



**UAA** Institute of Social  
and Economic Research  
UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA ANCHORAGE

# **Alaska Judicial Council**

## **Judicial Selection Survey**

### **Anchorage District Court**

### **Technical Report**

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*August 17, 2026*

Funded by Alaska Judicial Council

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## *Executive Summary*

This report presents findings from a selection survey conducted among Alaska Bar Association members for one judicial vacancy on the Anchorage District Court created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge Brian K. Clark. By the application deadline, the Alaska Judicial Council received a total of six applications from the following individuals (presented in alphabetical order): Eva Khadjinova, Julia Metzger, Ben Muse, Eric Salinger, Sam Vandergaw, and Matt Widmer. Eva Khadjinova withdrew her application; therefore, her results will not be presented in this report.

The Alaska Judicial Council asked bar members to evaluate applicants on six characteristics: *Professional Competence, Integrity, Fairness, Judicial Temperament, Suitability of this Applicant's Experience for this Vacancy, and Overall*. The rating scale ranged from *Poor* (1) to *Excellent* (5).

Table 1 shows the mean ratings for each applicant by respondents with direct professional experience.

**Table 1**  
**Mean Ratings of Applicants**

	<i>n</i>	<b>Professional Competence</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Integrity</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Fairness</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Judicial Temperament</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Suitability of Experience</b> <i>M</i>	<b>Overall</b> <i>M</i>
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	77	4.5	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.4	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	68	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	54	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	59	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	75	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

# 2026 Judicial Selection Survey, Anchorage District Court

## *Introduction*

The State of Alaska Constitution and laws mandate that the Alaska Judicial Council (Council) evaluate all applicants for a judicial vacancy. The Council nominates the two or more most qualified applicants to the governor who must appoint from the Council's list. As part of the information used to fulfill its mandate, the Council distributed surveys to Alaska Bar Association members and asked them to rate applicants on six characteristics: *Professional Competence*, *Integrity*, *Fairness*, *Judicial Temperament*, *Suitability of this Applicant's Experience for this Vacancy*, and *Overall*. Each survey also contained demographic questions about the respondents, including type of practice, length of Alaska practice, types of cases handled, primary location of practice, and gender.

To maintain objectivity, the Council contracted with the Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER), a research institute at the University of Alaska Anchorage. ISER was responsible for all aspects of distribution and data collection related to the online survey. ISER prepared this report summarizing survey procedures and results.

A single selection survey was conducted for the following judicial vacancies: Nome Superior Court and Anchorage District Court. This report presents findings from a selection survey conducted among Alaska Bar Association members for one judicial vacancy on the Anchorage District Court created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge Brian K. Clark. By the application deadline, the Alaska Judicial Council received a total of six applications from the following individuals (presented in alphabetical order): Eva Khadjinova, Julia Metzger, Ben Muse, Eric Salinger, Sam Vandergaw, and Matt Widmer. Eva Khadjinova withdrew her application; therefore, her results will not be presented in this report.

## *Methodology*

All active in-state members of the Alaska Bar Association were invited to participate in this selection survey. Inactive and retired members and active out-of-state members were also invited to participate in the survey if the Council had email addresses for them. All individuals received an email invitation to complete the survey online.

Respondents initiated 525 online surveys. No surveys were excluded because the respondent answered "No" to the question certifying that they had complied with the ethical standards set out in Professional Rule 8.2; nine surveys were excluded because the respondents did not progress far enough in the survey to reach the certification question; five surveys were excluded because the respondents did not answer any other questions but the certification question. Therefore, 511 online surveys qualified for analysis.

The final analysis included 511 online surveys with a survey return rate of 13.5%. Of the 511 returned surveys, 286 (56%) did not rate any of the applicants (three Nome Superior Court applicants and six Anchorage District Court applicants); 225 respondents evaluated one or more applicants. Table 2 summarizes the demographic characteristics of the respondents.

