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HB 590 cont'd

"It is the intent of the Legislature that the superior court judgeship in Wrangell shall not be filled until the Supreme Court eliminates the Wrangell-Petersburg district court judgeship".  
Valdez

HB 694

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 694 (L&C) (Alaska Municipal Bond Bank Authority) and a majority of the committee recommends it do pass. The report was signed by Senator Mulcahy, Chairman and concurred in by Senators Ziegler, Anderson and Fahrenkamp.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 694 (L&C) was referred to the Finance Committee.

HB 835

The Labor and Commerce Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 835 (FIR) am (health and safety) and recommends it be replaced with SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 133 (L&C), entitled:

"An Act relating to the Alaska Safety Advisory Council."

and reports it back as follows: Senator Mulcahy, Chairman and Senator Fahrenkamp signed "do pass". Senators Ziegler and Anderson signed "no recommendation".

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 835 (FIR) am was referred to the Finance Committee.

SB 777

The Rules Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 777 (legislative professional staff loan program) and recommends it be replaced with CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 777 (RLS) and be placed on the May 4 calendar. The report was signed by Senator Kelly, Chairman and concurred in by Senators Ziegler and Ferguson.

The above bill appears on today's calendar.

SB 794

The Rules Committee considered SENATE BILL NO. 794 (dividing certain areas as units of the state mail system) and recommends it be placed on the May 4 calendar with the Finance CS. The report was signed by Senator Kelly, Chairman and concurred in by Senators Dankworth and

The above bill appears on today's calendar.

CS 206

The Rules Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 206 (termination of rental agreements of mobile home park tenants) and recommends it be placed on the May 4 calendar with the following amendment:

Page 1, line 11: After "provision" insert ", enforceable under AS 34.03.130."

The report was signed by Senator Kelly, Chairman and concurred in by Senators Ziegler and Ferguson.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 206 (JUD) appears on today's calendar.

CS 318

The Rules Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 318 (control of bee disease) and recommends it be replaced with SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 318 (RLS) and be placed on the May 4 supplemental calendar. The report was signed by Senator Kelly, Chairman and concurred in by Senator Ferguson.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 318 (RES) appears on today's calendar.

CS 386

The Rules Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 386 (incorporations) and recommends it be replaced with CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 386 (RLS), entitled:

"An Act relating to business corporation reinstatement of certain dissolved Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village corporations to corporate status; and providing for an effective date."

LAW OFFICES

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TELEPHONE 276-5294  
AREA CODE 907

WILLIAM J. MORAN  
OF COUNSEL

April 13, 1983

Representative Charlie Bussell  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811



Dear Sir:

This is in regard to a matter which greatly concerns me and a number of other attorneys practicing in the Third Judicial District, containing Anchorage and the surrounding area.

There is a very real problem with flooded court calendars, overworked judges, and trailing calendars. The problem is that each judge in Anchorage is assigned over 900 cases and because of the work load, the judges are putting in many more hours than they should be expected to. This has also created a crisis in court calendaring in the sense that major civil cases are now being calendared up to 12 months from the time of the pre-trial conference. This results in clients who become angry with the inordinate length of time in resolving civil disputes, and when they ask us why, we tell them that we don't have enough judges in town to try the cases.

This is a request then, for a legislative appropriation which would permit the Alaska Court System to fund the creation of two additional superior court judgeships. As you may recall, the last superior court judgeships to be created in the Third Judicial District was three years ago, in 1980. In that interim three-year period, we have seen a phenomenal growth in the population of the Municipality of Anchorage, along with increased commerce, business, and crime. The increase in crime has resulted in superior court judges assigned to try the felony case load who have been unable to absorb these additional criminal cases which have been spread out among the superior court judges assigned to try civil cases. I would therefore request your help in securing funds to allocate two additional superior court judgeships in the Third Judicial District.

