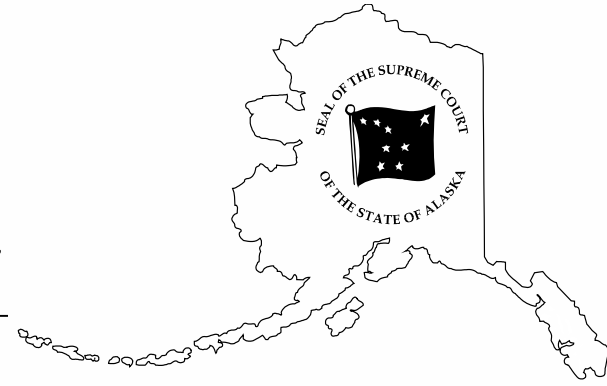


# Alaska Court System

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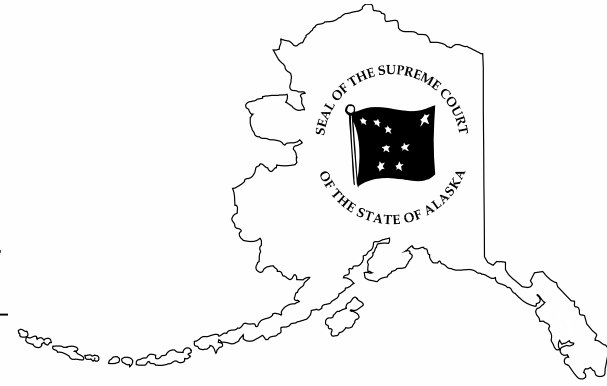
## House Finance Subcommittee Alaska Court System Overview

Doug Wooliver,  
Deputy Administrative Director  
January 24, 2022



# Alaska Court System

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## Mission Statement

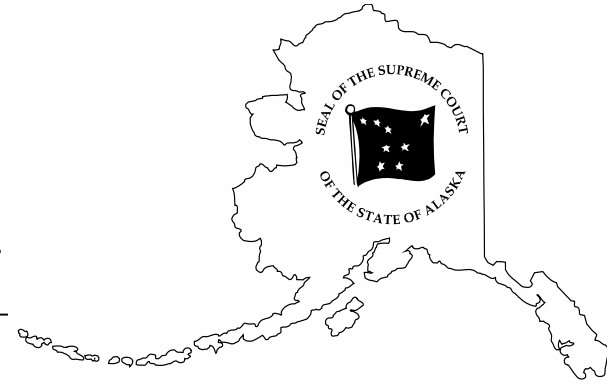
The mission of the Alaska Court System is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.

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



# Alaska Court System

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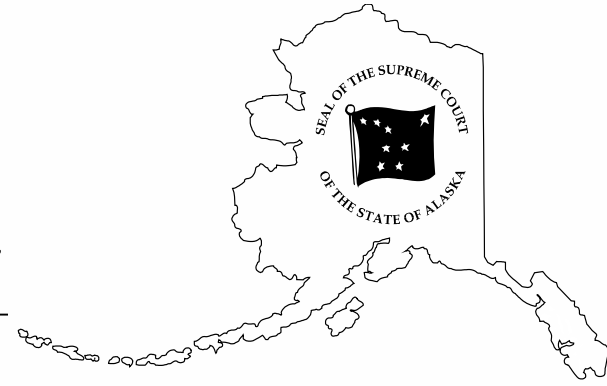
## Distinguishing Characteristics of the Alaska Court System

- State Funded – No County or Municipal Courts
- Unified Judiciary



# Alaska Court System

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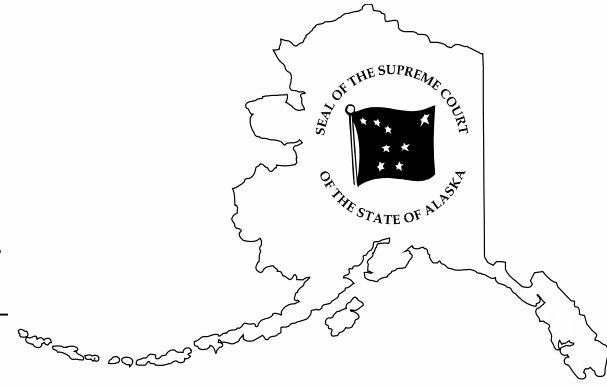
## Factors Impacting Workloads

