

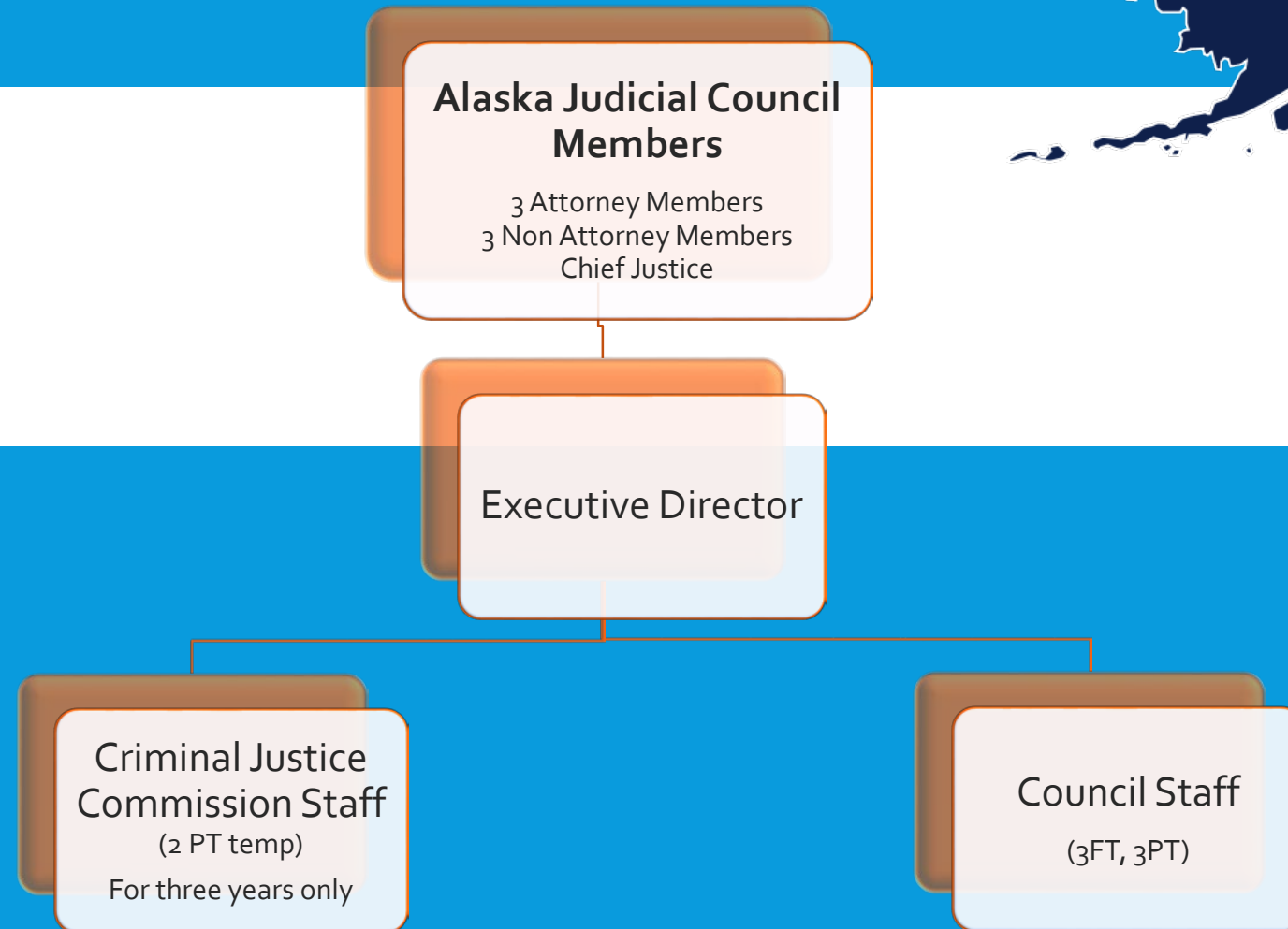
# STATE OF ALASKA JUDICIARY



## Alaska Judicial Council

- Established at statehood in Art. IV, Section 8 of the Alaska Constitution

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE



# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## MISSION, RESPONSIBILITIES & DUTIES



### **AJC's mission, as required by Alaska's Constitution and statutes is to:**

1. Screen and nominate applicants to fill judicial and public defender vacancies;
2. Evaluate the performance of judges on the ballot, make the evaluations available to the public, and may make recommendations about whether the voters should retain judges in office; and
3. Conduct studies to improve the administration of justice, making recommendations to the legislature and the supreme court.

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES, JUDICIAL SELECTION

### 1. Evaluate & Nominate Applicants for Judgeships

**Ak Const. Art. IV, Sec. 5; AS 22.05.080,  
22.07.070, 22.10.100, 22.15.170**

- Recruit applicants; accept and review applications; survey attorneys and analyze results; research all aspects of applicants' employment histories; prepare information for Council members;
- Solicit public comment and hold public hearing, interview all applicants;
- Document results of selection processes and maintain information for public;
- Similar process for nomination of Public Defender candidates (AS 18.85.030 and .050)

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES, EVALUATION OF JUDGES

### 2. Evaluate Judges & Publicize Results

AS 22.05.100, 22.07.060; 22.10.150,  
22.15.195, 15.58.050

- Survey court users: attorneys, police, jurors, court employees, and social services professionals; research judges' pay affidavits, peremptory challenges, and other performance indicators.
- Administer court watching grant at direction of legislature.
- Provide evaluation information to the public through media (as able), internet (web site), and Lt. Governor's Official Election Pamphlet (as required by law);
- Evaluate pro tem judges under Ak Ct System Administrative Rule 23

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, DETAIL CONT'D

### Research and Studies

### Alaska Constitution, Article IV, Section 9

- Staff Criminal Justice Commission as required by SB64
- Staff Criminal Justice Working Group at direction of legislature
- Conduct Research and studies as needed to support the work of Cr. Just. Com'n and Cr. Just. Wrkg. Grp.
- Serve on Criminal Justice Information Advisory Board (AS 12.62.100)
- At request of other state agencies (e.g., Court System, Division of Behavioral Health) evaluate effectiveness of projects and programs (funded through RSAs)
- Collect civil case settlement data as directed by statute (AS 09.68.130)
- Report on DNA technology (AS 22.20.200)
- Conduct other civil and criminal justice studies requested by legislature or supreme court

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## Goals



- The Judicial Council maintains excellence in the judicial branch of government through merit selection of judges and judicial performance evaluation.
- The Judicial Council contributes to improving the administration of justice through its studies and recommendations to the legislature and supreme court.

# ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

## Outcome Measures

- Judge Profile Database
- Research reports requested, published and cited