



# King County Superior Court 2011 Annual Report





## Message from Presiding Judge Richard F. McDermott

On behalf of the judges, commissioners, and staff of the King County Superior Court, I am pleased to present our 2011 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find this informative and useful.

In 2011, the court continued to look for efficiencies in how we do business. The court expanded its use of volunteer attorneys to monitor compliance with guardianship orders, which affect some of our most vulnerable citizens. A streamlined process for scheduling dependency hearings has reduced the number of hours that families, social workers, and attorneys spend in court. The court's new Dependency Mediation Program is helping resolve dependency cases more quickly and for less cost than non-mediated cases.

The court also found ways to improve access to justice through court services. The new Family Law Orientation class helps unrepresented litigants understand the court process for separation, divorce, parenting plan and child support modifications, and all other types of family law actions. The fully-implemented Early Resolution Case Manager program assists unrepresented family law litigants in finding ways of resolving their cases more quickly. A new tool was implemented to help protection order applicants determine which type of order to file and where to file it.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of King County citizens who served as jurors in Superior Court and to the many hundreds of volunteers who served as Community Accountability Board members, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and in many other capacities. I want to thank the King County Bar Association for its steadfast support of court-based services. Lastly, I want to commend the professionalism of all Superior Court and Department of Judicial Administration employees. Without your credibility and commitment to public service, the court could never achieve its mission.

## King County Superior Court – Mission Statement:

To serve the public by ensuring justice through accessible and effective forums for the fair, understandable, and timely resolution of legal matters.

## King County Superior Court – Jurisdiction:

- Civil matters involving more than \$300, unlawful detainers, and injunctions
- Felony criminal matters
- Misdemeanor criminal cases not otherwise provided for by law
- Family law, including dissolutions, child support, adoptions, parentage, and domestic violence protection matters
- Probate and guardianship matters
- Juvenile offender matters
- Juvenile dependencies, including abused and neglected children, children in need of services, at-risk youth, and trancies
- Mental illness and involuntary commitment matters



## Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

We are pleased to provide you with King County Superior Court's 2011 Annual Report. In 2011, the court implemented several new services for court customers and completed numerous projects that have improved the court's operational efficiency. In the pages that follow, you will read about several of our many accomplishments for the year, which include:

**Family Law Orientation (FLO).** In 2011, the Court began offering the Family Law Orientation, a one-hour class for people filing family law actions who do not have attorneys. The class helps these litigants understand the court process, manage their cases, and obtain additional help.

**Family Treatment Court (FTC).** In 2011, the University of Washington completed a study of our Family Treatment Court – a therapeutic court that assists families in the juvenile dependency system. The study found that families in the FTC were significantly more likely to reunify. The success of this program is a testament to the commitment and hard work of the families, judicial officers, service providers, and court staff who come together in this special court.

**E-Services Help Desk.** In 2011, the E-Services Help Desk in the Clerk's Office handled nearly 2,000 requests for assistance each month. While new online services create operational efficiencies and offer conveniences for the user, customers learning to use the new systems often have questions about how to proceed. The Help Desk provides valuable assistance.

**Electronic Court Records (ECR).** In 2011, the Clerk's Office secured funding to "rewrite" the core of its Electronic Court Records system. Developed in 1999, this critical system is approaching the end of its viable life. The two-year project to upgrade ECR will greatly increase the stability of the system and will protect and improve access to the millions of court records it holds.

**Kids Closet.** In 2011, a dedicated group of staff volunteers opened a clothing bank for court-involved youth at Juvenile Court. Called 'Kids Closet,' the service helps youth acquire appropriate clothing for school, job training, and other functions. The generous support of Nordstrom, Saint James Cathedral, and the staff themselves has made this service possible.

**Thank you for your interest in King County Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration!**

## King County Superior Court – 2011 Summary Statistics:

- General jurisdiction trial court
- Serves the 14th most populous county in the nation
- Handles a caseload of almost 60,000 new cases each year
- Operates at four sites, including the King County Courthouse, Juvenile Court, and Mental Illness Court at Seattle locations; and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent
- Has 53 judges and 12 commissioners
- Is supported by 321 Superior Court staff and 216 Department of Judicial Administration staff



## Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2011

<b>Sharon Armstrong</b> <i>Appointed, 1985</i>	<b>Philip G. Hubbard, Jr.</b> <i>Elected, 1996</i>	<b>Michael J. Heavey</b> <i>Elected, 2000</i>	<b>Jim Rogers</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>
<b>Michael J. Fox</b> <i>Appointed, 1988</i>	<b>Suzanne M. Barnett</b> <i>Elected, 1996</i>	<b>Douglass A. North</b> <i>Elected, 2000</i>	<b>Susan J. Craighead</b> <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
<b>Carol A. Schapira</b> <i>Elected, 1989</i>	<b>Jay V. White</b> <i>Elected, 1996</i>	<b>Catherine Shaffer</b> <i>Elected, 2000</i>	<b>Bruce Heller</b> <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
<b>William L. Downing</b> <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	<b>Patricia H. Clark</b> <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	<b>Gregory Canova</b> <i>Elected, 2001</i>	<b>Kimberley Prochnau</b> <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
<b>Joan E. DuBuque</b> <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	<b>Dean S. Lum</b> <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	<b>Cheryl Carey</b> <i>Elected, 2001</i>	<b>Monica Benton</b> <i>Appointed 2008</i>
<b>LeRoy McCullough</b> <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	<b>Ronald Kessler</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>John Erlick</b> <i>Elected, 2001</i>	<b>Regina S. Cahan</b> <i>Elected 2009</i>
<b>Laura C. Inveen</b> <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	<b>Palmer Robinson</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>Laura G. Middaugh</b> <i>Elected, 2001</i>	<b>Mariane C. Spearman</b> <i>Elected 2009</i>
<b>Deborah D. Fleck</b> <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	<b>Helen Halpert</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>Steven Gonzalez</b> <i>Appointed, 2002</i>	<b>Timothy A. Bradshaw</b> <i>Elected 2009</i>
<b>Michael C. Hayden</b> <i>Elected, 1992</i>	<b>James Doerty</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>Harry J. McCarthy</b> <i>Appointed, 2002</i>	<b>Hollis R. Hill</b> <i>Elected 2009</i>
<b>Brian D. Gain</b> <i>Elected, 1993</i>	<b>Julie Spector</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>Mary E. Roberts</b> <i>Appointed, 2003</i>	<b>Barbara A. Mack</b> <i>Elected 2009</i>
<b>Richard D. Eadie</b> <i>Appointed, 1995</i>	<b>Richard McDermott</b> <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	<b>J. Wesley Saint Clair</b> <i>Appointed, 2004</i>	<b>Jean Rietschel</b> <i>Appointed 2010</i>
<b>Michael J. Trickey</b> <i>Appointed, 1996</i>	<b>Mary Yu</b> <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	<b>Andrea A. Darvas</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	<b>Beth M. Andrus</b> <i>Appointed 2010</i>
<b>Jeffrey M. Ramsdell</b> <i>Elected, 1996</i>	<b>Bruce W. Hilyer</b> <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	<b>Theresa B. Doyle</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	<b>Patrick Oishi</b> <i>Appointed 2011</i>
	<b>James D. Cayce</b> <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	<b>Christopher A. Washington</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	

## Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2011

<b>Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986</b>	<b>Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998</b>	<b>Meg Sassaman, 2006</b>
<b>Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993</b>	<b>Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998</b>	<b>Mark Hillman, 2007</b>
<b>Eric B. Watness, 1995</b>	<b>Richard Gallaher, 2000</b>	<b>Julia Garrett, 2008</b>
<b>Hollis Holman, 1996</b>	<b>Lori Kay Smith, 2006</b>	<b>Jacqueline Jeske, 2008</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Castilleja, 2006</b>	

## Superior Court Launches Family Law Orientation Class

In April 2011, Superior Court launched the Family Law Orientation (FLO), a one-hour class required for family law litigants who do not have attorneys. A significant number of people filing for legal separation, divorce, parenting plan or child support modifications, or other similar types of actions have no legal representation and thus must navigate the court process on their own. At the FLO, attendees learn about the court process from filing to resolution. They also receive written instructions for how to manage their cases, learn basic legal terminology, and find out where they can obtain additional help.



The FLO is offered several times each week at the court's Seattle and Kent locations. There is a \$20 fee for the class, but this can be reduced or waived entirely for those who are not able to pay the full amount. For more information, please visit the [Family Law Orientation webpage](#), or contact the court at (206) 296-9323.

## Early Resolution Case Managers Help Family Law Litigants Find Their Way

In 2011, the court implemented a new program to help resolve family law cases sooner and with less judicial intervention. The court hired three attorneys to serve as Early Resolution Case Managers (ERCMs). The ERCMs are available to assist family law litigants who do not have attorneys.

The ERCMs first have contact with unrepresented litigants at the Family Law Orientation (FLO; see article above), a class they developed and now teach. The ERCMs next have contact with unrepresented litigants at the Status Conference, which is a formal hearing held four or five months after filing to identify unresolved issues between the parties. The ERCMs are available at these hearings to recommend procedures for reaching agreement and resolving the case. Finally, the ERCMs can provide mediation services and help resolve cases. Some family law cases have only one or two issues that need to be worked through before the case can settle. If these issues can be identified early, mediation and settlement may occur even before the Status Conference.



*The court's Early Resolution Case Managers help resolve family law cases sooner with less judicial intervention.*

For more information, please contact the Family Court at (206) 296-9400.

## Volunteer Attorneys Monitor Court Order Compliance in Ex Parte



*Ex Parte Volunteer Victoria Barr helps the court monitor court order compliance in Guardianship, Minor Settlement, Trust, and Probate actions.*

In 2011, the court expanded its use of volunteer attorneys to ensure compliance with certain types of court orders. The subject of a guardianship, probate, minor settlement, or trust action typically is disabled, under age, or deceased, and the court works hard to protect the interests of those who may not be able speak for themselves. Regular 'Review Calendars' are held in the Ex Parte and Probate Department to monitor court order compliance in these types of actions.

Ex Parte Review Calendars have been in place for nearly 25 years. Historically, the Review Calendars were staffed by volunteer attorneys working together with a Superior Court employee. The volunteer attorneys would review the cases for the court, meet with litigants appearing in person on the Review Calendar, and draft review orders documenting compliance or lack of compliance in the action. In 2006, the Family Law Facilitators took over these duties, and the number of attorneys volunteering on the calendar dwindled.

In an effort to revive volunteer attorney participation, the court worked with the King County Bar Association to sponsor a continuing legal education training in February 2011. The response was tremendous. More than 100 attorneys attended, and 75 signed up to volunteer on the calendar. The court greatly appreciates this generous donation of time and assistance with the 4,500 review orders the court enters annually.

## Superior Court Establishes the Dependency Mediation Program

In 2011, Superior Court formally established the Dependency Mediation Program, after piloting dependency mediation for two years. Dependency mediation allows parents, social workers, and attorneys to meet with a specially-trained mediator to discuss and resolve disputes. The goal is to resolve juvenile dependency cases sooner by giving parties greater opportunity for collaboration and by encouraging families to engage earlier in services.

A recent study of the court's mediation pilot found that on average mediated cases were resolved in 50 days, while non-mediated cases averaged 84 days to resolution. Mediated cases resulted in much higher rates of placement with family members. And mediated cases had significantly fewer trial delays and contested trial results. The study also found that mediated cases cost roughly 39% less than non-mediated ones. For more information, please contact the Dependency Mediation Program at (206) 205-8687.

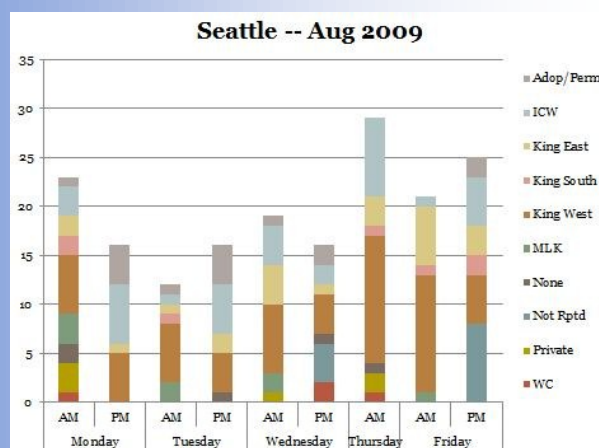


*Melissa Bartholomew is the court's new Dependency Mediator.*



## Superior Court Streamlines Scheduling for Dependency Hearings

In 2011, Superior Court completed an 18-month effort to streamline scheduling for juvenile dependency hearings. The new scheduling process has significantly reduced the number of hours that families, social workers, and attorneys spend in court waiting for hearings and trials. That in turn is saving money for all dependency system participants.



*Before the scheduling change, some cases from each dependency office were heard on most court days*

The state's dependency social workers for King County are based in multiple offices serving different sections of the county. Previously some cases from each office were heard on most court days, meaning staff from each office had to appear in court every day. Now with the scheduling change, each office is given its own dedicated day in court, and social workers from other offices generally do not need to be in court on those days. Less court time means more client time for social workers. The Attorney General's Office has experienced similar benefits.

## UW Study Documents Success of Family Treatment Court

The King County Family Treatment Court (FTC) improves parent substance abuse treatment and child welfare outcomes, say researchers at the University of Washington. The FTC is an alternative to the regular dependency court for families whose child abuse and neglect charges are related to parental substance abuse. When compared to similar parents in the regular dependency court, the UW study found that parents in the FTC:

- Were 63% more likely to be admitted to substance abuse treatment;
- Were more likely to comply with treatment;
- Received a broader array of treatment services;
- Stayed in treatment more than twice as long; and
- Were 37% more likely to be successfully discharged from treatment.

The study also found that children in the FTC:

- Spent 1/3 less time in out-of-home placements;
- Spent less time in the system overall; and
- Were 70% more likely to be returned home.

For more information, please visit the [Family Treatment Court webpage](#) or contact the court at (206) 205-9340.



