Alaska Judicial Council 2010 Judicial Retention Performance Evaluation Materials Judge Catherine M. Easter Anchorage District Court

The Judicial Council finds Judge Easter to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously that the public vote **"YES"** to retain her as a district court judge.

Retention evaluation materials for this judge

1.	Voter par This pa	mphlet page	2
2.	•	gestionnairedge's response to a Judicial Council questionnaire.	3
3.		cores in 2010 w survey scores for all judges on the ballot go to main 2010 retention page.)	
	a.	Attorney; Peace Officer; Social Worker/Guardians Ad Litem/CASA scores	10
	b.	Juror survey scores	15
	c.	Court employee survey scores	16
4.		cores in previous retention evaluations	

Retention evaluation materials for all judges on the ballot

(To view these materials go to main 2010 retention page.)

1. Peremptory challenges

Analysis of peremptory challenge rates for judges.

2. Recusals

Evaluation of judge's record of self-disqualification from cases, or "recusals."

3. Appellate Affirmance Rates

Analysis of appellate decisions involving each trial judge's cases.

4. Salary Warrant Withholdings

Evaluation of judge's record of pay withholding for undecided or uncompleted decisions.

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation Judge Catherine M. Easter, District Court, Anchorage

Judicial Council Recommendation 2010

The Alaska Judicial Council is a non-partisan citizens' commission established by the Alaska constitution. Alaskan law requires the Council to evaluate judges' performance and authorizes the Council to recommend to voters whether judges should be retained in office. The Judicial Council reviews judges' integrity, diligence, legal ability, fairness, demeanor, ability to manage their caseloads, and overall performance of their judicial responsibilities in and out of the courtroom. The Judicial Council finds Judge Easter to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously that the public vote "YES" to retain her as a district court judge.

Judicial Council Evaluation

The Judicial Council surveyed thousands of Alaskans including peace and probation officers, court employees, attorneys, jurors, social workers/guardians ad litem, and child advocates about the judges on the ballot. Respondents were asked to rate judicial performance and to submit comments. The Council also reviewed the ratings and observations of the Alaska Judicial Observers, independent community-based volunteers. The Council reviewed the judge's peremptory challenge, recusals, and appellate affirmance and reversal rates; any civil or criminal litigation involving the judge; APOC and court system conflict-of-interest statements; any disciplinary files involving the judge; and whether a judge's pay was withheld for an untimely decision. The Council reviewed other court records and investigated judicial conduct in specific cases. The Council interviewed some judges, attorneys, and court staff, and held a statewide public hearing to obtain comments about judges.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	Social Workers Guardians ad Litem CASAs
Legal Ability	4.5				
Impartiality	4.6	4.5	4.9	4.6	
Integrity	4.7	4.5		4.6	
Temperament	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.7	
Diligence	4.6	4.6		4.6	
Overall	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.6	

Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent

4.0 = Good

3.0 = Acceptable

2.0 = Deficient

1.0 = Poor

Summary of Survey Information

Survey respondents rated Judge Easter on the categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge Easter on overall performance was 4.6. Peace and probation officers gave Judge Easter a rating of 4.6. Jurors rated her 4.9 overall, and court employees gave her 4.6. No social workers, guardians ad litem or CASA volunteers rated Judge Easter. The Alaska Judicial Observers rated her 3.62.

Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Catherine M. Easter

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ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

Trial Judge 2010 Candidates for Judicial Retention

October 23, 2010

	CATHERINE M. EASTER	ANCHORAGE DISTRICT COURT
	Name	Court
1.	Please estimate your workload during y	our present term.
	a)% civil cases % criminal cases % court administrative work 100 % Total	b) 9 # of jury trials/year # of non-jury trials/year # of administrative appeals/year
2.	Please describe your participation on couduring your current term of office.	art/bar committees or other administrative activities
		for Success Inside and Out, a program
	designed to aid re-entry for won	nen inmates nearing their release date.
	I am a member of the Court Syste	em Committee No Dark Courtroom whose goal
		nd public service. I have instituted a
		ourt in order to improve communication and
	public service with the major pa	