### *Table 2*

*Respondent Characteristics*

		All Respondents		Respondents who Rated ≥ 1 Applicant	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
<b>All respondents</b>		<b>511</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>44.0</b>
<b>Type of Practice</b>					
	No response	2	0.4	1	0.4
	Private, solo	92	18.0	25	11.1
	Private, 2-5 attorneys	45	8.8	15	6.7
	Private, 6+ attorneys	60	11.7	27	12.0
	Private, corporate employee	14	2.7	1	0.4
	Judge or judicial officer	48	9.4	38	16.9
	Government	131	25.6	84	37.3
	Public service agency or organization	25	4.9	18	8.0
	Retired	86	16.8	14	6.2
	Other	8	1.6	2	0.9
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>					
	No response	29	5.7	14	6.2
	5 years or fewer	47	9.2	26	11.6
	6 to 10 years	61	11.9	41	18.2
	11 to 15 years	58	11.4	36	16.0
	16 to 20 years	51	10.0	30	13.3
	More than 20 years	265	51.9	78	34.7
<b>Cases Handled</b>					
	No response	3	0.6	2	0.9
	Prosecution	36	7.0	19	8.4
	Criminal	41	8.0	30	13.3
	Mixed criminal & civil	124	24.3	68	30.2
	Civil	268	52.4	97	43.1
	Other	39	7.6	9	4.0
<b>Location of Practice</b>					
	No response	1	0.2	1	0.4
	First District	55	10.8	18	8.0
	Second District	14	2.7	10	4.4
	Third District	359	70.3	168	74.7
	Fourth District	49	9.6	22	9.8
	Outside Alaska	33	6.5	6	2.7
<b>Gender</b>					
	No response	6	1.2	3	1.3
	Male	277	54.2	105	46.7
	Female	225	44.0	115	51.1
	Another identity	3	0.6	2	0.9

## *Instrumentation*

The survey contained the names of the applicants for the vacancy, questions about demographic information for each respondent, six evaluation items for each applicant, and space for respondents to provide additional comments regarding each applicant.

The survey required a certification by the respondent that they had rated the applicants as required by the bar’s Professional Rule 8.2. Specific instructions regarding the certification were provided:

*“Please refer to Professional Conduct Rule 8.2 concerning your obligation to provide truthful and candid opinions on the qualifications or integrity of these applicants.”*

Respondents evaluated applicants in six areas of performance included in the survey using a five-point Likert scale that ranged from *Poor* (1) to *Excellent* (5). Detailed descriptions of the meaning of each point on the Likert scale were provided for each of the performance areas. The scale and instructions for respondents were:

*“Please rate the applicant on each of the following qualities by selecting the number that best represents your evaluation. Applicants should be evaluated on each quality separately. Use the ends of the scales as well as the middle. The tendency to rate an applicant “excellent” or “poor” on every trait should be avoided since each person has strengths and weaknesses. If you cannot rate the applicant on any one quality, leave that one blank.”*

	(1) <i>Poor</i>	(2) <i>Deficient</i>	(3) <i>Acceptable</i>	(4) <i>Good</i>	(5) <i>Excellent</i>
<b><i>Professional Competence</i></b>	Lacking in knowledge and/or effectiveness	Below-average performance occasionally	Possesses sufficient knowledge and required skills	Usually knowledgeable and effective	Meets the highest standards for knowledge and effectiveness
<b><i>Integrity</i></b>	Unconcerned with propriety and/or appearance, or acts in violation of codes of professional conduct	Appears lacking in knowledge of professional codes of conduct and/or unconcerned with propriety or appearance at times	Follows codes of professional conduct, respects propriety and appearance of propriety at all times	Above-average awareness of ethics, holds self to higher standard than most	Outstanding integrity and highest standards of conduct
<b><i>Fairness</i></b>	Often shows strong bias for or against some person or groups	Displays, verbally or otherwise, some bias for or against groups or persons	Free of substantial bias or prejudice against groups or persons	Above-average ability to treat all persons and groups impartially	Unusually fair and impartial to all groups
<b><i>Judicial Temperament</i></b>	Often lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	Sometimes lacks compassion, humility, or courtesy	Possesses appropriate compassion, humility, and courtesy	Above-average compassion, humility, and courtesy	Outstanding compassion, humility, and courtesy
<b><i>Suitability of Experience</i></b>	Has little or no suitable experience	Has less than suitable experience	Has suitable experience	Has highly suitable experience	Has the most suitable experience for this position
<b><i>Overall Rating</i></b>	Has few qualifications for this position	Has insufficient qualifications for this position	Has suitable qualifications for this position	Has highly suitable qualifications for this position	Has exceptionally high qualifications for this position

## *Confidentiality and Data Safety*

The survey introduction included a statement that reassured respondents of the confidentiality of their responses. Confidentiality is also a paramount concern at ISER and translated into specific procedures related to data security. Because data such as those collected through the judicial selection survey are of a sensitive nature, ISER has rigorous procedures to protect data. Organizational policies and procedures highlight the requirement for confidentiality and ensure that only staff involved with the project have access to the data. Online data are maintained on a secure server.

