

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Beverly W. Cutler, Superior Court, Palmer

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Cutler to be *Qualified* and recommends unanimously (6-0) that the public vote "YES" to retain her as a superior court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information In a survey sent to all 2,604 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Cutler was rated in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.0, see graph). She scored highest in the category of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.2). She scored 3.8 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	4.0	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.0	3.3	4.6	---
Integrity	4.1	3.6	---	4.0
Temperament	4.1	3.7	4.7	4.0
Diligence	3.9	3.6	---	3.9
Special Skills	4.0	3.5	---	---
Overall	4.0	3.4	4.6	3.9

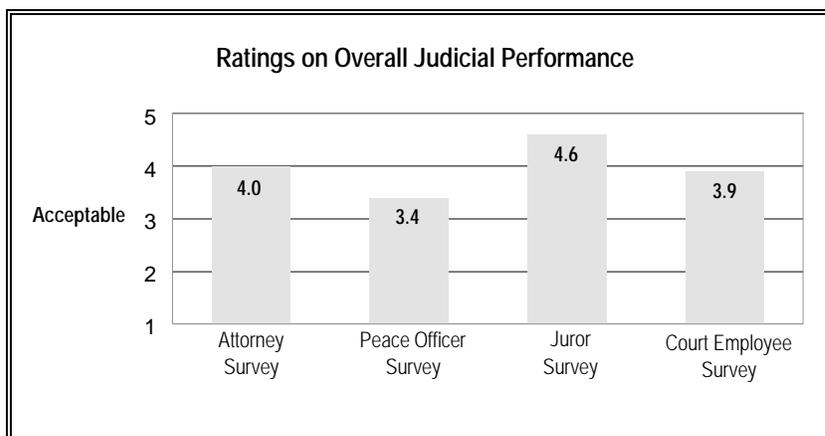
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Range Description
 4.0 - 5.0 = Excellent
 3.5 - 3.9 = Good
 3.0 - 3.4 = Acceptable
 2.5 - 2.9 = Below Acceptable
 1.0 - 2.4 = Poor

A survey of all 1,338 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Cutler in the acceptable range on overall judicial performance (3.4, see graph). She scored highest in the categories of "courtesy" (3.8) and "human understanding and compassion" (3.8). She scored lowest, but still acceptable, in "equal treatment of all parties" (3.3), "sense of basic fairness and justice" (3.3) and "consideration of all relevant factors in sentencing" (3.3).

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Cutler in 1996 and 1997 rated her in the excellent range (4.6) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her in the good range (3.9) 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 Cutler

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