

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 320.2  
Chief Clerks File - Com Proposal No. 2

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Constitutional Convention  
Committee Proposal/2/Engrossed  
December 13, 1955

Constitutional Convention of Alaska

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 2

Introduced by Committee on Judiciary Branch

ARTICLE ON THE JUDICIARY

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as  
part of the Alaska State Constitution.

Judicial Power 1 Section 1. The judicial power of the State is vested in  
2 a Supreme Court, a Superior Court, and such other courts  
3 as the Legislature may establish. The jurisdiction of  
4 the respective courts shall be prescribed by law and the  
5 courts shall constitute a unified judicial system for  
6 purposes of operation and administration.

Supreme Court 7 Section 2. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the  
8 State with appellate jurisdiction and consists of three  
9 justices, one of whom is Chief Justice. The number of  
10 justices may be increased by law upon request of the  
11 Supreme Court.

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Nomina- tion and Appoint- ment 15 Section 4. Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of  
16 the Superior Court are appointed by the Governor on nomi-  
17 nation by the Judicial Council as provided in this  
18 article.

Approval or 1 Section 5. Each justice of the Supreme Court and  
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7 ten years after approval each justice of the sup-  
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15 vacant ninety days after the election and shall be  
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6 Section 8. Judges of other courts shall be selected in  
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9 Section 9. Whenever there is a vacancy in an office of  
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12 one of not less than two qualified persons who shall  
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Judicial  
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15 Section 10. The Judicial Council consists of six mem-  
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15 filled by the method of selection provided in this  
16 article. If a justice or judge fails to file, in  
17 advance of the election as prescribed by law, a  
18 declaration of his candidacy for election to  
19 succeed himself, his office shall become vacant ninety  
20 days after the election, and shall be filled by  
21 the method of selection provided in this article.

Qualifi- 22 Section 7. To be eligible for appointment, Justices  
cation of 23 of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Superior  
Judges 24 Court shall be citizens of the United States and of

1 the State, who have been admitted to practice law in  
2 the State and possess such additional qualifications  
3 as may be prescribed by law.

Other  
Courts

4 Section 8. Judges of other courts shall be selected in  
5 the manner and for the terms and subject to eligibility  
6 qualifications to be prescribed by the Legislature.

Selection  
of Judges

7 Section 9. Whenever there is a vacancy in an office of  
8 Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Superior  
9 Court, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing  
10 one of not less than two qualified persons who shall  
11 have been nominated by a non-partisan judicial council  
12 established and organized as provided in this article.

Judicial  
Council;  
How  
Selected

13 Section 10. The Judicial Council consists of six mem-  
14 bers chosen in the following manner: On the basis of  
15 appropriate area representation the governing body of  
16 the organized State bar shall appoint three members of  
17 the bar to serve as members of the Judicial Council for  
18 terms as specified in this article. Three non-attorney  
19 members representing different major areas shall be ap-  
20 pointed by the Governor for terms as specified in this  
21 article, subject to confirmation by a majority of the  
22 members of the Legislature in joint session assembled.  
23 The six members so appointed shall be compensated as  
24 provided by law.

Judicial

25 Section 11. After the members first appointed to the

Council; 1 Judicial Council have submitted to the Governor the  
Chairman- 2 names of nominees for appointments to fill the initial  
ship and 3 vacancies in the Supreme Court, including the office of  
Quorum 4 chief justice, and the justices have been appointed and  
5 qualified, the chief justice shall thereafter be ex-  
6 officio a seventh member and the chairman of the Judi-  
7 cial Council which shall continue to act by the affir-  
8 mative vote of at least four of its members in accord-  
9 ance with rules which it shall promulgate governing its  
10 own procedure. No member of the Judicial Council, other  
11 than the chief justice, may hold any office of the state  
12 or of the United States while a member of the Council.

Judicial 13 Section 12. The terms of members of the Judicial Coun-  
Council; 14 cil shall be six years, except that the attorney mem-  
Terms of 15 bers first selected shall be appointed to terms of one  
Office 16 year, three years and five years respectively, and the  
17 non-attorney members first selected shall be appointed  
18 to terms of two years, four years and six years respec-  
19 tively. In the event of vacancy, a successor shall be  
20 appointed to fill the unexpired term in the manner pro-  
21 vided for initial appointment.

