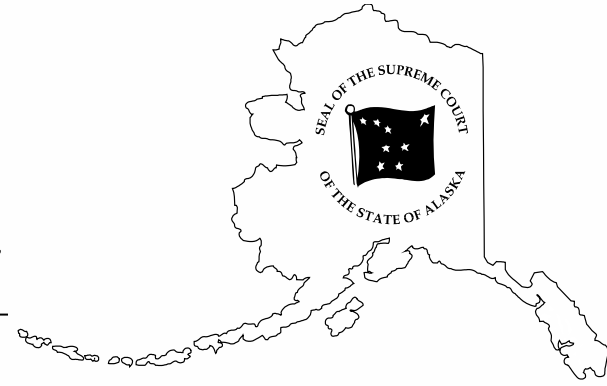


Alaska Court System

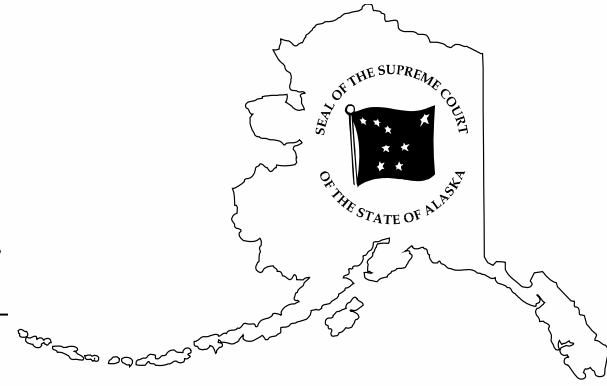


Senate Finance Subcommittee Alaska Court System Overview

Doug Wooliver,
Deputy Administrative Director
February 23, 2021



Alaska Court System



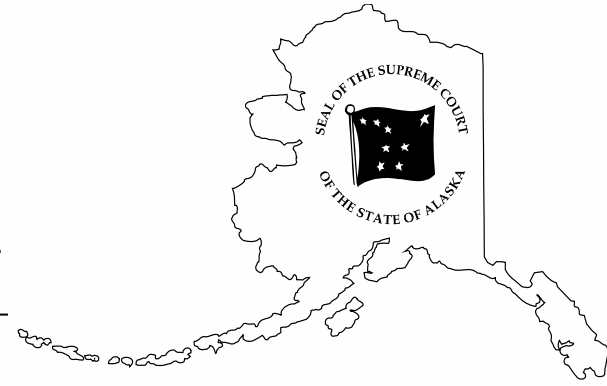
Mission Statement

The mission of the Alaska Court System is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.

<https://ltgov.alaska.gov/services/alaskas-constitution/>



Alaska Court System

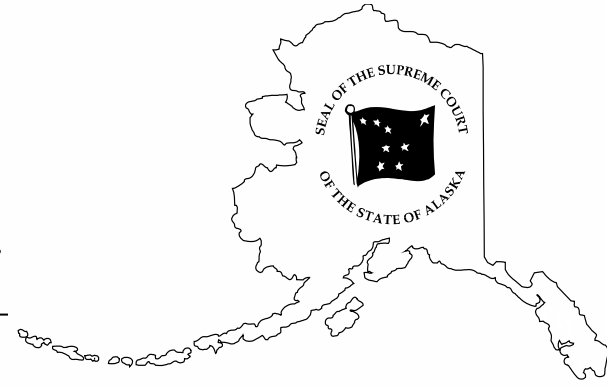


Alaskans Served in 2020

- 121,465 new cases filed (trial and appellate)
- 5,448 contacts through the Family Law Self-Help Center
- 6,578,256 visits to the court's website
- 1,570,337 CourtView searches
- 23,868 online payments made
 - 2,305 On-Line Bail payments (Since March 2020)
- 431 therapeutic court participants
- Tens of thousands of on-line court forms accessed or downloaded



