



Press Release

Alaska Court System, 825 W. 4th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

Contacts: Carol McAllen, Area Court Administrator, Third Judicial District, Anchorage

cmcallen@courts.state.ak.us; 907-264-0415; FAX 907-264-0560

Mara Rabinowitz, Communications Counsel, Anchorage

mrabinowitz@appellate.courts.state.ak.us; 907-264-0879; FAX 907-264-0640



1952 - 2013

The Alaska Court System mourns the passing of Judge Peter Ashman (Ret.) who died August 5, 2013, in California at age 61. Judge Ashman was appointed to the Anchorage District Court in 1987 by Governor Steve Cowper, and served as a District Court Judge in both Palmer and Anchorage for 16 years. After his retirement from the District Court bench, he served as a Superior Court Judge Pro Tem in Anchorage, Bethel, Kenai and Kodiak for several years.

Judge Ashman first came to Alaska in 1980 to serve as Alaska Native Allotment Coordinator for Alaska Legal Services Corporation. He then worked as a rural magistrate in Dillingham. In 1983, he moved to Anchorage, and worked first as an Assistant Public Defender, and later as a District Court Judge.

Judge Ashman was an early advocate of restorative justice principles such as circle sentencing. Judge Ashman recently received the Alaska Bar Association's *Judge Nora Guinn Award*, presented to an individual who has made "extraordinary or sustained efforts to assist Alaska's rural residents, especially its Native population, overcome barriers to obtaining justice through the legal system."

Judge Sen Tan, Presiding Judge, Third Judicial District noted that: "Judge Ashman was willing to serve whenever and wherever he was needed. He was a patient, sensitive, and caring jurist who showed respect to those who appeared before him. His commitment to our state's justice system was extraordinary."

###
