

## Ernest Prax

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**From:** Rep. Wes Keller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 05, 2014 7:29 AM  
**To:** Ernest Prax  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony on HJR 33

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**From:** Alison Arians [<mailto:alisonarians@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 04, 2014 11:39 AM  
**To:** Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Bob Lynn; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Charisse Millett; Rep. Lance Pruitt; Rep. Max Gruenberg  
**Subject:** Testimony on HJR 33

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for taking public testimony on HJR 33. I'm a small business owner in Anchorage. Just for the record, I'm not an attorney, and I'm testifying against HJR 33.

As a small business owner, I appreciate efficiency, a limited bureaucracy, and expert advice. I agree with the way our Judicial Council works now. Adding more people to the group will add significant expense to the travel budgets of this group, especially when they travel to places like Bethel.

I'm comfortable with asking people with law degrees to evaluate their peers. The combination seems efficient the way it is. I respect the Chief Justice's opinion, if necessary for him to vote, to know whether a judge is well qualified for a job. Also, I think the citizen members on the group deserve a little more credit for being able to make good recommendations to their group, and to back up their opinions. It's only been 15 times out of 1,100 votes when the Chief Justice sided with the attorney group against the public members. It seems to me that the group works very well, since 99% of the time, that's not happening!

For several years I volunteered as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate. I acted as a volunteer *guardian ad litem* for children. The only experience I have in front of a judge is acting as a *guardian ad litem*. When I vote, I want to be able to know that the judges I vote for are well-qualified, and I believe that the committee as it stands is effective and efficient at doing just that.

Alison Arians

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