

Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

Meeting of January 30, 2026

Public Session

9:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

Anchorage

AGENDA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
January 30, 2026
Public Session
Anchorage

TAB		
9:30-9:40	Determine Quorum/Review Agenda/Approve Prior Minutes	A
9:40-10:00	Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FY26 Current/FY26 Projected/FY27 Request• Status of Complaint Processing/Advisory Opinions• Professional Activities/Travel Request• Commission Member Status	B
10:00-10:20	Approve Draft 2025 Annual Report	C
10:20-10:40	New Non-Jurisdictional Letter Language	D
10:40-10:50	Elect New Chair & Vice-Chair/Set Full Year Meeting Schedule/New Business	
10:50-11:20	Public Comments	

Meeting of January 30, 2026

PUBLIC SESSION

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Public Session

Tab A

Draft Public Session Minutes

DRAFT

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

November 14, 2025
Anchorage & Zoom
Public Session

Chair Mead called the public session to order at 9:38 a.m. Present were judge members Temple and Wheles, attorney members McClintock and Mores, and public members Kilbourn and Sheldon. Commissioner Fletcher was unavailable for the meeting, and Commissioner Satterberg would be joining late. Also present was the Commission's Executive Director, Marla Greenstein, and Administrative Assistant Aleta Bartimmo.

There were no changes to the agenda. The Commission then reviewed the prior public session meeting minutes. Commissioner Temple moved for approval of the June 27, 2025, public meeting minutes. Commissioner Kilbourn seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Director Greenstein presented the Director's Report. Ms. Greenstein reported on the current year FY26 budget and the final end-of-year FY25 budget. Requested increments for travel were not appropriated for FY26, but through savings in other line items, there can be up to \$7000 that can be reallocated for necessary Commission travel.

Complaint processing is relatively current, but the Commission has received an increased level of complaints and there are 10 complaints currently needing investigation after this meeting (the Commission will be considering action on 12 complaints at this meeting in Closed Session as well as 20 nonjurisdictional matters for review). Ms. Greenstein also reported on the informal advisory opinions she gave since the last meeting. There were a total of 56 since the June meeting: 40 of which were given to judges, 9 to magistrates, 1 to a pro tem judge, 2 to court administrators, 2 to judicial applicants, 1 to a lawyer, and 1 to a fully retired judge. The issues concerned disqualification and disclosure, appearance of impropriety, and delay issues.

Ms. Greenstein next reported on her professional activities. She continues to do individual ethics orientations for newly appointed judges. The Code Revision Committee is completing their review. After public comments are received, the Code will be revised. In her national work with the American Bar Association, Ms. Greenstein continues to work as vice-chair of the ABA Judicial Conduct and Professionalism Committee. She also continues her ethics column for the *Judges' Journal*. She presented a session on Disclosure and Disqualification twice at the National Center for State Courts Judicial Ethics College. In addition, at her own expense, she participated in a panel at New York Law School on Court Appointed Neutral Ethics. Upcoming in-state presentations include an Alaska Bar CLE on how to successfully apply to become a judge, and at the Anchorage Women Lawyers annual ethics CLE on lawyers in crisis.

All Commission members' terms are full and current.

At the conclusion of the Director's Report, there was a vote to formally approve the draft FY27 Budget Request to the legislature. Commissioner Temple moved to approve the budget request. Commissioner Kilbourn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

DRAFT

Closed Session Minutes Anchorage

**Page Two
June 27, 2025**

Commission Members discussed the various sessions that were valuable at the Judicial Ethics College in Louisville. The sessions were uniformly viewed favorably, and the Commission members shared views on the Determining the Appropriate Sanction session, as well as the new Artificial Intelligence issues for the court and judicial conduct.

The Commission next considered a proposed change to the Commission's current Rule 1(b)(1) that modifies notification of how the Commission handles speaking requests to refer to Rule 1(h) that had been modified at the June meeting. The proposal merely ensures that the Notice of the meeting reflect the requirements of the Rule itself. Commissioner Kilbourn moved to approve the proposed rule change. Commission McClintock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed possible dates for the next Commission meeting and set January 30th as the next meeting date. An effort will be made to set the full year's meeting dates in advance.

Public Session adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Tab B

Director's Report

Budget

FY26 Budget: Current Status (as of 12/30/2025)

- ALDER Summary Report
- Office Expenses Report
- Special Counsel Allocation
- FY26 Projection



Current Status FY26 Appropriation Summary - ACJC

Report Date	12/30/2025
Budget Fiscal Years	2026
Fiscal Year	2026
AR Group Codes	C43A
AR Type Codes	C800

Object Type Name (Ex)	Expend Current Budget	Budgetary Expenditures Current Month	Encumbrances	Budgetary Expenditures	Unobligated Expenditure Budget
1000 - Personal Services	467,900.00	35,224.75	0.00	200,056.49	267,843.51
2000 - Travel	22,000.00	348.45	0.00	20,286.66	1,713.34
3000 - Services	151,000.00	5,280.43	18,184.50	36,380.76	96,434.74
4000 - Commodities	7,000.00	416.50	0.00	1,301.47	5,698.53
5000 - Capital Outlay	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Total	652,900.00	41,270.13	18,184.50	258,025.38	376,690.12

Current Cumulative Totals FY 2026 (Expense Report)

Object Code	Description	July FY25	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	Jun-Aug	Total	Current Totals	Budget	Remaining	
	TRAVEL	\$ -	\$ 2,737.70	\$ 3,338.35	\$ 12,168.14	\$ 1,693.81	\$ 348.45	\$ 1,080.36	\$ 945.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,311.81	\$ 22,311.81	\$ 22,000.00	\$ (311.81)	
2000-2004	Employee Instate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6.00				
2005-2011	Non Employee Instate	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,233.11	\$ 1,119.20	\$ 342.45	\$ 1,080.36	\$ 945.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,720.12				
2012-2016	Emp. Out of State	\$ -	\$ 2,737.70	\$ -	\$ 192.96	\$ 345.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,275.91				
2017-2022	Non Emp. Out of State	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,338.35	\$ 10,742.07	\$ 229.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,309.78				
	SERVICES	\$ 8,590.75	\$ 4,546.82	\$ 7,478.55	\$ 5,847.27	\$ 4,135.15	\$ 5,631.77	\$ 319.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,549.88	\$ 36,549.88	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 39,450.12	
3000	Training/Conferences	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00				
3002	Membership Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
3032	Software Licenses	\$ 78.96	\$ 298.73	\$ 221.46	\$ 81.96	\$ 35.98	\$ 58.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 776.06				
3035-3037	Phone & Internet	\$ -	\$ 319.46	\$ -	\$ 323.67	\$ 320.90	\$ 644.39	\$ 319.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,927.99				
3045	Postage & Shipping	\$ 20.99	\$ 41.98	\$ 20.99	\$ 20.99	\$ 20.99	\$ 20.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 146.93				
3046	Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
3047	Promotions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
3057	Office, Storage, Parking	\$ 8,490.80	\$ 3,853.44	\$ 3,736.10	\$ 4,920.65	\$ 3,732.82	\$ 4,875.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,609.46				
3058	Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
3066	Printing & Binding	\$ -	\$ 33.21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24.46	\$ 31.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 89.44				
	COMMODITIES	\$ 17.67	\$ 56.23	\$ 139.26	\$ 298.07	\$ 373.74	\$ 416.50	\$ 20.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,321.75	\$ 1,321.75	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,678.25	
4000	Rules & Law Books	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280.40	\$ -	\$ 132.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 412.83				
4002	Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 20.89	\$ 121.59	\$ -	\$ 93.74	\$ 174.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 411.17				
4005	Subscriptions	\$ 17.67	\$ 35.34	\$ 17.67	\$ 17.67	\$ -	\$ 80.27	\$ 20.28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 188.90				
4009	Food Supplies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 280.00	\$ 28.85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 308.85				
	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
5025	Data Process. Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
5030	Equipment Purchase	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
	Monthly Totals	\$ 8,608.42	\$ 7,340.75	\$ 10,956.16	\$ 18,313.48	\$ 6,202.70	\$ 6,396.72	\$ 1,420.21	\$ 945.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
	Cumulative Totals	\$ 8,608.42	\$ 15,949.17	\$ 26,905.33	\$ 45,218.81	\$ 51,421.51	\$ 57,818.23	\$ 59,238.44	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 60,183.44		\$ 60,183.44	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 49,816.56
	1000 Personnel Services													\$ 200,056.49	\$ 200,056.49	\$ 467,900.00	\$ 267,843.51	
																TOTALS		
															\$ 260,239.93	\$ 577,900.00		
																	Final Remaining \$ 317,660.07	

Kris Rose

From: Marla Greenstein <mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 3:10 PM
To: Aleta Bartimmo-ACJC Administrative Assistant
Cc: Kris Rose
Subject: Special Counsel Funds

Aleta,

As we have engaged Special Counsel with the Commission's approval to address the formal disciplinary matter in #2025-001, please arrange for the language appropriation funds to be transferred to our operating budget for professional services.

Thank you,

Marla

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
510 L Street, #585
Anchorage, AK 99501-1959

(907)272-1033

mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us



LAWS OF ALASKA

2025

Enrolled 6/12/25 w/vetoes
Enrolled less vetoes

Source

CCS HB 53(brf sup maj fld H)

Chapter No.

10

AN ACT

Making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

HB53

FY25 Supplemental

FY26 Operating

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

Enrolled HB 53

AN ACT

1 Making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government and
2 for certain programs; capitalizing funds; amending appropriations; making supplemental
3 appropriations; and providing for an effective date.

4

5 (SECTION 1 OF THIS ACT BEGINS ON PAGE 2)

1 * **Sec. 22. ALASKA COURT SYSTEM.** The amount necessary, estimated to be \$0, not to
2 exceed \$75,000, is appropriated from the general fund to the Judiciary, Commission on
3 Judicial Conduct, for special counsel costs for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

4 * **Sec. 23. ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION.** (a) The board of directors of
5 the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation anticipates that \$37,785,000 of the adjusted change
6 in net assets from the second preceding fiscal year will be available for appropriation for the
7 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

8 (b) The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation shall retain the amount set out in (a) of
9 this section for the purpose of paying debt service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, in
10 the estimated amount of \$3,185,000 for debt service on the bonds authorized under sec. 4, ch.
11 120, SLA 2004.

12 (c) After deductions for the item set out in (b) of this section and deductions for
13 appropriations for operating and capital purposes are made, any remaining balance of the
14 amount set out in (a) of this section for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is appropriated to
15 the general fund.

16 (d) All unrestricted mortgage loan interest payments, mortgage loan commitment
17 fees, and other unrestricted receipts received by or accrued to the Alaska Housing Finance
18 Corporation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and all income earned on assets of
19 the corporation during that period are appropriated to the Alaska Housing Finance
20 Corporation to hold as corporate receipts for the purposes described in AS 18.55 and
21 AS 18.56. The corporation shall allocate its corporate receipts between the Alaska housing
22 finance revolving fund (AS 18.56.082) and senior housing revolving fund (AS 18.56.710(a))
23 under procedures adopted by the board of directors.

24 (e) The sum of \$800,000,000 is appropriated from the corporate receipts appropriated
25 to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and allocated between the Alaska housing finance
26 revolving fund (AS 18.56.082) and senior housing revolving fund (AS 18.56.710(a)) under
27 (d) of this section to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for the fiscal year ending
28 June 30, 2026, for housing loan programs not subsidized by the corporation.

29 (f) The sum of \$30,000,000 is appropriated from the portion of the corporate receipts
30 appropriated to the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and allocated between the Alaska
31 housing finance revolving fund (AS 18.56.082) and senior housing revolving fund

Projected Totals FY 2026
(Expense Report)

Object Code	Description	Current	Additional	Total	Current Totals	Budget	Remaining
	TRAVEL	\$ 22,311.81	\$ 9,636.00	\$ 31,947.81	\$ 31,947.81	\$ 22,000.00	\$ (9,947.81)
2000-2004	Employee Instate	\$ 6.00	\$ 1,970.00	\$ 1,976.00			
2005-2011	Non Employee Instate	\$ 4,720.12	\$ 5,166.00	\$ 9,886.12			
2012-2016	Emp. Out of State	\$ 3,275.91	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,775.91			
2017-2022	Non Emp. Out of State	\$ 14,309.78	\$ -	\$ 14,309.78			
	SERVICES	\$ 36,549.88	\$ 29,773.50	\$ 66,323.38	\$ 66,323.38	\$ 76,000.00	\$ 9,676.62
3000	Training/Conferences	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 975.00	\$ 4,975.00			
3002	Membership Fees	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00			
3032	Software Licenses	\$ 776.06	\$ 373.00	\$ 1,149.06			
3035-3037	Phone & Internet	\$ 1,927.99	\$ 2,279.00	\$ 4,206.99			
3045	Postage & Shipping	\$ 146.93	\$ 825.00	\$ 971.93			
3046	Advertising	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00			
3047	Promotions	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00			
3057	Office, Storage, Parking	\$ 29,609.46	\$ 20,131.50	\$ 49,740.96			
3058	Equipment Maintenance	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00			
3066	Printing & Binding	\$ 89.44	\$ 1,190.00	\$ 1,279.44			
	COMMODITIES	\$ 1,321.75	\$ 2,620.00	\$ 3,941.75	\$ 3,941.75	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 3,058.25
4000	Rules & Law Books	\$ 412.83	\$ 100.00	\$ 512.83			
4002	Office Supplies	\$ 411.17	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,411.17			
4005	Subscriptions	\$ 188.90	\$ 300.00	\$ 488.90			
4009	Food Supplies	\$ 308.85	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,528.85			
	CAPITAL OUTLAY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
5025	Data Process. Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
5030	Equipment Purchase	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			
	Monthly Totals	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 42,029.50				
	Cumulative Totals	\$ 60,183.44	\$ 102,212.94		\$ 102,212.94	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 7,787.06
	1000 Personnel Services			\$ 467,900.00	\$ 467,900.00	\$ 467,900.00	\$ -
					TOTALS	\$ 570,112.94	\$ 577,900.00
						Final Remaining	\$ 7,787.06

FY27 Budget Request as Submitted

This document represents this agency's operating budget proposal for the forthcoming fiscal year. It identifies all receipts and expenditures that could be anticipated at the time this budget was prepared.



Maria N. Greenstein, Executive Director



Date

Agency Cover Page
Form A1

Agency Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

FY 2027

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has the constitutional and statutory obligations to investigate and address allegations of judicial misconduct or disability concerning any state court judge. While a vast majority of Commission complaints are dismissed by the Commission after investigation into the facts, a few complaints may evolve into formal investigations and hearings before the Commission. The hearing process involves full pre-trial preparation and can be both time-consuming and expensive. Due to the Commission's fluctuating caseload, it is unable to anticipate the number of complaints that may go to formal hearing in any given year.

Staff continues to fully process an average incoming complaint within ninety days. If unusual situations arise (such as formal disciplinary hearings) the Commission adjusts its contractual expenses, when possible, to hire an investigator on contract for a very limited time and purpose; or hires a special counsel.

The Commission responds promptly to inquiries by the public. In addition, the Commission's Formal Ethics Opinions are routinely distributed with Commission informational brochures and complaint forms. Continuing educational activities includes: individualized ethics orientation sessions for new judges; ongoing educational ethics programs for state judicial officers and court staff; and, providing formal advisory opinions to judges. In addition, the Commission will continue to respond to public needs in the coming year by improving its public outreach.

Beginning in FY24, funding for special counsel and related formal hearing costs was transferred out of our general request and put in as a language appropriation not to exceed \$75,000 for that purpose. This change more accurately reflects the need to respond quickly when there is a need for special counsel while also acknowledging that that need is unpredictable.

Agency Overview
Form A4

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

FY 2027

CONTACT:

Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director, 272-1033

Description of BRU Services and Responsibilities:

Created in the state constitution, the Commission on Judicial Conduct consists of nine members: three judges, three lawyers and three public members who are not lawyers or judges. By statute, the Commission is empowered to (1) inquire into allegations of judicial misconduct or disability; (2) hold hearings; (3) informally sanction judges; and (4) recommend formal sanctions to the supreme court. In addition, the Commission approved a procedure for issuing advisory ethics opinions to state judges. The opinions give ethical guidance to judges in response to their requests.

BRU Overview
Form B1

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CONTACT:

Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director, 272-1033

COMPONENT GOALS:	EXPENDITURE:	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Authorized	FY 2027 Request
	Personal Services	442.7	467.9	487.2
	Other Program Costs	88.5	110.0	116.0
	TOTAL	531.2	577.9	603.2
FUNDING SOURCES:				
Constit. Bdgt. Reserve				
General Fund Match				
General Fund	531.2	577.9	603.2	
GF Program Receipts				
GF Mental Health				
Other Funds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	531.2	577.9	603.2	
STAFFING:				
Permanent Full-Time	2	2	2	2
Permanent Part-Time	-	-	-	-
Non Permanent	-	-	-	-

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENT SERVICES:

Our full-time staff of two employees maintains a full-time office responding to public inquiries concerning judicial conduct matters and investigating ethical complaints against state court judges. We support a nine-member commission, providing constant information and seeking policy direction from its members. The commission holds quarterly in-person meetings and teleconferences as needed. Our office can be reached statewide by a toll-free number and our investigations entail research involving court locations throughout Alaska. Public portions of the quarterly meetings are held on Zoom to allow statewide participation.

**Component
Goals and Services
Form CF1**

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 1 of 1

FY 2027

ITEM AND EXPLANATION	ITEM AMOUNT	FUNDING		POSITIONS		C100 PERSONAL SERVICES	C200 TRAVEL	C300 SERVICES	C400 COM- MODITIES	C500 CAPITAL OUTLAY	C700 BUILDINGS	C800 MISCEL- LANEOUS
		CODE	AMOUNT									
1. FY 2026 Conference Committee Report	577.9	1004	577.9	PFT	2	467.9	22.0	76.0	7.0	5.0		
2. Fiscal Notes/Other Appropriation Bills				PFT								
3. Vetoes				PFT								
4. COLA & Other Adjustment				PFT								
5. FY 2026 Authorized	577.9	1004	577.9	PFT	2	467.9	22.0	76.0	7.0	5.0		
6. One-Time Items				PFT								
7. FY 2026 Adjusted Base	577.9	1004	577.9	PFT	2	467.9	22.0	76.0	7.0	5.0		
8. HB259 Adjustment				PFT								
9. FY 2027 Base	577.9	1004	577.9	PFT	2	467.9	22.0	76.0	7.0	5.0		
10. Transfers/Salary Adj. (see C2 Continuation)	19.3	1004	19.3	PFT		19.3						
11. FY 2027 Adjusted Base	597.2	1004	597.2	PFT	2	487.2	22.0	76.0	7.0	5.0		

**Adjusted Base
Calculation
Form C2**

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 1 of 1

FY 2027

Explanation of C2 Line 10 (Transfers & Salary Adjustments):

FY2027 PERS Increase from 28.33% to 29.84%	4.5
FY2027 SBS Max Increase from \$176,100 to \$184,500	0.5
FY2027 Health Insurance Increase from \$2,030.11/mo to \$2,160	3.1
FY2027 2.5% Salary Increase	<u>11.2</u>
Total Line 10 Adjustments	<u>19.3</u>

**Adjusted Base
Continuation
Form C2**

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

FY 2027

TITLE:

Increased In-State Travel Expenses

DESCRIPTION:

Travel costs have increased over the years, especially since coming after the pandemic travel limitations. The Commission has nine members representing various areas of the state.

The Commission's current in-state travel budget will only fully fund three of the planned four in-person meetings in FY2027. An additional \$6,000 for in-state travel will provide for four in-person quarterly Commission meetings.