## ***Assurance of Non-Duplicate Responding***

To ensure that as few duplicates or invalid surveys as possible were received, clear instructions were provided to each potential respondent. Each potential respondent was provided with a unique URL that could only be used once. ISER analyzed frequencies of the unique identifier variable to identify any duplicate responses. No duplicate surveys were identified. Had any duplicates been identified, the most complete survey data would have been retained and the duplicate removed, ensuring that only one survey per respondent was used in the data analysis.

## ***Data Management***

With the goal of virtually error-free data handling, ISER implemented rigorous data entry procedures to ensure the accuracy of data entry. Online data were downloaded from the survey website and imported into SPSS for analysis.

## ***Results***

Two sets of results are presented in this section of the report. First, respondents' level of experience with each applicant rated is shown. Then, a summary table presents the ratings and comparisons of the applicants. Many of the cross tabulations yield results based on small numbers of respondents. Results based on small numbers of respondents should be regarded with caution and more weight given to the overall results.

### ***Respondents' Level of Experience with Each Applicant***

All respondents were asked to describe the basis of their evaluation for each applicant they rated, with options of direct professional experience, professional reputation, and other personal contacts.

Table 3 shows the type of experience of respondents for each applicant.

### ***Ratings of Applicants***

In the tables that follow, responses to the rating questions are shown in a variety of ways. Most tables show the number of respondents (*n*) and the average rating (*M*). Tables 4-10 present details on the *Overall* item. Table 4 compares all applicants to those with direct professional experience and includes the median rating (*Mdn*) and the standard deviation (*SD*) in addition to number of respondents and average. Tables 5-10 present data only from those respondents who indicated direct professional experience. Table 5 provides the distribution of responses. Table 6 provides applicants' mean ratings broken down by respondents' type of practice. Table 7 provides applicants' mean ratings broken down by respondents' length of Alaska practice. Table 8 provides applicants' mean ratings broken down by respondents' type of caseload handled. Table 9 provides applicants' mean ratings broken down by respondents' location of practice. Table 10 provides applicants' mean ratings broken down by respondents' gender.

For each individual applicant, Tables 11-20 provide a demographics summary of respondents and detailed information on ratings provided by respondent characteristic.

**Table 3**  
*Level of Experience with the Applicants*

	<i>n</i>	% of all respondents who rated applicant	Percent of Respondents Basing Ratings on...		
			Direct Professional Experience	Professional Reputation	Other Personal Contacts
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	97	19.0	79.4	15.5	5.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	90	17.6	75.6	18.9	5.6
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	61	11.9	88.5	8.2	3.3
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	72	14.1	81.9	13.9	4.2
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	96	18.8	78.1	16.7	5.2

**Table 4**  
**Summary of Overall Ratings**

	All Respondents				Respondents with Direct Professional Experience			
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Mdn</i>	<i>SD</i>
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	96	4.3	5.0	1.1	77	4.2	5.0	1.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	89	4.7	5.0	0.6	68	4.8	5.0	0.5
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	61	4.2	5.0	1.0	54	4.2	5.0	1.0
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	72	3.7	4.0	1.3	59	3.6	4.0	1.4
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	94	4.2	5.0	1.2	74	4.3	5.0	1.1

**Table 5**  
***Distribution of Responses for Overall Rating***

	<i>n</i>	<b>Poor</b>		<b>Deficient</b>		<b>Acceptable</b>		<b>Good</b>		<b>Excellent</b>	
		<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	77	3	3.9	7	9.1	7	9.1	11	14.3	49	63.6
<b>Ben Muse</b>	68	-	-	-	-	3	4.4	8	11.8	57	83.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	54	-	-	3	5.6	11	20.4	11	20.4	29	53.7
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	59	5	8.5	11	18.6	7	11.9	14	23.7	22	37.3
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	74	4	5.4	2	2.7	7	9.5	16	21.6	45	60.8

