

**Honorable Royal I. Hansen – District Court Judge**

Serving Salt Lake, Tooele, and Summit counties



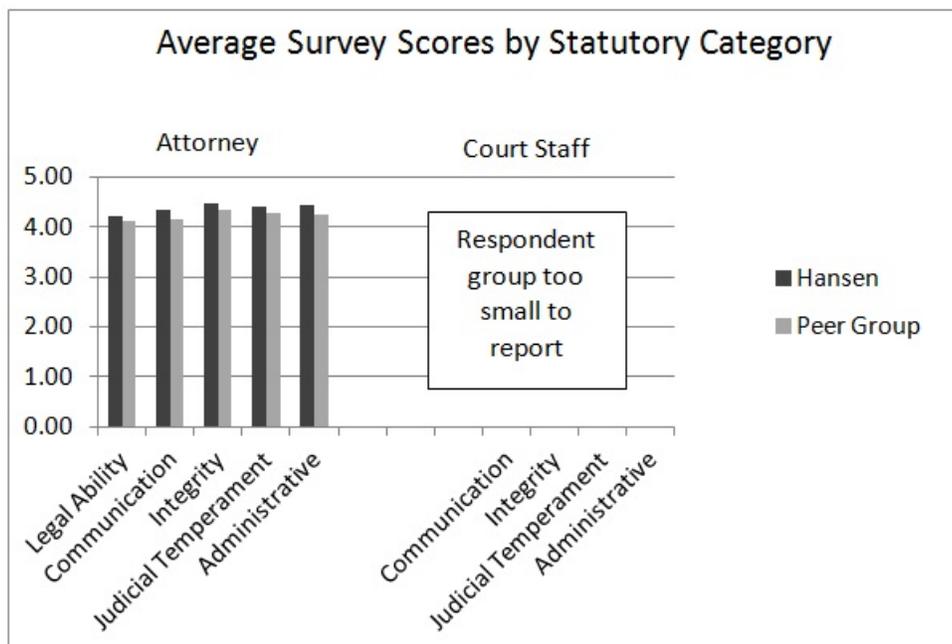
The commission recommends by a vote of 11 - 0  
TO RETAIN Judge Royal Hansen

Judge Royal Hansen is an experienced judge whose performance is outstanding. Attorneys scored him well above the average of other district court judges in all five survey categories. Of the 73 attorneys who answered the retention question, 70 (96%) recommended retention. Attorneys described Judge Hansen as calm, patient, and polite, and noted his model demeanor. Ninety-nine per cent [99%] of adjectives selected by attorneys and jurors to describe him were positive, accompanied by overwhelmingly favorable comments. Courtroom observers were also positive about Judge Hansen, complimenting his demeanor and noting his interest in doing what was right for each defendant while consistently applying the law, his skill in drawing people out, his clear explanations for his actions, and his efforts to ensure all parties understand the proceedings. Jurors scored him above the average of other district court judges on all questions.

The commission reviewed surveys and courtroom observation reports in addition to verifying that Judge has met all time standards, judicial education requirements, and discipline standards established by the judicial branch.

Judge Royal I. Hansen was appointed to the District Court in 2003. He graduated from the University of Utah College of Law and was a law clerk for Judge Frank Q. Nebeker of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Hansen practiced with Moyle & Draper from 1976 to 2003. He is the Presiding Judge of the Third District Court. Judge Hansen serves as chair of the Court’s Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and as a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Civility and Professionalism and the SL County Criminal Justice Advisory Council. He is a Commissioner with the Utah Judicial Conduct Commission and the Utah State Bar’s Pro Bono Commission. Judge Hansen founded the South Valley Felony Drug Court.

**This judge has met all minimum performance standards established by law.**



## Survey Overview

Attorneys, court staff and jurors were surveyed about the judge's performance. Survey categories included questions about the judge's legal ability, judicial temperament, integrity, communication skills, and administrative skills. Summarized results for all applicable respondent groups appear below. A judge must score a 3.0 on 80% of the individual questions to pass the minimum performance standard.

