



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council

Retention Questionnaire

2026 Candidates for Judicial Retention

Full Name: Shawn Traini

Court: Palmer District Court

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

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

1b. District Court Judges:

- **Criminal:** 75%
- **Minor Offense:** 5%
- **Small Claims:** 5%
- **Civil Protective Orders:** 10%
- **General Civil:** 5%

1c. Number of jury trials/year: 10

1d. Number of non-jury trials/year: 4

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

The Palmer Courthouse remains one of the busiest in the state. For a substantial portion of my current term, I served as the sole District Court Judge due to two vacancies. I am grateful to the Anchorage District Court Judges who were able to assist when needed.

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

During this term of office, I was assigned to be the training judge for two new magistrates in Palmer. I recently became a member of the Magistrate Judge Conference Planning Committee. Along with a Palmer Superior Court Judge and Palmer Magistrate Judge, we have formed a local work group to evaluate and focus on increasing Palmer Court efficiency and seek solutions to help better address the high volume of cases. This has resulted in several positive changes to Palmer's work flow.

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

I've attended the annual judicial conferences in Alaska. Additionally, I've attended a week long course in legal writing offered by the National Judicial College. Additionally, I'm registered to take a week long course on ethics and fairness in December.

4. Please describe any public outreach activities.

I've had elementary school classes tour my courtroom and gotten to speak to students. I've presented at rotary. Currently, I have another school tour set up for this upcoming February.

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 love serving as a District Court Judge in Palmer. The last several years have been particularly busy, as I was the only District Court Judge in Palmer for a significant period of time. While that period was challenging and stressful, it was also rewarding. During my last term of office, I conducted more than 30 jury trials, including civil jury trials and felony Superior Court trials. Thanks to the hard work of many individuals, district court cases in Palmer did not fall behind, and matters were able to be heard in a timely manner. Several of my decisions have been appealed, with my rulings affirmed, including one published opinion.

Additionally, I am currently one of the two judges serving in the Palmer Wellness Court, a therapeutic court program in Palmer. This program works with individuals charged with felony DUIs or drug offenses, holding them accountable while also emphasizing treatment and rehabilitation.

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.

A former Palmer District Court Judge once described this job as the best in the state, and I wholeheartedly agree. Often, as a judge, you encounter people on what may be one of the worst days of their lives --whether they are victims of crime, defendants facing charges, individuals seeking protection, or those involved in any number of other matters. Regardless of why someone comes before the court, my goal has always been to listen carefully, decide cases according to the law, and treat every person with respect.
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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. Jeremy Casey

(Case No: 3PA-24-01497)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Jon-Marc Petersen 280 Main St. Wasilla, Alaska 99654	Atty 2: Katrina Keogh 515 E. Dahlia Ave., #150 Palmer, Alaska 99645
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Case 2: State of Alaska v. Susan Hardesty

(Case No: 3PA-24-00326CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Alex Lowe 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 150 Palmer, Alaska 99645	Atty 2: Molly Banas 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 100 Palmer, Alaska 99645
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Case 3: State of Alaska v. Floyd Boshears III

(Case No: 3PA-24-00481CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Katrina Keogh 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 150 Palmer, Alaska 99645	Atty 2: Mallory Sadler 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 100 Palmer, Alaska 99645
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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: Robert Lewis v. Jason Thorn

(Case No: 3PA-24-02980CI)

Total Attorneys: 1

Atty 1: Matt Hayes 348 S. Denali St. Palmer, Alaska 99645
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Case 2: All Phase Electric v. Beverly Bockover

(Case No: 3PA-22-01916CI)

Total Attorneys: 1

Atty 1: Daryl Jones 111 W. Evergreen Ave. Palmer, Alaska 99645

Case 3: Mark Binggeli v. Sarah Brooks

(Case No: 3PA-23-02711CI)

Total Attorneys: 0

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: Synergy Home Team v. Joseph Sirard

(Case No: 3PA-24-02244CI)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Michael Bedinger P.O. Box 241546 Anchorage, Alaska 99524	Atty 2: B. Neal Ainsworth 124 W. Swanson Ave. Wasilla, Alaska 99654
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Case 2: State of Alaska v. Kalimah Toney

(Case No: 3PA-23-02312CR)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Trina Sears 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 150 Palmer, Alaska 99645	Atty 2: Fred Slone 637 A Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501
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Case 3: State of Alaska v. Kylie Kesinger

(Case No: 3PA-23-02255cr)

Total Attorneys: 2

Atty 1: Trina Sears 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 150 Palmer, Alaska 99645	Atty 2: Mallory Sadler 515 E. Dahlia Ave., STE. 100 Palmer, Alaska 99645
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