

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 Maricopa County**

**Hon. Michael F. Valenzuela**

<b>2024</b>		
<b>Evaluation Category</b>	Total Survey Responses	Average Percentage of Satisfactory or Above
Legal Ability	62	94%
Integrity	100	90%
Communication Skills	118	86%
Judicial Temperament	123	87%
Administrative Performance	121	91%
Settlement Activities	29	100%

Responses based upon 134 returned survey questionnaires from a distribution of 595 questionnaires. Survey respondents may not necessarily answer all survey questions.

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge:	Total Surveys: 113					Assignment: Family					Cycle: Retention Review										
Hon. Michael F. Valenzuela	ATTORNEY					LIT/WIT/PRO PER					JUROR										
	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	50 Resp	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	63 Resp	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	0 Resp	Mean
<b>Section I: Legal Ability</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>3.2</b>														
Legal reasoning ability	25	13	9	2	1	50	3.2														
Knowledge of substantive law	26	10	8	3	2	49	3.1														
Knowledge of rules of evidence	23	10	7	2	1	43	3.2														
Knowledge of rules of procedure	25	10	9	1	2	47	3.2														
<b>Section II: Integrity</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Basic fairness and impartiality	31	10	6	1	0	48	3.5	24	11	9	4	14	62	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of race	25	4	5	0	0	34	3.6	24	9	9	3	5	50	2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of gender	31	4	5	1	0	41	3.6	24	11	6	4	12	57	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of religion	23	3	4	0	0	30	3.6	20	10	7	0	6	43	2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of national origin	25	3	4	0	0	32	3.7	25	10	9	1	5	50	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of disability	23	3	4	0	1	31	3.5	21	7	6	0	9	43	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of age	26	4	4	0	0	34	3.6	26	10	5	0	8	49	2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	22	4	4	0	0	30	3.6	24	8	6	0	6	44	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Equal treatment regardless of economic status	27	5	4	2	0	38	3.5	22	9	4	0	12	47	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Section III: Communication Skills</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Clear and logical communications																					
Clear and logical oral communications and directions	33	9	5	3	0	50	3.4														
Clear and logical written decisions	28	8	5	1	2	44	3.3														
Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	37	7	3	1	2	50	3.5														
Explained proceedings (to the jury)								31	8	8	5	10	62	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Explained reason for delays								21	7	8	3	10	49	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities															0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Section IV: Judicial temperament</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Understanding and compassion	34	7	6	2	0	49	3.5	27	10	5	5	13	60	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dignified	34	8	8	0	0	50	3.5	28	9	8	6	8	59	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Courteous	36	8	6	0	0	50	3.6	31	9	9	3	9	61	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	35	8	3	4	0	50	3.5	27	10	6	3	14	60	2.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Patient	36	7	6	1	0	50	3.6	30	9	8	4	9	60	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Section V: Administrative Performance</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Punctual in conducting proceedings	33	8	8	1	0	50	3.5	30	10	13	1	6	60	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maintained proper control of courtroom	33	8	7	2	0	50	3.4	30	7	14	3	7	61	2.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	28	9	8	2	1	48	3.3														
Was prepared for the proceedings	35	8	6	0	1	50	3.5	24	11	10	3	9	57	2.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respectful treatment of staff																					
Cooperation with peers																					
Efficient management of calendar	32	10	5	1	1	49	3.4														
<b>Section VI: Settlement Activities</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3.6</b>														
Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	20	6	3	0	0	29	3.6														

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 02/2023 - 09/2023  
Juror surveys from 9/2021 - 9/2023