- Population
- Police
- Economy
- Statutory Changes
- Other (Pandemic)



# Alaska Court System

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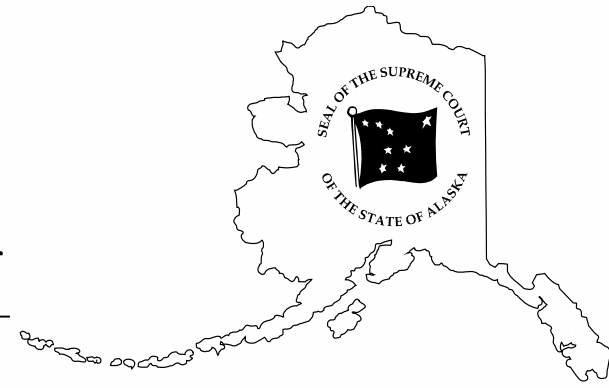


## FY22 Court System Employees – 766 Authorized Positions

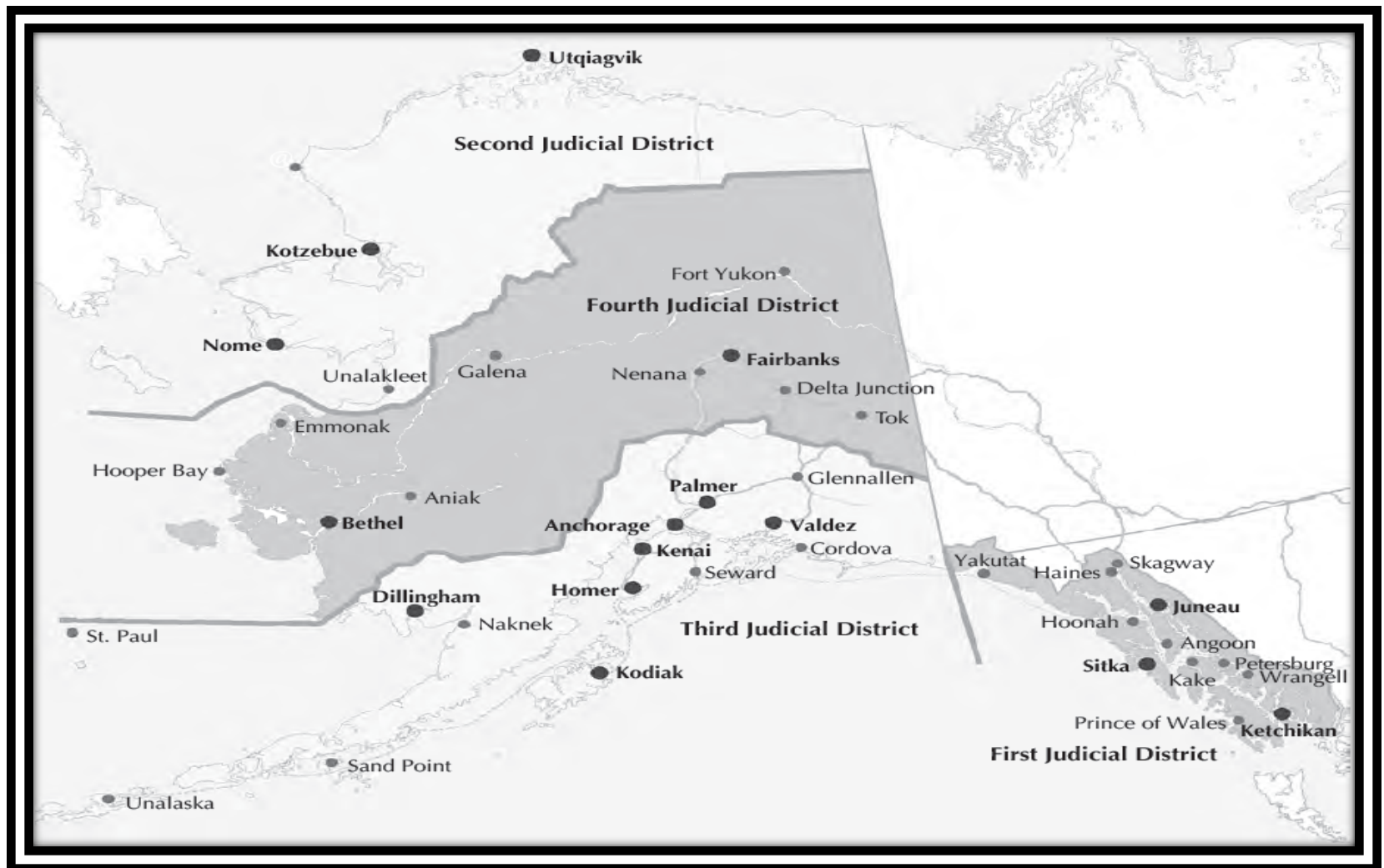
- Primarily Clerical Employees
- Five Supreme Court Justices
- Four Court of Appeal Judges
- 45 Superior Court Judges
- 20 District Court Judges
- 38 Magistrate Judges



