

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.

Serving as a Superior Court is both incredibly challenging and immensely rewarding. As a Superior Court Judge in Anchorage, I preside primarily over a broad array of civil cases, including a variety of contract, personal injury, wrongful death, general tort, Child in Need of Aid, divorce, custody, domestic violence, civil commitment, guardianship/conservatorship, and trust, will, and estate matters. Additionally, as the judge presiding over the Anchorage Centralized Competency calendar, I conduct frequent hearings related to competency in criminal matters, and oversee the administration of that calendar. The significant volume of cases coming before the Court, the need to learn and apply widely varying areas of law, and the gravity of decision-making called for pose distinct challenges; however, the ability to actively listen to litigants in these cases, and to learn, apply, and explain the law, while reasoning through problems and reaching decisions for parties, provides an extraordinary opportunity to serve the community. Over this past term on the Superior Court, I have worked to more fully understand the numerous areas of complex law that apply in the cases before me, and especially to balance the need for efficiency and timeliness in addressing a large volume of cases with the at least equally significant need to afford parties the time and attention they deserve in litigating their matters. This is a balance that is difficult to strike and that I will continue to focus upon moving forward.