

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

April 2, 2004

1:12 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Lesil McGuire, Chair
Representative Tom Anderson, Vice Chair
Representative Ralph Samuels
Representative Les Gara
Representative Max Gruenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Jim Holm
Representative Dan Ogg

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION BY ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL ON THE FELONY PROCESS IN ALASKA

[For the regular meeting minutes, see the 2:55 p.m. minutes for this date.]

TAPES

04-56, SIDE(S) A & B

CHAIR LESIL MCGUIRE convened the meeting of the House Judiciary Standing Committee at 1:12 p.m. Representatives McGuire, Anderson, Samuels, and Gara were present at the call to order. Representative Gruenberg arrived as the meeting was in progress.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

LARRY COHN, Executive Director, Alaska Judicial Council (AJC), presented an overview of the Alaska Felony Process study. He spoke on the methods, data, and findings associated with the study, which addressed the issues of fairness within the Alaska judicial system in regard to ethnicity, and responded to questions regarding the fairness of the system and the apparent increase in the number of cases that are pleaded down within the court system as compared to the last similar study, which occurred in 1987. Among the issues discussed were discrepancies in offenders and sentencing, by ethnicity, in regard to

drug/alcohol dependencies, prior convictions, violence level of crimes, and types of crimes. Also discussed was the issue of discrepancies by the type of attorney, whether public or private, that the defendant has. Also discussed was the length of jail time sentenced dependent on all of the above-mentioned issues.

TERESA W. CARNS, Senior Staff Associate, Alaska Judicial Council (AJC), assisted with the presentation by responding to questions and comments from members.

BARBARA BRINK, Director, Public Defender Agency (PDA), Department of Administration (DOA), in response to questions from members, provided comments during the AJC's presentation.

SUSAN A. PARKES, Deputy Attorney General, Central Office, Criminal Division, Department of Law (DOL), in response to questions from members, provided comments during the AJC's presentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

COMMITTEE ACTION

The committee took no action.

ADJOURNMENT

The House Judiciary Standing Committee took an at-ease at 2:30 p.m. in order to prepare for the regular meeting. [For regular meeting minutes, see the 2:55 p.m. minutes for this date.]

NOTE: The meeting was recorded and handwritten log notes were taken. A copy of the tape(s) and log notes may be obtained by contacting the House Records Office at State Capitol, Room 3, Juneau, Alaska 99801 (mailing address), (907) 465-2214, and after adjournment of the second session of the Twenty-Third Alaska State Legislature this information may be obtained by contacting the Legislative Reference Library at (907) 465-3808.