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# alaska judicial council

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## Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

### 2024 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Deadline: November 17, 2023

Herman G. Walker, Jr.  
Name

Anchorage Superior  
Court

- Please estimate your workload during your present term.
 

a) <u>98</u> % civil cases	b) <u>4-5</u> # of jury trials/year
<u>2</u> % criminal cases	<u>48-50</u> # of non-jury trials/year
<u>      </u> % court administrative work	<u>4</u> # of administrative appeals/year
100 % Total	
- Please describe your participation on court/bar committees or other administrative activities during your current term of office.

I have been on the Judicial Conference committee and am currently on the Family Court committee. I formed the Trauma Committee and worked with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) to obtain a trauma assessment of the Anchorage and Fairbanks courts. The assesment involved all the stakeholders in CINA and juvenile cases. This assessment consisted of focus groups of our staff, PDs, AG and private stakeholders, a survey from judges and other staff memebers. The assessment is available for review. A result of our relationship with NCJFCJ is that Fairbanks is an implemентаiton site and continues to work with NCJFCJ to become a fully trauma informed court. The Anchorage court is also moving towards becoming a trauma informed court.

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

I have been invited to teach at several conferences around the nation. I have taught culture and family law; implicit bias and family law; resist/refuse dynamics in parental custody; evidence in family law; how to use an expert at trial; the application of social science in family courts. I am presenting at the AFCC Annual meeting. I cannot remember all of them.

I have taken classes in resist/refuse dynamics in custody cases; implicit bias, the application of culture in family law cases. I represented our courts at the Justice Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorders: Cultivating Law and Medicine Partnership. I am teaching the judicial track at the national AFCC seminar in Boston next year. I am the Chair of the DE&I committee of the AFCC board and have presented at several of their webinars. I have been published in the Family Court Review, an interdisciplinary Journal.

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

I have spoken at Shilo community development events. I am on the national board of American Family and Facilitation Courts (AFCC). I am a Judicial Fellow on the International Association of Family Law Attorneys. Each year I mentor students from the Anchorage School District and attend their end of the year event. I currently am mentoring a student from Polaris, who is interested in the law. I participate in the Color of Justice program every year. I am speaking for ADVSA at their legal advocacy and wellness training program on December 7, 2023. I am a member of the DE&I collaborative. This is a national organization, consisting of judges and other organizations around the country. The purpose of the group is to address diversity, equality and inclusion in courts around the country. This work is important because Alaska is one of the most diverse communities in the country. It's important that Alaskans have a diverse legal and judicial community. It's important that I bring information back to my community to address DE&I in our legal system. I am also on the board of the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

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.

I have only done Rule 11 agreements. However, I have discretion to accept the agreement or not. Under these circumstances the victim's statement is very important to me. I want to hear what the impact had on their lives. That information helps me determine if the sentence meets the Chaney criteria and more importantly, does the agreement provide justice to the victim, as allowed by law.

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 consider my judicial performance as good. I recognize that there is always something to learn. That no case is the same because the parties are different. That is why I spend my own money to attend seminars on issues that I can use in this job. I am active in National organizations that focus on issues that we address daily. I am a national board member of AFCC, This is a multi-disciplinary organization that focuses on issues that impact families. This organization provides the best practices on such things as custody evaluations, GAL, parenting coordinators, trauma, substance abuse disorders, refuse/resist dynamics in families. Because of my association with this organization I have been able to bring national experts to attend our judicial conference and educate our judges.

Because of my outside activities I learned what is a trauma informed court. I recognize that our community members suffer from trauma before they come into court. There are best practices that can alleviate the traumatic experience of appearing in court. I have been able to bring this information to our court administration and move us in that direction.

On the daily side, I recognize that we have a number of new lawyers who have not properly been mentored. They are hanging up their shingles and coming into court with no experience. I hold my court to a standard and attempt to convey to the young attorneys the importance of finding a mentor to help them. Or guide them in proper court practices. I also hold the older attorneys to a standard of advocacy that respects the importance of this institution. Co-vid changed the practice of law; some for the better and some for the worse. I see our role as judges to keep the best that came out of co-vid, i.e. zoom hearings, and to bring back a level of advocacy that promotes justice for clients and to respect the process and the institution.

Everyone receives respect and is heard in my court room. It is important that I apply the same courtesies to lawyers and self-represented litigants. Judicial temperament is important. It has been my experience that most people are okay with my decisions if they feel that I listened to them and they had their day in court. I believe I achieve that 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.

My job as judge is to work for the community. To make the process better for participants and less traumatic. To move cases forward so people can have their day in court. To do this I have educated myself by attending seminars, and belonging to organizations that educate and inform on best practices. Alaska is an isolated community, so we cannot know it all. I recognize how traumatic courts can be to participants. We have more self-represented litigants than ever before. It is our job to make their experience less traumatic and make sure they feel heard. It is also our job to hold attorneys to a level of advocacy that moves cases and respects this institution. I feel I am achieving these goals. I am learning every day how to become a better judge for my community. When I got this job, I told the governor this is my way of giving back what Alaska has provided me and my family. I still feel that way.

