



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

2024 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Deadline: November 17, 2023

Kristian B. Pickrell	Ketchikan District Court
Name	Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

a) <u>30</u> % civil cases	b) <u>6</u> # of jury trials/year
<u>65</u> % criminal cases	<u>16</u> # of non-jury trials/year
<u>5</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.

I am currently appointed as a Superior Court Judge, Pro Tem, to fill the role of the State of Alaska Judge on the Sitka Healing to Wellness Court (HTWC). HTWC is a new therapeutic court jointly run by the Alaska Court System and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. I will fill this role until a new Sitka Superior Court Judge is appointed. My role includes participation in the multidisciplinary team, which develops and updates policy for the HTWC.

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

I took the bench on 11/14/2023. I have participated in the following judicial education since taking the bench:

- (1) January 25-27, 2023, Alaska Court System Newer Judges Training, Year 1 of 3
- (2) September 27-29, 2023, Alaska Court System Judicial Conference
- (3) October 9-19, 2023, National Judicial College General Jurisdiction Course

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

I organized a meeting with attorneys in the southern portion of the First Judicial District, and a representative of the Alaska Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP). ASAP monitors defendants after misdemeanor convictions in certain cases, to ensure they complete screening and treatment. The meeting was designed to increase awareness of ASAP requirements by attorneys (including prosecutors) who handle DUI cases, and other criminal cases that involve alcohol and controlled substances. The goal was to improve outcomes for defendants in these cases, and to ensure attorneys can provide better support to their clients after convictions, to minimize recidivism and other future negative outcomes.

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.

During the last year since I took the bench, I have focused on efficiently managing my caseload, while also increasing my competence in new areas of the law, so that I can continuously improve my effectiveness as a judge. Because I served as a prosecutor in Ketchikan immediately before taking the bench, I recused from many criminal cases. To compensate for the increased workload to other judicial officers, I was assigned a Superior Court caseload that includes felony criminal cases, domestic relations cases, and guardianship cases. This year has been challenging, but rewarding, as I have managed this diverse caseload, and worked diligently to resolve cases efficiently and effectively.

My goal throughout this first year has been to ensure that litigants, particularly self-represented litigants, are treated with dignity and respect, and that they are treated fairly. I have done my best to respond to feedback from court staff, my peers, litigants, and others who provide feedback (such as jurors) to ensure I meet this goal. I also frequently self-assess my performance to look for ways to improve my attainment of this goal.

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: State of Alaska Case Number: 1KE-22-00693CR
 v. Maxine Johnson

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Alexander Kramarczuk</u>	Name: <u>Sam Tureff</u>
Address: <u>415 Main Street, Suite 304</u>	Address: <u>415 Main Street, Suite 206</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 1KE-22-00772CR
 v. Stephanie Johnson

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Jennifer Chaudhary</u>	Name: <u>Sam Tureff</u>
Address: <u>415 Main Street, Suite 304</u>	Address: <u>415 Main Street, Suite 206</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 1KE-22-00813CR
 v. Hayden Aeschilman

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Jennifer Chaudhary</u>	Name: <u>Leif Thompson</u>
Address: <u>415 Main Street, Suite 304</u>	Address: <u>540 Water Street, Suite 301</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 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: Miles Munhoven Case Number: 1KE-23-00009SC
 v. Gretchen Moore

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Leif Thompson</u>	Name: <u>Blake Chupka</u>
Address: <u>540 Water Street, Suite 301</u>	Address: <u>306 Main Street, Suite 326</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Mary and Job Montoy Case Number: 1WR-21-00018CI
 v. Alf Lund

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Michael Heiser</u>	Name: <u>Daniel Bruce</u>
Address: <u>300 Mill Street, Suite 20</u>	Address: <u>PO Box 32819</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, Alaska, 99803</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Jennifer Posey Case Number: 1KE-22-00118CI
 v. Clark Posey

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Blake Chupka</u>	Name: <u>Self-Represented Litigant Clark Posey</u>
Address: <u>306 Main Street, Suite 326</u>	Address: <u>1932 Tongass Avenue, Apartment A</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</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: Jared Robinson *Case Number:* 1KE-22-00271CI
v. Sylvia Frank

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Self-Represented Litigant Jared Robinson</u>	Name: <u>Heather Barbour</u>
Address: <u>48 Snowgoose Lane</u>	Address: <u>2550 Denali Street, 11th Floor</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Alaska, 99503</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska *Case Number:* 1WR-22-00038CR
v. Corey Torgramsen

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Amy Fenske</u>	Name: <u>Emma Johnson</u>
Address: <u>304 Lake Street, Suite 202</u>	Address: <u>PO Box 110216</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Sitka, Alaska, 99835</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, Alaska, 99811-0216</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Charles Gadd *Case Number:* 1WR-22-00002CI
v. Sara Gadd

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Rhonda Butterfield</u>	Name: <u>Self-Represented Litigant Sara Gillen (formerly Gadd)</u>
Address: <u>1016 West 6th Avenue, Suite 405</u>	Address: <u>PO Box 2144</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, Alaska, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Wrangell, Alaska, 99929</u>
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: Justin Bruesch *Case Number:* 1KE-22-00097CI
 v. Rebecca Thelen and Victor Martinez

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Blake Chupka	Name: Self-Represented Litigant Rebecca Thelen
Address: 306 Main Street, Suite 326	Address: 1200 Woodside Drive, Apartment A-8
City, State, Zip: Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901	City, State, Zip: Ketchikan, Alaska, 99901

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: _____