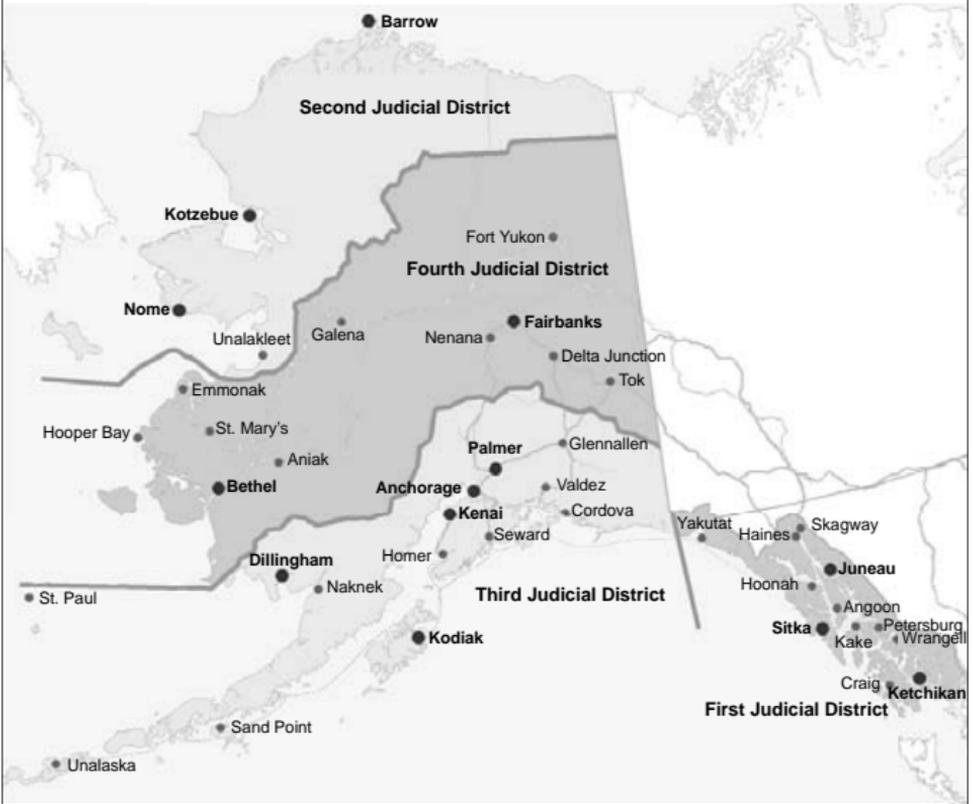
A black and white photograph of a rugged Alaskan landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water with ripples. In the middle ground, a dense forest of evergreen trees stretches across the frame. In the background, dark, jagged mountains rise, with snow patches clinging to their peaks and ridges. The sky is a uniform, light gray.

# **Profile of the Alaska Court System 2016**

## Alaska Court Locations, 2016



---

# **Profile of the Alaska Court System 2016**



---

© Copyright 2016 by the Alaska Court System.

Layout and compositing by Melissa S. Green, Justice Center, University of Alaska  
Anchorage.

Printed by Northern Printing, Inc., Anchorage, AK.

*Cover photograph:* Mendenhall Glacier, Tongass National Forest, 2 Sep 2015. ©  
Copyright 2015 Gord McKenna (gord99 on Flickr). Used by permission.

---

---

# Contents

<b>The Alaska Court System .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>What is a Court Case?.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>How are Judges Chosen?.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Alaska Court System Structure and         Flow of Civil and Criminal Appeals .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Judiciary .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Alaska Supreme Court.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Court of Appeals .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Trial Courts.....</b>	<b>11</b>
First Judicial District.....	11
Superior Court, First Judicial District .....	11
District Court, First Judicial District.....	13
Magistrate Judges, First Judicial District.....	14
Second Judicial District.....	17
Superior Court, Second Judicial District .....	17
Magistrate Judges, Second Judicial District .....	19
Third Judicial District.....	20
Superior Court, Third Judicial District .....	20
District Court, Third Judicial District.....	27
Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District.....	31
Fourth Judicial District.....	37
Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District .....	37
District Court, Fourth Judicial District.....	39
Magistrate Judges, Fourth Judicial District.....	40
Active Pro Tem Judges.....	44
<b>Glossary of Common Terms     Used in Court .....</b>	<b>45</b>



---

---

# The Alaska Court System

The government of the State of Alaska is divided into three separate but equal branches: the *executive*, the *legislative*, and the *judicial*. By providing for checks and balances, this division prevents the concentration of governmental power in one or another function. The federal government and the governments of most other states are also structured in this way.

Although the terms *judicial branch* and *court system* are often used interchangeably, in fact, the Alaska judicial branch contains three separate entities: the *Alaska Court System*, the *Alaska Judicial Council*, and the *Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct*, each with a function established in the state constitution.

Alaska has a unified, centrally-administered court system, totally funded by the state. Municipal governments do not maintain separate court systems. There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties, and responsibilities. The *Superior Court* and *District Court* are *trial courts*, which initially hear and decide court cases. The *Supreme Court* and *Court of Appeals* are *appellate courts*, which review and decide appeals from decisions made by the trial courts. Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes sets out the jurisdiction and responsibilities of each court.

The Supreme Court and the Superior Court were established in the state constitution. In 1959, the legislature created a District Court for each judicial district and granted power to the Supreme Court to increase or decrease the number of District Court judges. In 1980, the legislature created the Court of Appeals.

The Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the Supreme Court. The director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

The Supreme Court sets out the rules governing the administration of all courts and the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases.

---

---

## What is a Court Case?

A court case is a dispute that goes to court. The court is asked to decide (1) what the facts are and (2) how the laws of Alaska apply to the facts. There are two main kinds of cases: civil cases and criminal cases.

*Civil law* deals with relationships between *individuals*. (A corporation is an “individual” under the law.) The word *suit* simply refers to a civil court case and *to sue* means to start a civil lawsuit. The State of Alaska, just like an individual, can bring a civil action. An example of a civil case is a suit resulting from an automobile accident. One person sues another person for damages to the car or for personal injury due to the accident. Other examples of civil cases are suits to collect money, suits for divorce, and suits to recover property.

*Criminal law* deals with cases brought by the federal, state, city, or borough government against a person who has done something against the interest of all people in the community. The government charges an individual with violating a criminal law and brings a court action to decide guilt and impose a punishment. The charging of a person with a crime and bringing him to trial is called a *prosecution*. The prosecution for all cases under criminal law must be brought in the name of the federal, state, city, or borough government, even though the case may be started by the complaint of a private person — called the *complainant*. Some examples of crimes are murder, assault, disorderly conduct, and driving under the influence.