1 enjoy	being a judge very much and I believe that enjoyment shows i
on the	bench. I try to be patient and listen to all who come before
despite	how upset or sometimes rude they may be.
I have	become a part of the CRP Court team which deals with mentally
defenda	nts charged with misdemeanor offenses. This requires me to a
	court team meetings, as well as numerous training seminars. ded the two-week general jurisdiction course at the Judicial
which I	found to be very useful and enlightening. It was also encou
in that	I determined much of what I had been doing on the bench for
past yea	ar was what was expected and required of a judge.
•	
<u></u>	

	uring your most recent term as a judge, have you:
a)	had a tax lien filed or other collection procedure instituted against you by federal, s or local authorities? Yes No _X
b)	been involved in a non-judicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a part otherwise? Yes $___$ No $_X$.
c)	engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)? Yes No _X
d)	held office in any political party? Yes No _x
e)	held any other local state or federal office? Yes No _X
f)	had any complaints, charges or grievances filed against you with the Alaska Commis on Judicial Conduct, the Alaska Bar Association, or with the Alaska Court System resulted in public proceedings or sanctions? Yes NoX
	your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, case numbers and outcomes.
_n	/a
_n	./a
_n	
Ple	ease provide any other information which you believe would assist the Counci
Ple	ease provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council adducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2010 retent
Ple	ease provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council adducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2010 retent

7. 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, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

<i>Case</i> <i>Name:</i> Candace West	Case Number:	3AN-08-09489 CI.
v.Mary Kay Hefty		
Jeff Barber	neys Involved: Name:	Laura Eakes
Address: 821 N Street Suite 103	Address:	329 F Street Suite 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage AK 99501	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:	Name:	
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		
Case	e Number 2	
Case Name: State of Alaska Peter Socialo	Case Number:	3AN-08-12604 Cr.
	neys Involved:	
Name: Talitha Henry	•	Kelly McHugh
Address: 310 K Street Suite 520	Address:	900 W. 5th Ave Suite 200
City, State, Zip: Anchorage AK 99501	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:	Name:	Paul Malin
Address:	A # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # # #	000 11 5+1 4 6
City, State, Zip:	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Case	Number 3	
Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage	Case Number:	3AN-08-13983 Cr.
v. Troy James Williams	<u></u>	
Seneca Theno	neys Involved: Name:	Michael Graper
Address: 632 W 6th Ave Suite 210		737 M Street
City, State, Zip: Anchorage AK 99501	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:	Name [.]	
Address:		
City, State, Zip:		

8. 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, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent non-jury trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name: _	Foxwood '83 Condominium	Case Number:	3AN-08-11981 Ci.
v	Henry E. Graper, III	_	
	•	Involved:	
Name:	Ryan Roley	Name:	Henry E. Graper, III
Address:	8409 Mentra Street	Address:	737 M Street
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99518	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:		Name [.]	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
		umber 2	
Case			
	Emily Roberts & Freeman Robert	Case Number:	3AN-08-06540 Ci.
ν	Alecia Doupe		
	Attorneys Jerald Reichlin	Involved:	Bryon Collins
		Name:	-
Address:	101 W. Benson Blvd Suite 304	Address:	310 K Street Suite 200
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99503	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
	Case No		
Case	Rodney Bradford		
Name:		Case Number:	3AN-08-05692 Ci.
ν	Rose Ann Short & Tyrone Sales	•	
	Attorneys	Involved:	
Name:	Frank Cahill	Name:	Stuart Rader
Address:	880 N Street Suite 203	Address: _	813 W. 3rd Ave
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
			······································

