

King County Superior Court 2012 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 2012 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find this informative and useful.

In 2012, King County voters approved construction of a new Children and Family Justice Center to replace the aging Youth Services Center in Seattle. In the new facility, the court will be able to solve efficiency and safety concerns caused by courtroom and lobby overcrowding in the current building. The new facility also will have the space to provide modern juvenile and family justice services proven to produce positive outcomes. The court looks forward to working with all branches of county government, with service providers, and with community stakeholders as we design and build a state-of-the-art justice facility for our youth and families.

In 2012, the court also found innovative new ways to work with our community partners. Our Juvenile Court division continued its outreach efforts with the Somali community. More than 150 Somali parents attended one workshop in Kent where they learned how the Juvenile Court works, and many more Somali parents attended workshops at other locations. Our Courts and Community Committee sponsored a CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocate) recruitment effort through area churches, minority bar associations, and other groups. CASAs are citizen volunteers who speak for children in family law and juvenile dependency cases. And staff at the Juvenile Court partnered with dozens of businesses, churches, nonprofits, and citizens to collect donated clothes for the court's new clothing bank, called Kids Closet. These are just a few of our partnership efforts.

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, CASAs, and in other capacities. I want to thank the King County Bar Association for its steadfast support of court-based services. And I want to commend the professionalism and generosity 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 – 2012 Summary Statistics:

- General jurisdiction trial court
- Serves the 14th most populous county in the nation
- Handled a caseload of almost 55,000 new cases in 2012
- 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 11 commissioners
- Is supported by 311 Superior Court staff and 216 Department of Judicial Administration staff



Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2012, King County Superior Court implemented new services, promoted efficiencies, and worked to ensure access to the court. In the pages that follow, you will read about our many accomplishments for the year, including articles on the following topics:

Dependency Early Resolution Case Managers (Dependency ERCMs). In 2012, the court implemented a new program to help resolve juvenile dependency cases sooner. Dependency ERCMs are available to help with parenting plans and other family law matters related to dependency cases. This helps close these cases and eliminates unnecessary hearings.

Electronic Court Records. In 2012, the Superior Court Clerk's Office began working with a technology vendor to "rewrite" the core of its Electronic Court Records (ECR) system. Developed in 1999, this critical system is approaching the end of its viable life. The rewrite will greatly increase the stability of the ECR system and protect the millions of records it holds.

Court Technology. The court reached a number of technology milestones in 2012. The court installed digital reader boards at its three primary court facilities. The boards make it possible to display real-time information about hearings and trials in each courthouse. The court continued to consolidate case management functions into a single technology system. This creates efficiencies for system users and for our technology team. The court initiated a project to convert all paper probation records into an electronic format. As with Electronic Court Records, this will facilitate access to records and ensure file integrity. The court also launched electronic orders, or "eOrders," at its Juvenile Court location. These orders are able to share information with our case management system and can be filed directly into ECR.

Celebrations. Finally, the court had a number of opportunities to celebrate with families, volunteers, and community partners in 2012. The court celebrated 35 years of Dependency CASA, a program that began in King County and now has expanded to nearly 1,000 jurisdictions across the country. At our 3rd Annual Reunification Day event, we celebrated the hard work of families who reunify through the juvenile dependency process. And at our 11th Annual National Adoption Day event, we celebrated the many families who came to court in 2012 to complete adoptions.

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 truancies*
- *Mental illness and involuntary commitment matters*

Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2012

Sharon S. Armstrong <i>Appointed, 1985</i>	Patricia H. Clark <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	Gregory P. Canova <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Monica J. Benton <i>Appointed 2008</i>
Carol A. Schapira <i>Elected, 1989</i>	Dean S. Lum <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	Cheryl B. Carey <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Regina S. Cahan <i>Elected 2009</i>
William L. Downing <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Ronald Kessler <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	John P. Erlick <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Mariane C. Spearman <i>Elected 2009</i>
Joan E. DuBuque <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Palmer Robinson <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Laura G. Middaugh <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Timothy A. Bradshaw <i>Elected 2009</i>
LeRoy McCullough <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Helen L. Halpert <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Harry J. McCarthy <i>Appointed, 2002</i>	Hollis R. Hill <i>Elected 2009</i>
Laura C. Inveen <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	James Doerty <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Mary E. Roberts <i>Appointed, 2003</i>	Barbara A. Mack <i>Elected 2009</i>
Deborah D. Fleck <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	Julie A. Spector <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	J. Wesley Saint Clair <i>Appointed, 2004</i>	Jean A. Rietschel <i>Appointed 2010</i>
Michael C. Hayden <i>Elected, 1992</i>	Richard F. McDermott <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Andrea A. Darvas <i>Elected, 2005</i>	Beth M. Andrus <i>Appointed 2010</i>
Brian D. Gain <i>Elected, 1993</i>	Mary I. Yu <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Theresa B. Doyle <i>Elected, 2005</i>	Patrick H. Oishi <i>Appointed 2011</i>
Richard D. Eadie <i>Appointed, 1995</i>	Bruce W. Hilyer <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Christopher A. Washington <i>Elected, 2005</i>	Lori K. Smith <i>Appointed 2012</i>
Michael J. Trickey <i>Appointed, 1996</i>	James D. Cayce <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Jim Rogers <i>Elected, 2005</i>	Barbara Linde <i>Appointed 2012</i>
Jeffrey M. Ramsdell <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Michael J. Heavey <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Susan J. Craighead <i>Appointed, 2007</i>	Bill A. Bowman <i>Elected 2012</i>
Suzanne M. Barnett <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Douglass A. North <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Bruce Heller <i>Appointed, 2007</i>	Judith H. Ramseyer <i>Elected 2012</i>
Jay V. White <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Catherine D. Shaffer <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Kimberley Prochnau <i>Appointed, 2007</i>	

Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2012

Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986	Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998	Meg Sassaman, 2006
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993	Richard Gallaher, 2000	Mark Hillman, 2007
Hollis Holman, 1996	Elizabeth Castilleja, 2006	Julia Garrett, 2008
Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998		Jacqueline Jeske, 2008

Voters Approve New Children and Family Justice Center

On August 7, 2012, King County voters approved construction of a new Children and Family Justice Center at 12th Avenue and East Alder Streets in Seattle. This new facility will replace the aging Youth Services Center currently located on the site. Preliminary plans envision a new courthouse and detention facility located near the middle of the site with a parking structure immediately to the south. Remaining land will be sold for private development or retained as open space.

The new facility will open in 2018 with 10 courtrooms and ground space for future expansion. Court functions currently located in leased space offsite will move into the new facility. Space for community and human service providers who support youth and families is also planned. This will support immediate connection between court clients and services ordered by the court.



The existing Youth Services Center will be replaced by a new, state-of-the-art Children and Family Justice Center.



Preliminary plans envision a new courthouse and detention facility near the middle of the site with a parking structure to the south. Remaining land will be sold for private development or retained as open space.

The new facility also will support neighborhood plans, policies, and aesthetics. The new courthouse and private development along 12th Avenue will help create a street life that is diverse and thriving. Enhanced mobility across the site, particularly along East Alder corridor, will reconnect Squire Park and First Hill.

Early in 2013, the “programming” phase of the project will begin. During this phase, space needs for all building occupants will be clarified and adjacency needs (i.e., which services should be located close to which other services) will be identified. Later in the year, the “schematic design” phase of the project will begin. During this phase, actual plans for the new center will begin to take shape. Through the duration of project planning, the county will seek input from the community stakeholders and service providers. Interested parties are encouraged to check for project updates at

www.kingcounty.gov/ChildrenAndFamilyJustice.

The Superior Court Clerk's Office by the Numbers

Court Records

The Superior Court Clerk's Office is responsible for maintaining and managing access to all official court case records. Some of these records date back to 1854! People often are surprised by the volume of documents the Clerk receives. On average, over **6,000** documents are submitted each day for filing. In 2012 alone, the Clerk received **1,658,241** documents!

