



# alaska judicial council

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E-mail: [postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:postmaster@ajc.state.ak.us)

August 28, 2017

Re: Anchorage Superior Court

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council is seeking applicants for one vacancy on the **Anchorage Superior Court** created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge Jack Smith. This letter provides essential information about the positions and the application deadline. For more information, please contact the Judicial Council at 279-2526, or by e-mail at [sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us](mailto:sdipietro@ajc.state.ak.us).

Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. A superior court judge must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. He or she must: be a citizen of the United States and of the State of Alaska; be a resident of Alaska for five years immediately preceding appointment; have engaged in the active practice of law, as defined in AS 22.05.070, for not less than five years immediately preceding appointment; and must be licensed to practice law in Alaska at the time of appointment.

The annual salary of a superior court judge in Anchorage is \$189,720. Judges also receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

An application form for these positions may be obtained by writing or calling the Alaska Judicial Council. Application forms may also be obtained on-line by visiting the Council's Internet site: [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us). **Completed applications for this position must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 25, 2017.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne DiPietro".

Susanne DiPietro  
Executive Director

## **Judicial Position Description**

To be successful, a superior court judge must be proficient in understanding oral and written communications, and must effectively communicate orally and in writing with parties, attorneys, members of the public, and court employees. Judges must regularly employ a high level of analytical legal reasoning, must possess unimpaired judgment, and must be able to concentrate on and evaluate evidence and legal arguments. Judges must be willing and able to render timely and impartial decisions, without regard for popular sentiment. They must treat parties, attorneys, the public, and court employees with fairness, courtesy and respect, and they must work effectively under pressure. In addition to presiding over cases, Alaska judges are expected to serve on court committees working to improve the administration of justice in the state.

The working environment is a courtroom and office setting. Alaska judges typically sit in court or in chambers for long periods of time, but sitting is not an essential requirement of the job; some judges prefer to stand or make comparable adjustments for their individual needs. Judges may be required to travel, including travel to rural areas, often by small airplane. They may be temporarily reassigned to different court locations within the state. Judges may share weekend duty with other judicial officers.

### ***Anchorage Superior Court, Third Judicial District***

One superior court position is open in Anchorage. Anchorage has seventeen superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. In the 2016 fiscal year, Alaska Court System data indicate that 11,182 cases were filed in the Anchorage Superior Court, including 2,940 felony cases, 1,104 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 339 delinquency matters, 2,325 domestic relations matters, 1,318 general civil matters, and 3,156 probate matters. Anchorage Superior Court judges hear both criminal and civil matters but are assigned to, and rotate between, a primarily criminal or civil calendar. They are expected to travel to rural communities as needed. The annual salary of an Anchorage Superior Court judge is \$189,720.

Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. They must be familiar with Alaska law, procedure, and trial practice. Alaska judges must conform their conduct to the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct and the laws of Alaska and the United States. Superior court judges stand for retention at the first general election held more than three years after their initial appointment and every six years thereafter. Further information regarding the jurisdiction, authority, and duties of superior court judges may be found at AS 22.10.