



alaska judicial council

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August 28, 2017

Re: Sitka Superior Court

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council is seeking applicants for one vacancy on the **Sitka Superior Court** created by the forthcoming retirement of Judge David V. George. This letter provides essential information about the position 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.

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 Sitka is \$194,724. 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 this position 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. **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.

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.

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 share evening, holiday, and weekend duty with other judicial officers.

Sitka Superior Court, First Judicial District

A superior court position, created by the forthcoming retirement of Superior Court Judge David V. George, is open in Sitka. Sitka has one superior court judge who presides over a general jurisdiction trial court in the First Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's fiscal year 2016 annual report, 207 cases were filed in the Sitka Superior Court, including 37 felony cases, six child in need of aid matters, 13 delinquency cases, 58 domestic relations cases, 21 general civil cases, and 72 probate matters. The Sitka superior court judge is also responsible for covering the Prince of Wales court an average of one week per month. This requires the judge to fly to Ketchikan and take the inter-island ferry or a float plane over to Klawock. There are roughly 118 cases filed per year with cases originating from the following Prince of Wales Island communities: Craig, Klawock, Hydaburg, Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukiti and Kasaan.

In addition to covering Prince of Wales Island, the Sitka judge is often assigned cases from Juneau and Ketchikan when both the plaintiff and defendant have exercised their judicial preemptions. This happens several times a year and requires the judge to travel to these communities. The Presiding Judge may otherwise also assign cases in other communities to the Sitka judge, and presiding over such cases may also require travel to the community where the case is filed. The Presiding Judge may ask the Sitka judge to do committee work, perform the duties of a training judge, or attend to other matters that promulgate efficiency or the administration of justice. These responsibilities may require travel throughout Southeast Alaska or elsewhere.