While some documents continue to be submitted in hard copy, many now come to the Clerk's Office electronically. Of the new cases initiated in 2012, **81.5%**, or **57,161** matters, were "e-filed," and of all the documents received in 2012, **46%**, or **761,665** documents, were submitted electronically. These e-filing numbers continue to rise, adding to efficiency savings for the department.

Show Me the Money!

The Clerk's Office also receives and disburses all payments made in Superior Court cases. In an average year, the Clerk processes over **350,000** transactions totaling roughly **\$300 million**!

The Clerk also collects more than **73,000** "legal financial obligation" (LFO) payments each year, totaling **\$4.3 million**. LFOs are created when defendants in criminal cases are ordered to pay fines, fees, or restitution.

And Speaking of Service...

The Clerk's Office handles thousands of requests for assistance each month through a general information phone line and, via email, through several help desks. In 2012, the general information line, 206-296-9300, handled **53,920** calls for assistance. Average wait time for assistance was 91 seconds. The Clerk also handled **12,383** emails through the General Help Desk, the eServices Help Desk, and the Correspondence Help Desk.

The Clerk's Office handles a large volume of requests for court orders through the court's Ex Parte and Probate Department. In 2012, that department entered **94,999** orders! Of these, **52.6%**, or **49,906** orders, were presented via the Clerk.

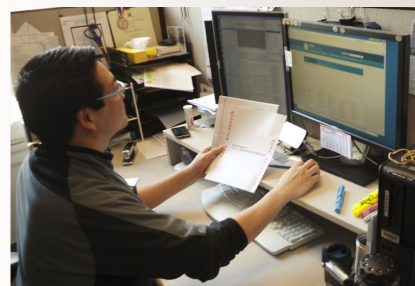
Finally, the Clerk's Office handles an ever-increasing volume of electronic working copies – copies of court documents submitted for a judge's review prior to a hearing or trial. With the implementation of mandatory e-filing for attorneys in July 2009, the Clerk provided the option of electronically submitting working copies to the court via the e-filing application and received **6,864** submissions in 2009, **16,906** in 2010, **21,514** in 2011, and **27,573** in 2012. The Clerk ensures that all documents submitted are printed, tabbed, and timely delivered to each court.



Staff assisting customers on the Clerk's Office information line



Staff on the Ex Parte via the Clerk team helped process almost 50,000 orders in 2012



Staff preparing electronic working copies for distribution.

Clothes for Kids at Kids Closet

On April 17, 2012, the court celebrated the grand opening of Kids Closet, a clothing bank for court-involved youth and their families. For several years, Juvenile Probation staff had advocated for an onsite resource closet to meet the many needs of court-involved youth and families. Although Superior Court recognized the daily struggle of many clients and longed to respond in a caring way, the county itself was unable to accept donations and offer tax benefits, effectively closing off this opportunity.



Clothes are waiting for new homes at the Kids Closet

The solution came in a partnership between Superior Court and the Juvenile Detention Ministry Program housed at Saint James Cathedral. Saint James accepts the donations, and the court provides the space. Since opening, Kids Closet has served hundreds of people of all ages. Probation youth manage the inventory and

often express satisfaction at having a chance to help others. Donations come from judges, probation officers, court and detention staff, local churches, Nordstrom Department Store, and many others. To make a donation, please call (206) 205-9621 or email kidcloset@kingcounty.gov.

Juvenile Court Reading Library

Juvenile Court maintains a reading library for court-involved youth and their siblings, parents, and guardians. Named for Judge LeRoy McCullough, one of Superior Court's longest-serving judges and a great advocate for youth, the library is housed in multiple bookcases on two floors of the Juvenile Courthouse. Visitors are welcome to read books while they wait, but they also may keep them, take them home, and pass them along to others. The books have been a popular feature at Juvenile Court, and over the five years that the library has been in operation, more than 3000 books have found new homes in the hands of Juvenile Court clients and their families. The Library is stocked entirely by donations, and contributions are welcome for readers of all ages!

