



alaska judicial council

510 L Street, Suite 450, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1295 (907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

March 30, 2026

RE: **Nome Superior Court**

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council is soliciting applications for the **Nome Superior Court**. This letter includes detailed position descriptions containing essential information about the positions. Applicants may apply for any of the positions, or multiple positions on the same form, if desired. For more information, please contact the Alaska Judicial Council at 279-2526, or by e-mail at sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us.

The legal qualifications and annual salary of a Nome Superior Court judge are listed in the attached position description. 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 may be obtained by writing or calling the Alaska Judicial Council. Application forms may also be obtained online by visiting the Council's website: www.ajc.state.ak.us. The form was recently updated, so please make sure you include all questions if you previously applied and are using a saved application.

Completed applications must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 8, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne DiPietro".

Susanne DiPietro
Executive Director

Encl: Judicial Position Description

To ensure receipt of the survey on the applicants for these positions, be sure that the email address you have on file with the Alaska Bar Association is current. To prevent survey emails from being diverted as spam, add ajc@gmailserver.com as a safe sender in your email account.

Judicial Position Description

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. 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. 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. Judges usually need to directly supervise some staff, which usually includes a judicial assistant and one or more law clerks depending on the level of court.

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.

Superior Court Judge

Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090: they must be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska, be a resident of Alaska for at least five years immediately preceding appointment, have been engaged for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment in the active practice of law, and at the time of appointment be licensed to practice law in the state. 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. Each superior court judge is assisted by, and is responsible for the supervision of, one law clerk and a judicial assistant. Superior court judges stand for retention at the first general election held more than three years after their 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.

Nome Superior Court, Second Judicial District

A superior court vacancy is impending in Nome due to the retirement of Judge Romano DiBenedetto. Nome has one superior court judge who presides over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Second Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2025 Annual Report, 355 cases were filed in the Nome Superior Court, including 102 felony cases, 18 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 15 delinquency matters, 45 domestic relations matters, 30 general civil matters, and 145 probate matters.¹ The Nome Superior Court judge hears both criminal and civil matters. The judge is expected to travel to rural communities as needed. A superior court judge supervises a judicial assistant and a law clerk. The annual salary of a Nome Superior Court judge is \$259,729.08, which includes a geographic cost of living adjustment.

¹ *Alaska Court System Statistical Report FY 2025: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025*, 31. The report is available at: <https://courts.alaska.gov/admin/docs/fy25-statistics.pdf>.