



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council

Retention Questionnaire

2026 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Full Name: David Lev Roghair

Court: Utqiagvik Superior Court

1a. Please estimate your workload during your present term:

- **Case work:** 85%
- **Administrative work, outreach, continuing education, etc:** 15%

1b. Superior Court Judges:

- **Criminal:** 50%
- **Delinquency:** 10%
- **Domestic Relations:** 5%
- **Child in Need of Aid:** 15%
- **Probate:** 15%
- **General Civil (Including Appeals):** 5%

1c. Number of jury trials/year: 3

1d. Number of non-jury trials/year: 10

1e. Any additional information you would like to provide about your workload?

Since early 2024, I have taken on a large portion of the Nome criminal caseload, and since March 2025, I have shared in covering the entire Nome Superior Court docket, rotating with a few other colleagues. I have done a great deal of trial work in Kotzebue since 2023. I have also taken on an increased managerial and training role since 2024.

2. Please describe your participation on court/bar committees or other administrative activities during your current term of office.

Mental Commitment Rules of Procedure Committee: Member, help draft new rules
Magistrate Training Judge, Magistrate Judge Conference Planning Committee: Member
CINA Rules Committee: Member
Time Standards Committee: Member
Alaska Bar International Law Section: Member, occasionally secure guest speakers for monthly meetings
Alaska Bar Alaska Native Law Section: Member
American Bar Association, Judicial Division: Member, Court Technology Committee
Coastal Judges' Group: Responsibilities for planning meal and educational program rotate among group members each year

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

Alaska Court System: Judges' Conference 2022 (Spring & Fall), 2023-25; Newer Judges' Training 2022-24

National Judicial College (NJC): General Jurisdiction, 2023

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ): Institute for New Family Court Judges, 2024

National Computer Forensic Institute (NCFI): Digital Evidence for Judges, 2025

Georgetown University Law Center: Master of Laws (LLM) in Securities and Financial Regulation completed May 2022, with distinction, Dean's List, Georgetown Journal of International Law, Exceptional Pro Bono Pledge Recognition (chiefly for volunteer work in Jessup Moot Court)

Numerous online trainings and bar section meetings

4. Please describe any public outreach activities.

Guest speaker at local schools
Volunteer coach for Barrow High School/Kiita School Mock Trial Team
Host regular Legal Providers' meetings at Utqiagvik courthouse, bringing legal, law enforcement, health and social services, and other organizations together regularly to share information
Volunteer judge for Jessup International Moot Court: grading between 50 and 100 law student briefs per year and judging oral rounds every year, virtually and in-person at the local, regional, national, and international level
Helped plan ceremony and associated events to rename courthouse in honor of Magistrate Judge Sadie Neakok—interview featured in documentary footage screened at event

5. 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 began my work as a Superior Court Judge in late 2021, after spending nearly twelve years as a Magistrate Judge. There was definitely a learning curve, although I believe being a Magistrate Judge was excellent preparation, and a lot of those skills "scale up" to superior court. I have benefited from the Newer Judges' training program, as well as courses by the National Judicial College and National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges, along with the regular Judicial Conferences. During my time in this role, I have gained a great deal more experience in trial and other substantive proceedings, in especially felony criminal, child in need of aid, domestic relations, and probate matters. I have also contributed to the proposed Mental Commitment Rules of Procedure. I have grown significantly in my time as a Superior Court Judge, and always remember how fortunate I am to serve the public in this position.

5a. 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 take the court's responsibility to crime victims very seriously. I am grateful for their input in sentencing, and consider any victim statements carefully, whether they are on record or in writing, or even relayed secondhand through an attorney. When my sentence does not align with a victim's stated wishes, I take great care to explain my reasoning on the record, using accessible language as much as possible. My goal is a fair and just sentence, and a victim's perspective always has value toward that goal.

6. 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?

No

b) been involved in a non-judicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise?

Yes

c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)?

No

d) held office in any political party?

No

e) held any other local, state or federal office?

No

f) had any complaints, charges or grievances filed against you with the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Alaska Bar Association, or with the Alaska Court System that resulted in public proceedings or sanctions?

No

7. If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers and outcomes.

2BA-22-00016SC/2BA-22-00306CI: James Judkins v. David Roghair et al, filed 11/14/2022. Dispute related to tenancy/agreement to purchase property, dismissed by stipulation, 12/16/2022.

