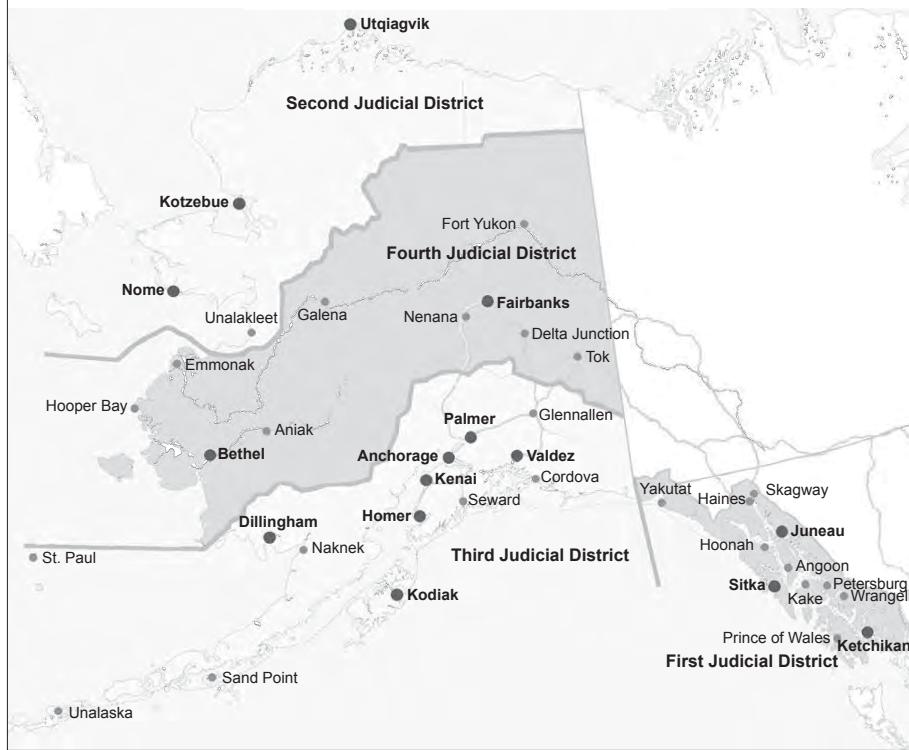


Alaska Court System *Annual Report FY 2025*

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



Alaska Court Locations, FY 2025



Alaska Court System Annual Report FY 2025

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



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Denali (Fourth Judicial District)

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Introduction

Great Seal of the State of Alaska and dais, Alaska Supreme Court courtroom, Boney Courthouse, Anchorage

The Alaska Court System

The government of the State of Alaska is divided into three separate but equal branches: the *executive*, the *legislative*, and the *judicial*. By providing for checks and balances, this division prevents the concentration of governmental power in one or another function. The federal government and the governments of most other states are also structured in this way.

Although the terms *judicial branch* and *court system* are often used interchangeably, in fact, the Alaska judicial branch contains three separate entities: the *Alaska Court System*, the *Alaska Judicial Council*, and the *Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct*, each with a function established in the state constitution.

Alaska has a unified, centrally-administered court system, totally funded by the state. Municipal governments do not maintain separate court systems. There are four levels of courts in the Alaska Court System, each with different powers, duties, and responsibilities. The *Superior Court* and *District Court* are *trial courts*, which initially hear and decide court cases. The *Supreme Court* and *Court of Appeals* are *appellate courts*, which review and decide appeals from decisions made by the trial courts. Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes sets out the jurisdiction and responsibilities of each court.

The Supreme Court and the Superior Court were established in the state constitution. In 1959, the legislature created a District Court for each judicial district and granted power to the Supreme Court to increase or decrease the number of District Court judges. In 1980, the legislature created the Court of Appeals.

The Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court is the administrative head of the Alaska Court System. An administrative director is appointed by the chief justice with concurrence of the Supreme Court. The director supervises the administration of all courts in the state.

The Supreme Court sets out the rules governing the administration of all courts and the rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases.



"Alaska Skies" by Suzanne Donazetti, Alaska Supreme Court courtroom, Boney Courthouse, Anchorage

How Alaskans Choose Their Judges

The Alaska constitution provides for the selection of judges by merit; that is, judges are selected on the basis of their qualifications, rather than on their political or social connections. Alaska was one of the first states to adopt merit selection of judges. Today, over thirty other states select some or all of their judges in this way.

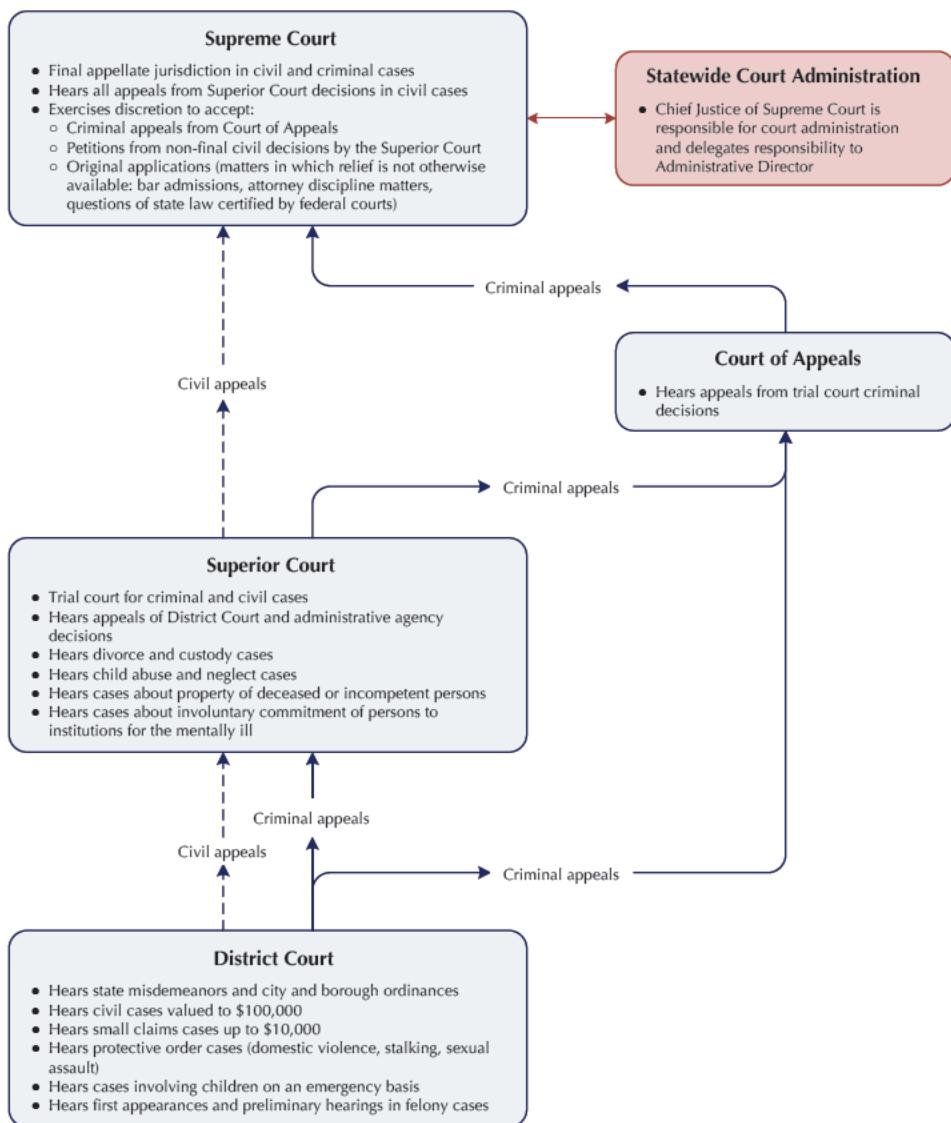
The Alaska Judicial Council, an independent citizens' commission, investigates and evaluates applicants for judicial positions for all courts except magistrate judge courts. The council sends the names of the most qualified applicants to the governor. The governor must make an appointment from this list. (Magistrate judges are selected according to a different process.)



