



Johnson County Bar Association Judicial Review

Kansas Court of Appeals 2020 Judicial Evaluation Results

Overview

- The Johnson County Bar Association emailed surveys to 4,278 lawyers with registered offices in Johnson County.
- 415 surveys were returned and this quantity was above the number needed to achieve a 95% confidence level with a 5% margin of error, which are research industry standards. Therefore, these results are considered representative of the surveyed population.
- Lawyers were asked to evaluate judges with whom they had personal experience.
- Survey data was kept confidential and managed by a third party.

Retention results for judges appearing on the November 2020 ballot:

Judge Name	Yes – Should be retained	No – Should not be retained
Hon. Karen Arnold-Burger	89%	11%
Hon. Gordon Atcheson	86%	14%
Hon. David Bruns	100%	0%
Hon. Kathryn Gardner	83%	17%
Hon. Sarah Warner	100%	0%

Full Survey Results

Comprehensive survey results for all Kansas Court of Appeals judges follows.

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Hon. Karen Arnold-Burger – 19 responses

89% - Yes, should be retained

11% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	58%	32%	0%	11%	0%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	89%	5%	5%	0%	0%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	74%	16%	0%	11%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	68%	26%	5%	0%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	74%	16%	0%	11%	0%

Hon. Gordon Atcheson – 14 responses

86% - Yes, should be retained

14% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	43%	36%	7%	7%	7%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	50%	21%	14%	0%	14%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	50%	36%	0%	7%	7%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	50%	36%	0%	7%	7%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	50%	36%	0%	7%	7%

Hon. David Bruns – 9 responses

100% - Yes, should be retained

0% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	56%	33%	11%	0%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	63%	38%	0%	0%	0%

Hon. Michael Buser – 21 responses

95% - Yes, should be retained

5% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	76%	14%	5%	5%	0%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	71%	19%	0%	5%	5%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	76%	14%	5%	5%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	75%	10%	10%	0%	5%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	76%	14%	5%	0%	5%

Hon. Kathryn Gardner – 12 responses

83% - Yes, should be retained

17% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	42%	33%	0%	8%	17%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	42%	25%	8%	17%	8%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	50%	42%	0%	0%	8%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	50%	42%	0%	0%	8%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	42%	33%	8%	8%	8%

Hon. Henry Green – 17 responses

94% - Yes, should be retained

6% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	53%	29%	12%	0%	6%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	82%	12%	6%	0%	0%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court’s decision; Submits timely decisions	65%	24%	12%	0%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	81%	19%	0%	0%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	63%	31%	0%	0%	6%

Hon. Stephen Hill – 21 responses

90% - Yes, should be retained

10% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	52%	33%	5%	5%	5%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	48%	38%	5%	5%	5%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court’s decision; Submits timely decisions	57%	29%	10%	0%	5%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	48%	33%	14%	0%	5%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	48%	29%	14%	5%	5%

Hon. Thomas Malone – 11 responses

82% - Yes, should be retained

18% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	64%	18%	0%	9%	9%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	64%	9%	18%	0%	9%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	55%	27%	0%	9%	9%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	64%	9%	0%	18%	9%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	64%	18%	0%	9%	9%

Hon. Anthony Powell – 12 responses

83% - Yes, should be retained

17% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	25%	42%	8%	17%	8%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	25%	58%	0%	8%	8%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	33%	42%	8%	8%	8%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	50%	25%	8%	8%	8%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	25%	50%	17%	0%	8%

Hon. Kim Schroeder – 10 responses

90% - Yes, should be retained

10% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	30%	40%	10%	10%	10%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	60%	20%	20%	0%	0%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	50%	30%	0%	20%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	60%	30%	10%	0%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	50%	30%	20%	0%	0%

Hon. Melissa Standridge – 22 responses

91% - Yes, should be retained

9% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	59%	27%	5%	5%	5%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	68%	18%	0%	9%	5%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis if the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	77%	5%	5%	9%	5%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	73%	9%	9%	5%	5%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	65%	25%	0%	5%	5%

Hon. Sarah Warner – 6 responses

100% - Yes, should be retained

0% - No, should not be retained

ATTRIBUTE	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
Legal Ability and Reasoning Makes reasoned decisions based upon the law and facts; Appropriately follows established legal precedent in opinions	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
Integrity and Impartiality Behaves in a manner that is free from impropriety or the appearance of impropriety; Renders decisions without regard to possible public criticism; Acts fairly by giving all parties individual consideration; Keeps an open mind and considers all relevant issues in making decisions	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Communication Uses clear and logical communication during oral argument; Writes clear opinions that adequately explain the basis of the Court's decision; Submits timely decisions	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
Professionalism and Temperament Acts in a dignified manner with patience and self-control; Treats court personnel and attorneys with courtesy	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%