Pawsitive Works!

In 2012, King County launched Pawsitive Works, an innovative program that brings together troubled youth and homeless dogs with impressive results. Over five weeks and 15 one-hour sessions, young people learn to train dogs in basic obedience and life skills. This helps the dogs become better socialized and prepares them for adoption, but it also helps the youth work through issues facing them in life. The program's emphasis on social, emotional, ethical, and cognitive competencies results in an extremely low recidivism rate for participating youth. In King County, the program is a partnership between Superior Court, the Department of Community and Human Services, and Regional Animal Services of King County.



New Program Helps Resolve Dependency Cases

Sometimes a juvenile dependency case remains open when a simple family law action could resolve it. Open cases require review hearings, which places a burden on everyone involved. Yet parents and caregivers, for one reason or another, may have difficulty completing the related family law action – often a parenting plan – that will close the case.

Building on experience from the family law arena, the court has created the Dependency Early Resolution Case Manager Program – or Dependency ERCM for short. Parties are referred to the program by social workers, dependency attorneys, or the dependency court. While the staff attorney does not represent any of the parties, the attorney is able to help with forms, preparation for hearings, and mediation. Since implementation, the program has helped resolve dozen of cases, reducing court caseloads and improving permanence for children.

Dependency CASA Celebrates 35 Years of Child Advocacy

On August 2, 2012, Superior Court celebrated 35 years of Dependency CASA, a program that uses



Judge David Soukup (ret.) and Florence Owens, one of the original CASAs.

trained volunteers to protect children in the child welfare system. In 1977, a King County Superior Judge, David Soukup, conceived of the program – the first of its kind in the nation. Today, over 950 CASA program offices and 75,000 CASA volunteers help protect the interests of 240,000 dependent children nationwide.

Here in King County, more than 300 CASA volunteers represent over 900 dependent children. Volunteers meet regularly with each child and with people important to the child. They track the child's health, school performance, and other indicators of well-being. Then they appear in court and offer recommendations for the child. They serve as the eyes and ears of the court.

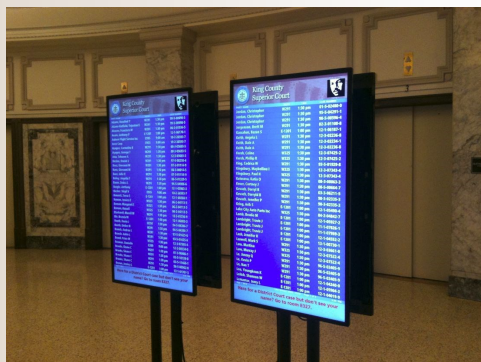
Recruitment Efforts Increases Diversity of CASA Volunteers

In 2012, Family Law and Dependency CASA joined forces with Superior Court's Courts and Community Committee to recruit CASA volunteers of color for both programs. Family Law CASA is a non-profit organization serving children caught in hotly contested family law matters. Dependency CASA is a court program serving dependent children. Together, representatives from both programs held two community recruitment events, spoke to the boards of several minority bar associations, and visited numerous churches serving communities of color. Both programs gained many volunteers. If you are interested in learning more, please contact: BEaCASA@Kingcounty.gov (for Dependency CASA) or visit www.familylawcasa.org (for Family Law CASA).



Community recruitment event at Seattle's Central Area Senior Center

Superior Court Installs Digital Reader Boards



In 2012, Superior Court installed digital reader boards at its three primary facilities. Based on technology used to display flight information in airports, the reader boards provide up-to-the-minute information and list parties by name, along with the times and locations of their hearings.

The existing reader boards are located on the entry levels of the King County Courthouse in Seattle, the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, and the Youth Services Center in Seattle. The court plans to add department-level reader boards in 2013. Located outside the chief criminal

courtrooms in Seattle and Kent, and in other high-traffic locations, these boards will provide additional way-finding assistance to court visitors.