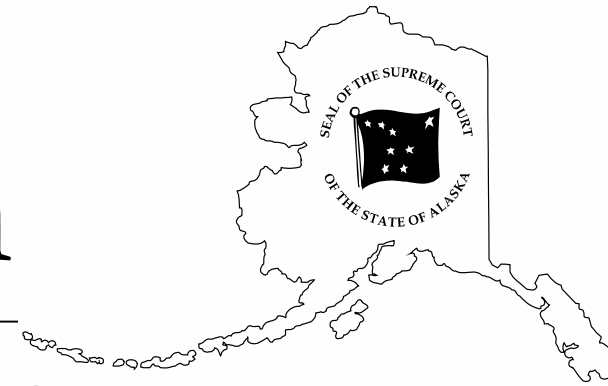
# Alaska Court System



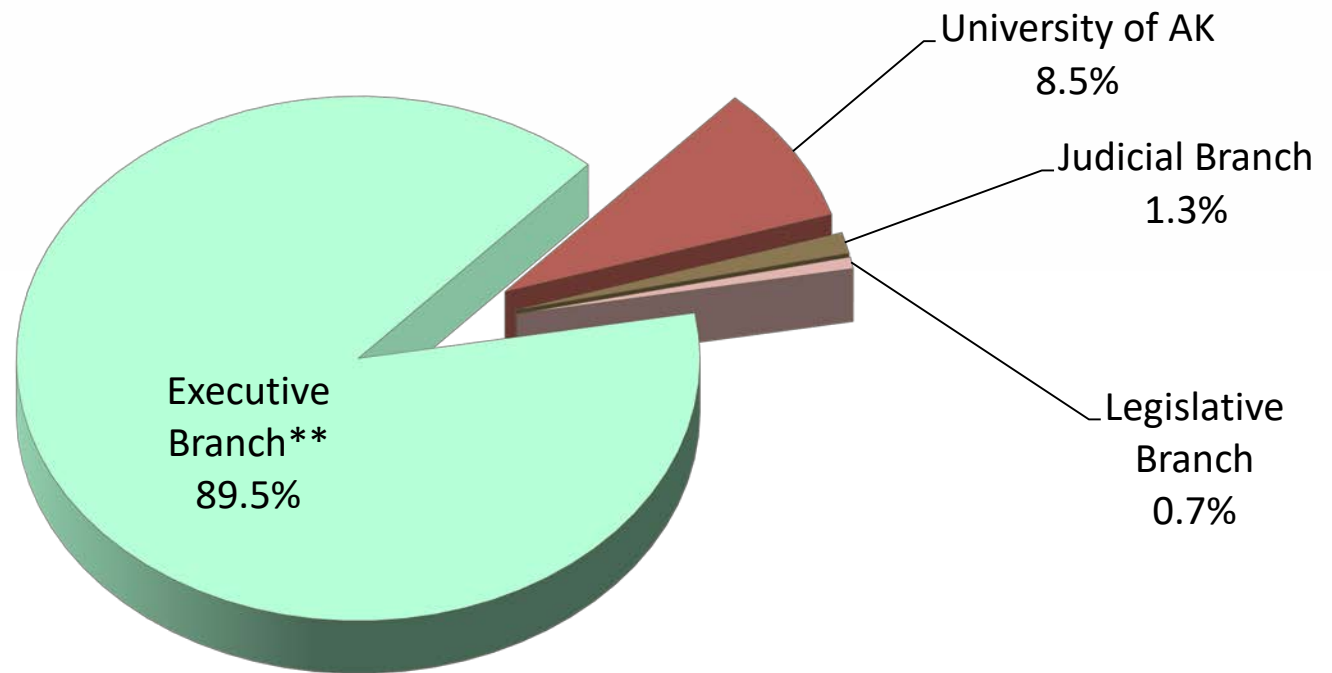
## FY22 Court Locations



# Alaska Court System



## FY22 State of Alaska Funding – All Sources



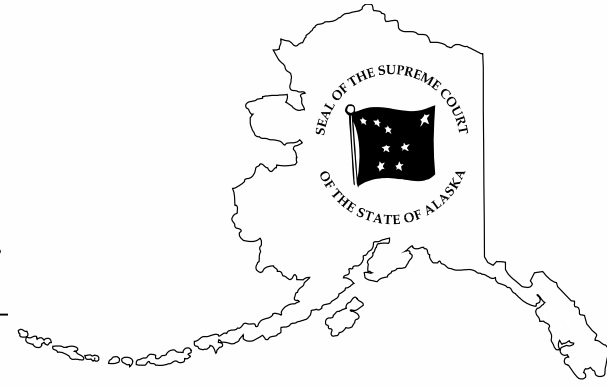
\*\*Total excludes PFD, Debt Service, and Special Appropriations

Source: Legislative Finance Division,  
2021 Legislature – Operating Budget 9/21/2021

Total FY22 Agency Budgets = \$9,489,368,200  
Judiciary Budget = \$121,701,300  
(includes Judicial Council & Judicial Conduct)

# Alaska Court System

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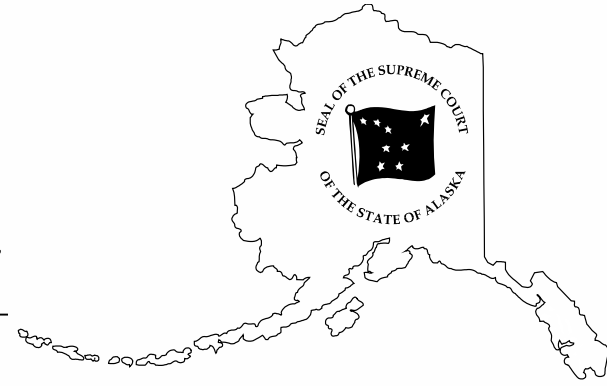
## Alaskans Served in 2021

- 102,237 new cases filed (trial and appellate)