CODE	EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
100	Personal Services	
200	Travel and Moving	6.0
300	Contractual Services	
400	Supplies and Materials	
500	Capital Outlay	
	Total	6.0
FUNDING SOURCES		
1002	Federal Receipts	
1003	General Fund Match	
1004	General Fund	6.0
1005	GF Program Receipts	
1007	Interagency Receipts	
1037	GF Mental Health	
1092	MHTAAR	
1108	Statutory Designated Program Receipts	
	Total	6.0
STAFFING		
Permanent Full-Time		
Permanent Part-Time		
Non-Permanent		

Increment/Decrement
Request
Form C5

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CODE	PERSONAL SERVICES CLASSIFICATION	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	CHANGE	FY 2027 REQUEST
1000	TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	442.7	467.9	487.2		487.2
	INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS (NON-ADD)					

1001	Constitutional Budget Reserve					
1002	Federal Receipts					
1003	General Fund Match					
1004	General Fund	442.7	467.9	487.2	-	487.2
1005	GF/Program Receipts					
1053	Investment Loss Trust Fund					
1007	I-A Receipts					

Permanent full-time positions	2	2	2	-	2
Permanent part-time positions	-	-	-	-	-
Total permanent positions	2	2	2	-	2
Permanent full-time staff months	24	24	24	-	24
Permanent part-time staff months	-	-	-	-	-
Total permanent staff months	24	24	24	-	24
Non-permanent positions	-	-	-	-	-
Non-permanent staff months	-	-	-	-	-

Personal Services Form C100

Agency Judiciary
 RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
 Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

Type	Permanent Positions						Non-Permanent Positions						
	PFT	PPT	Mo.	Salary	Benefits	FY 2026 Total	FY 2027 Total	NPP	Mo.	Salary	Benefits	FY 2026 Total	FY 2027 Total
Classified Positions	2	-	24	299,971	167,886	467,857	487,192						
Total Salary and Benefits (Permanent & Non-Permanent Positions)						467,857	487,192						
Authorized Funding						467,900	487,200						
Balance						43	8						

**Personal Services
Cost Summary
Form C110**

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

PCN	BU	Title	Type	COLA Step	Range / Step	Bi-Weekly Salary	Months	FY 2026			FY 2027 Salary & Benefits
								Salary	Benefits	Total	
410021	XJ	Executive Director	PFT	0	27R	8,908.50	12	231,621	115,598	347,219	360,680
410022	XJ	Administrative Assistant	PFT	0	12G	2,568.00	12	68,350	52,288	120,638	126,513
<u>Classified positions</u>											
		Permanent full-time		2			24	299,971	167,886	467,857	487,192
		Permanent part-time		-			-	-	-	-	-
		Total		2			24	299,971	167,886	467,857	487,192

**Personal Services
Authorized Positions
Form C130**

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CODE	TRAVEL CLASSIFICATION	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	CHANGE	FY 2027 REQUEST
2000	TOTAL TRAVEL	17.1	22.0	22.0	6.0	28.0
	INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS (NON ADD)					

1001	Constitutional Budget Reserve					
1002	Federal Receipts					
1003	General Fund Match					
1004	General Fund	17.1	22.0	22.0	6.0	28.0
1005	GF/Program Receipts					
1037	GF/Mental Health Trust					
1007	I-A Receipts					

2000	In-State Travel	9.1	14.0	14.0	6.0	20.0
2001	Out-of-State Travel	8.0	8.0	8.0	-	8.0

Travel
Form C200

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
2000	<p>In-State Travel</p> <p>This expenditure classification consists primarily of transportation and per diem costs of Commission members and staff to attend commission meetings and commission-related in-state travel.</p> <p>FY 2026 Authorized</p> <p>Increment:</p> <p>Travel costs have increased over the years, especially since coming after the pandemic travel limitations. The Commission has nine members representing various areas of the state. The Commission's current in-state travel budget will only fully fund three of the planned four in-person meetings in FY2027. An additional \$6,000 for in-state travel will provide for four in-person quarterly Commission meetings.</p>	14.0	14.0	20.0
2001	<p>Out-of-State Travel</p> <p>This expenditure classification includes the transportation and per diem costs of Commission members and staff to attend out-of-state meetings.</p> <p>FY 2026 Authorized</p>	8.0	8.0	8.0

Travel (Continued)
Form C200

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 2 of 2

FY 2027

CODE	SERVICES CLASSIFICATION	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	CHANGE	FY 2027 REQUEST
3000	TOTAL SERVICES	61.0	76.0	76.0	-	76.0
	INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS (NON-ADD)					

1001	Constitutional Budget Reserve					
1002	Federal Receipts					
1003	General Fund Match					
1004	General Fund	61.0	76.0	76.0	-	76.0
1005	GF/Program Receipts					
1037	GF/Mental Health Trust					
1007	I-A Receipts					

3000	Education Services	4.2	4.0	4.0	-	4.0
3002	Legal & Judicial Services	-	-	-	-	-
3004	Telecommunications	3.8	5.2	5.2	-	5.2
3006	Delivery Services	0.9	1.9	1.9	-	1.9
3007	Advertising and Promotions	-	2.0	2.0	-	2.0
3009	Building Rentals / Leases	49.1	56.0	56.0	-	56.0
3010	Equipment Repairs / Maintenance	0.3	3.2	3.2	-	3.2
3011	Other Services	2.7	3.7	3.7	-	3.7

Services
Form C300

Agency Judiciary
 RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
 Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 1 of 4

FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
3000	Educational Services This classification provides for fees for training and conferences, agency memberships and employee tuition. FY 2026 Authorized	<u>4,000</u>	4.0	4.0
3002	Legal & Judicial Services This classification provides for retaining special counsel to present formal charges in a Commission case and provides for contracting secretarial support and investigator services on an as-needed basis. Beginning in FY24, funding for special counsel and related formal hearing costs was transferred out of our general request and put in as a language appropriation not to exceed \$75,000 for that purpose. This change more accurately reflects the need to respond quickly when there is a need for special counsel while also acknowledging that that need is unpredictable. FY 2026 Authorized	<u>-</u>	-	-
3004	Telecommunications This category includes long distance charges, teleconference services, data transmissions, and facsimile charges. Regular service includes charges for communication system maintenance and access fees. FY 2026 Authorized	<u>5,200</u>	5.2	5.2

Services (continued)
Form C300

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 2 of 4

FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
3006	Delivery Services This category includes expenditures for mailing fees and postage. The cost of postage and shipping continues to increase yearly. FY 2026 Authorized	1,900	1.9	1.9
3007	Advertising and Promotions This classification provides for publication of public notices for Commission meetings and hearings in various statewide newspapers, printing and binding of the Commission's annual report, Alaska Statutes, Alaska Rules, law books and official publication subscriptions. FY 2026 Authorized	2,000	2.0	2.0
3009	Rentals / Leases This classification provides for lease of Commission office space. A new rental agreement was negotiated for September 2025 - August 2030. FY 2026 Authorized	56,000	56.0	56.0

Services (continued)
Form C300

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
3010	Equipment Repairs / Maintenance This classification provides for office machine maintenance agreements, i.e., fax and copier, and minor machine repairs. The cost of equipment repairs is increasing yearly. FY 2026 Authorized	3,200	3.2	3.2
3011	Other Services This classification provides for various miscellaneous charges not budgeted elsewhere and occasional miscellaneous charges on vendor accounts. FY 2026 Authorized	3,700	3.7	3.7

Services (continued)
Form C300

Agency Judiciary
 RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
 Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

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FY 2027

CODE	COMMODITIES CLASSIFICATION	FY 2025 ACTUAL	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	CHANGE	FY 2027 REQUEST
4000	TOTAL COMMODITIES	10.4	7.0	7.0	-	7.0
	INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS (NON-ADD)					

1001	Constitutional Budget Reserve					
1002	Federal Receipts					
1003	General Fund Match					
1004	General Fund	10.4	7.0	7.0	-	7.0
1005	GF/Program Receipts					
1037	GF/Mental Health Trust					
1007	I-A Receipts					

4000	Office and Library Supplies	10.4	7.0	7.0	-	7.0

Commodities
Form C400

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 1 of 2

FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
4000	<p>Office and Library Supplies</p> <p>This expenditure classification provides for general office supplies, stationery, educational books, directories, manuals and state forms.</p> <p>FY 2026 Authorized</p>	7.0	7.0	7.0

Commodities
(continued)
Form C400

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 2 of 2

FY 2027

CODE	CAPITAL OUTLAY CLASSIFICATION	FY 2026 ACTUAL	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	CHANGE	FY 2027 REQUEST
5000	TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY	-	5.0	5.0		5.0
	INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS (NON ADD)					

1001	Constitutional Budget Reserve					
1002	Federal Receipts					
1003	General Fund Match					
1004	General Fund	-	5.0	5.0	-	5.0
1005	General Fund Program Receipts					
1037	General Fund Mental Health Trust					
1007	Interagency Receipts					

5002	Infrastructure and Equipment > \$5,000	-	5.0	5.0	-	5.0

Capital Outlay
Form C500

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 1 of 2

FY 2027

CODE	DESCRIPTION	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED	FY 2027 ADJUSTED BASE	FY 2027 REQUEST
5002	Infrastructure and Equipment over \$5,000 This expenditure classification provides for replacement office equipment. FY 2026 Authorized	<u>5,000</u>	5.0	5.0

Capital Outlay
(continued)
Form C500

Agency Judiciary
RDU Commission on Judicial Conduct #770
Component Commission on Judicial Conduct #770

Page 2 of 2

FY 2027

Professional Activities

Alaska Bar CLE: Bar to Bench

- Event Notice
- Resources List

From Bar to Bench: Understanding Alaska's Judicial Selection Process



AK Bar CLE

Let's Create, Learn, Elevate together

From Bar to Bench: Understanding Alaska's Judicial Selection Process

Co-sponsored with Alaska Judicial Council

Tuesday, December 2

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

AK Bar Zoom

1.5 Ethics CLE Credits

CLE# 2025040

Registration fee: Free

Have you ever considered applying for a judicial position in Alaska? This program offers a candid look at the process—from submitting an application to navigating the Judicial Council's evaluation and interview procedures. Current and former judges will share insights into what makes a strong candidate, what to expect during the selection process, and how to prepare for the realities of judicial service. Whether you're thinking about applying soon or simply want to learn more about how judges are chosen in Alaska, this CLE provides a practical roadmap for attorneys interested in judicial careers.

Faculty:

- Joel Bolger, Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice (retired) (moderator)
- Judge Bethany S. Harbison, Alaska Court of Appeals
- Steven Hansen, Former Alaska Judicial Council Member
- Marla Greenstein, Alaska Commission of Judicial Conduct
- Susanne DiPietro, Alaska Judicial Council



Course Materials: A digital copy of the program materials is available 24 hours prior to the event by logging into your member dashboard at www.alaskabar.org/members. Select "My Course Materials," located under the "My Documents" header on the left side of your dashboard.

If you are registered for this program, you already have an AK Bar account and can access the materials. If you need assistance with your login information, please contact the AK Bar office at 907-272-7469.

Explore More AK Bar Programs: Don't miss out on our other upcoming events and CLE opportunities! Click [here](#) to view our full calendar and register for additional programs.

Video On Demand (VOD): For those unable to attend, the event will be recorded and made available on Video On Demand (VOD) approximately 5 days after the event. This ensures you can access the content at your convenience.

From Bar to Bench: Understanding Alaska's Judicial Selection Process

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Resources

Alaska Judicial Council Procedures for Nominating Judicial Candidates:

<https://www.ajc.state.ak.us/selection/procedures.html>

A detailed explanation of each stage of the application and nomination process, from the notice of vacancy and recruitment through transmittal of nominees to the governor.

Alaska Judicial Council Application for Judicial Appointment

<https://www.ajc.state.ak.us/selection/docs/Selection/judicial-selection-application-fillable.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions about Merit Selection

<https://www.ajc.state.ak.us/selection/faq.html>

Explanation of merit selection for judges, including information about the Council and the criteria used for nomination.

Alaska Rule of Professional Conduct 8.2

<https://courts.alaska.gov/rules/docs/prof.pdf>

Ethical obligations regarding statements about the qualifications of a judge or candidate for appointment to judicial office.

Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 5

<https://courts.alaska.gov/rules/docs/cjc.pdf>

Requirement that judges and judicial candidates refrain from inappropriate political activity.

Judicial Applicant Guidelines

<https://ajc.alaska.gov/selection/docs/Selection/appguidelines.pdf>

A joint publication of the Alaska Judicial Council, Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, and Alaska Bar Association discussing the statutes, court rules, and ethical considerations governing permissible areas of supportive activity by judicial applicants.

Anchorage Association of Women Lawyers CLE

Event Index & Speaker Bios

AAWL End of Year Ethics CLE 2025

Practicing Through Crisis: Navigating Ethical Duties During Personal or Professional Adversity

(1.5 Ethics CLE Credits)
December 4, 2025

Course Materials

Contents:

- Speaker Biographies
- Relevant Alaska Rules of Professional Conduct
- Relevant Alaska Rule of Judicial Conduct
- Alaska Bar Association Ethics Opinion 2022-1: A Lawyer's Duty with Respect to Potentially Impaired Members of the Bar
- Alaska Bar Association - Lawyers' Assistance Committee – FAQ
- Lawyers' Assistance Committee - List of Providers (Mental health providers who have indicated that they can help attorneys with substance abuse and wellness issues)
- *Succession Planning for a Smooth Transition*, Alaska Bar Association Ethics Committee, Alaska Bar Rag, October - December, 2023, at 4.
- Professional Quality of Life Scale (PROQOL) Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue, Version 5
- Window of Tolerance Handout
- Coping Menu
- Body Scan Art Activity

Speaker Biographies

Sarah Kathryn Bryan (Moderator) is an associate attorney at Shortell Law LLC. She earned her law degree from Seattle University School of Law during the COVID pandemic, took the Alaska Bar Exam, was certain that she had not passed, and by the end of the year had earned both a law license and a real estate license. So far, practicing both professions still works for her, but does not allow her as much time as she would like for cross-country skiing, pretending to know how to play the guitar, or training her two little dogs –and it shows. Sarah Kathryn Bryan serves the public as a member of the Anchorage Board of Platting and as a member of the AAWL Board of Directors.

Marla N. Greenstein (Panelist) is Executive Director of the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct, a position she has held since 1989. Ms. Greenstein has published articles in the areas of judicial selection and judicial discipline, including “Judicial Disqualification in Alaska Courts,” Alaska Law Review, June 2000. She serves on the Alaska Bar’s Ethics Committee and Fair and Impartial Courts Committee. Ms. Greenstein is the Ethics Column Editor for the American Bar Association’s Judges Journal, authoring the quarterly journal’s column. She has lectured widely in the area of judicial ethics and has served as faculty for international judicial ethics seminars in Indonesia, Micronesia and Russia. Ms. Greenstein served as co-chair for the Khabarovsk-Alaska Rule of Law Partnership during its 7 years of activity.

Emma Haddix (Panelist) was born and raised in Anchorage, and has been an attorney since 2006. After clerking, Emma worked at the District Attorney’s office almost 5 years. Emma worked two years in a small private practice handling mostly probate and estate planning. Emma has been in the child protection section of the AG’s office since 2014. Emma serves as one of the co-supervisors for her section. On a day-to-day basis, Emma advises OCS and represents them in court. Emma also supervises and trains new attorneys to the section and provides trainings to the client and other agencies. Emma gave up drinking in 2018 when she decided it was not good for her, her daughter, or their goals. Emma has served on the AK Bar association’s Lawyer’s Assistance Committee since 2019. When she’s not working, Emma enjoys raising her amazing daughter, biking, triathlons, reading, and earring making.

Susan Orlansky (Panelist) has practiced law in Anchorage since 1980, first as a staff attorney for the Alaska Court of Appeals, then for the Public Defender Agency, and then for 30-plus years in private practice, handling both civil and criminal litigation, with an emphasis on appeals. She is currently of counsel to Reeves Amodio, but two years ago, with support from the firm, she began working remotely, meaning she now has an office inside the ACLU of Alaska, and she spends about three-fourths of her time as a volunteer on ACLU cases, while maintaining a small private practice. Besides lawyering, she's a mother and a grandmother, and appreciates being outdoors in all kinds of weather.

Gita Sterling (Panelist; they/them) was born and raised in Alaska and moved to Portland, Oregon for their undergraduate and graduate education. Gita obtained their Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Lewis & Clark College in 2022. Gita is now a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. Gita owns and operates a private practice, Nocturne Counseling LLC, providing therapy to individuals, couples, and families. Gita's services focus on support through life transitions, identity exploration, and trauma processing.

League of Women Voters: Democracy Fair

- Event Notice
- Speaker Instructions
- Draft PowerPoint Presentation

RSVP ON FACEBOOK!



The League of Women Voters of Anchorage invites the community to the **Z. J. Loussac Public Library** on January 10 for **Democracy Fair**. From **11:00 am to 3:00 pm**, this event will serve as a central hub for civic education and engagement. Attendees can explore all four levels of the library to learn from experts, view historical exhibits, and connect with more than 20 local organizations dedicated to public service and advocacy.

The Democracy Fair begins at 11 am at the Wilda Marston Theatre, with a welcome ceremony and film detailing the history of the League of Women Voters of Anchorage. Throughout the afternoon, distinguished speakers will address various issues related to democracy, including the U.S. Constitution, the foundations of civic engagement, and the interrelation of Alaska's legal systems. Speakers include **former U.S. Senator Mark Begich**, **ACLU Executive Director Mara Kimmel**, and **retired Superior Court Judge Eric Smith**.

A broad range of experts and community advocates will also speak, including **attorney Susan Orlansky**, **Marla Greenstein of the Alaska**

Commission on Judicial Conduct, Legislative Services Director Clare Ross, and MOA Deputy Chief of Staff Barbara Jones.

The Learning Commons on Level 4 serves as the central hub for our booth exhibitors, featuring a diverse group of 20 local organizations. While the main stage hosts our speakers, this interactive space allows you to connect directly with advocates and non-profits. They are:

The Alaska Center | Alaska Common Ground | Alaska March On | Alaska Press Club/Alaska Center for Excellence in Journalism | Alaska Voter Hub | Alaska World Affairs Council | Alaskans for Better Elections | Anchorage Against Christian Nationalism | Anchorage Equal Rights Commission | Anchorage Municipal Ombudsman | Anchorage Municipal Elections | Anchorage Women's Commission | Disability Law Center | Federation of Community Councils | League of Women Voters of Anchorage & Youth Vote | Office of Equity & Inclusion (MOA) | Stand Up Alaska | Umoja Coworking & Incubator | Zonta Club of Anchorage

The **Democracy Fair is a free, family-friendly event**, and every member of the community is encouraged to attend. Whether you are a first-time voter or a lifelong resident, this gathering offers a welcoming environment to learn about the democratic process and our shared civic duties.

Agenda

Level 1, WILDA MARSTON THEATRE

- **11:00-11:15 Democracy Fair Opening**
- **11:15-12:00: *Democracy and the Constitution*** – Susan Orlansky, Attorney; Mara Kimmel, Executive Director, ACLU; Mark Begich, Businessman & Former Public Servant
- **12:00-12:45: *Local Government 101*** – Clare Ross, Legislative Services Director and Barbara Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff, MOA
- **12:45-1:30: Break- Visit exhibits, View the film**

- **1:30-2:15: *Judicial System*** – Eric Smith, Retired Superior Court Judge; Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
- **2:15-3:00: *Media Literacy*** – John McKay, Joy Mapaye, Ph.D., and Evan Leaf, UAA student, young voter

Level 2, MOOSE ROOM

- **12:00 & 1:00 – *Film showing “The Officials”***

Level 3

- **ALL DAY – *Alaska Suffrage Star Exhibit***

Level 4

- **ALL DAY – *Exhibitors***



SPEAKER INSTRUCTIONS

Welcome to the League of Women Voters of Anchorage Democracy Fair. We appreciate your participation; it will contribute to making this a meaningful and exciting event. Thank you for joining us!

Date and Hours of Fair: Saturday, January 10, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. You are welcome to participate in all of the activities.

Location: Z. J. Loussac Library, 3600 Denali Street. Speaker presentations will be held in the Wilda Marston Theatre on the Lobby Level.

Requirements: This is a non-partisan event. Please honor this requirement.

Speaker check-in: Please check in with the volunteers at the entrance to the Wilda Marston Theatre when you arrive. Please arrive at least 15 minutes before your presentation. You will be directed to use the stairs on the lefthand side of the stage to move backstage until you are introduced.

Audio Visual Support - Audiovisual presentations are not required. If you have a PowerPoint or video, please send it to Shirley Pittz at vp@lwvanchorage.org by Thursday, January 8. These will be downloaded onto a common computer and displayed by our AV technician. You will be able to control your slides from the stage.

Waiver and Consent to Use Audio Recordings and Still and Video Images: Please read the waiver in advance and be prepared to sign when you check in at the Wilda Marston Theatre.

Other Democracy Fair activities: We hope you will have time to participate in some of the other activities throughout the building. Please see the attached agenda.

