

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Samuel D. Adams, District Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Adams to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (5-0) that the public vote "YES" to retain him as a district court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Adams on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Adams 4.1 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest in the categories of "controls courtroom" (4.3), "conduct free from impropriety" (4.2), "promptness in making decisions" (4.2), and "works diligently" (4.2). He scored 4.0 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	CourtWatch Survey
Legal Ability	4.0	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.6	---
Integrity	4.2	4.6	---	4.6	---
Temperament	4.1	4.6	4.9	4.6	---
Diligence	4.2	4.6	---	---	---
Special Skills	4.1	4.6	---	---	---
Overall	4.1	4.6	4.8	4.6	3.9

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

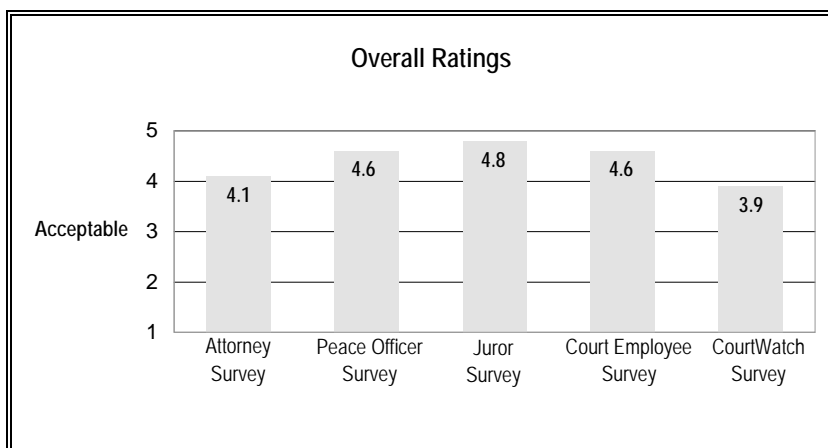
Rating Scale

5.0 = Excellent
 4.0 = Good
 3.0 = Acceptable
 2.0 = Deficient
 1.0 = Unacceptable

A survey of 1,704 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Adams on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Adams 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored 4.5 or 4.6 in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Adams in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.8 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The CourtWatch Report prepared by Victims for Justice gave Judge Adams a 3.9 overall rating on a scale of 5.

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 Adams

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd Ave., 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

November 2002



alaska judicial council

1029 W. Third Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1969 [907] 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046
http://www.ajc.state.ak.us E-Mail: postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us

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Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Trial Judge 2002 Candidates for Judicial Retention

November 16, 2001

SAMUEL D. ADAMS
Name

ANCHORAGE DISTRICT COURT
Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

- a) 20 % Civil Cases
 - 80 % Criminal Cases
 - % Court Administrative
 - 100 % Total
- b) # of trials/year
 - # Administrative Appeals

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

Interviewed prospective law clerks and hired the two current district court law clerks. Currently interviewing prospective law clerks for the openings in August 2002. I administer the small claims mediation project.

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

Response to Question #3

On December 1 of this year I celebrated my second anniversary as a District Court Judge. In that time, I have come to thoroughly enjoy all of the responsibilities incumbent on a judge, from trying pro se small claims cases to applying constitutional provisions to the felonies that are occasionally assigned to me on a pro tem basis. I believe that the most important duty of a District Court Judge is to communicate to litigants that the matter that brought them to court is just as important as a multi-million dollar dispute in the Superior Court. I hope that each person who appears before me walks away from the proceeding with the belief that I truly care. I look forward to many more years of serving the public.

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.

Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2002 retention elections.

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.)

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1 MOA v. Antonio John	3AN-M01-04301CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Levi Martin
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Dennis Cummings
Address: 737 M Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2 MOA v. Sean Halloran	3AN-M01-01135CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Levi Martin
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Randall Patterson
Address: 1015 West 7th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3 MOA v. Ronnie Gooden	3AN-M01-00967CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: Karen Weimer
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Dennis Cummings
Address: 737 M Street
Anchorage, Alaska 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.)

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1 <u>Carl Johnson v. Great Ak. Lawn</u>	<u>3AN-01-03021SC</u>

* Parties
~~Attorneys~~ Involved

Name: Carl Johnson
Address: 3205 Montclair Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Name: Todd Christianson
Address: 12870 Old Seward Highway
Anchorage, Alaska 99515

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2 <u>Odell Branch v. Pacific Movers</u>	<u>3AN-01-03256SC</u>

Parties
~~Attorneys~~ Involved

Name: Odell Branch
Address: P. O. Box 211461
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

Name: Jack Crockett
Address: 2510 Post Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3 <u>Piccinoni v. Mott</u>	<u>3AN-00-07371CI</u>

Parties
~~Attorneys~~ Involved

Name: Alfredo Piccinoni
Address: P. O. Box 91998
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

Name: Ernie Mott
Address: 11431 Old Glenn Highway
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

* Each of my last three non-jury trials involved pro se litigants.

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

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
<u>State v. William Gwaltney</u>	<u>3AN-S01-05669CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Thomas Temple
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Carmen Clark
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

2

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
<u>MOA v. Josh Richardson</u>	<u>3AN-M01-06618CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: John McConaughy
Address: 429 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Matt Claman
Address: 425 G Street, Suite 610
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

3

<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
<u>State v. Thomas Medica</u>	<u>3AN-S01-07409CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Paul Roetman
Address: 310 K Street, Suite 520
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Dan Allan
Address: 800 E. Dimond, Suite 3-540
Anchorage, Alaska 99515-2028

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.)

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
1	<u>MOA v. Shin</u>	<u>3AN-M00-10600CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Joseph O'Connell
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Brent Cole
Address: 745 West 4th Avenue, Suite 502
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
2	<u>MOA v. Yum</u>	<u>3AN-M00-10601CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Joseph O'Connell
Address: 420 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Kevin Fitzgerald
Address: 813 West 3rd Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

	<i>Name of Case</i>	<i>Case Number</i>
3	<u>State v. Lemoine</u>	<u>3VA-S00-00116CR</u>

Attorneys Involved

Name: Jack Smith
Address: 800 West Evergreen, Suite 102
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: Andrew Lambert
Address: 711 H Street, Suite 450
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Staff
DATE: April 24, 2002
RE: Comparison of Previous Survey Results - Samuel D. Adams

Samuel D. Adams is standing for retention in 2002. The table on the following page compares retention and selection survey scores for Judge Adams. Changes in the form and content of the various surveys should be noted carefully in making any comparisons.

This is Judge Adams' first time to stand for retention. He was evaluated with the other non-retention judges in 2000.

Judge Adams applied for and was appointed to the Anchorage District Court in 1999.

Judge Samuel D. Adams					
Appointed to Anchorage District Court 09/02/99					
	<i>2002 Retention</i>		<i>2000 Interim</i>		<i>1999 Anchorage District</i>
	<i>Bar</i>	<i>PPO</i>	<i>Bar</i>	<i>PPO</i>	
Legal Ability/Professional Competence	4.0	----	3.9	-----	3.9
Impartiality/Fairness	4.1	4.5	4.0	4.4	4.0
Integrity/Good Character	4.2	4.6	4.2	4.3	4.2
Judicial Temperament	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.0
Diligence	4.2	4.6	4.0	4.4	----
Special Skills	4.1	4.6	-----	-----	3.9
Overall Performance	4.1	4.6	4.0	4.4	3.9