Judicial 22 Section 13. In addition to nominating qualified persons  
Council: 23 for appointment to fill court vacancies, the Judicial  
Additional24 Council shall be responsible for conducting studies  
duties 25 from time to time for improvement of the administration

1 of justice, including such matters as court structure,  
2 rules of procedure and administration of the courts, and  
3 for making reports and recommendations to the Supreme  
4 Court and the Legislature at intervals of not more than  
5 two years. The Judicial Council shall also perform such  
6 other specific duties as are assigned to it by law.

Retirement

7 Section 14. Whenever the Judicial Council certifies to  
8 the Governor that any justice of the Supreme Court ap-  
9 pears to be so incapacitated as substantially to prevent  
10 him from performing his judicial duties, the Governor  
11 shall appoint a board of three persons to inquire into  
12 the circumstances and, on the board's recommendation, the  
13 Governor may retire the justice. For judges of other  
14 courts, if a judge appears to be so incapacitated as sub-  
15 stantially to prevent him from performing his judicial  
16 duties, the Judicial Council shall recommend to the  
17 Supreme Court that the judge be put under early retire-  
18 ment. After notice and hearing, the Supreme Court by  
19 vote of a majority of its members may retire the judge.

Retire-  
ment for  
Age

20 Section 15. Except in cases of early retirement because  
21 of physical or mental infirmity each justice and judge  
22 shall be retired at the age of 70, on such retirement pay  
23 as may be prescribed by law, and shall render no further  
24 service on the bench, except for special assignments as  
25 are provided by court rule. The basis and amount of re-

1 tirement pay for justices and judges who retire or are  
2 retired at an earlier age shall be prescribed by law.

Impeach- 3 Section 16. Impeachment of any justice or judge for mal-  
ment of 4 feasance or misfeasance in the performance of his offic-  
Judges 5 ial duties shall be effected as generally prescribed by  
6 law for State officials.

Compensa- 7 Section 17. The justices and judges shall receive for  
tion of 8 their services such compensation as is prescribed by law,  
Judges 9 which shall not be diminished during their respective  
10 terms of office, unless by general law applying to all  
11 salaried officers of the State.

Ineligi- 12 Section 18. No Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of  
bility to 13 the Superior Court, while serving as a justice or judge,  
Other 14 may practice law, hold office in any political party, or  
Offices 15 hold any office or position of profit under the United  
16 States, or the State or a political subdivision of the  
17 State, and shall, if he files for elective public office,  
18 thereby forfeit his judicial position. Compensation for  
19 service in the State Militia or the armed forces of the  
20 United States is not "profit" as that term is here used.

Rule-Mak- 21 Section 19. The Supreme Court shall make and promulgate  
ing Power 22 rules governing the administration of all courts of the  
23 State. It shall also make and promulgate rules govern-  
24 ing practice and procedure in all civil and criminal  
25 cases in all courts, which rules may be changed by the

1 Legislature only upon a two-thirds vote of the members  
2 elected to each house.

Court Ad- 3 Section 20. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
ministra- 4 be the administrative head of all the Courts in the State.  
tion 5 He may assign judges from one court or division thereof  
6 to another for temporary service. For other phases of  
7 court administration the Chief Justice shall, with the  
8 approval of the Supreme Court, appoint an administrative  
9 director to serve at his pleasure and to supervise the  
10 administrative operations of the judicial system.

Judicial 11 Section 21. Judicial districts shall be established  
Districts 12 by law.

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

Constitutional Convention

By Jack Hinckel

Date December 12, 1955

AMENDMENT TO (COMMITTEE) PROPOSAL NO. 2

MR. PRESIDENT:

I move that (Committee) Proposal No. 2 be amended  
as follows:

Section #5 - Line #6 after the words  
"rejection by ~~the voters~~" delete the words

"of the State"

*u/c adopted*

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

Constitutional Convention

By Wm. O. Cooper

Date 17th Dec 1953

AMENDMENT TO (COMMITTEE) PROPOSAL NO. II

MR. PRESIDENT:

I move that (Committee) Proposal No. II be amended  
as follows:

P 3. Line 2. after the word 'state'  
delete rest of section and  
substitute the following, "and  
possess such <sup>additional</sup> other qualifications  
as may be prescribed by law."

adopted

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

Constitutional Convention

By Mr. Sundberg

Date \_\_\_\_\_

AMENDMENT TO (COMMITTEE) PROPOSAL NO. 2

MR. PRESIDENT:

I move that (Committee) Proposal No. 2 be amended  
as follows:

In section 10, on line 22, strike  
the words "the Revote" and insert in lieu thereof  
the following "a majority of the members of  
the legislature in joint session assembled."