Short-eared owl, Juneau (First Judicial District)

After serving for a specified period of time, all justices and judges in Alaska must stand regularly for approval by voters on a non-partisan ballot in a general election. This is called *retention*. The Judicial Council evaluates the performance of judicial officers standing for retention election. The evaluation includes a survey of attorneys, peace and probation officers, court employees, and others regarding the conduct of individual judges. Prior to the election date, the council provides detailed information from this evaluation to the public and makes recommendations regarding the retention of individual judges.

Alaska Court System Structure





Year in Review

Introduction

The Alaska Court System is pleased to present this FY 2025 annual report to the Alaska Legislature and public. Within a framework structured by the Alaska and U.S. constitutions, the court system serves all Alaskans.

This report provides an overview of the range of court business. It contains a list of the judicial officers and senior administrators who served during FY25; brief discussions of a spectrum of court activities; summary budget information; and case data highlights. The online version of the report (<http://www.courts.alaska.gov/admin/index.htm#annualrep>) contains comprehensive case data.



Whiskered auklet, Adak Island (Third Judicial District)

Continuing rapid developments in technology affect court operations at all levels. These have required careful adaptation to ensure the integrity of the court system. Several of the program discussions that follow reflect how the court is using technical tools to better its justice services to Alaskans.



View of the Alaska Range from Tok (Fourth Judicial District)

Code of Judicial Conduct

In 2025, after a lengthy collaborative process, the Alaska Supreme Court finished its preliminary review of a proposed revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct. The current code has been in effect for over twenty-five years. The code sets forth the ethical standards required of the state's judicial officers. As well as offering a clearer and more helpful structure, the proposed revision addresses issues posed by the dramatic technological changes of the last three decades: electronic communications, social media, and the internet. The court system will post the proposed revision for public comment in late 2025.

The Code of Judicial Conduct Committee began work on the revision in 2019, following a Special Order from the Chief Justice. The committee has used the 2007 American Bar Association model code and amendments as a basis for its work over the last several years. The proposed revision reflects modifications and refinements tailored for Alaska. The committee will review all responses received during the public comment period and make further recommendations to the Supreme Court. After reviewing the public comments and additional recommendations, the Supreme Court will decide the final language. It is anticipated that the revised code will be adopted and published in 2026.

Caseflow Management

Since early 2024, the Alaska Court System has been working to reduce the time to disposition of its cases — that is, the length of time taken to resolve a case — with primary focus on reducing the time to disposition in criminal cases, reducing the number of pending criminal cases, and resolving the oldest criminal cases.

The court system has taken a multi-pronged approach to this work.

It has partnered with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) for training and ongoing technical assistance in caseload management. At the annual judicial conference in autumn 2024, the NCSC provided a workshop for judicial officers from across the entire state on caseload management fundamentals and strategies.

For older, pending criminal cases filed prior to January 1, 2023, Alaska Supreme Court Order (SCO) 2038, issued in March 2025, limits permissible delay. Since May 12, 2025 — the effective date of the order — the court system has reduced the number of pending pretrial criminal cases filed before 2023 by over sixty percent.

Further, pro tem judges (previously retired, senior judges), contracted on a short-term basis, are working in targeted areas to assist with management of the oldest cases as well as in areas where there have been judicial vacancies.

Finally, the court system has engaged in informal outreach with the Department of Law, the Public Defender Agency, and the Office of Public



Advocacy to discuss shared caseload challenges and to continue to learn about factors contributing to delays. As it continues to implement its own caseload management strategies, the court system expects to continue discussion with these justice system partners.

Cottonwoods and mud flats, Campbell Creek Estuary, Anchorage (Third Judicial District)

Artificial Intelligence — AI

The Alaska Court System has adopted a statewide policy for use of artificial intelligence (AI) and Generative AI (GenAI) by staff and judicial officers. Court administration first released the policy in spring 2025, with a revision following in early FY26. It provides guidance in AI use, along with tips and warnings. The court will continue to update the policy as necessitated by the changing technology.

While careful AI and GenAI use is allowed, the policy requires that the essential human elements of justice remain at the center of the court system. Artificial intelligence cannot replace human judgment; employees are still accountable for their individual work. AI may hallucinate —that is, respond with inaccurate or incomplete information. Employees must review all outputs for accuracy, completeness, inappropriate bias, and errors. All factual information must be verified; legal citations checked for validity; and conclusions critically analyzed.

Other court policies covering employee conduct also apply in using AI. Data management rules are at the center of the AI policy. Employees are prohibited from entering confidential and identifiable personal information in AI programs, such as names, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, and financial account numbers. These rules apply regardless of the specific program used by employees. The court system is developing mandatory AI training to ensure responsible use.

Developments in AI and GenAI offer strong potential for making court work more effective and efficient. Artificial intelligence is already used in everyday tools such as search engines, streaming platforms, navigational applications, email, and word processing. GenAI advances these common applications by facilitating the creation of new text, images, audio, and video from prompts. AI and GenAI tools specifically designed for legal work are becoming available.

The court system is exploring AI tools, particularly for trainings as well as for transcription of digital audio records of hearings and trials.

AI and GenAI have great potential for improving access to justice, particularly for self-represented individuals, with chatbots available around the clock. A chatbot derived from the website's already extensive self-help content on probate is on the horizon. This project is described in more detail in a later section of this report.

Communicating with Alaskans

Facilitating public access to information and to court proceedings is important to the transparency of court work. The court system uses its website, press releases, and social media to reach the Alaska community.

Website

The website is the primary portal for in-depth information about court work. The site provides up-to-date information on the entire spectrum of operations, including electronic filing, calendars, trials, jury service, court rules, administrative policies, media affairs, fees, fines, forms, quantitative case data, employment opportunities, court location and contact information, and self-help programs. It also provides a link for case searching.

An important aspect of the website is the information devoted to self-help. The court cannot give legal advice, but it can provide educational information about court processes and plain-language forms for different case types. Alaska has been in the forefront nationally in providing tools for people representing themselves in court.

Among the website areas receiving particular attention in FY25 was the website segment covering adult guardianships and conservatorships.

Another area receiving attention was the segment devoted to probate.

The court system is developing a probate chatbot to assist Alaskans with handling the settlement of estates. This project is discussed in a later segment.

The website also includes information about court outreach projects, such as Supreme Court LIVE and the Color of Justice; and it provides links to other resources and institutions relevant to its work.

Social Media

In addition to the website, the court system also uses several social media platforms in its communication efforts:



*Brown bears, Denali National Park and Preserve
(Fourth Judicial District)*



Jacob's ladder, Anchorage (Third Judicial District)

Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

There is much overlap among these media, but Facebook and X are particularly good for timely news, such as notices of events, court closures or disruptions, and policy announcements. Both platforms also feature occasional postings on the work of other agencies and

organizations in areas related to court system work, such as the availability of legal clinics.

Instagram, a more visually oriented medium, presents photographs of court events and posters reflecting court concerns, while LinkedIn contains information related to employment and court operations.

The Alaska Court System channel on YouTube hosts the diverse public education videos the court system has produced on such topics as jury duty, parenting plans, and motion practice. The Alaska Appellate Courts channel broadcasts live oral arguments before the Alaska Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals.

Public Access

Keeping trials and other court proceedings open to the public helps to ensure transparency and integrity in judicial work. Although there are exceptions in which the confidentiality of parties is protected, such as Child in Need of Aid cases, most court hearings are open to the public and the media. Courtrooms contain designated spaces for observers. Information about media policy can be found through the website.

Through regular livestreaming, access to court hearings has become possible even for those Alaskans living far from court sites. In general, the courts will stream hearings, including trials, on matters of safety, economic, environmental, and community well-being, and on governmental matters, including elections. Criminal trials, except those involving sexual offenses, may also be streamed. (Video streams are not available after the close of the proceeding and are not archived.) Access to the streaming is available through the court's website.

