

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Niesje J. Steinkruger, Superior Court, Fairbanks

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Steinkruger 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 Steinkruger was rated in the good range on overall judicial performance (3.7, see graph). She scored highest in the category of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.0). She scored 3.6 or better in all sixteen categories.

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.7	---	---	---
Impartiality	3.8	4.0	4.8	---
Integrity	3.9	4.0	---	4.0
Temperament	3.9	4.1	4.9	4.1
Diligence	3.8	3.9	---	4.0
Special Skills	3.7	4.0	---	---
Overall	3.7	4.0	4.8	3.9

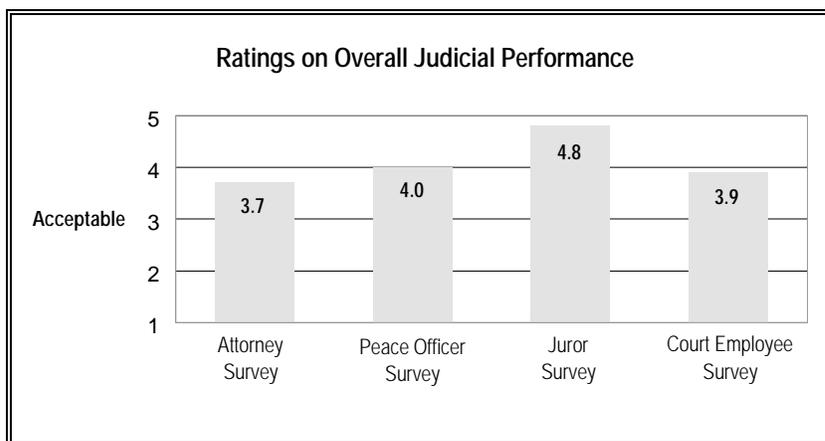
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

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 Steinkruger in the excellent range on overall judicial performance (4.0, see graph). She scored highest in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" (4.1), "courtesy" (4.1), "human understanding and compassion" (4.1), "ability to control courtroom" (4.1), and "consideration of all relevant factors in sentencing" (4.1). She scored 3.7 or better in all thirteen categories.

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Steinkruger in 1996 and 1997 rated her in the excellent range (4.8) 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 Steinkruger

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