Access to Justice. As the Deputy Presiding Judge for the Anchorage District Court, I have enjoyed having a hybrid courtroom while educating and encouraging my colleagues to upgrade their courtrooms too. The public has greater access to justice when they can appear by ZOOM or telephonically when they cannot appear in-person.

I continue to be deliberate in working to ensure public trust in the administration of justice. I am intentional about making sure litigants do not feel rushed through the process. I take the time to give each person the opportunity to be heard and the chance to have the court process explained. I always endeavor to be patient and respectful in my interactions with my colleagues, court staff, and the public. I still enjoy my work and appreciate the opportunity to serve the community on and off the bench.

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.

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: Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-21-04143CR
v. Daniel Joseph Lewis

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Michael Shaffer, Municipal Prosecutor</u>	Name: <u>Michael Rhodes, Esq.</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 210</u>	Address: <u>750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-22-08329CR
v. Joshua Phillip Carte

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Tyra Boose, Municipal Prosecutor</u>	Name: <u>Matthew Michalski, Esq.</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 210</u>	Address: <u>750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: <u>Gregg Brelsford, Municipal Prosecutor</u>	Name: <u>Summer Cole, Esq.</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 210</u>	Address: <u>750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

Case Number 3

Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-22-9240CR
v. Rita Shevawn Coleman

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Robert Dwyer, Municipal Prosecutor</u>	Name: <u>Summer Cole, Esq.</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 210</u>	Address: <u>750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: <u>Tyra Boose, Municipal Prosecutor</u>	Name: <u>Kiana Rivers, Esq.</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Avenue, Ste. 210</u>	Address: <u>750 W. 2nd Avenue, Ste. 104</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>

- 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: Sandra Newman **Case Number:** 3AN-19-05116CI
 v. Jason Bockenstedt

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Pro Se Plaintiff</u>	Name: <u>Christina Rankin, Superior Court Judge</u>
Address: <u>3705 Arctic Blvd, Unit 2594</u>	Address: <u>825 W. Fourth Avenue</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: <u>Traci Bunkers, Esq.</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>9097 Glacier Highway</u>
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, AK 99801</u>

Case Number 2

Case Name: Robert Sosinski **Case Number:** 3AN-20-08042CI
 v. Mitchell Sosinski

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Regan Williams, Esq.</u>	Name: <u>Pro Se Defendant</u>
Address: <u>P.O. Box 110615</u>	Address: <u>9750 E. Trennie Loop, Unit 2</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99511</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Palmer, AK 99645</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Donald Liston **Case Number:** 3AN-22-00086SC
 v. Bill Borden

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Pro Se Plaintiff</u>	Name: <u>B. Neal Ainsworth, Esq.</u>
Address: _____	Address: <u>2521 E. Mountain Village Drive B223</u>
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: <u>Wasilla, AK 99654</u>
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: Weidner Apartment Homes, Inc. Case Number: 3AN-18-04538CI
v. Johnna Harvill

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Pro Se Plaintiff Name: Marc Spooner, Esq.
Address: 4240 Folker Street, APT #B101 Address: 329 F Street, Ste 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____ Name: Kimberly Stohr, Esq.
Address: _____ Address: 828 E Street
City, State, Zip: _____ City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Case Number 2

Case Name: Roda Jok Case Number: 3AN-21-04506CI
v. Trevor Clayton

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Charles W. Coe, Esq. Name: James S. Nolan, Esq.
Address: 810 W. 2nd Avenue Address: 360 K Street, Ste 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

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

Case Number 3

Case Name: Cesar Velasquez Case Number: 3AN-21-06257CI
v. John Omweno

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Darryl Jones, Esq. Name: Jeffrey Barber, Esq.
Address: 111 W. Evergreen Avenue Address: 540 W. 5th Avenue
City, State, Zip: Palmer, AK 99645 City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

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: _____