Jurors and Juries

The court system is using technological advances to make good use of everyone's time in juror summoning and selection. In FY25, court administration continued to refine the juror dashboard, which is accessed through the court's website. The dashboard allows jurors to complete the initial qualifying questionnaire online. It also enables jurors to check their status, submit requests for excusal or deferment, and check local court information. Through the dashboard, excusals for hardship can be handled without a trip to the courthouse, and in some locations, challenges for cause can also be handled in this way.

In addition to providing access to the dashboard, the jury service section of the court's website provides links to videos, handbooks, and other materials about jury duty. The site also presents information about parking and courthouse security. Court social media provide timely information on closures and delays for specific locations.

The court system is also expanding its use of texting and email for supplemental service reminders, updates about schedules, and distribution of pre-trial questionnaires in some court locations. Upon receiving a

FY25 Jury Figures

Over 20,000 Alaskans appeared for jury duty at courts throughout the state in FY25 — 17,097 for trial juries and 2,932 for grand juries, with 4,104 individuals being sworn into service. In summoning prospective jurors, the court system uses a numerically random system governed by state laws and Alaska Rules of Court. A juror must be an Alaska resident, at least eighteen years old, of sound mind and in possession of rational faculties, and able to speak or read English. The list of applicants for the Permanent Fund Dividend serves as the basis for identifying state residents.

Jurors were needed in 500 cases — 207 in District Court and 293 in Superior Court. These numbers cover all types of trials: criminal, civil, probate, presumptive death, and delinquency. Of these, 375 went to trial. The remainder folded; that is, the trial did not take place even though a prospective jury appeared. (This often occurs when a plea arrangement is reached at the last moment.)

Juror expenses totaled nearly \$2.2 million in FY25. Of this total, close to \$1.6 million was juror pay; the remainder covered expenses related to travel, meals, and lodging.

summons, in some locations a potential juror can sign up for a courtesy text reminder of the scheduled date to appear.

As with the previous fiscal year, FY25 data collected by the court on juror utilization indicated a drop in “unused jurors” — that is, the number of individuals who appeared in response to a summons and were not seated,

Grand Juries

Under the Alaska Constitution, the powers of a grand jury are twofold: its most frequently exercised function involves whether there is enough evidence to charge a person with a felony crime; its second power, employed much less frequently, is to investigate and report on matters relevant to public safety and welfare. Grand juries sit in twelve court sites around the state, with each jury comprising twelve to eighteen people. During its term, a grand jury will consider multiple cases presented by the prosecutor. Terms vary in length from site to site.

Criminal Matters

In its most common work, a grand jury considers whether a felony crime has been committed and whether enough evidence exists to charge a particular individual with that crime. For a possible felony charge, a prosecutor describes the situation and events involved, explains the laws that may have been violated, identifies the individual who might be charged, calls witnesses, and presents evidence.

The grand jury does not determine the guilt of an individual. Its work is to determine if sufficient evidence exists to charge the identified individual with a particular crime. If a grand jury determines that probable cause does exist to charge the individual, the prosecutor will prepare an indictment — the formal charging document — to present to a judge. Once the judge issues the indictment, the criminal trial process begins.

Investigative Work

As provided under the state constitution, grand juries also have the power to investigate and report on matters affecting public safety and welfare. Such matters reflect broad societal issues. The investigative power does not apply in matters primarily affecting an individual and is not intended to relitigate court cases already decided.

In conducting this type of investigation, a grand jury can subpoena and question witnesses, assemble information, write reports, and make recommendations. A prosecutor guides the jury’s work, explaining relevant law.

Alaska Criminal Rule 6.1 defines the processes for initiating a grand jury investigation.

were not excused for cause, or were not preempted by parties to the case. The length of time potential jurors wait during the selection process has also dropped. These lower figures are associated with changes to the selection process originally necessitated by the pandemic and retained post-pandemic. Smaller groups now appear for selection on a staggered schedule. The court will continue to compile data on utilization rates, times, and trial fold rates.

Scamming

Scamming around jury duty continues to be a problem in Alaska and throughout the country. With potential jurors, scammers prey on uncertainty, confusion, fear, and a lack of knowledge about court procedures. Developments in communications technology are leading to increasingly sophisticated approaches. Scammers use realistic details that scramble fact with fiction to persuade someone to transfer money in payment of a supposed fine for failure to appear for jury service. In reality, the court never collects fines by phone or email, and in fact, there is no fine assessed for non-appearance at jury duty.

The court places notices of scamming approaches on its website and social media accounts and displays warning posters.

Alaska State Court Law Library

With professionally staffed branches in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks, and access via public computer kiosks at smaller court sites, the Alaska State Court Law Library provides legal information resources for the entire state. The library's portal page permits searches of the general catalog and access to statutes, law reviews and journals, appellate court opinions, and other electronic resources. Library facilities are open to the general public as well as to legal practitioners.

With legal research increasingly being conducted online, the library continues to expand and refine its web-based research tools. In an important change, the American Law Institute's Restatements are now available through the Lexis Digital Library in ebook format. The court system's contract with Lexis allows remote access to the Restatements to all Alaska Bar members from their private devices as well as from law library public computers. The Restatements continue to be available on Westlaw through law library computers in the html version, and the library maintains print sets in the Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks branches. (The

Lexis Digital Library includes ebook versions of every Lexis treatise the library owns in print.)

In addition, the library began working with HeinOnline in FY25 to digitize the entire collection of Registers of the Alaska Administrative Code, covering the regulations of all state agencies from 1959 onward. The library holds a complete historic paper collection.

The library, working in conjunction with the U.S. District Court Library and HeinOnline, has also completed the digitalization of the legislative histories for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). These documents are now available through all state law library computer portals.

The law library participates in the Federal Depository Library Program, a national network that provides access to federal government publications. While federal publications are now published primarily in digital format, the Alaska State Court Law Library also serves as a Preservation Steward, one of a limited number of libraries nationwide that have made a commitment to retain, preserve, and provide access to print copies of certain federal publications. The library is a Preservation Steward for several titles, including the Statutes at Large, the U.S. Code, the U.S. Reports, and the Code of Federal Regulations. Under this new program, only fifty copies of the C.F.R. will be printed, and the library holds the only print copy in the state.

The library also continues to provide access to other older books and

non-digitized materials. The general public can use these on-site at the three staffed library sites, and members of the Alaska Bar and court personnel can borrow the materials.

While professional library staff at the three main branches do not provide legal advice or interpret the law, they do offer general research assistance and help members of the public locate materials.



Bear sow and cub sculpture by Mike Sirl at Boney Courthouse, Anchorage (Third Judicial District)

The library responds to all requests, whether in person or by phone, mail, or email. A toll-free phone line is available. Requests for remote services have soared in recent years, driven by a dramatic increase in requests from incarcerated individuals whose other sources of legal information are limited. The library remains the primary source of legal research and legal information for all Alaskans.

eFiling

By the end of June 2025, all courts across Alaska were using electronic filing — eFiling — for criminal, minor offense, underage alcohol, and minor-consuming cases, and also with general civil and small claims cases except in Anchorage, Palmer, Sand Point, and St. Paul. These four court sites were scheduled to transition to eFiling for general civil and small claims cases in late summer and early autumn 2025.

The case types yet to transition to electronic filing are those defined by statute or court rule as confidential: Child in Need of Aid (CINA), probate, juvenile delinquency, guardianship, and mental commitment cases. These case types are scheduled to transition to eFiling in 2026.

With electronic filing, attorneys and other parties submit case documents using TrueFile, a web-based filing program. The electronic record is the official case file. Electronic filing reduces costs for paper, postage, and duplication. It also makes it possible for court staff working online to provide coverage at different locations across the state during staff

shortages and absences or other disruptions, such as court closures due to weather or facilities issues.

