



JPR

ARIZONA JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

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Judicial Reports

Commission number votes may vary based upon abstentions. Voting abstentions are procedural matters within the Commission and should not be viewed in any way as a negative factor with respect to a judge's performance.

Maricopa County Voters Only

Hon. Sherry K. Stephens

Maricopa County Superior Court

Bench: Criminal

Appointed: 2001

100% of the Commission Voted Judge Stephens MEETS Judicial Performance Standards

30 Commissioners Voted 'Meets'

0 Commissioners Voted 'Does Not Meet'

Show Surveys from Prior Years

2012	Attorney Surveys Distributed: 319 Returned: 49 Score (See Footnote)	Juror Surveys Distributed: 39 Returned: 25 Score (See Footnote)	Litigant Witness Surveys Distributed: 89 Returned: 14 Score (See Footnote)
Legal Ability	95%	n/a	n/a
Integrity	99%	100%	100%
Communication Skills	98%	99%	96%
Temperament	98%	100%	100%
Admin Performance	96%	96%	98%
Settlement Activities	97%	n/a	n/a

FOOTNOTE:

Judges are evaluated on their judicial performance midway through their term and prior to their retention election. Beginning in 2022, their survey evaluation scores include midterm scores and retention scores. Newly appointed judges serve a two-year term and are evaluated prior to their retention election on their retention scores. The score is the percentage of all evaluators who rated the judge "superior", "very good", or "satisfactory" in each of the Commission's evaluation categories. Depending on the assignment, a judge may not have responses in certain categories, indicated by N/A (for example, some judicial assignments do not require jury trials or no survey responses were returned). The JPR Commission votes "Yes" or "No" on whether a judge "MEETS" Judicial Performance Standards, based on the statistical information, as well as any other information submitted by the public or the judge. Further information on the judges and justices can be found at each court's website.



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WHO JUDGES THE JUDGES?



Arizona Commission on Judicial Performance Review

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Hon. Sherry K. Stephens

2012 Attorney Survey Responses

Key: **SU** = Superior **VG** = Very Good **SA** = Satisfactory **PO** = Poor **UN** = Unsatisfactory

	UN		PO		SA		VG		SU		Mean	Total	No Resp
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.			
1. Legal Ability													
93. Legal reasoning ability	0	0%	2	4%	7	16%	14	31%	22	49%	3.24	45	4
94. Knowledge of substantive law	1	2%	1	2%	6	14%	11	26%	23	55%	3.29	42	7
95. Knowledge of rules of evidence	0	0%	2	5%	5	13%	12	30%	21	53%	3.30	40	9
96. Knowledge of rules of procedure	0	0%	2	5%	6	14%	12	28%	23	53%	3.30	43	6
Category Total	1	1%	7	4%	24	14%	49	29%	89	52%	3.28	170	
2. Integrity													
97. Basic fairness and impartiality	0	0%	1	2%	3	6%	16	34%	27	57%	3.47	47	2
98. Equal treatment regardless of race	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	14	33%	26	60%	3.53	43	6
99. Equal treatment regardless of gender	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	14	32%	27	61%	3.55	44	5
100. Equal treatment regardless of religion	0	0%	0	0%	4	10%	11	27%	26	63%	3.54	41	8
101. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	0	0%	0	0%	4	10%	11	27%	26	63%	3.54	41	8
102. Equal treatment regardless of disability	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	13	32%	25	61%	3.54	41	8
103. Equal treatment regardless of age	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	14	33%	26	60%	3.53	43	6
104. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	0	0%	0	0%	3	8%	11	29%	24	63%	3.55	38	11
105. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	0	0%	1	2%	3	7%	12	29%	26	62%	3.50	42	7
Category Total	0	0%	2	1%	29	8%	116	31%	233	61%	3.53	380	
3. Communication Skills													
106. Clear and logical oral communications and directions	0	0%	1	2%	3	7%	14	30%	28	61%	3.50	46	3
107. Clear and logical written decisions	1	3%	0	0%	2	6%	10	28%	23	64%	3.50	36	13

108. Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	0	0%	0	0%	3	7%	13	28%	30	65%	3.59	46	3
Category Total	1	1%	1	1%	8	6%	37	29%	81	63%	3.53	128	
4. Temperament													
109. Understanding and compassion	0	0%	2	4%	2	4%	11	23%	32	68%	3.55	47	2
110. Dignified	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%	11	23%	33	69%	3.60	48	1
111. Courteous	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%	10	21%	34	71%	3.62	48	1
112. Conduct that promoted public confidence in the court and judge's ability	0	0%	1	2%	4	8%	10	21%	33	69%	3.56	48	1
113. Patient	0	0%	1	2%	4	8%	9	19%	34	71%	3.58	48	1
Category Total	0	0%	4	2%	18	8%	51	21%	166	69%	3.59	239	
5. Admin Performance													
114. Punctual in conducting proceedings	0	0%	2	4%	5	11%	14	30%	25	54%	3.35	46	3
115. Maintained proper control over courtroom	0	0%	2	4%	6	13%	11	23%	28	60%	3.38	47	2
116. Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	0	0%	2	5%	4	9%	12	28%	25	58%	3.40	43	6
117. Was prepared for the proceedings	0	0%	1	2%	4	8%	16	33%	27	56%	3.44	48	1
118. Efficient management of the calendar	0	0%	2	4%	6	13%	11	24%	26	58%	3.36	45	4
Category Total	0	0%	9	4%	25	11%	64	28%	131	57%	3.38	229	
6. Settlement Activities													
119. Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	0	0%	1	3%	4	11%	8	21%	25	66%	3.50	38	11
Category Total	0	0%	1	3%	4	11%	8	21%	25	66%	3.50	38	