*Judge Patricia Clark applauds success in the Family Treatment Court.*

## Court Holds Second Annual Reunification Celebration

Every year in King County, hundreds of families reunify through the dependency process. Reunification takes work and requires commitment from parents, family members, social workers, attorneys, the court, and the community. Celebrating reunification means celebrating the accomplishments of parents who have overcome an array of challenges to reunify safely and successfully with their children.

On June 17, 2011, the court held its second annual 'Celebrate Reunification' event in the Laser Dome at Seattle's Pacific Science Center (PSC). Twelve of the court's judicial officers joined attorneys, social workers, guardians, and court staff to congratulate the fourteen reunified families present and all reunified families everywhere for their success. The event concluded with a laser show and reception generously provided by event sponsors. Afterwards, families were able to tour all exhibits at the PSC.



## Court Holds 'Justice at Work' Open House

On February 8, 2011, Superior Court and District Court co-hosted the 'Justice at Work' open house in the King County Courthouse. Attendees first gathered in the Presiding Courtroom, where they had an opportunity to visit information tables and learn about court programs. Following comments from Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard McDermott and District Court Presiding Judge Barbara Linde, attendees either visited courts and program offices on their own or as part of a guided tour. Guided tours visited Superior Court's Adult Drug Court, the Superior Court Clerk's Office, and District Court's Mental Health Court. A question and answer session concluded the day.



More than 100 people attended the open house, including representatives from the state and local bar, the County Executive's Office and County Council, the Seattle Mayor's Office and City Council, students, attorneys, and other King County residents.

*Open House attendees had an opportunity to visit with program staff to learn about King County's court programs.*



## County Executive “Walks in the Shoes” of Court Interpreters

King County’s “Walk in the Shoes of a County Employee” competition gives county employees a chance to show Executive Constantine what they do in their average workdays. To enter the competition, employees submit an invitation describing how their position contributes to the success of their agency and why their job is important to King County residents. Executive Constantine selects winners personally.

In 2011, the Executive selected Superior Court’s Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) as a “Walk in the Shoes...” site from among 135 entries. After a tour of the office and an overview of the Interpreter Services program, Executive Constantine enjoyed a brown bag lunch with OIS staff, Chief Civil Judge Laura Inveen, and twelve interpreters from around the world. Judge Inveen described how this program has evolved since 1992 and the role it plays in every aspect of Superior Court life. The lunch was a terrific opportunity for the Executive to ask questions and hear from staff and interpreters about the work they do. After lunch, the Executive spent time in the Chief Criminal courtroom and went to several other areas where interpreters were working. He was able



*OIS Manager Martha Cohen gives Executive Constantine an overview of the Office of Interpreter Services .*



*Executive Constantine meets with OIS staff and interpreters to ask questions about the program.*

to observe a variety of events and even saw how last minute emergencies were handled.

The visit was valuable, not only for the staff and interpreters, but also for the Executive, who got a first-hand look at Superior Court in operation. The visit was timely, as 2010 Census information highlighting the diversity of our region had just been released. Soon after his visit, Executive Constantine sent a handwritten note to the OIS staff thanking them all for the opportunity to learn about this important program.

## Clerk's Office Implements eServices Help Desk



Over the past several years, more and more Clerk's Office services have been made available online. Hundreds of thousands of court documents now are filed electronically each year. The vast majority of court customers either view court records online, using the Electronic Court Records Online application, or submit requests for copies of documents online, using the Electronic Records Request application. Judicial "working copies" may be submitted via the eWorking Copies application. Parties filing Ex Parte documents via the Clerk may now use the eEx Parte via the Clerk application.



With the expansion of electronic services, the Clerk's Office has added a specialized customer support service known as the "eServices Help Desk." The Help Desk can assist customers with any of the electronic services listed above. The Help Desk handles nearly 2,000 requests for assistance each month and can be reached at (206) 205-1600 or [eServices@kingcounty.gov](mailto:eServices@kingcounty.gov).



The Clerk's Office also operates a "Correspondence Help Desk," which specifically supports customers using the Electronic Records Request application. The Correspondence Help Desk can be reached at (206) 296-7859 or [clerksofficecorrespondencedesk@kingcounty.gov](mailto:clerksofficecorrespondencedesk@kingcounty.gov).



## Clerk's Office Offers CLE Workshop for Attorneys and Legal Staff

Six times per year, supervisors and subject matter experts from the Clerk's Office and Superior Court share practice tips, suggestions on how to avoid common problems, and 'how-to' procedural information with attorneys and legal staff attending the Clerk's Office CLE Workshop.

The workshop provides customers with a behind-the-scenes view of document processing and exhibit management, information on the Clerk's financial and courtroom services, demonstrations of the eFiling and ECR Online applications, a look at court programs such as Arbitration or Family Court Services, and much more.

The workshop also gives attendees an opportunity to offer suggestions and comments based on their own experiences as customers. Process improvement suggestions are encouraged and often implemented. For more information, visit the [Clerk's Office CLE Workshop webpage](#).



*The Clerk's Office CLE Workshop is offered six times each year.*



## Clerk's Office Begins Rewrite of Electronic Court Records System

The Electronic Court Records system, or ECR, is the system the Clerk's Office uses to maintain most court records. Each day, the Clerk's Office receives roughly 8,000 new filings, or 50,000 pages of new court documents. ECR allows the Clerk to maintain these documents in an electronic format, either by receiving them electronically initially, or by scanning them into the ECR system. This greatly enhances user access to documents and promotes document security.

ECR originally was developed in 1999 and is approaching its end-of-life. The system is based on outdated technology that is neither stable nor easy to support. It also cannot be adapted to meet the current or anticipated business needs of the public, the court, and other user groups.

In 2011, the Clerk's Office began a two-year project to "rewrite" the core of the ECR system. The Clerk's Office hired a project manager and began preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) late in the year. In 2012, the Clerk's Office expected to publish the RFP, evaluate proposals, and choose the vendor that can deliver the best possible product.



Also in 2011, the Clerk's Office developed an online ECR Program Library to house information about the history of ECR. In 2007, the Clerk's Office received the 'Innovations in American Government Award' for its ECR system from Harvard University's Ash Institute. As a national model for court records management, the Clerk's Office receives many requests for information from jurisdictions interested in ECR. The new [online library](#) makes it easier for interested parties to learn how the system was developed and implemented.

## Clerk's Office Places Fee Waiver Information Online

In 2011 Superior Court and the Clerk's Office completed a comprehensive review of their court fee reduction and fee waiver policies. The purpose of this review was to ensure that court customers had streamlined access to information about this service.