Contacts day of event: Penny Goldstein, 907-240-2170
Shirley Pittz, 907-727-9549

DEMOCRACY FAIR AGENDA

Level 1, WILDA MARSTON THEATRE

11:00-11:15: Democracy Fair Opening

- Opening/Welcome, Patty Ginsburg, President, League of Women Voters of Anchorage
- Video: History of the League of Women Voters of Anchorage

11:15-12:00: Democracy and the Constitution - Susan Orlansky, Attorney; Mara Kimmel, Executive Director, ACLU; Mark Begich, Businessman & former Mayor and U.S. Senator

- What is democracy and why is civic engagement foundational?
- What is the US constitution, how is it changed, and how does it interact with the Alaska Constitution?
- What lessons in democracy can be gleaned from service as a mayor and a U.S. Senator?

12:00-12:45: Local Government 101 - Clare Ross, Legislative Services Director and Barbara Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff, MOA

- Learn more about how your local government works and how you can get involved.

12:45-1:30: Break- Visit exhibits, View the film

1:30-2:15: Judicial System - Eric Smith, Retired Superior Court Judge; Marla N. Greenstein, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

- What are the different legal systems operating in Alaska? How do those systems interrelate?
- How are judges selected in Alaska? How is Alaska's judicial selection process different from that of other states and the federal system?
- What ethical standards and requirements apply to Alaska judges? How does that system differ from other states and the U.S. Supreme Court?

2:15-3:00: Media Literacy – John McKay, Joy Mapaye, Ph.D., and Evan Leaf, UAA student, young voter

- What does the First Amendment actually protect?
- In this era of mis-information, how can people navigate and decipher political and cultural messaging? How do they know what to trust?

Level 2, MOOSE ROOM

12:00 & 1:00 - Showing of film “The Officials” A behind-the-scenes look at a politically diverse group of election officials who, despite facing increased threats, harassment and intimidation, remain committed to serving their communities by running secure elections and ensuring every eligible vote is counted accurately. The film is 26 minutes long and will be followed by a discussion with MOA Election Administrator, Elizabeth Edwards.

Level 3

ALL DAY- Alaska’s Suffrage Star: This exhibit introduces some extraordinary Alaska women who fought for voting rights in the early 1900s.

Level 4, LEARNING COMMONS

EXHIBITORS

The Alaska Center | Alaska Common Ground | Alaska March On
Alaska Press Club/ACEJ | Alaska Voter Hub | Alaska World Affairs Council
Alaskans for Better Elections | Anchorage Against Christian Nationalism | Anchorage Equal Rights Commission | Anchorage Municipal Ombudsman | Anchorage Municipal Elections
Anchorage Women’s Commission | Disability Law Center
Federation of Community Councils
League of Women Voters of Anchorage | Office of Equity & Inclusion (MOA)
Stand Up Alaska | The Alaska Black Caucus | Umoja Coworking & Incubator | Youth Vote
Zonta Club of Anchorage



DEMOCRACY FAIR PASSPORT

Visit exhibitor booths. Watch a film. Attend a presentation. Visit the Alaska Suffrage Star exhibit. Get a star at each spot and when you have gathered at least eight stars, drop your completed Passport in the Learning Commons or outside the Wilda Marston Theatre, Level One. You’ll be entered in a drawing for prizes!

For more Information: <https://lwvanchorage.org>

Ethics Affecting the Bench: Alaska's Independent Judiciary

Public's View



Importance of an Apolitical Judiciary



What Happens in Other States



**GO WITH JOE
NASH
for
DISTRICT JUDGE**
PAID FOR BY JOE NASH FOR JUDGE

**JOE NASH ANNOUNCES FOR
SLIPPERY ROCK AREA DISTRICT JUDGE**

Cites His Legal Experience, Strong Ties to the Slippery Rock Community and Dedication to Protecting and Serving Local Residents

SLIPPERY ROCK (May 8) – Husband, father and Slippery Rock Attorney Joe Nash announced today he is running for the magisterial district judge position representing residents in Slippery Rock and the surrounding municipalities.

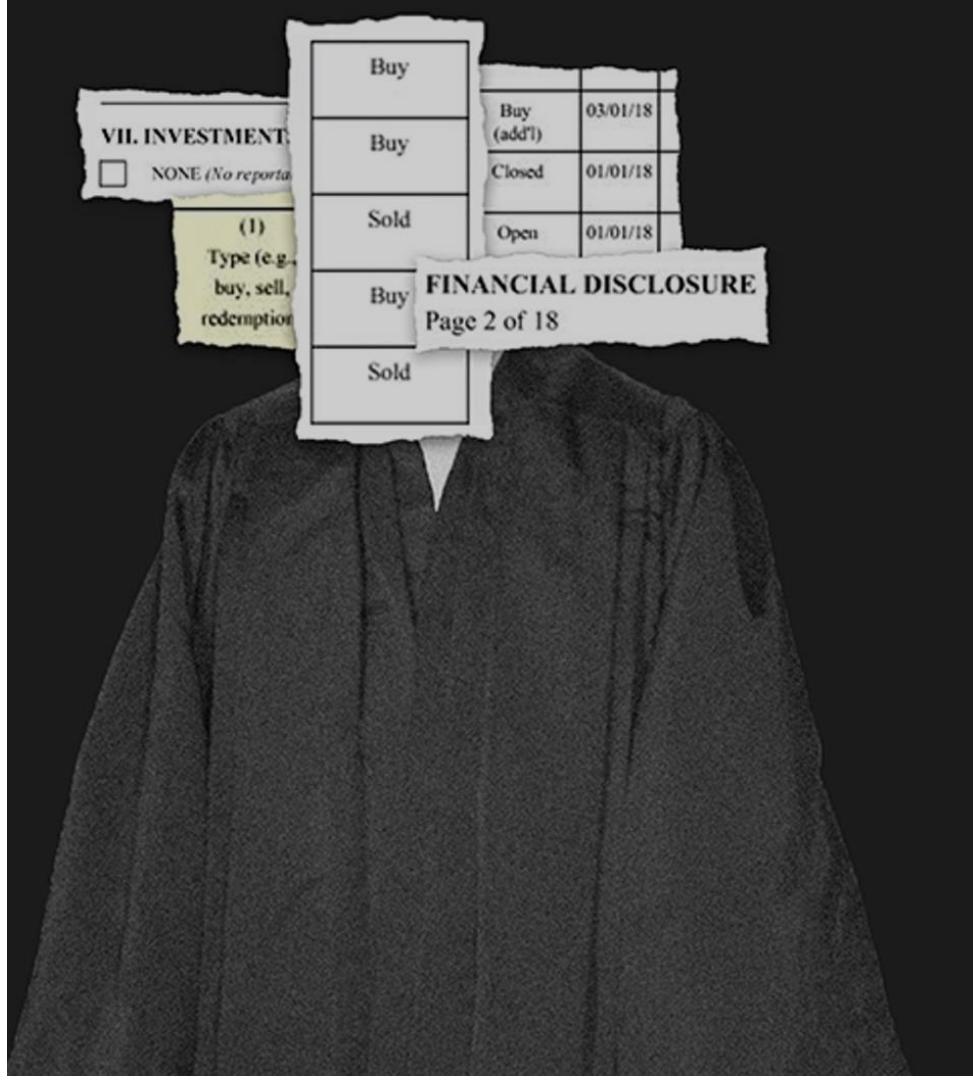
A lifelong Republican, Nash plans to cross-file and circulate petitions for both the Republican and Democratic nominations in the May 18th Primary Election.

“My wife, Megan, and I are raising our four children here in Butler County. We work here, we have built friendships here, we volunteer here. This is our home,” said Nash. “I’m running for district judge to bring my extensive legal experience and dedication to protecting and serving our community to the bench.”

Nash was the first one in his family to graduate college when he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Kansas. He went on to graduate law school from Penn State University. During law school, he interned for the Pennsylvania Attorney General.



Headlines we all read



How Alaska is Different

- Judges are appointed and then subject to retention election
- No local court system.....all are state court judges
- Financial disclosure requirements
- Rigorous ethics compliance

Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

- 9 members: 3 judges 3 lawyers 3 public
- Review complaints of ethical misconduct by Alaska judges
- Recommend discipline to Alaska Supreme Court
- Train judges and court personnel on ethics standards
- Give ethics advice

What the Commission Cannot Address

- Incorrect decisions by judges in cases
- Complaints against: lawyers, federal judges, magistrate judges, administrative law judges

Ethical Requirements for Alaska Judges

- Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety
- Perform Duties Impartially and Diligently
- Conduct Extra-Judicial Activities to Minimize Conflict with Judicial Obligations
- Refrain from Inappropriate Political Activity

Specific Examples

- Judges cannot use official judicial letterhead for anything unrelated to their judicial office
- Judges cannot talk to parties or lawyers about a case outside of a court hearing
- Judges cannot sit on a case where they have a conflict such as being closely related to a lawyer or party
- Judges cannot fundraise for a charity
- Judges cannot contribute to a political campaign or attend any political events

Questions?



2026 Newer Judges Conference

Agenda

NEWER JUDGES CONFERENCE

January 26-30, 2026

**Snowden Training Center
Anchorage**

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

FIRST-YEAR JUDGES PROGRAM

8:00 AM

FIRST-YEAR JUDGES MEET IN THE SNOWDEN LOBBY

8:30 AM -

12:00 PM

SHADOWING

Newer judges will have the opportunity to observe their Anchorage colleagues on the bench at the Nesbett and Boney Courthouses.

12:00-1:00 PM

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00-4:30 PM

SHADOWING - Continued

Depending upon the court calendar, newer judges will have the opportunity to observe hearings at the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) or at McLaughlin Youth Center (MYC). Following the hearings, the newer judges will be able to tour either API or MYC. Information about the hearing schedule and logistics will be made available shortly before the conference. Alternatively, newer judges can continue to shadow at the Anchorage courthouses.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

FIRST-YEAR JUDGES PROGRAM - Continued

**8:15 AM-
12:00 PM**

CONTINUED SHADOWING & TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

First-year judges will continue shadowing independently and will have tech training individually or in pairs in the Boney Courthouse Training Room. The tech training schedule will be:

8:15-9:00 am: **Glenn Shidner & Pat McKay**
9:15-10:00 am: **Marika Athens & William Taylor**
10:15-11:00 am: **Colleen Baxter**

**12:00-
1:00 PM**

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

FIRST-YEAR JUDGES PROGRAM CONTINUES IN THE SNOWDEN TRAINING CENTER

1:00-1:30 PM

WELCOME & ICE BREAKER

Justice Jude Pate, Alaska Supreme Court
Judge David Nesbett, Superior Court, Anchorage

1:30-2:30 PM

A RETROSPECTIVE: THINGS I WISH I HAD KNOWN

BACK WHEN I THOUGHT I KNEW IT ALL
Judge David Nesbett, Superior Court, Anchorage

Judges new to the position will receive tips and suggestions accumulated from seasoned judges to help aid in the transition from bar to bench.

2:30-2:45 PM

BREAK

2:45-3:45 PM

ELEMENTS OF SUPERVISION WITH HR

Beth Moss, Human Resources Director
Samantha Cherot, Human Resources Deputy Director

During this session first-year judges will become familiar with the key components of:

- Training and Onboarding;
- Performance Evaluations;
- FMLA/AFLA and ADA; and
- Building Employee Morale.

Participants will also learn when and how to involve HR to address circumstances related to these topics.

3:45-4:00 PM

BREAK

4:00-4:30 PM

LIFELINES: WHY, WHEN, AND HOW TO REACH OUT FOR HELP

Justice Jude Pate, Alaska Supreme Court

Judges will develop a list of individuals to contact for information and guidance (including presiding judges, area court administrators, mentor judges, the administrative director, human resources, court staff attorneys, and others) and develop an understanding of the circumstances under which such contact should be made.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

8:30 AM

WELCOME

Chief Justice Susan Carney, Alaska Supreme Court
Justice Jude Pate, Alaska Supreme Court

9:00-10:00 AM

OWNING AND ENHANCING JUDICIAL WELLNESS

Judge Eric Aarseth, Superior Court, Anchorage (Ret.)
Judge Kari Kristiansen, Superior Court, Palmer (Ret.)
Senior Judge Trevor Stephens, Superior Court, Ketchikan

This program will be a combination of lecture and small group discussion with the aim of fostering judicial well-being. Participants will learn about the Judicial Support and Development Committee (JSDC), discuss ways in which the JSDC can enhance its work, and share tips for well-being.

10:00-10:15 AM

BREAK

10:15-11:45 AM

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR JUDGES

Derek Jubitz, Director of Court Security

This training will equip judges with practical skills to strengthen their situational awareness in the courthouse, at home, and during everyday activities. Participants will learn to recognize early indicators of threats, manage stress responses, and make informed decisions about when to involve law enforcement versus handling situations independently.

**11:45 AM-
1:15 PM**

LUNCH WITH COLLEAGUES

Newer Judges go out to lunch in assigned groups.
Planning Committee members attend lunch meeting in the Snowden Building.

1:15-2:15 PM

DUI OUTLINE - A TEST RUN

Judge Jo-Ann Chung, District Court, Anchorage
Judge Michael Logue, District Court, Anchorage
Judge Ben Seekins, District Court, Fairbanks

Participants will be beta testing the newest version of the DUI outline and learning how to make use of this resource.

2:15-2:30 PM

BREAK

2:30-3:30 PM

ACHIEVING TIMELY PERMANENCY IN CINA CASES

Judge Yvonne Lamoureux, Superior Court, Anchorage
Marsha Tandeske, Permanency Officer, Office of Children's Services

Through lecture and discussion, participants will learn to identify, anticipate, and address issues that can arise in CINA cases that can interfere with achieving timely permanency for children and youth.

3:30-3:45 PM

BREAK

3:45-4:45 PM

DISCLOSURE & DISQUALIFICATION

Marla Greenstein, Executive Director, Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
Judge Ian Wheles, Superior Court, Anchorage

During this session, we will review the mandatory and discretionary grounds for disqualification and discuss when and how to disclose information that litigants may view as significant. We will also explore when disclosure is not needed. By the end of this session judges will be able to easily identify the facts that may give rise to an appearance of bias or otherwise implicate grounds for disqualification and develop a personal style for disclosing facts that litigants will view as significant.

6:00- 8:00 PM **DINNER AT JUDGE ADOLF ZEMAN'S HOUSE**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

8:30 AM-9:30 AM

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF ALASKA NATIVE HISTORY

**Dr. Maria Williams, PhD, Professor, Alaska Native Studies Program
University of Alaska, Anchorage**

This session will provide an introduction to Alaska's geography, the diversity of Alaska's indigenous peoples, the Russian period (1750-1867), the early American period (1867-1959), and the modern American period including the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (1959-present).

9:30-9:45 AM

BREAK

9:45-10:30 AM

ALASKA NATIVE HISTORY AND CULTURE: WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR JUDICIAL DECISION-MAKING?

Justice Judge Pate, Alaska Supreme Court

Through a facilitated discussion, judges will share experiences and insights of how knowledge of the history and culture of Alaska's indigenous peoples has practical implications that shape decisions made on the bench in a variety of contexts, including sentencing, custody determinations, voir dire, and CINA proceedings.

10:30-10:45 AM

BREAK

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

ACS'S PROPOSED CONTINUANCE POLICY

**Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council
Justice Jennifer Henderson, Alaska Supreme Court
Judge Andrew Peterson, Superior Court, Anchorage**

Over the course of this session, participants will understand the purpose of the ACS continuance policy, why and how it was developed, and what it is intended to accomplish. Through the use of hypotheticals and discussions, participants will have the opportunity to become familiar with each of the policy's provisions and to understand how to apply it in a variety of circumstances.

11:45 AM-1:30 PM **LUNCH ON YOUR OWN**

1:30-3:00 PM

INFORMAL DR TRIALS - AN AVAILABLE BOON FOR JUDGES & PARTIES

**Senior Judge Trevor Stephens, Superior Court, Ketchikan
Stacey Marz, Administrative Director**

This program will provide an overview of Civil Rule 16.2, the nuts and bolts of its application including the potential benefits of informal trials, and how to approach the subject of using informal trial procedures with the parties.

3:00-3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15-4:30 PM

EVIDENCE +

**Judge Christina Rankin, Superior Court, Anchorage
Judge Adolf Zeman, Superior Court, Anchorage**

This session will be an interactive civil and criminal evidence clinic utilizing real case scenarios. Oh, and there might be cake!

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:45-10:00 AM

TOOLS OF THE TRADE: WORKSHOPPING CIVIL PRETRIAL ORDERS

**Justice Judge Pate, Alaska Supreme Court
Judge David Nesbett, Superior Court, Anchorage**

This session will strengthen the judges' abilities to identify and flag a variety of issues early in litigation so as to avoid delays and complications that might arise later. The participants will be given materials to be used starting points for developing pretrial orders that meet their own needs and styles.

10:00-10:30 AM

BREAK

**10:30 AM-
12:00 PM**

ADVICE FROM EXPERIENCED JUDGES

**Moderator: Senior Judge Donald Hopwood
Panel: Justice Walter Carpeneti, Alaska Supreme Court (Retired)
Judge Karen Hunt, Superior Court (Retired)
Judge Niesje Steinkruger, Superior Court (Retired)**

Experienced, retired judges will discuss salient factors in their judicial careers that made their work better, or more difficult, or more just. The newer judges should take away ideas that better prepare them for their work ahead and that improves their decisions.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CONFERENCE EVALUATIONS

Travel Request



Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

510 L Street, Suite 585, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1959

(907) 272-1033 In Alaska 800-478-1033 FAX (907) 272-9309

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director
E-Mail: mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us

December 23, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that appears to read "Marla N. Greenstein".

RE: Professional Travel

The Commission has a policy of allowing staff annual travel to the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel Annual Meeting in July and to the August ABA Annual Meeting, with the expenses covered by the Commission's operating budget and allows additional professional travel should operating budget funds allow and subject to approval by the Commission. Typically, those meetings have included the American Bar Association mid-year meeting and the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel mid-year board meeting. Due to a tighter travel budget this year, I will be paying to attend the ABA mid-year meeting at my own expense but request that the Commission cover the expenses for the March AJDC Board Meeting. We forecast that we do have the funds to cover that as well as our scheduled in-person Commission meetings for this Fiscal Year.

The ABA Mid-year meeting will be held in San Antonio, and I will attend from Wednesday, February 4th to Sunday, February 8th. At the ABA meeting I am involved in my judicial ethics committee work and work on the Judges Journal editorial board.

In late March, the Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel Board will be meeting in Oklahoma City from March 23-26. It is the meeting of many of my associates across the country where we discuss current issues and plan our July Annual Meeting program. It should be a total expense of approximately \$2500.

Advisory Opinion



Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct

510 L Street, Suite 585, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-1959
(907) 272-1033 In Alaska 800-478-1033 FAX (907) 272-9309

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director
E-Mail: mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us

December 15, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alaska Judicial Officers
FROM: Marla N. Greenstein 
Executive Director
RE: Allowable Charitable Giving

This is the time of year when we are all approached for donations for many worthy causes. The Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct not only allows donations to charitable causes but actually encourages it for causes related to improvement of the administration of justice issues that include all not-for-profit entities that support access to justice, indigent representation and legal education. Canon 4C(3)(b) in fact provides an exception to the general prohibition on soliciting funds, to allow broader judicial involvement for events that seek to honor a judge for organizations that fall within those purposes.

It came to my attention that some judges have viewed the Alaska Bar Foundation Scholarship Fund as one that is not permitted for judges to support financially. That is incorrect, the Code actually encourages contributions to that kind of effort. Alaska Legal Services and the various Youth Courts are similarly efforts where individual support from judicial officers is not only appropriate, but encouraged.

Organizations that are NOT appropriate for donations by judicial officers are any political organization or any organization that frequently litigates before the courts.

Tab C

Draft 2025 Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

Alaska's Commission on Judicial Conduct was created by amendment to the state constitution in 1968. The Commission is composed of three state court judges, three attorneys who have practiced law in the state for at least ten years, and three members of the public. This group of nine individuals from differing backgrounds and geographical areas addresses problems of judicial conduct and disability. Complaints alleging judicial misconduct may be filed by any person.

COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

Public Members (2025)

TODD FLETCHER was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. He graduated from Service High School in 1983 and received his BA in Accounting from Western Washington University. Todd has been married to Lisa for over 30 years. Together they have two adult children, their oldest, Logan, resides in the Phoenix area now, and their youngest, Lauren, will graduate from college in May 2026 at Utah Tech University, in St. George, Utah. He is the Branch Manager and a Senior Vice President-Investment Officer for Wells Fargo Advisors in Anchorage. He is an Eagle Scout and enjoys travel, music, and camping. He was appointed to the Commission in 2019.