~~voice vote~~  
adopted  
approval call  
28-25-2

Amendment No. \_\_\_\_\_

Constitutional Convention

By \_\_\_\_\_

Date Dec 12

AMENDMENT TO (COMMITTEE) PROPOSAL NO. 2

MR. PRESIDENT:

I move that (Committee) Proposal No. 2 be amended  
as follows:

*Add:*

*Section 21. Judicial <sup>districts</sup> ~~branches~~ shall be  
established by law.*

*George M. DeChamplain*

*Amendment adopted  
voice vote*

Constitutional Convention of Alaska

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 2

Introduced by Committee on Judiciary Branch

ARTICLE ON THE JUDICIARY

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as  
part of the Alaska State Constitution.

Judicial Power 1 Section 1. The judicial power of the State is vested in  
2 a Supreme Court, a Superior Court, and such other courts  
3 as the Legislature may establish. The jurisdiction of  
4 the respective courts shall be prescribed by law and the  
5 courts shall constitute a unified judicial system for  
6 purposes of operation and administration.

Supreme Court 7 Section 2. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the  
8 State with appellate jurisdiction and consists of three  
9 justices, one of whom is Chief Justice. The number of  
10 justices may be increased by law upon request of the  
11 Supreme Court.

Superior Court 12 Section 3. The Superior Court is the trial court of gen-  
13 eral jurisdiction and consists of five judges. The num-  
14 ber of judges may be changed by law.

Nomina- 15 Section 4. Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of  
tion and 16 the Superior Court are appointed by the Governor on nomi-  
Appoint- 17 nation by the Judicial Council as provided in this  
ment 18 article.

Approval or        1    Section 5. Each justice of the Supreme Court and  
Rejection by       2    each judge of the Superior Court shall, at the  
Voters.             3    next general election following a period of three  
                      5    years after his appointment, be subject to approval or  
6.                    rejection by the voters of the State on a non-part-  
7.                    isan ballot in the manner provided by law. Every  
8                     ten years after approval each justice of the sup-  
9                     rreme Court, and every six years after approval  
10                    each judge of the Superior Court, shall again be  
11                    subject to approval or rejection by the voters in  
12                    the same manner.

Vacancy in        13    Section 6. If, at any election, a majority of the  
Judicial            14    voters declare that any justice or judge shall not  
Office              15    be retained in office, the office shall become  
16                    vacant ninety days after the election and shall be  
17                    filled by the method of selection provided in this  
18                    article. If a justice or judge fails to file, in  
19                    advance of the election as prescribed by law, a  
20                    declaration of his candidacy for election to suc-  
21                    ceed himself, his office shall become vacant ninety  
22                    days after the election, and shall be filled by the  
23                    method of selection provided in this article.

Qualifica-        24    Section 7. To be eligible for appointment, Justices  
tion of            25    of the Supreme Court and Judges of the Superior  
Judges             26    Court shall be citizens of the United States and of

1 the State, who have been admitted to practice law in  
2 the State for at least five years and have been resi-  
3 dents of the State for at least five years next preced-  
4 ing their respective nominations.

Other 5 Section 8. Judges of other courts shall be selected in  
Courts 6 the manner and for the terms and subject to eligibility  
7 qualifications to be prescribed by the Legislature.

Selection 8 Section 9. Whenever there is a vacancy in an office of  
of Judges 9 Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of the Superior  
10 Court, the Governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing  
11 one of not less than two qualified persons who shall  
12 have been nominated by a non-partisan judicial council  
13 established and organized as provided in this article.