9. 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, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in your three most recent non-jury trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case			
Name: _	Judy Ramsey	_Case Number:	3AN-08-04567 Ci.
ν	Cassandra Bush	_	
	*	s Involved:	
Name:	Richard Helm	Name:	
Address:	471 W 36th Ave Suite 204	Address:	310 K Street Suite 306
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99503	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:		_ Name:	
Address:		_ Address:	
City, State, Zip:		_ City, State, Zip:	
	Casa N	umber 2	
Case			
Name:	Alaska Electric & Control, Inc		3AN-08-05174 Ci.
ν	Travelers Casualty	- -	
	Attorneys	Involved:	
Name:	Grant Watts	Name:	David Shoup
Address:	701 W. 8th Ave Suite 700	Address:	508 W. 2nd Ave 3rd Floor
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501	_	Anchorage AK 99501
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
·	Q N		
	Case Ni	umber 3	
Case Name:	State of Alaska	Case Number	3AN-08-11762 Cr.
v.	Charles S. Reynolds	- Cuse I vamoer.	
	Attorneys	Involvad	
Name:	Jonas Walker	Name:	Fred Slone
	210 V Stroot Suits 500	• -	
	310 K Street Suite 520		3003 Minnesota Dr Suite 301
on, out, ap.	Anchorage AK 99501	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99503
Name:		Name	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
2.1.j, 2.me, 2.ip.		. City, State, Zip: _	

10. 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, and phone numbers of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

	Case	Number 1	
Case Name: _	Ahtna, Inc.	Case Number:	3AN-08-11300 Ci.
ν	Leonard Menka		
		ys Involved:	
Name:	Michael Robbins	Name:	Samuel Fortier
Address:	12621 Lupine Rd	Address:	101 W. Benson Blvd Suite 304
City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99516	City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99503
Name:		Name:	Carol Yeatman
Address:			1016 W. 6th Ave Suite 200
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	Anchorage AK 99501
	Case	Number 2	
Case Name: _		Case Number:	
ν		ys Involved:	
Name:	Auorne		
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
•		City, State, Zip.	
Name:	•	Name:	
Address:			
City, State, Zip:			
	Case	Number 3	
Case Name: _		Case Number:	****
v			
	Attorne	ys Involved:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	77 TO STATE OF THE
City, State, Zip:		City, State, Zip:	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
City State Zin:			

Third Judicial District Catherine M. Easter - Anchorage District Court

Summary Sheet and Detailed Survey Scores

Summary of survey information

Judge Easter's detailed survey scores follow. Attorneys rated her 4.6 on overall performance. Peace and probation officers rated her 4.6 overall. She was not rated by any social workers, Guardians ad Litem or CASA volunteers.

	Attorney Survey N=97	Peace Officer Survey N=15
Legal Ability	4.5	
Impartiality	4.6	4.5
Integrity	4.7	4.5
Temperament	4.7	4.6
Diligence	4.6	4.6
Overall	4.6	4.6

The Judicial Council's Evaluation Process

State law requires the Judicial Council to evaluate each judge standing for retention, and to report its evaluations to the voters. The three surveys reported here are an important part of the Council's evaluations. The Council also considers survey ratings by jurors and court employees, public comments, and the ratings by the independent citizen volunteers at Alaska Judicial Observers. Along with the personal observations of the hundreds of people who had direct professional experience with the judge, the Council reviews any litigation involving the judge, conflict of interest records, public disciplinary files, and indicators of judicial performance such as appellate affirmances and reversals, and peremptory challenges and recusals. All of the evaluation information about the judge is on the Council's website at www.ajc.state.ak.us.

140 Retention 2010 Information Insights, Inc.

District Court Judge Catherine M. Easter

A. Alaska Bar Association

Demographic Description

		N	%
Type of Practice			
	No Response	1	.8%
	Private, Solo	22	17.2%
	Private, 2-5 Attorneys	19	14.8%
	Private, 6+ Attorneys	8	6.3%
	Private, Corporate Employee	2	1.6%
	Judge or Judicial Officer	28	21.9%
	Government	38	29.7%
	Public Service Agency or Organization	5	3.9%
	(Not Govt)		
	Other	5	3.9%
Length of Alaska Practice			
	No Response	3	2.3%
	5 Years or fewer	15	11.7%
	6 to 10 years	11	8.6%
	11 to 15 years	19	14.8%
	16 to 20 years	12	9.4%
	21 years or more	68	53.1%
Gender			
	No Response	3	2.3%
	Male	79	61.7%
	Female	46	35.9%
Cases Handled			
	No Response	1	.8%
	Prosecution	16	12.5%
	Mainly Criminal	23	18.0%
	Mixed Criminal & Civil	42	32.8%
	Mainly Civil	43	33.6%
	Other	3	2.3%
Location of Practice			
	No Response	1	.8%
	First District	1	.8%
	Second District	1	.8%
	Third District	120	93.8%
	Fourth District	5	3.9%
	Outside of Alaska		0.0%