As covered in Alaska Court Administrative Bulletin 92, electronic filing is mandatory for attorneys and some self-represented litigants, except when an outage or malfunction makes it impossible and paper filing becomes necessary to serve the interests of justice. Under specific circumstances, self-represented litigants can be exempted from eFiling. The court system offers training in TrueFiling, and computers and scanners are available at court sites for electronic filing.



*Blueberries, Glacier Bay
(First Judicial District)*

Therapeutic Courts

Alaska now has fourteen therapeutic courts in six communities across the state: Anchorage, Palmer, Kenai, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. These courts provide an alternative to the traditional criminal case process for some types of offenders. Repeat offenders often struggle with mental health problems or drug or alcohol addictions that contribute to their recidivism. Therapeutic courts help such offenders address these issues as part of the adjudication process. The courts still hold offenders accountable but modify the usual adversarial nature of the criminal justice process by using a teamwork approach to aid the offender with recovery.

Three therapeutic courts deal with offenders with mental health disorders; two work with veterans; and two handle cases involving the Office of Children's Services. Two of the courts — the Sitka Healing to Wellness Court and the Henu' Community Wellness court in Kenai — are joint state-tribal courts. The other courts handle offenders with substance abuse problems, including alcohol. Each court has a designated capacity, with a total capacity across all fourteen courts of 360 individuals plus 14 families. (The Families with Infants and Toddlers Court in Palmer — FIT — works with the entire family unit.) Participation numbers fluctuate throughout the year, with some courts often at, or close to, one hundred percent capacity. At the end of June 2025, the therapeutic court program was operating at close to seventy percent, with four courts at over eighty percent.

Participation in a therapeutic court is voluntary for the offender. A therapeutic court structures an extended individualized recovery plan for the offender as part of a plea agreement. Depending on the type of therapeutic court, the plan usually requires a year or longer. Recidivism reviews have shown that graduates from the program — that is, those who successfully completed their recovery plan — reoffended at a much lower rate than offenders in general, while mere participation in a



Bald eagles and seals aboard a buoy, Saginaw Channel (First Judicial District)

therapeutic court program without graduation also is associated with a lower recidivism rate.

The therapeutic court program is currently in the final phase of an evaluation being conducted by the National Center for State Courts of the drug and DUI-focused courts. This evaluation is site-specific. It will provide data on outcomes as well as recommendations for administrative improvement.

Because the individualized offender plans focus on recovery and rehabilitation, the administrators in the therapeutic court program work closely with treatment providers and social service agencies in the courts' communities. A particular continuous issue is the lack of space available for residential treatment for these offenders. Another barrier for participants in a therapeutic court program is absence of reliable transportation.

The program is now assembling a steering committee to address administrative concerns from a statewide perspective. This committee would include representatives from departments, agencies, and other entities involved with the issues presented by these types of offenders. It would assist in the further development of court rules for these courts as well as establishing baseline standards for viability and addressing access and service barriers to participation.

The therapeutic court program has received a Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program grant (Byrne SCIP) funded by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. This grant provides funds for programs for gun violence prevention and crisis intervention, focusing in part on therapeutic courts. The court system is now studying whether certain offenders with histories involving violent crimes and domestic violence who participate in a therapeutic court program will also have reduced recidivism rates.



Yukon River, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (Fourth Judicial District)

Access to Justice: A Probate Chatbot

Through its multiple Access to Justice programs, the Alaska Court System has been in the forefront nationally in providing self-help tools for common legal problems. While the court system cannot provide legal advice, it can provide legal information, plain-language forms, and general guidance in understanding court processes.

Access to Justice programs address such issues as debt collection, housing problems, guardianship and conservatorship, domestic violence, family law, small claims, and probate — all areas in which people often represent themselves without an attorney. With certain self-help programs, such as those for divorce and child custody matters and guardianships and conservatorships, staff facilitators can provide general guidance. Generative AI also offers potential for self-help programs.

Probate Chatbot

The court website section on probate issues is one of the most heavily visited self-help sections. It offers extensive information on the rules and legal processes involved in handling estates in Alaska, along with the forms usually required.

To provide help in navigating this information, the Access to Justice department is developing a Generative AI-powered chatbot — the Alaska Virtual Assistant (AVA) — to help people locate the probate information most relevant to their needs. It will be available 24/7. The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) provided technical assistance for the project, working with developer LawDroid. Alaska is one of the first state courts to initiate development of this type of Generative AI-powered probate tool.

The chatbot will respond to the user's prompt by providing legal information and a link to the relevant section of the court's website. Development of the bot has proceeded slowly and cautiously, with extensive testing and content review. AVA's Large Language Model is directed to rely only on information from the court's website, rather than any outside information.

The chatbot is scheduled to go live on the website for use by the general public in early 2026.

Duke University Law School will audit AVA as part of a course in 2026 and provide feedback to the Access to Justice department.

Adult Guardianships and Conservatorships

At the end of FY 2025, the courts were monitoring over 5,000 open guardianship and conservatorship cases, with over 700 new cases petitioning for guardianship or conservatorship for an adult.*

The courts may appoint a guardian or conservator when an individual lacks the ability to make decisions in certain areas. A guardian usually has the authority to make decisions regarding housing, medical care, finances, and legal matters, while a conservator handles only financial matters. If a guardian or conservator is appointed, the case remains under court supervision until the person either regains capacity or dies.



Silverweed, Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage (Third Judicial District)

With the general aging of the Alaska population, the number of these cases is expected to grow, since ill health and the infirmity associated with aging are often factors in the appointment of a guardian or conservator. According to figures maintained by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workplace Development, the state's population aged 65 and older grew by 21 percent between 2020 and July 2024 (the start of the FY25 fiscal year).

To ensure the continued safety and well-being of protected individuals, the court requires guardians and conservators to submit annual reports covering the activities and status of the protected individual. Court monitors conduct an initial review of these reports, elevating those which raise concerns to a judge for further review and a likely hearing. In addition, a court visitor evaluates the situation of the protected person every three years.

Many guardians and conservators are not professionals, but rather family members or friends. To make its oversight more effective, the court

* The total for new filings was misreported in the FY24 annual report. In FY24, over 600 new cases involving adult guardianships or conservatorships were opened. The previously reported figure of 1096 also included guardianships of minors and related types of protective proceedings. This error has been corrected in the online edition of the FY24 report.



Buckland River near Kotzebue Sound, Western Arctic National Parklands (Second Judicial District)

system is adopting a centralized monitoring program. This approach will permit court monitors to mentor guardians or conservators, focusing on effectiveness rather than solely on compliance. At the end of FY25, nine court sites, including Anchorage and Palmer — the two busiest sites — were participating in the centralized program. The remaining courts will be incorporated within the next year.

The centralized monitoring also permits better court supervision of professional guardians, ensuring that licensing and certification and caseloads meet established standards.

The transition to electronic filing for guardianship cases, which is anticipated in 2026, will enable further administrative improvements by providing easier file access for the centralized monitors and appointed court visitors.

The court system recognizes the need for public education about guardianship and conservatorship. Its website provides extensive information on the roles and responsibilities involved as well as links to additional resources (<https://courts.alaska.gov/shc/guardian-conservator/index.htm>). It also presents information on the range of alternatives to full guardianship or conservatorship.

Children's Issues

In FY 2025, the Department of Law and the Office of Children's Services filed 1,917 Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases with the court system. Of these, 1,274 were filed to determine whether a child should be adjudicated formally as a Child in Need of the Aid — that is, whether the state should assume custody to ensure the child's safety and well-being. The other 643 cases were filings to terminate parental rights. CINA cases are decided in Superior Court (Tables 4.25 and 4.27 in *Alaska Court System Statistical Report FY 2025*).

