



# ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

## House Finance Subcommittee Alaska Court System

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# ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

## FY23 Legislative Finance Division (LFD) Mid-Year Report – Judiciary

### **Increased Hours for Non-Judicial Employees (\$1,195.1 UGF)**

For FY2023, funding will be used to increase the hours for court employees to address the work backlogs that have accumulated during the pandemic and the hours that the court system customer service counters are available to the public and State agencies on Friday afternoons. The court system intends to provide the increased customer service hours and address case processing backlogs with minimized expenditures by not returning all court staff to 37.5 hours, and only those who do increase their hours will receive the corresponding salary increase. Instead, the court system intends to use flexible staffing schedules and modified workload distribution systems for many types of case processing tasks throughout the court system.





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## FY23 Legislative Finance Division (LFD) Mid-Year Report – Judiciary (cont.)

### Increased Hours for Non-Judicial Employees \$1,195.1 UGF – (cont.)

**LFD Questions** - How many employees have transitioned back to 37.5 hour weeks? How many are still working 36 hour weeks? Are the increased hours sufficient to decrease the work backlog?

**Agency Comments** - There were 589 budgeted positions previously subject to the 36.0 hour work week. As of the pay period ending 12/25/2022, 302 (51%) remain on the 36.0 hour work week schedule. As employees working 36.0 hour schedules retire or terminate, these positions are filled by employees assigned to work a 37.5 hour work week schedule. Although the increased hours were sufficient to allow the court system to open on Friday afternoons, backlogs remain a problem in large part due to staff capacity in other justice-related agencies. Additionally, the court system continues to struggle with filling its vacant positions - particularly in rural Alaska.



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## FY24 Governor's Amended Budget Request Judiciary – Commission on Judicial Conduct

### Vacancy Underfunding at 0% (\$4.8 UGF)

The Commission on Judicial Conduct is comprised of two staff members - an executive director and an administrative assistant. The budget of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is very small with the majority of the funding required to pay the costs of personal services. This request is for \$4,800 to fully fund the projected FY24 personal services expense for this agency. As a two person staff, this agency does not have the capacity to absorb personal services below the obligated amount while providing the Constitutionally mandated services.





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Thank you for your  
time.

Questions?