An event or action can result in both criminal and civil cases. For example, a person who steals and wrecks a snowmachine could be prosecuted by the state for the crime of theft and also sued for damages in a civil action by the owner. The criminal case might result in punishment through a fine or a term of imprisonment. The civil case might result in money being awarded to the owner as compensation for the loss of the machine.

---

---

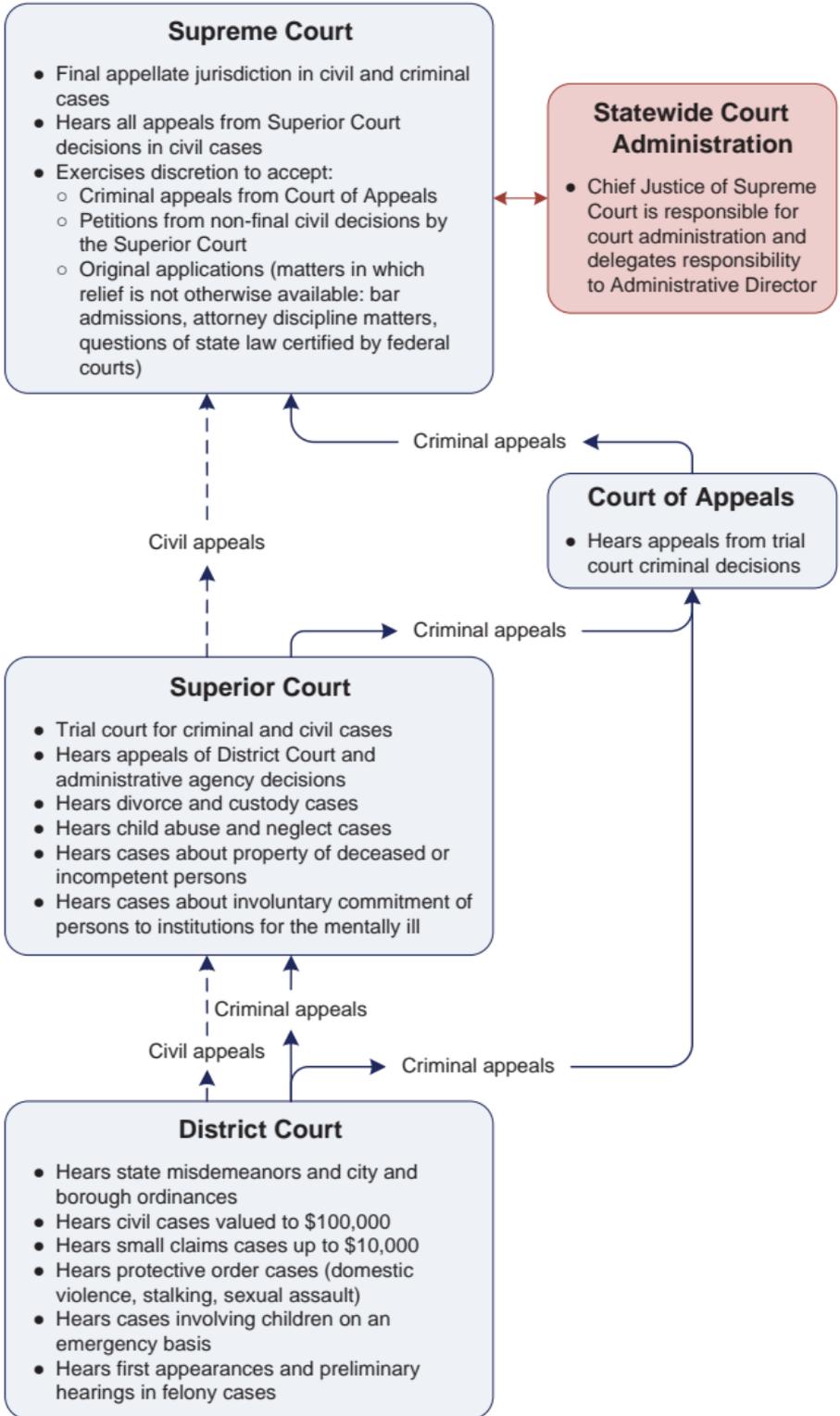
## How are Judges Chosen?

The Alaska constitution provides for the selection of judges by merit; that is, judges are selected on the basis of their qualifications, rather than on their political or social connections. Alaska was one of the first states to adopt merit selection of judges. Today, over thirty other states select some or all of their judges in this way.

The Alaska Judicial Council, an independent citizens' commission, investigates and evaluates applicants for judicial positions for all courts except magistrate judge courts. The council sends the names of the most qualified applicants to the governor. The governor must make an appointment from this list. (Magistrate judges are selected according to a different process.)

After serving for a specified period of time, all justices and judges in Alaska must stand periodically for approval by voters on a non-partisan ballot in a general election. This is called retention. The Judicial Council evaluates the performance of judicial officers standing for retention election. The evaluation includes a survey of attorneys, peace and probation officers, court employees, and others regarding the conduct of individual judges. Prior to the election date, the council provides detailed information from this evaluation to the public and makes recommendations regarding the retention of individual judges.

# Alaska Court System Structure and Flow of Civil and Criminal Appeals



---

---

# The Judiciary

## Alaska Supreme Court

**Chief Justice Craig Stowers** was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court by Governor Sean Parnell in 2009 and was elected to serve as chief justice beginning in July 2015. He was raised in Yorktown, Virginia. He majored in biology and received a bachelor's degree with honors from Blackburn College in 1975. He was a park ranger at Colonial National Historical Park and transferred to Mount McKinley National Park in 1977, where he worked first as the East District Naturalist and then as the West District Ranger. Justice Stowers earned his J.D. in 1985 from the University of California Davis School of Law (Order of the Coif). While in law school, he was employed for two years by Professor Daniel Fessler and the Alaska Code Revision Commission to research and prepare drafts of what became the Alaska Corporations Code, the Alaska Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the official commentary to those acts. He served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Robert Boochever of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Juneau and clerked for Justice Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court in Anchorage. He was a partner with Atkinson, Conway & Gagnon and subsequently co-founded the Anchorage-Fairbanks law firm, Clapp, Peterson & Stowers. His law practice included trial practice, medical and attorney malpractice defense, business and insurance law, and complex civil litigation. Justice Stowers was appointed to the Alaska Superior Court in Anchorage in 2004. During his legal and judicial career, he has served on various Alaska Bar Association



**Chief Justice Craig Stowers**  
Appointed 2009

---

---

committees, including the Law Examiners Committee, and various Alaska Supreme Court committees, including chairing the Child In Need of Aid Rules Committee and the Alaska Court System Security Committee. He is also a member of the Appellate Rules and the Continuing Judicial Education Committees. Justice Stowers is a Commissioner on the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He also has served on several nonprofit corporation boards, including terms as board president of the Alaska National History Association (now known as Alaska Geographic) and board president of Christian Health Associates. He is married to Monique Stowers.

