

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Steve W. Cole, Superior Court, Kodiak

Judicial Council Recommendation 2012

The Alaska Judicial Council is a non-partisan citizens' commission established by the Alaska constitution. Alaskan law requires the Council to evaluate judges' performance and authorizes the Council to recommend to voters whether judges should be retained in office. The Judicial Council reviews judges' integrity, diligence, legal ability, fairness, demeanor, ability to manage their caseloads, and overall performance of their judicial responsibilities in and out of the courtroom. The Judicial Council finds Judge Cole to be **Qualified** and recommends unanimously that the public vote "YES" to retain him as a superior court judge.

Judicial Council Evaluation

The Judicial Council surveyed thousands of Alaskans including peace and probation officers, court employees, attorneys, jurors, social workers and guardians ad litem about the judges on the ballot. Respondents were asked to rate judicial performance and to submit comments. The Council also reviewed the ratings and observations of the Alaska Judicial Observers, independent community-based volunteers. The Council reviewed the judge's preemptory challenge, recusals, and appellate affirmance and reversal rates; any civil or criminal litigation involving the judge; APOC and court system conflict-of-interest statements; any disciplinary files involving the judge; and whether a judge's pay was withheld for an untimely decision. The Council reviewed other court records and investigated judicial conduct in specific cases. The Council interviewed some judges, attorneys, and court staff, and held a statewide public hearing to obtain comments about judges.

| | Attorney Survey | Peace Officer Survey | Juror Survey | Court Employee Survey | Social Workers Guardians ad Litem |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Legal Ability | 4.1 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Impartiality | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.5 | --- |
| Integrity | 4.6 | 4.3 | --- | 4.4 | --- |
| Temperament | 4.4 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 4.3 | --- |
| Diligence | 4.2 | 4.3 | --- | 3.8 | --- |
| Overall | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.9 | 4.2 | --- |

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 = Poor

Summary of Survey Information

Survey respondents rated Judge Cole on the categories summarized in the table above, using 5 as the highest rating possible. The attorney rating for Judge Cole on overall performance was 4.3. Peace and probation officers gave Judge Cole a rating of 4.4. Jurors rated him 4.9 overall and court employees gave him 4.2. No social workers or guardians ad litem rated Judge Cole.

Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Steve W. Cole

For more information go to www.knowyouralaskajudges.com