

# District Court Judge

## Maria P. Bahr, Fourth Judicial District



**MAILING ADDRESS:** 101 Lacey Street  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

**AGE:** 61

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Illinois

**CHILDREN'S NAMES:** Billy, Teddy

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:**  
1990-2001, 2015-Present

**ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:**  
Anchorage, 1990-1992, 1994-2001, 2015-2021  
Sitka, 1991 (summer)  
Kodiak, 1992-1994  
Fairbanks, 2021-Present

**EDUCATION:**  
Tempe High School, 1981; Harvard College, 1986;  
University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law,  
1990.

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**  
District Court Judge, 2021-Present; Assistant Attorney  
General, Alaska Department of Law 2017-2021.  
Assistant Public Defender (Alaska), 1991-2001,  
various dates; Alaska Court System Law Clerk,  
1990-1991, 1991-1992.

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
Bar Counsel, Alaska Bar Association; Ethics Committee,  
Alaska Bar Association; Rules Committee, Alaska Bar  
Association; Magistrate Judge Training Committee.

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:**  
Alaska Bar Association

**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**  
Hiking, photography

**OTHER:**  
I enjoy spending time outdoors with family and friends.  
We go hiking and boating, enjoying Alaska's many  
rivers and lakes.

**STATEMENT:**  
I strive to make the court an open and fair venue for  
people who are involved in the legal system. People  
come to court for many reasons, and often the  
proceedings are hard to understand. It is important  
that the courtroom is a place where people know they  
are heard, acknowledged, and respected.

I participate in judicial and ethics training so I can  
make legally sound and fair decisions on the bench.  
I engage in training that helps me understand some  
of the challenges that are facing others, especially  
in terms of mental health and substance abuse.  
I also serve on the Fairbanks Wellness Court. Our  
community is diverse, and I appreciate the opportunity  
to learn how to recognize and address the many  
different backgrounds and traditions that come before  
me in court. In my role on the Magistrate Training  
Committee, I also work with magistrates around the  
state.

It would be an honor to continue to serve on the bench  
for the State of Alaska.

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.  
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.*

# Alaska Judicial Council Evaluation

*Judge Maria P. Bahr, Fairbanks District Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council finds Judge Bahr met or exceeded performance standards and recommends a “YES” vote for another term as judge.

Judge Bahr was appointed to the Fairbanks District Court in 2021. This is her first retention election. She is a trial court judge handling civil and criminal cases.

## **Performance Summary**

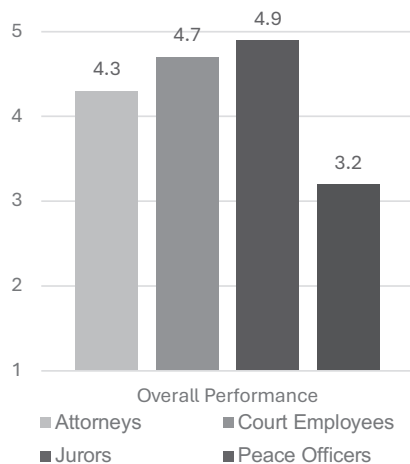
Judge Bahr met or exceeded the performance standards of legal ability, integrity, impartiality, fairness, temperament, diligence and administrative skills, and overall performance. Judge Bahr also met or exceeded educational requirements set by the Alaska Supreme Court.

**Performance Findings:** The Judicial Council’s evaluation of Judge Bahr included reviews from attorneys, court employees, jurors, and peace officers. Judge Bahr received good ratings from individuals in these groups who had direct experience with her work.

The Council reviewed other performance measures, including Judge Bahr’s financial and conflict of interest statements, whether pay was withheld for untimely decisions, appellate reversal rates, disqualifications from cases, and public ethics files. The Council found no matters of concern in these areas.

**Professional Activities:** Judge Bahr served on a committee to plan training for magistrate judges, and on a Bar Association ethics committee.

**Ratings from Justice System Professionals and Jurors for "Overall" Job Performance for Judge Bahr**



*Rated on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor)*

*More survey ratings for this judge are available at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)*

**Find this judge’s full performance evaluation at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)**