

# Superior Court Judge

## Jennifer K. Wells, Third Judicial District



**MAILING ADDRESS:** PO Box 1470  
Kenai, AK 99611

**EMAIL:** jwells@akcourts.us

**AGE:** 57

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Boston, Massachusetts

**SPOUSE'S NAME:** Joe Arness

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 30 years

**ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:**

Anchorage, 1990-1991  
Kenai and Soldotna, 1991-1994  
Tok, 1994-1997  
Eagle River, 1997-2007  
Kasilof and Nikiski, 2007-2020

**EDUCATION:**

Concord/Carlisle Public High School and Northfield  
Mount Hermon  
Mount Holyoke College  
Suffolk University

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**

Judicial Officer

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**

AirBnb Host  
Judicial Officer

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:**

National Association of Women Judges  
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges  
Alaska Bar Association  
Kenai Peninsula Bar Association

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

Family  
Set Net Fishing  
CrossFit  
Rowing

**OTHER:**

I am grateful to have lived in Alaska for the past 30 years. Alaskans balance work-life, adventure, family and creativity in a way I did not experience in New England. I cannot imagine living anywhere else. After living in several Alaskan communities, I met my husband in Kenai 13 years ago and am proud to call this area home.

**STATEMENT:**

Before law school I worked as a paralegal at one of Boston's largest law firms. That unhappy experience prompted me to apply to law school because I saw the great need for lawyers devoted to public service. I started as a public defender, then moved to the court system where I have endeavored to improve the administration of justice for the past 26 years. In Tok I held community meetings in nearby villages and wrote "Court Comments" for the local newspaper. In Anchorage I helped create new services for domestic violence victims. In Kenai I helped start a project for free parenting coordinators in high conflict custody cases. Similarly, I expanded the "Early Resolution Program" to Kenai – a program where volunteer lawyers and mediators help people resolve their divorce cases for free. I am also proud of my involvement in the Henu Community Wellness court. In this program the state court partners with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to address addiction in criminal cases. It's the first court of its kind in the state.

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.  
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.*