



alaska judicial council

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March 30, 2023

RE: Superior Court Vacancies

Dear Member of the Alaska Bar Association:

The Alaska Judicial Council is seeking applicants for the following open and impending judicial vacancies:

Anchorage Superior Court
Juneau Superior Court
Sitka Superior Court

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.

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. Superior court judges must meet the qualifications set out at AS 22.10.090. They 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 salaries of judges on these courts are listed in the attached position descriptions. 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 website: www.ajc.state.ak.us. **The form was recently updated, so please make sure you include all questions if you previously applied and are using a saved application. Completed applications for these positions must be received by the Alaska Judicial Council no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 5, 2023.**

Sincerely,

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

Susanne DiPietro
Executive Director

Encl: Judicial Position Descriptions

To ensure receipt of the survey on applicants for these positions, be sure that the email address you have on file with the Alaska Bar Association is current. To prevent survey emails from being diverted as spam, add ajc@gemailserver.com as a safe sender in your email account.

Judicial Position Descriptions

To be successful, a 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 and are expected to work closely with court clerks.

Judicial salaries vary depending on level of court and location. In addition to salary, judges receive personal leave as established by the Administrative Rules of Court, state-paid health and dental benefits, and judicial retirement system benefits.

Superior Court Judge

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 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.

Juneau Superior Court, First Judicial District

A superior court position is impending in Juneau due to the resignation of Judge Daniel Schally, effective September 1, 2023. Juneau has three superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the First Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's *Statistical Report FY 2022*,¹ 965 cases were filed in the Juneau Superior Court, including 197 felony cases, 85 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 41 delinquency cases, 136 domestic relations cases, 153 general civil cases, and 353 probate matters. Juneau judges cover locations within the First District as needed. The annual salary of a Juneau Superior Court judge is \$204,193.

Sitka Superior Court, First Judicial District

A superior court position is open in Sitka due to the appointment of Justice Jude Pate to the Supreme Court. 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 *Statistical Report FY 2022*, 225 cases were filed in the Sitka Superior Court, including 37 felony cases, 24 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 18 delinquency cases, 40 domestic relations cases, 22 general civil cases, and 84 probate matters. The Sitka judge currently has a regular traveling calendar and covers other locations within the First District as needed. The annual salary of a Sitka Superior Court judge is \$204,193.

Anchorage Superior Court, Third Judicial District

A superior court position is impending in Anchorage due to the forthcoming retirement of Judge William F. Morse. Anchorage has seventeen superior court judges who preside over a general jurisdiction trial court in the Third Judicial District. According to the Alaska Court System's *Statistical Report FY 2022*, 9,874 cases were filed in the Anchorage Superior Court, including 3,057 felony cases, 780 child-in-need-of-aid matters, 254 delinquency matters, 1,511 domestic relations matters, 1,101 general civil matters, and 3,171 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 \$199,193.

¹ This publication is available at <https://courts.alaska.gov/admin/docs/fy22-statistics.pdf>.