Judge Catherine M. Easter: Detailed Information Responses Alaska Bar Association Members

	Leg		Imparti			•	Judio				Over	
	Abil i Mean	ity N	Fairn Mean	ess N	Integr Mean	rity N	Tempera Mean	ament N	Dilige Mean	nce N	Evalua Mean	ation N
Basis for Evaluation	Mean	11	Ivican	- 11	IVICUII		Wieum	- 11	Ivicun		Wear	
No Response		4		2		4		3		2		1
Direct Professional	4.5	94	4.6	96	4.7	94	4.7	95	4.6	96	4.6	97
Professional Reputation	4.1	13	4.2	12	4.3	12	4.4	12	4.4	11	4.3	12
Other Personal Contacts	4.5	16	4.8	16	4.7	15	4.7	15	4.6	13	4.6	16
Type of Practice	1.5	10	1.0	10	1.,	13	1.,	13	1.0	13	1.0	10
No Response		0		0		0		0		0		0
Private, Solo	4.4	17	4.6	16	4.6	16	4.6	16	4.6	16	4.5	16
Private, 2-5 Attorneys	4.2	15	4.5	18	4.7	15	4.7	17	4.4	17	4.5	18
Private, 6+ Attorneys	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4
Private, Corporate Employee	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1	5.0	1
Judge or Judicial Officer	4.5	25	4.6	26	4.6	26	4.6	26	4.6	26	4.6	26
Government	4.7	27	4.7	26	4.7	27	4.8	26	4.7	27	4.7	27
Public Service Agency or	1.7	21	1.7	20	1.,	21	1.0	20	1.,	27	1.7	21
Organization (Not Govt)	4.3	3	4.7	3	4.7	3	5.0	3	5.0	3	4.7	3
Other	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2
Years of Practice in Alaska												
No Response		1		1		1		1		1		1
5 Years or fewer	4.5	13	4.5	13	4.6	12	4.7	12	4.5	13	4.5	13
6 to 10 years	3.4	5	4.1	7	4.0	5	4.4	7	4.3	6	4.0	7
11 to 15 years	4.7	14	4.7	14	4.9	14	4.8	14	4.6	14	4.7	14
16 to 20 years	4.8	8	4.9	8	4.9	9	4.9	8	4.9	9	4.8	9
21 years or more	4.5	52	4.7	52	4.7	52	4.7	52	4.6	52	4.7	52
Gender												
No Response		1		1		1		0		2		1
Male	4.5	63	4.7	63	4.7	62	4.7	62	4.6	63	4.6	64
Female	4.6	30	4.6	32	4.7	31	4.7	32	4.7	32	4.7	32
Cases Handled												
No Response		0		1		1		1		1		1
Prosecution	4.6	10	4.6	9	4.8	10	4.8	9	4.7	10	4.7	10
Mainly Criminal	4.7	18	4.7	19	4.7	18	4.8	19	4.7	18	4.7	19
Mixed Criminal & Civil	4.6	33	4.7	36	4.7	34	4.7	35	4.7	36	4.7	36
Mainly Civil	4.3	31	4.5	30	4.6	30	4.6	30	4.5	30	4.5	30
Other	5.0	2	5.0	2	4.0	2	4.5	2	4.5	2	4.5	2
Location of Practice												
No Response		3		2		4		3		2		1
First District	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Second District	5.0	1	5.0	1	3.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Third District	4.5	89	4.6	90	4.7	88	4.7	89	4.6	90	4.6	91
Fourth District	4.7	3	4.5	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	4.8	4
Outside of Alaska		0		0		0		0		0		0