Juvenile Probation Counselors Prepare for Electronic Social Files

Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPCs) monitor all court-involved youth on probation. In King County, roughly 1,000 youth are on probation at any given time, and as many as 4,000 youth may pass through the program in a year. Working out of offices in Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, and Federal Way, JPCs travel to schools, homes, and Juvenile Court as they work with the youth assigned to them. Meanwhile, most JPC records, called “social files,” are maintained in hard copy only and housed in JPC home offices. Significant space is dedicated to copying, filing, and storing these records, and JPCs must carry sometimes bulky files with them when they travel.

In 2012, the court received funding to develop an electronic document management system for JPC social files. New files will be created and maintained in an electronic format only. Existing paper files will be scanned into the system, and then the paper copies will be destroyed. The new system will be internet-based, allowing access from any web-enabled location. JPCs will travel with laptops instead of stacks of paper, electronic files will be password protected, and the entire system will be backed up in remote locations. After documents have been retained for legally-mandated periods of time, they will be purged from the system automatically.

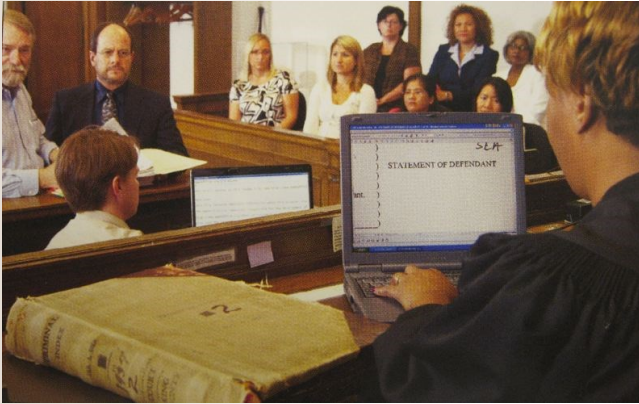
The court conducted a week-long business improvement event in late 2012 to streamline the process used to develop, circulate, maintain, and dispose of social files. Operational efficiencies identified by participants will be built into the new electronic system.



Bulky hard copy social files will be a thing of the past once electronic social files become the standard.

Clerk's Office Moves Forward with Core ECR Replacement

Electronic Court Records, or ECR, is the system the Superior Court Clerk's Office uses to maintain most court records. The core of the system, called "Core ECR," is used for scanning, indexing, docketing, and storing court records. Related systems allow for onsite viewing, remote viewing (via the internet), and direct electronic filing of court documents.



Core ECR, developed in 1999, is the oldest component of the system. Core ECR now holds more than 1.5 million case files, well over 20 million documents, and almost 150 million pages of records. The court literally could not operate without it; yet the technology is old and cannot be adapted to meet anticipated business needs.

In 2012, the Clerk's Office began working with a vendor to replace Core ECR. Replacement will provide greater adaptability, increased

reliability, and better disaster recovery through state of the art technology.

Drug Court to Expand Young Adult Track

Drug courts around the nation have found that young adults (ages 18 to 25) have a harder time succeeding in drug courts than their older peers. They often are less motivated in treatment, present as drug abusers rather than addicts, and deal drugs or commit other crimes to support their lifestyles. In King County, a 2008 change in filing standards increased the percentage of young adults in Drug Court from 17 to 31 percent. In 2010, Drug Court introduced a pilot track to address the special needs of this population.

The young adult track is now the "Chance to Change" Program (CTC). It uses an approach proven effective in treating young offenders. Participants set short and long term goals to create a plan of action, then progress from one phase of the plan to the next through goal achievement. The track is designed to increase motivation by providing opportunities for success.



A Young Adult Track participant celebrates Drug Court graduation with his son.

Since implementation, the program has been limited to young adults charged with delivery of a controlled substance or possession with intent to deliver. However, in 2012 the Drug Court Executive Committee voted to remove this limitation. Drug Court case workers now will screen all young adults for possible referral to CTC. Data collection will be used to evaluate results.

