

## District Court

State of Alaska

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**KEITH B. LEVY**  
Judge

P.O. BOX 114100  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-4100

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Juneau Youth Court/JDHS  
10014 Crazy Horse Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Attn: Beth Leban-Coordinator

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

Dear Beth:

I am writing to express my appreciation for the work done by the Juneau Youth Court. The Youth Court is an integral sentencing option for students under the age of 18 who are charged with consuming or possessing alcohol for the first time.

As you know, students who choose the Youth Court option are given the opportunity to have their District Court case dismissed if they successfully complete the Youth Court requirements. For some, this brief involvement in the criminal justice system is a turning point. Those who choose Youth Court and succeed are far less likely to return to District Court on other criminal charges. The students benefit because they end up with no conviction on their record. And the community benefits because the Youth Court graduates are contributing to the community rather than causing harm to themselves and others.

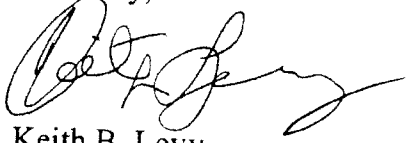
The Youth Court is the only diversion program available in District Court to enable individuals to have their cases dismissed without resulting in a criminal record. The trust the program has earned from both the District Court and the prosecution is a testament to the value and integrity of the program.

I appreciate that you or another representative of the Youth Court always attends the arraignment hearings for minor consuming. The information you provide to the students about Youth Court is invaluable and helps them understand their options in the justice system.

Finally, the Youth Court program provides an opportunity for students to be judged by their peers. I believe this is valuable because the students in the program have far more information about the defendants than is provided to me in formal sentencing proceedings. The Youth Court is able to impose consequences that are more meaningful than the limited options I have when sentencing.

Thanks again for the important service the Youth Court provides to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith B. Levy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Keith B. Levy