

(This question pertains to Superior Court judges only.)

State law requires the Council to conduct an evaluation of judges standing for retention, and to provide information to the public about the judges. Under a provision added in 2013, the information the Council provides to the public "shall include the judge's consideration of victims when imposing sentence on persons convicted of felony offenses where the offenses involve victims." (see AS 22.10.150). Although the Council's evaluations address all aspects of judicial performance, including felony sentencing, they have not in the past explicitly solicited judges' thoughts on this topic.

Please submit a short statement about how you consider victims when imposing sentences in felony offenses.

I recognize victims' constitutional and statutory rights and endeavor to protect them at each phase of the criminal case. This includes arraignments, bail reviews, calendaring hearings and sentencings. In felony plea agreements I confirm whether the prosecution has worked with the victim and whether the victim agrees with the resolution. At sentencings I welcome victims' comments, as well as the comments of their family. In my sentencing remarks I endeavor to acknowledge the harm caused, as well as the victims' courage in coming forward. At every phase of the case I attempt to treat all participants, including victims, with dignity, respect and fairness.

Jennifer Wells