



alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046

<http://www.ajc.state.ak.us>

E-mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

Alaska Judicial Council

Retention Questionnaire

2026 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Full Name: Nathaniel K. Peters

Court: Bethel Superior Court

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

- **Case work:** 90%
- **Administrative work, outreach, continuing education, etc:** 10%

1b. Superior Court Judges:

- **Criminal:** 40%
- **Delinquency:** 5%
- **Domestic Relations:** 5%
- **Child in Need of Aid:** 40%
- **Probate:** 5%
- **General Civil (Including Appeals):** 5%

1c. Number of jury trials/year: 2

1d. Number of non-jury trials/year: 5

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

The Bethel Court is a very busy trial court of general jurisdiction. The workload is high with the greatest number of cases being criminal and child in need of aid.

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

Child in Need of Aid CIP Co-Chair
Administrative Head of the Three Judge Sentencing Panel
Training Judge
Magistrate Judge Evaluation Panel Chair
Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee Member
Access to Justice Committee Member

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

I have attended the annual Judicial Conference, several Magistrate Judge Conferences because I am a training judge, an NCFI training on digital evidence, and I believe one NJC Conference on self-represented litigants.

4. Please describe any public outreach activities.

Attended community meetings in Aniak and Hooper Bay about their local courts. I have spoken to a high school history class on the general process of applying to become a judge in Alaska and my experience. Finally, I have spoken to a high school mock trial team.

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 try to treat everyone who appears before me with a high level of dignity and respect. I try and explain what each hearing will be about and then listen to the parties. At the end of the hearing I attempt to explain my decisions in a way that is both logical and understandable to all the participants. At the end of each hearing I try and ask the participants, especially if they are self-represented, if they have any questions about my ruling. One of the biggest challenges in such a busy court is balancing the need for efficiency and making sure all the parties feel that they have had a full and fair opportunity to make their case and have their voices heard.

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.

The victim's impact statement is always relevant and considered when determining an appropriate sentence. Because of this I ask the State if victim notification has been made. I explain the process of the sentencing hearing and ensure the victim that they will have an opportunity to speak if they wish. If the victim speaks I will usually try to address their statements during my sentencing comments. Before the hearing is over I will ask the victim if they have any questions and thank them for their attendance.

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 cannot think of any other information to provide the Council at this time.
--

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 v. Basil Andrew

(Case No: 4BE-24-00153 CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: ADA Jason Sorensen PO Box 170 Bethel, Alaska 99559	Atty 2: John Puttika PO Box 2129 Bethel, Alaska 99559
---	--

Case 2: State v. Daniel Nick

(Case No: 4BE-23-00450 CR)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Bailey Woolfstead 310 K Street, Suite 701 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Courtney McKeen PO Box 1051 Loganville, Georgia 30052	Atty 3: Lars Johnson 900 W. 5th Ave., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
--	--	--

Case 3: ITMO M.K. v.

(Case No: 4EM-23-00004 DL)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Jason Conrad PO Box 170 Bethel, Alaska 99559	Atty 2: Abigail Cazel 900 W. 5th Ave., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 3: Richard Rodriguez 900 W. 5th Ave., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
---	---	---

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: ITMO D.M. v.

(Case No: 4BE-22-00026 CN)

Total Attorneys: 4

Atty 1: Jennifer Cassidy 1031 W. 4 th Ave., Ste 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Chris Peloso 533 Main Street Juneau, Alaska 99801	Atty 3: Jessica Falke 825 W. 8 th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Atty 4: Andrew Miller PO Box 20108 Juneau, Alaska 99501		

Case 2: ITMO J.K. & D.K. v.

(Case No: 4SM-19-03 & 4EM-19-09 CN)

Total Attorneys: 5

Atty 1: Lisa Nelson 1031 W. 4 th Ave., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Maria Uttereyuk PO Box 2129 Bethel, Alaska 99559	Atty 3: Linda Beecher 900 W. 5 th Ave., Suite 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Atty 4: Greg Heritage PO Box 690484 Vero Beach, Florida 32969	Atty 5: Imran Ahmed 1010 W. 6 th Ave., Ste. 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	

Case 3: ITMO V.A. v.

(Case No: 4SM-22-00009 CN)

Total Attorneys: 3

Atty 1: Lisa Nelson 1031 W. 4 th Ave., Suite 200 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: John Putikka PO Box 2129 Bethel, Alaska 99559	Atty 3: Linda Beecher 900 W. 5 th Ave., Suite 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
--	--	---

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 v. James Martin

(Case No: 4BE-23-00286 CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Mark Clark PO Box 170 Bethel, Alaska 99559	Atty 2: Maria Uttereyuk PO Box 2129 Bethel, Alaska 99559
---	---

Case 2: State v. Stephanie Olrun

(Case No: 4BE-21-00213 CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Bailey Woolfstead 310 K Street, Suite 701 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: John Putikka PO Box 2129 Bethel, Alaska 99559
--	--

Case 3: State v. John Japhet

(Case No: 4BE-22-00422 CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Samuel Vandergaw 310 K Street, Suite 701 Anchorage, Alaska 99501	Atty 2: Michael Barber 1452 Dorchester Ave. Boston, Massachusetts 02127
---	---