Superior Court Judge

Morgan Christen, Third Judicial District

DATE OF BIRTH: December 5, 1961

PLACE OF BIRTH: Chehalis, Washington

NAME OF SPOUSE: James Torgerson

CHILDREN: Erin, Caroline

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 18 years
Anchorage 1986-present

EDUCATION:
Kent Meridian High School, Washington. (1979); University of Washington, B.A. (1980-1983); Golden Gate University School of Law, J.D. (1983-1986)

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
1986, Alaska Superior Court; Law Clerk for Judge Brian Shortell; 1985, Anchorage Municipal Prosecutor's Office Certified Intern

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
1987-2002, Preston, Gates & Ellis, Litigation Partner (1992-2002) Associate (1987-1992); Chair, Federal Admiralty Rules Committee Federal/State Gender Equality Task Force; Alaska Bar Association Disciplinary Committee; Lawyer Representative, Ninth Cir. Judicial Conference; President, Anchorage Assoc. of Women Lawyers.

SERVICE ORGANIZATION(S) MEMBERSHIP:
Anchorage Rotary (1994-present); Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Alaska, Former Big Sister/board member, Current member of Board of Ambassadors; United Way of Anchorage, board member (1999-present).

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Family, hiking, traveling in Alaska, reading, cooking.

OTHER:
Light of Hope Award (2004) (work for Alaska's children); Chamber of Commerce Athena Society Award (2004)

STATEMENT:

It has truly been a privilege to work as a superior court judge and I hope to be able to continue to serve in that capacity.

My view of a superior court judge's job is to provide a fair and impartial forum where parties can reach a final resolution of disputes. Sometimes achieving a final resolution is best accomplished by going to trial, but I try hard to help litigants reach their own resolutions through settlement and negotiation. In my experience, resolutions that provide for the maximum amount of input from litigants are often the best long-term solution for Alaska's families and businesses.

My administrative assistant and law clerk work closely with me to provide the public with the best customer service possible. I am grateful to my staff for their help and to the members of the Alaska Bar Association, peace officers, jurors and court observer programs for their feedback on the judicial survey. If retained, I will continue to uphold the oath of office and to provide a fair and impartial forum for dispute resolution.

provided and paid for by the candidate

Alaska Judicial Council Recommendation

Judge Morgan Christen, Superior Court, Anchorage

I. Judicial Council Evaluation. The Alaska Judicial Council, a non-partisan citizens commission established by the Alaska Constitution, finds Judge Christen 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 Christen on sixteen categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Attorneys rated Judge Christen 4.4 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 4.2 or better in all sixteen categories.

	Attorney Survey	Peace Officer Survey	Juror Survey	Court Employee Survey	Alaska Judicial Observers
Legal	4.3	---	---	---	---
Impartiality	4.4	4.8	4.5	4.5	---
Integrity	4.6	4.8	---	4.4	---
Temperament	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.2	---
Diligence	4.4	4.7	---	4.3	---
Special Skills	4.4	4.8	---	---	---
Overall	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.3	3.9

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

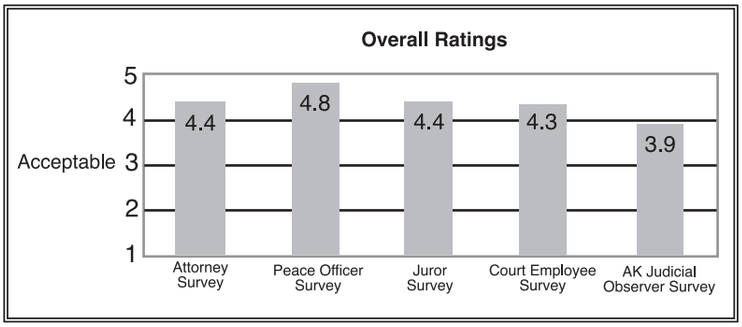
Rating Scale

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 Christen on twelve categories that are summarized in the adjacent graph. Peace and probation officers rated Judge Christen 4.8 on a scale of 5 on overall judicial performance. She scored 4.6 or better in all twelve categories.

A survey of jurors appearing before Judge Christen in 2002 and 2003 rated her 4.4 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. A survey of all court employees rated her 4.3 on a scale of 5 on overall performance. The Alaska Judicial Observers, independent community-based volunteer court observers, gave Judge Christen a 3.9 overall rating on a scale of 5.

The Council also completed a back-ground 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 submit written comments about the judge. The Council actively encouraged the public to comment, both in writing and in a statewide public hearing teleconference.



Recommendation: Vote "YES" to retain Judge Morgan Christen

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