



alaska judicial council

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Alaska Judicial Council Trial Judge Questionnaire

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ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

2012 Candidates for Judicial Retention

October 2011

Alex Swiderski

Anchorage District Court

Name

Court

1. Please estimate your workload during your present term.

a) $\frac{60}{30}$ % civil cases	b) $\frac{4}{30}$ # of jury trials/year
$\frac{30}{10}$ % criminal cases	$\frac{30}{2}$ # of non-jury trials/year
$\frac{10}{100}$ % court administrative work	$\frac{2}{100}$ # of administrative appeals/year
100 % Total	

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

I am on the Criminal Rules Committee and the Judicial Conference Planning Committee, which plans the two judicial education conferences each year. I am also a magistrate training judge, an Anchorage Wellness Court (drug and alcohol therapeutic court) judge, a back up judge for the Anchorage Community Resources Project (mental health therapeutic court), and a back up judge for PACE. I have been on a District Court calendaring committee, although I am not currently active on it because I am sitting full-time as a pro tem Superior Court Judge with a civil caseload.

3. 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.

With work and experience I believe that I have continued to improve as a judicial officer. I have increased my understanding of the law in the various areas in which I work, but more importantly work to be fair and compassionate to the litigants that appear before me.

I believe strongly in the importance of ongoing judicial education for myself and for other judicial officers. I am a member of the judicial conference planning committee, which plans the two annual judicial education conferences for Alaska judges. In that capacity I started and usually lead district break out sessions at the conferences to address issues specific to district court judges. These have been popular and successful. I am also a magistrate training judge. Some of the sessions developed for the district court breakouts have been used at the annual magistrate training conference. I have also instituted and usually lead bimonthly statewide teleconferences of all district court judges. I solicit agenda items from the judges in advance, and we discuss these items during the teleconferences. All magistrates are also invited to listen in and many do. Judicial education helps me to be a better judge by forcing me to think about and plan training programs.

For the past four months I have been working as a pro tem superior court judge hearing civil cases. The appointment will continue until the new superior court civil positions are filled. This has been a good change for me and a new challenge. The domestic work in particular, an area in which I never practiced, has been a challenge in becoming familiar with the law and resolving the difficult emotional issues in child custody cases. The more complex matters heard by superior court judges have also been challenging and rewarding.

My judicial position remains very satisfying. I am gratified to be able to do this work.

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 non-judicial 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
- f) had any complaints, charges or grievances filed against you with the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, the Alaska Bar Association, or with the Alaska Court System that resulted in public proceedings or sanctions? Yes No

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

6. Please provide any other information which you believe would assist the Council in conducting its evaluations and in preparing its recommendations for the 2012 retention elections.

For questions 7 through 10 please do not list any cases that have pending issues in your court.

- 7. Please list your three most recent jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name: State of Alaska **Case Number:** 3AN-10-14584CR
 v. Joel Klein

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Jenna Gruenstein</u>	Name: <u>Carl Cook</u>
Address: <u>310 K St., Suite 520</u>	Address: <u>517 W. Northern Lts. Blvd.</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-09-11617CR
 v. Deborah Allen

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Herbert Viergutz</u>	Name: <u>Ronald West</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Av., Suite 210</u>	Address: <u>3220 Racquet Circle</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99507</u>
Name: <u>Paul Malin</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>632 Christensen Dr.</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Municipality of Anchorage **Case Number:** 3AN-09-12675CR
 v. Jeremy Fike

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Cindy Dubell</u>	Name: <u>Jonathan Torres</u>
Address: <u>632 W. 6th Av. Suite 210</u>	Address: <u>900 W. 5th Av., Suite 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 8. Please list your three most recent non-jury trials including case names and numbers. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these trials. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name: Joseph Dolan Case Number: 3AN-08-11131CI

v. Make It Happen Automotive

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Robert J. Sato
Address: 500 L St., Suite 501
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: James M. Gorski
Address: 3900 C St., Suite 1001
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503

Name: Bernd C. Guetschow
Address: 425 G St., Suite 650
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Donna Strait Case Number: 3AN-09-08843CI

v. Clifford T. Schwandt

Attorneys Involved:

Name: Steven D. Smith
Address: 7120 Old Seward Hy, Ste 203
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99508

Name: Cheryl Lynn Graves
Address: 807 G St., Suite 250
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Pamela Goodwin Case Number: 3AN-10-06647CI

v. Robert Richmond

Attorneys Involved:

Name: H. Frank Cahill
Address: 880 N. St., Suite 203
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99501

Name: David Edgren
Address: 750 E. Fireweed, Ste. 201
City, State, Zip: Anchorage, AK 99503

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____

- 9. Please list your three most recent cases, including case names and numbers, which did not go to trial, but on which you did significant work (such as settlement conference, hearings, motion work, etc.). Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name: Kelcey Steinriede Case Number: 3AN-05-05583CI
 v. Gregory Baranow

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Kathryn M. Coleman</u>	Name: <u>David W. Baranow</u>
Address: <u>880 H St., Suite 200A</u>	Address: <u>2020 Abbott Rd., Suite 4</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99507</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: State of Alaska Case Number: 3AN-10-05534CR
 v. Fritz Nevak

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Jenna Gruenstein</u>	Name: <u>Catherine B. Boruff</u>
Address: <u>310 K St., Suite 520</u>	Address: <u>900 W. 5th Av., Suite 200</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: Alaska Back Care Center Case Number: 3AN-09-06610CI
 v. Tina Wilson, et al

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Robert Stone</u>	Name: <u>Laura L. Farley</u>
Address: <u>1049 W. 5th Av., Suite 102</u>	Address: <u>807 G St., Suite 250</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

- 10. *Optional:* If you deem it helpful to the Council, please list up to three other cases during your past term in which you believe your work was particularly noteworthy. Please list the names, current addresses, including zip codes and suite numbers where applicable, of each attorney involved in these cases. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Case Number 1

Case Name: A. L. Cozzetti Case Number: 3AN-08-12107CI
 v. Ray Madrid

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Goriune Dudukgian</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>310 K Street, Suite 200</u>	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99501</u>	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 2

Case Name: Malaspina Glacier Investmen Case Number: 3AN-10-11510CI
 v. Charles Lane

Attorneys Involved:

Name: <u>Brian Shute</u>	Name: <u>Lawrence Z. Moser</u>
Address: <u>200 W. 34th Av., Suite 381</u>	Address: <u>1503 W. 31st, Suite 201</u>
City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>	City, State, Zip: <u>Anchorage, AK 99503</u>
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____

Case Number 3

Case Name: _____ Case Number: _____
 v. _____

Attorneys Involved:

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____
Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____	City, State, Zip: _____