

The Commission would like to continue to improve our services. Please take a few moments to comment on our service.

Date _____ Time _____ of your visit or call to the Commission's offices.

Did you have any difficulty finding the Commission's offices? Yes No

If you were referred to us, who were you referred by?

- Court Clerk's Office
- Court System Personnel
- Judge's Staff
- Judge Personally
- Alaska Judicial Council
- Ombudsman
- Member of the Commission on Judicial Conduct
- Human Rights Commission
- Alaska Bar Association
- Other _____

Commission Staff

Please rate the following for the Commission staff's response:

| | Outstanding | Good | Average | Fair | Poor |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Promptness | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Courtesy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Efficiency | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Information | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Overall Service | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Is there something about our service or procedures that you would like to see changed? Yes No

Comments: _____

Any other comments that will help us provide better service: _____

(Optional) Name: _____

Address: _____

To mail: (1) tear on perforation, (2) fold so that the Commission's address is on front, (3) seal with tape, (4) affix postage.


 ALASKA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
 510 L STREET, SUITE 585
 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-1959



PLACE STAMP HERE

Generally, What Can a Complainant Expect?

Most individuals who file complaints with the Commission will speak individually with a member of the Commission staff. All will receive at least written correspondence indicating why certain action has been taken. All complainants should expect action on their complaints within ninety days of receipt by the Commission. If a complaint is exceptionally complicated or involves ongoing litigation, staff will continue to give status reports every ninety days. Ordinarily, judges are not notified of complaints filed with the Commission unless it is necessary for the preliminary investigation. If the investigation gives rise to formal investigation, the judge will be notified and given an opportunity to respond. The identity of the complainant, generally, will not be disclosed. At the time that the Commission considers dismissing a complaint, the complaining person will be notified and provided an opportunity to appear and present additional information. Complaints can be supplemented with additional materials at any time in the process. To protect free communication with the Commission, witnesses' identities will not usually be revealed to the complainant.

Powers the Commission Does Not Have

The Commission cannot:

- **Review a legal decision made by a judge in the course of a court proceeding.** *The state appellate courts review judges' legal decision-making.*
- **Supervise any local court administration.** *Contact your area court administrator for further assistance.*
- **Evaluate judges for retention elections.** *Contact the Alaska Judicial Council, a separate state agency.*
- **Address attorney misconduct.** *Contact the Alaska Bar Association.*
- **Address misconduct by federal judges.** *Contact the Ninth Circuit Executive's office in San Francisco.*
- **Address misconduct by state magistrates.** *Contact the presiding judge for your judicial district.*

Need Additional Information?
www.ajc.state.ak.us/conduct/conduct.html

Please write or call:
Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
 510 L Street, Suite 585
 Anchorage, AK 99501
 (907) 272-1033 or in Alaska (800) 478-1033
 Fax (907) 272-9309

All complaints should be sent to this address.

STATE OF ALASKA

**COMMISSION
 ON
 JUDICIAL CONDUCT**



What is the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct?

Complaints from the public about the ethical conduct of judges in Alaska are handled by the constitutionally created Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct. In addition to reviewing complaints against judges, the Commission promotes compliance with established codes of conduct for judges.

The Commission consists of nine members:

- Three justices or judges of state courts who are elected by fellow justices and judges.
- Three attorneys who have practiced law in Alaska at least 10 years. The attorneys are nominated by the Alaska Bar Association and appointed by the Governor. The appointments must be confirmed by a majority of both houses of the state legislature meeting in joint session.
- Three members of the public who are not attorneys, judges or retired judges. The public members are appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by a majority of both houses of the state legislature meeting in joint session.

Who Can File a Complaint?

Any member of the public can file a complaint against a justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, a judge of the Alaska Court of Appeals, an Alaska Superior Court judge or an Alaska District Court judge.

What Type of Complaint Can the Commission Address?

The Commission has the authority to handle a wide range of complaints against judges. Complaints within the Commission's authority may include misconduct inside or outside the courtroom; or, a mental or physical disability that seriously interferes with judicial duties.

Judicial Misconduct

Judicial misconduct can include, but is not limited to:

Improper Courtroom Decorum

- Improper consideration and treatment of counsel, witnesses, and others
- Improper or eccentric bench conduct such as sleeping or drunkenness
- Failure or refusal to: dispose of judicial business promptly, enter orders, or cooperate in court administration

Improper or Illegal Influence

- Allowing family, social or political relationships to influence: any judicial decision, making appointments, or other matters relating to the administration of justice, such as transferring cases or reducing charges
- Conflict of interest
- Giving or receiving gifts, bribes, loans, or favors

Impropriety Off the Bench

- Misappropriation or misuse of public employees, property or funds
- Improper comments, accusations, associations, or connections
- Interference with or influence on a pending or impending lawsuit
- Lewd or corrupt personal life
- Use of judicial position to extort or embezzle private funds

Other Improper or Illegal Activities

- Conducting proceedings or engaging in discussions involving one side or in the interest of one party only
- Interfering with the attorney-client relationship
- Improper use of judicial authority
- Bias
- Improper political campaign activities involving the judge or any political candidate
- Abusing the prestige of the judicial office
- Obstruction of justice, perjury, filing a false document
- Criminal behavior
- Failure to disqualify self
- Ticket fixing

Physical or Mental Disability.

Physical or mental disability can include, but is not limited to:

- Alcohol or drugs abuse
- Senility
- Serious physical illness
- Mental illness

How Does a Complaint Get Filed?

To file a complaint, contact the Commission in writing. Your complaint should be written in ink and include: the name of the judge, the case number (if your complaint concerns a case), when the conduct occurred, and as many facts surrounding the conduct as possible. It is also helpful to provide an address and phone number where you can be reached.

The Commission also has the authority to initiate its own inquiry into possible judicial misconduct.

How Does a Complaint Get Investigated?

After an initial review, Commission staff may interview the person who filed the complaint. No complaint is decided solely on the claims made by the complaining person.

After the initial inquiry the Commission may dismiss the complaint or begin an investigation. A complaint that is found to be without merit may be dismissed by the Commission at any time during the investigation.

What Can the Commission Do?

Ultimately, the Commission may:

- Sanction a judge privately but informally
- Exonerate the judge of wrongdoing
- Issue public formal charges
- Hold a formal public hearing on the charges
- Recommend disciplinary action to the Alaska Supreme Court

What Action Formally Disciplines a Judge?

The Commission has no power to formally sanction a judge. That power belongs to our state supreme court. The Commission can, however, recommend that the Alaska Supreme Court issue a disciplinary order against a judge. These sanctions can include:

- Removal from office
- Suspension for a limited time
- Retirement
- Public Censure, Reprimand or Admonishment



www.ajc.state.ak.us/conduct/conduct.html
e-mail: administrator@ajc.state.ak.us