

Judges are evaluated by survey on their judicial performance midway through their term and prior to their retention election. Beginning in 2022, their survey evaluations include midterm and retention feedback. Newly appointed judges serve a two-year term and are evaluated prior to their retention election. The composite percentage table is an average of all evaluators who rated the judge "superior", "very good", or "satisfactory" in each of the Commission's evaluation categories. Some evaluators select "Can't Rate" on the questionnaire affecting the average response number within their respondent category. The JPR Commission votes whether a judge "Meets" or "Does Not Meet" Judicial Performance Standards, based on the survey information and any other information submitted by the public or the judge. Further information on the judges and justices can be found on each court's website.

**Commission on Judicial Performance Review
Composite Percentage - Average of all Evaluation Categories**

Superior Court in Pima County

Hon. Scott D. McDonald

2024		
Evaluation Category	Total Survey Responses	Average Percentage of Satisfactory or Above
Legal Ability	60	94%
Integrity	149	95%
Communication Skills	149	94%
Judicial Temperament	160	94%
Administrative Performance	155	98%
Settlement Activities	23	100%

Responses based upon 171 returned survey questionnaires from a distribution of 1075 questionnaires. Survey respondents may not necessarily answer all survey questions.

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge: **Hon. Scott D. McDonald** Total Surveys: **166** Assignment: **Criminal** Cycle: **2021 & 2023**

	ATTORNEY					62		LIT/WIT/PRO PER					93		JUROR					11	
	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Resp	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Resp	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Resp	Mean
Section I: Legal Ability	28	10	13	2	2	55	3.1														
Legal reasoning ability	28	13	12	3	2	58	3.1														
Knowledge of substantive law	28	10	14	2	2	56	3.1														
Knowledge of rules of evidence	28	8	11	1	1	49	3.2														
Knowledge of rules of procedure	29	9	14	3	1	56	3.1														
Section II: Integrity	34	10	7	2	0	55	3.4	52	19	3	3	2	79	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Basic fairness and impartiality	33	11	9	7	2	62	3.1	48	26	4	7	2	87	3.3	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of race	36	10	8	3	0	57	3.4	55	20	3	2	3	83	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of gender	34	10	9	3	0	56	3.3	54	20	6	3	1	84	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of religion	34	8	6	0	0	48	3.6	52	18	5	1	0	76	3.6	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of national origin	35	11	7	1	0	54	3.5	54	18	1	1	1	75	3.6	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of disability	35	11	7	1	0	54	3.5	49	17	3	3	1	73	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of age	34	12	8	1	1	56	3.4	52	21	2	4	1	80	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	33	9	6	1	0	49	3.5	52	16	1	1	2	72	3.6	9	1	0	0	0	10	3.9
Equal treatment regardless of economic status	35	10	7	4	1	57	3.3	50	19	4	3	3	79	3.4	9	1	0	0	0	10	3.9
Section III: Communication Skills	31	12	9	3	1	56	3.2	47	19	7	3	2	77	3.4	10	0	1	0	0	11	3.8
Clear and logical communications																					
Clear and logical oral communications and directions	31	13	12	2	2	60	3.2														
Clear and logical written decisions	27	11	7	3	0	48	3.3														
Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	36	12	8	4	1	61	3.3														
Explained proceedings (to the jury)								50	19	8	3	0	80	3.5	10	0	1	0	0	11	3.8
Explained reason for delays								44	18	5	3	3	73	3.3	10	0	1	0	0	11	3.8
Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities															10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Section IV: Judicial temperament	35	13	9	3	2	61	3.3	54	19	4	3	3	83	3.4	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Understanding and compassion	35	12	6	5	4	62	3.1	53	22	2	2	4	83	3.4	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Dignified	36	15	10	0	1	62	3.4	54	20	4	5	1	84	3.4	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Courteous	37	14	9	2	0	62	3.4	55	20	3	2	2	82	3.5	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	32	15	7	4	2	60	3.2	55	16	5	3	3	82	3.4	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Patient	33	11	13	2	1	60	3.2	54	18	5	2	3	82	3.4	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Section V: Administrative Performance	31	16	12	1	0	60	3.3	57	18	3	1	2	81	3.6	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.8
Punctual in conducting proceedings	30	18	13	1	0	62	3.2	55	19	4	2	1	81	3.5	9	1	1	0	0	11	3.7
Maintained proper control of courtroom	32	16	12	1	0	61	3.3	59	18	3	0	1	81	3.7	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	31	15	10	0	0	56	3.4														
Was prepared for the proceedings	32	16	11	1	0	60	3.3	58	17	1	1	3	80	3.6	10	1	0	0	0	11	3.9
Respectful treatment of staff																					
Cooperation with peers																					
Efficient management of calendar	31	15	12	2	0	60	3.3														
Section VI: Settlement Activities	15	3	5	0	0	23	3.4														
Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	15	3	5	0	0	23	3.4														

UN=Unacceptable, PO=Poor,
SA=Satisfactory, VG=Very Good,
SU=Superior

Category summaries are averages and may not add up due to rounding.

