

ALASKA

Alaska was purchased in 1867, and initially was administered by the U.S. Army. Defendants were prosecuted in the district courts of either California, Oregon or Washington. In 1884, Congress legislated a new government for the territory, including a district court.¹ The power of the judge, or commissioner, was extraordinary, as they included the full range of judicial responsibilities usually exercised by a variety of officers at different governmental levels. Alaska was organized as a single-district state with one judgeship in 1958,² and it entered the Union the following year. Alaska is in the Ninth Circuit, and has three district judgeships.

Statutory Authority		
<i>Seat</i>	<i>Legislation</i>	<i>Authority</i>
AK.ST.01	Act of July 7, 1958	72 STAT. 348
AK.ST.02	Act of May 19, 1961	75 STAT. 80
AK.ST.03	Act of July 10, 1984	98 STAT. 333

Seat Histories					
<i>Position #</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date of Confirmation</i>	<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Party</i>
AK.ST.01.01	Hodge, Walter Hartman	February 18, 1960	August 30, 1966	Retired	Republican
AK.ST.01.02	von der Heydt, James A.	October 20, 1966	July 15, 1984	Retired	Democrat
AK.ST.01.03	Holland, H. Russel	March 26, 1984	September 18, 2001	Retired	Republican
AK.ST.01.04	Beistline, Ralph R.	March 12, 2002	Active	Active	Republican

¹Act of May 17, 1884, 23 STAT. 24.

²Act of July 7, 1958, 72 STAT. 348.

AK.ST.02.01	Plummer, Raymond E.	September 8, 1961	July 1, 1973	Retired	Democrat
AK.ST.02.02	Fitzgerald, James M.	December 18, 1974	January 1, 1989	Retired	Democrat
AK.ST.02.03	Singleton, James K., Jr.	May 11, 1990	January 27, 2005	Retired	Republican
AK.ST.02.04	Burgess, Timothy Mark	December 21, 2005	Active	Active	Republica
AK.ST.03.01	Kleinfeld, Andrew Jay	May 14, 1986	September 12, 1991	Elevated to Ninth Circuit	Republican
AK.ST.03.02	Sedwick, John W.	October 8, 1992	Active	Active	Independent