

# Bush residents omitted from grand juries

The Associated Press

A criminal case against a Dillingham man has revealed that for an unknown period, Naknek, Dillingham and Shemya area residents have been excluded from serving on grand juries in the Third Judicial District.

Anchorage Superior Court Judge Ralph Moody dismissed burglary and escape indict-

ments Wednesday against Rodney Sampson.

Sampson's attorney argued that residents of Sampson's community had been excluded as potential jurors on the panel that indicted him, thus denying Sampson his right to a representative jury.

Moody gave state prosecutors until Dec. 15 to obtain

new grand jury indictments in the case.

The judicial system was "just kind of letting a whole group of people out in the Bush slip through the cracks," said Sampson's attorney, John Richard.

He said resolving the problem would allow "a whole group to participate in matters of local concern that perhaps in the last three or four years has been denied by oversight or whatever."

The Third Judicial District

encompasses the southern third of Alaska, including the Aleutian Islands but excluding the southeastern panhandle. The pool of names picked by computer for grand jury selection is supposed to be representative of the entire judicial district.

Court Administrator Albert Szal said he didn't know how long residents from the Bristol Bay and far eastern Aleutian Islands had been excluded.

"I have requested the technical operations division to

draw another grand jury for Anchorage to include Naknek, Dillingham and Shemya," Szal said in a memo to Moody on Wednesday.

"I have specified all future computer runs for the Anchorage grand jury to follow the above format, excluding the Kenai and Kodiak areas. Kenai and Kodiak are excluded be-

cause grand juries are convened in those two locations," Szal said.