Judicial 14 Section 10. The Judicial Council consists of six mem-  
Council; 15 bers chosen in the following manner: On the basis of  
How 16 appropriate area representation the governing body of  
Selected 17 the organized State bar shall appoint three members of  
18 the bar to serve as members of the Judicial Council for  
19 terms as specified in this article. Three non-attorney  
20 members representing different major areas shall be ap-  
21 pointed by the Governor for terms as specified in this  
22 article, subject to confirmation by the Senate. The  
23 six members so appointed shall be compensated as pro-  
24 vided by law.

Judicial 25 Section 11. After the members first appointed to the

Council; 1 Judicial Council have submitted to the Governor the  
Chairman- 2 names of nominees for appointments to fill the initial  
ship and 3 vacancies in the Supreme Court, including the office of  
Quorum 4 chief justice, and the justices have been appointed and  
5 qualified, the chief justice shall thereafter be ex-  
6 officio a seventh member and the chairman of the Judi-  
7 cial Council which shall continue to act by the affir-  
8 mative vote of at least four of its members in accord-  
9 ance with rules which it shall promulgate governing its  
10 own proceduro. No member of the Judicial Council, other  
11 than the chief justice, may hold any office of the state  
12 or of the United States while a member of the Council.

Judicial 13 Section 12. The terms of members of the Judicial Coun-  
Council; 14 cil shall be six years, except that the attorney mem-  
Terms of 15 bers first selected shall be appointed to terms of one  
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17 non-attorney members first selected shall be appointed  
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19 tively. In the event of vacancy, a successor shall be  
20 appointed to fill the unexpired term in the manner pro-  
21 vided for initial appointment.

Judicial 22 Section 13. In addition to nominating qualified persons  
Council; 23 for appointment to fill court vacancies, the Judicial  
Additional 24 Council shall be responsible for conducting studies  
duties 25 from time to time for improvement of the administration

1 of justice, including such matters as court structure,  
2 rules of procedure and administration of the courts, and  
3 for making reports and recommendations to the Supreme  
4 Court and the Legislature at intervals of not more than  
5 two years. The Judicial Council shall also perform such  
6 other specific duties as are assigned to it by law.

Retirement 7 Section 14. Whenever the Judicial Council certifies to  
for 8 the Governor that any justice of the Supreme Court ap-  
Incapacity 9 pears to be so incapacitated as substantially to prevent  
10 him from performing his judicial duties, the Governor  
11 shall appoint a board of three persons to inquire into  
12 the circumstances and, on the board's recommendation, the  
13 Governor may retire the justice. For judges of other  
14 courts, if a judge appears to be so incapacitated as sub-  
15 stantially to prevent him from performing his judicial  
16 duties, the Judicial Council shall recommend to the  
17 Supreme Court that the judge be put under early retire-  
18 ment. After notice and hearing, the Supreme Court by  
19 vote of a majority of its members may retire the judge.

Retire- 20 Section 15. Except in cases of early retirement because  
ment for 21 of physical or mental infirmity each justice and judge  
Age 22 shall be retired at the age of 70, on such retirement pay  
23 as may be prescribed by law, and shall render no further  
24 service on the bench, except for special assignments as  
25 are provided by court rule. The basis and amount of re-

1 tirement pay for justices and judges who retire or are  
2 retired at an earlier age shall be prescribed by law.

Impeach- 3 Section 16. Impeachment of any justice or judge for mal-  
ment of 4 feasance or misfeasance in the performance of his offic=  
Judges 5 ial duties shall be effected as generally prescribed by  
6 law for State officials.

Compensa- 7 Section 17. The justices and judges shall receive for  
tion of 8 their services such compensation as is prescribed by law,  
Judges 9 which shall not be diminished during their respective  
10 terms of office, unless by general law applying to all  
11 salaried officers of the State.

Ineligi- 12 Section 18. No Justice of the Supreme Court or Judge of  
bility to 13 the Superior Court, while serving as a justice or judge,  
Other 14 may practice law, hold office in any political party, or  
Offices 15 hold any office or position of profit under the United  
16 States, or the State or a political subdivision of the  
17 State, and shall, if he files for elective public office,  
18 thereby forfeit his judicial position. Compensation for  
19 service in the State Militia or the armed forces of the  
20 United States is not "profit" as that term is here used.