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge:	Total Surveys: 113					Assignment: Family					Cycle: Retention Review							
	ATTORNEY					50	LIT/WIT/PROPER					63	JUROR					0
Hon. Michael F. Valenzuela	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean	SU	VG	SA	PO	UN	Mean
<b>Section I: Legal Ability</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3.2</b>												
Legal reasoning ability	50%	26%	18%	4%	2%	3.2												
Knowledge of substantive law	53%	20%	16%	6%	4%	3.1												
Knowledge of rules of evidence	53%	23%	16%	5%	2%	3.2												
Knowledge of rules of procedure	53%	21%	19%	2%	4%	3.2												
<b>Section II: Integrity</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Basic fairness and impartiality	65%	21%	13%	2%	0%	3.5	39%	18%	15%	6%	23%	2.4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of race	74%	12%	15%	0%	0%	3.6	48%	18%	18%	6%	10%	2.9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of gender	76%	10%	12%	2%	0%	3.6	42%	19%	11%	7%	21%	2.5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of religion	77%	10%	13%	0%	0%	3.6	47%	23%	16%	0%	14%	2.9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of national origin	78%	9%	13%	0%	0%	3.7	50%	20%	18%	2%	10%	3.0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of disability	74%	10%	13%	0%	3%	3.5	49%	16%	14%	0%	21%	2.7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of age	76%	12%	12%	0%	0%	3.6	53%	20%	10%	0%	16%	2.9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation	73%	13%	13%	0%	0%	3.6	55%	18%	14%	0%	14%	3.0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Equal treatment regardless of economic status	71%	13%	11%	5%	0%	3.5	47%	19%	9%	0%	26%	2.6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
<b>Section III: Communication Skills</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Clear and logical communications																		
Clear and logical oral communications and directions	66%	18%	10%	6%	0%	3.4												
Clear and logical written decisions	64%	18%	11%	2%	5%	3.3												
Gave all parties an adequate opportunity to be heard	74%	14%	6%	2%	4%	3.5												
Explained proceedings (to the jury)							50%	13%	13%	8%	16%	2.7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Explained reason for delays							43%	14%	16%	6%	20%	2.5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Clearly explained the juror's responsibilities													0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
<b>Section IV: Judicial temperament</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Understanding and compassion	69%	14%	12%	4%	0%	3.5	45%	17%	8%	8%	22%	2.6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Dignified	68%	16%	16%	0%	0%	3.5	47%	15%	14%	10%	14%	2.7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Courteous	72%	16%	12%	0%	0%	3.6	51%	15%	15%	5%	15%	2.8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court	70%	16%	6%	8%	0%	3.5	45%	17%	10%	5%	23%	2.6	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Patient	72%	14%	12%	2%	0%	3.6	50%	15%	13%	7%	15%	2.8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
<b>Section V: Administrative Performance</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Punctual in conducting proceedings	66%	16%	16%	2%	0%	3.5	50%	17%	22%	2%	10%	3.0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Maintained proper control of courtroom	66%	16%	14%	4%	0%	3.4	49%	11%	23%	5%	11%	2.8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Prompt in making rulings and rendering decisions	58%	19%	17%	4%	2%	3.3												
Was prepared for the proceedings	70%	16%	12%	0%	2%	3.5	42%	19%	18%	5%	16%	2.7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.0
Respectful treatment of staff																		
Cooperation with peers																		
Efficient management of calendar	65%	20%	10%	2%	2%	3.4												
<b>Section VI: Settlement Activities</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>3.6</b>												
Appropriately promoted or conducted settlement	69%	21%	10%	0%	0%	3.6												

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 02/2023 - 09/2023  
 Juror surveys from 9/2021 - 9/2023

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Superior Court

Name of Judge:	Total Surveys: 21					Fall 2023	
	PEER JUDGE					Total	Mean
Hon. Michael F. Valenzuela	EX	VG	AC	PO	FA		
<b>Section I: Legal Ability</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Decisions based on law and facts	13	0	0	0	0	13	5.0
Knowledge of rules of evidence	14	2	0	0	0	16	4.9
Knowledge of rules of procedure	14	2	0	0	0	16	4.9
<b>Section II: Integrity</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Unbiased and impartial	14	1	0	0	0	15	4.9
<b>Section III: Communication Skills</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Communication skills	12	2	0	0	0	14	4.9
<b>Section IV: Judicial temperament</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	12	1	0	0	0	13	4.9
Respectful to all individuals	12	1	0	0	0	13	4.9
<b>Section V: Administrative Performance</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Works effectively with other judges	15	0	0	0	0	15	5.0
Works effectively with court personnel	10	0	0	0	0	10	5.0
Efficient management of calendar	11	0	0	0	0	11	5.0
Does a fair share of work	14	1	0	0	0	15	4.9

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:	Total Surveys: 21					Fall 2023
Hon. Michael F. Valenzuela	PEER JUDGE					Mean
	EX	VG	AC	PO	FA	
<b>Section I: Legal Ability</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Decisions based on law and facts	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.0
Knowledge of rules of evidence	88%	13%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
Knowledge of rules of procedure	88%	13%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
<b>Section II: Integrity</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Unbiased and impartial	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
<b>Section III: Communication Skills</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Communication skills	86%	14%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
<b>Section IV: Judicial temperament</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Conduct that promotes public confidence in the court and judge's ability	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
Respectful to all individuals	92%	8%	0%	0%	0%	4.9
<b>Section V: Administrative Performance</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5.0</b>
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	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%	4.9

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AC=Acceptable, VG=Very Good,  
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Category summaries are averages and may not add up due to rounding.

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users from 09/2023 - 11/2023