

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Michael A. Thompson, Superior Court, Ketchikan

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

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,860 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Thompson on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Thompson 4.0 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (4.3) in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" and "courtesy." He scored 3.8 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.8	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.2	3.6	4.7	4.7
Integrity	4.3	3.8	---	4.7
Temperament	4.2	3.9	4.7	4.7
Diligence	4.0	3.7	---	4.6
Special Skills	4.0	3.5	---	---
Overall	4.0	3.6	4.7	4.6

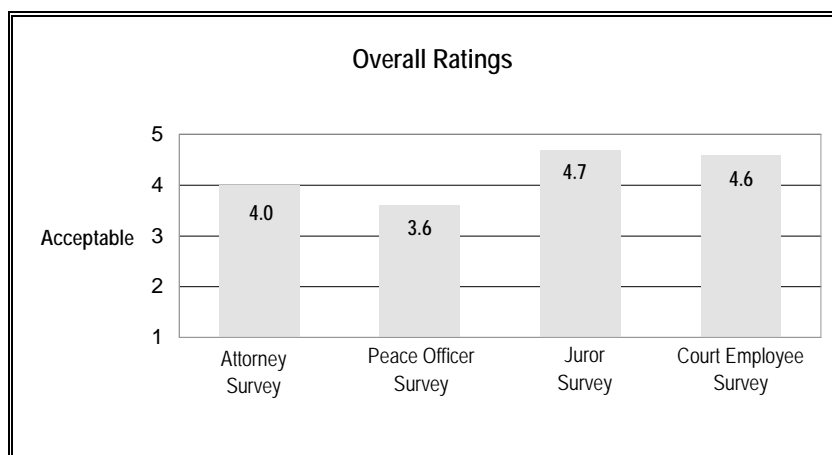
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

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 Thompson on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Thompson 3.6 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. He scored highest (3.9) in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety," "courtesy," and "controls courtroom." He scored 3.5 or better in all categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Thompson in 2000 and 2001 rated him 4.7 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 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 Thompson

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Larry Cohn

Alaska Judicial Council Questionnaire

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Supreme Court

Trial Judge 2002 Candidates for Judicial Retention

ALASKA
JUDICIAL COUNCIL

November 16, 2001

MICHAEL A. THOMPSON

Name

SUPERIOR - KETCHIKAN

Court

1. Describe your workload during your present term.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) <u>50</u> % Civil Cases | b) <u>20</u> # of trials/year |
| <u>45</u> % Criminal Cases | <u>4</u> # Administrative Appeals |
| <u>5</u> % Court Administrative | |
| 100 % Total | |

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

NONE

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.

Now almost nine years on the bench I find that while the everyday matters present fewer challenges, there are still regularly fresh and intriguing issues to address. As always, the chance to do some occasional good, and the continuing opportunity to avoid doing any harm delights.

This is a pretty good job once you adjust to a salary comparable to that of a first year associate in a major law firm.

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 .
- b) been involved in a nonjudicial capacity in any legal proceeding whether as a party or otherwise? Yes _____ No .
- c) engaged in the practice of law (other than as a judge)? Yes _____ No .
- d) held office in any political party? Yes _____ No .
- e) held any other local state or federal office? Yes _____ No .

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 2002 retention elections.

NONE

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 ITMO ESTES CHILDREN 1PE-99-6,7,8 +9 CP

Attorneys Involved

Name: FAN RUTHERDALE
Address: ASST A.G. PO BOX 110300
FUNEAU ALASKA 99811

Name: SHERI HAZELTINE
Address: 320 W. WILLOUGHBY #300
FUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

2 MILLER v ASKREN 1KE-99-165 Ci

Attorneys Involved

Name: DAVID ROSENDIN
Address: 320 BAUDEN #305
KETCHIKAN ALASKA 99901

Name: LOREN STANTON
Address: P.O. BOX 5558
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

3 GREGORY BUXTON v DARLENE BOOTH 1KE-00-270 Ci

Attorneys Involved

Name: KEVIN MORLEY
Address: 426 MAIN
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

Name: SUDEEP BHATTIA
Address: ALASKA LEGAL SERVICES
419 6th ST #322
FUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

Name: _____
Address: _____

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** WILLIAMS v WILLIAMS **Case Number** 1PE-06-31ci

Attorneys Involved

Name: ANTHONY HOLTY
Address: 302 GOLD ST
JUNEAU, AK 99801

Name: CRYSTAL BRAND
Address: P.O. BOX 32819
JUNEAU AK 99803

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

2 **Name of Case** STATE v KATASSE **Case Number** 1S1-01-86CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: CORINNE VORENKAMP
Address: P.O. BOX 6308
SITKA, AK 99835
(ASST D.A.)

Name: GALEN PAINE
Address: 329 HARBOR #203
SITKA AK 99835
(ASST P.D.)

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____

3 **Name of Case** STATE v EBLING **Case Number** 1KE-99-195 CR

Attorneys Involved

Name: STEVEN WEST
Address: DISTRICT ATTORNEY
415 MAIN #304
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901

Name: DARRYL GARDNER
Address: 900 W. STN #525
ANCHORAGE AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____

Name: MICHAEL SMITH
Address: 308 G. ST
ANCHORAGE AK 99501

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

Attorneys Involved

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

2

Name of Case

Case Number

Attorneys Involved

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

3

Name of Case

Case Number

Attorneys Involved

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judicial Council Members
FROM: Staff
DATE: April 24, 2002
RE: Comparison of Previous Survey Results - Michael A. Thompson

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

Judge Thompson previously stood for retention as a superior court judge in 1996. He was evaluated with the other non-retention judges in 1994 and 2000.

Judge Thompson applied for and was appointed to the Ketchikan Superior Court in 1993.

Judge Michael A. Thompson									
Appointed to Ketchikan Superior Court 01/21/93									
	<i>2002 Retention</i>		<i>2000 Interim</i>		<i>1996 Retention</i>		<i>1994 Interim</i>		<i>1992 Ketchikan Superior</i>
	<i>Ba r</i>	<i>PPO</i>	<i>Ba r</i>	<i>PPO</i>	<i>Ba r</i>	<i>PPO</i>	<i>Ba r</i>	<i>PPO</i>	
Legal Ability/Professional Competence	3.8	----	3.7	----	3.8	----	3.8	-----	4.0
Impartiality/Fairness	4.2	3.6	4.0	3.1	4.1	3.5	4.1	3.6	4.2
Integrity/Good Character	4.3	3.8	4.2	3.6	4.2	3.7	4.2	3.7	4.2
Judicial Temperament	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.6	4.2	3.9	4.2	3.9	4.2
Diligence	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.6	----
Special Skills	4.0	3.5	----	----	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.4	----
Overall Performance	4.0	3.6	3.9	3.3	3.9	3.5	4.0	3.7	4.1