Surveys were distributed to court users from 02/2021 -09/2023

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge:	Total Surveys: 166						Assignment: Criminal					Cycle: 2021 & 2023							
	ATTORNEY					62	LIT/WIT/PROPER					93	JUROR					11	
Hon. Scott D. McDonald	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean	
Section I: Legal Ability	52%	18%	23%	4%	3%	3.1													
Legal reasoning ability	48%	22%	21%	5%	3%	3.1													
Knowledge of substantive law	50%	18%	25%	4%	4%	3.1													
Knowledge of rules of evidence	57%	16%	22%	2%	2%	3.2													
Knowledge of rules of procedure	52%	16%	25%	5%	2%	3.1													
Section II: Integrity	63%	19%	14%	4%	1%	3.4	66%	25%	4%	4%	2%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Basic fairness and impartiality	53%	18%	15%	11%	3%	3.1	55%	30%	5%	8%	2%	3.3	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of race	63%	18%	14%	5%	0%	3.4	66%	24%	4%	2%	4%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of gender	61%	18%	16%	5%	0%	3.3	64%	24%	7%	4%	1%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of religion	71%	17%	13%	0%	0%	3.6	68%	24%	7%	1%	0%	3.6	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of national origin	65%	20%	13%	2%	0%	3.5	72%	24%	1%	1%	1%	3.6	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of disability	65%	20%	13%	2%	0%	3.5	67%	23%	4%	4%	1%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of age	61%	21%	14%	2%	2%	3.4	65%	26%	3%	5%	1%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	67%	18%	12%	2%	0%	3.5	72%	22%	1%	1%	3%	3.6	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Equal treatment regardless of economic status	61%	18%	12%	7%	2%	3.3	63%	24%	5%	4%	4%	3.4	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Section III: Communication Skills	56%	21%	16%	5%	2%	3.2	61%	24%	8%	4%	2%	3.4	91%	3%	6%	0%	0%	3.8	
Clear and logical communications																			
Clear and logical oral communications and directions	52%	22%	20%	3%	3%	3.2													
Clear and logical written decisions	56%	23%	15%	6%	0%	3.3													
Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	59%	20%	13%	7%	2%	3.3													
Explained proceedings (to the jury)							63%	24%	10%	4%	0%	3.5	91%	0%	9%	0%	0%	3.8	
Explained reason for delays							60%	25%	7%	4%	4%	3.3	91%	0%	9%	0%	0%	3.8	
Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities													91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Section IV: Judicial temperament	57%	22%	15%	4%	3%	3.3	66%	23%	5%	3%	3%	3.4	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Understanding and compassion	56%	19%	10%	8%	6%	3.1	64%	27%	2%	2%	5%	3.4	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Dignified	58%	24%	16%	0%	2%	3.4	64%	24%	5%	6%	1%	3.4	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Courteous	60%	23%	15%	3%	0%	3.4	67%	24%	4%	2%	2%	3.5	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	53%	25%	12%	7%	3%	3.2	67%	20%	6%	4%	4%	3.4	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Patient	55%	18%	22%	3%	2%	3.2	66%	22%	6%	2%	4%	3.4	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Section V: Administrative Performance	52%	27%	19%	2%	0%	3.3	71%	22%	3%	1%	2%	3.6	88%	9%	3%	0%	0%	3.8	
Punctual in conducting proceedings	48%	29%	21%	2%	0%	3.2	68%	23%	5%	2%	1%	3.5	82%	9%	9%	0%	0%	3.7	
Maintained proper control of courtroom	52%	26%	20%	2%	0%	3.3	73%	22%	4%	0%	1%	3.7	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	55%	27%	18%	0%	0%	3.4													
Was prepared for the proceedings	53%	27%	18%	2%	0%	3.3	73%	21%	1%	1%	4%	3.6	91%	9%	0%	0%	0%	3.9	
Respectful treatment of staff																			
Cooperation with peers																			
Efficient management of calendar	52%	25%	20%	3%	0%	3.3													
Section VI: Settlement Activities	65%	13%	22%	0%	0%	3.4													
Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	65%	13%	22%	0%	0%	3.4													

UN=Unacceptable, PO=Poor,
 SA=Satisfactory, VG=Very Good,
 SU=Superior

Category summaries are averages and may not add up due to rounding.

Surveys were distributed to court users from 02/2021 - 09/2023

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge:	Total Surveys: 5					Fall 2023	
	PEER JUDGE					Total	Mean
Hon. Scott D. McDonald	EX	VG	AC	PO	FA		
Section I: Legal Ability	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Decisions based on law and facts	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Knowledge of rules of evidence	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Knowledge of rules of procedure	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Section II: Integrity	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Unbiased and impartial	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Section III: Communication Skills	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Communication skills	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Section IV: Judicial temperament	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Respectful to all individuals	5	0	0	0	0	5	5.0
Section V: Administrative Performance	4	0	0	0	0	4	5.0
Works effectively with other judges	4	0	0	0	0	4	5.0
Works effectively with court personnel	4	0	0	0	0	4	5.0
Efficient management of calendar	4	0	0	0	0	4	5.0
Does a fair share of work	4	0	0	0	0	4	5.0

FA=Failing, PO=Poor,
AC=Acceptable, VG=Very Good,
EX=Excellent

Category summaries are averages and may not add up due to rounding.

Surveys were distributed to court
users from 09/2023 - 11/2023

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge: Hon. Scott D. McDonald	Total Surveys: 5					Fall 2023
	PEER JUDGE					Mean
	EX	VG	AC	PO	FA	
Section I: Legal Ability	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Decisions based on law and facts	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Knowledge of rules of evidence	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Knowledge of rules of procedure	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Section II: Integrity	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Unbiased and impartial	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Section III: Communication Skills	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Communication skills	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Section IV: Judicial temperament	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Respectful to all individuals	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Section V: Administrative Performance	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Works effectively with other judges	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Works effectively with court personnel	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Efficient management of calendar	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Does a fair share of work	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0

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AC=Acceptable, VG=Very Good,
EX=Excellent

Category summaries are averages and may not add up due to rounding.

Surveys were distributed to court
users from 09/2023 - 11/2023