**Justice Dana Fabe** has served three terms as chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, from 2000–2003; 2006–2009; and 2012–2015. She is the second justice in the court’s history to serve three terms. Appointed to the Supreme Court in 1996, she is the first woman to serve on the court and as chief justice. She clerked for Justice Edmond W. Burke of the Alaska Supreme Court in 1976–1977; served as a staff attorney for the Alaska Public



**Justice Dana A. Fabe**  
Appointed 1996

Defender Agency from 1977–1981; and served as chief public defender for Alaska from 1981–1988, by appointment of the governor. In 1988, she was appointed to the Superior Court in Anchorage where she served as deputy presiding judge and training judge. She cochairs the Alaska Fairness and Access Commission and is chair of its Fairness, Diversity, and Equality Committee. She serves as co-chair of the Advisory Committee of the Center for Judicial Ethics at the National Center for State Courts. She has served on the board of directors and twice as second vice-president of the Conference of Chief Justices.

---

---

She is a past president of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and founded Success Inside and Out, an NAWJ reentry program for women prisoners, as well as Mentor Jet, an NAWJ mentoring program for students on careers in law. Justice Fabe is the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the National Center for State Courts, the 2012 Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award from the National Association of Women Judges. She was named a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA in 2002. She is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a sustaining elected member of the American Law Institute. She received her B.A. from Cornell University and her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. She is married to Randall Simpson; the couple has a daughter.

**Justice Daniel E.**

**Winfree** was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in November 2007. Born in the Territory of Alaska, he is a third generation Fairbanksan. Between 1975–1978, he was a truck driver and warehouseman, working on the construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline and related projects on the North Slope, in pipeline camps, and at Prudhoe Bay. Justice Winfree earned a B.S. in Finance from the University of Oregon in 1977 and earned M.B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of California Berkeley in 1981. He was admitted to the Alaska bar in 1982 and spent twenty-five years in private practice in Anchorage, Valdez, and Fairbanks, working with large and small firms and as a sole practitioner. Justice Winfree served on the Alaska Bar Association’s Board of Governors for nine years, including as president in 1994–1995, with related service as president of the Western States Bar Conference in 1997–



**Justice Daniel E. Winfree**  
Appointed 2007

Justice Winfree served on the Alaska Bar Association’s Board of Governors for nine years, including as president in 1994–1995, with related service as president of the Western States Bar Conference in 1997–

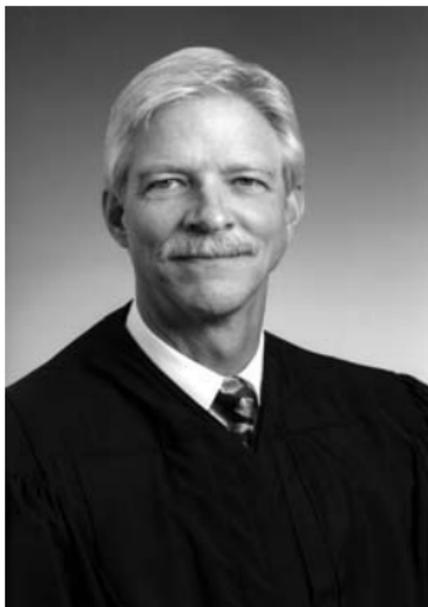
---

---

1998. He also served a term on the Alaska Bar Association's Ethics Committee and several terms on its Fee Arbitration Committee. The Alaska Bar Association presented him with its Distinguished Service Award in 2007. After his final term on the Board of Governors, he joined the Board of Trustees of the Alaska Bar Foundation and served as its president for two years. Justice Winfree is married to another Fairbanks-born, third-generation Alaskan, Cathleen Ringstad Winfree. They have two children.

### **Justice Peter J. Maassen**

was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in August 2012. Born and raised in Michigan, Justice Maassen received a B.A. from Hope College in 1977 and a J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1980. Other than a two-year stint in Washington, D.C., where he worked in the General Counsel's Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce and then for a private firm with a federal administrative practice, Justice Maassen spent most of his 30-



**Justice Peter J. Maassen**  
Appointed 2012

year career in private practice in Anchorage. He was a partner of Burr, Pease & Kurtz, P.C. In 1994 he became a founding member of Ingaldson, Maassen & Fitzgerald, P.C. His civil litigation practice was varied and included many appeals. From 1994–2000 he served as editor-in-chief of the *Alaska Bar Rag*, the official publication of the Alaska Bar Association, and he was Alaska editor of the American Bar Association's Survey of State Class Action Law in 2003 and 2004. In 2006 he received the Professionalism Award from the Alaska Bar Association's Board of Governors. He was a member of the Board of Governors from 2009–2012, serving as treasurer, president-elect, and discipline liaison. He continues to serve on the board of the Anchorage Youth Court, an alternative, peer-

---

---

driven justice system for young offenders. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He was a long-time member of the Supreme Court's Civil Pattern Jury Instruction Committee and now chairs the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Committee and its Judicial Conference Planning Committee. He is married to Kay Gouwens; the couple has a daughter, Lillian.

**Justice Joel H. Bolger**

was appointed to the Alaska Supreme Court in January 2013. Born and raised in Iowa, he received a B.S. in Economics from the University of Iowa in 1976 and a J.D. in 1978. He came to Alaska as a VISTA attorney with Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) in Dillingham and later became the supervising attorney for ALSC in Kodiak. Justice Bolger served as an assistant public defender in Barrow



**Justice Joel H. Bolger**  
Appointed 2013

and then returned to Kodiak to join the firm of Jamin Ebell Bolger & Gentry. He worked as a private attorney from 1982–1997. He served on the Board of Directors for ALSC from 1984–1987. Justice Bolger was appointed to the District Court in Valdez in 1997; to Superior Court in Kodiak in 2003; and to the Alaska Court of Appeals in 2008. He serves as co-chair of the Criminal Justice Working Group and has also served on the Judicial Conference Planning Committee; the Appellate Rules Committee; the Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee; the Fairness, Diversity, and Equality Committee; the Family Law Rules Committee; the Child Support Review Committee; the Alaska Bar Association Continuing Legal Education and Convention Steering Committees, as a magistrate training judge; and as an alternate on the Three-Judge Sentencing Panel. Justice Bolger is married to Cheryl Bolger; they have two children, Stephanie and Jackson.