2BA-17-00025PR: Estate of Teresa Anne Judkins: I filed claims against the estate on 11/14 & 12/19/2022, related to above case, not contested.

8. Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2020 retention elections.

The Second Judicial District has undergone numerous changes during my time on the bench: staff turnover and shortages at the court and various agencies, judicial retirements and extended absences, and logistical issues, including internet outages ranging from a few days to several weeks. Through it all, I have worked hard to keep things moving forward, providing leadership and never losing sight of my responsibilities to the public generally, and the people involved in my cases specifically.

Trial Judges: Questions 9a-9d please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

9a. Please list your three most recent jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (If there are additional pages, please email these to sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)

Jury Trial Cases

Case 1: State of Alaska v. Thomas Lockwood

(Case No: 2UT-24-00038CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Douglas Damschen PO Box 160 Nome, Alaska 99762	Atty 2: Moshe Zorea PO Box 212043 Anchorage, Alaska 99521
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Case 2: State of Alaska v. Brandon Swan

(Case No: 2KB-22-00246CR)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Michael Schwaiger 900 W 5th Ave, Ste 525 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Krystyn Tendy 310 K St, Ste 701 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Bailey Woolfstead PO Box 110300 Juneau, Alaska 99811
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Case 3: State of Alaska v. Ambrose Leavitt Jr.

(Case No: 2BA-24-00096CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Maria Fernandez 529 5th Ave, Ste 1 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701	Atty 2: John Schroeder 120 Trading Bay Rd, Ste 200 Kenai, Alaska 99611
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Trial Judges: Questions 9a-9d please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

9b. Please list your three most recent non-jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (If there are additional pages, please email these to sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)

Non-Jury Trial Cases

Case 1: State of Alaska v. Owen Outwater

(Case No: 2NO-22-00128CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Douglas Damschen PO Box 160 Nome, Alaska 99762	Atty 2: Claire Lamitie PO Box 276 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
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Case 2: Lloyd Hopson v. Karen Hopson

(Case No: 2BA-24-00035CI)

Total Attorneys: 1

Atty 1: Herbert Pearce 731 I Street, Suite 203 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Case 3: Priscilla Ahsoak v. Aldin Ridley

(Case No: 2BA-23-00245CI)

Total Attorneys: 1

Atty 1: Robert Campbell PO Box 4 Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723

Trial Judges: Questions 9a-9d please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

9c. Please list your three most recent cases, 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, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (If there are additional pages, please email these to sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)

Cases that Did Not Go to Trial

Case 1: State of Alaska v. Frank Doty

(Case No: 2UT-25-00006CR, 2UT-23-00007CR, 2UT-23-00061CR,)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Douglas Damschen PO Box 160 Nome, Alaska 99762	Atty 2: Ashley Sutherland 900 W 5th Ave, Ste 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Case 2: State of Alaska v. Harold Nungasak

(Case No: 2BA-23-00239CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Maria Fernandez 529 5th Ave, Ste 1 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701	Atty 2: John Schroeder 120 Trading Bay Rd, Ste 200 Kenai, Alaska 99611
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Case 3: State of Alaska v. Marvin Nassuk

(Case No: 2NO-20-00236CR, 2NO-20-00238CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Ashly Crockett PO Box 160 Nome, Alaska 99762	Atty 2: Eric Hedland PO Box 110216 Juneau, Alaska 99811
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Trial Judges: Questions 9a-9d please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

9d. OPTIONAL: If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list up to three other cases during your past term in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (If there are additional pages, please email these to sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)

Optional Cases

Case 1: Donald Burns et al v. Ronald Ingram et al

(Case No: 2BA-21-00157CI)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Italia Carson 220 Park Way, Ste 1 North Pole, Alaska 99705	Atty 2: Brett Von Gemmingen 637 W 3rd Ave Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Case 2: State of Alaska v. Harry Ahkivgak

(Case No: 2BA-17-00289CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Rex Butler 745 W 4th Ave, Ste 300 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: James Fayette 550 W 7th Ave, Ste 1940 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Case 3: State of Alaska v. William Ahsoak

(Case No: 2BA-20-00405CR)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Angela Garay 1007 W 3rd Ave, Ste 205 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Nathaniel Hainje 900 W 5th Ave, Ste 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: John Schroeder 120 Trading Bay Rd, Ste 200 Kenai, Alaska 99611
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