ALDEAN KILBOURN was born and raised in Olympia, Washington. She graduated in 1972 from the University of Washington, with a major in Political Science and a minor in French. She married in 1972 and moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she and her husband raised three boys. She earned her Alaska teaching certificate in 1974 from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, first substituting and then teaching full-time at the secondary level for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. From 1999 until 2010, Aldean was also a Project C.R.I.S.S. (CREating Independence through Student-owned Strategies) instructor for district teachers. Aldean earned her Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Washington in 2007. She has been active in the Fairbanks community in the historic Clay Street Cemetery Commission, the Fairbanks Genealogical Society, and Theta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma (a worldwide teachers' organization). As hobbies, her favorite activities include flying, snow machining, target practice, and reading. She was appointed to the Commission in 2021.

ROBERT D. SHELDON is a lifelong Alaskan who was raised in Talkeetna. He has a Bachelor of Science in Finance and a minor in Economics from Colorado State University. Robert has served as a director or partner for privately held organizations in aviation, banking, finance, oil & gas, and tourism. He also is active in the business community facilitating, financing, and encouraging relationships across the high latitudes and is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international economics society. His broad interest in finance extends into understanding interconnections with the judiciary. Robert has been married to Marne Sheldon for 30 years and they raised three sons. He was appointed to the Commission in 2008.

Attorney Members (2025)

KARLA TAYLOR-WELCH (March 2016 – February 2025) was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. She received her bachelors ('77), masters ('78) and juris doctorate ('83) from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Ms. Taylor-Welch worked for the Department of Law from 1984-2005 as an Assistant District Attorney and an Assistant Attorney General. She spent 11 years total in the DOA and 10 years in the AGO handling children and juvenile cases, as well as adult protection cases. From 2005, until her retirement in 2017, she worked for the Fairbanks section of OPA, the last two and a half years as the supervisor of the Fairbanks office. She remains an active bar member, working occasionally for private firms. Since retirement from the State of Alaska, she has been enjoying her time traveling, biking, skiing, swimming, and playing with her grandchildren. Because 2020 curtailed travel plans, she spent her time improving her skills in the fiber and quilting arts. She was appointed to the Commission in 2016.

DON MCCLINTOCK is an attorney in private practice with the law firm of Ashburn & Mason, PC., where he focuses on real estate and corporate transactions and finance, as well as eminent domain and land use litigation. Don worked as a law clerk for Justice Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court and as an assistant attorney general for the State of Alaska. Don served on the Alaska Bar Association Board of Governors from 2008 to 2014, and has volunteered for many civic organizations over the years. He is a graduate of Stanford University (AB '76) and Harvard Law School (JD '80). He was appointed to the Commission in 2017.

JANE MORES was born in Canton, Ohio, and moved to Southeast Alaska as a teenager. She is a graduate of Auburn University (BS '86) and the Ohio State College of Law (JD '90). Her legal career began with a firm in Anchorage, followed by nine years of private practice in Haines. Jane joined the City and Borough of Juneau Law Department's Civil Section in 2009, where she worked until semi-retiring in 2019. In 2021, Jane was beckoned back to a full-time public law practice. She is currently a Senior Assistant Attorney General in the Department of Law, Transportation Section. Jane served on the Alaska Bar Association Ethics Committee from 2002 to 2008. She was appointed to the Commission in 2019.

BILL SATTERBERG has been an Alaskan since 1959, graduating from West Anchorage High School in 1969 and subsequently attending the University of Alaska, graduating in 1973. He attended law school at Syracuse University and Notre Dame University, spending his second year of legal studies at Notre Dame in London, England. In addition to his Juris Doctorate with a Certificate in International Law, Bill also has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Public Administration at Syracuse University. He began practicing law in 1976 and has worked with the State of Alaska Attorney General's Office, the Attorney General's Office for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and for the law firm of Birch, Horton, Bittner, and Monroe. In 1982, Bill opened his own private practice, working in a mix of civil and criminal litigation. He resides in Fairbanks, Alaska with his wife of over 45 years, Brenda. They have two daughters, and two grandchildren. He was appointed to the Commission in 2025.

Judicial Members (2025)

HONORABLE AMY GURTON MEAD is a Superior Court Judge in Juneau. She holds a JD Degree from Tulane Law School and a B.A. in Psychology from Boston University. Judge Mead was the Municipal Attorney for the City and Borough of Juneau when she was appointed to the bench in 2018. She began her career clerking for the Honorable Thomas Janke in Ketchikan, worked as a prosecutor for the State of Alaska, and spent a number of years in private practice before joining the City and Borough of Juneau's law department in 2010. Judge Mead is currently the Presiding Judge for the First Judicial District. She served on the Commission as an attorney member from 2012 until 2018 and was reappointed to the Commission in 2022.

HONORABLE THOMAS I. TEMPLE is a Superior Court Judge in the Fourth Judicial District in Fairbanks. He enlisted in the Marines at age seventeen, serving as a machine gunner during the Gulf War. Judge Temple then worked his way through college and law school at George Mason University, while serving in the Army National Guard. In 2001, he moved to Alaska and served as a prosecutor in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Utqiagvik, before entering private practice in Fairbanks, focusing on criminal defense and civil litigation. Judge Temple was appointed to the bench in 2018 and serves on the Criminal Rules Committee and the Court Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee. He was appointed to the Commission in 2023.

HONORABLE IAN WHEELS is a Superior Court judge in the Third Judicial District in Anchorage, where he has lived his whole life. Judge Wheeles graduated from Dimond High School, played baseball at Illinois Tech, and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He earned his law degree at the University of Idaho. Judge Wheeles practiced criminal defense and family law for a little over one year after law school before opening his own firm in 2009. He spent the next 13 years primarily practicing family law, in addition to a broad span of other areas. In 2015, he was appointed to serve on the Child Support Review Committee, which he now chairs. He was appointed to the bench in 2022 and, in 2025, was appointed to chair the Family Rules Committee. Judge Wheeles enjoys spending time with his family, camping, hunting, and reading. He was appointed to the Commission in 2024.

I. THE COMMISSION'S ROLE AND FUNCTION

A. Judicial Officers Who Come Under the Commission's Authority

Alaska's Commission on Judicial Conduct oversees the conduct of justices of the Alaska Supreme Court, judges of the state court of appeals, state superior court judges, and state district court judges. The commission may not handle complaints against magistrates, administrative law judges, masters, attorneys, or federal judicial officers.

Complaints against state magistrates and masters are handled by the presiding superior court judge for their respective judicial districts:

First Judicial District

Honorable Amy G. Mead
Alaska Superior Court
P.O. BOX 114100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Second Judicial District

Honorable Paul A. Roetman
Alaska Superior Court
P.O. BOX 317
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752-0317

Third Judicial District

Honorable Thomas A. Matthews
Alaska Superior Court
825 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2004

Fourth Judicial District

Honorable Brent E. Bennett
Alaska Superior Court
101 Lacey Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Complaints against attorneys can be directed to:

Phil Shanahan, Bar Counsel
Alaska Bar Association
840 K Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Complaints against federal judges in Alaska are handled by:

Assistant Circuit Executive
United States Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, California 94119
Telephone (415) 556-6100

**Complaints against Administrative Law Judges
in Alaska can be directed to:**

Chief Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
Department of Administration
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1940
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

B. Types of Complaints the Commission May Address (“Jurisdictional”)

For a complaint to be considered and investigated by the Commission, it must allege specific facts that, if true, would constitute judicial misconduct or disability.

1. Misconduct

The broadest category of conduct complaints against judges falls under the term "misconduct." Judicial misconduct has a very specific meaning under the Code of Judicial Conduct. The Code of Judicial Conduct generally governs the activities of judges both on and off the bench. It is a comprehensive statement of appropriate judicial behavior and has been adopted by the Alaska Supreme Court as part of the Rules of Court. Judicial misconduct can be divided into several categories.

(a) Improper Courtroom Behavior

At times complaints against judges allege improper behavior in the courtroom during a trial. Allegations of improper courtroom behavior may include: improper consideration and treatment of attorneys, parties, witnesses, and others in the hearing; improper physical conduct; or persistent failure to dispose of business promptly and responsibly.

Examples of improper courtroom behavior include racist or sexist comments by a judge, and sleeping or drunkenness on the bench. Judges can also be disciplined for administrative failures such as taking an excessive amount of time to make a decision.

(b) Improper or Illegal Influence

Judges must be independent from all outside influences that may affect their ability to be fair and impartial. Consequently, judges are restricted as to the types of activities in which they can participate. At a minimum, judges cannot allow family, social, or political relationships to influence any judicial decision. Judges also should not hear a matter in which the judge has a personal interest in the outcome. Extreme examples of improper influence would include the giving or receiving of gifts, bribes, loans, or favors. To help assure judicial independence, judges are required to file financial disclosure statements with the court and other financial statements with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

(c) Impropriety Off the Bench

Judges are required to live an exemplary life off the bench, as well. Consequently, the Commission has the authority and responsibility to look at judges' activities outside of the courtroom. Complaints dealing with off-the-bench conduct might allege: misuse of public employees or misappropriation of property or money for personal purposes; improper speech or associations; interference with a pending or impending lawsuit; lewd or corrupt personal life; or use of the judicial position to extort or embezzle funds. Clearly, off-the-bench conduct includes a wide range of behavior from merely inappropriate actions to criminal violations.

(d) Other Improper Activities

Judges are also subject to restrictions in other aspects of their positions. These include prohibitions against: conducting proceedings or discussions involving one party to a legal dispute; interfering with the attorney-client relationship; bias; improper campaign activities; abusing the prestige of the judicial office; obstructing justice; and criminal behavior.

2. Physical or Mental Disability

Apart from allegations of misconduct in office, the Commission also has the authority and responsibility to address allegations of judges' physical and mental disabilities. Disabilities may include: alcohol or drug abuse, senility, serious physical illness, or mental illness.

The Commission can require medical examinations as part of its investigation and also can recommend counseling when appropriate.

C. Complaints the Commission May Not Address (“Nonjurisdictional”)

The Commission has no authority to address questions of law, which are the most common complaints the Commission receives. Frequently, complaints allege dissatisfaction with decisions that judges make in their judicial capacity. For example, individuals often complain of wrong child custody awards or sentences that judges impose in criminal cases. The Commission may not enter into cases or reverse judicial decisions. That role belongs to the appellate courts.

II. HOW THE COMMISSION OPERATES

A. Filing a Complaint

While the Commission may initiate its own investigation, complaints can also be filed against any state judge by any member of the public. A blank complaint form is in **Appendix F** of this report. A form is not necessary, but the complaint should be in writing and should include enough information to enable the Commission staff to begin an investigation. If necessary information is not provided, the complaint will be dismissed for insufficient information. Necessary information includes: the judge's name, the conduct complained of, a case number if it involves a court case, and the names of others present or aware of the facts. Complaints must be **signed** and should be sent to:

**Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
510 L Street, Suite 585
Anchorage, Alaska 99501**

Signed complaints may be e-mailed to administrator@acjc.state.ak.us. Commission staff is available to provide technical assistance to anyone trying to submit a complaint.

B. Complaint Investigation

Soon after a complaint is filed, Commission staff will review and research the accusation, which can include reviewing relevant CourtView information and interviewing the person who filed the complaint to determine the facts giving rise to the complaint and to ascertain whether or not the complaint appears to fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission. The

Commission reviews all complaints and staff research and determines whether the complaint is jurisdictional or nonjurisdictional. Complaints that are nonjurisdictional are dismissed. All jurisdictional complaints are investigated. If after further investigation the Commission finds the accusation to be without merit, it will be dismissed. If a preliminary investigation supports the complaint, a formal investigation begins. It is at this stage that the judge involved is informed of the complaint. A formal investigation often includes an interview with the judge.

Complaints filed with the Commission and all Commission inquiries and investigations are confidential. If the Commission finds probable cause exists to find a judge has committed misconduct that warrants action more serious than a private admonishment or counseling, a formal statement of charges is issued. The statement of charges is public information. Some time after the formal charges issue, the Commission will hold an open public formal hearing on the matter. At the hearing, Special Counsel (hired by the Commission) presents the evidentiary case against the judge. The judge is often represented by an attorney who presents the judge's evidence and defenses. The full Commission usually serves as the factfinder in the matter.

The Commission's decision after a formal hearing is based on the evidence presented and is a public document. It may decide to exonerate the judge of the charge or charges if there is a lack of clear and convincing evidence of misconduct or recommend that the Alaska Supreme Court take formal action. The Alaska Supreme Court may impose one of the following sanctions against the judge: suspension, removal, retirement, censure, or reprimand. The Alaska Supreme Court independently reviews the evidence and may decide not to impose any discipline.

COMMISSION COMPLAINT PROCESS

The complaint process begins when a written complaint is received by Commission staff. If the Commission determines that the complaint falls *outside the Commission's authority*, such as a complaint about an attorney or about a judge's legal decision, the complaint is *dismissed** by the Commission. If the complaint appears to be *within the Commission's authority*, a case number is assigned to the complaint and an initial *investigation* is begun.

During the initial *investigation* stage, a complaint is examined to determine if there is enough evidence to warrant a further investigation. Generally, this process includes close examination of the written complaint (including any evidence or explanation attached), an inspection of any relevant court documents, and, if applicable, review of court hearing audio.

If the Commission determines that there is no reliable evidence supporting the complaint, it is *dismissed** by the Commission at a meeting.

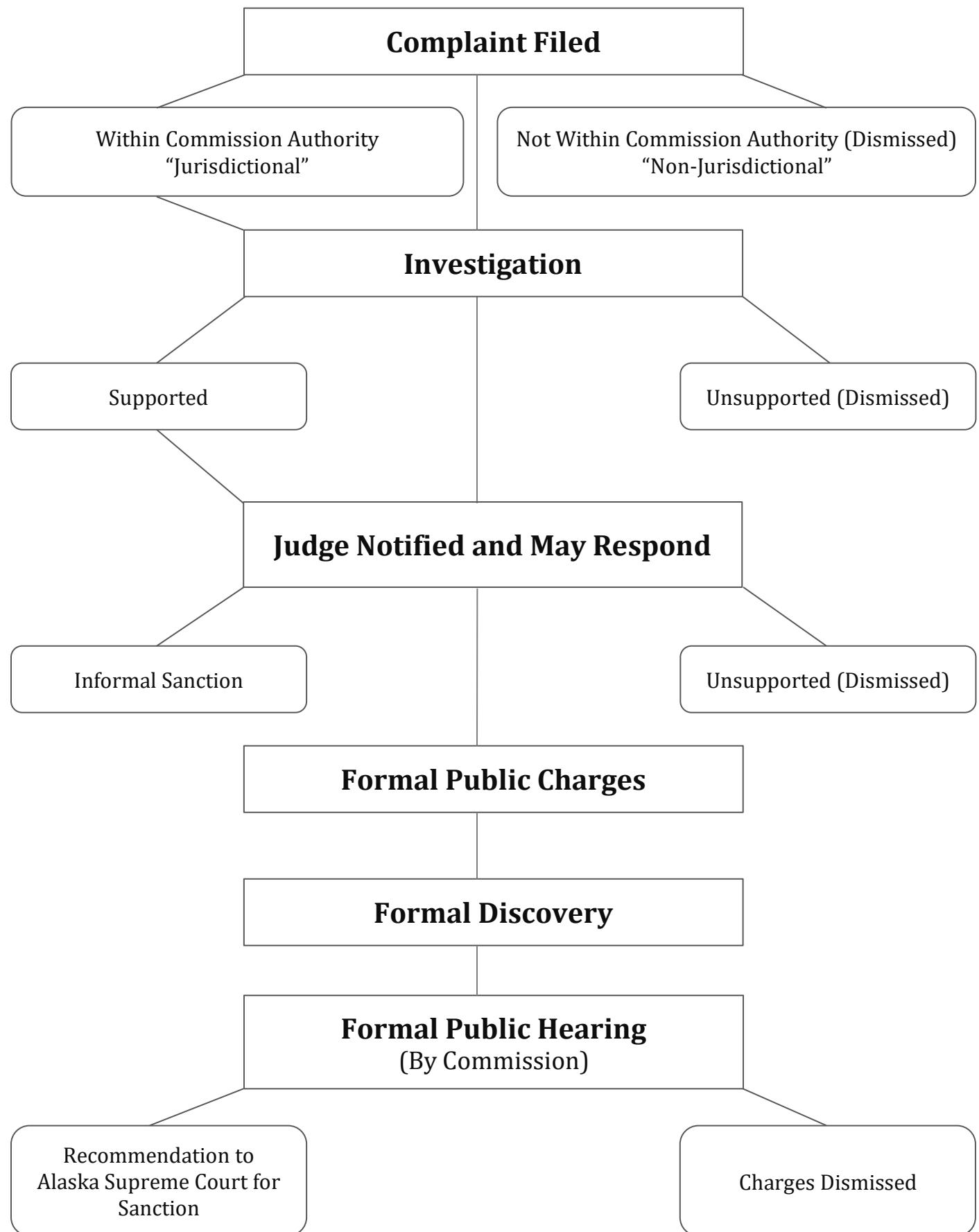
If the Commission determines the complaint appears to have enough substance to warrant action, the *judge in question is notified and given an opportunity to respond*. During this stage, the judge may provide information showing the complaint to be unfounded, may receive a private *informal admonishment*, or *private counseling*. The Commission may, after a determination of probable cause, issue *formal charges* of one or more violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The *issuing* of formal charges by the Commission starts a period of *formal discovery*, where both the Special Counsel hired by the Commission and the accused judge gather evidence and information to support their respective positions.

After the formal discovery period, a *public hearing* is held. The hearing is usually conducted by the Commission (but it is possible that a Special Master could be appointed). Special Counsel presents the case against the judge and the judge will often hire an attorney for his or her defense. There are two possible outcomes from the public hearing; either the charges are dismissed, or the Commission finds the judge committed misconduct and *recommends a sanction to the Alaska Supreme Court*.

The Alaska Supreme Court may impose the Commission's recommended sanction, modify it, or reject the Commission's decision.

*Prior to dismissal by the Commission, staff notifies the complainant in writing of the staff recommendation to dismiss.

Commission Complaint Process



III. CALENDAR YEAR 2025 ACTIVITIES

A. Summary of Complaints

The tables that follow summarize the current Commission caseload. Complaint filing numbers reflect only written complaints received by the Commission and do not reflect the numerous telephone inquiries staff receive. In 2025, staff responded in writing to 50 inquiries and more than 200 verbal and e-mail inquiries. “Complaints closed” during the annual report year may include complaints filed in a prior year but not closed until the annual report year.

In 2025, staff continued to make a concentrated effort to screen many complaints before they actually were filed with the Commission. 30 new jurisdictional complaints were filed (three of the 30 were originally staff designated nonjurisdictional complaints.) Of those jurisdictional complaints, 11 were eventually dismissed. Seven remaining jurisdictional complaints from 2024 were dismissed in 2025.

The Commission opens approximately two complaints every month that require staff investigation. In August of 1991, the Commission adopted a policy of processing all new incoming complaints within 90 days. Should the Commission receive more than four jurisdictional complaints in a month, the Commission established a minimum goal of fully investigating at least three complaints per month.

Table 1

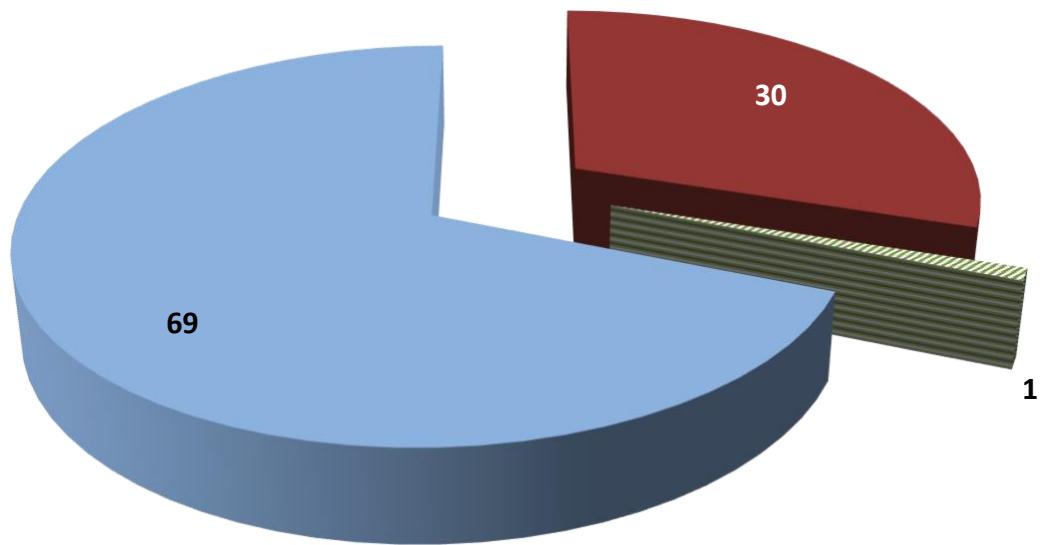
Complaints Filed in 2025

Within the Commission's Authority	<i>Jurisdictional</i>	30
Within the Commission's Authority	<i>Insufficient Information Provided</i>	1
Not Within the Commission's Authority	<i>Non-Jurisdictional</i>	69
Total New Complaints		100

Not included are complaints received against attorneys, administrative law judges, magistrate judges or federal judges. Those were forwarded to the appropriate disciplinary authority.

