

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Suzanne Lombardi, District Court, Palmer

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Lombardi to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously (6-0) that the public vote "YES" to retain her as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. In a survey sent to all 2,644 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Lombardi was rated in the good range on overall judicial performance (3.9, see graph). She scored highest (4.2) in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" and "consideration of all relevant factors in sentencing." She scored 3.7 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Report
Legal Ability	3.8	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.2	4.8	---	3.8
Integrity	4.1	4.2	---	4.6	---
Temperament	4.1	4.2	4.9	4.7	3.7
Diligence	4.1	4.1	---	4.6	---
Special Skills	4.3	4.1	---	4.5	---
Overall	3.9	4.1	4.8	4.6	3.8

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

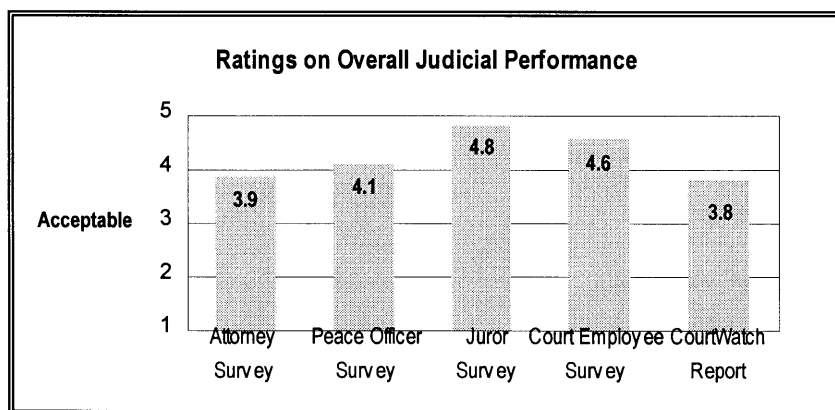
Range Description

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 1,890 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Lombardi in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.1, see graph). She scored highest in the category of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.0). She scored 4.0 or better in all thirteen categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Lombardi in 1998 and 1999 rated her in the excellent range (4.9) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her in the excellent range (4.6) on overall performance. The independent CourtWatch Report gave Judge Lombardi a 3.8 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, a review of any withheld salary warrants 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 Lombardi

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:

www.ajc.state.ak.us



Alaska Judicial Council
Questionnaire

Trial Judge
2000 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 19, 1999

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DEC 15 1999
AK Judicial Council

SUZANNE H. LOMBARDI
Name

PALMER DISTRICT COURT
Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

- a) 25 % Civil Cases
- 75 % Criminal Cases
- _____ % Court Administrative
- 100 % Total
- b) 20^{*} # of trials/year
- _____ # Administrative Appeals

** This is an estimate - because of my work in Palmer Anchorage the administration had difficulty designing a program to get the exact number*

2. Please describe your participation on court/Bar committees or other administrative activities during your current term of office.

Assisted with the implementation and assessment of the Pilot Probation Program for Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Offenders.

Appointed as the Court Representative to the "Art in Prison Jury" for the new pre-Trial Facility in Anchorage

3. On a separate sheet of paper please assess, in one or two paragraphs, your judicial performance during your present term. Appropriate areas of comment could include: satisfaction with your judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of law,

On a separate sheet of paper please assess, in one or two paragraphs, your judicial performance during your present term. Appropriate areas of comment could include: satisfaction with your judicial role, specific contributions to the judiciary or the field of law, increases in legal knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of judicial abilities that you believe to be important.

This is my first retention election and I am pleased to report that I love my job. Rarely do people get an opportunity to wake up in the morning and look forward to work. That is how I feel about my role as a district court judge. This job offers me intellectual stimulation and a chance to touch people's lives daily. I applied for this position because it is in every sense the "people's court." There are more people in the district court than in any other court I take this role and the concomitant responsibility very seriously.

