

# Judicial Council and Problems

At its regular business meeting in Anchorage, August 22, 1974, the Alaska Judicial Council identified major problem areas in the administration of justice, and defined general programs of study for the coming year.

In response to requests from the Supreme Court Magistrate Advisory Committee and the Minto-Bush Justice Conference held last June, the Council has instructed the Office of the Executive Director to develop study projects for improvement of judicial services in rural Alaska.

The Council also recognized juvenile justice as a topic of emerging law and changes de-

manding a review of Alaska law, procedures and programs. The final program emphasis recognized by the Council was a need to investigate court delays at both the trial and appellate level.

In other business, the Council approved a detailed questionnaire of attorneys and the public for evaluating the qualifications of judges standing for retention election on the November ballot.

About three weeks before the election, the Council will publish profiles of each judge with recommendations for or against retention.

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# Judicial . . .

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With regard to the recently published Judicial Districting Report, the Council decided to hold public hearings in Barrow, Nome, Bethel and Valdez during the first two weeks in September. Further decisions on districting were deferred until all testimony is received.

R. Eldridge Hicks, Executive Director, reported to the Council that the pending projects on bail, sentencing, the feasibility of a unified trial court, and Alaskan inmates in Federal prisons would all be completed by the end of the year and well before the beginning of the next legislative session.