

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Peter Froehlich, District Court, Juneau

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

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. In a survey sent to all 2,604 attorneys in Alaska, Judge Froehlich was rated in the good range on overall judicial performance (3.5, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "conduct free from impropriety" (3.8), "makes decisions without regard to possible public criticism," and "reasonable promptness in He scored lowest, but still acceptable, in "courtesy" (3.3).

Summary Categories	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey
Legal Ability	3.4	---	---	---
Impartiality	3.5	3.5	4.7	---
Integrity	3.8	3.9	---	3.7
Temperament	3.5	3.7	4.8	3.6
Diligence	3.7	3.9	---	3.9
Special Skills	3.5	3.7	---	---
Overall	3.5	3.6	4.7	3.7

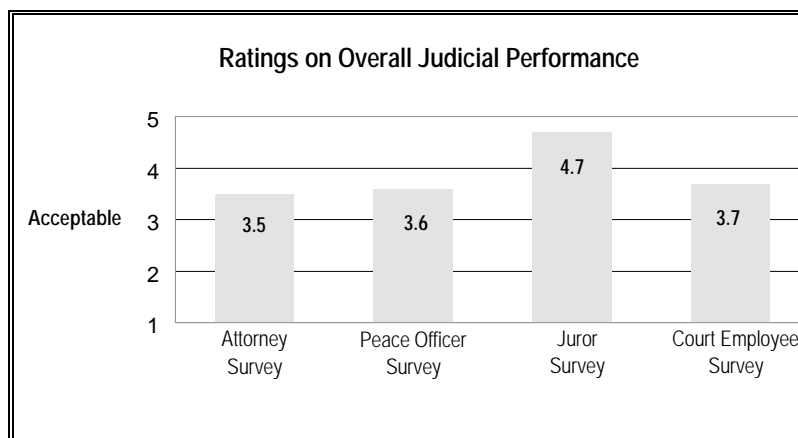
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

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 Froehlich in the good range on overall judicial performance (3.6, see graph). He scored highest in the categories of "ability to control courtroom" (4.0) and "reasonable promptness in making decisions" (4.0). He scored lowest, but still acceptable in "sense of basic fairness and justice"

A survey of all jurors appearing before Judge Froehlich in 1996 and 1997 rated him in the excellent range (4.7) on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated him in the good range (3.7) on overall performance.

The Judicial Council interviewed Judge Froehlich and conducted a supplemental review of his performance. The Council was concerned by Judge Froehlich's below acceptable rating (2.9) by attorneys who had substantial experience with him (a sub-category of the ratings included above); and by complaints about his judicial temperament and overuse of arrest warrants and contempt sanctions. The Council concluded that Judge Froehlich's overall judicial performance was acceptable, and that Judge Froehlich sincerely cared about the people who appeared before him. The Council did urge the judge to concentrate on improving specific areas of his judicial performance.



Recommendation: Vote YES to retain Judge Froehlich

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