In this first term I have learned a tremendous amount about time management, which is crucial due to our burgeoning caseload. The many trials and motion hearings over which I have presided have afforded me to the chance to hone my evidentiary skills. I have also had the opportunity to work with many pro-pers, or people who cannot afford counsel or for political reasons chose not to be represented by counsel. I have worked diligently to assure that the court is accessible to all persons regardless of their political beliefs or ability in hire counsel. I hope I am afforded the chance to continue this job and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

increases in legal knowledge and judicial skills, or other measures of judicial abilities that you believe to be important.

4. During your most recent term as a judge, have you:
- a) had a tax lien filed or other collection procedure instituted against you by federal, state, or local authorities? Yes _____ No *X*.
 - b) been involved in a nonjudicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise? Yes _____ No *X*.
 - c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)? Yes _____ No *X*.
 - d) held office in any political party? Yes _____ No *X*.
 - e) held any other local state or federal office? Yes _____ No *X*.

If your answer to any of the questions above is "yes," please give full details, including dates, facts, case numbers and outcomes.

N/A

Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2000 retention elections.

After giving birth to my son I was given the opportunity to work a two week off/two week on schedule in Anchorage to coincide with my husband's work schedule. This experience was invaluable in that it afforded me a chance to work with and learn from other district court judges on a daily basis. (I am the only district court judge in Palmer). It also enriched my learning experience as I had the opportunity to work with a variety of attorneys, cases and staff. I believe the fact that I presided over cases in a relatively small court in Palmer as well as the largest in the state will give the Council a wide basis for opinions as to my performance in my first few years.

5. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent jury cases tried before you, identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

1 Name of Case STATE vs. HOGSDON Case Number 3PA-99-1577 CR.

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: RACHEL GERHAT, (ASST. DA)
Address: 800 W. EVERGREEN #102
PALMER, AK 99645
Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: DAN ALLAN
Address: 800 E. DIMOND BLVD STE 3
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515 54
Name: _____
Address: _____

2 Name of Case STATE vs. JOHNSTON Case Number 3PA-98-1839 CR.

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: WILLIAM ESTELLE, (ASST. DA)
Address: 800 W. EVERGREEN #102
PALMER, AK 99645
Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: PAMELA D. SCOTT
Address: 733 W. 4TH AVE. STE 204
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
Name: _____
Address: _____

3 Name of Case MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE v. Case Number 3AN-99-2623 CR.
BAHES

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: KAREN WEIMER, (ASST. PROS)
Address: 420 L ST., STE 100
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: PAMELA DALE
Address: 310 K ST., STE 300
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501
Name: _____
Address: _____

6. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent non-jury cases tried before you, identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

1 Name of Case Case Number
NORTHLAND CREDIT V. BALES 3PA-99-291 CI.

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: KEVIN ANDERSON
Address: 943 W. 6th AVE
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: JEFF CARNEY
Address: W. 100 LAKEVIEW AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

2 Name of Case Case Number
STATE V. CHIZUK 3PA-98-2035 CR.

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: RACHEL GERNAT, ASST. D.A.
Address: 800 W. EVERGREEN AVE #102
PALMER, AK 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: VICTORIA CHIZUK (Pro-Per)
Address: P.O. BOX 873276
WASILLA, AK 99687

Name: _____
Address: _____

3 Name of Case Case Number
DEAR V. WITHERN 3PA-98-546 CI

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: DANIEL DEAR (PRO-PER)
Address: HC 34 BOX 2688
WASILLA, AK 99654

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: JOSEPH WITHERN (PRO-PER)
Address: P.O. BOX 1663
PALMER, AK 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

7. Please list the names and case numbers of the three most recent cases which did not go to trial, but on which you did significant work (such as settlement conference, hearings, motion work, etc.), identify the attorneys involved, and show their current addresses. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

1 Name of Case STATE V. WIRKUS ET. AL. Case Number 3PA-99.47 CR.

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: RACHEL GERNAT, ASST. P.A.
Address: 800 W. EVERGREEN #102
PALMER, AK 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: LAUREL CARTER, ASST. P.D.
Address: 1800 GLENN HWY. STE. 8
PALMER, AK 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