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

**Table 6**  
**Mean Overall Ratings by Type of Practice**

	Private, solo		Private, 2-5 attorneys		Private, 6+ attorneys		Private, corporate employee		Judge or judicial officer		Government		Public service agency/org		Retired		Other		Overall <i>M</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	4	5.0	3	4.0	7	4.3	-	-	13	4.2	38	4.0	6	5.0	5	4.8	1	4.0	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	4	5.0	5	4.8	7	5.0	-	-	9	4.6	35	4.7	6	5.0	2	5.0	-	-	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	2	5.0	5	4.8	3	4.3	-	-	8	4.5	27	4.0	7	4.1	2	4.5	-	-	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	4	3.3	2	2.0	4	4.0	-	-	5	4.6	40	3.6	2	2.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	11	3.9	3	3.7	15	4.6	-	-	14	4.4	26	4.3	3	4.3	2	5.0	-	-	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

**Table 7**  
**Mean Overall Ratings by Length of Alaska Practice**

	5 years or fewer		6 to 10 years		11 to 15 years		16 to 20 years		21 years or more		Overall <i>M</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	6	3.3	16	4.5	19	4.4	15	3.9	15	4.5	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	3	5.0	18	4.8	18	4.8	12	4.7	15	4.9	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	-	-	11	4.3	16	4.2	13	4.0	12	4.4	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	8	4.3	16	3.3	12	3.2	9	3.0	14	4.4	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	2	3.5	7	4.7	14	4.6	17	4.4	29	4.1	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

**Table 8**  
**Mean Overall Ratings by Type of Caseload Handled**

	Prosecution		Criminal		Mixed criminal/civil		Civil		Other		Overall
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>M</i>
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	9	3.4	14	4.6	32	4.5	17	3.9	4	4.5	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	7	4.4	18	4.9	23	4.8	16	4.8	3	5.0	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	3	3.3	8	4.4	13	3.8	27	4.5	2	3.5	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	12	4.6	16	3.1	21	3.7	8	3.6	1	1.0	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	6	3.7	10	4.8	32	4.2	22	4.5	3	4.7	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

**Table 9**  
**Mean Overall Ratings by Location of Practice**

	First District		Second District		Third District		Fourth District		Outside Alaska		Overall <i>M</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	3	3.0	4	4.5	55	4.2	13	4.6	2	5.0	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	5	5.0	2	5.0	52	4.8	6	4.8	3	5.0	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	4	3.5	2	4.5	38	4.3	8	4.1	2	5.0	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	5	2.8	3	3.7	44	3.8	6	3.2	1	2.0	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	3	4.3	2	4.5	62	4.3	5	3.8	2	5.0	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.

**Table 10**  
**Mean Overall Ratings by Gender**

	Male		Female		Another identity		Overall <i>M</i>
	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>M</i>	
<b>Julia Metzger</b>	41	4.0	35	4.5	+	+	4.2
<b>Ben Muse</b>	39	4.7	29	4.9	-	-	4.8
<b>Eric Salinger</b>	22	4.1	31	4.3	-	-	4.2
<b>Sam Vandergaw</b>	34	3.8	25	3.4	-	-	3.6
<b>Matt Widmer</b>	44	4.3	29	4.3	-	-	4.3

Note: Ratings from only those respondents with direct professional experience with the applicants.  
 +Too few respondents to report.

**Table 11**  
**Julia Metzger**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Applicant</b>		
Direct professional experience	77	79.4
Professional reputation	15	15.5
Other personal contacts	5	5.2
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	63	81.8
Substantial amount of experience	35	45.5
Moderate amount of experience	29	37.7
Limited amount of experience	13	16.9
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
Private, solo	4	4.1
Private, 2-5 attorneys	7	7.2
Private, 6+ attorneys	11	11.3
Private, corporate employee	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	13	13.4
Government	45	46.4
Public service agency or organization	9	9.3
Retired	7	7.2
Other	1	1.0
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	6	6.2
5 years or fewer	8	8.2
6 to 10 years	18	18.6
11 to 15 years	23	23.7
16 to 20 years	17	17.5
More than 20 years	25	25.8
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	1	1.0
Prosecution	10	10.3
Criminal	18	18.6
Mixed criminal & civil	37	38.1
Civil	25	25.8
Other	6	6.2
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
First District	4	4.1
Second District	4	4.1
Third District	74	76.3
Fourth District	13	13.4
Outside Alaska	2	2.1
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	-	-
Male	46	47.4
Female	50	51.5
Another identity	+	+

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.  
 +Too few respondents to report.

