

(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 feel that hearing from victims at sentencing is very important. For many victims, sentencing may be the only opportunity they have to be heard in the process and to express the impact that the crime has had on them. In my courtroom, all victims are treated with dignity, courtesy, and respect. When victims speak at sentencing, I make sure they know that they have my full, undivided attention, and that their words are meaningful to me.

Jonathan Woodman