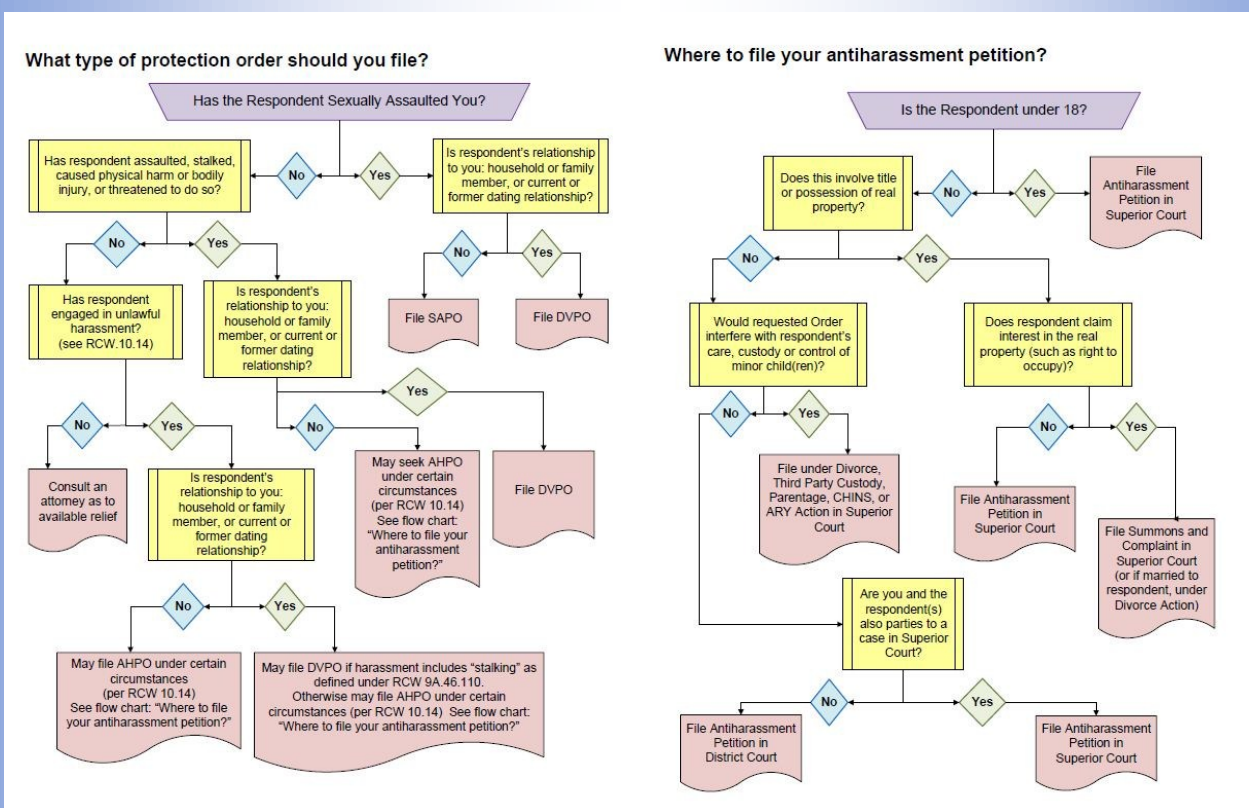
As a result of this work, the Court and Clerk's Office developed a [Fee Information Webpage](#) where customers can access fee waiver information easily. This page lists all court fees for which a waiver option is available and further links the customer to the forms and information necessary to request a waiver for each type of fee.



## Clerk's Office Helps Create Tool for Protection Order Applicants

In July 2011, amendments to the state's Anti-Harassment statutes took effect. With some exceptions, most Anti-Harassment cases now are filed in King County District Court.

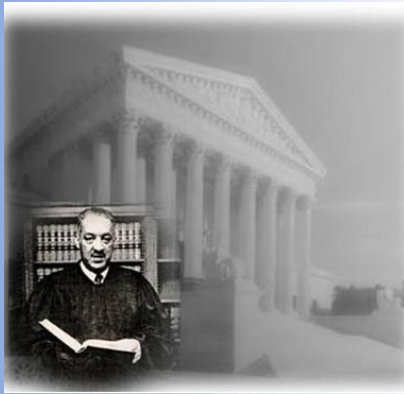
To help court customers understand this jurisdictional change and navigate the multiple protection order options, the Court, the Clerk's Office, and the State Administrative Office for the Courts (AOC) worked together to develop two decisional aid flowcharts. Through a series of understandable questions, the flowcharts help customers determine what type of protection order they should file and help those who need to file an Anti-Harassment petition determine where to file it. The flowcharts are available on the Clerk's [Protection Order webpage](#).



## Clerk's Office Changes Office Hours to Accommodate Budget Reductions

At the beginning of 2011, the Clerk's Office began opening a half hour later in the morning and closing for one hour during the middle of the day. Office hours now run from 9:00am-12:15pm and from 1:15-4:30pm. The Clerk's customer service phone lines and emails also are not answered during the midday break. These changes were implemented to reduce operating costs and accommodate recent budget reductions.

## Court Celebrates Black History Month and the Legacy of Justice Marshall



In 2011, Superior Court celebrated the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall and other African American jurists in a new way. In previous years, area high schools were invited to send representative youth to the courthouse to enjoy performing art, spoken word, and keynote recognitions of the contributions of Justice Marshall. For 2011, the court encouraged schools to host a special assembly or classroom discussion on Justice Marshall's legacy and offered to send a judge to speak with students. Ten schools submitted requests for speakers, and all requests were filled. Response from schools was overwhelmingly positive. Several schools immediately submitted repeat requests for 2012.

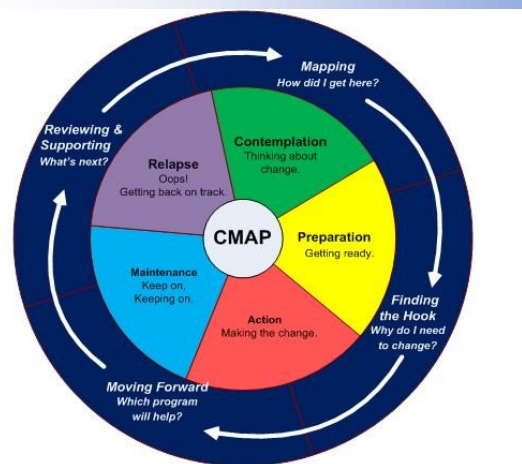
## Engaging Youth Through CMAP Promotes Lasting Change

Years of research and program evaluation have shown what works with at-risk youth and families. Compliance with a checklist of court ordered requirements often does not result in lasting change. Success is more likely to occur when there is a relationship between a youth and a counselor.

Washington State uses the Case Management Assessment Process (CMAP) to develop the case plan for each probation youth. Beginning with the first interview, the probation counselor conducts an assessment that identifies the youth's "risk factors." These are behaviors that have brought the youth in contact with the law. Simultaneously, the probation counselor identifies the youth's "protective factors" – behaviors that, if strengthened, will help the youth do better.

Perhaps most importantly, the probation counselor seeks to engage the youth through the assessment process – to get the youth to open up and talk about problems and past behavior. Most youth have mixed feelings, knowing they should change but not knowing how. It is the role of the probation counselor to get the youth ready to change and to show them how change might be possible.

Probation is no longer all about short-term compliance but building long-term change with lasting positive outcomes. Unlike outdated correctional models that depend heavily on sanctions and punishment, approaches like CMAP which embrace evidence-based programs and risk/needs assessments are proving effective and cost-efficient, introducing a stronger rehabilitative emphasis, and helping to reduce recidivism.



