

Judicial Position Description

To be successful, a judge must be proficient in understanding oral and written communications, and must effectively communicate orally and in writing with parties, attorneys, members of the public, and court employees. Judges must regularly employ a high level of analytical legal reasoning, must possess unimpaired judgment, and must be able to concentrate on and evaluate evidence and legal arguments. Judges must be willing and able to render timely and impartial decisions, without regard for popular sentiment. They must treat parties, attorneys, the public, and court employees with fairness, courtesy and respect, and they must work effectively under pressure. In addition to presiding over cases, Alaska judges are expected to serve on court committees working to improve the administration of justice in the state.

The working environment is a courtroom and office setting. Alaska judges typically sit in court or in chambers for long periods of time, but sitting is not an essential requirement of the job; some judges prefer to stand or make comparable adjustments for their individual needs. Judges may be required to travel, including travel to rural areas, often by small airplane. They may be temporarily reassigned to different court locations within the state. Judges may share weekend duty with other judicial officers.

Superior Court Judge

Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. Superior court judges stand for retention at the first general election held more than three years after their initial appointment and every six years thereafter. Further information regarding the jurisdiction, authority, and duties of superior court judges may be found at AS 22.10.

Anchorage Superior Court, Third Judicial District

A superior court position is open in Anchorage due to the non-retention of Judge Michael Corey. Anchorage has seventeen superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2017 annual report, 11,035 cases were filed in the Anchorage Superior Court, including 2,806 felony cases, 1,136 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 288 delinquency matters, 2,086 domestic relations matters, 1,280 general civil matters, and 3,439 probate matters. Anchorage Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters but are assigned to, and rotate between, a primarily criminal or civil calendar. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of an Anchorage Superior Court judge is \$189,720.

Fairbanks Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District

Two superior court positions are open in Fairbanks due to the forthcoming retirement of Judge Douglas Blankenship and the appointment of Judge Bethany Harbison to the Court of Appeals. Fairbanks has six superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Fourth Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2017 annual report, 2,821 cases were filed in the Fairbanks Superior Court, including 732 felony cases, 394 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 34 delinquency matters, 705 domestic relations matters, 279 general civil matters, and 677 probate matters. Fairbanks Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters. They are expected to preside over cases in rural communities, including Bethel, as needed. The annual salary of a Fairbanks Superior Court judge is \$192,720.