- 5,095 contacts through the Family Law Self-Help Center
- 6,754,890 visits to the court's website
- 1,713,167 CourtView searches
- 24,746 online payments made
- 419 therapeutic court participants
- Tens of thousands of on-line court forms accessed or downloaded



# Alaska Court System

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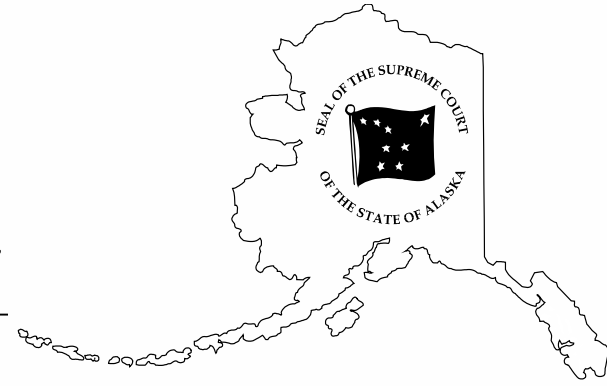
The Alaska Court System Has Remained Open  
*Every Day* throughout the Pandemic

- New safety protocols for public and employees
- Increased reliance on technology
- Emergency and essential proceedings continued



# Alaska Court System

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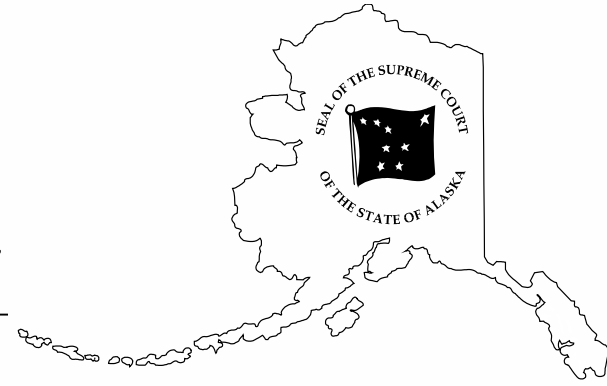
## Trial Court Caseloads – FY20 vs. FY21