**Table 12**  
**Julia Metzger**  
**Detailed Responses**

	<i>n</i>	Professional Competence <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Fairness <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Suitability of Experience <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	97	4.6	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.3
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Experience within last 5 years	63	4.5	4.3	4.2	3.9	4.3	4.2
Experience not within last 5 years	14	4.7	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.7	4.5
Substantial amount of experience	35	4.6	4.5	4.3	3.9	4.5	4.4
Moderate amount of experience	29	4.6	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.4
Limited amount of experience	13	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.8	3.5
Professional reputation	15	4.6	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.4
Other personal contacts	5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	4	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Private, 2-5 attorneys	3	4.0	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.0	4.0
Private, 6+ attorneys	7	4.6	4.6	4.4	3.7	4.4	4.3
Private, corporate employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	13	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.5	4.2
Government	38	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.6	4.2	4.0
Public service agency or organization	6	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.0	5.0
Retired	5	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Other	1	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	6	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.0	3.5	3.3
6 to 10 years	16	4.8	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.5
11 to 15 years	19	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.6	4.4
16 to 20 years	15	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.4	4.3	3.9
More than 20 years	15	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.5
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	9	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.2	3.9	3.4
Criminal	14	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.6
Mixed criminal & civil	32	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.6	4.5
Civil	17	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.9
Other	4	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.3	4.5	4.5
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	3	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Second District	4	4.5	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.5	4.5
Third District	55	4.5	4.3	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.2
Fourth District	13	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.2	4.6	4.6
Outside Alaska	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	41	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.7	4.2	4.0
Female	35	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.5	4.5
Another identity	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

+Too few respondents to report.

**Table 13**  
**Ben Muse**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Applicant</b>		
Direct professional experience	68	75.6
Professional reputation	17	18.9
Other personal contacts	5	5.6
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	52	76.5
Substantial amount of experience	37	54.4
Moderate amount of experience	21	30.9
Limited amount of experience	10	14.7
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	1	1.1
Private, solo	4	4.4
Private, 2-5 attorneys	7	7.8
Private, 6+ attorneys	10	11.1
Private, corporate employee	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	15	16.7
Government	39	43.3
Public service agency or organization	9	10.0
Retired	5	5.6
Other	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	3	3.3
5 years or fewer	4	4.4
6 to 10 years	19	21.1
11 to 15 years	23	25.6
16 to 20 years	15	16.7
More than 20 years	26	28.9
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	1	1.1
Prosecution	9	10.0
Criminal	22	24.4
Mixed criminal & civil	31	34.4
Civil	23	25.6
Other	4	4.4
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
First District	10	11.1
Second District	2	2.2
Third District	68	75.6
Fourth District	6	6.7
Outside Alaska	4	4.4
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	-	-
Male	48	53.3
Female	42	46.7
Another identity	-	-

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 14**  
**Ben Muse**  
**Detailed Responses**