### A. Attorney Survey Overview:

Total Respondents: 76

1. "Should this judge be retained?"

Response	Number	Percent of Total
YES	70	96%
NO	3	4%

\*3 Respondent(s) did not answer the retention question

2. Statutory Category Scores:

Attorney	Hansen	Peer Avg	% of Peer
Legal Ability	4.22	4.11	103%
Communication	4.35	4.13	105%
Integrity	4.46	4.35	103%
Judicial Temperament	4.41	4.27	103%
Administrative	4.44	4.24	105%

3. Average trials before this judge: 2.65

4. Area of primary practice:

Collections: 1 Domestic: 7 Criminal: 55 Civil: 21 Other: 1

### B. Court Staff Survey Overview: Respondent group too small to report

### C. Juror Survey Overview:

Total Respondents: 21

1. Jurors were not asked whether the judge should be retained.

2. Statutory Category Scores:

Juror	Hansen	Peer Avg	% of Peer
Communication	4.85	4.77	102%
Integrity	4.98	4.87	102%
Judicial Temperament	4.95	4.84	102%
Administrative	4.83	4.73	102%

## Survey Scores

### Attorney Survey Scores:

Below are listed: 1) the attorney survey questions; 2) a checkmark to show that the judge met or exceeded the statutory “pass” of 3.0, or an “x” to indicate the judge scored below 3.0 on that question; 3) the judge’s average score on each question; 4) the average score on each question of all judges on the same level of court; and 5) the judge’s average score as a percent of the peer group average score.

A judge must receive an average score of at least 3.0 on 80% of the questions to meet minimum performance standards.

Attorney Question	Statutory Pass: 3.0	R. Hansen	Peer Avg.	% of Peer Avg.
The Judge makes sound rulings.	✓	4.12	4.01	103%
The judge properly applies the rules of civil procedure.	✓	4.24	4.14	102%
The judge properly applies the rules of criminal procedure.	✓	4.21	4.14	102%
The judge properly applies the rules of evidence.	✓	4.23	4.12	103%
The judge's sentencing fits the offenses.	✓	3.90	4.01	97%
The judge makes appropriate findings of facts.	✓	4.14	4.07	102%
The judge appropriately applies the laws to the facts.	✓	4.13	4.06	102%
The judge follows legal precedent.	✓	4.26	4.12	103%
The judge only considers evidence in the record.	✓	4.14	4.08	102%
The judge's written decisions are clear and logical.	✓	4.37	4.09	107%
The judge's written opinions offer meaningful legal analysis.	✓	4.33	4.06	107%
The judge was fair and impartial.	✓	4.30	4.21	102%
The judge avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.	✓	4.61	4.41	105%
The judge avoids improper ex parte communications.	✓	4.57	4.49	102%
The judge's behavior demonstrated equal treatment of all persons or classes of persons.	✓	4.41	4.36	101%
The judge appears to consider both sides of an argument before rendering a decision.	✓	4.41	4.26	104%
The judge holds attorneys accountable for inappropriate conduct.	✓	4.03	3.97	102%
The judge's oral communication while in court is clear and logical.	✓	4.36	4.26	102%
The judge promotes public trust and confidence in the courts through his or her conduct on the bench.	✓	4.47	4.29	104%
The judge respects the time of the participants and understands the personal and financial costs they may be incurring.	✓	4.32	4.15	104%
The judge is prepared for argument and hearings.	✓	4.38	4.29	102%
The judge treats all attorneys with equal courtesy and respect.	✓	4.67	4.39	106%
The judge rules in a timely manner.	✓	4.39	4.24	104%
The judge realistically manages his or her calendar.	✓	4.39	4.20	104%
The judge convened court without undue delay.	✓	4.54	4.28	106%
The judge provides the parties due process; namely, advance notice of issues to be heard an adequate opportunity to prepare and a meaningful opportunity to be heard.	✓	4.56	4.32	106%
The judge acts to ensure that linguistic/cultural differences or disabilities do not unfairly limit access to the justice system.	✓	4.56	4.48	102%

