



alaska judicial council

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council

FROM: Peggy Skeers

DATE: April 26, 2002

RE: Juror Survey Analysis

The 2002 juror survey included approximately 2,800 jurors, who sat on trials before 15 judges in 2000 and 2001. Each juror received only one form, with no followup mailings. Of the 2,800 surveys mailed, 1,290 were returned (46%).¹ Council staff entered and analyzed the data from the surveys. Because the data were, as expected, predominantly positive for all variables and all judges, only simple frequencies and cross-tabulations were used for cleaning and analyzing the data. Comments were entered separately.

Table 1 shows that the distribution of jurors for each judge on civil or criminal cases tended to vary somewhat. Most jurors served 5 or fewer days, on a single case. In communities where jurors are called to serve for one to three months at a stretch, they may sit on several different juries.

¹ One hundred twenty-four of the 1,290 returned surveys were for Judge Beistline and are not included in the calculations in the following tables. Judge Beistline was appointed to the federal bench and will be stepping down as a superior court judge on May 23, 2002.

Table 1: Distribution of Jurors 2002 Retention Juror Survey, AJC			
<i>Judge</i>	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Criminal</i>	<i>No Answer</i>
Adams	16	33	20
Card	6	223	94
Collins	11	43	23
Froehlich	6	27	21
Kauvar	12	44	40
Lohff	5	29	11
Miller	8	21	28
Motyka	15	36	30
Murphy	7	27	24
Neville	4	14	10
Pengilly	7	44	23
Rhodes	12	26	15
Savell	10	54	18
Thompson	7	43	19

Percentage	Value
1%	No response
10%	less than 2 days
17%	2 days
19%	3 days
13%	4 days
16%	5 days
5%	6 days
7%	7 days
3%	8 days
1%	9 days
3%	10 days
<u>5%</u>	11-180 days
100%	

Survey Results

The comments from the juror surveys will be distributed to Judicial Council members and to each judge. This memorandum summarizes the findings from the survey, and will go to the Council and to all judges. Council publications about the overall evaluation of each judge will include juror survey ratings as well as the other evaluation information.

The survey results appear in tables below. Jurors used a five-point scale, with *excellent* scored as five, and *unacceptable* scored as one. The closer the jurors' scores were to five, the higher that judge's evaluation by the jurors. The mean score and number of responses appear for each variable. Virtually all mean scores fell between 4.5 and 5.0, indicating that the majority of the responses were "excellent."

The number of responses also affects the reliability of the data. The smaller the number of responses, the more effect a single response will have.

Comments

Comments added a very useful qualitative dimension to the juror survey. Jurors were asked to comment on each of the individual variables, on ways the judge could improve, and for general comments. The 1,290 surveys returned contained approximately 105 pages of comments that not only covered the full range of judicial performance but also mentioned everything from the nice court building to low juror pay and lack of parking.

Table 3: Mean Score for Each Variable and for "Overall Performance," by Judge
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Judge	Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	Did judge exercise appropriate control over the proceedings?	Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	Overall Performance	
									Mean	Total
Adams	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	69
Card	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	323
Collins	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	77
Froehlich	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	54
Kauvar	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	96
Lohff	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.8	4.8	45
Miller	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	57
Motyka	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.7	81
Murphy	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.8	58
Neville	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	28
Pengilly	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.8	4.7	74
Rhoades	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	53
Savell	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.5	82
Thompson	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	69

Table 4: Juror Survey Results for Samuel D. Adams
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 69)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	87.0 (60)	10.1 (7)	2.9 (2)	0	0	69
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	87.0 (60)	13.0 (9)	0	0	0	69
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	85.5 (59)	13.0 (9)	1.4 (1)	0	0	69
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	88.2 (60)	10.3 (7)	1.5 (1)	0	0	68
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	89.9 (62)	10.1 (7)	0	0	0	69
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	76.5 (52)	22.1 (15)	1.5 (1)	0	0	68
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	82.1 (55)	17.9 (12)	0	0	0	67
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	86.6 (58)	13.4 (9)	0	0	0	67
Overall evaluation of judge	84.6 (55)	15.4 (10)	0	0	0	65

Table 5: Juror Survey Results for Larry D. Card
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 323)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	89.0 (284)	9.7 (31)	0.9 (3)	0	0.3 (1)	319
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	90.9 (291)	8.1 (26)	0.6 (2)	0	0.3 (1)	320
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	85.9 (275)	13.4 (43)	0.3 (1)	0	0.3 (1)	320
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	91.8 (290)	7.9 (25)	0	0	0.3 (1)	316
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	93.8 (300)	5.9 (19)	0	0	0.3 (1)	320
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	83.1 (266)	15.9 (51)	0.6 (2)	0.3 (1)	0	320
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	88.7 (282)	10.4 (33)	0.6 (2)	0	0.3 (1)	318
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	89.9 (284)	9.5 (30)	0.3 (1)	0.3 (1)	0	316
Overall evaluation of judge	89.9 (286)	9.7 (31)	0	0.3 (1)	0	318