Figure 1

2025 Complaint Filings



■ Jurisdictional ■ Insufficient Information ■ Non-Jurisdictional

Table 1a

Total Number of Judges who Served by Judicial District

Judicial District	# of Judges
1 st	8
2 nd	3
3 rd	45
4 th	11
Appellate Courts	10
TOTAL	77

This table indicates the total number of judges who served in the district in 2025. This number may be more than the authorized judicial positions in each district.

Table 1b

Number of Judges Named in Jurisdictional Complaints Filed in 2025

Judicial District	Urban* (# of Complaints**)	Urban (# of Judges Named)	Rural (# of Complaints**)	Rural (# of Judges Named)
1 st	1	1	0	0
2 nd	n/a	n/a	2	1
3 rd	16	13	7	4
4 th	4	4	0	0
Appellate Courts	0	0	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	21	18	9	5

Jurisdictional complaints are defined as those that are within the Commission's authority.

*Urban courts have been defined as court sites in: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Palmer.

**Some complaints concern more than one judge.

Table 1c

Number of Judges Named in Non-Jurisdictional Complaints Filed in 2025

Judicial District	Urban* (# of Complaints**)	Urban (# of Judges Named)	Rural (# of Complaints**)	Rural (# of Judges Named)
1 st	0	0	2	2
2 nd	n/a	n/a	4	1
3 rd	52	28	8	6
4 th	6	3	1	1
Appellate Courts	7	3	n/a	n/a
TOTAL	65	34	15	10

Non-Jurisdictional complaints are defined as those that are not within the Commission's authority.

*Urban courts have been defined as court sites in: Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Palmer.

**Some complaints concern more than one judge.

Table 2

Comparison with Previous Years' Filings

Total Accusations Filed by Calendar Year: 1996-2025

(Includes complaints both within the Commission's authority, and those not within the Commission's authority that were not screened out prior to receipt)

2025	100		
2024	68		
2023	57		
2022	53		
2021	39		
2020	40		
2019	31		
2018	44		
2017	60		
2016	53		
2015	41		
2014	60		
2013	75		
2012	73		
2011	72		
		2010	52
		2009	49
		2008	61
		2007	32
		2006	58
		2005	48
		2004	64
		2003	46
		2002	44
		2001	52
		2000	63
		1999	48
		1998	57
		1997	49
		1996	38

Figure 2

Total Filings Comparison by Year: 1996-2025

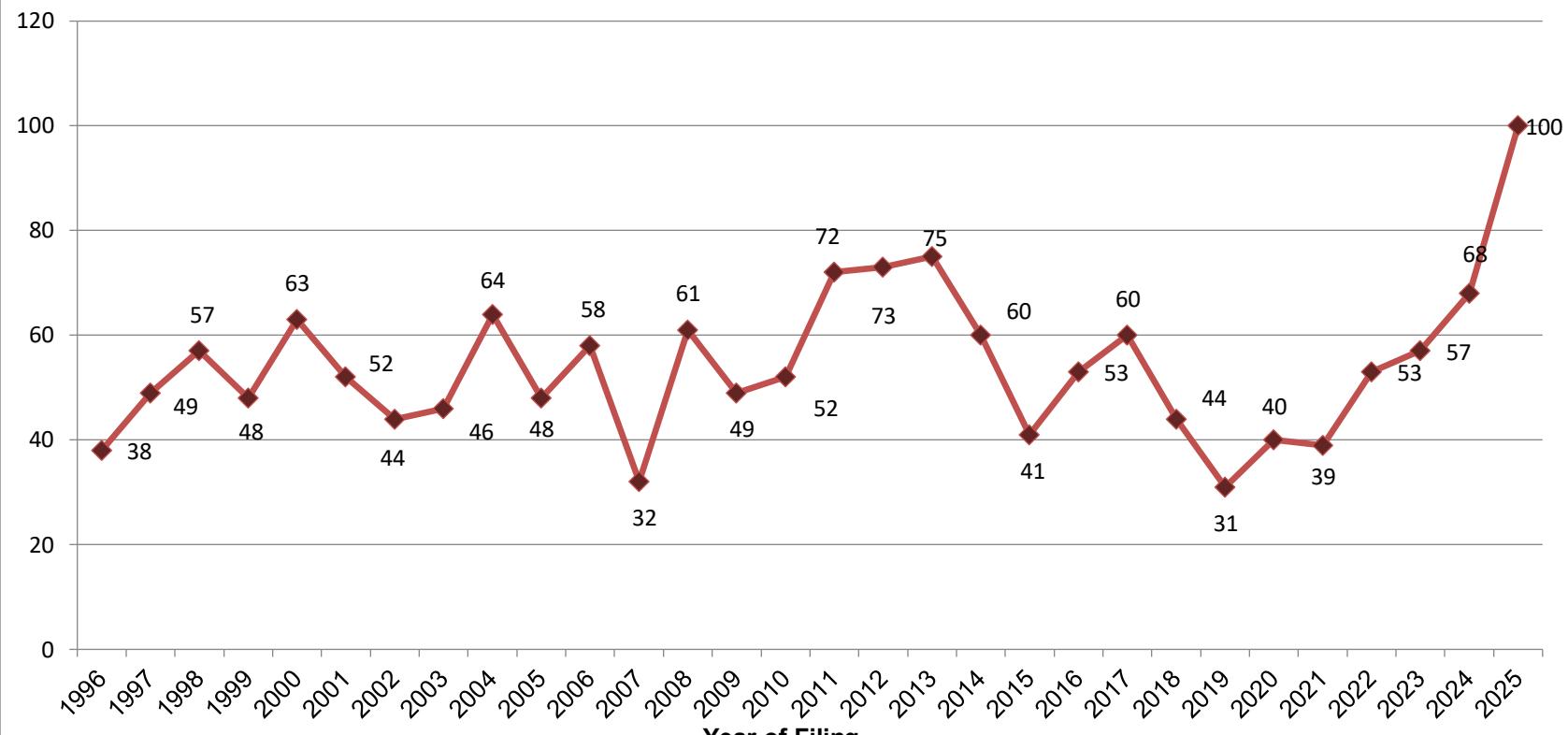


Table 3

Complaint Sources

(Jurisdictional and Non-Jurisdictional Filed by Year 2021 - 2025)

Complaint Sources	2021*	2022	2023*	2024*	2025*
Litigants	34	44	48	61	82
Non-Litigants	2	6	6	4	5
Attorneys/Judges/Court Personnel	4	3	4	4	4
Commission Initiated	0	0	0	0	2

*Some complaints had multiple sources and/or some complainants filed multiple complaints

Figure 3

Comparison of Complaint Sources

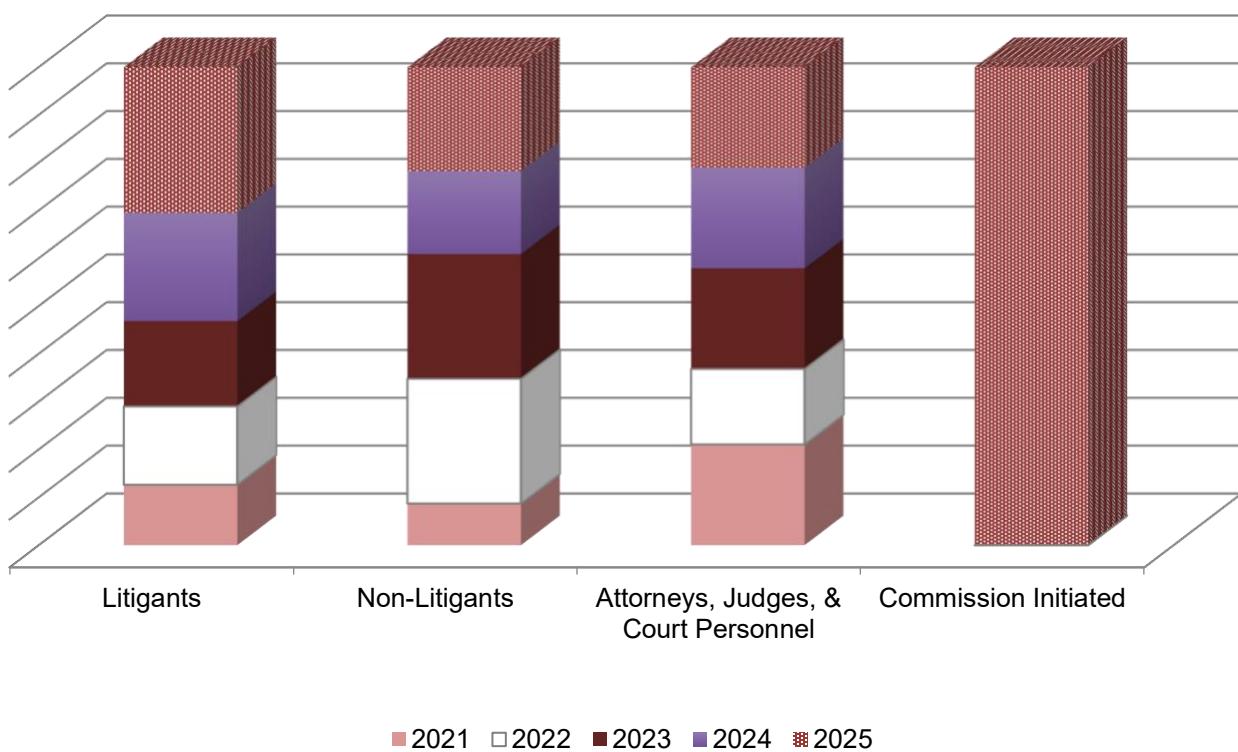


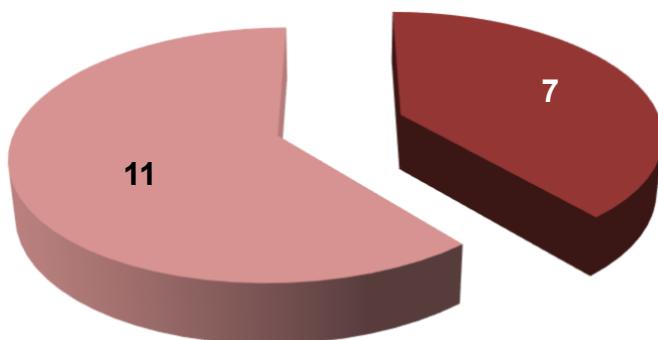
Table 4

2025 Jurisdictional Complaint Closures

Closed Complaints Filed Prior to 2025	7
Closed Complaints Filed in 2025	11

Figure 4

2025 Jurisdictional Complaint Closures



■ Closed Complaints Filed Prior to 2025 ■ Closed Complaints Filed in 2025

Table 5

Complaints Disposed in 2025

Complaints Outside the Commission's Authority

Dissatisfaction with Legal Ruling	46
Other	6
Redesignated as Jurisdictional Complaint	3
Total Non-Jurisdictional Complaints Processed*	55

Complaints Within the Commission's Authority

Insufficient Information Provided to Investigate	0
Complainant Withdrew Complaint and Commission Dismissed	1
Investigated then Dismissed	17
Closed After Further Commission Action	0
Total Jurisdictional Complaints Processed	18

Not included are complaints received against attorneys, administrative law judges, magistrate judges, or federal judges, which were forwarded to the appropriate disciplinary authority. Complaints may include those that were filed in prior years.

*Some complaints contained multiple allegations.

Figure 5

Jurisdictional Complaints Processed in 2025

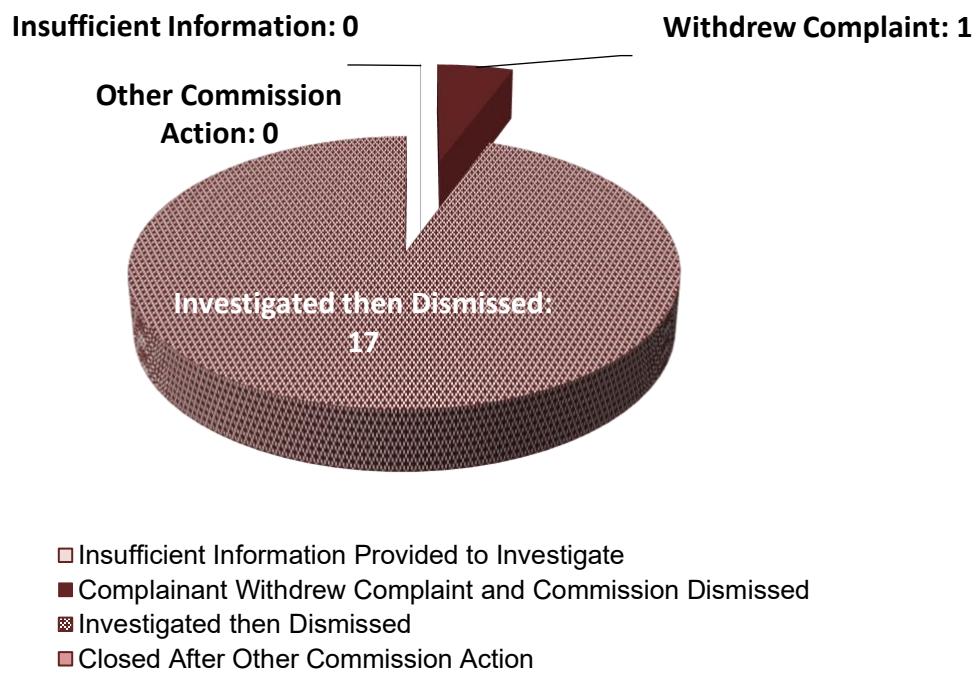


Table 6

Comparison with Previous Years' Closures*

Total Jurisdictional Complaints Closed
Per Year: 1996-2025

2025	18
2024	24
2023	11
2022	6
2021	4
2020	13
2019	9
2018	8
2017	10
2016	7
2015	9
2014	11
2013	17
2012	5
2011	22

2010	14
2009	13
2008	8
2007	11
2006	11
2005	10
2004	17
2003	17
2002	14
2001	14
2000	19
1999	32
1998	21
1997	15
1996	15

*Complaints closed in a particular year may not all have been filed in that same year. Prior to 1989, it was the Commission's policy to open a complaint for every inquiry made with the Commission's office. After 1989, the Commission opened files only for those matters that, on their face, were within the Commission's authority. Therefore, the numbers before 1989, published in prior annual reports, are not directly comparable to those after 1989.

Figure 6

Complaint Closure Comparison By Year: 1996-2025

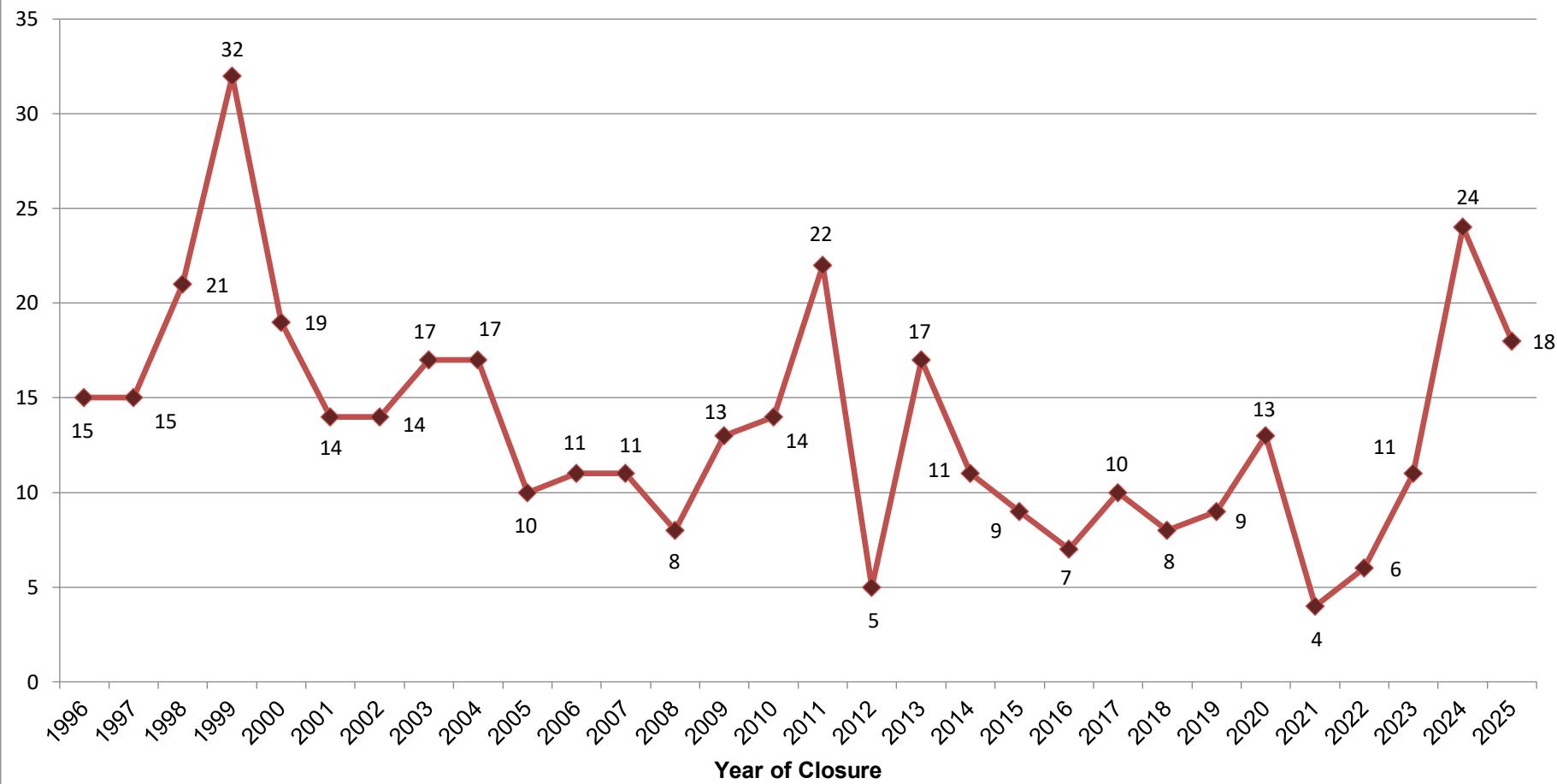


Table 7

Actions Taken: 2021 - 2025

Actions Taken	2021*	2022*	2023*	2024*	2025*
Total Complaints Reviewed	34	50	45	76	78
Complaints dismissed for lack of jurisdiction	29	43	34	52	57
Complaints investigated	6	10	13	24	21
Complaints dismissed as unsupported	4	5	9	22	19
Judges asked to respond in writing to alleged misconduct	1	0	3	2	2
Judges requested to appear to explain alleged misconduct	0	1	2	0	2
Complaints dismissed as unsupported after response by judges	0	0	1	2	0
Private admonishments, counseling, and cautionary letters	0	1	1	3	0
Discipline/disability recommended to the Alaska Supreme Court	0	0	1	0	1

*Some complaints may include more than one action by the Commission.

The stages of investigation and dismissal listed here can be found in the Commission Complaint Process Chart found on Page 23.