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

District Court Judge Catherine M. Easter

B. Peace and Probation Officers

Demographic Description

		N	%
Type of Work			
	No Response		0.0%
	State Law Enforcement Officer	7	38.9%
	Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	9	50.0%
	Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)		0.0%
	Probation/Parole Officer	2	11.1%
	Other		0.0%
Length of Alaska Experience	;		
	No Response		0.0%
	5 Years or fewer	3	16.7%
	6 to 10 years	4	22.2%
	11 to 15 years	6	33.3%
	16 to 20 years	2	11.1%
	21 years or more	3	16.7%
Gender			
	No Response		0.0%
	Male	13	72.2%
	Female	5	27.8%
Location of Work			
	No Response		0.0%
	First District		0.0%
	Second District		0.0%
	Third District	18	100%
	Fourth District		0.0%
	Outside of Alaska		0.0%
Community Population			
	No Response		0.0%
	Under 2,000		0.0%
	Between 2,000 and 35,000	2	11.1%
	Over 35,000	16	88.9%

Judge Catherine M. Easter Peace and Probation Officers

	Impartiality/ Fairness Mean N		Intog	nitu	Judic	Diligence		Over		
			Integrity Mean N		Temperament Mean N		Mean N		Evaluation Mean N	
Basis for Evaluation										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
Direct Professional	4.5	15	4.5	15	4.6	14	4.6	15	4.6	15
Professional Reputation	3.5	2	4.0	2	3.0	2	3.5	2	3.5	2
Other Personal Contacts		0		0		0		0		0
Type of Work										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
State Law Enforcement Officer	4.5	6	4.7	6	4.6	5	4.7	6	4.5	6
Municipal/Borough Law Enforcement Officer	4.5	8	4.5	8	4.6	8	4.6	8	4.8	8
Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO)		0		0		0		0		0
Probation/Parole Officer	4.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Other		0		0		0		0		0
Length of Experience										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
5 Years or fewer	4.7	3	4.7	3	5.0	2	4.7	3	4.7	3
6 to 10 years	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3
11 to 15 years	4.5	4	4.5	4	4.8	4	4.8	4	5.0	4
16 to 20 years	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2	5.0	2
21 years or more	4.0	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.3	3	4.0	3
Gender										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
Male	10	4.7	4.8	10	4.9	9	4.9	10	4.9	10
Female	4.0	5	4.0	5	4.2	5	4.0	5	4.0	5
Location of Work										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
First District		0		0		0		0		0
Second District		0		0		0		0		0
Third District	4.5	15	4.5	15	4.6	14	4.6	15	4.6	15
Fourth District		0		0		0		0		0
Outside of Alaska		0		0		0		0		0
Community Population										
No Response		0		0		1		0		0
Under 2,000		0		0		0		0		0
Between 2,000 and 35,000	4.0	1	4.0	1	5.0	1	4.0	1	4.0	1
Over 35,000	4.5	14	4.6	14	4.6	13	4.6	14	4.6	14

Note: Ratings for only those respondents who reported direct professional experience with the judge.

Juror Survey Results 2010 Retention Evaluation Catherine M. Easter

		Distribution of Ratings										
Survey Category Mean		Excellent % (n)		Good % (n)		Acceptable % (n)		Deficient % (n)		Poor % (n)		Total Responses
Impartiality/Fairness	4.9	88%	50	12%	7	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57
Respectful/Courteous	4.9	90%	51	11%	6	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57
Attentive during Proceedings	4.9	90%	51	11%	6	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57
Control over Proceedings	4.9	86%	49	14%	8	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57
Intelligence/Skill as a Judge	4.9	90%	51	11%	6	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57
Overall Evaluation	4.9	88%	50	12%	7	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	57

Court Employee Survey Results 2010 Retention Evaluation Catherine M. Easter

Question	Exce %	llent (n)	Go %	od (n)	Acce %	ptable (n)	Defic	cient (n)	P 6	oor (n)	Mean	Total Responses
Impartiality/Fairness	66%	33	28%	14	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.6	50
Integrity	67%	36	28%	15	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.6	54
Judicial Temperament	71%	40	23%	13	5%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.7	56
Diligence	69%	37	26%	14	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.6	54
Overall Evaluation	67%	37	27%	15	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	4.6	55