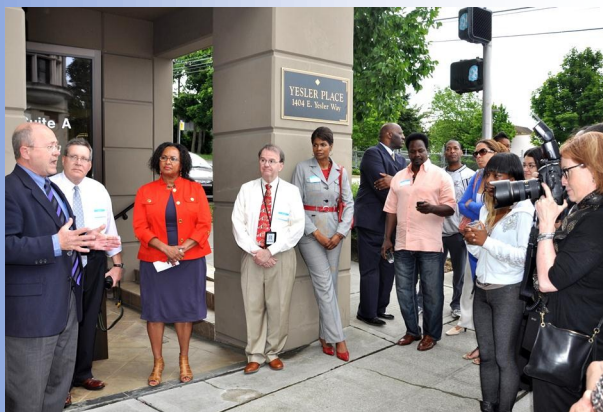
## Juvenile Justice Assessment Team Moves Closer to Community It Serves

In July 2011, the Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT) moved into new office space at Yesler and 14th in Seattle – just down the street from the Juvenile Court. The move was celebrated with an open house. Approximately 150 people from the court and community attended the event.

The JJAT provides mental health and chemical dependency assessments, psychological evaluation and testing, and psychiatric services to court-involved youth. It is estimated that between 70 and 80 percent of youth who come in contact with the juvenile justice system are affected by



*New JJAT Location—14th & Yesler*



*Juvenile Court Director Bruce Knutson welcomes visitors to the JJAT opening ceremony.*

substance abuse or mental health issues. Between 75 and 90 percent have experienced some degree of trauma – double the rate for American children overall. Between 25 and 30 percent suffer from mental health challenges that impact their ability to function. The JJAT evaluates more than 1000 youth each year and links them to appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment services.

The JJAT's new community-based location makes it easier for youth to meet with counselors for evaluation and treatment service referral. For more information, please call (206) 205-9737.

## Youth on Probation Flourish in Education Employment Training Program

The Community Programs Unit in Juvenile Probation works to enhance education, community service, employment, and victim restitution opportunities for court-involved youth. The Unit offers programs that help youth leave probation with an increased understanding of themselves and of their communities.

Education Employment Training (EET) is one such program. EET provides job readiness training to help youth establish pre-employment skills. Then the program places youth in paid internships made available by public and private sector businesses. Many youth respond well to the responsibility of work and also have a chance to receive praise. Successful internships often lead to improved performance in school and in other areas of their lives.



## Juvenile Court Opens Clothing Bank for Court-Involved Youth

In late 2011, the court opened Kids Closet at its Juvenile Court facility. Kids Closet is a clothing bank for youth and families involved with the juvenile justice system. Economic pressures in recent years have forced greater numbers of probation youth into poverty. Many do not have sufficient access to food, clothing, housing, and other essentials. To help address the need for clothing, a group of staff, working in partnership with Juvenile Detention Ministry and Saint James Cathedral, began volunteering their time to create Kids Closet.

The clothing bank accepts new and slightly used clothing, and support has come from many sources. Nordstrom donated clothing racks and hangers; King County employees and the greater Seattle faith community have donated clothing and shelving; and the equipment needed to create a changing area came from a probation counselor. Youth in the Work Crew Program are responsible for sorting, organizing, inventorying, and managing the donations.



Most youth access the clothing bank at the suggestion of their probation counselor. Probation counselors often report that the youth in their care lack appropriate clothing for school, work, and other purposes. Receiving assistance from the clothing bank, and being able to improve their outward appearance, often makes these youth more willing to work with their counselors to set positive goals and turn those goals into action. If you would like to make a donation to Kids Closet, please call (206) 205-9621 or email [kidcloset@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kidcloset@kingcounty.gov).

## PCB Remediation Completed at Juvenile Court

In 2010, King County discovered PCBs in Superior Court's Juvenile Court facility. PCBs are industrial compounds which can be hazardous to health, and which have been banned in the United States since the late 1970s. Remediation actions were undertaken to prevent long-term PCB exposure.

In order to complete the remediation work, several Juvenile Court functions were temporarily relocated to the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle. This included status offender matters (truancy, At-Risk Youth, and Child in Need of Services petitions) and juvenile dependency.

In August 2011, status offender matters returned to the Juvenile Court facility. Juvenile dependency returns to the facility in early 2012.



## Superior Court Recognizes Exceptional Employees

Each year, Superior Court recognizes one court employee at each of its three locations who represents the high standards that all court staff aspire to achieve. Nominated by judges, court supervisors, or their peers, these staff:

- Offer new, innovative ideas for improving service and efficiency;
- Go above and beyond the call of duty;
- Are exceptionally courteous and helpful; and
- Demonstrate outstanding reliability in the workplace.

In 2011, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:

**King County Courthouse (Seattle): Katherine Glenn.** Katherine works in the court's Jury Services Division, where she helps welcome and assist nearly 650 citizen jurors every week. Katherine is the face of Superior Court for many jurors, who consistently report a high level of satisfaction with their experience as jurors. Many go out of their way to let Katherine and her managers know how helpful Katherine has been. Her warmth, her respect for all people, and her sense of humor are frequently highlighted. Her co-workers laud her flexibility, her will-do attitude, and her willingness to ensure that the court's mission is met.



Katherine Glenn



Melinda Johnson-Taylor

**Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Melinda Johnson-Taylor.** Melinda is an Early Resolution Case Manager (ERCM), who assists litigants and the court in resolving family law matters. She mediates parenting plan disputes, runs child support calculations, conducts research, and prepares final court documents, and she has helped more cases settle without trial than those working with her can count. Her co-workers report that she displays an outstanding mixture of efficiency, professionalism, and compassion and that she quickly gains the trust of all who cross her path. Melinda was the court's first ERCM, and she has served as a valuable resource and role model for those who have come after her.

**Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Michelle Wyman.** Michelle works at the sign-in desk for people attending Juvenile Court hearings, so often she is the first person a court visitor comes in contact with after passing through security. Attorneys, social workers, her supervisors, and her co-workers report that she is a treasure trove of information on resources both inside and outside the building and consistently directs people to the appropriate service. They also report that she can be counted on for a smile, even when her surroundings are hectic. She goes out of her way to make the court less stressful for everyone involved.