These cases can be very complicated, with many individuals involved in many hearings over many months. Beyond the children themselves, the range of participants can include parents, grandparents, and other family members; guardians; tribal representatives; attorneys for the parents, children, state, and tribe; caseworkers from the Office of Children's Services (OCS); guardians ad litem for the children; mediators; and judicial officers. Although the goal is to help both the children and their parents, for safety concerns the children may be removed from their families and put in foster care while the family problems are addressed.

In an important procedural change reflecting the results of a long-term evaluation in Fairbanks, CINA cases in Anchorage as well as Fairbanks will now have a judicial review within six months. Findings from the Fairbanks project indicate that this review requirement is associated with stronger judicial engagement with parents, increased attendance at hearings, more discussion, and faster case resolution. With this change, almost fifty percent of the state's CINA cases are now having six-month reviews.



Musk ox bulls butting heads, Kigluaik Mountains, Seward Peninsula (Second Judicial District)

In an effort to make engagement with case hearings easier for all involved, the court system has also put in place a thirty-day statewide calendar for CINA hearings through which family members and other case stakeholders can access the date, time, and place of a hearing via the case number.

The court system is assisting the Office of Children's Services through data-sharing as OCS prepares for a federal review by the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Education and Training

Throughout FY25, the court system continued efforts to improve the handling of these cases with its participation in the federally-funded Court Improvement Program (CIP). A particular focus of CIP is providing education to judges, attorneys, and other professionals involved in child welfare issues. In October 2024 and April 2025, practitioners experienced with CINA cases guided groups of participants from across the state on "Child in Need of Aid (CINA) Laws, Roles, and Responsibilities, Practices, and Procedures," a curriculum CIP has developed specifically for Alaska.

CIP also offered instructional sessions to judges from across the state at the annual Fall Judicial Conference in October 2024 and the Newer Judges Conference in spring 2025, and it enabled several judges to attend training conducted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFC).

In addition, the program expanded the training of judicial assistants and clerical supervisors in FY25.

The program is continuing its implementation of a statewide online dashboard as a tool to help judges in administering CINA case hearings, and it has updated its bench card to reflect new court rules on the appointment of attorneys for eligible children.

The court system is also making extensive efforts to educate family members and friends and others involved with CINA cases who may be unfamiliar with court procedures. It has developed a series of short educational videos explaining the case process and the roles of various professional participants. In FY25, the program completed several videos aimed at older youths who are preparing to leave foster care and live independently. These videos covered topics such as assembling the documents a youth needs and handling finances, including the PFD. Production also began on additional short videos covering housing issues for these youths.

* * *

Because a large percentage of the children in foster care throughout the state are Alaska Native, the court works closely with tribes and other Native groups to address issues arising under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). Tribal representatives can participate in CINA cases, and tribes can also take jurisdiction.

State judges regularly sit on panels for ICWA training conducted by the Alaska Native Justice Center. The court system is also assisting the Alaska Federation of Natives with data under the Tribal-State ICWA Partnership Grant.



Polar bear on sea ice in Chukchi Sea (Second Judicial District)

Mental Health Issues: Competency and Commitments

Individuals experiencing mental and behavioral health problems present highly complex issues for the Alaska Court System in its administration of justice.

Competency Cases

Individuals charged with crimes have a due process right to understand judicial proceedings and to engage in their own defense. When it is unclear whether an individual is able comprehend proceedings and participate in a defense, the court must order a competency evaluation to be conducted by a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist. The court considers the results of the evaluation as well as other evidence in deciding whether an individual is competent to stand trial. (Alaska Title 12 governs issues related to competency.)

To facilitate the timely handling of cases involving questions of competency, the court system has now established centralized calendars in Anchorage and Fairbanks for competency hearings. These centralized calendars have increased efficiency and consistency in handling these proceedings.

Alaska courts ordered 424 competency evaluations in FY 2025. Of these, close to seventy percent were in the Third Judicial District. Depending on the severity of the charges and bail conditions set by the judge, an individual may be in or out of custody while awaiting and undergoing a competency evaluation.

If deemed incompetent, an individual cannot be tried, convicted, or sentenced while the incompetency remains. Trial proceedings are stayed. In felony cases, the court commits the individual to the Department of Family and Community Services for competency restoration. A judge may also commit a person charged with a misdemeanor and found incompetent for competency restoration, but is not required to do so. Following the initial restoration period, a judge may order another ninety-day commitment if competency has not yet been restored, and in some cases, a final six-month period.

Only one facility in Alaska, the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), provides residential treatment for individuals committed for competency restoration, with only ten beds available. Since the need outstrips the availability of beds, individuals ordered to receive restoration treatment must wait for a bed to become open, sometimes in pretrial detention.

Reflecting this need, API has initiated a small outpatient competency restoration pilot program as well as jail-based restoration programs at the Anchorage Correctional Complex and Hiland Mountain Correctional Center.

If the court finds that competency is restored, the criminal case proceeds. If a charged individual remains incompetent to stand trial, charges are



*Bristol Bay fishing boats, Naknek
(Third Judicial District)*



Nesting emperor goose, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Fourth Judicial District)

dismissed without prejudice. Continued commitment is then governed by civil, rather than criminal, law under Title 47 of the Alaska Statutes. For individuals charged with certain felony crimes who remain incompetent, the Omnibus Crime Bill (HB 66), which went into effect in 2025, requires that the Department of Law initiate civil commitment proceedings before the criminal cases are dismissed.

Involuntary Civil Commitments

Individuals suffering from mental illness, whether involved with criminal cases or not, present complicated problems for the community. In FY25, Alaska courts handled 2,561 involuntary civil commitment proceedings under Title 47. Nearly all of these involved mental health issues. Under Title 47, individuals may be involuntarily hospitalized for seventy-two hours, or committed for a period of thirty, sixty, ninety, or one hundred twenty days.

The facilities available for court-ordered evaluation or treatment do not meet the need. API, the largest psychiatric facility in the state, has only sixty beds available for adult civil commitments and ten for adolescents. Other facilities statewide have a few additional beds but are restricted to accepting individuals from within their region. Individuals must often wait for transport to an evaluation facility. Recognizing this issue, the Omnibus Crime Bill limited the amount of time an individual can be detained awaiting transport before the court must hold additional hearings. This change also went into effect in 2025.

To address the community-wide problems presented by mental health crises, legislation passed in 2022 provided for the establishment of crisis care centers, mobile mental health units, and crisis response lines, but their development has been slow.

The court system continues to work internally and with other stakeholders on how best to address the mental and behavioral health issues of individuals who have become involved with the courts.

The Alaska Supreme Court is currently reviewing new court rules on involuntary civil commitment proceedings as drafted by a multi-agency committee.

Tribes and Tribal Courts

The Alaska Court System is continuing to develop working relationships with Alaska Native tribes and tribal courts. This effort spans different areas.

In FY 2025, the court system facilitated the completion of one project particularly relevant to Alaska Native history: the Alaska State Court Law Library, in conjunction with the U.S. District Court Library, oversaw the digital conversion of the complete legislative histories for the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Both histories are now available to the public in HeinOnline, via law library computer portals throughout the state.

In a development further strengthening state and tribal court cooperation, Civil Rule 5.4 governing the registration of tribal court orders went into effect at the beginning of FY25. Under the legal principle of comity — courts in one jurisdiction recognizing the laws and decisions of courts in another — the Alaska Court System had been recognizing certain types of tribal court orders for some time. The new rule standardizes and clarifies the process for registering tribal orders statewide. Rule 5.4 applies to tribal court orders from federally recognized tribes in divorce, dissolution, custody, paternity, minor name change, and adult name change cases.

Other projects involving cooperation between the state courts and tribal entities in FY25 involved the welfare of children. At the annual Fall Judicial Conference in October 2024, judges from across the state participated in a



Lost Lake, Kenai Peninsula (Third Judicial District)



Sea ice patterns, Arctic Ocean (Second Judicial District)

session on the importance of indigenous connectedness in children's well-being.