Figure 7

Actions Taken: 2021 - 2025

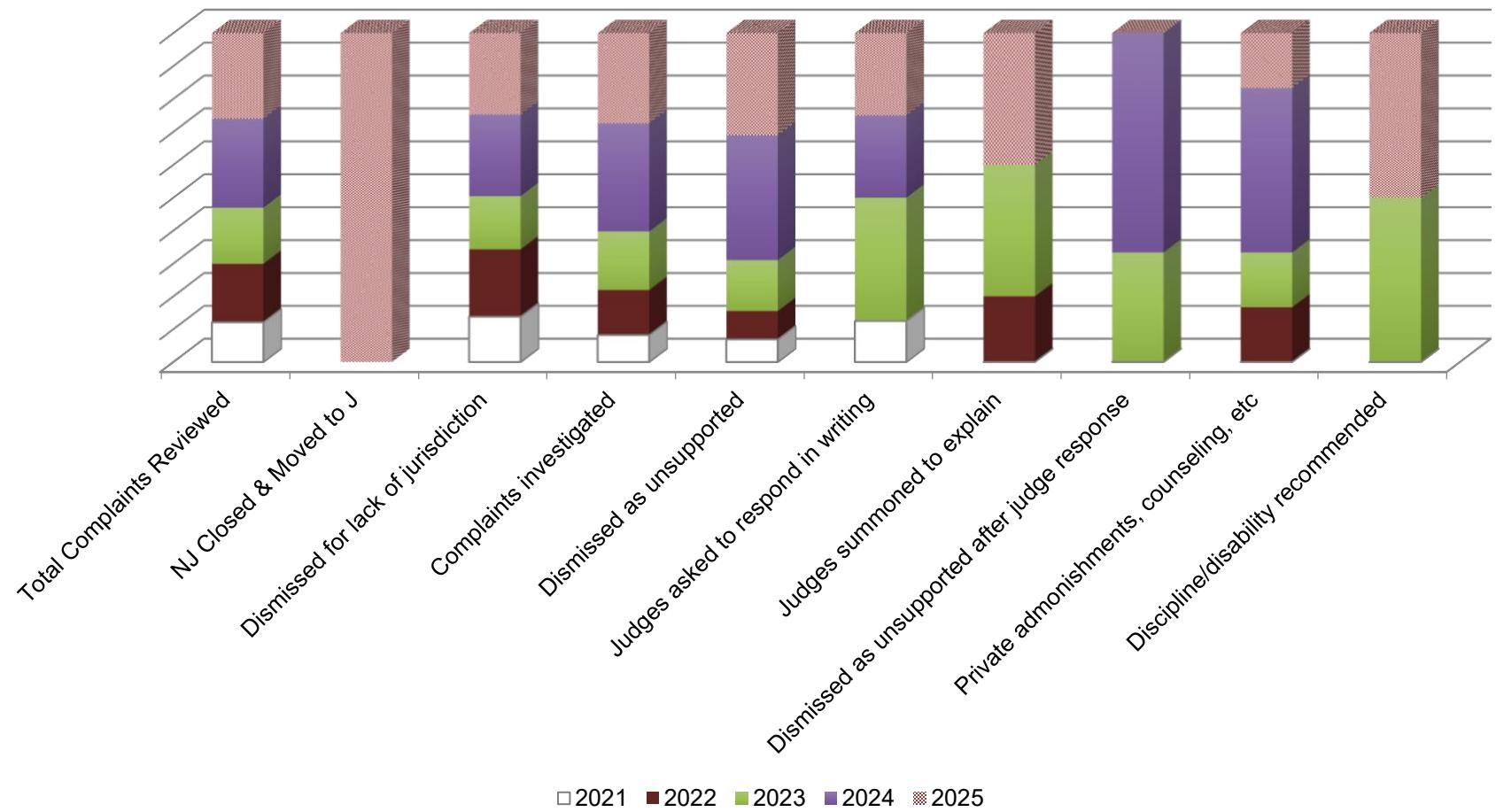


Table 8
Court Levels Involved
Jurisdictional Complaints Filed: 2021 - 2025

Court Levels Involved	2021*	2022	2023	2024	2025
District Court Judges	0	3	3	3	4
Superior Court Judges	6	9	10	20	17
Court of Appeals Judges	0	0	0	0	0
Supreme Court Justices	0	0	0	0	0
Pro-Tem Judges	0	0	0	1	1
Unspecified/Retired	0	0	0	0	1

*Not a total of the category. Some complaints include more than one judge/justice.

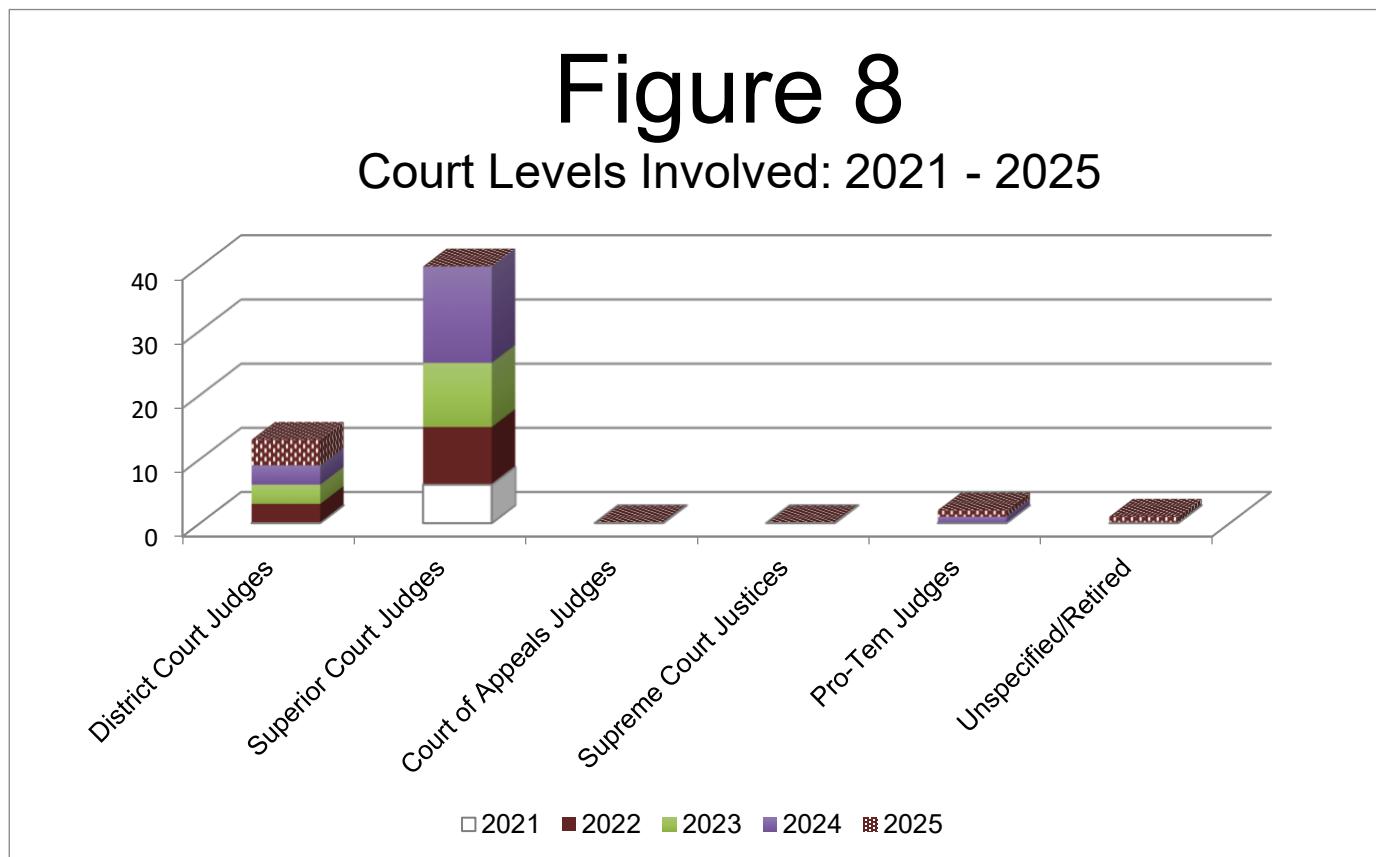


Table 9

Pending Jurisdictional Complaints by Year Filed

(As of December 31, 2025)

2024	2
2025	19

Table 10

Types of Allegations* Filed in 2025 (Jurisdictional and Non-Jurisdictional)

<i>Types of Allegations</i>	2025*
<i>Always Non-Jurisdictional</i>	
Dissatisfaction with Legal Ruling	64
General Bias/Vague Assertion of Bias	0
<i>Jurisdictional if Supported</i>	
Administrative Failure	2
Delay	7
Ex Parte Communications	3
Demeanor/Abuse of Authority/Temperament	13
Improper Courtroom Decorum	5
Conflict of Interest/Failure to Disqualify	2
Racial, Ethnic, or Gender Bias	4
Appearance of Impropriety	2
Personal Misconduct Off the Bench	1
Criminal Activity	0
Disability/Competence	0
Other/General Misconduct	0

*Some complaints include more than one type of allegation

Figure 10

Types of Allegations Filed in 2025 (Jurisdictional and Non-Jurisdictional)

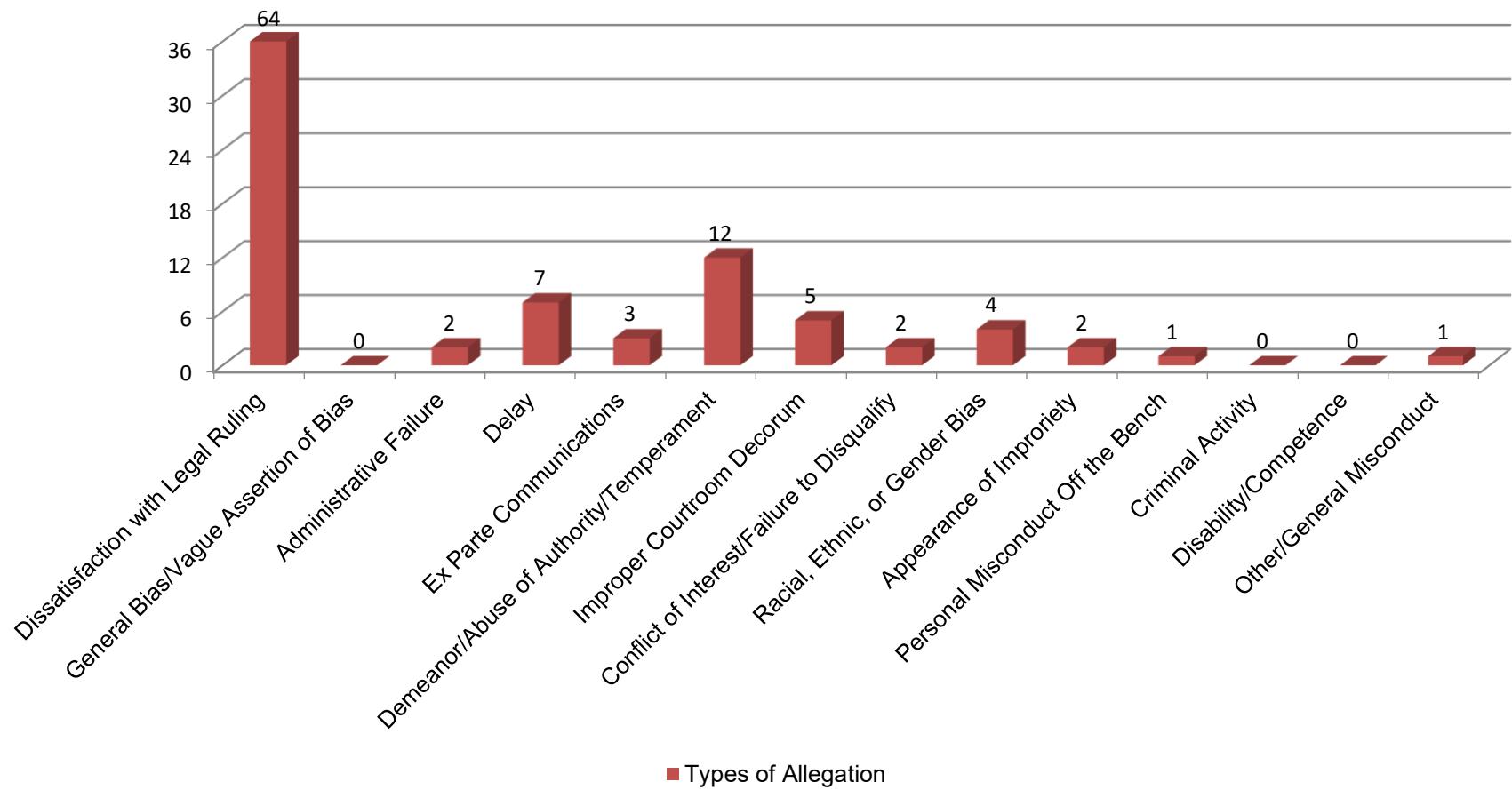


Table 11

2025 Recusals by Commissioners and Staff

Total Votes on Complaints in 2025	78
Judge Member Recusals	5
Attorney Member Recusals	6
Public Member Recusals	1
Staff Member Recusals	0

Commissioners are recused, or disqualified, from voting on complaints in which they may have a conflict of interest.

B. Commission Meetings

During 2025, the Commission held three regular meetings, one Formal Hearing, and 6 Special Meetings. With a full-time staff of two, the Commission continues to increase its case processing and fine-tune its procedures. Staff consistently works to increase staff responsiveness. Increased responsiveness increases the Commission's accessibility and has resulted in increased interaction with the public. Current funding levels allow for three regular meetings a year in Anchorage.

2025 Regular Meeting Locations

March 7, 2025	Zoom/Anchorage
June 27, 2025	Zoom/Anchorage
November 14, 2025	Zoom/Anchorage

2025 Special Meeting Locations

April 4, 2025	Zoom
April 29, 2025	Zoom
May 28, 2025	Zoom
August 8, 2025	Zoom
September 12, 2025	Zoom
October 1, 2025	Zoom

2025 Formal Hearing Location

June 27, 2025	Zoom/Anchorage
---------------	----------------

C. Outreach

Commission brochures inform the public of its purpose and functions. Brochures are available to the general public free of charge through the Commission's office. In addition, Commission members and staff address bar associations, court administrators, local community groups, and judicial programs. The Commission also maintains membership in the National Center for State Courts, Center for Judicial Ethics.

D. Formal Proceedings

The Commission held a Formal Hearing and forwarded a recommendation of discipline to the Supreme Court in one matter in 2025.

E. Rules of Procedure

The Commission's operations are governed by Rules of Procedure. While the statutes relating to the Commission broadly outline the Commission's responsibilities, the Rules of Procedure define how the Commission operates. In 1991, the Commission revised its rules clarifying many rules and increasing their scope. In 1998, a committee consisting of four commission members, one attorney member, one public member, and two judge members, was established for the purpose of refining and modifying the Rules of Procedure. The Commission adopted this revision on December 1, 2000.

The Rules Revision Committee's work focused on enhancing the rules in the areas such as discovery, evidence, motions, role of the chair, executive director's role and authority, standards for reopening complaints, deliberative process, the formal hearing, and settlement. In June 2003, the Notice Rule was revised to allow notice to a judge in anticipation of action at an upcoming meeting. Rule 5(e) was revised to specify the form that information would be released pursuant to a waiver in 2009. In August 2013, the Commission amended Rule 11 to allow for "informal advice" by the Commission to a judge where there is no misconduct. In May 2020, the Commission amended Rule 1 to provide for public notice of formal hearings, and in May 2021, made further amendments to Rule 1 to clarify notice of meetings and the procedure for members of the general public to speak at a Commission meeting. Most recently, additional amendments were made to Rule 1 in June and November of 2025 to refine those same provisions.

Most rule revisions are circulated for public comment prior to their adoption. The Commission's efforts are directed toward improving its public responsiveness, creating the fairest procedures, and fulfilling its directive under the state constitution. The Commission's current Rules of Procedure are included in **Appendix I**.

F. Staffing

The Commission staff currently consists of an executive director and an administrative assistant.

IV. COMMISSION FINANCES AND BUDGET

The Commission's finances are planned according to the state fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). Each year, the Commission on Judicial Conduct submits its budget request to the legislature. The Commission's resources are appropriated from the state general operating fund.

A. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget

In FY 2026, the legislature appropriated \$577,900.00 to the Commission. This money enables the Commission to operate a staff of one executive director and one administrative assistant.

In addition, in FY 2026, the legislature provided for a language appropriation not to exceed \$75,000 to engage Special Counsel if needed.

B. Calendar Year 2025 Activity

All but two of the previous year's pending complaints were closed in 2025.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Commission Meetings

January 30, 2026	Zoom/Anchorage
April 2026	Zoom/Anchorage
June 18, 2026	Zoom/Anchorage
September 2026	Zoom/Anchorage
December 2026	Zoom/Anchorage

B. Caseload

In 2026, the Commission anticipates receiving approximately 100 complaints against judicial officers, of which 24 may require staff investigation.

C. Legislation

At the Commission's request, the House Judiciary Committee introduced a bill in 1989 that opened the Commission's formal hearings to the public. House Bill 268, passed in May

1990, also established a standard deadline of six years for complaints against judges to be filed with the Commission. (The former law required a period of not more than six years before the start of the judge's current term; creating different time limits for different judges.) The law also explicitly includes part-time or temporary judges within the Commission's authority. That law's enactment also made all Commission formal hearings and recommendations to the Alaska Supreme Court open to the public. In 1997, the Commission conducted its first public hearing under this legislation.

D. Formal Ethics Opinions

In 1991, the Commission issued its first Formal Ethics Opinions. These opinions are based on actual Commission complaints that resulted in some form of private informal action. Formal Ethics Opinions are reported in a way that protects confidentiality. Only the minimum facts necessary to an understanding of the opinion are reported. The Commission continues to adopt new formal ethics opinions as situations arise. These opinions are included in **Appendix G**.

E. Advisory Opinions

At the March 1, 1996, meeting, the Commission adopted a rule authorizing the issuance of advisory opinions to judges who would like guidance regarding ethical dilemmas. Special committees of the Commission draft opinions in response to written requests. A final opinion issues from the Commission and is confidential unless the requesting judge asks that it be public. The Commission adopted no new advisory opinions in 2025. Advisory opinions are included in **Appendix H**.

Staff also provided approximately 145 informal ethics opinions to judicial officers and court personnel.

F. Other Activities

In 2026, the Commission will continue developing and conducting educational programs for judicial officers on various judicial conduct issues. While advisory opinions provide guidance to individual judges addressing specific ethical issues, there is an ongoing need to provide general guidance to all judges in this changing field.

Again in 2025, the Commission provided self-study materials covering a variety of ethics topics for both new and experienced judges. In addition, the Commission continues to

participate with the court system's judicial education committees and presents judicial programs periodically addressing a variety of ethical issues.

In 2000, the Commission jointly published Alaska Judicial Applicant Guidelines with the Alaska Judicial Council and the Alaska Bar Association. The publication gives guidance to judicial applicants and their supporters regarding the ethical considerations when soliciting support from others. There are suggestions for preferred methods and tone of communications as well as an appendix of resource materials. This publication was reprinted in 2003.

Other outreach activities will continue and expand to further general public awareness of the Commission's functions. Staff will continue to address community groups and meet individually with members of the general public. In addition, the Commission will periodically pay for display newspaper advertisements that highlight the Commission's purpose and invite public participation.

The Commission also hopes to continue work with the state and local bar associations to identify areas of concern that attorneys have encountered. A very small percentage of current complaints against judges are filed by attorneys.

Tab D

New Non-Jurisdictional Letter Language

From: Marla Greenstein mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us
Subject: Fwd: Allegations, screenings, investigations, dismissals, and concerns: Extra content #78
Date: January 12, 2026 at 10:52 AM
To: Jane Mores, Robert Sheldon, Todd Fletcher, Aldean Kilbourn, Amy Mead, Thomas Temple, Ian Wheeles, William Satterberg, Donald McClintock



Cc: Aleta Assistant ABartimmo@acjc.state.ak.us
Bcc:

Interesting article that summarizes complaints that the Massachusetts Commission dismissed and their reasons....hope this is helpful.

Marla

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director
Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
510 L Street, Suite 585
Anchorage, AK

907-272-1033

Begin forwarded message:

From: Judicial Conduct Dispatch <cynthiagrayjudicialconduct@substack.com>
Date: January 12, 2026 at 7:18:44 AM AKST
To: administrator@acjc.state.ak.us
Subject: Allegations, screenings, investigations, dismissals, and concerns: Extra content #78
Reply-To: Judicial Conduct Dispatch
<reply+31qu4v&5xgba0&&b0a70ddda7ba3df75d5ee2a9fbabb3bc611c95d63440d71c01bd4ab5e14a8700@mg1.substack.com>

[View in browser](#)

Allegations, screenings, investigations, dismissals, and concerns: Extra content #78

Massachusetts Commission 2024 annual report

CINDY GRAY

JAN 12 • PAID



READ IN APP ➔

Late last year, the Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct released

its annual report for 2024, including summaries of some of the complaints that it disposed of confidentially. The report explains that the Commission received 1,117 complaints in 2024 (879 through the online complaint form on its website). Only 39 of those 1,117 complaints fell within its jurisdiction, in other words, alleged specific facts that, “if true, would constitute judicial misconduct or disability.”

