



alaska judicial council

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September 24, 2026

RE: **Kotzebue Superior Court Nome Superior Court**
Fairbanks Superior Court Anchorage Superior Court (2 seats)
Palmer Superior Court

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council is soliciting applications for seven judicial vacancies (listed above). This letter includes detailed position descriptions containing essential information about the positions. Applicants may apply for any of the positions, or multiple positions on the same form, if desired. For more information, please contact the Alaska Judicial Council at 279-2526, or by e-mail at sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us.

The legal qualifications and annual salaries of judges on these courts are listed in the attached position descriptions. Judges also receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

An application form for these positions may be obtained by writing or calling the Alaska Judicial Council. Application forms may also be obtained online by visiting the Council's website: www.ajc.state.ak.us. The form was recently updated, so please make sure you include all questions if you previously applied and are using a saved application.

Completed applications for all positions must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than 3:00 p.m. on October 30, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne DiPietro".

Susanne DiPietro
Executive Director

Encl: Judicial Position Descriptions

To ensure receipt of the forthcoming survey on the applicants for these positions, be sure that the email address you have on file with the Alaska Bar Association is current. To prevent survey emails from being diverted as spam, add ajc@gemailserver.com as a safe sender in your email account.

Judicial Position Description

Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. To be successful, a judge must be proficient in understanding oral and written communications, and must effectively communicate orally and in writing with parties, attorneys, members of the public, and court employees. Judges must regularly employ a high level of analytical legal reasoning, must possess unimpaired judgment, and must be able to concentrate on and evaluate evidence and legal arguments. Judges must be willing and able to render timely and impartial decisions, without regard for popular sentiment. They must treat parties, attorneys, the public, and court employees with fairness, courtesy, and respect, and they must work effectively under pressure. In addition to presiding over cases, Alaska judges are expected to serve on court committees working to improve the administration of justice in the state.

The working environment is a courtroom and office setting. Alaska judges typically sit in court or in chambers for long periods of time, but sitting is not an essential requirement of the job; some judges prefer to stand or make comparable adjustments for their individual needs. Judges may be required to travel, including travel to rural areas, often by small airplane. They may be temporarily reassigned to different court locations within the state. Judges may share weekend duty with other judicial officers and are expected to work closely with court clerks.

Judicial salaries vary depending on level of court and location. In addition to salary, judges receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

Superior Court Judge

Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090: they must be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska, be a resident of Alaska for at least five years immediately preceding appointment, have been engaged for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment in the active practice of law, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the state. Each superior court judge is typically assisted by, and is responsible for the supervision of, one law clerk and a judicial assistant. Superior court judges stand for retention at the first general election held more than three years after their appointment and every six years thereafter. Further information regarding the jurisdiction, authority, and duties of superior court judges may be found at AS 22.10.

Kotzebue Superior Court, Second Judicial District

A superior court vacancy exists in Kotzebue due to the retirement of Judge Paul A. Roetman. Kotzebue has one superior court judge who presides over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Second Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2025 Annual Report, 368 cases were filed in the Kotzebue Superior Court, including 160 felony cases, 43 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 19 delinquency matters, 44 domestic relations matters, 28 general civil matters, and 74 probate matters.¹ The Kotzebue Superior Court judge hears both criminal and civil matters. The judge is expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of a Kotzebue Superior Court judge is \$288,306, which includes a geographic cost of living adjustment.

Nome Superior Court, Second Judicial District

A superior court vacancy exists in Nome due to the retirement of Judge Romano DiBenedetto. Nome has one superior court judge who presides over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Second Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2025 Annual Report, 355 cases were filed in the Nome Superior Court, including 102 felony cases, 18 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 15 delinquency matters, 45 domestic relations matters, 30 general civil matters, and 145 probate matters.² The Nome Superior Court judge hears both criminal and civil matters. The judge is expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of a Nome Superior Court judge is \$265,306, which includes a geographic cost of living adjustment.

Anchorage Superior Court, Third Judicial District (2 seats)

Two superior court positions are impending in Anchorage due to the forthcoming retirements of Judge Una Gandbhir and Judge Herman G. Walker, Jr. Anchorage has seventeen superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's 2025 Annual Report, 9,228 cases were filed in the Anchorage Superior Court, including 2,760 felony cases, 684 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 306 delinquency matters, 1,536 domestic relations matters, 1,282 general civil matters, and 2,660 probate matters.³ Anchorage Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters but are assigned to, and rotate between, a primarily criminal or civil calendar. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of an Anchorage Superior Court judge is \$228,306.

Palmer Superior Court, Third Judicial District

A superior court vacancy exists in Palmer due to the creation of a new position by the Alaska Legislature in 2026. Palmer will have five superior court judges who preside over a general

¹ *Alaska Court System Statistical Report FY 2025: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025*, 31. The report is available at: <https://courts.alaska.gov/admin/docs/fy25-statistics.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's 2025 Annual Report, 2,732 cases were filed in the Palmer Superior Court, including 670 felony cases, 320 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 80 delinquency matters, 540 domestic relations matters, 293 general civil matters, and 829 probate matters.⁴ Palmer Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of a Palmer Superior Court judge is \$228,306.

Fairbanks Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District

A superior court position exists in Fairbanks due to appointment of Judge Tricia Haines to the Court of Appeals. Fairbanks has six superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Fourth Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's 2025 Annual Report, 2,266 cases were filed in the Fairbanks Superior Court, including 566 felony cases, 216 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 49 delinquency matters, 580 domestic relations matters, 296 general civil matters, and 559 probate matters.⁵ Fairbanks Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of a Fairbanks Superior Court judge is \$231,306.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*