April 13, 1933  
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and  
please contact me if I may provide any further information.  
With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roy W. Matthews III", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roy W. Matthews III, J.D.  
Attorney & Counselor at Law

RWM/mc

Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

POUCH V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-4990

## Committee on Judiciary

Charlie:

Proposed answer to Roy Matthews, a personal friend. Perhaps it would be wise NOT to include the 4th and 5th paragraphs herein, but rather than I should call him and sound him out.....Joe

POUCH V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
465-4990

PO BOX 4-1325  
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248-1515



*Judiciary*  
CHAIRMAN *Reginald*  
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
MEMBER  
HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE *(E)*  
MEMBER *(Hunt)*  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES  
MEMBER  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
MEMBER  
ALASKA CODE REVISION COMMISSION

## Representative Charlie Bussell

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 27, 1983

Mr. Roy W. Matthews, III, Esquire  
HAGANS, BROWN & GIBBS  
310 "K" Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Matthews:

Thank you for bringing to my attention the very serious matter of the overcrowded calendar of court cases in the Anchorage area. In general, I believe the public is well aware that an adequate number of judicial officers are needed under the conditions of population increase, crime increase and back-logged civil cases that you describe.

This year the Alaska Court System did not request any additional judgeships be created as you perhaps know. However, Representative Bette Cato of Valdez introduced a bill, HB 214, that would elevate the position of District Court to that of Superior Court in her area. This measure was passed out of the House Judiciary Committee on April 8th and is now in the House Finance Committee.

Without denigrating any need for more far-reaching judicial services in Valdez, your letter points out that the real crunch appears to be in the Anchorage area. I am having my staff look into this matter more closely and perhaps staff counsel will be in touch with you.

Incidentally, would you be adverse to the idea of creating a single-level trial court in this State? I understand there is more than one way that can be accomplished, such as (1) increasing the jurisdiction of District Court Judges to both civil and criminal cases; and (2) elevating all District Judges to a position with some new name or designation, such as "Associate Superior Court Judges."

Under (1) above, it might be that more District Judges would have to be added, but they could assist in the criminal area and in the civil backlog if they were to have the same jurisdiction (for example, perhaps by assignment for

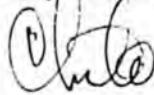
Mr. Roy W. Matthews, III, Esquire  
April 27, 1983  
Page No. 2

hearing felony cases or civil matters beyond their present jurisdictional limit of \$10,000 as the amount in controversy). Under (2) above, an "Associate" Superior Court Judge could be assigned to hear felony matters from start to finish including trial and sentencing and to civil matters of great impact as well.

Please let me know your further thoughts on these matters that could be of assistance to me and/or the Committee.

Thank you for involving yourself in the legislative process.

Very truly yours,



Representative Charlie Bussell  
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary

CB:lyn

LETTER OF INTENT

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
April 8, 1983

It is the intent of the House Committee on Judiciary that the superior court judgeship in Valdez shall not be filled until the Supreme Court eliminates the Valdez district court judgeship.

April 8, 1983

HB 214--By Rep. Cato

Statistics phoned in from Anchorage today:

In the past 16 months, to date, there have been 9 trips from Anchorage by Superior Court judges to hold court sessions in Valdez and Cordova. (Four trips to Cordova, Five to Valdez)

Five different Superior Court judges of Anchorage were involved in handling the nine trips.

Total number of days scheduled for them was 36 working days, although one of the 5-day schedules was canceled, making 31 actual days expended by a judge away from Anchorage.

For May, June & July, 1983, there are three five-day trips scheduled, two to Valdez and one to Glennallen, for a total of 15 projected work days. (These will be handled by Judge Cutler, out of Palmer).

STATE OF ALASKA  
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date \_\_\_\_\_, 1983

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 214  
 Title: Number of Superior Court Judges  
 Sponsor: Cato  
 Requestor: Judiciary & Finance

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Alaska Court System  
 Program Category Affected: Justice  
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: Alaska Court System

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING		21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING		21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4	21.4
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Robert G. Fisher, Fiscal Officer Phone: 264-0561  
 Division: Alaska Court System, Administration Date: 3/31/83  
 Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution:

- Original to Legislative Finance
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- Copy to Sponsor
- Copy to Requestor (if different from Sponsor)

3/8/83

FY 84 COST OF IMPLEMENTING HB 214

PERSONNAL SERVICES:

Salary (Superior Court Judge - Valdez)	\$ 82,368
Benefits (Retirement, variable & fixed)	<u>80,129</u>
Total Cost of Superior Court Judge	\$162,515
Less: Budgeted funds for exisiting District Court Judge position.	<u>141,157</u>
Net cost of upgrading Valdez court to superior court level.	<u>\$ 21,358</u>

ANALYSIS:

This bill would upgrade the district court judge position in Valdez to the superior court level. The fiscal impact is limited to the increased costs of salary and benefits. There appears to be adequate clerical support in Valdez at the present staffing level.