**Juror Survey Scores:**

Below are listed: 1) the juror survey questions; 2) a checkmark to show that the judge met or exceeded the statutory “pass” of 3.0, or an “x” to indicate the judge scored below 3.0 on that question; 3) the judge’s average score on each question; 4) the average score on each question of all judges on the same level of court; and 5) the judge’s average score as a percent of the peer group average score.

A judge must receive an average score of at least 3.0 on 80% of the questions to meet minimum performance standards.

<b>Juror Question</b>	<b>Statutory Pass: 3.0</b>	<b>Hansen</b>	<b>Peer Avg.</b>	<b>% of Peer Avg.</b>
The judge's behavior demonstrated equal treatment of all persons or classes of persons.	✓	5.00	4.85	103%
The judge is prepared for argument and hearings.	✓	4.90	4.80	102%
The judge convened court without undue delay.	✓	4.76	4.65	102%
The judge did not allow his or her personal beliefs to inappropriately influence the proceedings.	✓	4.95	4.89	101%
The judge made sure that everyone's behavior in the courtroom was proper.	✓	4.95	4.82	103%
The judge paid attention to the proceedings in the courtroom.	✓	4.90	4.82	102%
When the judge explained to the jury the reasons for his or her decision, I understood.	✓	4.67	4.64	101%
Based on the judge's explanations, I clearly understood my role and responsibility as a juror.	✓	4.90	4.88	100%
The jury instructions from the judge were clear and understandable.	✓	4.90	4.85	101%
Based on the judge's explanations, I understood the evidence I could or could not consider.	✓	4.80	4.68	103%
The judge demonstrated courtesy toward the attorneys, court staff, litigants and others in the court room.	✓	5.00	4.87	103%
The judge made me feel that the court system is fair.	✓	4.90	4.76	103%
The judge took the case seriously.	✓	4.95	4.82	103%
The judge treated the jury with respect.	✓	5.00	4.93	102%
The judge provided recesses (breaks) in the trial that were adequate	✓	4.90	4.81	102%
My experience with the judge helped me understand the role of the jury in the legal system.	✓	4.95	4.79	103%

## Adjective Summary

Survey respondents were asked to select adjectives that best described the judge. Results are shown from each respondent group. The adjectives highlighted in green are “positive” adjectives, while those in red are “negative.”

R. Hansen			
Attorney		Juror	
Attentive	35	Attentive	14
Calm	43	Calm	14
Confident	18	Confident	9
Considerate	44	Considerate	16
Consistent	23	Consistent	10
Intelligent	35	Intelligent	16
Knowledgeable	34	Knowledgeable	18
Patient	49	Patient	14
Polite	51	Polite	14
Receptive	33	Receptive	9
Arrogant	1	Arrogant	0
Cantankerous	0	Cantankerous	0
Defensive	0	Defensive	0
Dismissive	1	Dismissive	0
Disrespectful	0	Disrespectful	0
Flippant	0	Flippant	0
Impatient	0	Impatient	0
Indecisive	4	Indecisive	0
Rude	0	Rude	0

Positive	365	Positive	134
Negative	6	Negative	0
Positive	98%	Positive	100%

## REPORT OF COURTROOM OBSERVATIONS FOR JUDGE ROYAL HANSEN

Five observers wrote 100 codable units that were relevant to 13 of the 17 criteria. One observer reported that the judge was aware that JPEC observers were present and one observer reported that the judge was not aware (three did not comment).