---

---

## Court of Appeals



**Chief Judge David Mannheimer**  
Appointed 1990



**Judge Marjorie K. Allard**  
Appointed 2012



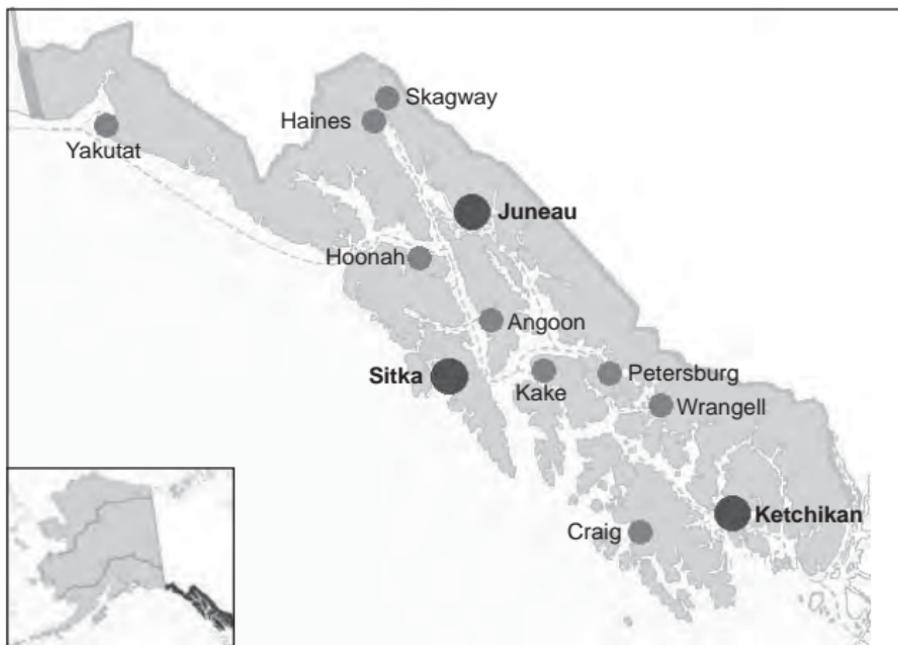
**Judge Douglas H. Kossler**  
Appointed 2013

---

---

# Trial Courts

## First Judicial District



### *Superior Court, First Judicial District*



**Presiding Judge  
Trevor N. Stephens**  
Ketchikan Superior Court  
Appointed 2000



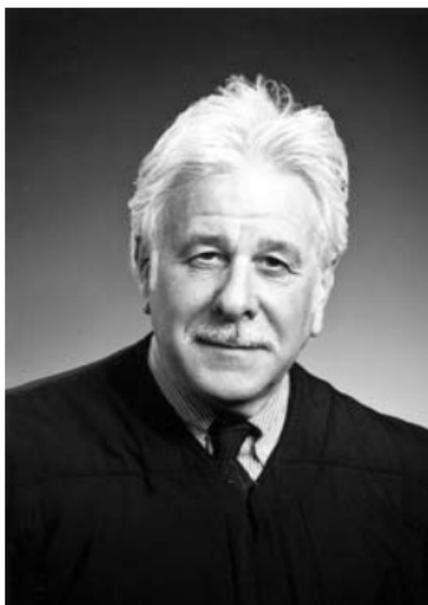
**Judge William B. Carey**  
Ketchikan Superior Court  
Appointed 2008

---

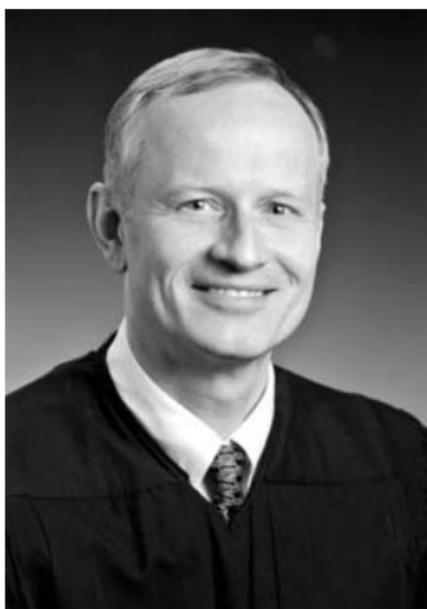
*Superior Court, First Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge David V. George**  
Sitka Superior Court  
Appointed 2007



**Judge Louis J. Menendez**  
Juneau Superior Court  
Appointed 2011



**Judge Philip M. Pallenberg**  
Juneau Superior Court  
Appointed 2007

---

---

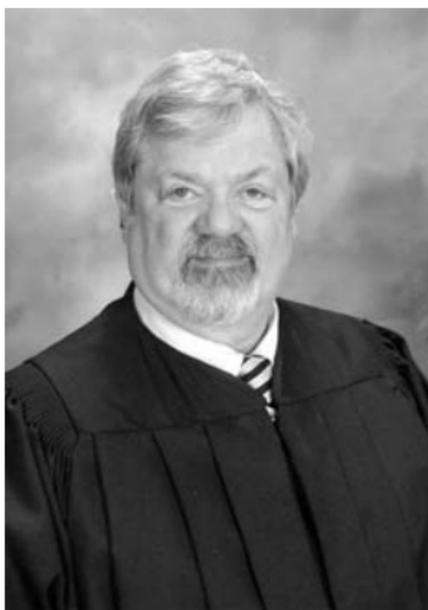
*District Court, First Judicial District*



**Judge Keith B. Levy**  
Juneau District Court  
Appointed 2005



**Judge Kevin G. Miller**  
Ketchikan District Court  
Appointed 1999



**Judge Thomas G. Nave**  
Juneau District Court  
Appointed 2010

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, First Judicial District*



**Magistrate Judge  
Desiree Burrell**  
Petersburg  
Appointed 2011



**Magistrate Judge  
Kay Clark**  
Craig  
Appointed 2004



**Magistrate Judge  
James Curtain**  
Juneau  
Appointed 2012



**Magistrate Judge  
Christine P. Ellis**  
Wrangell  
Appointed 1987

---

*Magistrate Judges, First Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Mary Kay Germain**  
Yakutat  
Appointed 2010, 2013



**Magistrate Judge  
John Hutchins**  
Haines  
Appointed 2002



**Magistrate Judge  
Elaine Jack**  
Angoon  
Appointed 2007



**Magistrate Judge  
Mike Jackson**  
Kake  
Appointed 1990

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, First Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Billie Miller**  
Hoonah  
Appointed 2014



**Magistrate Judge  
Susan Reed**  
Skagway  
Appointed 2003



**Magistrate Judge  
Amanda Schulz**  
Ketchikan  
Appointed 2010

---

---

## Second Judicial District



### *Superior Court, Second Judicial District*



**Presiding Judge  
Judge Paul A. Roetman**  
Kotzebue Superior Court  
Appointed 2010



**Judge Timothy D. Dooley**  
Nome Superior Court  
Appointed 2013

---

*Superior Court, Second Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Angela Greene**  
Barrow Superior Court  
Appointed 2014