Michelle Wyman

Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition award include:

- **2010** – Kirby Pierce (Seattle); Desiree Canter, Paige Hacke, and Nicole Bynum (Kent); and Michelle Mihail (Juvenile Court)
- **2009** – Michael Kim (Seattle); Gina Reyes (Kent); and Dominick Beck (Juvenile Court)

## Superior Court Budget

2011 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship & probate staff, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (39.4%)	\$19,331,764
Juvenile Court	Includes judges, bailiffs, court coordinators, probation and treatment services, Juvenile Drug Court, Reclaiming Futures, Partnership for Youth Justice, and Truancy and At-Risk Youth programs. (27.4%)	\$13,407,275
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, computer services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (15.7%)	\$7,687,738
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Dependency CASA, and Early Resolution Case Management programs. (13.3%)	\$6,496,276
Jurors & Interpreters	Includes interpreter staff, payments to interpreters, jury staff, and payments to jurors. (4.3%)	\$2,097,003
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$49,020,056</b>

2011 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$38,873,212	79.3%
Revenues & Fees for Service	\$5,319,263	10.9%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$4,827,581	9.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,020,056</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Department of Judicial Administration Budget

2011 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow & Clerks	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination.	\$4,806,653
Records & Finance	Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies.	\$4,475,323
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies at Juvenile and MRJC.	\$4,829,323
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, program management, and support services for the adult drug court program.	\$1,465,587
Administration	Includes admin staff, human resources, computer services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, witness payments, statistics and dependency publication costs.	\$4,603,231
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$20,180,117</b>

2011 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$20,180,117	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,180,117</b>	<b>100%</b>

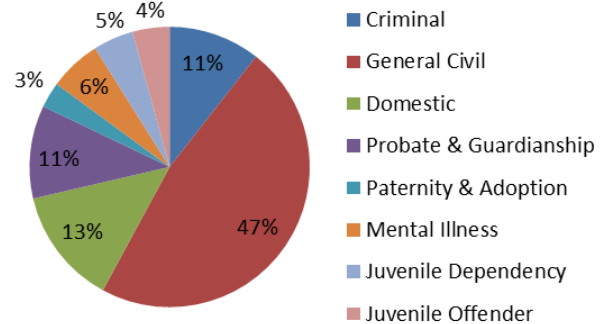


## Superior Court Caseload & Performance

### Case Filings

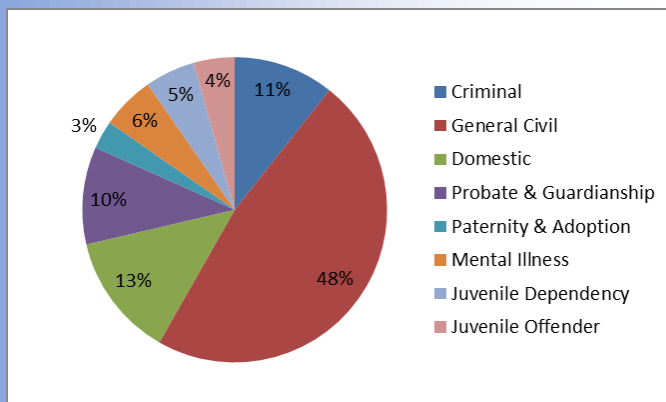
In 2011, a total of 58,337 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 2.4% from 2010. Criminal, Juvenile Dependency (which includes status offenders), and Juvenile Offender filings fell, while Mental Illness filings rose. In addition, 14,799 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2011	Change from 2010
Criminal	6,177	-10.0%
General Civil	27,599	-0.4%
Domestic	7,865	0.2%
Probate & Guardianship	6,254	2.6%
Paternity & Adoption	1,727	-7.9%
Mental Illness	3,506	14.6%
Juvenile Dependency	2,713	-9.5%
Juvenile Offender	2,496	-25.6%
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>58,337</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>



### Case Resolutions

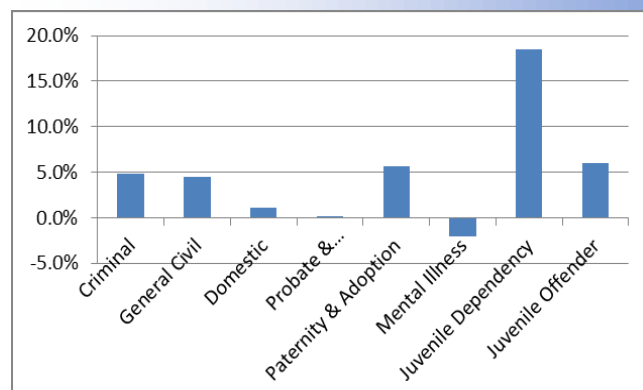
In 2011, the court resolved a total of 60,652 cases. Although case resolutions were down 2.2% from 2010, resolutions exceeded case filings in 2011 by roughly 4%.



Case Type	2011	Change from 2010
Criminal	6,472	-4.0%
General Civil	28,850	-0.4%
Domestic	7,952	2.2%
Probate & Guardianship	6,259	1.5%
Paternity & Adoption	1,825	-8.2%
Mental Illness	3,434	11.8%
Juvenile Dependency	3,215	-15.8%
Juvenile Offender	2,645	-23.8%
<b>Total Resolutions</b>	<b>60,652</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>

### Clearance Rate

Clearance rate describes the relationship between case filings and case resolutions. A positive rate means more cases were resolved in a particular category than were filed. Ideally, the number of cases resolved would equal the number of cases filed; however, fluctuations in filing rates cause annual variations.

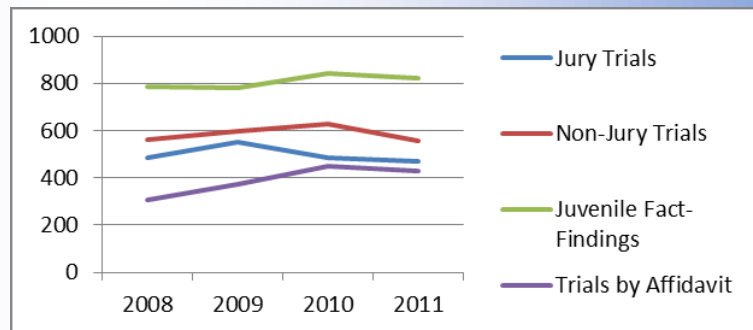


## Superior Court Caseload & Performance

### Trial Activity

Trial activity broke from its recent upward trend in 2011. The 2,276 trials conducted in 2011 represent a 5.4% decrease from the number of trials conducted in 2010.

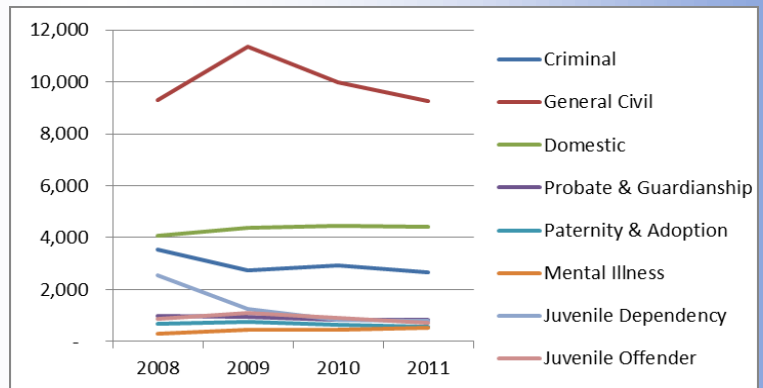
Trial Category	2011
Jury Trials	470
Non-Jury Trials	556
Juvenile Fact-Findings	823
Trials by Affidavit	427
<b>Total Trials</b>	<b>2,276</b>



### Total Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2011, 19,797 cases were pending, a decrease of roughly 6% from 2010.

