

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge M. Francis Neville, District Court, Homer

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Neville to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (6-0) that the public vote "YES" to retain her as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. In a survey sent to all 2,604 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Neville was rated in the good range on overall judicial performance (3.9, see graph). She scored highest in the category of "courtesy" (4.2). She scored 3.8 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.8	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.0	4.3	4.6	---
Integrity	4.1	4.3	---	4.3
Temperament	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.1
Diligence	4.0	4.1	---	4.2
Special Skills	3.9	4.1	---	---
Overall	3.9	4.3	4.5	4.1

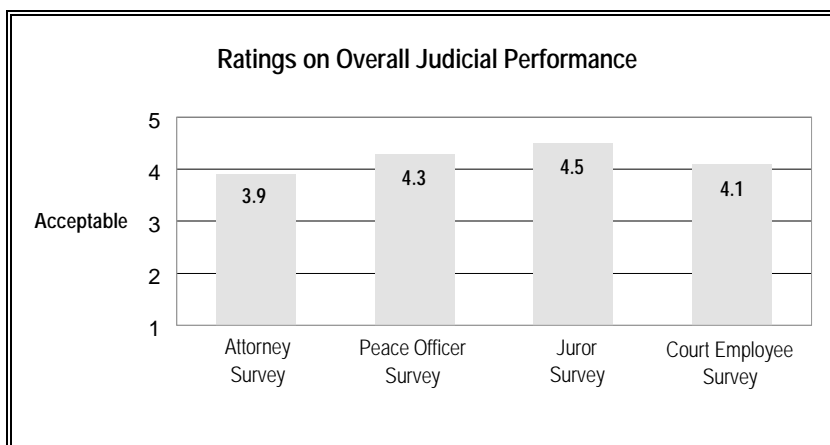
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Range Description
 4.0 - 5.0 = Excellent
 3.5 - 3.9 = Good
 3.0 - 3.4 = Acceptable
 2.5 - 2.9 = Below Acceptable
 1.0 - 2.4 = Poor

A survey of all 1,338 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Neville in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.3, see graph). She scored highest in the categories of "sense of basic fairness and justice" (4.4), "conduct free from impropriety" (4.4), "courtesy" (4.4) and "human understanding and compassion" (4.4). She scored 4.1 or better in all thirteen categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Neville in 1996 and 1997 rated her in the excellent range (4.5) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her in the excellent range (4.1) on overall performance.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Neville

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526)
 for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at:

www.ajc.state.ak.us