- FY21 Trial Court Case Filings Totaled 101,768
  - Down 15.8% from FY20 Total Trial Court Filings
- FY21 Superior Court Cases Totaled 22,150
  - Down 3.2% from FY20 Superior Court Case Totals
- FY21 District Court Cases Totaled 79,618
  - Down 18.8% from FY20 District Court Case Totals
    - Minor Offenses – 12,185 fewer in FY21
    - Small Claims & Civil – 3,641 fewer in FY21
    - Misdemeanors – 2,597 fewer in FY21



# Alaska Court System

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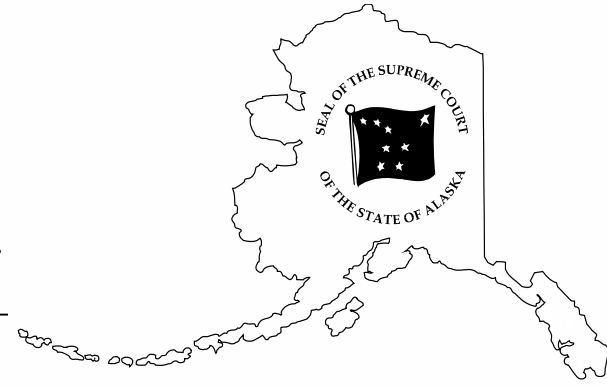
## Criminal Case Filing Information

- ☐ FY17 Felonies – 6,198
- ☐ FY18 Felonies – 7,186
- ☐ FY19 Felonies – 7,321
- ☐ FY20 Felonies – 7,504
- ☐ FY21 Felonies – 6,854



# Alaska Court System

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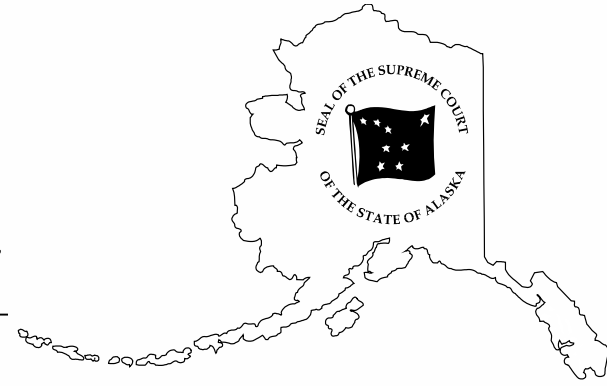
## Criminal Case Filings (cont.)

- ❑ FY17 Misdemeanors – 19,030
- ❑ FY18 Misdemeanors – 21,232
- ❑ FY19 Misdemeanors – 25,288
- ❑ FY20 Misdemeanors – 23,591
- ❑ FY21 Misdemeanors – 20,994



# Alaska Court System

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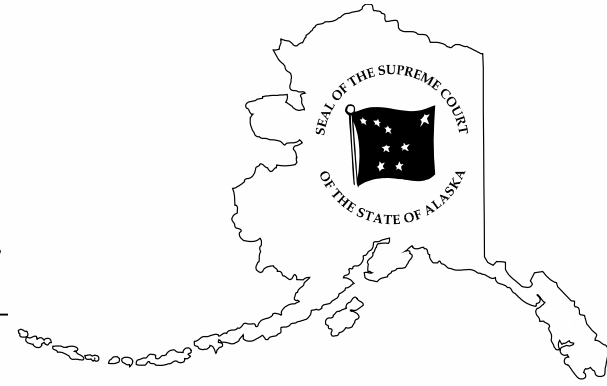
## FY22 Fiscal Impact of the Pandemic

- ❖ Lapsed Funding
- ❖ Costs Paid by Federal CARES Funding Transition to Recurring Costs in FY22 and FY23
- ❖ FEMA “Recovery” Funding Being Pursued for Past PPE and Other Pandemic-related Expenses



