



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: Civil
Appointed: 2001

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

Show Surveys from Prior Years

2020	Attorney Surveys Distributed: 235 Returned: 41 Score (See Footnote)	Juror Surveys Distributed: 32 Returned: 25 Score (See Footnote)	Litigant Witness Surveys Distributed: 51 Returned: 10 Score (See Footnote)
Legal Ability	91%	n/a	n/a
Integrity	99%	100%	100%
Communication	96%	100%	100%
Temperament	99%	100%	100%
Admin Performance	98%	100%	100%
Settlement Activities	92%	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

2020 Attorney 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	20	56%	10	28%	2	6%	4	11%	0	0%	3.28	36	0
2. Knowledge of substantive law	19	53%	10	28%	3	8%	4	11%	0	0%	3.22	36	0
3. Knowledge of rules of evidence	17	68%	7	28%	0	0%	1	4%	0	0%	3.60	25	0
4. Knowledge of rules of procedure	21	60%	9	26%	2	6%	3	9%	0	0%	3.37	35	0
Category Total	77	58%	36	27%	7	5%	12	9%	0	0%	3.35	132	
2. Integrity													
5. Basic fairness and impartiality	25	64%	12	31%	1	3%	1	3%	0	0%	3.56	39	0
6. Equal treatment regardless of race	16	84%	3	16%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.84	19	0
7. Equal treatment regardless of gender	20	87%	3	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.87	23	0
8. Equal treatment regardless of religion	13	81%	3	19%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.81	16	0
9. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	15	83%	3	17%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.83	18	0
10. Equal treatment regardless of disability	14	82%	3	18%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.82	17	0
11. Equal treatment regardless of age	20	80%	5	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	25	0

12. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	12	80%	3	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	15	0
13. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	20	83%	3	13%	1	4%	0	0%	0	0%	3.79	24	0
Category Total	155	79%	38	19%	2	1%	1	1%	0	0%	3.77	196	
3. Communication													
14. Clear and logical oral communications and directions	23	59%	11	28%	4	10%	1	3%	0	0%	3.44	39	0
15. Clear and logical written decisions	21	60%	8	23%	3	9%	3	9%	0	0%	3.34	35	0
16. Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	27	69%	7	18%	4	10%	1	3%	0	0%	3.54	39	0
Category Total	71	63%	26	23%	11	10%	5	4%	0	0%	3.44	113	
4. Temperament													
17. Understanding and compassion	23	62%	9	24%	4	11%	1	3%	0	0%	3.46	37	0
18. Dignified	27	71%	11	29%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.71	38	0
19. Courteous	27	69%	12	31%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.69	39	0
20. Conduct that promoted public confidence in the court and judge's ability	26	67%	9	23%	3	8%	1	3%	0	0%	3.54	39	0
21. Patient	24	63%	12	32%	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%	3.58	38	0
Category Total	127	66%	53	28%	9	5%	2	1%	0	0%	3.60	191	
5. Admin Performance													
22. Punctual in conducting proceedings	27	69%	11	28%	1	3%	0	0%	0	0%	3.67	39	0
23. Maintained proper control over courtroom	27	69%	10	26%	2	5%	0	0%	0	0%	3.64	39	0
24. Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	28	72%	9	23%	1	3%	0	0%	1	3%	3.62	39	0
25. Was prepared for the proceedings	26	67%	8	21%	2	5%	3	8%	0	0%	3.46	39	0
26. Efficient management of the calendar	27	75%	9	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.75	36	0
Category Total	135	70%	47	24%	6	3%	3	2%	1	1%	3.62	192	
6. Settlement Activities													
27. Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	8	67%	2	17%	1	8%	1	8%	0	0%	3.42	12	0
Category Total	8	67%	2	17%	1	8%	1	8%	0	0%	3.42	12	



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2020 Litigant Witness 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. Integrity													
1. Basic fairness and impartiality	7	88%	1	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	8	0
2. Equal treatment regardless of race	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
3. Equal treatment regardless of gender	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
4. Equal treatment regardless of religion	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	6	0
5. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
6. Equal treatment regardless of disability	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
7. Equal treatment regardless of age	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
8. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	5	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	5	0
9. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	6	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	6	0
Category Total	59	98%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.98	60	
2. Communication													
10. Explained proceedings	6	86%	0	0%	1	14%	0	0%	0	0%	3.71	7	0
11. Explained reasons for delays	4	80%	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%	0	0%	3.60	5	0
Category Total	10	83%	0	0%	2	17%	0	0%	0	0%	3.67	12	

3. Temperament													
12. Understanding and compassion	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4.00	7	0
13. Dignified	7	78%	2	22%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.78	9	0
14. Courteous	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	10	0
15. Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	10	0
16. Patient	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	10	0
Category Total	38	83%	8	17%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.83	46	
4. Admin Performance													
17. Punctual in conducting proceedings	7	70%	3	30%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.70	10	0
18. Maintained proper control of courtroom	8	80%	2	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	10	0
19. Was prepared for the proceedings	7	88%	1	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	8	0
Category Total	22	79%	6	21%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.79	28	



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2020 Juror 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. Integrity													
1. Basic fairness and impartiality	19	76%	6	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.76	25	0
2. Equal treatment regardless of race	19	79%	5	21%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.79	24	0
3. Equal treatment regardless of gender	20	80%	5	20%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.80	25	0
4. Equal treatment regardless of religion	19	76%	6	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.76	25	0
5. Equal treatment regardless of national origin	18	75%	6	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.75	24	0
6. Equal treatment regardless of disability	19	76%	6	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.76	25	0
7. Equal treatment regardless of age	19	76%	6	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.76	25	0
8. Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	19	76%	6	24%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.76	25	0
9. Equal treatment regardless of economic status	18	75%	6	25%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.75	24	0
Category Total	170	77%	52	23%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.77	222	
2. Communication													
10. Explained proceedings to the jury	21	84%	4	16%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.84	25	0
11. Explained reasons for delays	20	83%	4	17%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.83	24	0

12. Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
Category Total	63	85%	11	15%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.85	74	
3. Temperament													
13. Understanding and Compassion	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
14. Dignified	21	84%	4	16%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.84	25	0
15. Courteous	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
16. Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
17. Patient	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
Category Total	109	87%	16	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.87	125	
4. Admin Performance													
18. Punctuality in conducting proceedings	21	84%	4	16%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.84	25	0
19. Maintained proper control of courtroom	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
20. Was prepared for the proceedings	22	88%	3	12%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.88	25	0
Category Total	65	87%	10	13%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	3.87	75	