



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.

Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai and Yuma Voters Only

Hon. Maria Elena Cruz
Court of Appeals Division I
Appointed: 2017

100% of the Commission Voted Judge Cruz MEETS Judicial Performance Standards
33 Commissioners Voted 'Meets'
0 Commissioners Voted 'Does Not Meet'

Show Surveys from Prior Years

2020	Attorney Surveys	Superior Court Judge Surveys
	Distributed: 464 Returned: 49 Score (See Footnote)	Distributed: 119 Returned: 40 Score (See Footnote)
Legal Ability	86%	97%
Integrity	100%	100%
Communication	79%	n/a
Temperament	81%	n/a
Admin Performance	93%	97%

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

WE CAN HELP.

Hon. Maria Elena Cruz

2020 Attorney Survey Responses

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

	SU		VG		SA		PO		UN		Mean	Total
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.		
1. Legal Ability												
1. Legal reasoning ability	13	48%	9	33%	2	7%	1	4%	2	7%	3.11	27
2. Knowledge of law	12	43%	10	36%	2	7%	3	11%	1	4%	3.04	28
3. Decisions based on laws and facts	13	46%	9	32%	2	7%	3	11%	1	4%	3.07	28
4. Clearly written, legally supported decisions	13	46%	9	32%	2	7%	3	11%	1	4%	3.07	28
Category Total	51	46%	37	33%	8	7%	10	9%	5	5%	3.07	111
2. Integrity												
5. Basic fairness and impartiality	14	64%	4	18%	4	18%	0	0%	0	0%	3.45	22
6. Equal treatment regardless of race	11	79%	0	0%	3	21%	0	0%	0	0%	3.57	14
7. Equal treatment regardless of gender	11	79%	0	0%	3	21%	0	0%	0	0%	3.57	14
8. Equal treatment regardless of religion	10	77%	0	0%	3	23%	0	0%	0	0%	3.54	13
9. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	10	77%	0	0%	3	23%	0	0%	0	0%	3.54	13
10. Equal treatment regardless of disability	10	83%	0	0%	2	17%	0	0%	0	0%	3.67	12
11. Equal treatment regardless of age	10	77%	0	0%	3	23%	0	0%	0	0%	3.54	13
12. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	10	83%	0	0%	2	17%	0	0%	0	0%	3.67	12
13. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	11	85%	0	0%	2	15%	0	0%	0	0%	3.69	13

Category Total	97	77%	4	3%	25	20%	0	0%	0	0%	3.57	126
3. Communication												
14. Attentiveness	10	40%	5	20%	6	24%	3	12%	1	4%	2.80	25
15. Deemeanor in communications with counsel	9	41%	2	9%	6	27%	4	18%	1	5%	2.64	22
16. Appropriate restrictions on counsel during argument	1	33%	2	67%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.33	3
17. Relevant questions	11	44%	4	16%	4	16%	5	20%	1	4%	2.76	25
18. Preparation for oral argument	9	41%	3	14%	5	23%	4	18%	1	5%	2.68	22
Category Total	40	41%	16	16%	21	22%	16	16%	4	4%	2.74	97
4. Temperament												
19. Dignified	11	52%	2	10%	4	19%	4	19%	0	0%	2.95	21
21. Courteous	11	52%	2	10%	5	24%	3	14%	0	0%	3.00	21
22. Patient	11	52%	2	10%	4	19%	2	10%	2	10%	2.86	21
23. Conduct that promotes confidence in the court and judge's ability	11	52%	2	10%	3	14%	3	14%	2	10%	2.81	21
Category Total	44	52%	8	10%	16	19%	12	14%	4	5%	2.90	84
5. Admin Performance												
24. Promptness in making rulings and rendering decisions	13	48%	5	19%	7	26%	2	7%	0	0%	3.07	27
Category Total	13	48%	5	19%	7	26%	2	7%	0	0%	3.07	27



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2020 Superior Court Judge Survey Responses

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

	SU		VG		SA		PO		UN		Mean	Total	No Resp
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.			
1. Legal Ability													
1. Legal reasoning ability	27	82%	4	12%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%	3.73	33	0
2. Knowledge of the law	28	82%	5	15%	0	0%	1	3%	0	0%	3.76	34	0
3. Decisions based on law and facts	27	82%	4	12%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%	3.73	33	0
4. Clearly written, legally supported decisions	26	81%	4	13%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%	3.72	32	0
Category Total	108	82%	17	13%	3	2%	4	3%	0	0%	3.73	132	
2. Integrity													
5. Basic fairness and impartiality	22	96%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.96	23	0
6. Equal treatment regardless of race	18	95%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.95	19	0
7. Equal treatment regardless of gender	18	95%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.95	19	0
8. Equal treatment regardless of religion	17	94%	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.94	18	0
9. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	18	95%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.95	19	0
10. Equal treatment regardless of disability	17	94%	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.94	18	0
11. Equal treatment regardless of age	17	94%	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.94	18	0
12. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	17	94%	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.94	18	0

13. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	18	95%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.95	19	0
Category Total	162	95%	9	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.95	171	
3. Admin Performance													
14. Promptness in making rulings and rendering decisions	19	61%	6	19%	5	16%	1	3%	0	0%	3.39	31	0
Category Total	19	61%	6	19%	5	16%	1	3%	0	0%	3.39	31	