Table 6: Juror Survey Results for Patricia A. Collins
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 77)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	80.3 (61)	18.4 (14)	1.3 (1)	0	0	76
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	84.0 (63)	13.3 (10)	2.7 (2)	0	0	75
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	78.7 (59)	18.7 (14)	2.7 (2)	0	0	75
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	87.8 (65)	9.5 (7)	2.7 (2)	0	0	74
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	90.7 (68)	8.0 (6)	1.3 (1)	0	0	75
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	80.3 (61)	17.1 (13)	2.6 (2)	0	0	76
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	71.6 (53)	25.7 (19)	2.7 (2)	0	0	74
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	74.0 (54)	24.7 (18)	0	1.4 (1)	0	73
Overall evaluation of judge	79.7 (59)	18.9 (14)	1.4 (1)	0	0	74

Table 7: Juror Survey Results for Peter Froehlich
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 54)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	75.9 (41)	20.4 (11)	3.7 (2)	0	0	54
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	77.8 (42)	20.4 (11)	1.9 (1)	0	0	54
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	75.5 (40)	22.6 (12)	1.9 (1)	0	0	53
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	79.2 (42)	18.9 (10)	1.9 (1)	0	0	53
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	84.9 (45)	13.2 (7)	1.9 (1)	0	0	53
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	75.9 (41)	20.4 (11)	3.7 (2)	0	0	54
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	73.6 (39)	22.6 (12)	3.8 (2)	0	0	53
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	79.2 (42)	17.0 (9)	3.8 (2)	0	0	53
Overall evaluation of judge	77.4 (41)	15.1 (8)	7.5 (4)	0	0	53

Table 8: Juror Survey Results for Jane F. Kauvar
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 96)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	83.3 (80)	14.6 (14)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	80.2 (77)	17.7 (17)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	78.1 (75)	19.8 (19)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	81.3 (78)	16.7 (16)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	83.3 (80)	14.6 (14)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	74.0 (71)	24.0 (23)	2.1 (2)	0	0	96
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	81.7 (76)	16.1 (15)	2.2 (2)	0	0	93
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	76.3 (71)	21.5 (20)	2.2 (2)	0	0	93
Overall evaluation of judge	78.7 (74)	19.1 (18)	2.1 (2)	0	0	94

Table 9: Juror Survey Results for John R. Lohff
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 45)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	77.3 (34)	22.7 (10)	0	0	0	44
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	77.3 (34)	22.7 (10)	0	0	0	44
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	77.3 (34)	22.7 (10)	0	0	0	44
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	79.5 (35)	20.5 (9)	0	0	0	44
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	77.3 (34)	22.7 (10)	0	0	0	44
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	88.6 (39)	11.4 (5)	0	0	0	44
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	86.4 (38)	11.4 (5)	2.3 (1)	0	0	44
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	81.4 (35)	16.3 (7)	2.3 (1)	0	0	43
Overall evaluation of judge	83.7 (36)	16.3 (7)	0	0	0	43

Table 10: Juror Survey Results for Kevin G. Miller
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 57)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	76.8 (43)	23.2 (13)	0	0	0	56
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	82.1 (46)	17.9 (10)	0	0	0	56
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	76.9 (40)	23.1 (12)	0	0	0	52
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	80.8 (42)	19.2 (10)	0	0	0	52
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	84.6 (44)	15.4 (8)	0	0	0	52
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	83.6 (46)	16.4 (9)	0	0	0	55
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	77.8 (42)	22.2 (12)	0	0	0	54
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	77.8 (42)	20.4 (11)	1.9 (1)	0	0	54
Overall evaluation of judge	81.5 (44)	18.5 (10)	0	0	0	54

Table 11: Juror Survey Results for Gregory Motyka
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 81)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	74.7 (59)	24.1 (19)	1.3 (1)	0	0	79
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	75.6 (59)	20.5 (16)	3.8 (3)	0	0	78
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	68.4 (54)	27.8 (22)	3.8 (3)	0	0	79
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	78.2 (61)	19.2 (15)	2.6 (2)	0	0	78
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	83.5 (66)	15.2 (12)	1.3 (1)	0	0	79
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	78.2 (61)	19.2 (15)	2.6 (2)	0	0	78
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	77.9 (60)	19.5 (15)	2.6 (2)	0	0	77
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	74.0 (57)	22.1 (17)	3.9 (3)	0	0	77
Overall evaluation of judge	74.0 (57)	22.1 (17)	3.9 (3)	0	0	77

Table 12: Juror Survey Results for Sigurd E. Murphy
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 58)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	89.7 (52)	8.6 (5)	1.7 (1)	0	0	58
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	89.7 (52)	8.6 (5)	1.7 (1)	0	0	58
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	87.5 (49)	10.7 (6)	1.8 (1)	0	0	56
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	85.7 (48)	12.5 (7)	1.8 (1)	0	0	56
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	91.1 (51)	7.1 (4)	1.8 (1)	0	0	56
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	84.5 (49)	12.1 (7)	3.4 (2)	0	0	58
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	87.7 (50)	10.5 (6)	1.8 (1)	0	0	57
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	89.5 (51)	8.8 (5)	1.8 (1)	0	0	57
Overall evaluation of judge	86.2 (50)	12.1 (7)	1.7 (1)	0	0	58