2 Name of Case MUNICIPALITY VS. MUTCHLER Case Number 3AN. 99.2777 CR
MUNICIPALITY VS. FRED 3AN. 99.5108 CR

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: BENJAMIN WALTERS
ASST. PROSECUTOR
Address: 420 L. STREET, STE 1000
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: PAMELA DALE
Address: 310 K ST, STE. 200
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

3 Name of Case STATE V. ESQUE Case Number 3PA. 97.1231 CR

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: BRENDA TAYLOR (FORMER P.A.)
Address: 1595 LUXEMBURG PR.
FRASER, MI. 48026

Name: _____
Address: _____

✓ Name: JOHN G. DAVIES
Address: 1075 CHECK ST. STE 20
WASILLA, AK 99687

Name: _____
Address: _____

8. If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list the name, case number and attorneys' names and current addresses of any other cases during your judicial career in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

1	Name of Case	Case Number
	MUNICIPALITY VS. DAVIS	3AN-98-6303 CR

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: <u>PATRICK HANLEY (ASST. PROS)</u> Address: <u>420 L STREET</u> <u>ANCHORAGE, AK 99501</u> Name: _____ Address: _____	✓ Name: <u>CHARLES LEE DAVIS (PRO-PER)</u> Address: <u>6300 O'MALLEY ROAD</u> <u>ANCHORAGE, AK 99516</u> Name: _____ Address: _____
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2	Name of Case	Case Number
	STATE V. WESSON	3PA-97-1673 CR

Attorneys Involved

✓ Name: <u>MAX GARNER (FORMER DA)</u> Address: <u>1127 W. 7th AVE.</u> <u>ANCHORAGE, AK 99501</u> Name: _____ Address: _____	✓ Name: <u>MARY DEEVER, (ASST. P.D.)</u> Address: <u>1800 GLENN HIGHWAY STE 8</u> <u>PALMER, AK 99645</u> ✓ Name: <u>ROBERT HERZ. (ASST. P.D.)</u> Address: <u>1800 GLENN HIGHWAY, STE 8</u> <u>PALMER, AK 99645</u>
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3	Name of Case	Case Number
	STATE V. COBEN et al.	3PA-98-115 CR (et al)

Attorneys Involved

Name: <u>BRENDA TAYLOR (FORMER D.A.)</u> Address: <u>1595 LUXEMBURG DR.</u> <u>FRASER, MI 48026</u> Name: _____ Address: _____	Name: <u>LAUREL CARTER (ASST. P.)</u> Address: <u>1800 GLENN HWY. STE 8</u> <u>PALMER, AK 99645</u> Name: _____ Address: _____
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Staff
DATE: May 16, 2000
RE: Comparison of Previous Survey Results - Suzanne Lombardi

Suzanne Lombardi is standing for retention in 2000. The table on the following page compares retention and selection survey scores for Judge Lombardi. Changes in the form and content of the various surveys should be noted carefully in making any comparisons.

This is Judge Lombardi's first time to stand for retention. She was evaluated with the other non-retention judges in 1998.

Judge Lombardi applied for and was appointed to the Palmer District Court in 1997.

Judge Suzanne Lombardi						
appointed to Palmer District Court 7/3/97						
	2000 Retention		1998 Retention Preview		1997 Palmer District	
	Bar	PPO	Bar	PPO	Score	Range
Legal Ability	3.8	—	3.5	—	3.7	Good
Fairness	4.1	4.2	3.8	3.8	3.7	Good
Integrity	4.1	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.9	Good
Judicial Temperament	4.1	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.6	Good
Diligence	4.1	4.1	—	—	—	---
Administrative Skills	4.3	4.1	—	—	—	---
Suitability of Experience	—	—	—	—	3.6	Good
Overall Performance	3.9	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.6	Good