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2012 Juror Survey Responses

Key: **SU** = Superior **VG** = Very Good **SA** = Satisfactory **PO** = Poor **UN** = Unsatisfactory

	UN		PO		SA		VG		SU		Mean	Total	No Resp
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.			
1. Integrity													
57. Basic fairness and impartiality	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
58. Equal treatment regardless of race	0	0%	0	0%	2	9%	5	22%	16	70%	3.61	23	2
59. Equal treatment regardless of gender	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
60. Equal treatment regardless of religion	0	0%	0	0%	2	10%	5	25%	13	65%	3.55	20	5
61. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
62. Equal treatment regardless of disability	0	0%	0	0%	2	10%	3	15%	15	75%	3.65	20	5
63. Equal treatment regardless of age	0	0%	0	0%	2	9%	4	17%	17	74%	3.65	23	2
64. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	0	0%	0	0%	2	11%	3	16%	14	74%	3.63	19	6
65. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	0	0%	0	0%	2	10%	3	15%	15	75%	3.65	20	5
Category Total	0	0%	0	0%	18	9%	38	19%	141	72%	3.62	197	
2. Communication Skills													
66. Explained proceedings to the jury	0	0%	0	0%	3	13%	6	25%	15	63%	3.50	24	1
67. Explained reasons for delays	0	0%	1	4%	3	13%	7	29%	13	54%	3.33	24	1
68. Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities	0	0%	0	0%	3	13%	5	21%	16	67%	3.54	24	1
Category Total	0	0%	1	1%	9	12%	18	25%	44	61%	3.46	72	
3. Temperament													
69. Understanding and Compassion	0	0%	0	0%	3	13%	5	21%	16	67%	3.54	24	1
70. Dignified	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
71. Courteous	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1

72. Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
73. Patient	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	5	21%	17	71%	3.62	24	1
Category Total	0	0%	0	0%	11	9%	25	21%	84	70%	3.61	120	
4. Admin Performance													
74. Punctuality in conducting proceedings	0	0%	2	8%	6	25%	10	42%	6	25%	2.83	24	1
75. Maintained proper control of courtroom	0	0%	0	0%	2	8%	6	25%	16	67%	3.58	24	1
76. Was prepared for the proceedings	0	0%	1	4%	2	8%	5	21%	16	67%	3.50	24	1
Category Total	0	0%	3	4%	10	14%	21	29%	38	53%	3.31	72	



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2012 Litigant Witness Survey Responses

Key: **SU** = Superior **VG** = Very Good **SA** = Satisfactory **PO** = Poor **UN** = Unsatisfactory

	UN		PO		SA		VG		SU		Mean	Total	No Resp
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.			
1. Integrity													
38. Basic fairness and impartiality	0	0%	0	0%	5	36%	3	21%	6	43%	3.07	14	0
39. Equal treatment regardless of race	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	2	18%	6	55%	3.27	11	3
40. Equal treatment regardless of gender	0	0%	0	0%	3	25%	3	25%	6	50%	3.25	12	2
41. Equal treatment regardless of religion	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	2	18%	6	55%	3.27	11	3
42. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	2	18%	6	55%	3.27	11	3
43. Equal treatment regardless of disability	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	2	18%	6	55%	3.27	11	3
44. Equal treatment regardless of age	0	0%	0	0%	3	25%	3	25%	6	50%	3.25	12	2
45. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	0	0%	0	0%	3	33%	2	22%	4	44%	3.11	9	5
46. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	0	0%	0	0%	3	27%	2	18%	6	55%	3.27	11	3
Category Total	0	0%	0	0%	29	28%	21	21%	52	51%	3.23	102	
2. Communication Skills													
47. Explained proceedings	0	0%	1	7%	3	21%	5	36%	5	36%	3.00	14	0
48. Explained reasons for delays	0	0%	0	0%	3	25%	4	33%	5	42%	3.17	12	2
Category Total	0	0%	1	4%	6	23%	9	35%	10	38%	3.08	26	
3. Temperament													
49. Understanding and compassion	0	0%	0	0%	2	15%	5	38%	6	46%	3.31	13	1
50. Dignified	0	0%	0	0%	3	21%	4	29%	7	50%	3.29	14	0
51. Courteous	0	0%	0	0%	3	21%	4	29%	7	50%	3.29	14	0
52. Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	0	0%	0	0%	3	21%	4	29%	7	50%	3.29	14	0

53. Patient	0	0%	0	0%	3	21%	4	29%	7	50%	3.29	14	0
Category Total	0	0%	0	0%	14	20%	21	30%	34	49%	3.29	69	
4. Admin Performance													
54. Punctual in conducting proceedings	0	0%	1	7%	5	36%	3	21%	5	36%	2.86	14	0
55. Maintained proper control of courtroom	0	0%	0	0%	4	29%	3	21%	7	50%	3.21	14	0
56. Was prepared for the proceedings	0	0%	0	0%	4	31%	3	23%	6	46%	3.15	13	1
Category Total	0	0%	1	2%	13	32%	9	22%	18	44%	3.07	41	