Also in FY25, as part of the federally-funded Court Improvement Program (CIP), the court system offered regular training on the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) for judges and other professional participants in Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases.

Under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, a state court must notify a tribe when a child in a CINA case is a member of a federally recognized tribe or is eligible for membership. A tribal representative can participate in the case, or the tribe can petition to take jurisdiction in the case. In FY25, tribes participated in 349 cases that were disposed between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. In 94 cases, tribes took jurisdiction in the case.

To explain the important role of tribes in CINA cases, state court judges and court representatives also participated in ICWA education panels organized by the Alaska Native Justice Center during FY25.

In another area of ongoing court and tribal collaboration, two joint state-tribal jurisdiction courts — the Henu' Community Wellness Court with the Kenaitze tribe in Kenai and the Healing to Wellness Court with the Sitka Tribe — focus on offenders with chronic alcohol or drug problems. In FY 2025, an Alaska Supreme Court justice and a tribal judge together presented a webinar about the Healing to Wellness Court to the national court community.

Meeting Language Needs

The court system received over eleven hundred requests for assistance in language interpretation in FY25. It provided interpreters in forty-eight languages other than English, including two Alaska Native languages, as well as in American Sign Language (ASL). The most requested languages were Spanish, Tagalog, Samoan, Korean, and Russian. Other frequently requested languages were Arabic, Yup'ik, Hmong, Mandarin, and Ukrainian.

Court sites in all four judicial districts needed interpreters in FY25; and interpretation requests covered the full spectrum of case types, with criminal, civil, CINA, and probate cases accounting for close to ninety percent of the total. Interpretation was provided via telephonic language lines or video remote.

In addition to providing interpretation in spoken languages, in FY25 the court system also handled requests for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. ASL interpreters worked through video remote. At some of the larger court sites, tablets permitting on-demand ASL interpretation are also now available.

In addition to meeting interpretation needs, the court system also provides instructions in multiple languages for certain types of processes, such as requests for domestic violence protective orders. There are also educational videos available in multiple languages. The court is currently translating the three-part course required to be taken by all court-appointed guardians into commonly needed languages such as Spanish.

Administrative Rule 6 covers the scope of Alaska Court System interpreter and translation services, and the court system provides training for judicial officers in the handling of cases needing interpreters.



Tundra swans, Utqiagvik (Second Judicial District)

Professional Development

The Alaska Court System continues to facilitate professional development for all its employees.

Judicial Officers

In FY25, the court system offered judicial officers a mix of web-based and in-person educational opportunities. There were three multi-day conferences: the annual Judicial Conference in October 2024 for judges from across the state; the Newer Judges Conference in January 2025 for those who have been on the bench less than three years; and the Magistrate Judge Conference in April 2025. Committees of judicial officers plan the conference agendas. Sessions cover diverse topics pertinent to the work of the judiciary, including changes in the law, updates on Supreme Court decisions, and ethics. These yearly conferences also give judicial officers an in-person opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences.

One entire day of the three-day FY25 Fall Judicial Conference focused on caseload management. Caseload issues were discussed in several interactive sessions that included work with presenters from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC).

Other conference sessions focused on the interface of the courts and behavioral health issues. Included was a session on probation conditions related to behavioral health. In addition, a workshop focused on the connectedness of indigenous communities, particularly with reference to child well-being. Conference participants received updates on CINA case proceedings and on competency and civil commitment processes. Another session covered judicial ethics in relation to advances in technology.

Attendees at the Newer Judges Conference in January 2025 received opportunities to shadow more seasoned judges through their workdays and to make facility tours beyond the court site. Experienced judges presented formal sessions on jury management, evidence, bail, guardianship, and CINA cases. These sessions also included presenters from other justice system agencies and departments.

The Magistrate Judge Conference in April 2025 focused on topics relevant to work in the magistrate judge courts: domestic violence; abusive behavior patterns; and the impact of domestic violence on children. Sessions focused on enhancing access to justice particularly in situations involving DV and developing awareness of cultural and linguistic factors involved.

Other sessions covered fact-finding and decision-making. Recognizing that many magistrate judges work in very small communities, the conference also included discussion on how to engage ethically with one's community while retaining judicial impartiality.

Participants at all three conferences received updates on administrative and legislative developments in FY25.

In addition to these conferences, all new District and Superior Court judges and magistrate judges are able to attend training through the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. They usually can attend classes during their first twelve months on the bench, with further training outside possible later in their tenure. Other national, grant-funded training is provided for child welfare cases and for the therapeutic courts.

Trial Court Administrators and Staff

The court system also held a three-day conference in Anchorage in April 2025 for clerks of court, deputy magistrates, area court administrators, and rural court administrators. Sessions focused on technological developments that affect the positions of conference participants — artificial intelligence and digital evidence. Other topics included motion tracking, the registration of orders from tribes and other states, and issues presented in domestic violence and CINA proceedings. Attendees also received updates on court administration and operations and on legislation relevant to the courts.

Court Administrators

In FY25, other court administrators received a mix of web-based and in-person opportunities for professional development in areas related to particular positions. Professional training in a variety of areas was available through webinars offered by the National Center for State Courts, the National Association of Court Management, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System.



Alaska Range, Denali National Park and Preserve (Fourth Judicial District)

Court Facilities

Throughout FY 2025 several major facilities projects were underway at court sites across the state.

Planning continued for the expansion of the Palmer courthouse. The Palmer court has become one of the busiest in the state. The increase in its judicial caseload parallels the resident growth throughout the Mat-Su Valley, where the Palmer court venue population has grown 8.6 percent since the 2020 census, according to figures from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development. The expansion will create additional space for more judges in the future and ensure that existing magistrate judges have dedicated hearing rooms for their work.

In Kotzebue, work began in early 2025 to renovate the courtrooms and clerk's counter to improve security. The Kotzebue work also includes establishing a secure private passage from the judge's chambers to the courtroom.

Other clerk's counters at various sites around the state also received upgrades, including the addition of ballistic shielding and the installation of security cameras and other devices.

In FY25, the court system facilities department also oversaw the completion of a new space in Hooper Bay, where the previous court site had been closed for two years. The new facility includes a clerk's office and a room for conducting remote hearings. It is expected to open in 2026. A



Horsetail, Hooper Bay (Fourth Judicial District)



Eagle Glacier (First Judicial District)