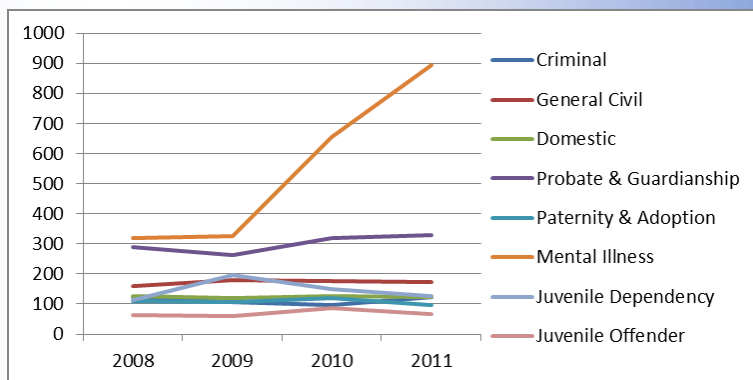
Case Type	2011
Criminal	2,681
General Civil	9,272
Domestic	4,421
Probate & Guardianship	820
Paternity & Adoption	569
Mental Illness	530
Juvenile Dependency	781
Juvenile Offender	723
<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	<b>19,797</b>



### Age of Active Pending Caseload

The age of active pending caseload may be measured in a variety of ways. Here it is measured as the median age of active cases (in days) in each primary filing category as of December 31, 2011.

Case Type	2011
Criminal	122
General Civil	174
Domestic	122
Probate & Guardianship	329
Paternity & Adoption	97
Mental Illness	894
Juvenile Dependency	125
Juvenile Offender	66
<b>Median for All Active Pending Caseload</b>	<b>149</b>



## COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Paul Sherfey  
Dep. Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge  
Policy Analyst David Reynolds  
Facility and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos  
Facilities Specialist Rodrigo Jacinto  
Kirby Pierce  
Confidential Secretary II Angelina Jimeno  
Tech. Info. Processing Spec. II Katie Loberstein  
Administrative Specialist III Mei Barker  
Customer Service Specialist II Pamela Carson

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Business & Finance Manager Steve Davis  
Business & Finance Officer II Terri Bayless  
Fiscal Specialist III Lynn Blakslee  
Fiscal Specialist II Guy Brook  
Czar Peralta  
Administrative Specialist II Gary Cutler  
Office Assistant Kristan Johnson

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources Manager Minerva Villarreal  
Senior Human Resources Analyst Judith Hullett  
Human Resources Analyst Gertrude Fuentes  
Administrative Specialist III Mei Barker

### JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Director of Judicial Administration Barbara Miner

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Director Lea Ennis  
IT Operations Supervisor Kevin Daggett  
IT Applications Supervisor Hugh Kim  
Senior Database Administrator Rita Napitupulu  
Senior LAN Administrator Chair-Li Chang  
Ted Shaw  
Web/Applications Developer Doug Buckmeier  
Senior Desktop Support Technician Michelle Croy  
Desktop Support Technician Michael Kim  
Business Analyst Montine Rummel  
IT Project Manager Roycee Hasuko

## JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Director of Juvenile Court Services Bruce Knutson  
Confidential Secretary I Kathy Santucci  
Juvenile Probation Manager Susan Waild  
Juvenile Services Manager Steve Gustaveson  
Juvenile Treatment Services Mgr Mark Wirschem  
Project Program Manager III Teddi Edington  
Project Program Manager II Pat Ford Campbell

### JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

Court Operations Supervisor Jacqui Arrington  
Case Setting Coordinator Katie Davidson  
Court Program Specialist II Elaine Deines  
Carolyn Coleman  
Nichole Rodriguez  
Michelle Wyman

### AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS

Program Manager Jan Solomon  
Case Management Specialist Amy Andree  
Karen Chapman  
Court Program Specialist II Melody Edmiston

### EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH

Youth Program Coordinator Susie Bridges Weber

### JUVENILE DRUG COURT

Supervisor Steve Noble  
Community Outreach Liaison Roland Akers  
Juvenile Program Service Coord. Josalyn Conley  
Juvenile Probation Counselor Tracy Dixon  
Yvette Gaston  
Lisa Gistarb  
Diane Korf  
Administrative Specialist III Karen Lanpher

### FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Supervisor Jill Murphy  
Family Treatment Specialist Cathy Lehmann  
Court Program Specialist II Dajani Henderson  
Treatment Liaison Michelle Szozda  
Parent to Parent Program Coord. Kimberly Mays

### JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Social Worker/Assess. Team Coord. William Schipp  
Psychologist Dr. Michael Archer

### PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Area Manager-Lead Shirley Noble  
Area Manager Matthew David  
Administrative Specialist II Estrellita Buza  
Sheila Singleton  
Fiscal Specialist II Paula Moses



## JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

### RECORDS UNIT

Administrative Specialist IV	Joanne Moore-Miller
Administrative Specialist II	Teresa Chandler
	Chris Hong
	Gail Nichols
	Darien Riffe

### SCREENING UNIT

JPC Supervisor	Tom Archer
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Fred Aulava
	Elaine Evans
	Todd Foster
	Geri Horrobin
	Lee Lim
	Claudia Scipio
	Dianna Quall
	Kendra Morgan
WACIC Data Coordinator	Dominick Beck

### CONSOLIDATED INTAKE UNIT

JPC Supervisor	Gene Dupuis
Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Karla Powelson
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Dan Baxter
	Michael Bowles
	Christy Cochran
	Kelly DePhelps
	Bryan Fry
	Dede Gartrell
	Bruce Gourley
	Elizabeth Higgins
	Christine Kahikina
	Yoko Maeshiro
	Shelley Moore
	Gabrielle Pagano
	Mai Tran
Administrative Specialist I	Joyce Chan
	Phillip Palana

### CITY UNIT

JPC Supervisor	Tony Peguero
Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Karen Austin
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Bill Bodick
	Cecilia Camino
	Daryl Cerdinio
	Jeremy Crowe
	Paul Daniels
	Melinda Fischer
	Kiersten Knutson
Juvenile Services Technician	Jason Canfield
Administrative Specialist I	Danielle Kidd

### NORTHEAST UNIT

JPC Supervisor	Melissa Sprague
Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Kris Brady
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Norm Charouhas
	Dawn Closs
	Dan Higgins
	Pat Hunziker-Pepoy
	Randy Kok
	Gideon Oyeleke
	Kelli Sullivan
Administrative Specialist I	Renee Olin

### SOUTH I UNIT – RENTON

JPC Supervisor	JoeAnne Taylor
Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Staci Delgado
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Darlin Johnson
	Michelle Mihail
	Francisca Madera
	Debra Stuckman
	Ron Tarnow
	Mike West
Administrative Specialist I	Pat Durr

### SOUTH II UNIT – FEDERAL WAY

JPC Supervisor	Kelli Lauritzen
Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Diane Rayburn
Juvenile Probation Counselor	Yvonne Clemente-Smith
	Michelle Higa
	Rachel Hubert
	Rebecca Kirkland
	Rob Legge
	Patricia Nilsson
	Gwen Spears
Administrative Specialist I	Julie Stansberry

### EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS/

#### INTERN-STUDENT UNIT

Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead	Rosemary Fraine
Administrative Specialist III	Julie Allen

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Community Programs Supervisor	Verne Rainey
Education/Employment Specialist	Mark Farrell
	John Leers
	Guy McWhorter
	Denise Ozeri
	Hiroko Vargas
	Dawn Nannini
Administrative Specialist III	Dorcas Olegario

## COURT OPERATIONS

Court Operations Director	Kathryn Schipper
Court Operations Manager, Kent	Sandy Ogilvie
Administrative Specialist IV	Cynthia Williams
Court Operations Spec II – Floater	Lauretta Watson
Calendar/Staffing Specialist	Marsha Kishida
Customer Service Specialist II	Julie Espinoza

### JURY DEPARTMENT

Jury Services Manager	Greg Wheeler
Customer Service Specialist III	Irene Szczerba
Customer Service Specialist II	Katherine Glenn
	Heidi Bugni

### INTERPRETER SERVICES

Program Manager	Martha Cohen
Assistant Program Manager	Susana Stettri-Sawrey
Court Operations Specialist II	Charlotte Taylor
Customer Service Specialist III	Hakim Lakhal
	Cheryl Spriggs
	Maya Valladao-Jeffrey
Interpreter	Amy Andrews

### CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

Criminal Case Manager	John Salamony
Court Operations Supervisor I	Erica Conway
	Barbara Winter
Criminal Calendar Coordinator II	Carla Gaber
	Bonnie Larson
Criminal Court Info. Proc. Spec.	Karen Igo
Court Operations Specialist II	Sumi Enebrad
Customer Service Specialist II	Susan Wells

### CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Civil Case Manager	Heiti Milnor-Lewis
Court Operations Supervisor II	Imee Crisostomo
Court Operations Specialist II	Pamela Oldham
	John Rodenberg

### ARBITRATION DEPARTMENT

Court Operations Supervisor II	Charlotte Daugherty
Court Operations Specialist II	Trisha Del Valle

### EX PARTE & PROBATE DEPARTMENT

Case Mgr – Probate/Guardianship	Beth Custer
Guardianship GAL	Keith Thomson

### COURT REPORTERS

Stephen Broscheid	Bridget O'Donnell
Dana Butler	Dolores Rawlins
Marci Chatelain	Joseph Richling
Jodi Dean	Sheri Runnels
Kimberly Girgus	Rhonda Salvesen
Janet Hoffman	Jim Stach
Joanne Leatiota	Michael Townsend Jr.
Kevin Moll	Michelle Vitrano
Michael O'Brien	

### BAILIFFS

Carole Allen	Shayna Israel
Angela Ashley-Smith	Teresa Jackson
Dave Bandstra	Gabby Jacobson
April Bishop	Renee Janes
Larry Brown	Nyoka Jeffrey
Jonathan Bussey	Monica Jones
Elizza Byrd	Daniel Kenny
Robert Byrne	Lee Kwiecinski
Ava Chen	Kelli Northrup
Jennie Cowan	Teri Novorolsky
Lati Culverson	Marci Parducci
Cheryl Cunningham	Tikecha Pearson
Leah Daniels	Mary Radley
Katheryne Davis	Ricki Reese
Maria Diga	Nikki Riley
Laura Dorris	Christine Robinson
Erica Eshpeter	Natalia Sanoja
Aaron Everett	Ryan Solomon
Jill Gerontis	Linda Tran
Alice Gilliam	Sherri Tye
Monica Gillum	Jacqueline Ware
Judy Hansen	Loyce Weishaar
Kenya Hart	Kim Whittle
George Haynes	Helen Woodke
Salina Hill	Peggy Wu
Greg Howard	Lisa Zimnisky

## FAMILY COURT OPERATIONS

<i>Director</i>	Jorene Reiber
<i>Family Court Operations Mgr</i>	Merle Redd-Jones
<i>Early Resolution Case Managers</i>	Jessica Barrett
	Melinda Johnson Taylor
	Christina Luera
	Jamie Perry
<i>ERCM Paralegal</i>	Charles McElearney
<i>Fam/Juv Ct. Imp. Proj. Prog. Spec.</i>	Ryan Murrey
<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Kiese Wilburn
<i>Administrative Specialist IV</i>	Demetrius Devers
	Amanda Peterson
	Sathia Vann
<i>Fiscal Specialist III</i>	Julie A. Allen
	Bryan Ivanich

### FAMILY COURT SERVICES

<i>Program Manager</i>	Rachael DelVillar
<i>Asst. Program Manager</i>	Connor Lenz
<i>Dependency Mediator</i>	Melissa Bartholomew
<i>Social Worker</i>	Jennifer Bercot
	Emily Brewer
	Daryl Buckendahl
	Nicole Bynum
	Desiree Canter
	Edward Greenleaf
	Paige Hacke
	Marina Horsting
	Debra Hunter
	Kathleen Kennelly
<i>Adoption Paralegal</i>	VACANT
<i>Customer Service Specialist III</i>	Nina Huggins-Irving
	Tracey White
<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Brooklyn Adams
	VACANT

### FAMILY LAW

<i>Family Law Coordinator</i>	Danielle Anderson
	Rita Amaro
	Mary Bromberger
	Tiffany Klein
	Catherine Kuvac
	Gina Reyes
	Rianne Rubright

### DEPENDENCY CASA

<i>Program Manager</i>	Lisa Petersen
<i>Asst. Program Manager</i>	Carolyn Frimpter
	Janet Horton
	Peggy Larson
	Wai-Ping Li-Landis
	Don Miner
	Emma Puro
	Cheryl Retic
	Deanna Watson
	Lucyle Wooden
<i>Program Attorney Lead</i>	Lori Irwin
<i>Program Attorney</i>	Kathryn Barnhouse
	Kathleen Martin
	Heidi Nagel
<i>Attorney Guardian ad Litem</i>	April Rivera
<i>Pro Bono CASA Assignment Tech</i>	Janet Mayberry
<i>Paralegal</i>	Kathleen McCormack
	Vickey Wilson
<i>Administrative Specialist II</i>	Carolyn Bustamante
	Kathleen Hasslinger
	Charlene Kern
	Joyce Stockman

### FAMILY LAW FACILITATORS

<i>Court Operations Supervisor I</i>	Teresa Koza
<i>Facilitator</i>	Jeanne Bento
	Nhu Dinh
	Kristen Gabel
	Rose Morrison
	Monica Osborn
<i>Intake Specialist</i>	Laura Contreras
	Fabian Fereshtefar

### UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

<i>Civil Case Specialist</i>	Stacy Keen
	Sarah Williams Olson





King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98104-2312  
(206) 296-9100

**The mission of King County Superior Court is to serve the public by ensuring justice through accessible and effective forums for the fair, just, understandable and timely resolution of legal matters.**

Juvenile Court  
1211 East Alder  
Seattle, Washington 98122

Maleng Regional Justice Center  
401 Fourth Avenue North  
Kent, Washington 98032-4429

Special Thanks to:  
Katie Loberstein—Photographs  
David Reynolds—Editor  
Angelina Jimeno—Designer