Alaska Court System

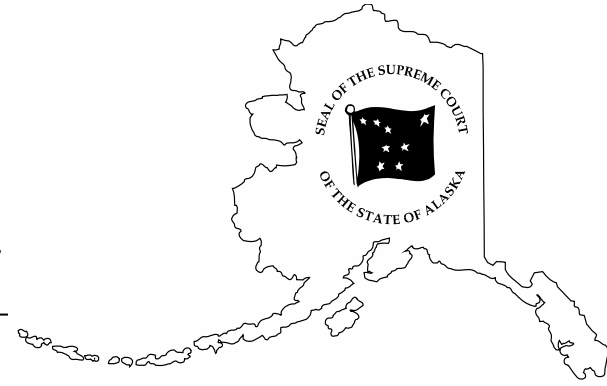


The Alaska Court System Has Remained Open throughout the Pandemic

- New safety protocols for public and employees
- Modification of physical facilities
- Increased reliance on technology
- Emergency and essential proceedings continued
- And the cases kept coming...



Alaska Court System

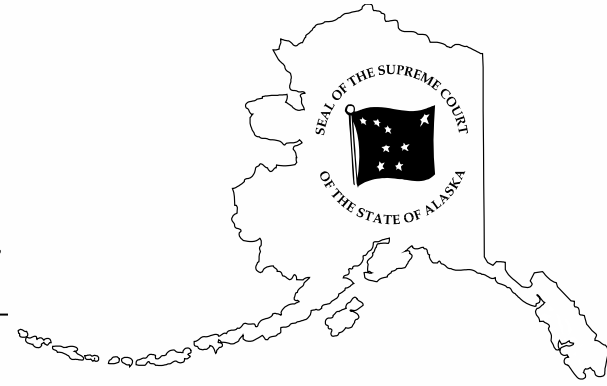


Criminal Case Filing Information

- ❑ FY17 Felonies – 6,198
- ❑ FY18 Felonies – 7,186
- ❑ FY19 Felonies – 7,321
- ❑ FY20 Felonies – 7,504



Alaska Court System

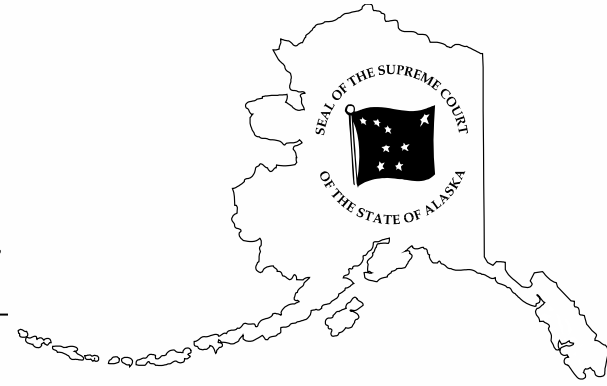


Criminal Case Filings (cont.)

- ❑ FY17 Misdemeanors – 19,030
- ❑ FY18 Misdemeanors – 21,232
- ❑ FY19 Misdemeanors – 25,288
- ❑ FY20 Misdemeanors – 23,591



Alaska Court System

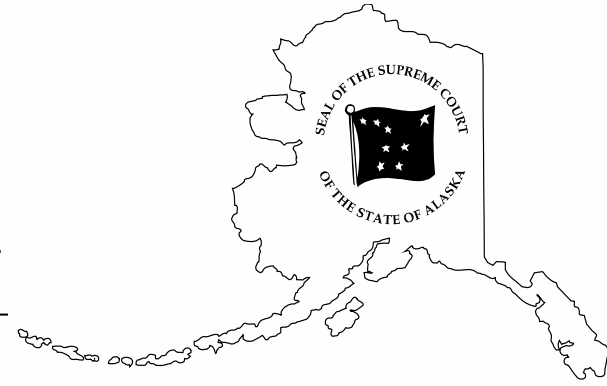


FY20 Fiscal Impact of the Pandemic

- ❖ The court system does not routinely have surplus funding available to return (lapse) to the general fund. However, as a result of the pandemic, the court system experienced unprecedented savings in the operating categories of juror pay, juror travel, and employee travel.
- ❖ The court system was also able to transfer \$578,200 of payroll costs that were initially charged to GF funding, but were allowable expenses to charge to the state's federal CARES funding.
- ❖ These areas of savings resulted in over \$1 million GF lapse in FY20.



