

PRESS RELEASE

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ALASKA COURT SYSTEM  
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PRESIDING JUDGES APPOINTED FOR 2022

Chief Justice Daniel E. Winfree of the Alaska Supreme Court announces the re-appointment of four presiding judges: Superior Court Judge Amy Mead for the First Judicial District; Superior Court Judge Paul A. Roetman for the Second Judicial District; Superior Court Judge William F. Morse for the Third Judicial District; and Superior Court Judge Terrence P. Haas for the Fourth Judicial District.

The chief justice annually appoints a presiding judge for each of the four judicial districts. The appointments are for a calendar year, and incumbents are eligible for reappointment. In addition to regular judicial duties, the presiding judge has the administrative responsibility to review the trial court's operations in the district to assure adherence to statewide court system objectives and policies. The presiding judge works also with the district court administrator to ensure efficient administration of the districts courts including hearing and trial schedules and staffing needs.

Judge Amy Mead was appointed to the superior court in Juneau in 2018. She earned her undergraduate degree from Boston University and law degree from Tulane Law School. Originally from the East Coast, she moved to Alaska in 1996 to serve as a superior court law clerk in Ketchikan. She went on to practice law as an assistant district attorney, as an assistant attorney general, and in private practice, working in all areas of law. In 2010 Judge Mead joined the City and Borough of Juneau's Law Department and was appointed a few years later to serve as the CBJ's Municipal Attorney, continuing in that position until her appointment to the bench. Judge Mead was appointed to the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct in 2012 and served as its chair from 2016 to 2018. The First District covers Angoon, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Prince of Wales, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangell, and Yakutat.

Judge Paul A. Roetman moved to Alaska in 1972 and has lived in Kotzebue for 15 years. He was appointed to the superior court in 2010. He earned a B.A. in economics from the University of Alaska, Anchorage and received his law degree from Regent University School of Law in Virginia. Prior to law school he worked out of Valdez as a commercial fisherman and as Executive Director of the Prince William Sound Economic Development Council. After law school, he worked for a civil law firm, the Alaska Legislature, and as a prosecutor for the State of Alaska. Judge Roetman currently serves on the Alaska Fairness and Access Commission, the Civil Rules Committee, the Statewide Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee, and the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct. The Second District covers Kotzebue, Nome, Unalakleet, and Utqiagvik.

Judge William F. Morse was appointed to the superior court in Anchorage in 2002. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his law degree from Lewis and Clark School of Law. He worked as an assistant public defender, assistant attorney general, and associate general counsel for the IBEW Local 1547. He presides over the Probationer Accountability with Certain Enforcement (PACE) court, a multi-agency program designed to provide a rapid response to probationers with alcohol or other substance abuse problems. He also has recently rejoined the therapeutic court. Judge Morse is a member of the Appellate Rules Committee and the chair of the Governance Committee for the court system's electronic filing project. The Third District covers Anchorage, Cordova, Dillingham, Glennallen, Homer, Kenai, Kodiak, Naknek, Palmer, Sand Point, Seward, St. Paul, Unalaska, and Valdez.

Judge Terrance P. Haas was appointed to the superior court in Bethel in 2018. He earned his B.A. in philosophy from Purdue University and his law degree from Roger Williams University. After law school, he clerked for the Rhode Island Supreme Court. He practiced law as a public defender in Bethel for 10 years and as supervisor of a region including the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Bristol Bay. Judge Haas currently serves as a member of the Child in Need of Aid/Delinquency Rules Committee, ICWA Court Improvement Project Subcommittee, and Alaska's Children's Justice Act Task Force. The Fourth Judicial District spans from the Canadian border on the east to the Bering Sea on the west, and includes Fairbanks, Tok, Delta Junction, Galena, Nenana, and Fort Yukon in the east and Bethel, Hooper Bay, Aniak, and Emmonak in the west.