



ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
State of Alaska
Office of the Administrative Director

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The Honorable Lesil McGuire
Member, Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator McGuire:

In both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Finance Committee hearings on SB 58 you expressed concern about the limited number of women judges in Alaska, particularly the limited number of women superior court judges. In response to your concerns Larry Cohn (Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council) provided you with a brief history of the number of women who apply for judgeships and the number of women the Council forwards to the governor for possible appointment. In order to supplement the information provided by Mr. Cohn I am attaching a list of all the women judges who are currently serving in Alaska. Confirming your concerns, of the 40 superior court judges in Alaska, only 5 are women.

I included magistrates in my list because, though they are hired directly by the court system and not part of the judicial selection process that goes through the Council and the governor, they are judges and hear thousands of cases each year.

Sincerely,

Doug Wooliver
Administrative Attorney
Alaska Court System

cc: Senate Finance Committee Members

Women Judges in Alaska

January, 2011

Appellate Courts 2 of 8 (25%)

Supreme Court 2 of 5 (40%)

(Fabe, Anchorage, 1996)
(Christen, Anchorage, 2009)

Court of Appeals 0 of 3 (0%)

Trial Courts 11 of 61 (18%)

Superior Court 5 of 40 (13%)

First District	1	(Patricia Collins, Juneau, 1999)
Second District	0	
Third District	4	(Sharon Gleason, Anchorage, 2001) (Kari Kristiansen, Palmer, 2006) (Vanessa White, Palmer, 2006) (Anna Moran, Kenai, 2007)
Fourth District	0	

District Court 6 of 21 (29%)

First District	0	
Second District	0	
Third District	5	(Cathy Easter, Anchorage, 2008) (Stephanie Rhoades, Anchorage, 1992) (Pamela Scott-Washington, Anchorage, 2010) (Margaret Murphy, Homer, 2005) (Sharon Illsley, Kenai, 2007)
Fourth District	1	(Jane Kauvar, Fairbanks, 1981)

Magistrates 25 of 43 (58%)

First District	8	(Elaine Kookesh, Angoon – Kay Clark, Craig – Maureen DesRosiers, Hoonah – Amanda Schultz, Ketchikan – Darlene Whitehorn, Petersburg – Susan Reed, Skagway – Chris Ellis Wrangell – Mary Kay Havens, Yakutat)
Second District	3	(Mary Triber, Barrow – Brook Alowa, Kotzebue – Heide Ivanoff, Unalakleet)
Third District	7	(Carmen Clark, Anchorage – Tina Teaford, Anchorage – Kay Adams, Cordova – Jean Wilkinson, Glennallen – Jennifer Wells, Kenai – Jennifer King, Naknek – Jane Pearson, Unalaska)
Fourth District	7	(Tracy Blais, Delta Junction - Bethany Harbison, Fairbanks – Nikole Schick, Fairbanks – Alicemary Rasley, Fairbanks – Patty Burley, Bethel – Darlene Johnson-Edwards, Emmonak – Nancy Phillips, St. Mary's)