



alaska judicial council

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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Judicial Council
FROM: Staff
DATE: April 03, 2024
RE: Juror Survey Report

The Alaska Judicial Council collected surveys from jurors who sat in trials during 2022, 2023, and the first part of 2024. The jurors sat before all of the 15 trial court judges eligible to stand for retention in 2024. A total of 456 jurors responded on Council-provided postcards that judges distributed to jurors at the end of each trial (see attached Juror Survey Card Example). Jurors completed the surveys on the postage-paid cards and mailed them to the Council.

Council staff entered the data from the surveys and ran basic descriptive statistics. This memorandum summarizes the findings. It is distributed to Council members and judges, and posted on the Council's website.

Table 1 shows the distribution of jurors by type of trial reported for each judge. Some jurors only wrote comments and did not rate the judge on the specific variables. Thus, there may be more respondents shown on Table 1 than appear on the judges' individual tables.

Table 1: Distribution of Jurors by Type of Trial, by Judge

Judge	Civil	Criminal	No Answer	Total
Ahrens, Rachel	1	38	1	40
Bahr, Maria Pia L.	2	46	5	53
Christian, Matthew	3	63	2	68
Dickson, Leslie	0	18	2	20
Franciosi, Michael	5	33	1	39
Haines, Trisha	1	44	3	48
Hanley, J. Patrick	9	34	1	44
Logue, Michael B.	1	23	6	30
McCrea, Kari	0	20	2	22
Pickrell, Kristian B.	4	3	0	7
Seifert, Bride	2	34	0	36
Walker, Herman G.	6	13	1	20
Wallace, David R.	6	11	1	18
Washington, Pamela	0	6	0	6
Zeman, Adolf	0	5	0	5

* Source: Alaska Judicial Council,
2024 Retention Juror Survey

Table 2 shows the distribution of number of days served, as reported by the jurors. Eighty-five percent of the jurors served fewer than five days.

Table 2: Distribution of Jurors by Type of Trial, by Judge

Number of Days Served	Percent	Count
1 - 2 Days	32.5	148
3 - 4 Days	52.2	238
5 - 7 Days	7.9	36
8 - 10 Days	0.9	4
11 - 20 Days	0.2	1
21 or More Days	0.9	4
No Answer	3.7	17
NA	1.8	8

* Source: Alaska Judicial Council,
2024 Retention Juror Survey

Individual Results

Table 3 shows each judge’s mean rating for each question on the survey. Each judge’s individual survey results are provided in separate tables. Jurors used a five-point scale, with excellent rated as five, and poor rated as one. The closer the jurors’ ratings were to five, the higher that judge’s evaluation by the jurors. The last column shows the total number of jurors who evaluated the judge on at least one variable.

Table 3: Mean Rating for each Variable and for “Overall Performance,” by Judge

	Impartiality and Fairness	Respectful and Courteous	Attentive During Proceedings	Control During Proceedings	Intelligence and Skill as a Judge	Overall	Count
Ahrens, Rachel	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	40
Bahr, Maria Pia L.	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	53
Christian, Matthew	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.8	68
Dickson, Leslie	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	20
Franciosi, Michael	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	39
Haines, Trisha	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	48
Hanley, J. Patrick	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	44
Logue, Michael B.	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	30
McCrea, Kari	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.0	22
Pickrell, Kristian B.	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.6	7
Seifert, Bride	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	36
Walker, Herman G.	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.9	20
Wallace, David R.	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.8	4.9	18
Washington, Pamela	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	5.0	6
Zeman, Adolf	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5

* Source: Alaska Judicial Council,
2024 Retention Juror Survey

Table 4: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Ahrens, Rachel

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	5	35	40
Respectful / Courteous	4.8	0	0	0	6	34	40
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	5	35	40
Control Over Proceedings	4.8	0	0	1	8	31	40
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.7	0	1	1	8	30	40
Overall Evaluation	4.8	0	0	1	6	33	40

Table 5: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Bahr, Maria Pia L.