Alaska Court System

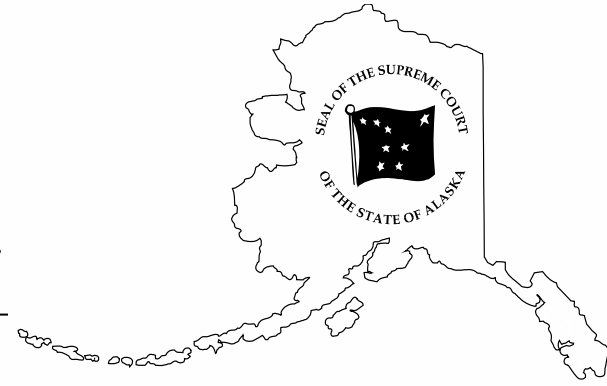


FY21 Fiscal Impact of the Pandemic

- ❖ In FY21, the court system expects to continue to accrue some savings in juror expenses, juror travel, and employee travel.
- ❖ Due to the limited amount of CARES funding currently available, the court system does not expect to be able to charge any FY21 payroll costs to CARES funding. This may change should additional federal funding become available to the State of Alaska.
- ❖ When trial activity has returned to normal levels, the court system expects to incur increased expenses for personal protective equipment and supplies and staffing costs to address trial backlogs.



Alaska Court System

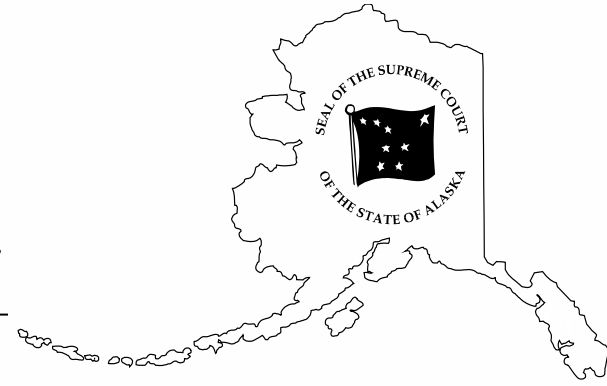


FY21 Impact of the Pandemic – Resolving Cases:

- ❖ Cases Continue to be Resolved
- ❖ Trials by Zoom
- ❖ Expanded Use of Teleconferencing Services for Hearings



Alaska Court System



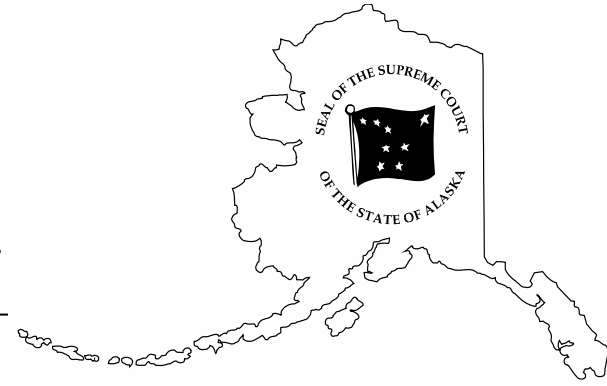
How the Alaska Court System (ACS) Used Federal CARES Funding Directly Allocated to ACS:

- \$2,716,700 – Technology Investment
 - \$ 335,000 – Facility Cleaning & Improvements
 - \$ 78,500 – Personnel Costs
 - \$ 76,800 – Personal Protective Equipment*
- \$3,207,000 CARES Funding to Courts

* The ACS also received Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding totaling \$210,000 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This funding was used for personal protective equipment and supplies.