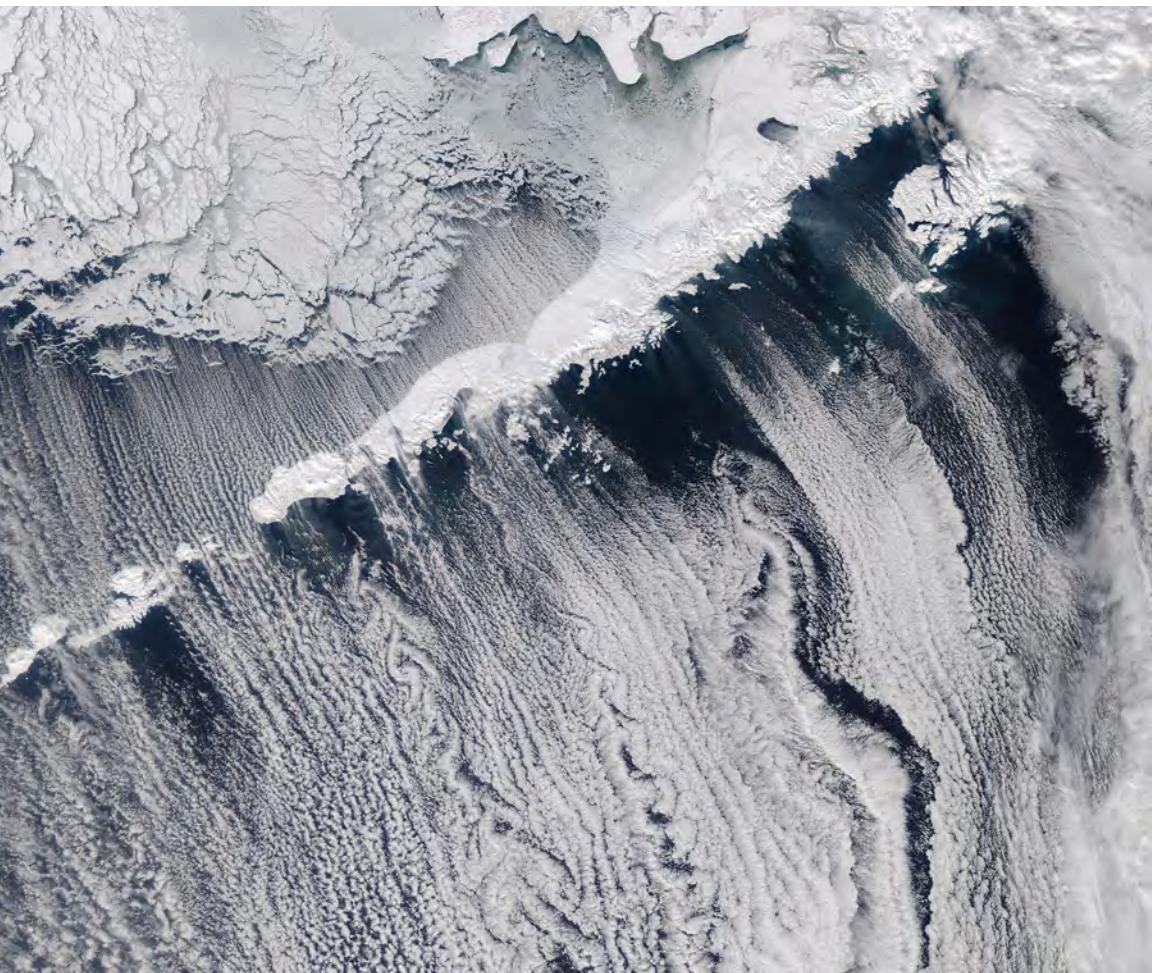
space for the Alaska State Troopers is co-located with the court facility.

In addition, the court system also continued the modernization of the Snowden Data Center in Anchorage in FY 2025. Of particular importance in this renovation is ensuring the security of the court system servers.

The Alaska Court System oversees facilities at over forty court sites around the state. Facilities management is responsible for routine and deferred building maintenance, security arrangements, and leasing contracts. At many of these sites, it also oversees parking facilities, landscaping, and snow removal.

The court system owns eight buildings: the Nesbett Courthouse in Anchorage; the Rabinowitz Courthouse in Fairbanks; the Kenai and Palmer courthouses; and the Snowden Administrative Building and three smaller structures in Anchorage. It uses space in other state-owned buildings at twelve sites and leases facilities from municipal governments, Native organizations, and private landlords at twenty-three locations.

As the court system's buildings age, meeting their deferred maintenance needs requires significant funding.



Clouds off the Aleutian Islands from MODIS instrument on NASA's Aqua satellite



Justices, Judges, and Senior Court Administrators

Ice flow in Kotzebue Sound (Second Judicial District)

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Justices — Alaska Supreme Court

Susan M. Carney (2016), Chief Justice
Peter J. Maassen (2012) (retired 2025)
Dario Borghesan (2020)
Jennifer S. Henderson (2021)
M. Jude Pate (2023)
Aimee A. Oravec (2024)

Statewide Court Administration

Stacey Marz, Administrative Director
Mary Burnell, Deputy Director of Operations

Judges — Court of Appeals

Marjorie K. Allard (2012), Chief Judge
Tracey Wollenberg (2017)
Bethany Harbison (2018)
Timothy W. Terrell (2020)

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

Meredith Montgomery

First Judicial District

Amy G. Mead, Juneau (2018), Presiding Judge
Clayton Jones, Area Court Administrator

Judges — Superior Court

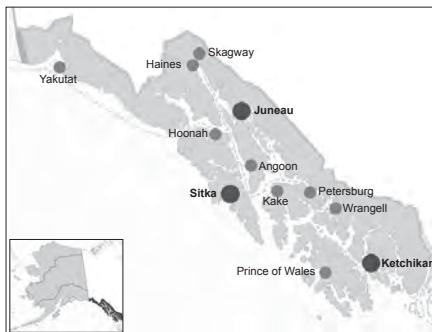
Amanda L. Browning, Sitka (2024)
Marianna Carpeneti, Juneau (2021)
Daniel E. Doty, Ketchikan (2022)
Katherine H. Lybrand (2022)
Larry R. Woolford, Juneau (2024)

Judges — District Court

Kristian B. Pickrell, Ketchikan (2022)
Kirsten L. Swanson, Juneau (2016)

Magistrate Judges

Paul Korchin, Haines / Yakutat / Hoonah / Skagway (2022)
Peggy McCoy, Juneau (2023)



Rachel Newport, Petersburg / Wrangell (2020)

Kimberly Rice, Prince of Wales (2022)
Amanda Schulz, Ketchikan (2010)
Pamela Stahla-Kernin, Sitka / Angoon (2020)

Second Judicial District

Paul A. Roetman, Kotzebue (2010), Presiding Judge
Robert Colvin, Area Court Administrator

Judges — Superior Court

Romano D. DiBenedetto, Nome (2017)
David Roghair, Utqiagvik (2021)

Magistrate Judges

Colleen Baxter, Kotzebue (2022)
Nicholas Defreitas, Utqiagvik (2023)
Heidi Ivanoff, Unalakleet (1998)
Pamela Smith, Nome (2019)

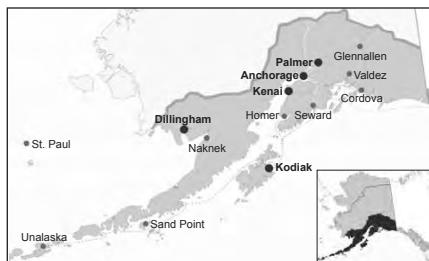


Third Judicial District

Thomas A. Matthews, Anchorage (2018),
Presiding Judge
Carol McAllen, Area Court Administrator
(2011–2024)
Brodie Kimmel, Area Court
Administrator

Judges — Superior Court

Rachel Ahrens, Valdez (2019)
John C. Cagle, Palmer (2019)
Dani Crosby, Anchorage (2015)
Catherine M. Easter, Anchorage (2012)
Una S. Gandbhir, Anchorage (2018)
Josie W. Garton, Anchorage (2018)
Jason Gist, Kenai (2018)
Andrew Guidi, Anchorage (2010)
(retired 2025)
Laura Hartz, Anchorage (2023)
Tom V. Jamgochian, Palmer (2024)
Lance E. Joanis, Kenai (2018)
Yvonne Lamoureux, Anchorage (2017)
Kelly J. Lawson, Kenai (2023)
Jack R. McKenna, Anchorage (2021)
David A. Nesbett, Anchorage (2023)
Andrew Peterson, Anchorage (2018)



Peter Ramgren, Anchorage (2019)
Christina Rankin, Anchorage (2023)
Christina Reigh, Dillingham (2017)
Kevin M. Saxby, Anchorage (2012)
(retired 2025)
Bride Seifert, Homer (2019)
Kristen C. Stohler, Palmer (2019)
Herman G. Walker, Anchorage (2015)
Stephen B. Wallace, Kodiak (2019)
(retired 2025)
Ian Wheeles, Anchorage (2022)
Jonathan A. Woodman, Palmer (2016)
Adolf Zeman, Anchorage (2020)

Judges — District Court

Jo-Ann M. Chung, Anchorage (2011)
Brian K. Clark, Anchorage (2003)
Chris Darnall, Anchorage (2024)
Leslie Dickson, Anchorage (2012)
Martin C. Fallon, Kenai (2019)
Michael J. Franciosi, Anchorage (2017)
J. Patrick Hanley, Anchorage (2005)
Michael B. Logue, Anchorage (2018)