---

---

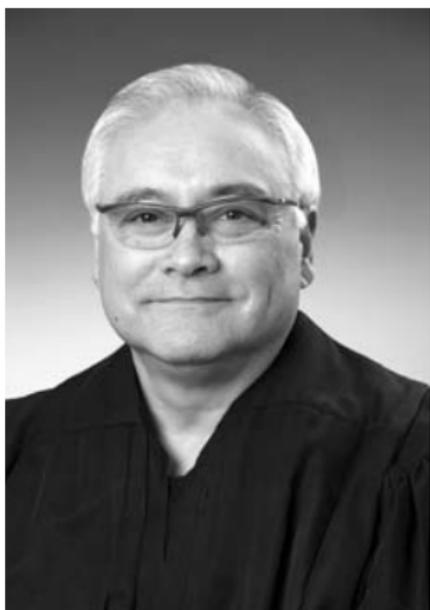
*Magistrate Judges, Second Judicial District*



**Magistrate Judge  
Stephan D. Brady**  
Kotzebue  
Appointed 2010



**Magistrate Judge  
Heidi Ivanoff**  
Unalakleet  
Appointed 1998



**Magistrate Judge  
Robert D. Lewis**  
Nome  
Appointed 2014

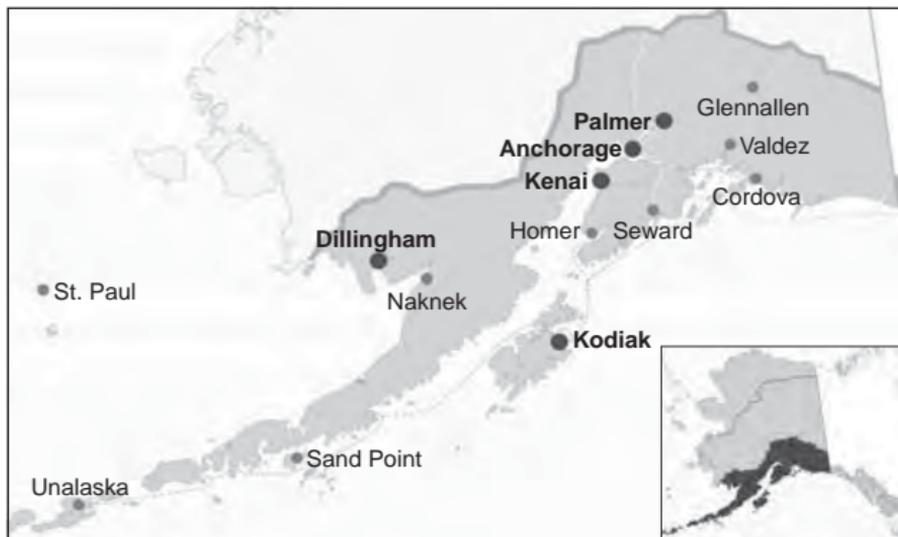


**Magistrate Judge  
David Roghair**  
Barrow  
Appointed 2010

---

---

## Third Judicial District



### *Superior Court, Third Judicial District*



**Presiding Judge  
William F. Morse**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2002



**Judge Eric A. Aarseth**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2005

---

---

*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



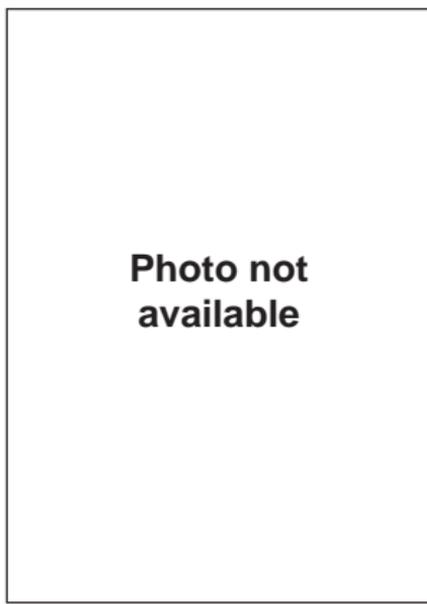
**Judge Carl J. Bauman**  
Kenai Superior Court  
Appointed 2007



**Judge Steve W. Cole**  
Kodiak Superior Court  
Appointed 2009



**Judge Michael D. Corey**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2014



**Judge Dani Crosby**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2015

---

---

*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Patricia L. Douglass**  
Dillingham Superior Court  
Appointed 2011



**Judge Catherine M. Easter**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Andrew Guidi**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2010



**Judge Gregory L. Heath**  
Palmer Superior Court  
Appointed 2009

---

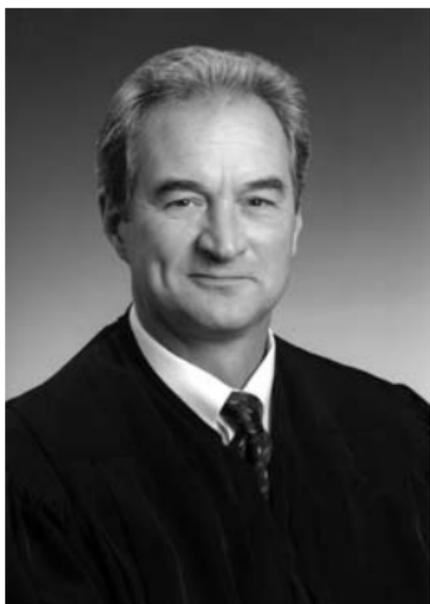
*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Charles T. Huguelet**  
Kenai Superior Court  
Appointed 2003



**Judge Kari Kristiansen**  
Palmer Superior Court  
Appointed 2006



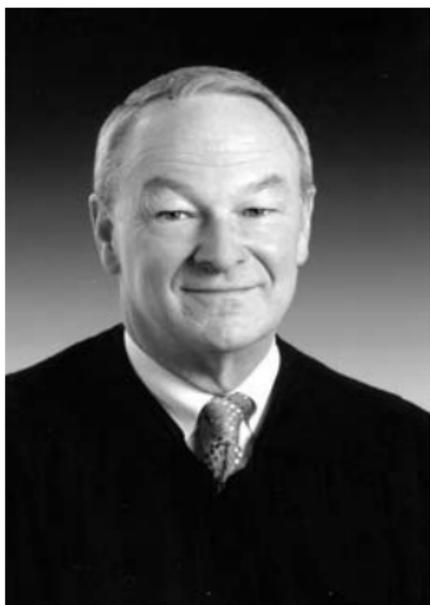
**Judge Erin B. Marston**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Patrick J. McKay**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2005