### Overview

WIDELY AGREED-UPON THEMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All observers were positive about Judge Hansen.</li> <li>• All observers particularly reported Judge Hansen’s courteous, warm, and considerate behavior, and his kind and friendly as well as firm and stern demeanor, as appropriate. One observer felt he would be a good role model for how a judge should look and behave.</li> <li>• All observers particularly reported Judge Hansen’s interest in and efforts to do what was right for each defendant while consistently applying the law; his skill in using open-ended questions to encourage all parties to provide input and explain their perspectives, and his explanations for all his actions and efforts to ensure all parties understood the proceedings.</li> <li>• Four observers reported that Judge Hansen treated all defendants consistently, relied only on facts, and never responded emotionally or expressed his own opinions in rulings.</li> <li>• Three observers reported that they would feel comfortable appearing before Judge Hansen (two did not comment).</li> </ul>
MINORITY OBSERVATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three observers found the bustling and noisy courtroom atmosphere distracting, and that while Judge Hansen remained focused and was not distracted, one observer felt more respect should be shown to the judge by waiting participants.</li> </ul>
ANOMALOUS COMMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One observer was alone in feeling the judge was neutral to the point of being placid and not very expressive.</li> </ul>

<i>Numerical ratings:</i>	<i>Observer 1</i>	<i>Observer 2</i>	<i>Observer 3</i>	<i>Observer 4</i>	<i>Observer 5</i>
Neutrality	4	4	5	4	4
Respect	3	3	5	5	4
Ability to earn trust	4	4	5	5	4
Skill at providing voice	4	3	5	5	4

### Summary and *exemplar language* of five observers’ comments

<i>RESPECTFUL BEHAVIORS</i>	
Listening & focus	One observer reported that Judge Hansen listened carefully with good eye contact while listening.
Well-prepared & efficient	Three observers reported that Judge Hansen was <i>well-prepared, knowledgeable about the cases, and efficient</i> , for example planning ahead for the number of interpreters needed.
Respect for others’ time	Two observers reported that Judge Hansen accommodated date changes requested by participants, but that the court was often delayed due to attorneys or prosecutors, for which <i>the judge apologized to those waiting and thanked them for their patience.</i>

Respectful behavior generally	All observers reported a particular strength of Judge Hansen was his respectful manner, <i>referring to everyone by name</i> , and expressing appreciation or encouragement to participants wherever appropriate, for example <i>commending a defendant for proactive behavior</i> in planning to repay embezzled funds, wishing defendants <i>good luck and success</i> so that he would not see them in court again, and expressing appreciation to an emotional <i>victim who agreed to speak</i> . Judge Hansen readily <i>apologized</i> and explained the reasons for unavoidable delays and recesses.
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*RESPECTFUL TONE*

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Courtesy, politeness and patience	Four observers reported that Judge Hansen welcomed the court with a <i>warm greeting and a smile</i> , greeted each attorney and defendant with the <i>same courtesy</i> , using expressions such as “I invite you to sign the affidavit”. One observer was particularly impressed that Judge Hansen maintained a <i>neutral demeanor</i> and listened <i>patiently</i> to participants <i>visibly and vocally upset</i> .
Courtroom tone & atmosphere	<p>Four observers reported approvingly Judge Hansen’ demeanor that attempted to <i>balance justice and mercy</i>. On the one hand he was <i>kind, compassionate, and open</i>, answering questions with a <i>friendly, interested voice</i>, but when necessary admonished defendants in a <i>stern but respectful</i> way, for example for not following a program. One observer felt Judge Hansen would be a <i>good judge to show as a role model for how judges should look and behave</i>.</p> <p>However, observers had mixed opinions about the courtroom atmosphere. While one felt the courtroom <i>very professional with a clock on one wall and a calendar on the other</i>, three observers commented on the bustle, noise and <i>some chaos on the peripheries</i>, including an audible cell phone, although Judge Hansen always <i>appeared focused on the case before him</i>.</p> <p>One observer felt <i>more respect should have been shown to the judge</i> by attorneys and clients talking while the judge was listening to other cases. Another observer sitting behind the defense table heard a conversation at the prosecution table and felt <i>the judge could have asked counsel to discuss the matter elsewhere</i>. One observer was <i>a bit chagrined</i> when the secretary walked in chewing gum with a can of coke.</p>
Body language	<p>Three observers reported Judge Hansen’s good eye contact and warm smile.</p> <p>However, one was alone in feeling the judge was very neutral to the point of being placid and not very expressive.</p>