Kari L. McCrea, Anchorage (2017)
Patrick J. McKay, Jr., Palmer (2025)
Glenn J. Shidner, Palmer (2025)
Shawn D. Traini, Palmer (2019)
David R. Wallace, Anchorage (2009)
Pamela S. Washington, Anchorage
(2010)

Magistrate Judges

Judson Adams, Glennallen / Valdez
(2018)
Michael Aiello, Dillingham / Naknek /
Unalaska (2019)
Marika Athens, Anchorage (2021)
David Bauer, Anchorage (2011)
Sidney Billingslea, Anchorage (2013)
Katherine Chung, Anchorage (2021)
Monica Elkinton (2023)
Michelle Higuchi, Kenai (2021)
Loren Hildebrandt, Anchorage (2023)
Derek Koehler, Palmer (2023–2025)

Elisia Kupris, Anchorage (2022)
Jennifer Manculich, Anchorage (2018)
Heather O'Brien, Anchorage (2018)
Robert Polley, Anchorage (2017)
Michael Smith, Anchorage (2015)
Hannah Steketee, Palmer (2023)
Jonathan Stinson, Anchorage (2023)
Jenna Strohmeyer, Palmer (2023)
Kimberley Sweet, Kenai (2018)
Christina Teaford, Anchorage, Seward
(2008)
Dawson Williams, Kodiak (2007)

Fourth Judicial District

Brent E. Bennett, Fairbanks (2019),
Presiding Judge
Raúl Calvillo, Area Court Administrator

Judges — Superior Court

Patricia L. Haines, Fairbanks (2021)
William T. Montgomery, Bethel (2024)
Nathaniel Peters, Bethel (2017)
Earl A. Peterson, Fairbanks (2019)
Kirk Schwalm, Fairbanks (2022)
Thomas I. Temple, Fairbanks (2018)
Amy K. Welch, Fairbanks (2023)



Judges — District Court

Maria Bahr, Fairbanks (2021)
Matthew Christian, Fairbanks (2013)
Benjamin A. Seekins, Fairbanks (2012)

Magistrate Judges

Natalie Alexie, Bethel (2023)
Raechyl Huisingsh, Nenana / Galena /
Fort Yukon (2023)

Darlene Johnson-Edwards, Emmonak
(2000)
Risa C. Leonard, Fairbanks (2021)
Andrew Ramsey, Aniak / Hooper Bay
(2024)
Spenser J. Ruppert, Fairbanks (2021)
Yvette Young, Delta Junction / Tok (2018)

Active Pro Tem Judges

Eric A. Aarseth
Joel H. Bolger
William B. Carey
Robert L. Eastaugh
Dana A. Fabe
Natalie K. Finn
Donald D. Hopwood
Michael A. MacDonald
David Mannheimer
Warren W. Matthews
Michael P. McConahy

Patrick J. McKay
Gregory A. Miller
Nancy J. Nolan
Eric B. Smith
Michael R. Spaan
Trevor N. Stephens
Nelson Traverso
Daniel E. Winfree
Michael L. Wolverton
Mark I. Wood

Deputy Magistrates, Clerks of Court, and Rural Court Administrators

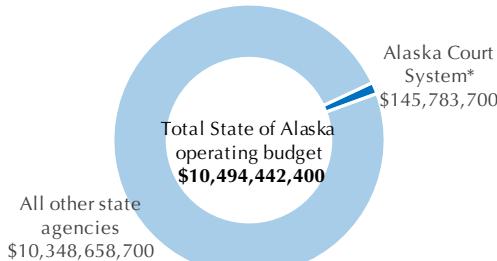
Susan Adams, Anchorage	Ruth Meier, Fairbanks
Kiemberly Bates, Glennallen	Iris Molnar, Kotzebue
Brielle Boswell, Valdez	Natalie Monroe, Palmer
Lauren Burnham, Tok	Kimberly Moore, Emmonak
Denice Chappell, Third Judicial District	Jana Moser, Palmer
Barbara Cloud, Palmer	Stacey Nemanic, Ketchikan
Suzanne Cowley, Kodiak	Jenny Nicoli, Aniak
Brandi Davis, Ketchikan	Tonya O'Connor, Dillingham
Chad Dees, Valdez	Erica Oberg, Anchorage
Annalisa DeLozier, Fourth Judicial District	Jennifer Opie, Haines
Jenna Durst, Petersburg	Dawn Osenga, Seward
Kirsten Esquibel, Naknek	Cynthia Percey, Anchorage
Rae Ann Filla, Delta Junction	Arlene Peter, Fort Yukon
Bridgit Gillis, Kenai	Katlyn Powell, Wrangell
Angelica Go, Unalaska	Sheri Ridgeway, Wrangell
Marla Grant, Nome	Linda Rios, Anchorage
Evelyn Gregg, Utqiagvik	Melissa Samuels, Second Judicial District
MacKenzie Houser, Prince of Wales (Craig)	Ruth Sensenig, Homer
Regina Johnson, Bethel	Amy Jo Sparrowgrove, Sitka
Ross Kinsey, Galena	Derek Sullivan, Fourth Judicial District
James Kwon, Third Judicial District	Tessa Tate, Fairbanks
Melissa Laraux, Bethel	Samantha Thompson, Nenana
Larry Lee, Juneau	Kristie Vienna, Kenai
Nathaniel Malavenda, Juneau	Jolene Watkins, Angoon
Evelyn McClain, Naknek	Niccole Williams, Hoonah
	Lori Wilson, Third Judicial District



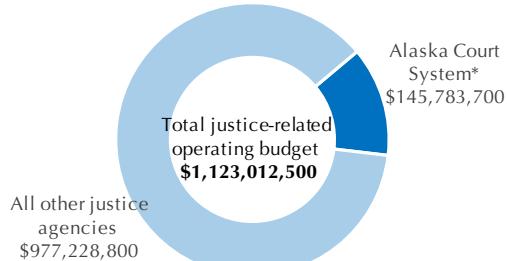
Court Statistical Highlights

Alaska Court System Budget

State of Alaska Operating Budget, FY25



Justice-Related Operating Budget, FY25



* Alaska Court System budget figure includes Alaska Judicial Council and Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Filings and Dispositions by Case Type, FY25

Alaska Supreme Court

	Filings	Dispositions
Civil appeals	193	190
Petitions for hearing	88	94
Petitions for review	68	70
Bar / original applications	13	18
Total	362	372

Alaska Court of Appeals

	Filings	Dispositions
Merit appeals	207	144
Sentence appeals	19	30
Petitions	50	48
Bail appeals / original applications	11	11
Total	287	233



Harlequin ducks in flight, Delta Wild and Scenic River Watershed (Fourth Judicial District)

Further FY 2025 Alaska Court System data are available at:

Alaska Court System Statistical Report FY 2025
<https://courts.alaska.gov/admin/index.htm#annualrep>

The online document includes data on case filings and dispositions for both trial and appellate courts for all case types for FY25, as well as comparative figures for previous fiscal years. It also includes summary analyses of the figures from both trial and appellate courts.

Superior Court	Filings	Dispositions
Felony	5,922	6,936
CINA	1,917	1,917
Delinquency	660	689
Domestic relations	3,559	3,410
General civil	2,569	2,449
Probate	5,986	5,935
Total	20,613	21,336

District Court	Filings	Dispositions
Misdemeanor	14,669	17,634
Minor offense	39,049	40,306
Small claims	3,254	3,605
Civil protective order	7,875	7,806
General civil	7,349	6,762
Total	72,196	76,113



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Killer whale and fishing boat, Passage Canal, Prince William Sound (Third Judicial District)

Cover photograph: Wetlands in winter with cow parsnip, Juneau (First Judicial District), 28 Oct 2024. Photo by Neil Nesheim. (Used by permission).

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Hoary marmot, Juneau (First Judicial District)

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River oxbows, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Fourth Judicial District)

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