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Judicial Position Description

To be successful, a 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. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. 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. Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States.

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 and are expected to work closely with court clerks.

Judicial salaries vary depending on level of court and location. In addition to salary, judges receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

Utqiagvik Superior Court, Second Judicial District

A superior court position is open in Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow). Utqiagvik has one superior court judge who presides over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Second Judicial District. The Utqiagvik Superior Court judge also presides over district court matters as needed. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2019 annual report, 297 cases were filed in the Utqiagvik Superior Court, including 97 felony cases, 45 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 12 delinquency cases, 38 domestic relations cases, 42 general civil cases, and 63 probate matters. The judge is assisted by, and responsible for the supervision of, a law clerk and a judicial assistant. The Utqiagvik Superior Court judge is assigned weekend duty on a rotating schedule, and provides coverage from time to time for the other Second District superior court judges. The annual salary of an Utqiagvik Superior Court judge is \$239,716, which includes a geographic cost-of-living adjustment.