This post is part of the extra content that comes with a paid subscription to the *Judicial Conduct Dispatch*. Thank you for your support.

The Commission dismissed 40 complaints in 2024 (some pending from prior years) — 4 after screening, 29 after an investigation did not find any judicial misconduct, and 7 with an expression of concern. The Commission did not conclude any public proceedings in 2024 (although in December 2024 it did file formal charges against a judge based on her role in allowing a defendant to avoid being taken into custody by ICE following his arraignment. That case is still pending.)

The report summarizes examples of complaints that the Commission dismissed after a screening or investigation or with an expression of concern.

- Finding that the seriousness or notoriety of the alleged misconduct did not outweigh the potential prejudicial effect of an investigation, the Commission dismissed an anonymous complainant alleging that a housing court judge had engaged in politically oriented activity, including specific information about the political activity that the complainant had observed, but without any credible evidence or information that the judge was responsible for the political activity. (Commission Rule 6F provides that the Commission will only investigate anonymous allegations that “if true, constitute misconduct or disability within the jurisdiction of the Commission, and the seriousness or the notoriety of the misconduct alleged outweighs the potential prejudicial effect of an investigation into the merits of the complaint.”)

- Finding that there was no good cause to investigate the stale complaint, the Commission dismissed a complaint filed by a self-represented defendant/tenant in a summary process matter alleging that a housing court judge treated him discourteously and failed to grant him a full opportunity to be heard in 2 hearings held approximately 2 years before the complaint was filed. (Commission Rule 6E provides that a complaint is considered stale if it arises out of acts or omissions occurring more than 1 year prior to the date the complaint was filed.) In its screening of the complaint, the Commission reviewed the materials submitted by the complainant, asked for further information and evidence from the complainant, and interviewed the complainant. The complainant was unable to provide any specific examples or evidence to support his claims, and the Commission screening “revealed evidence that what the complainant perceived as improper pressure from the judge was actually actions taken by the judge in an effort to help the complainant present his case effectively, consistent with Rule 2.6(A) of the Code.” (Rule 2.6(A) of the Massachusetts code of judicial conduct provides, in part: “A judge may make reasonable efforts, consistent with the law, to facilitate the ability of all litigants, including self-represented litigants, to be fairly heard.”)
- The Commission dismissed as frivolous or unfounded a complaint filed by a self-represented party in a child custody matter that included specific factual allegations that a probate and family court judge had accepted bribes in exchange for ruling against the complainant but did not include any credible information or evidence to support of those allegations. When interviewed as part of the Commission screening, the complainant was unable to provide any specific facts or evidence to support their claim.
- The Commission dismissed a complaint filed by a represented party in a divorce matter alleging that a probate and family court judge had treated them discourteously and had created an appearance of bias against them. The Commission reviewed the audio record and docket sheet and

interviewed the judge and the complainant. The investigation “did not reveal any evidence that would cause a reasonable objective observer to believe that the judge had a bias against the complainant.”

- The Commission dismissed a complaint filed by a self-represented party in a harassment prevention order matter alleging that a judge treated them discourteously and failed to grant him a full opportunity to be heard during an extension hearing. The Commission reviewed the audio record and docket sheet and interviewed the complainant and the judge. The investigation did not reveal any evidence to support the allegations, and the audio record showed that the judge had treated all parties, including the complainant, politely and professionally and had granted all parties a full opportunity to be heard.
- With an expression of concern, the Commission dismissed a complaint filed by a self-represented party in a harassment prevention order matter alleging that a judge treated them discourteously, failed to provide them with a full opportunity to be heard, and created an appearance of bias against them, specifically, that the judge rolled their eyes while the complainant spoke, did not address the complainant by their full name, and did not permit the complainant to present the testimony of a relevant witness. The Commission reviewed the audio records and docket sheet and interviewed the complainant and the judge. The investigation did not reveal any evidence that the judge treated the complainant discourteously or created an appearance of bias against him, but there was some evidence that the judge may have failed to grant the complainant a full opportunity to be heard by failing to allow the complainant to present testimony from a witness because the judge had already taken testimony from the witness in a separate but related matter. Although the Commission dismissed the complaint, it expressed its concern to the judge “to be mindful of creating a complete record in the matters that come before the judge, even when proposed testimony or evidence may already be on the record from another hearing.”

As its 2024 report demonstrates, the majority of the work done by the Massachusetts Commission is confidential, and most complaints are dismissed. That is true of all judicial conduct commissions, and that statistic is the basis for much misunderstanding and criticism of commissions. Summaries of confidential actions such as those included in the Massachusetts Commission report can help explain the high dismissal rate and may increase public understanding of what constitutes judicial misconduct and the limits of the judicial discipline process. It is an effort to provide some transparency that other commissions could consider adopting as a best practice if, like most commissions, they do not already do so.

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Current New Non-Jurisdictional Letter

C O N F I D E N T I A L

January __, 2026

Re: Nonjurisdictional Accusation Judge _____

Dear _____:

I have reviewed your complaint asserting that the judge in your criminal case made several decisions that you disagree with and believe are wrong. This Commission does not have the legal authority to review the correctness of any judicial decision, including whether the judge properly _____ and applied constitutional principles correctly. These decisions, in themselves, are not enough to establish any ethics issue.

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has limited powers and duties under Alaska law (see A.S. 22.30.011) and has no power to enter into cases or reverse judicial decisions. The complaint you have filed does not appear to raise an ethical issue as defined by the Code of Judicial Conduct. The judge's decisions may be appealable to a higher court, but do not appear to constitute misconduct as defined in A.S. 22.30.011 (copy enclosed).

The full commission will independently review the recommendation of dismissal of your complaints at its next meeting, currently set for January 30th. If this complaint is not dismissed, it will be opened as a jurisdictional complaint. You will be informed of either outcome.

Sincerely,

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director

Proposed New Non-Jurisdictional Letter

C O N F I D E N T I A L

January ___, 2026

Re: Nonjurisdictional Accusation Judge _____

Dear _____:

I have reviewed your complaint asserting that the judge in your criminal case made several decisions that you disagree with and believe are wrong. This Commission does not have the legal authority to review the correctness of any judicial decision, including whether the judge properly _____ and applied constitutional principles correctly. These decisions, in themselves, are not enough to establish any ethics issue under the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct.

Alaska's Code of Judicial Conduct sets out ethics rules for judges. The Commission on Judicial Conduct is limited by law to hearing only those complaints concerning conduct addressed by that Code. The Commission's statutory authority does not allow it to hear issues that can be reviewed by another court, such as a judge's decisions concerning evidence or legal issues raised in motions. Even if all facts alleged in your complaint were accepted as true, your complaint would not raise any issues of judicial misconduct or disability as defined by the Code.

A more complete explanation of the types of complaints the Commission can consider can be found in the Commission's Annual Report, available on the Commission's website (<https://acjc.alaska.gov>) under "Resources." The judge's decisions may be appealable to a higher court, but do not appear to constitute misconduct as defined in A.S. 22.30.011 (copy enclosed).

The full commission will independently review the recommendation of dismissal of your complaints at its next meeting currently set for _____. If this complaint is not dismissed, it will be opened as a jurisdictional complaint. You will be informed of either outcome.

Sincerely,

Marla N. Greenstein
Executive Director

Current Final Non-Jurisdictional Dismissal Letter

C O N F I D E N T I A L

January ___, 2026

Re: Nonjurisdictional Accusations Judge

Dear _____:

At its November 14th meeting, the full Commission reviewed your complaint asserting that the judge made wrong decisions in your case by _____. This Commission does not have the legal power to review decisions judges made in court proceedings like those listed in your complaint.

Alaska's Code of Judicial Conduct sets out specific ethics rules for judges. The Code does not use the word "ethics" because it is a very specific Code of Conduct. As your complaint does not raise any issues under the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct, your complaint was unanimously dismissed.

The Commission is limited by law to hearing only those complaints that arise under the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct. The Commission's statutory authority does not allow it to hear issues that can be raised in an appeal, such as a judge's legal decisions in a court case.

Sincerely,

Hon. Amy Mead
Chair

Proposed Final Non-Jurisdictional Dismissal Letter

C O N F I D E N T I A L

January __, 2026

Re: Nonjurisdictional Accusation Judge _____

Dear _____:

At its most recent meeting on _____ the full Commission reviewed your complaint asserting that the judge in your _____ case made several decisions that you disagree with and believe are wrong. This Commission does not have the legal authority to review the correctness of any judicial decision, including whether the judge properly _____ and _____. These decisions, in themselves, are not enough to establish any ethics issue under the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct.

Alaska's Code of Judicial Conduct sets out ethics rules for judges. The Commission on Judicial Conduct is limited by law to hearing only those complaints concerning conduct addressed by that Code. The Commission's statutory authority does not allow it to hear issues that can be reviewed by another court, such as a judge's decisions concerning evidence or legal issues raised in motions.

Even if all facts alleged in your complaint were accepted as true, your complaint would not raise any issues of judicial misconduct or disability as defined by the Code. Because the Commission does not have the legal authority to consider the issue raised in your complaint, the Commission was obligated to dismiss it.

Sincerely,

Hon. Amy Mead
Chair

Public Session

Informational

News Articles

Alaska judges will soon be bound by tighter ethics rules under a rewrite of court standards

The state's existing code of ethics dates to 1998 and was based upon a national standard from 1990

BY: **JAMES BROOKS** - JANUARY 8, 2026 11:08 AM



 The Boney Courthouse in downtown Anchorage, across the street from the larger Nesbett Courthouse, holds the Alaska Supreme Court chambers. (Photo by Yereth Rosen/Alaska Beacon)

The Alaska Court System is preparing to finalize new ethics guidelines that will determine whether state judges must opt out from hearing cases due to personal conflicts.

An extensive new ethics code, modeled on a national standard drafted by the American Bar Association, is [open for public comment](#) through Jan. 23.

The changes, which [stretch for dozens of dense, jargon-filled pages](#), prescribe things like what a judge can ethically do during an election, how to respond if someone's life might be endangered by secrecy and even what happens if an attorney is drunk in the courtroom.

“The primary purpose in my mind ... is so a judge can look at it to determine whether what the judge is thinking about doing or is being asked to do is ethical,” said former Alaska Chief Justice Daniel Winfree, a key member of the committee that has been working on the redraft since 2018.

That predates [recent concerns](#) over the ethical standards used by the U.S. Supreme Court, whose members have been accused of accepting excessive gifts from people with issues in front of the court.

Alaska’s existing code of ethics dates to 1998 and was based on a model released in 1990 by the American Bar Association.

The association released a new model code in 2007, but Alaska didn’t adopt it. In 2018, as the court system dealt with a rising number of Alaskans representing themselves in court, judges were struggling with what they could and couldn’t do to help, Winfree said.

He suggested adopting part of the new model code to help with the issue.

“And all of a sudden, it got morphed into, ‘Well, we haven’t looked at the entire (code) since the whole thing changed. And so, would you like to chair a committee?’”

Winfree’s been working on the new code since then, continuing even after [his retirement from the Alaska Supreme Court](#) in 2023.

“It took a lot longer than I would have expected,” he said.

The code was supposed to become effective in April, but Winfree and others in the court system wanted a longer public comment period. It’s now scheduled for October 2026, time enough to make changes and fix any issues raised through public comments, according to Winfree.

The code applies to members of the Alaska Supreme Court, district court judges, superior court judges, and magistrates. All but magistrates are also covered by the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Federal U.S. District Court Judge Joshua Kindred [resigned from Alaska’s federal courts in 2024](#) after an investigation found significant misconduct. He was later [disbarred by the Alaska Supreme Court](#).

Kindred was a federal judge, not a state one, but the new draft gives a nod to his misconduct.

As Winfree explained, the new code “makes clear that judges are supervisors and that they

have other obligations as supervisors than just an obligation to not be a bad person.”

Winfree said that as public comments arrive, the drafting committee will examine each one to consider whether changes need to be made to the existing draft code.

“Depending on how many comments there are, we’ll probably have a couple of meetings with the Supreme Court to go over each of these things, make final changes, and then go to print,” he said.

“It’s a huge project. We’ll be so happy when it’s done, I bet.”

Correction: *The revised code would apply to magistrate judges. A prior version of this article was incorrect.*

Judicial Appointment Letters

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

**Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA**

December 5, 2025

Ms. RuthAnne Beach
2301 Steeple Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

Dear Ms. Beach:

I am pleased you have accepted an appointment to the Alaska Court of Appeals.

Your outstanding qualifications and your record of public service are a positive testament to your ability to serve the people of the State of Alaska as a member of Alaska's Judiciary.

Best wishes in your new endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "mike dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Susan M. Carney, Chief Justice, Alaska Supreme Court
Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council
Stacy Marz, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001
907-465-3500



550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7450

**Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA**

December 5, 2025

Mr. John Haley, III
1031 West 4th Avenue, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Haley:

I am pleased you have accepted an appointment to the Anchorage District Court.

Your outstanding qualifications and your record of public service are a positive testament to your ability to serve the people of the State of Alaska as a member of Alaska's Judiciary.

Best wishes in your new endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MD" and "m".

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

cc: The Honorable Susan M. Carney, Chief Justice, Alaska Supreme Court
Susanne DiPietro, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council
Stacy Marz, Administrative Director, Alaska Court System

Publications

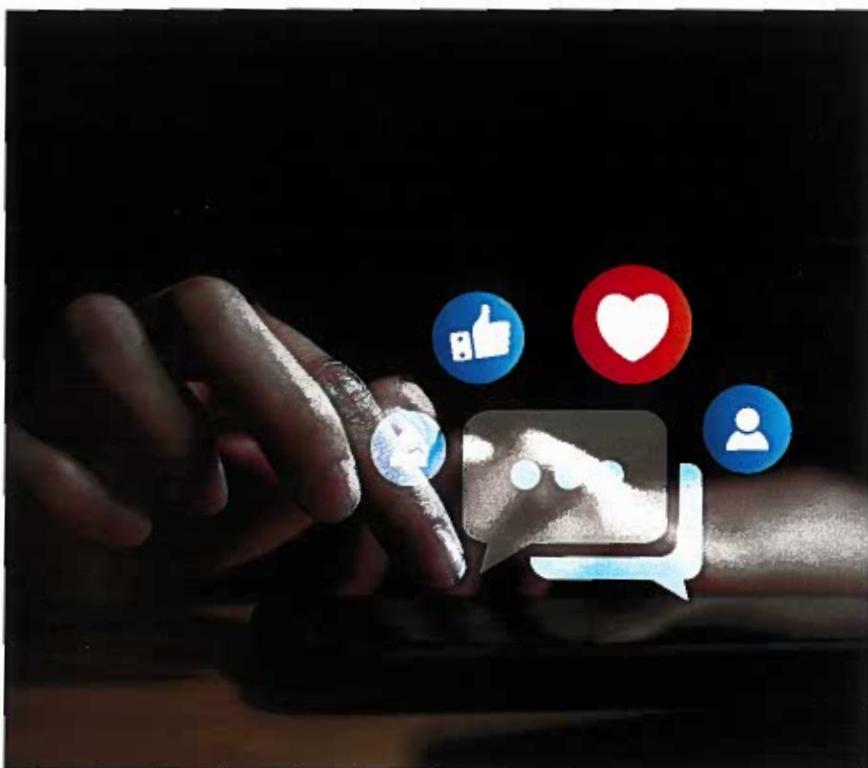
THE JUDGES' JOURNAL

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Modern Challenges of Judging

The Challenges of Modern Judicial Ethics

By Marla N. Greenstein



Like the articles in this issue, to look forward and anticipate future ethical challenges, we first must examine our past. The evolution of the Code of Judicial Conduct reflects the evolution of the complexity of issues that judges face, the expanding roles that judges now play in addressing social and family issues, and the political pressures that accompany the expanding roles.

The 1972 Model Code of Judicial Conduct expanded on the original Canons by incorporating newly developed caselaw on judicial discipline and disqualification. That Code established guardrails and guidelines but did not address with specificity the many ways that the principles are applied. Almost 20 years later, the 1990 revised Model Code of Judicial Conduct addressed with increased specificity the need to consider judges' community activities and political speech while recognizing the tension between limiting judicial speech to protect impartiality and

at the same time allowing judicial candidates to participate in a meaningful way in their own elections. In 2007, a reorganized Code of Judicial Conduct recognized the need to clarify the mandatory provisions, taking extra care to ensure that the comments not include any rules that would require disciplinary action. So too, this most recent reworking of the Code addressed the complex roles that judges play in ensuring the rights of self-represented litigants, participating in therapeutic courts and other court resolution programs, and judicial outreach. Yet with all these revisions, judges are anticipating the ethical issues that technology and public discontent now present.

Current issues that state codes now attempt to address directly include harassment in the workplace, use of social media, special issues around remote hearings, electronic access to the courts for filing and information, and issues surrounding evolving generative artificial

intelligence (AI). In fact, the use of technology and its displacement of paper are probably the largest day-to-day changes affecting the courts and the application of ethics rules. The essential concepts do not change, but their application may become less clear. For example, how does a judge handle an email directly from a party to litigation? What does a judge do if, in a remote hearing, it is discovered that the audio was not working for all participants? How does a judge guide a law clerk's internet research to ensure its integrity and that it is limited to research of the law and not facts? What is the judge's role in ensuring that incarcerated defendants have access to the electronic documents concerning their case and electronic notice of hearings? If a judge discovers that an attorney has used generative AI to produce filings that are inaccurate, what is their duty to report that conduct?

What we can learn from looking to our past is that the concepts are still useful, but their application requires a new orientation. It will be difficult for Codes of Judicial Conduct to keep up with each quickly evolving change. What is clear is that judges need to be mindful that a changing workplace and public environment will require a new awareness of the ethical issues that are implicated with each change. ■



Marla N. Greenstein is the executive director of the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct. She is also a former chair of

the ABA Judicial Division's Lawyers Conference. She can be reached at mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us.

ADOBESTOCK

CONSTITUTIONAL STATUTORY PROVISIONS GOVERNING COMMISSION

Alaska Constitution.
Article 4, Sections 10-14

CONSTITUTION OF ALASKA

Art. IV, § 10

Section 10. Commission on Judicial Conduct. The Commission on Judicial Conduct shall consist of nine members, as follows: three persons who are justices or judges of state courts, elected by the Justices and judges of state courts; three members who have practiced law in this state for ten years, appointed by the governor from nominations made by the governing body of the organized bar and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session; and three persons who are not judges, retired judges, or members of the state bar, appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. In addition to being subject to impeachment under Section 12 of this article, a justice or judge may be disqualified from acting as such and may be suspended, removed from office, retired, or censured by the supreme court upon the recommendation of the commission. The powers and duties of the commission and the bases for judicial disqualification shall be established by law. [Amendment approved November 2, 1982]

Cross references. — For provisions on the powers and duties of the Commission on Judicial Conduct, see AS 22.30.11. For proceedings when a successful candidate for judicial retention or the campaign treasurer or deputy campaign treasurer of such a candidate has been convicted of a violation of the state elections campaign laws, see AS 15.13.120(f)(8).

Effect of amendments. — The amendment, effective November 2, 1982 (12th Legislature's LR 36), substituted "Conduct" for "Qualifications" following "Commission on Judicial," substituted "three persons who are justices or judges of the state courts" for "one justice of the supreme court" preceding "elected by the justices," substituted "and judges of the state courts" for "of the supreme court; three judges of the superior court; one judge of the district court, elected by the judges of the district court" following "elected by the justices," substituted "three" for "two" preceding "members who have practiced law," added "governor from nominations made by the" preceding "governing body of the organized bar," added "and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session" following "governing body of the organized bar" and substituted "three for "two" preceding "persons who are not judges."

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Scope of commission's powers. — This section only empowers the commission to recommend sanctions to the Alaska Supreme Court. Granting the commission the authority to impose sanctions is not permitted. *In re Inquiry Concerning a Judge*, 762 P.2d 1292 (Alaska 1988) **Cited** in *Abood v. Gorsuch*, 703 P.2d 1158 (Alaska 1985)

Cross reference. — For statutory provisions regarding Commission on Judicial Qualifications, see AS 22.30.010 — 22.30.080.

Effect of amendment. — The amendment approved August 27, 1968 (5th Legislature's 2d FCCS SCS CSHJR 74) rewrote this section to establish the commission and provide for "disqualification" of judges. Formerly, this section dealt only with incapacity and retirement of judges.

