Superior Court Judge

Sharon L. Gleason, Third Judicial District

DATE OF BIRTH: October 24, 1957

PLACE OF BIRTH: Rochester, New York

NAME OF SPOUSE: William Cotton

CHILDREN: Chloe, David

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 21 years
Anchorage 1983 to present

EDUCATION:
Brighton High School, Rochester N.Y., 1971-1975, HS Diploma; Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., 1975-1979, BA History; University of California, Davis School of Law, 1980-1983, J.D.

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Superior Court Judge, 2001 to present; Law clerk to Alaska Supreme Court, 1983-1984.

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Attorney in private practice of law, 1984-2001

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:
Alaska Bar Association; Supreme Court Advisory committees on Family Rules (chair) and Civil Rules; Family Law Self-Help Services Advisory Committee (chair).

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Family, clarinet, gardening, walking, reading.

STATEMENT:
It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people in the State of Alaska as a Superior Court Judge.

In my view, a judge should treat each person in the courtroom with respect, listen carefully to each person's concerns, and apply the law fairly and impartially. I also believe the judge should treat each and every case that comes to court as a unique and special case that deserves the judge's most careful consideration.

I have consistently been impressed by the level of dedication demonstrated by the many citizens in our state who have served as jurors. Each juror plays a critical role in our justice system, and is entitled to a judge who is accommodating, respectful, and courteous of each juror's needs.

These are the goals that I strive to consistently achieve each day. I truly enjoy the challenges and responsibilities of being a Superior Court Judge and seek to provide many more years of public service in Alaska.

provided and paid for by the candidate

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Sharon L. Gleason, Superior Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Gleason to be ***Qualified*** and recommends unanimously that the public vote **"YES"** to retain her as a superior court judge.

II. Summary of Evaluation Information. A survey of 2,927 attorneys in Alaska rated Judge Gleason on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Gleason 4.2 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 4.1 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	Alaska Judicial Observers
Legal	4.1	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.2	4.3	4.9	4.6	---
Integrity	4.4	4.5	---	4.6	---
Temperament	4.4	4.3	4.9	4.6	---
Diligence	4.3	4.5	---	4.5	---
Special Skills	4.2	4.3	---	---	---
Overall	4.2	4.4	4.9	4.6	3.8

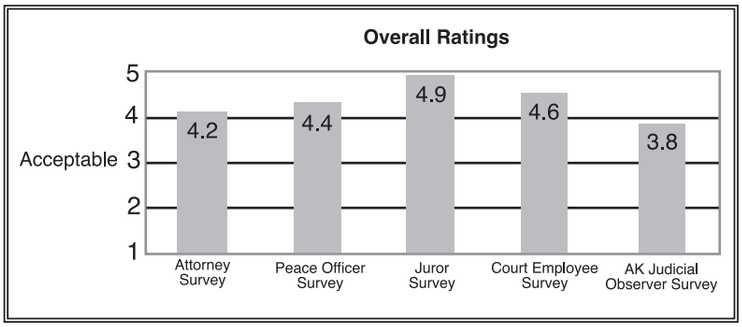
Ratings are based on a one to five scale. Five is the best rating and three is "acceptable."

Rating Scale
5.0 = Excellent
4.0 = Good
3.0 = Acceptable
2.0 = Deficient
1.0 = Poor

A survey of 1,495 peace and probation officers in Alaska rated Judge Gleason on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Gleason 4.4 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 4.2 or better in all twelve categories.

A survey of jurors appearing before Judge Gleason in 2002 and 2003 rated her 4.9 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her 4.6 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The Alaska Judicial Observers, independent community-based volunteer court observers, gave Judge Gleason a 3.8 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a background investigation including a court records check, a disciplinary records check, a review of conflict of interest statements submitted to the court system and a review of financial disclosure statements submitted to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Attorneys, peace officers, court employees and jurors were asked to sub-mit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing tele-con-ference.



Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Sharon L. Gleason

Contact the Judicial Council at 1029 W. 3rd, Suite 201, Anchorage, AK 99501 (telephone: (907) 279-2526) for more detailed information, or review the information on our Internet site at: www.ajc.state.ak.us

November 2004