---

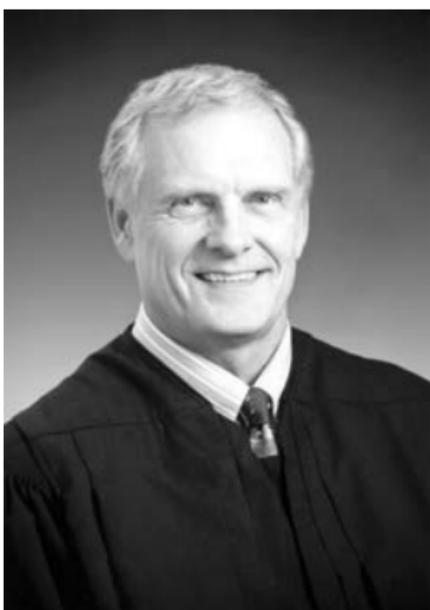
*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Gregory A. Miller**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2011



**Judge Anna M. Moran**  
Kenai Superior Court  
Appointed 2007



**Judge Paul E. Olson**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Frank A. Pfiffner**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2009

---

---

*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



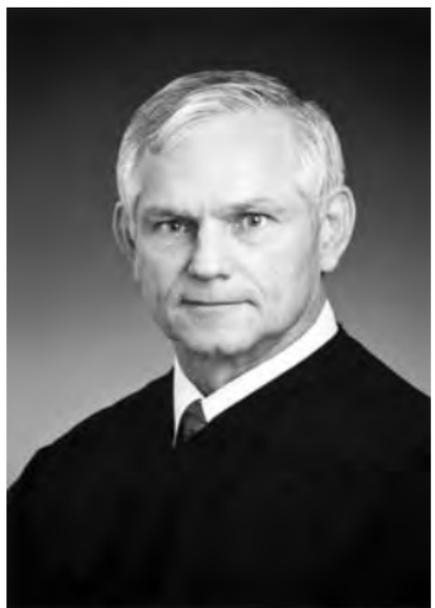
**Judge Mark Rindner**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2000



**Judge Kevin M. Saxby**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Eric Smith**  
Palmer Superior Court  
Appointed 1996



**Judge Jack W. Smith**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2006

---

*Superior Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge John Suddock**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2002



**Judge Herman G. Walker**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 2015



**Judge Vanessa H. White**  
Palmer Superior Court  
Appointed 2006



**Judge Michael L. Wolverton**  
Anchorage Superior Court  
Appointed 1996

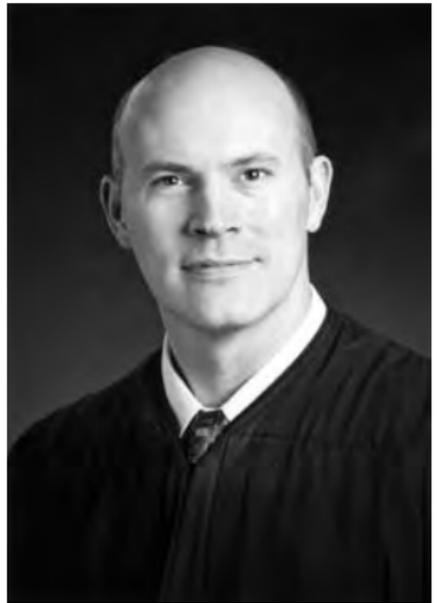
---

---

*District Court, Third Judicial District*



**Judge Jo-Ann M. Chung**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2011



**Judge Brian K. Clark**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2003



**Judge Leslie Dickson**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge William L. Estelle**  
Palmer District Court  
Appointed 2003

---

*District Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



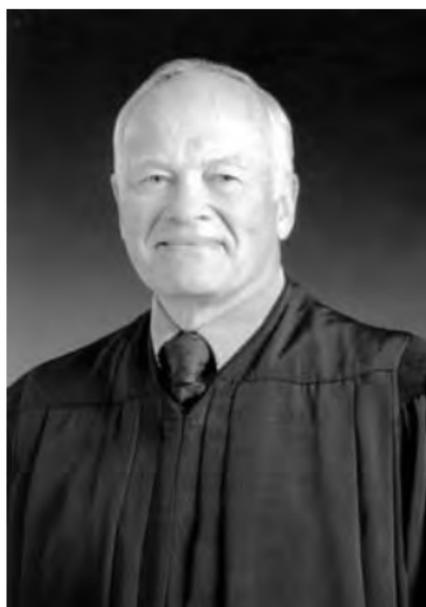
**Judge J. Patrick Hanley**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2005



**Judge Jennifer Stuart  
Henderson**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Sharon A.S. Illsley**  
Kenai District Court  
Appointed 2007



**Judge Gregory J. Motyka**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 1991

---

*District Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



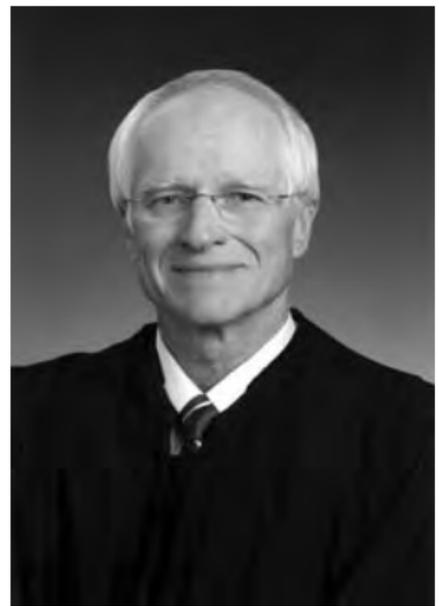
**Judge Margaret L. Murphy**  
Homer District Court  
Appointed 2005



**Judge Stephanie Rhoades**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 1992



**Judge Daniel Schally**  
Valdez District Court  
Appointed 2005



**Judge Alex M. Swiderski**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2005

---

*District Court, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge David R. Wallace**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2009



**Judge Pamela S.  
Washington**  
Anchorage District Court  
Appointed 2010



**Judge John W. Wolfe**  
Palmer District Court  
Appointed 2004



**Judge David L. Zwink**  
Palmer District Court  
Appointed 2010

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District*



**Magistrate Judge  
Kay Adams**  
Cordova  
Appointed 2009



**Magistrate Judge  
David Bauer**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2011



**Magistrate Judge  
Sidney Billingslea**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2013



**Magistrate Judge  
Suzanne Cole**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 1997

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Craig Condie**  
Palmer  
Appointed 2010



**Magistrate Judge  
Kathleen Doherty**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2014



**Magistrate Judge  
Martin Fallon**  
Kenai  
Appointed 2014



**Magistrate Judge  
Michael Franciosi**  
Glennallen  
Appointed 2014

---

*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Una Gandhir**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2013



