

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Brian C. Shortell, Superior Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Shortell to be *Qualified* and recommends that the public vote "YES" to retain him as a superior court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of all 2,650 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Shortell in the excellent category on overall judicial performance (4.1, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "knowledge of evidence" (4.3), "integrity" (4.3) and "controls courtroom" (4.3). He scored 3.8 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Impartiality	4.1	3.6	4.6	N/A	N/A
Integrity	4.3	3.9	N/A	4.2	N/A
Temperament	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.3	N/A
Diligence	4.0	3.7	N/A	4.2	N/A
Overall	4.1	3.7	4.6	4.2	3.7

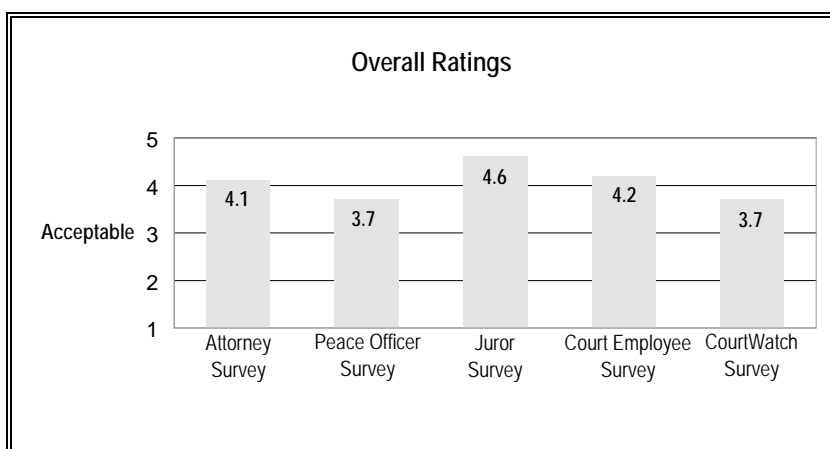
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Range Description
 4.0 - 5.0 = Excellent
 3.5 - 3.9 = Good
 3.0 - 3.4 = Acceptable
 2.5 - 2.9 = Below Acceptable
 1.0 - 2.4 = Poor

A survey of all 1,241 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Shortell in the good category on overall judicial performance (3.7, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.0), "controls courtroom" (3.9) and "works diligently" (3.8). He scored 3.6 or better in all twelve categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Shortell in 1994 and 1995 rated him in the excellent category (4.6) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him in the excellent category (4.2) on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Shortell a 3.7 overall rating.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Shortell

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at: <http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/COURTS/AJC/home.htm>