

ACS Awarded Grant

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration has awarded a \$72,000 grant to the Alaska Court System to provide for the development of a planning program by the Office of the Administrative Director to engage in statewide evaluation of court activities and to develop both short and long-range planning programs for the court system.

The grant provides for the hiring of a court planning specialist, a research analyst and for clerical support. The research analyst in this program was hired this week following the announcement of the grant award last week during the meeting of the Governor's Commission on the Administration of Justice in Sitka.

The planning staff will be responsible for predicting future levels of court activity based on such factors as population growth, economic development, and the programs or activities of other agencies in the criminal justice system. The staff will be responsible for the development of both short range and long-range plans to assure necessary allocation of the resources of the court system to meet projected needs.

The planning staff will also be responsible for liaison with other criminal justice agencies to facilitate the exchange of information necessary for the planning process.

A major responsibility of the planning staff will be a comprehensive assessment of judicial requirements in the Bush areas of the state.

This assessment will be conducted in five large areas of the state containing about 100 villages which do not have magistrates or representatives of any of the other criminal justice agencies. These areas include northwest Alaska, the lower Kuskokwim River and Bristol Bay area, the Yukon River and Interior Alaska, the Upper Kuskokwim River and the Aleutian Islands.

During the past two years a judicial information system has been developed by Mel Martin, manager of technical operations for the Alaska Court System, which is providing information on court activities.

This information requires comprehensive analysis to be useful in developing a plan-

ning program and a research analyst, Mrs. Leanne Culp, was hired this week under the planning grant to begin this analysis. Martin said she will also be responsible for analyzing information from sources outside the court system which can help predict future demands for judicial services.

Mrs. Culp, a 1972 graduate of the University of Idaho in business administration, has been a research specialist and traffic engineer assistant with RCA Alaska Communications for the past three years. She is the first person to be hired by the administrative office of the Alaska Court System under the LEAA grant.