Basis of 1968 amendment. — The Alaska Commission on Judicial Qualifications was created by a constitutional amendment, which became effective in 1968. This amendment is based on a 1966 revision of the judicial article of the California Constitution. *In re Hanson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1117 (File No. 2311), 532 P.2d 303 (1975). This section vests in the supreme court the ultimate authority in disciplinary matters affecting the judiciary. *In re Hanson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1117 (File No. 2311), 532 P.2d 303 (1975). This section and AS 22.30.070(c) unambiguously establish the supreme court of Alaska as the body entrusted with the ultimate dispositive decision in a judicial qualifications matter. *In re Hanson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1117 (File No. 2311), 532 P.2d 303 (1975).

CONSTITUTION OF ALASKA

Art. IV, § 10

Power of supreme court to sanction judge under this section. — Concerning the subject of sanctions this section and AS 22.30.070(c)(2) provide that upon recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications the supreme court of Alaska may suspend, remove, retire or censure a judge. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Supreme court is to exercise independent judgment. — Normally considerable weight will be accorded to a given recommendation from the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, if supported by an adequate factual basis. Nevertheless, both this section and AS 22.30.070(c)(2) clearly establish that the supreme court of Alaska is to exercise its independent judgment in determining an appropriate sanction, if any, as to any recommendation made by the commission. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972). The supreme court's scope of review in a judicial qualifications proceeding should be that of an independent evaluation of the evidence. In re Hanson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1117 (File No. 2311), 532 P.2d 303 (1975).

And cannot adopt commission's sanction recommendations automatically. — It would be tantamount to an abdication of its constitutional and statutory obligations if the supreme court were to adopt the sanction recommendations of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications automatically. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Substantial evidence test employed in reviewing commission's findings of fact. — Regarding the scope of review which the supreme court should exercise in reviewing findings of fact of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, there is no reason to depart from the substantial evidence test which has heretofore been employed in reviewing matters coming to the supreme court from administrative agencies and other governmental bodies. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

But review of commission's recommendation is broader than substantial evidence criterion. — Under the discretionary grant of power to the supreme court under this section and AS 22.30.070(c)(2), supreme court review of a particular recommendation by the commission is necessarily broader than the substantial evidence criterion adopted for review of findings of fact made by the commission. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Duties of supreme court in cases concerning suspension, etc., of judge. — In every case concerning the suspension, removal, retirement or censorship of a judge, the supreme court must insure that procedural due process has been accorded the judicial officer proceeded against and that requisite findings of fact have been made and are supported by substantial evidence. The supreme court is further obligated to decide whether the commission's recommended sanction is justified by the record and is in accord with the objectives of the commission as reflected in the relevant constitutional and statutory provisions. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Imposition of more serious sanction than censure held inappropriate. — Where judicial conduct which had been prejudicial to the administration of justice and had brought the judicial office into disrepute, was weighed against the relative judicial inexperience of petitioner at the time, the supreme court concluded that imposition of a more serious sanction than censure would be inappropriate. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Supreme court sanction decision made part of public record. — Where the actions of a judge were serious enough infractions to justify its following the censure recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, the supreme court was of the opinion that given the necessity for the creation of such a commission and the need for enforcement of standards of judicial conduct and canons of judicial ethics, these ends were more fully served by making of record its sanction decision. By making its sanction part of the public record, the supreme court believed that the public's confidence would be maintained, both in the workings of the commission and in the ability of the judicial branch of government to insure its continued integrity. Inquiry Concerning Robson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Applied in Buckalew v. Holloway, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1988 (File No. 4058), 604 P.2d 240 (1979).

Quoted in Delahay v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 648 (File No. 1252), 476 P.2d 908 (1970).

Art. IV, § 11 CONSTITUTION OF ALASKA Art. IV, §13

Section 11. Retirement. Justices and judges shall be retired at the age of seventy except as provided in this article. The basis and amount of retirement pay shall be prescribed by law. Retired judges shall render no further service on the bench except for special assignments as provided by court rule.

Cross reference. For provisions relating to judicial retirement, see AS 22.25.

Quoted in Delahay v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 648 (File No. 1252), 476 P.2d 908 (1970).

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Applied in Native Village v. GC Contractors, 658 P.2d 756 (Alaska 1983); Bentley Family Trust v. Lynx Enters., Inc., 658 P.2d 761 (Alaska 1983); Sharow v. Archer, 658 P.2d 1331 (Alaska 1983).

Cited in Sterud v. Chugach Elec. Ass'n, 640 P.2d 823 (Alaska 1982); Hillard T. Roach & Equestrian Acres Dev. Corp. v. First Nat'l Bank, 643 P.2d 690 (Alaska 1982); Moloso v. State, 644 P.2d 205 (Alaska 1982); Newell v. National Bank, 646 P.2d 224 (Alaska 1982); Fedpac Int'l, Inc. v. State, 646 P.2d 240 (Alaska 1982); McMillan v. Anchorage Community Hosp., 646 P.2d 857 (Alaska 1982); Robbins v. Robbins, 647 P.2d 589 (Alaska 1982); Wien Air Alaska, Inc. v. Department of Revenue, 647 P.2d 1087 (Alaska 1982); Peter Pan Seafoods, Inc. v. Stepanoff, 650 P.2d 375 (Alaska 1982); A.B.M. v. M.H., 651 P.2d 1170 (Alaska 1982); Curran v. Mount, 657 P.2d 389 (Alaska 1982).

Section 12. Impeachment. Impeachment of any justice or judge for malfeasance or misfeasance in the performance of his official duties shall be according to procedure prescribed for civil officers.

Quoted in Delahay v. State, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 648 (File No. 1252), 476 P.2d 908 (1970).

Section 13. Compensation. Justices, judges, and members of the judicial council and the Commission on Judicial Conduct shall receive compensation as prescribed by law. Compensation of justices and judges shall not be diminished during their terms of office, unless by general law applying to all salaried officers of the State. [Amendment approved August 27, 1968]

Effect of amendment. — The amendment, approved August 27, 1968 (5th Legislature's 2d FCCS SCS CSHJR 74), inserted "and the Commission on Judicial Qualifications" in the first sentence.

"Term". — With the exception of this article, wherever "term" or "service at the pleasure of" appears in the constitutional text originally adopted, the reference is to a period of service for a particular office, thus allowing the drafters to be precise in their terminology. The language of this section and § 4 of this article, on the other hand, applies to any judge of any court the legislature might create, and "term" in that context may intend only the more general, though equally valid connotation of any limitation on a period of service. Buckalew v. Holloway, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1988 (File No. 4058), 604 P.2d 240 (1979).

NOTES TO DECISIONS

"Term". "Term of Office" as used in this section means the time to which a justice or judge is entitled to hold office and does not relate to the 10-year or six-year intervals between retention elections for justices and judges. Hudson v. Johnstone, 660 P.2d 1180 (Alaska 1983).

CONSTITUTION OF ALASKA
Art. IV, § 14

Section 14. Restrictions. Supreme court justices and superior court judges while holding office may not practice law, hold office in a political party, or hold any other office or position of profit under the United States, the State, or its political subdivisions. Any supreme court justice or superior court judge filing for another elective public office forfeits his judicial position.

Meaning of phrase "position of profit". — See Begich v. Jefferson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 481 (File No. 894), 441 P.2d 27 (1968).

And its intent. — The term "position of profit" was intended to prohibit all other salaried non-temporary employment under the United States or the State of Alaska. Begich v. Jefferson, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 481 (File No. 894), 441 P.2d 27 (1968).

The prohibition against dual office holding is literally enforced in Alaska. December 27, 1976, Op. Att'y Gen.

The purpose of the prohibition against dual office holding is to guard against conflicts of interest, self-aggrandizement, concentration of power, and dilution of separation of powers in regard to the exercise of the executive, judicial, and legislative functions of the state government. December 27, 1976, Op. Att'y Gen.

Judge may not sit as regent while holding office. — Since the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska is not an inter branch commission, a judge may not sit as a regent while holding office. December 27, 1976, Op. Att'y Gen. A judge does not sit on the Board of Regents in a representative capacity of the judicial branch. When he sits as a regent he is not exercising judicial power but rather certain executive powers of control vested in the regents over the state's sole institution of higher learning. This he may not do. December 27, 1976, Op. Att'y Gen.

The University of Alaska is an instrumentality of the state, and membership on its Board of Regents is necessarily an office under the state. December 27, 1976, Op. Att'y Gen.

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Applied in Acevedo v. City of North Pole, 672 P.2d 130 (Alaska 1983).

Alaska Statutes
AS 22.30.010 - AS 22.30.080

Chapter 30. Judicial Conduct.

Section

- 10. Commission on Judicial Conduct
- 11. Powers and duties of the commission
- 15. Term of office
- 20. Employment and compensation generally
- 30. Travel expenses and per diem
- 40. Preparation of budget
- 50. Validity of acts of the commission

Section

- 60. Rules and confidentiality
- 66. Inquiry
- 68. Minority Reports
- 70. Disqualification, suspension, removal, retirement and censure of judges
- 80. Definitions

Sec. 22.30.010. Commission on Judicial Conduct. The Commission on Judicial Conduct shall consist of nine members as follows: three persons who are justices or judges of state courts, elected by the justices and judges of the state courts; three members who have practiced law in this state for 10 years, appointed by the governor from nominations made by the governing body of the organized bar and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session; and three citizens who are not judges, retired judges, or members of the state bar, appointed by the governor and subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature in joint session. Commission membership terminates if a member ceases to hold the position that qualified that person for appointment. A person may not serve on the commission and on the judicial council simultaneously. A quorum of the commission must include at least one person who is a justice or judge, at least one person appointed by the governor who has practiced law in the state for 10 years, and at least one citizen member who is not a justice, judge, or member of the state bar. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chairman for a term prescribed by the commission. A vacancy shall be filled by the appointing power for the remainder of the term. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am § 23 ch 71 SLA 1972; am § 1 ch 160 SLA 1984; am § 2 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The 1990 amendment added the fourth sentence, relating to a quorum of the commission.

Sec. 22.30.011. Powers and duties of the commission. (a) The commission shall on its own motion or on receipt of a written complaint inquire into an allegation that a judge

- (1) has been convicted of a crime punishable as a felony under state or federal law or convicted of a crime that involves moral turpitude under state or federal law;
- (2) suffers from a disability that seriously interferes with the performance of judicial duties and that is or may become permanent;
- (3) within a period of not more than six years before the filing of the complaint or before the beginning of the commission's inquiry based on its own motion, committed an act or acts that constitute
 - (A) willful misconduct in office;
 - (B) willful and persistent failure to perform judicial duties;
 - (C) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice;
 - (D) conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute; or
 - (E) conduct in violation of the code of judicial conduct; or
- (4) is habitually intemperate.

(b) After preliminary informal consideration of an allegation, the commission may exonerate the judge, informally and privately admonish the judge, or recommend counseling. Upon a finding of probable cause, the commission shall hold a formal hearing on the allegation. A hearing under this subsection is public. Proceedings and records pertaining to proceedings that occur before the commission holds a public hearing on an allegation are confidential, subject to the provisions of AS 22.30.060(b).

(c) A judge appearing before the commission at the hearing is entitled to counsel, may present evidence, and may cross-examine witnesses.

(d) The commission shall, after a hearing held under (b) of this section,

(1) exonerate the judge of the charges; or

(2) refer the matter to the supreme court with a recommendation that the judge be reprimanded, suspended, removed, or retired from office or publicly or privately censured by the supreme court.

(e), (f) [Repealed, § 3 ch 135 SLA 1990.]

(g) If the commission exonerates a judge, a copy of the proceedings and report of the commission may be made public on the request of the judge.

(h) If a judge has been publicly reprimanded, suspended, or publicly censured under this section and the judge has filed a declaration of candidacy for retention in office, the commission shall report to the judicial council for inclusion in the statement filed by the judicial council under AS 15.58.050 each public reprimand, suspension, or public censure received by the judge

(1) since appointment; or

(2) if the judge has been retained by election, since the last retention election of the judge. (§ 1 ch 58 SLA 1981; am §§ 2—4 ch 160 SLA 1984; am § 13 ch 38 SLA 1987; am §§ 3—5, 11 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The 1990 amendment, in subsection (a), substituted "filing of the complaint or before the beginning of the commission's inquiry based on its own motion" for "start of the current term" in paragraph (3); rewrote subsection (b); in subsection (d), substituted "shall" for "may" in the introductory language, deleted former paragraphs (2) and (3), renumbering former paragraph (4) as present paragraph (2) and making a related grammatical change, and inserted "reprimanded" in present paragraph (2); and repealed subsections (e) and (f).

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Former paragraph (d)(3) unconstitutional. — Alaska Const., Art. IV, § 10 only empowers the commission to recommend sanctions to the Alaska Supreme Court, not to impose them; and therefore former paragraph (d)(3) of this section, repealed in 1990, which empowered the commission to reprimand a judge publicly, was in conflict with the constitution. *In re Inquiry Concerning a Judge*, 762 P.2d 1292 (Alaska 1988).

Private reprimand. — Judge's self validation of reduced fare tickets through a defunct airline created an appearance of impropriety which warranted the sanction of a private reprimand. *In re Inquiry Concerning a Judge*, 788 P.2d 716 (Alaska 1990).

Sec. 22.30.015. Term of office. The term of office for a commission member is four years. (§ 1 ch 312 SLA 1968; am § 56 ch 59 SLA 1982)

Cross references. — For terms of members appointed or elected after July 1, 1984, see § 10, ch. 160, SLA 1984 in the Temporary and Special Acts.

Sec. 22.30.020. Employment and compensation generally. The commission may employ officers, assistants, and other employees that it considers necessary for the performance of the duties and exercise of the powers conferred upon the commission; it may arrange for and compensate medical and other experts and reporters, may arrange for the attendance of witnesses, including witnesses not subject to subpoena, and may pay from funds available to it all expenses reasonably necessary for effectuating the purposes of § 10, art. IV, Constitution of the State of Alaska. The attorney general shall, if requested by the commission, act as its counsel generally or in any particular investigation or proceeding. The commission may employ special counsel from time to time when it considers it necessary. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968)

NOTES TO DECISIONS

Attorney's fees not directly provided for. — The statutory scheme implementing the constitutional provision mandating a Commission on Judicial Qualifications does not directly provide for attorney's fees. *In re Robson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

But arguably they might be treated as expense under this section. — Arguably attorney's fees might be treated as an expense "reasonably necessary for effectuating the purpose of the judicial qualifications section of the Alaska Constitution." *In re Robson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Prevailing judge may be allowed reasonable attorney's fees. — In order to effectuate a judge's right of counsel and not to be forced to appear as his or her own attorney, a judge prevailing in a proceeding before the Commission on Judicial Qualifications may, in the discretion of the commission, be allowed reasonable attorney's fees. *In re Robson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 825 (File No. 1552), 500 P.2d 657 (1972).

Sec. 22.30.030. Travel expenses and per diem. Each member of the commission shall be allowed travel expenses and per diem as provided by AS 39.20.180, but may not receive compensation for services. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968)

Sec. 22.30.040. Preparation of budget. The commission shall be responsible for preparing and presenting to the legislature its proposed annual budgets. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am § 5 ch 160 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendments. — The 1984 amendment rewrote this section, which formerly read "The Alaska court system shall be responsible for preparing and presenting to the legislature proposed annual budgets for the commission."

Sec. 22.30.050. Validity of acts of the commission. An act of the commission is not valid unless concurred in by a majority of the members serving on the commission at the time the act is taken. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am § 6 ch 160 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendments. — The 1984 serving on the commission at the time the amendment substituted "the members act is taken" for "its members."

NOTES TO DECISIONS

The appropriate standard to be applied in regard to commission proceedings is that of clear and convincing evidence. *In re Hanson*, Sup. Ct. Op. No. 1117 (File No. 2311), 532 P.2d 303 (1975).

Sec. 22.30.060. Rules and confidentiality. (a) The commission shall adopt rules implementing this chapter and providing for confidentiality of proceedings.

(b) All proceedings, records, files, and reports of the commission are confidential and disclosure may not be made except

(1) upon waiver in writing by the judge at any stage of the proceedings;

(2) if the subject matter or the fact of the filing of charges has become public, in which case the commission may issue a statement in order to confirm the pendency of the investigation, to clarify the procedural aspects of the proceedings, to explain the right of the judge to a fair hearing, or to state that the judge denies the allegations; or

(3) upon filing of formal charges, in which case only the charges, the subsequent formal hearing, and the commission's ultimate decision and minority report, if any, are public; even after formal charges are filed, the deliberations of the commission concerning the case are confidential. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am § 7 ch 160 SLA 1984; am § 6 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The 1990 amendment rewrote paragraph (b)(3).

Sec. 22.30.066. Inquiry. (a) The commission may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person under oath, and require the production for examination of documents or records relating to its inquiry under AS 22.30.011.

(b) In the course of an inquiry under AS 22.30.011 into judicial misconduct or the disability of a judge, the commission may request the judge to submit to a physical or mental examination. If the judge refuses to submit to the examination, the commission shall determine the issue for which the examination was required adversely to the judge. (§ 2 ch 58 SLA 1981; am § 8 ch 160 SLA 1984)

Effect of amendment. — The 1984 amendment added subsection (b).

Collateral references. — Confidentiality of proceedings or reports of judicial board or commission. 5 ALR 4th 730.

Sec. 22.30.068. Minority reports. A member of the commission who believes that the commission failed to impose an appropriate disciplinary measure after a hearing under AS 22.30.011(b) may submit a report recommending a different disciplinary measure. The report shall accompany the majority report and may be submitted by the member to the chief justice of the supreme court, the attorney general, and the chair of the senate and house judiciary committees. (§ 7 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effective dates. — Section 7, ch. 135, SLA 1990, which enacted this section, took effect on September 12, 1990.

Sec. 22.30.070. Disqualification, suspension, removal, retirement and censure of judges. (a) A judge is disqualified from acting as a judge, without loss of salary, while there is pending (1) an indictment or an information charging the judge in the United States with a crime punishable as a felony under Alaska or federal law, or (2) a recommendation to the supreme court by the commission for the removal or retirement of the judge.

(b) On recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may reprimand, publicly or privately censure, or suspend a judge from office without salary when in the United States the judge pleads guilty or no contest or is found guilty of a crime punishable as a felony under state or federal law or of a crime that involves moral turpitude under state or federal law. If the conviction is reversed, suspension terminates, and the judge shall be paid the judge's salary for the period of suspension. If the judge is suspended and the conviction becomes final, the supreme court shall remove the judge from office.

(c) On recommendation of the commission, the supreme court may (1) retire a judge for disability that seriously interferes with the performance of duties and that is or may become permanent, and (2) reprimand, publicly or privately censure, or remove a judge for action occurring not more than six years before the commencement of the judge's current term which constitutes willful misconduct in the office, willful and persistent failure to perform duties, habitual intemperance, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, or conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute. The effective date of retirement under (1) of this subsection is the first day of the month coinciding with or after the date that the supreme court files written notice with the commissioner of administration that the judge was retired for disability. A duplicate copy of the notice shall be filed with the judicial council.

(d) A judge retired by the supreme court shall be considered to have retired voluntarily. A judge removed by the supreme court is ineligible for judicial office for a period of three years.

(e) A supreme court justice who has participated in proceedings involving a judge or justice of any court may not participate in an appeal involving that judge or justice in that particular matter. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am §§ 3, 4 ch 58 SLA 1981; am § 14 ch 38 SLA 1987; am §§ 8, 9 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The 1990 amendment deleted "or after an appeal under AS 22.30.011(e)" after "recommendation of the commission" and inserted "reprimand" before "publicly" and made punctuation changes in the first sentences of subsections (b) and (c).

Sec. 22.30.080. Definitions. In this chapter

(1) "commission" means the Commission on Judicial Conduct provided for in § 10, art. IV, Constitution of the State of Alaska and this chapter;

(2) "judge" means a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of appeals, a judge of the superior court, or a judge of the district court who is the subject of an investigation or proceeding under § 10, art. IV, Constitution of the State of Alaska and this chapter, including a justice or judge who is serving in a full-time, part-time, permanent, or temporary position. (§ 1 ch 213 SLA 1968; am § 19 ch 12 SLA 1980; am § 9 ch 160 SLA 1984; am § 10 ch 135 SLA 1990)

Effect of amendments. — The 1990 amendment added the phrase beginning "including a justice" to the end of paragraph (2).