



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council

Retention Questionnaire

2026 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Full Name: Michael Jude Pate

Court: Alaska Supreme Court

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

- **Civil Cases:** 60%
- **Criminal Cases:** 15%
- **Court Administrative work:** 25%

1b. Number of trials/year: 0

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

Chair of Newer Judges Conference Planning Committee; chair of Healthy Workplace Committee; member of Fairness, Diversity, and Equality Committee (Color of Justice); monthly meetings (at a minimum) with court rules attorney and court administrative director.

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

Each year I attend both the Judicial Conference and the Newer Judges Conference.

4. Please describe any public outreach activities.

Presentation on judicial selection process to Juneau Rotary Club; assist with coaching students in the annual high school mock trial competition; attend and help organize the educational program, Color Justice; established and administer annual summer externship program for Alaskan undergrads interested in attending law school; administering oath of office to graduating Alaska State Troopers in Sitka; established and attend biannual tribal-state judges dinner in the First District; and educational outreach to rural southeast Alaska communities including Hoonah, Hydaburg, Klawock, and Craig.

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 believe that my most significant contribution to the judiciary has been efforts toward education and outreach, particularly to rural communities. Over the last few years, I have strengthened my writing, editing, and analytical skills. However, at times, I still struggle with the tremendous workload and awesome responsibility of being a member of a court that is, for most all intents and purposes, the final arbiter of legal and factual disputes in Alaska. Further, I understand that I must be more efficient in my decision making and I am committed to achieving this goal. Finally, I thoroughly enjoy my work, which is undoubtedly directly attributable to the high degree of professionalism, intelligence, and compassion of my fellow judicial officers, court administration and staff, judicial assistants, and law clerks.

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?

No

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

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.

I am happy to answer any other questions you might have and to provide any other information you might find helpful.
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Appellate Judges: Questions 9a-9b, please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

9a. Please list your six most recent opinions 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 appeals. (If there are additional pages, please email these to sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us)

Appellate Judge Cases

Case 1: Alaska USA Federal Credit Union v. The Sayer Law Group, P.C.; State of Alaska, Department of Revenue, Child Support Services Division; Janelle Earls, in her official capacity as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Revenue; Troy R. Lewis; and Shanda M. Lewis

(Case No: S-18515)

Total Attorneys: 6

Atty 1: Max Holmquist 111 W 16th Ave Ste 203 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Brian Sayer 925 E. 4th Street Waterloo, Iowa 50703	Atty 3: Scott Lauck 925 E. 4th Street Waterloo, Iowa 50703
Atty 4: Jonathan Clement 1031 W 4th Ave Ste 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1994	Atty 5: Bruce Moore 701 W 8th Ave Ste 1100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 6: Andrew Erickson 701 W 8th Ave Ste 1100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Case 2: State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Commissioner Douglas Vincent-Lang, in his Official Capacity v. Cook Inletkeeper, Friends of Kachemak Bay State Park, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society, The Alaska Quiet Rights

(Case No: S-19006)

Total Attorneys: 5

Atty 1: Scott Kendall 510 L St Ste 601 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Jahna Lindemuth 510 L St Ste 601 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Samuel Gottstein 510 L St Ste 601 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Atty 4: Vanessa Lamantia 1031 W. 4th Ave., Ste. 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1994	Atty 5: Laura Wolff 1031 W. 4th Ave., Ste. 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1994	

Case 3: Native Village of Saint Michael v. State of Alaska, Department of Family & Community Services, Office of Children's Services

(Case No: S-19301)

Total Attorneys: 5

Atty 1: Lorie Ann Hardin 517 W. 12th Avenue, Suite 100 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Robert Campbell PO Box 4 Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723	Atty 3: Matthew Tallerico 1008 16th Ave Ste 200 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Atty 4: Robert Kutchin 1031 W. 4th Ave, Ste 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 5: Maggie Massey 737 W 5th Ave Ste 208 Anchorage, Alaska 99503	

Case 4: Alaska Democratic Party and Anita Thorne v. Director Carol Beecher in her official capacity, and State of Alaska, Division of Elections

(Case No: S-19231)

Total Attorneys: 6

Atty 1: Thomas Amodio 500 L Street Suite 300 Anchorage, Alaska 995011990	Atty 2: Thomas Flynn 1031 W. Fourth Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Katherine Demarest 1031 W. Fourth Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Atty 4: Jessica Alloway 1031 W. Fourth Avenue, Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 5: Stacey Stone 2550 Denali St Ste 500 Anchorage, Alaska 99503	Atty 6: Richard Moses 510 L St Ste 700 Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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Case 5: Lydia May v. Jon-Marc Petersen

(Case No: S-18642)

Total Attorneys: 4

Atty 1: Kara Nyquist 825 W. 8th Avenue, Ste. 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Jessica Falke 825 W. 8th Avenue, Ste. 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Linda Limon 606 E St Ste 203 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Atty 4: Randi Vickers 606 E Street, Suite 203 Anchorage, Alaska 99501		

Case 6: In the Matter of the Protective Proceedings of G.J.F

v. (Case No: S-18721)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Beth Goldstein 550 W 7th Ave Ste 1940 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Travers Gee 900 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 525 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Elizabeth Friedman 1207 NE Tamarack Ct. Prineville, Oregon 97754
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Case 7: Kenneth John Jouppi v. State of Alaska

(Case No: S-18598 & S-18637)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Robert John 542 4th Avenue, Ste. 207 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701	Atty 2: Donald Soderstrom 310 K Street, Suite 702 Anchorage, 99501	Atty 3: Renee McFarland 900 W 5th Ave Ste 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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