**Magistrate Judge  
Tara Logsdon**  
Palmer  
Appointed 2014



**Magistrate Judge  
Kari McCrea**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2015



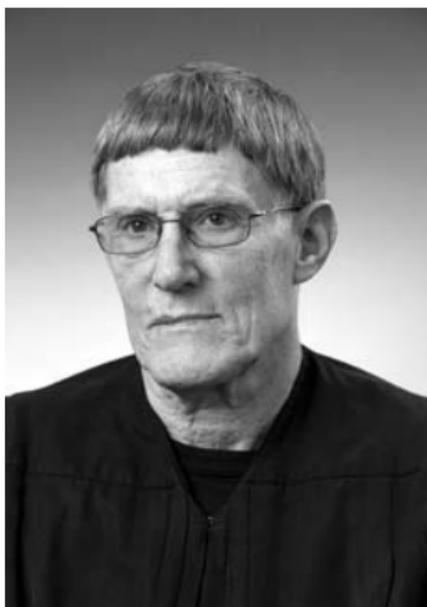
**Magistrate Judge  
Donna McCready**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2013

---

*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Jane Pearson**  
Unalaska  
Appointed 2009



**Magistrate Judge  
George Peck**  
Seward  
Appointed 1976



**Magistrate Judge  
Peter Ramgren**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2012



**Magistrate Judge  
Christina Reigh**  
Dillingham  
Appointed 2014

---

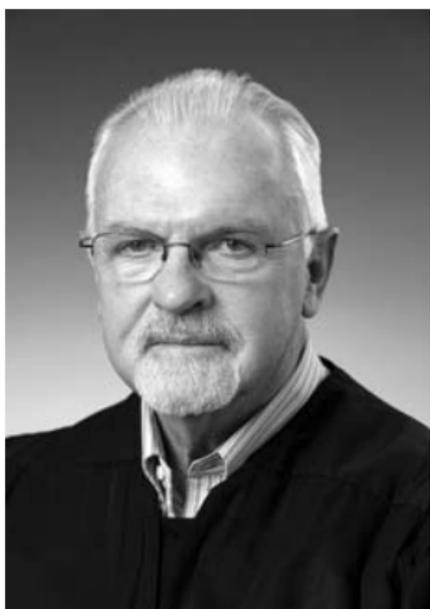
*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Catherine Rogers**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2011



**Magistrate Judge  
Michael Smith**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2015



**Magistrate Judge  
James Stanley**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2011



**Magistrate Judge  
Christina Teaford**  
Anchorage  
Appointed 2008

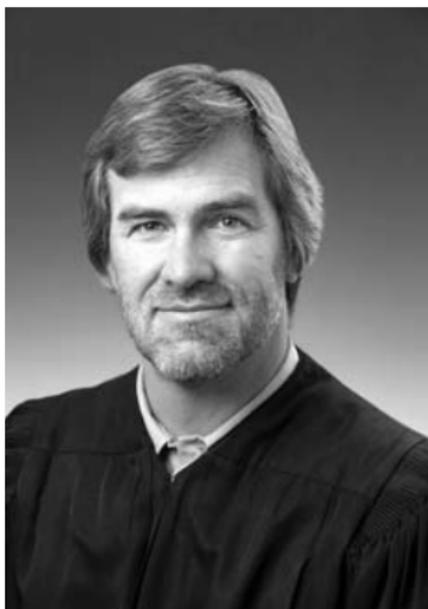
---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Third Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Jennifer Wells**  
Kenai  
Appointed 1994



**Magistrate Judge  
Dawson Williams**  
Kodiak  
Appointed 2007

---

---

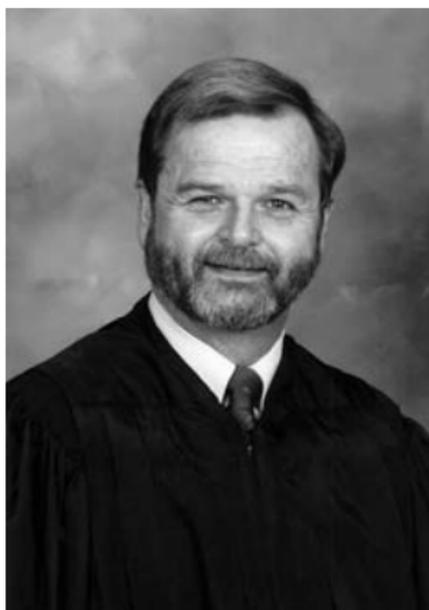
## Fourth Judicial District



### *Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District*



**Presiding Judge  
Michael A. MacDonald**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2007



**Judge Douglas L. Blankenship**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2006

---

*Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Bethany Spalding  
Harbison**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2012



**Judge Jane F. Kauvar**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2013



**Judge Paul R. Lyle**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2008



**Judge Michael P. McConahy**  
Fairbanks Superior Court  
Appointed 2009

---

---

*Superior Court, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Dwayne W.  
McConnell**  
Bethel Superior Court  
Appointed 2012

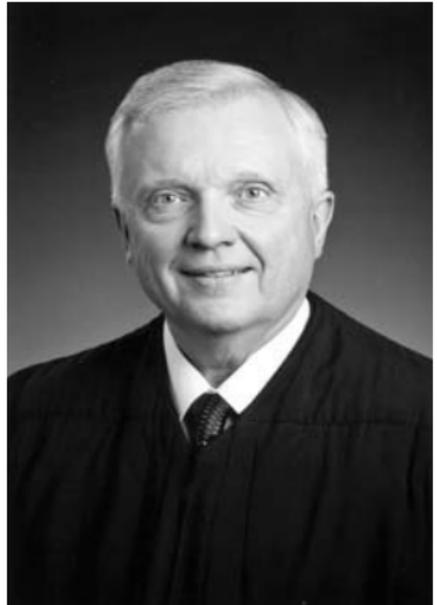


**Judge Charles W. Ray, Jr.**  
Bethel Superior Court  
Appointed 2012

*District Court, Fourth Judicial District*



**Judge Matthew Christian**  
Fairbanks District Court  
Appointed 2013



**Judge Patrick S. Hammers**  
Fairbanks District Court  
Appointed 2009

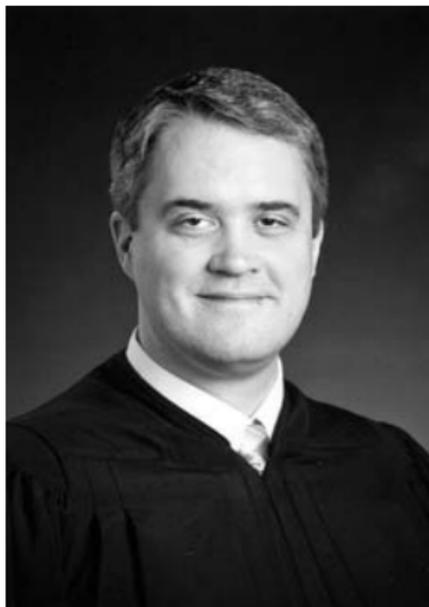
---

---

*District Court, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Judge Nathaniel Peters**  
Bethel District Court  
Appointed 2013



