



# alaska judicial council

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August 12, 2011

Re: Anchorage Superior Court

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council invites qualified attorneys to apply for two or three vacancies on the **Anchorage Superior Court**. Two positions were recently created by the Alaska Legislature. Another may be open due to the appointment of Judge Sharon L. Gleason to the United States District Court, which is pending her confirmation by the United States Senate. Applicants will be considered for all available Anchorage Superior Court positions at the time the Council meets in late January, 2012. This letter provides essential information about the position and the application deadline. For more information, please contact the Judicial Council at 279-2526, or by e-mail at [lcohn@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:lcohn@ajc.state.ak.us).

Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. A superior court judge must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. He or she must: be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska; be a resident of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment; have engaged in the active practice of law, as defined in AS 22.05.070, for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment; and must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment.

The annual salary of a superior court judge in Anchorage is \$177,888. Judges also receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

An application form for these positions may be obtained by writing or calling the Alaska Judicial Council. Application forms may also be obtained by visiting the Council's Internet site: [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us). Completed applications for these positions must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than **3:00 p.m. on September 14, 2011**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Cohn".

Larry Cohn  
Executive Director

(Over: Anchorage Superior Court position description)

## **Judicial Position Description**

### **Anchorage Superior Court, Third Judicial District**

To be successful, a superior court judge must be proficient in understanding oral and written communications, and must effectively communicate orally and in writing with parties, attorneys, members of the public, and court employees. Judges must regularly employ a high level of analytical legal reasoning, must possess unimpaired judgment, and must be able to concentrate on and evaluate evidence and legal arguments. Judges must be willing and able to render timely and impartial decisions, without regard for popular sentiment. They must treat parties, attorneys, the public, and court employees with fairness, courtesy and respect, and they must work effectively under pressure. In addition to presiding over cases, Alaska judges are expected to serve on court committees working to improve the administration of justice in the state.

The working environment is a courtroom and office setting. Alaska judges typically sit in court or in chambers for long periods of time, but sitting is not an essential requirement of the job; some judges prefer to stand or make comparable adjustments for their individual needs. Judges may be required to travel, including travel to rural areas, often by small airplane. They may be temporarily reassigned to different court locations within the state. Judges may share weekend duty with other judicial officers.

Two new superior court positions were created by the Alaska Legislature in 2011 and are open in Anchorage. Another position may be open due to the appointment of Judge Sharon L. Gleason to the United States District Court, which is pending her confirmation by the United States Senate. Applicants will be considered for all available openings when the Council meets in late January, 2012.

Anchorage has seventeen superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. In the 2010 fiscal year, Alaska Court System data indicate that 10,241 cases were filed in the Anchorage Superior Court, including 3,026 felony cases, 1,979 probate matters, 2,680 domestic relations matters, 623 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 545 delinquency matters, and 1,388 general civil matters. Anchorage Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters but are assigned to, and rotate between, a primarily criminal or civil calendar. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of an Anchorage Superior Court judge is \$177,888.

Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. Superior court judges stand for retention at the first general election held more than three years after their initial appointment and every six years thereafter. Further information regarding the jurisdiction, authority, and duties of superior court judges may be found at AS 22.10.