Table 13: Juror Survey Results for M. Francis Neville
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 28)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	69.2 (18)	30.8 (8)	0	0	0	26
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	66.7 (18)	29.6 (8)	3.7 (1)	0	0	27
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	63.0 (17)	29.6 (8)	7.4 (2)	0	0	27
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	63.0 (17)	33.3 (9)	3.7 (1)	0	0	27
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	77.8 (21)	18.5 (5)	3.7 (1)	0	0	27
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	57.7 (15)	42.3 (11)	0	0	0	26
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	57.7 (15)	42.3 (11)	0	0	0	26
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	57.7 (15)	30.8 (8)	11.5 (3)	0	0	26
Overall evaluation of judge	57.7 (15)	38.5 (10)	3.8 (1)	0	0	26

Table 14: Juror Survey Results for Charles R. Pengilly

2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 74)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	73.0 (54)	27.0 (20)	0	0	0	74
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	74.3 (55)	25.7 (19)	0	0	0	74
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	65.8 (48)	34.2 (25)	0	0	0	73
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	82.2 (60)	17.8 (13)	0	0	0	73
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	86.3 (63)	13.7 (10)	0	0	0	73
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	79.7 (59)	20.3 (15)	0	0	0	74
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	73.0 (54)	27.0 (20)	0	0	0	74
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	79.7 (59)	18.9 (14)	1.4 (1)	0	0	74
Overall evaluation of judge	71.6 (53)	25.7 (19)	2.7 (2)	0	0	74

Table 15: Juror Survey Results for Stephanie Rhoades
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 53)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	86.5 (45)	11.5 (6)	1.9 (1)	0	0	52
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	90.4 (47)	9.6 (5)	0	0	0	52
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	84.3 (43)	13.7 (7)	2.0 (1)	0	0	51
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	94.1 (48)	5.9 (3)	0	0	0	51
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	92.3 (48)	7.7 (4)	0	0	0	52
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	86.5 (45)	13.5 (7)	0	0	0	52
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	86.3 (44)	13.7 (7)	0	0	0	51
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	88.5 (46)	11.5 (6)	0	0	0	52
Overall evaluation of judge	88.5 (46)	11.5 (6)	0	0	0	52

Table 16: Juror Survey Results for Richard D. Savell
2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 82)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	69.5 (57)	28.0 (23)	2.1 (1)	0	1.2 (1)	82
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	68.8 (55)	30.0 (24)	0	0	1.3 (1)	80
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	60.5 (49)	35.8 (29)	2.5 (2)	0	1.2 (1)	81
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	67.9 (55)	29.6 (24)	1.2 (1)	0	1.2 (1)	81
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	81.5 (66)	14.8 (12)	1.2 (1)	1.2 (1)	1.2 (1)	81
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	69.5 (57)	20.7 (17)	8.5 (7)	0	1.2 (1)	82
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	67.1 (53)	29.1 (23)	2.5 (2)	0	1.3 (1)	79
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	72.2 (57)	26.6 (21)	0	0	1.3 (1)	79
Overall evaluation of judge	62.0 (49)	32.9 (26)	3.8 (3)	0	1.3 (1)	79

Table 17: Juror Survey Results for Michael A. Thompson
 2002 Retention Juror Survey: AJC

Question	Excellent % (n)	Good % (n)	Acceptable % (n)	Deficient % (n)	Unacceptable % (n)	Total Respondents (Total returned = 69)
Was judge fair and impartial to all sides?	75.4 (52)	23.2 (16)	0	0	1.4 (1)	69
Was judge respectful and courteous to parties?	75.0 (51)	23.5 (16)	0	0	1.5 (1)	68
Was judge respectful and courteous to attorneys?	68.2 (45)	28.8 (19)	1.5 (1)	0	1.5 (1)	66
Was judge respectful and courteous to witnesses?	71.2 (47)	27.3 (18)	0	0	1.5 (1)	66
Was judge respectful and courteous to jurors?	80.0 (52)	16.9 (11)	0	1.5 (1)	1.5 (1)	65
Was judge attentive during the proceedings?	68.1 (47)	27.5 (19)	2.9 (2)	1.4 (1)	0	69
Did judge exercise appropriate control over proceedings?	76.8 (53)	15.9 (11)	4.3 (3)	1.4 (1)	1.4 (1)	69
Evaluate the judge's intelligence and skill as a judge.	81.2 (56)	11.6 (8)	4.3 (3)	1.4 (1)	1.4 (1)	69
Overall evaluation of judge	82.6 (57)	10.1 (7)	4.3 (3)	1.4 (1)	1.4 (1)	69