# Alaska Court System

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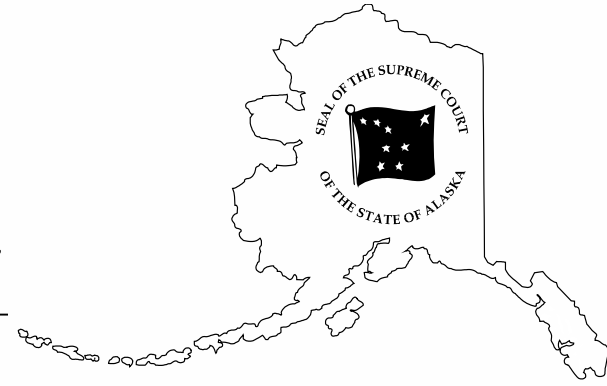
## FY22 Impact of the Pandemic – Resolving Cases:

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



# Alaska Court System

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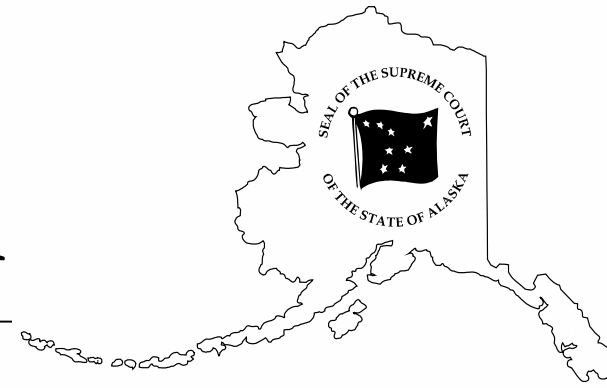
## FY22 Impact of the Pandemic – Resolving Cases (continued):

- ❖ Resuming in-person trials is proving challenging due to increased COVID activity.
- ❖ The court system is experiencing high rates of unplanned leave (sick leave), staff vacancies, and turnover.



# Alaska Court System

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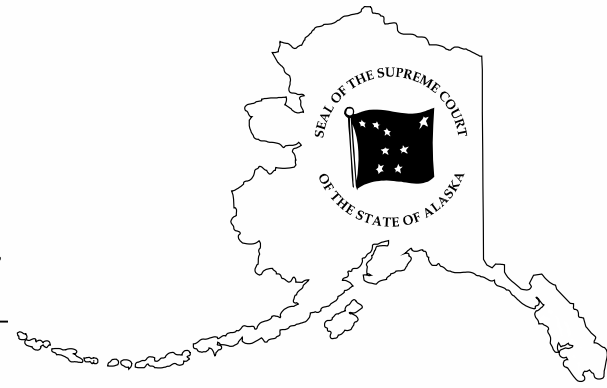


## FY23 Proposed Operating Budget Requests - (GF)


- \$1,195,100 Increased Hours - Backlog
- 1,091,800 Software Subscriptions and Maint
- 661,500 Facility O & M Costs
- 150,000 Evidence Management Software
- 136,500 Thera Courts Treatment and Staff
- 40,700 Unallocated Adjustment
- (789,500) PERS Decrease & Health Increase
- \$2,486,100 Total FY23 GF Increase Requested

# Alaska Court System

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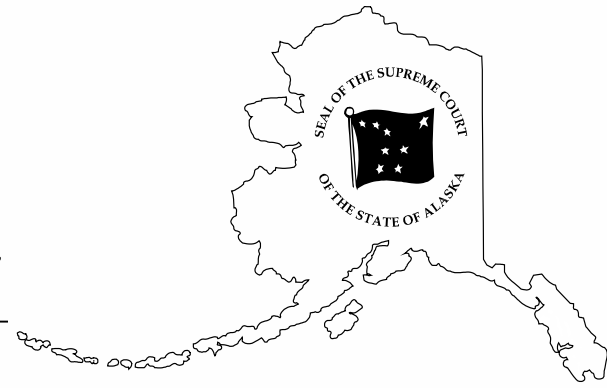
## FY22 Supplemental Budget Request – Offsite Trials



➤	\$ 637,800	Servers, Software, & Related Expenses
➤	481,200	Telephonic Hearings & Recordings
➤	348,000	Security and Audio/Visual
➤	150,000	Facility Rentals
➤	150,000	Staff Costs (Retired Clerks and OT)
➤	<u>16,000</u>	Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)
	<u><u>\$1,783,000</u></u>	Total FY22 Supplemental Request

# Alaska Court System

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Thank you for your  
time.

Questions?