Alaska Court System

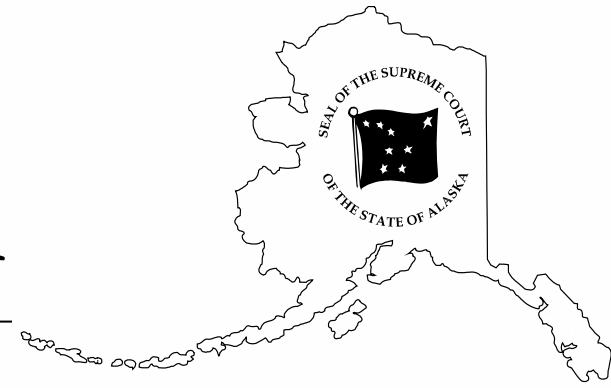


Pandemic Crisis Fosters Innovations

- Hearings Conducted through Zoom
- Grand Jury Proceedings by Tablets
- Online Customer Service Appointments
- Plans for Online Dispute Resolution
- Case Filings Accepted by Email and Fax
 - ✓ CARES Funding Paid for the Equipment
- Online Qualifying Juror Questionnaires
- Online Bail Payments



Alaska Court System

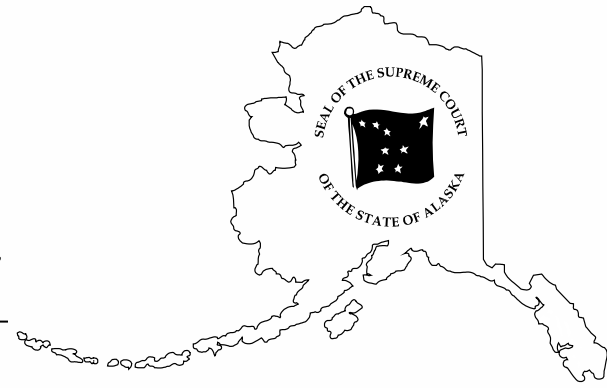


FY22 Proposed Operating Budget Requests - Governor's Amended Budget (GF)

- **\$1,243,800** **Transfer of DOT Funding to Courts**
- **960,600** **Transfer of OPA Court Visitor Program**
- 585,100 1% Salary Increase Non-Judicial Staff
- 480,400 Therapeutic Courts Task Force
- 334,700 Appellate Base Adjustment
- (99,300) Risk Management Costs
- \$3,505,300 Total Net GF Changes in Gov Amend



Alaska Court System

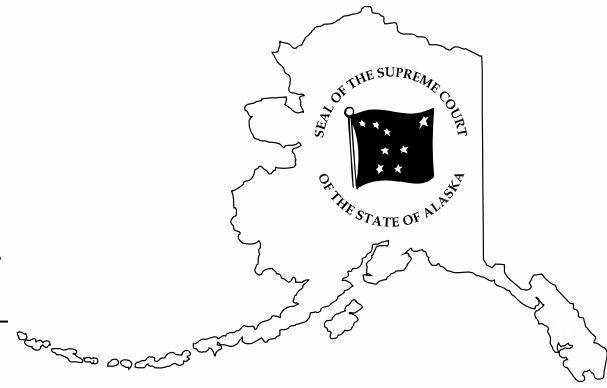


Funding for Sitka Court O & M – DOT Transfer

- In FY20, the Alaska Court System was advised that DOT was not able to pay the FY21 costs for court's share of the Sitka facility. This news prompted the court system to amend its FY21 budget request and the legislature approved \$78,300 for these expenses. The court system has not been billed for the Sitka expenses.
- Based on the FY20 actual expenses, DOT is proposing an FY22 transfer of \$92,600 to the court system to pay for Sitka court O & M costs.



Alaska Court System



Thank you for your
time.

Questions?