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	3	50	53
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	2	51	53
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	4	49	53
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	2	51	53
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	3	50	53
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	4	49	53

Table 6: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Christian, Matthew

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.7	0	0	2	18	48	68
Respectful / Courteous	4.8	0	0	2	12	54	68
Attentive During Proceedings	4.7	0	0	3	13	52	68
Control Over Proceedings	4.7	0	0	2	14	52	68
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.8	0	0	1	12	55	68
Overall Evaluation	4.8	0	0	2	13	53	68

Table 7: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Dickson, Leslie

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.8	0	0	0	3	17	20
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	1	19	20
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	1	19	20
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	2	17	19
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	1	17	18

Table 8: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Franciosi, Michael

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	0	39	39
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	39	39
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	2	37	39
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	4	35	39
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	2	37	39
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	2	37	39

Table 9: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Haines, Trisha

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	6	42	48
Respectful / Courteous	4.9	0	0	0	5	43	48
Attentive During Proceedings	4.8	0	0	2	5	41	48
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	5	43	48
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	5	42	47
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	6	41	47

Table 10: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Hanley, J. Patrick

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	2	42	44
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	2	42	44
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	2	42	44
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	1	43	44
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	3	41	44
Overall Evaluation	5.0	0	0	0	2	42	44

Table 11: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Logue, Michael B.

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	1	1	28	30
Respectful / Courteous	4.8	0	0	1	3	26	30
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	2	28	30
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	4	26	30
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	1	2	27	30
Overall Evaluation	4.8	0	0	1	3	26	30

Table 12: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: McCrea, Kari

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	0	22	22
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	22	22
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	22	22
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	2	20	22
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	2	20	22
Overall Evaluation	5.0	0	0	0	0	22	22

Table 13: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Pickrell, Kristian B.

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.4	0	0	1	2	4	7
Respectful / Courteous	4.6	0	1	0	0	6	7
Attentive During Proceedings	4.6	0	0	1	1	5	7
Control Over Proceedings	4.4	0	0	1	2	4	7
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	1	6	7
Overall Evaluation	4.6	0	0	1	1	5	7

Table 14: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Seifert, Bride

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	3	32	35
Respectful / Courteous	4.9	0	0	0	2	34	36
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	2	34	36
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	4	32	36
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	4	32	36
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	5	31	36

Table 15: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Walker, Herman G.

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	1	19	20
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	20	20
Attentive During Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	2	18	20
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	1	19	20
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.9	0	0	0	2	18	20
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	2	18	20

Table 16: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Wallace, David R.

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	4.9	0	0	0	1	17	18
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	18	18
Control Over Proceedings	4.9	0	0	0	1	17	18
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.8	0	0	0	3	15	18
Overall Evaluation	4.9	0	0	0	2	16	18

Table 17: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Washington, Pamela

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	4.8	0	0	0	1	5	6
Overall Evaluation	5.0	0	0	0	0	6	6

Table 18: Juror Survey Results 2024 Retention Evaluation: Zeman, Adolf

Survey Category	Mean	Poor (1)	Deficient (2)	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)	Excellent (5)	Total Responses
Impartiality / Fairness	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Respectful / Courteous	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Attentive During Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Control Over Proceedings	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Intelligence / Skill as a Judge	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Overall Evaluation	5.0	0	0	0	0	5	5

Juror Survey Card Example

Juror Survey - Superior Court Judge

In Alaska, judges must appear periodically on the ballot to allow voters the opportunity to decide whether they should be retained in office. The Alaska Judicial Council is a citizens' commission that must evaluate judges standing for retention and make recommendations to Alaska voters. The Council collects information from many sources, including jurors. The Council's evaluations, including the results of its juror surveys appear in the election pamphlet sent to every Alaskan household.

Type of Proceedings: () Civil
() Criminal

Approximately how many days, including deliberations, did you serve as a juror for this judge? **day(s)**

Please complete this questionnaire to help the Council evaluate the judge who presided over your case. The Council and the public value your perspective. Thanks.

Please check the most appropriate response to each question.	Excellent	Good	Acceptable	Deficient	Poor
1. Was the judge fair and impartial to all sides in the case?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Was the judge respectful and courteous?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Was the judge attentive during the proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Did the judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. How would you evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. How would you evaluate the judge overall?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you have any suggestions about how the judge could improve upon his or her performance? _____

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