

Superior Court Judge

Laura Hartz, Third Judicial District



MAILING ADDRESS: 825 W. Fourth Avenue
Anchorage AK 99501

AGE: 46

PLACE OF BIRTH: Wheatridge, Colorado

SPOUSE’S NAME: Jason Hartz

CHILDREN’S NAMES: Maxwell & James

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 17 years

ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:
Anchorage 2006-2007; 2010-present

EDUCATION:
Lakeridge High School (Diploma 1998)
Gonzaga University (B.A. 2001)
University of Oregon School of Law (J.D. 2005)

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Lane County Circuit Court, Law Clerk to Hon. Kip Leonard
Alaska Department of Law, Assistant Attorney General
Office of Public Advocacy, Assistant Public Advocate and
guardian ad litem
Anchorage Superior Court Judge

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Committee Member for the Court Improvement Project
for Child in Need of Aid (CINA) Cases
Chair of the CINA Work Group
Committee Member for Success Inside & Out

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:

Alaska Bar Association
PTA

SPECIAL INTERESTS:

Spending time with family, biking, and cross-country skiing

OTHER:

Like many Alaskans, I moved here for what I anticipated to be a year. I fell in love with Alaska, and it didn’t take much to convince my husband, a lifelong Alaskan, to stay. We are grateful to live and raise our children here

STATEMENT:

Since 2023 I have been honored to serve on the Anchorage Superior Court. I hear a variety of cases, including but not limited to: divorce and custody, probate matters, mental health commitments, Child in Need of Aid cases, general civil litigation, and criminal cases. I do my best to come into hearings prepared, to explain court processes, and to listen carefully to the litigants who appear before me. Judges meet people on their hardest days. I strive to treat everyone who comes into my courtroom with respect and dignity. I work hard to issue prompt, well-reasoned decisions.

In addition to my regular duties, I am fortunate to preside over the CINA Therapeutic Court (CTC). The goal of CTC is to connect OCS-involved parents who are struggling with addiction to substance abuse treatment so their children can safely return home. In addition to treatment, parents in the program find jobs to support themselves and their families, and as they progress through the program, they mentor new participants. I am inspired by the hard work and commitment of the parents in our program.

It has truly been an honor to serve the people of the Third Judicial District. I hope that voters will entrust me to continue this important work.

*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 Laura Hartz, Anchorage Superior Court

The Alaska Judicial Council finds Judge Hartz met or exceeded performance standards and recommends a “**YES**” vote for her retention in office. In consideration of retention of Judge Hartz, the Alaska Judicial Council voted 5 Retain and 1 Abstain.

Judge Laura Hartz was appointed to the Anchorage Superior Court on 1/6/2023. Judge Hartz is a trial court judge handling civil and some criminal cases. This is her first judicial retention election.

Performance Summary

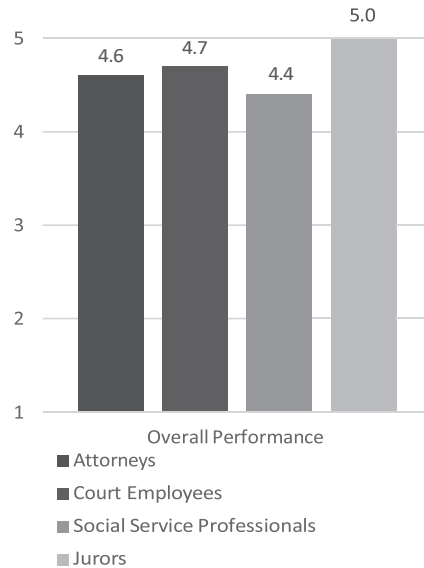
Judge Laura Hartz met or exceeded performance standards related to legal ability, integrity, impartiality, fairness, temperament, diligence and administrative skills. She complied with public disclosure requirements, followed standards of ethical conduct for judges, and met or exceeded educational requirements set by the Alaska Supreme Court.

Performance Findings: The Judicial Council surveyed attorneys, court employees, social service professionals, and jurors. Survey ratings on Judge Hartz’s overall performance were in the excellent range (4.7) when averaged across all groups.

The Council reviewed other performance measures, including Judge Hartz’s financial and conflict of interest statements, whether pay was withheld for untimely decisions, how often her decisions were affirmed by higher courts, disqualifications from cases, and public ethics files. The Council found no concerns in these areas.

Commitment to administration of justice and community: Judge Hartz is a member of the court system’s Court Improvement Project, a group focused on improving outcomes in child welfare cases. She serves on the planning committee for the court system’s Success Inside and Out conference, a program that helps incarcerated women re-enter the community. She participated in numerous community events and training to foster public understanding and dialogue between courts and the community.

Ratings from Justice System Professionals and Jurors for “Overall” Job Performance for Judge Laura Hartz



*Rated on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor).
See this judge's full evaluation at www.ajc.state.ak.us*

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