Rule-Mak- 21 Section 19. The Supreme Court shall make and promulgate  
ing Power 22 rules governing the administration of all courts of the  
23 State. It shall also make and promulgate rules govern-  
24 ing practice and procedure in all civil and criminal  
25 cases in all courts, which rules may be changed by the

1 Legislature only upon a two-thirds vote of the members  
2 elected to each house.

Court Ad- 3 Section 20. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall  
ministra- 4 be the administrative head of all the Courts in the State.  
tion 5 He may assign judges from one court or division thereof  
6 to another for temporary service. For other phases of  
7 court administration the Chief Justice shall, with the  
8 approval of the Supreme Court, appoint an administrative  
9 director to serve at his pleasure and to supervise the  
10 administrative operations of the judicial system.

Constitutional Convention  
Committee Proposal/2  
December 5, 1955

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION  
Commentary on the Judiciary Article

(Sec. 1 Judicial Power)

This section establishes the basic court structure and also provides needed flexibility for future enlargement by the addition of such local or other courts as the Legislature may deem necessary. The concept of a unified court system is in accord with the fundamental and minimum standards of judicial administration approved and supported by the American Bar Association.

(Sec. 2 Supreme Court)

The initial membership of the Supreme Court is fixed at three justices, one of whom is the chief justice. The provision for future enlargement by the Legislature is qualified by the provision that such enlargement be requested by the Court. A similar provision is found in the new constitution of Puerto Rico and is designed to prevent the number of justices from being increased for any purpose other than to meet the needs of judicial business.

(Sec. 3 Superior Court)

The placing of general trial jurisdiction in a single court, with as many judges thereof as may be necessary to handle the volume of cases, is in line with modern development, and is reversing

the former trend toward a complex structure of specialized courts that has so greatly impeded efficient judicial administration in many states. The Legislature will be free, however, to create lower or other courts as may be necessary, and to determine the jurisdiction of courts and the geographical extent of their authority.

(Sec. 4 Nomination and Appointment)

The main features of the plan for judicial selection sponsored by the American Bar Association and embodied in the Missouri Plan, are summarized in the Association's handbook on judicial administration as: "(1) appointment by governor from list submitted by a nominating committee, the nominating and appointing authority being divided between two agencies; (2) periodic submission to the electorate with no opposing candidate, or 'running against the record.'" Both of these features are incorporated in the selection plan here presented.

(Sec. 5 Approval or Rejection)

The American Bar Association's handbook states: "The ideal solution is to provide that, after a specified period of service, and periodically thereafter, the appointee should either come up for reappointment or should go before the people at a general election on the basis of his record and with no opposing candidate. The latter alternative is probably preferable, especially since it retains for the voters an opportunity to participate in the process

of judicial selection in about the only way in which they can effectively do so. The able judge has little to fear from such a system, while it does permit removal of a judge whom experience has shown to be plainly unqualified or who has become unfit to continue on the bench." It can be added that the type of plan here provided has functioned effectively in Missouri and also in California, where a comparable requirement has applied to appellate judges for more than twenty years.

(Sec. 6 Vacancy in Judicial Office)

In order to allow time for selecting a successor as well as for completing the judicial business remaining before a judge's service terminates, a period of 90 days is allowed after the election at which he is rejected or for which he fails to file. The provision for having a justice or judge file a declaration of his intention to be a candidate to succeed himself is a feature of both the Missouri and the California Constitutions. The details of such declaration such as its form and the time limits for its filing are properly, however, left to the Legislature as herein contemplated.

(Sec. 7 Qualification of Judges)

The requirements of citizenship and of minimum periods of membership in the bar and residence are comparable to those in a majority of states. It should be noted that the section refers to admission and residence "in the State", which will, by general provision elsewhere in the Constitution, presumably and necessarily be defined to include the predecessor Territory.

(Sec. 8 Other Courts)

This section confirms and implements the Legislature's authority to create such additional courts as may be needed, with appropriate methods of selection and qualifications for appointment.

(Sec. 9 Selection of Judges)

The appointment of justices and judges by the Governor from a list of several qualified persons selected by a non-partisan nominating agency is an essential feature of both the American Bar Association and the Missouri plans. The Association's handbook suggests that the nominating body should include laymen as well as lawyers, and that "If the state has a judicial council meeting these qualifications it may well serve as the nominating agency". The present article embodies this approach.