While it would be beneficial to the court to add a law clerk (\$38,000/year total cost) this is not requested at this time.

STATE OF ALASKA  
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FISCAL IMPACT

Bill No: HB 214 Date on Bill: 2-21-83  
 Title: "An Act relating to the number of superior court judges;..."  
 Sponsor: Cato  
 Requestor: House Judiciary

1. Estimated fiscal impacts on: No fiscal impact is anticipated.

a. Expenditures:

(Thousands of Dollars)

			FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	
Capital							
Operating							
Total			0	0	0	0	

b. Revenues:

Revenue							
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2. Source of funds to offset fiscal impact of bill:

3. Assumptions:

4. Disclaimer:

This statement has not been reviewed by the OMB in the Office of the Governor. It therefore does not represent the final estimate of fiscal impact.

Prepared By: Francis G. Allan *F.G.A.* Phone: 269-5691  
 Division: Alaska State Troopers Date: 2-24-83  
 Approved by Commissioner: *[Signature]* Date: 3-1-83  
 Department: Department of Public Safety

5. Distribution:

- Original to Legislative Finance
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2/15/83

APR 7 1983

STATE OF ALASKA  
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date \_\_\_\_\_, 1983

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 214  
 Title: "Superior Court Judges"  
 Sponsor: Rep. Cato  
 Requestor: House Judiciary Committee

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Department of Law  
 Program Category Affected: Adm. of Justice  
 BRU, Program of Subprogram(s) Affected: Prosecution

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	15.0	15.9	16.9	17.9	19.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	15.0	15.9	16.9	17.9	19.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

III. SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

Not specified by sponsor.

IV. ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for any Analysis

Prepared By: Richard I. Pegues, Director Phone: 465-3672  
 Division: Administrative Services Division Date: April 5, 1983  
 Approved by Commissioner: Richard I. Pegues / for  
Norman C. Gorsuch, Attorney General Date: April 5, 1983  
 Department: Department of Law

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HB 214  
Analysis

This bill would establish a superior court judge position in Valdez, Alaska. The prosecution of criminal cases in Valdez is currently handled through the maintenance of a small office staffed by a paralegal in Valdez, and the services of an attorney from the District Attorney's office in Palmer. An assistant district attorney now travels to Valdez approximately once a month, and stays there for about one week. If a superior court judge were permanently assigned to Valdez, it is estimated that the increased workload would require that this assistant district attorney travel to Valdez twice a month for about a week each time.

Caseload statistics indicate that the Palmer District Attorney's office can satisfactorily service the Valdez area through periodic visits. Some members of the Valdez community have expressed a desire for a fully staffed district attorney's office located in their area, however. At a minimum, the opening of a complete district attorney's office in Valdez would require the addition of one full-time prosecuting attorney, one full-time secretary, more office space, and basic legal research materials.

HB 214  
Fiscal Analysis

It is estimated that the establishment of a superior court in Valdez will increase district attorney travel to Valdez from one week each month to two weeks per month. Current annual travel expenses for Valdez are estimated at \$15,000 including witness subsistence expenses. A doubling of this effort would require an additional \$15,000 in travel funds. This is the total amount being requested in this fiscal note.

Caseload statistics indicate that the Valdez area can be satisfactorily serviced from other offices until such time as the caseload warrants a full-time resident prosecutor. At the present time Valdez is being handled by our two attorneys from the Palmer office where Valdez cases represent only 20% of their total caseload.

Creation of a full service prosecutor's office at Valdez would require the addition of one Attorney V and one Legal Secretary I, as well as associated support costs for expanded office space, equipment, word processing, a small law library, and increased communications. The following additional costs would be incurred to establish such an office on a 10 month year start-up basis:

Personel Services	94.2
Travel	7.5
(single time transfer cost)	
Contractual	10.0
(expanded office space & communications)	
Commodities - on-going	4.0
Commodities - single time	6.0
Equipment - single time	17.5
Total	<u>\$139.2</u>