	<i>n</i>	Professional Competence <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Fairness <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Suitability of Experience <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	90	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>
Experience within last 5 years	52	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8
Experience not within last 5 years	16	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
Substantial amount of experience	37	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.9
Moderate amount of experience	21	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8
Limited amount of experience	10	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.3	4.5	4.5
Professional reputation	17	4.4	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
Other personal contacts	5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	4	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Private, 2-5 attorneys	5	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8
Private, 6+ attorneys	7	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0
Private, corporate employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	9	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.6
Government	35	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7
Public service agency or organization	6	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8	5.0
Retired	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
6 to 10 years	18	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8
11 to 15 years	18	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.8
16 to 20 years	12	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.7
More than 20 years	15	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	7	4.3	4.3	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.4
Criminal	18	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Mixed criminal & civil	23	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8
Civil	16	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.8
Other	3	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.7	5.0
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	5	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0	4.6	5.0
Second District	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.5	4.5	5.0
Third District	52	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8
Fourth District	6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8
Outside Alaska	3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	39	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.7
Female	29	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.9
Another identity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 15**  
**Eric Salinger**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Applicant</b>		
Direct professional experience	54	88.5
Professional reputation	5	8.2
Other personal contacts	2	3.3
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	33	61.1
Substantial amount of experience	21	38.9
Moderate amount of experience	22	40.7
Limited amount of experience	11	20.4
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
Private, solo	2	3.3
Private, 2-5 attorneys	6	9.8
Private, 6+ attorneys	4	6.6
Private, corporate employee	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	8	13.1
Government	30	49.2
Public service agency or organization	9	14.8
Retired	2	3.3
Other	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	2	3.3
5 years or fewer	2	3.3
6 to 10 years	14	23.0
11 to 15 years	16	26.2
16 to 20 years	13	21.3
More than 20 years	14	23.0
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	1	1.6
Prosecution	3	4.9
Criminal	12	19.7
Mixed criminal & civil	13	21.3
Civil	30	49.2
Other	2	3.3
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
First District	4	6.6
Second District	2	3.3
Third District	45	73.8
Fourth District	8	13.1
Outside Alaska	2	3.3
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	1	1.6
Male	26	42.6
Female	34	55.7
Another identity	-	-

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 16**  
**Eric Salinger**  
**Detailed Responses**

	<i>n</i>	Professional Competence <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Fairness <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Suitability of Experience <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	61	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Experience within last 5 years	33	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4
Experience not within last 5 years	21	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
Substantial amount of experience	21	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Moderate amount of experience	22	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.0
Limited amount of experience	11	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.0	4.1
Professional reputation	5	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.0	4.6	4.2
Other personal contacts	2	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Private, 2-5 attorneys	5	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
Private, 6+ attorneys	3	4.0	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.3
Private, corporate employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	8	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.5
Government	27	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0
Public service agency or organization	7	4.3	4.4	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.1
Retired	2	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 to 10 years	11	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3
11 to 15 years	16	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.2
16 to 20 years	13	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.0
More than 20 years	12	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Criminal	8	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4
Mixed criminal & civil	13	3.9	3.9	4.2	4.0	4.0	3.8
Civil	27	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5
Other	2	3.0	3.5	3.5	2.5	4.0	3.5
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	4	3.5	3.8	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.5
Second District	2	4.5	4.5	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.5
Third District	38	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3
Fourth District	8	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.1	4.1
Outside Alaska	2	4.5	4.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	22	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.1
Female	31	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.3
Another identity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 17**  
**Sam Vandergaw**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Applicant</b>		
Direct professional experience	59	81.9
Professional reputation	10	13.9
Other personal contacts	3	4.2
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	56	94.9
Substantial amount of experience	29	49.2
Moderate amount of experience	21	35.6
Limited amount of experience	9	15.3
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
Private, solo	5	6.9
Private, 2-5 attorneys	3	4.2
Private, 6+ attorneys	7	9.7
Private, corporate employee	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	5	6.9
Government	46	63.9
Public service agency or organization	4	5.6
Retired	1	1.4
Other	1	1.4
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	1	1.4
5 years or fewer	8	11.1
6 to 10 years	17	23.6
11 to 15 years	17	23.6
16 to 20 years	12	16.7
More than 20 years	17	23.6
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	1	1.4
Prosecution	16	22.2
Criminal	16	22.2
Mixed criminal & civil	24	33.3
Civil	13	18.1
Other	2	2.8
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	-	-
First District	7	9.7
Second District	3	4.2
Third District	55	76.4
Fourth District	6	8.3
Outside Alaska	1	1.4
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	-	-
Male	42	58.3
Female	30	41.7
Another identity	-	-

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 18**  
**Sam Vandergaw**  
**Detailed Responses**