(Sec. 10 Judicial Council; How Selected)

Selection of lawyer members by the state bar association and of non-lawyers by the Governor, both groups of members on a geographical representation basis, is a recommended feature of the Missouri Plan and has been adopted herein. The American Bar Association handbook's comments: "Nomination by a body of this sort, composed of high caliber men, should not only produce better judges but also remove any likelihood of improper motivation in their selection."

(Sec. 11 Judicial Council; Chairmanship and Quorum)

Since the establishment of the Judicial Council must precede the nomination of any judges, including the chief justice, the latter

cannot become an ex officio chairman (as he did automatically in Missouri) until after his appointment has been effected. Thereafter, he will serve as a seventh member of the Council. In the event of his incapacity to serve, it is contemplated that rules of the Council will provide for an acting chief justice as his interim successor.

(Sec. 12 Judicial Council; Terms of Office)

This section provides for staggering the initial terms of the Judicial Council so that non-attorney and lawyer members are appointed in alternate years, respectively, and thereafter each successor member will serve for six years. Judge Laurance M. Hyde of the Missouri Supreme Court points out the reason for a similar six-year term in that state as being that, since a governor serves only a four-year term, no one governor will be able to appoint all of the non-lawyer members during any such term, and thereby control to that extent the personnel of the nominating body.

(Sec. 13 Judicial Council; Additional Duties)

This section empowers and directs the Judicial Council, with its experience and vantage-point in the field of judicial administration, to recommend needed improvements in the structure and operation of the court system.

(Sec. 14 Retirement for incapacity)

It is becoming increasingly recognized that provision should be made, as this section does, for relieving a judge from his judicial duties when, as very occasionally happens, his retirement for reasons

other than age or misconduct, becomes necessary to protect the administration of justice. Such retirement of a Supreme Court justice should be done only on recommendation of an outside board, rather than by the Supreme Court itself. This procedure is similar to that adopted in the Constitution for Hawaii. For other judges, removal by Supreme Court proceedings will be effective and adequate, as has been provided in the Constitution of Puerto Rico.

(Sec. 15 Retirement for Age)

The retirement laws for state judges have tended increasingly to adopt 70 as the maximum or mandatory retirement age. However, a retired justice or judge may still be called upon, in many states, for temporary service or special assignment, and this section permits such service to be made possible by court rule.

(Sec. 16 Impeachment of Judges)

Procedure for impeachment of justices and judges should, as here provided, be in accord with that for other State officers.

(Sec. 17 Compensation of Judges)

While compensation for justices and judges should be prescribed by law, it should not be susceptible of arbitrary diminution during office. It should be subject to increase as future needs dictate, and should be subject to decrease only when a general reduction applying to all State officers becomes imperative.

(Sec. 18 Ineligibility to Other Offices)

The prohibition against the practice of law or holding other office by full-time justices and judges is a necessary and desirable one, and has been widely advocated. A similar provision was contained in the proposed new Judicial Article for the State of Illinois.

(Sec. 19 Rule-Making Power)

One of the major factors in New Jersey's remarkable achievement in bringing its trial calendars and court business up-to-date, and in simplifying and expediting the administration of justice, has been the vesting of the rule-making power in the Supreme Court, and the exercise of such power by the Court in adapting the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to state court practice. The American Bar Association has strongly advocated, as its first and keystone recommendation in its program for reform of judicial procedure: "That practice and procedure in the courts should be regulated by rules of court; and that to this end the courts should be given full rule-making powers." This section places primary responsibility for such rule-making in the Supreme Court, reserving to the Legislature a power to change rules of procedure by a two-thirds vote.

(Sec. 20 Court Administration)

A coequal factor in New Jersey's historic modernization of its judicial system has been the vesting of administrative authority and responsibility in its chief justice, with power to assign judges to courts or areas for temporary service as needed. To assist the

chief justice by supervising the management and housekeeping functions of the courts, both statewide and local, and by furnishing him with accurate and current statistics on court business, an administrative director is essential. This has been demonstrated not only by the economies effected by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts since its establishment in 1939, but also by the fact that nearly a third of the states have since followed the example thus set. Its inclusion in this section will, together with the other provisions contained in this article, place Alaska in the vanguard of jurisdictions whose judicial systems typify the best and most modern principles of efficient judicial administration and will provide the guarantee of a strong, fearless and independent judiciary.