



# alaska judicial council

1029 W. Third Avenue, Suite 201, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1969  
<http://www.ajc.state.ak.us>

(907) 279-2526 FAX (907) 276-5046  
E-mail: [postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Larry Cohn

NON-ATTORNEY MEMBERS  
Eleanor Andrews  
Bill Gordon  
Christena Williams

ATTORNEY MEMBERS  
Douglas Baily  
James H. Cannon  
Susan Orlansky

CHAIR, EX OFFICIO  
Dana Fabe  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court

## Press Release

July 17, 2006: For Immediate Release

On June 19, 2006, the Alaska Judicial Council voted unanimously to recommend a "No" vote on the retention of Kenai District Court Judge David S. Landry in the November general election. The Judicial Council's bylaws provide that it will make the results of its retention evaluations public. Under its bylaws, the Judicial Council's retention evaluations may be based on interviews, review of court files, and other research into judicial performance, as well as on judicial performance surveys. In making the reasons for its retention recommendations public, the Judicial Council must be careful to balance its obligations to provide reliable information to the public, to be fair to the judge standing for retention, and not to jeopardize the confidences of people who provided information to the Council.

Today, the Judicial Council met and approved the following language to be included in the Election Pamphlet, which explains the Judicial Council's reasons for recommending that voters vote "No" on Judge Landry's retention.

The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska constitution, evaluates judges on a number of criteria, including their legal ability, their demeanor, their diligence, their ability to manage their caseloads, and their fairness and integrity. After receiving a number of reports and comments from

those who work with and appear before Judge Landry, the Judicial Council undertook an additional investigation including a review of court records and interviews with over forty people. The Judicial Council's vote relied only on evidence that was corroborated. Based on this investigation, the Judicial Council had considerable concerns about Judge Landry's pattern of poor judgment in a number of areas including: inappropriately delegating judicial authority by handing out blank pre-signed orders to prosecutors, which allowed them to set bail and schedule hearings without further court order; while administering the criminal court calendar, failing to monitor and ensure the timely trial of criminal cases, resulting in dismissal of at least fourteen criminal cases within a year for failure to provide a speedy trial under applicable court rules; making inappropriate sexual comments both in and out of the courtroom, which continued after receipt of warnings; and creating the appearance of favoritism and partiality in handling court cases.

Contact:

Larry Cohn, Executive Director or  
Teri Carns, Senior Staff Associate  
Alaska Judicial Council  
1029 West Third Avenue, Suite 201  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Phone: (907) 279-2526 x6  
Fax: (907)276-5046  
email: [teri@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:teri@ajc.state.ak.us)  
web site: [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)