

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM  
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR  
ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN NO. #77

TO: ALL HOLDERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN SETS:

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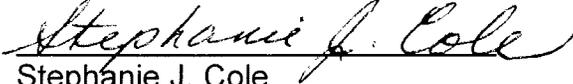
SUBJECT: Waiver of Administrative Rule 15(k) Concerning Juror Term of Service in the Kotzebue Trial Courts.

This administrative bulletin shall operate as a waiver of the constraints under Administrative Rule 15(k) concerning the maximum length of availability for jury service due to the size of the local master jury list in effect for the Kotzebue Trial Courts. This waiver is authorized under the authority granted to the Administrative Director by Administrative Rule 15(k)(1). This waiver is granted for the following reasons:

1. Prior to 2009, Kotzebue's local master jury list was consistently below 2,000. Rather than requiring jurors to serve for the entire year, the local practice was to have jurors serve for a four-month term. This practice worked well for Kotzebue jurors and the court, and there were sufficient jurors to seat 14-person panels throughout the year.
2. In 2009, Kotzebue's local jury list increased to 2,016 persons, placing Kotzebue only 16 jurors above the threshold for the 90-day term of service. This forced the Kotzebue court to create four petit terms instead of three, thereby decreasing the number of jurors summoned for each term. Due to the high rate of juror unavailability, especially jurors excused for cause, this change resulted in a hindered ability to seat 14-person panels throughout the year.
3. To resolve this problem, Kotzebue is granted an administrative waiver until the master jury list for Kotzebue exceeds 2,100. This will enable Kotzebue to return to the prior practice of summoning jurors for four-month terms of service.

This waiver shall be deemed effective from July 15, 2009 until the master jury list for Kotzebue exceeds 2,100.

Dated: 7-27-09

  
Stephanie J. Cole  
Administrative Director

cc: Statewide Jury Coordinator