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*NEUTRALITY*

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Consistent and equal treatment	<p>Four observers reported that Judge Hansen used the <i>same guidelines for all defendants</i> and was <i>consistent when reading their rights</i>, did <i>not allow emotion to influence him</i> but <i>based rulings simply on the facts of the case and the law</i>, asking “State the factual basis”. One observer reported he was <i>highly skilled in listening to litigants without expressing his own opinions or emotions</i>.</p> <p>One observer was alone in feeling that <i>while polite and gracious</i> to everyone, he seemed a <i>little preachy when talking about drinking and drugs</i>.</p>
Acts with concern for individual needs	All observers elaborated many examples of Judge Hansen’s interest in and compassion for all parties, and his efforts to do what was right for all while applying the law consistently. For example, he allowed a defendant to remain out of state where she had <i>access to addiction treatment</i> , ordered <i>vocational rehab</i> to assist a defendant <i>paying fines and restitution in finding employment</i> , and <i>suspended a jail sentence for a week</i> so a defendant could <i>attend his grandmother’s funeral</i> .
Expresses concern for the individual	Two observers noted that Judge Hansen always expressed concern with defendant’s representation, <i>starting a session by asking if anyone was not represented</i> , and if any had newly appointed attorneys, offered an opportunity to confer with the attorney before their appearance.

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VOICE

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Considered voice

All observers reported that Judge Hansen encouraged all participants to share their views, and gave defendants *ample time to explain their side*, often asking “Is there anything else I should know?” While most defendants *declined an opportunity to speak* it was clear the judge *provided an invitation to do so*. In one instance the judge *permitted counsel to speak on behalf of a defendant who could not express himself adequately*.

Observers particularly noted Judge Hansen’s *skill* in requesting input with *open-ended questions* that provided participants opportunity and encouragement to explain their perspectives. Examples included “What’s gone wrong?”, “What lessons have you learned?”, or “Why can I expect better results in the future?” Judge Hansen was *very mindful of victims* and concerned they have their say, for example saying “I value your input, I know this has been a long, trying process”.

The judge showed that he considered participants’ information, *acknowledging* in a ruling papers presented by a defendant indicating his progress while in custody, and after a *very negative and emotional exchange* in which Judge Hansen *allowed both sides to vent without responding emotionally himself*, he explained to the defendant her jail sentence was *based on the charges and not on the feelings of her family*.

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COMMUNICATION

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Ensures information understood

Four observers reported that Judge Hansen always asked questions such as “Do you understand the English Language? Are you satisfied with your representation?” and *made sure defendants pleading guilty clearly understood their rights and what they were doing*, and if they *understood court orders, consistently asking* “Do you understand?” Before he dismissed a defendant he *always asked if there were questions, and was always willing to repeat anything*. He told several defendants *to call their attorney or probation officer if they had future questions*.

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Provides adequate explanations

All observers elaborated a large number of cases demonstrating the explanations Judge Hansen provided for all his decisions and actions. He provided *specific instructions about future appearances and requirements of court orders*, consistently explained *what was expected of defendants*, and repeated anything *requiring clarification*.

For example, he explained how he had *incorporated reports from various agencies* into a ruling, explained that while difficult there would be *zero tolerance to any repetition of prescription drug abuse*, always explained why he was *sentencing someone to jail, prison, or probation*, in one case, after suspending a sentence explaining “If this doesn’t work, prison is next”. One observer appreciated his explanation for recesses that the observer felt were due to attorneys being unprepared as being necessary to give all participants the time they needed.

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