**Judge Benjamin A. Seekins**  
Fairbanks District Court  
Appointed 2012

*Magistrate Judges, Fourth Judicial District*



**Magistrate Judge  
D. Dacho Alexander**  
Fort Yukon  
Appointed 2005



**Magistrate Judge  
Romano D. DiBenedetto**  
Fairbanks  
Appointed 2012

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Brian Fisher**  
Nenana  
Appointed 2005



**Magistrate Judge  
Darlene Johnson-Edwards**  
Emmonak  
Appointed 2000



**Magistrate Judge  
John McConaughy**  
Aniak  
Appointed 2013



**Magistrate Judge  
Christopher McLain**  
Galena  
Appointed 2008

---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Michael Osborne**  
Hooper Bay  
Appointed 2015



**Magistrate Judge  
Paul Peterson**  
Delta Junction  
Appointed 2015



**Magistrate Judge  
Nancy Phillips**  
St. Mary's  
Appointed 2007



**Magistrate Judge  
Alicemary Rasley**  
Fairbanks  
Appointed 1991

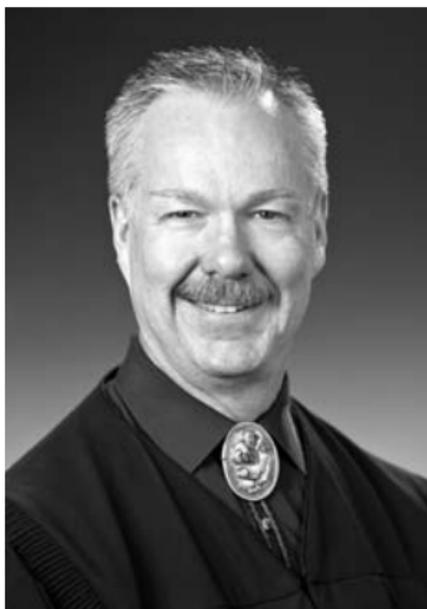
---

---

*Magistrate Judges, Fourth Judicial District  
(continued)*



**Magistrate Judge  
Nikole V. Schick**  
Fairbanks  
Appointed 2009



**Magistrate Judge  
Bruce G. Ward**  
Bethel  
Appointed 2012

---

---

## Active Pro Tem Judges

Elaine M. Andrews

Larry D. Card

Robert G. Coats

Dale O. Curda

Beverly Cutler

Robert L. Eastaugh

Ben Esch

Natalie K. Finn

William H. Fuld

Raymond M. Funk

Donald D. Hopwood

Michael I. Jeffery

Warren W. Matthews

Nancy J. Nolan

Randy M. Olsen

Niesje J. Steinkruger

Mark I. Wood

---

---

## Glossary of Common Terms Used in Court

- Affidavit* — A written statement that is signed under the penalty of perjury and sworn to before a person who is officially permitted by law to administer an oath.
- Appeal* — A legal proceeding by which a case is brought before a higher court to review the decision of a lower court or administrative agency to determine if any mistakes of law happened and if the mistakes are significant enough to reverse or send the decision back to the lower court for further consideration.
- Bail* — Guarantee of money necessary to release a person under arrest from jail or prison until a trial is held.
- Civil case* — A legal case involving disputes between people or organizations using civil law. These cases may involve one party who wants to: get property back, force someone to complete a contract, end a marriage, get child custody, get money for damage done to their property or for an injury, protect their civil rights, among other issues. It does not involve the government charging someone with a crime; that is called a criminal case.
- Child in need of aid (CINA)* — A person under 18 years of age whom the court finds needs the help of the State of Alaska because the child is not receiving proper care or is in an unsafe situation.
- Criminal case* — A case dealing with a violation of Alaska's criminal laws.
- Custody* — The rights and responsibilities between parents for their children. There are two aspects of custody: Legal custody covers the right and obligation to make major life decisions such as where the child goes to school, which doctors he or she sees, and how money relating to the child is handled; and physical custody refers to the right to have the children actually live with a parent.
- Decree* — A court decision, usually at the end of a case when all issues are decided.

---

---

*Defendant* — In a civil case, the person or company being sued. In a criminal or traffic case, the person accused of the crime.

*Domestic relations* — A civil case type that includes divorce, child custody, child support, legal separation, and paternity cases.

*FED (forcible entry and detainer)* — Ordinarily refers to a summary proceeding for restoring possession of land to one who has been wrongfully deprived of possession. Commonly called an eviction.

*Felony* — A serious crime that can be punished by more than one year in prison.

*Hearing* — A court proceeding at which *parties*, and perhaps *witnesses*, come to the court to speak. A hearing is different from a *trial* in a number of ways, including that it is typically shorter and sometimes less formal than a trial and usually deals with fewer issues.

*Judgment* — A final ruling in a *civil* or *criminal* case that can be appealed to the *appellate* courts. A judgment resolves the key questions in a lawsuit and determines the rights and obligations of the opposing parties.

*Jurisdiction* — The area and types of cases which a court has authority to hear and to decide.

*Misdemeanor* — A minor crime punishable by a fine or short-term imprisonment.

*Motion* — The name of the paper you must file to ask a judge to make a ruling or take some other action. A motion is the first step in the three-step process called *motion practice*, which is controlled by Civil Rule 77.

*Order* — A command or direction given by a judge orally or in writing.

*Parole* — Supervised release of a prisoner that allows the person to serve the rest of the sentence out of prison if all conditions of release are met.

*Petition to revoke probation (PTRP)* — Petition to the court asking that an offender be returned to prison due to a

---

---

---

---

violation of the conditions of probation.

*Petitioner* — The person who starts the type of case that begins with a petition rather than a complaint. The terms *petitioner* and *respondent* are used in domestic violence cases and in dissolutions.

*Plaintiff* — A person who brings a civil suit in a court of law.

*Post-conviction relief (PCR)* — A procedure by which a convicted defendant challenges the conviction and/or sentence on the basis of some alleged violation or error.

*Probate* — The judicial process to determine if a will of a dead person is genuine or not; lawful distribution of a decedent's estate.

*Probation* — A sentencing alternative to imprisonment in which the court releases a convicted defendant under supervision of a probation officer who makes certain that the defendant follows certain rules — for example, getting a job or getting drug counseling.

*Prosecutor* — Lawyer who asserts the interests and rights of the people of the state or a city against the defendant in a criminal trial.

*Respondent* — The person who responds to the *petitioner*. If you did not file the petition initiating a court case, and you are named in the case, you are the *respondent*. The terms *petitioner* and *respondent* are used in domestic violence cases and in dissolutions.

*Small claims* — A court that handles civil claims for \$10,000 or less. People often represent themselves rather than hire an attorney in small claims disputes.

*Trial* — Formal court proceeding at which evidence is heard and the case is decided.







**Office of the Administrative Director  
Alaska Court System  
303 K Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
(907) 264-0548**