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: 3AN-22-1823 CR  
 v. Keivon Wright

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Cynthia Cook</u>	Name: <u>Matthew DiTullio</u>
Address: <u>310 K St., suite 520</u>	Address: <u>900 W. 5th Ave.</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: State of Alaska Case Number: 3UN-19-00087 CR  
 v. Brenda Baker Richardson

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Liana Fili</u>	Name: <u>Caitlyn McFadden</u>
Address: <u>310 K St.</u>	Address: <u>518 W. Marine Way</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Kodiak, 99615</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 3**

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3UN-21-00056 CR  
 v. Jayson Roxas

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Liani Fili</u>	Name: <u>Caitlyn McFadden</u>
Address: <u>900 W. 5th Ave.</u>	Address: <u>518 W. Marine way</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Kodiak 99615</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:** The Meeker Revocable Trust **Case Number:** 3AN-21-00873 PR  
 v. Douglas A. Meeker

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Tonja Woelber</u>	Name: <u>Jeffery Robinson</u>
Address: <u>821 N. St.</u>	Address: <u>1600 A St.</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

**Case Number 2**

**Case Name:** Vazquez Et Al **Case Number:** 3AN-22-9325 CI  
 v. Lt. Gov. Nancy Dahlstrom

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Anna Cometa</u>	Name: <u>Stacey Stone</u>
Address: <u>701 W. 8th Ave.</u>	Address: <u>701 W. 8th Ave.</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: <u>Samuel Gottstein</u>	Name: <u>Margaret paton-Walsh</u>
Address: <u>510 L St.Ste 601</u>	Address: <u>1031 W. 4th Ave Ste 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage 99501</u>

**Case Number 3**

**Case Name:** Hoppe **Case Number:** 3AN-18-11571 CI  
 v. SOA, DOC

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Isaac Zorea</u>	Name: <u>Brandon Smith</u>
Address: <u>2900 Boniface Pkwy ste 200</u>	Address: <u>1031 W. 4th Ave Ste 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Ancorage 99504</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage,99501</u>
Name: <u>Andrew Miller</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>P.O. Box 110300</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Juneau, Ak 99811</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

QUESTION 11.

Continued...

**Case No. 3AN-22-09325CI**

Attorney Scott Kendall  
510 L Street, Ste. 601  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Thomas Samuel Flynn  
1031 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Attorney Richard Ralph Moses  
701 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Case No. 3AN-22-08794CI**

Attorney Richard Ralph Moses  
701 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Thomas Samuel Flynn  
1031 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**Case No. 3AN-21-05629CI**

Attorney Jason Thomas  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519

Attorney Rebecca Lipson  
1227 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ste. 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501



- 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: Chris Duke Case Number: 3an-21-5692 CI  
 v. SOA, Division of Elections

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Stacey Stone</u>	Name: <u>Samuel Gottstein</u>
Address: <u>701 W. 8th Ave Ste 700</u>	Address: <u>510 L St. ste 601</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>

Name: <u>Margaret paton-Walsh</u>	Name: <u>Scott Kendall</u>
Address: <u>1031 W. 4th, Ste. 200</u>	Address: <u>510 L St. Ste 601</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>

**Case Number 2**

Case Name: Huffman Building, LLC Case Number: 3AN-21-5629 CI  
 v. MOA Zoning Board of Examiners

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Matthew Findley</u>	Name: <u>Eva Gardiner</u>
Address: <u>1227 W. 9th Ave. Ste 200</u>	Address: <u>1227 W. 9th Ave. Ste 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>

Name: <u>Colleen Moore</u>	Name: <u>Michael Jungreis</u>
Address: <u>500 L. Ste 300</u>	Address: <u>500 L St. Ste 300</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>

**Case Number 3**

Case Name: Bryan Perotti Case Number: 3AN-20-9275 CI  
 v. DOC

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Thomas Mooney-Myers</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>1031 W. 4th Ave. Ste 200</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Alaska 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

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:** McCollum **Case Number:** 3AN-16-4601 CI  
 v. Knolmayer

**Attorneys Involved:**

Name: <u>Howard Lazar</u>	Name: <u>Phillip Weidner</u>
Address: <u>1007 W. 3rd Ste 300</u>	Address: <u>431 W. 7th ave. ste 101</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

Name: <u>Lisa Rosano</u>	Name: <u>Michael Cohn</u>
Address: <u>431 W. 7th Ave. Ste 101</u>	Address: <u>431 W. 7th Ave. Ste 101</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, 99501</u>

**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: _____