

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge James N. Wanamaker, District Court, Anchorage

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

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of all 2,650 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Wanamaker in the good category on overall judicial performance (3.8, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "courtesy" (4.2), "conduct free from impropriety" (4.1) and "sense of justice" (4.0). He scored 3.7 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Impartiality	4.0	3.7	4.6	N/A	N/A
Integrity	4.1	3.8	N/A	3.8	N/A
Temperament	3.9	3.7	4.7	4.0	N/A
Diligence	3.7	3.4	N/A	3.2	N/A
Overall	3.8	3.5	4.6	3.6	4.0

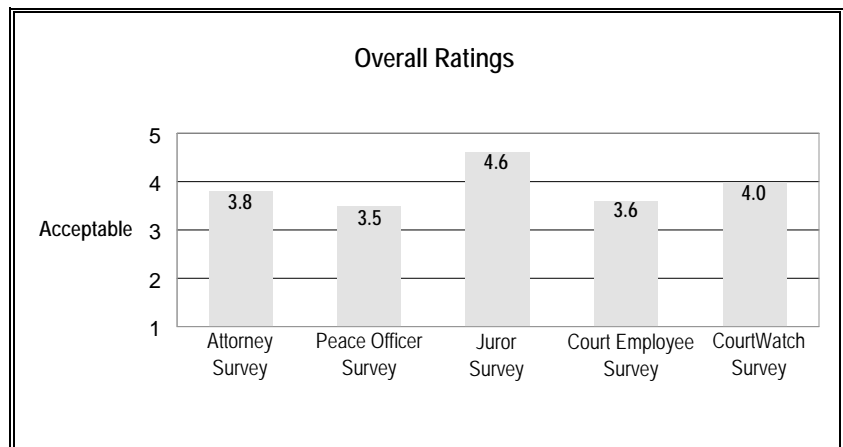
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

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 Wanamaker in the good category on overall judicial performance (3.5, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "equal treatment of all" (3.8), "integrity" (3.8) and "courtesy" (3.7). He scored lowest, but still acceptable, in "reasonable promptness in making decisions" (3.4).

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Wanamaker 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 good category (3.6) on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Wanamaker a 4.0 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 Wanamaker

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>