	<i>n</i>	Professional Competence <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Fairness <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Suitability of Experience <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	72	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.9	3.7
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Experience within last 5 years	56	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7
Experience not within last 5 years	3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.7	2.0
Substantial amount of experience	29	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.5
Moderate amount of experience	21	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.8
Limited amount of experience	9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.7
Professional reputation	10	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.0	4.3	3.9
Other personal contacts	3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.3	4.7
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	4	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Private, 2-5 attorneys	2	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Private, 6+ attorneys	4	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.3	3.8	4.0
Private, corporate employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	5	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.4	4.6	4.6
Government	40	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.9	3.6
Public service agency or organization	2	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.0
Retired	1	5.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0
Other	1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	8	4.3	4.3	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.3
6 to 10 years	16	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.3
11 to 15 years	12	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.2
16 to 20 years	9	3.0	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.0
More than 20 years	14	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	12	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.2	4.7	4.6
Criminal	16	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.1
Mixed criminal & civil	21	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7
Civil	8	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.6
Other	1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	5	3.8	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.2	2.8
Second District	3	3.7	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.3	3.7
Third District	44	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.8
Fourth District	6	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.2
Outside Alaska	1	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	34	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8
Female	25	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.4
Another identity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 19**  
**Matt Widmer**  
**Demographic Description of Respondents**

	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Experience with Applicant</b>		
Direct professional experience	75	78.1
Professional reputation	16	16.7
Other personal contacts	5	5.2
<b>Detailed Experience*</b>		
Recent experience (within last 5 years)	57	76.0
Substantial amount of experience	26	34.7
Moderate amount of experience	31	41.3
Limited amount of experience	18	24.0
<b>Type of Practice</b>		
No response	1	1.0
Private, solo	14	14.6
Private, 2-5 attorneys	5	5.2
Private, 6+ attorneys	17	17.7
Private, corporate employee	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	15	15.6
Government	32	33.3
Public service agency or organization	5	5.2
Retired	7	7.3
Other	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice</b>		
No response	6	6.3
5 years or fewer	6	6.3
6 to 10 years	11	11.5
11 to 15 years	15	15.6
16 to 20 years	20	20.8
More than 20 years	38	39.6
<b>Cases Handled</b>		
No response	2	2.1
Prosecution	6	6.3
Criminal	15	15.6
Mixed criminal & civil	36	37.5
Civil	30	31.3
Other	7	7.3
<b>Location of Practice</b>		
No response	1	1.0
First District	3	3.1
Second District	3	3.1
Third District	80	83.3
Fourth District	5	5.2
Outside Alaska	4	4.2
<b>Gender</b>		
No response	2	2.1
Male	56	58.3
Female	38	39.6
Another identity	-	-

\*Only among those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.

**Table 20**  
**Matt Widmer**  
**Detailed Responses**

	<i>n</i>	Professional Competence <i>M</i>	Integrity <i>M</i>	Fairness <i>M</i>	Judicial Temperament <i>M</i>	Suitability of Experience <i>M</i>	Overall <i>M</i>
All respondents	96	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
<b>Basis for Evaluation</b>							
<b>Direct professional experience</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Experience within last 5 years	57	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2
Experience not within last 5 years	18	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.6	4.5
Substantial amount of experience	26	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5
Moderate amount of experience	31	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1
Limited amount of experience	18	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
Professional reputation	16	4.0	4.2	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.7
Other personal contacts	5	4.0	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.8
<b>Type of Practice*</b>							
Private, solo	11	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9
Private, 2-5 attorneys	3	4.0	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.7
Private, 6+ attorneys	15	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
Private, corporate employee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judge or judicial officer	15	4.3	4.2	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.4
Government	26	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Public service agency or organization	3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.3
Retired	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Length of Alaska Practice*</b>							
5 years or fewer	2	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
6 to 10 years	7	4.6	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.7
11 to 15 years	14	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6
16 to 20 years	18	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
More than 20 years	29	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1
<b>Cases Handled*</b>							
Prosecution	6	3.7	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.7
Criminal	10	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8
Mixed criminal & civil	33	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Civil	22	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.5
Other	3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.3	4.7
<b>Location of Practice*</b>							
First District	3	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.7	4.3	4.3
Second District	2	4.5	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.5	4.5
Third District	63	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3
Fourth District	5	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.8
Outside Alaska	2	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
<b>Gender*</b>							
Male	45	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3
Female	29	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.3
Another identity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Ratings from only those respondents reporting direct professional experience with the applicant.