Juvenile Justice 101 Expands into the Somali Community

Juvenile Justice 101 (JJ101) helps families understand the Juvenile Court process and access community resources. The program uses “Family Partners” – parents who have had personal experience with the juvenile justice system – to support parents and youth new to Juvenile Court.

JJ101 began in 2010 and has been reaching out to community groups ever since. In 2011, Family Partners conducted a JJ101 workshop at a Somali community center in Seattle. It quickly became apparent that more workshops were needed. A series of follow-up sessions was held, and an 18-member Somali Community Advisory Group was formed. Three Somali community members were selected to join JJ101 as Family Partners and to act as liaisons with the Somali community.

In 2012, these efforts paid off in impressive ways. Over 150 Somali residents attended one event in Kent, where the Somali Family Partners explained the juvenile court process to interested families. Numerous smaller events have been held throughout the county. These sessions have fostered connections and trust between the court and the Somali community. Other groups have approached the court requesting similar outreach for their communities.

Since the Somali civil war began in 1991, thousands of Somali refugees have been resettled in the United States. King County is now home to the third-largest Somali community in America, with an estimated population of 30,000 people.



JJ101 Family Partners connect with the Somali Community

ARY Case Managers Provide Valuable Service to Families and the Court

Washington State’s Becca laws, named after Rebecca Hedman, a 13-year-old runaway murdered in Spokane, were adopted in 1995 to help parents keep “out of control” youth at home, in school, and out of trouble. At Juvenile Court, the Becca program consists of three civil court processes:

- The At-Risk Youth (ARY) petition, which allows a parent to ask the court for help in controlling a child;
- The Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition, which allows a parent, child, or the Department of Social and Health Services to ask the court for a temporary out-of-home residential placement; and
- The Truancy petition, which allows schools to ask the court for help with a truant child.



An ARY case manager shares a word and a report with the court's Becca Commissioner

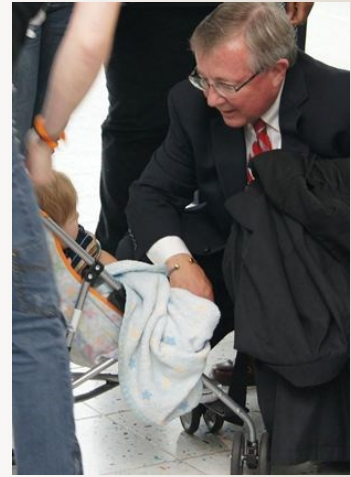
The Becca program employs two ARY/CHINS case managers who assist ARY and CHINS petitioners. They help families access mental health, chemical dependency, domestic violence, and drop-out prevention services. They help families comply with court orders and help unrepresented parents with motion and warrant requests. They also prepare and deliver reports that support judicial decision-making. Each case manager carries a caseload of 50 to 80 families. The goal of the ARY/CHINS program, and of its two case managers, is to prevent tragic outcomes like that of Rebecca Hedman and help vulnerable families find their strengths and rebuild their relationships.

Court Hosts 3rd Annual Reunification Celebration

Every year in King County, hundreds of children are reunited with their parents through the dependency process. Reunification takes work, commitment, and investment of time and resources by parents, family members, social workers, attorneys, courts, and the community.

On June 29, 2012, Superior Court hosted its 3rd Annual Reunification Celebration in the Laser Dome at Pacific Science Center. Nine Superior Court judges and six commissioners joined twenty reunified families and dozens of attorneys, social workers, and volunteers who assist families in the dependency system. All were there to celebrate the

remarkable families that succeed in putting themselves back together.



Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard McDermott at the Reunification Celebration

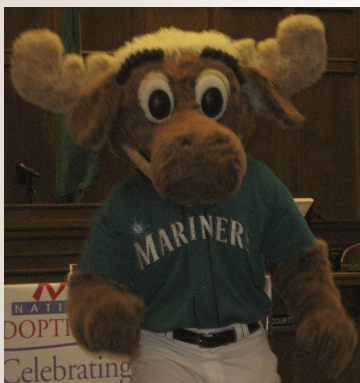


At the end of the ceremony the lights dimmed and attendees were treated to a laser show set to the song *It's a Beautiful Day* by the band U2. After that, thanks to generous sponsors, participating families were able to tour all exhibits at the Pacific Science Center. Families also received passes

to visit the Woodland Park Zoo and the Seattle Children's Museum on later dates.

Court Hosts 11th Annual National Adoption Day Celebration

On November 16, 2012, Superior Court hosted its 11th annual National Adoption Day Celebration. Almost 20 families finalized their adoptions just prior to the event, and additional adoptive families, judges, commissioners, and staff joined the celebration.



The Mariner Moose distributed teddy bears and posed for photos with happy families

King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert and Deputy King County Executive Fred Jarrett each spoke movingly about the countless joys that adopted children have

brought to their own families. Children in attendance enjoyed face painting, a balloon artist, drawing, and games, and each received a teddy bear (donated by WARM 106.9) and a goodie bag. A visit by the Mariner Moose was fun for all!



Face-painting is always a hit on Adoption Day!

Updates from Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services

In 2012, the number of languages in which Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) has provided assistance reached 144. The most frequently requested languages were Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Russian, Amharic, Tigrinya, Mandarin, Tagalog, and American Sign Language, but requests for assistance in lesser known languages were frequent. Sometimes the office conducted a national search if a local interpreter could not be found.

Court interpretation is tiring work. An interpreter must simultaneously listen, speak, adjust grammar, and change word order, all while ensuring that meaning is not lost. This requires frequent breaks so that accuracy remains high. Sometimes, two interpreters are assigned to the victim, witness, juror, or defendant needing assistance so that each will have opportunities to rest.

2012 offers a number of good examples of the lengths to which OIS sometimes must go in order to fully support a case. In one case, two Sudanese Dinka interpreters were brought to Seattle, one from Minnesota, and one from Tennessee. For the same case, the office found one Wolof speaker in New York and another locally. The two pairs of interpreters supported each other during a lengthy trial, and all were praised for their skill and for helping the trial run smoothly.

On any given day, there are 60 to 100 events that need interpreters in Superior Court. Each year, interpreters participate in roughly 3,000 cases.



Pictured (l-r) are Sudanese Dinka interpreters Victor Chol of Tennessee and Nyigeelo Ochan Gon of Minnesota and Wolof interpreters Saul Krubally, a local interpreter, and Pa Drammeh from New York.

What is CART?

CART is the acronym for Communication Access Realtime Translation. Many of Superior Court's court reporters are certified to provide this service to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. CART makes it possible to see an instant translation of the spoken word into English text on a screen. The most common users of this service in Superior Court are jurors, but litigants, victims, witnesses, and attorneys also request the service.



As the court reporter uses the stenotype machine, her keystrokes are converted to text which displays on a screen

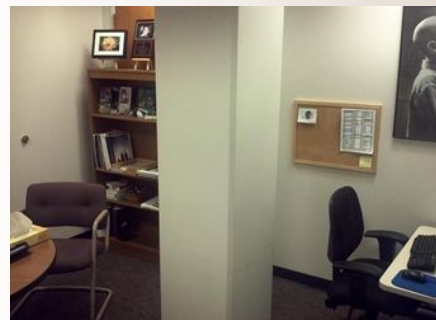
To deliver CART, the court reporter uses a stenotype machine and realtime software. The software converts the court reporter's stenotype keystrokes into text and displays a translation of the spoken word on a laptop. CART services are provided with at least 96% accuracy by trained realtime writers. When CART is requested, a court reporter can be assigned to the requestor for the duration of the court proceeding, ensuring the requestor's ability to participate fully.

Juvenile Dependency Returns to YSC

On March 12, 2012, Seattle dependency proceedings returned to the Youth Service Center (YSC) after 16 months at the court's downtown Seattle location. Dependency proceedings had moved downtown after "PCBs" were discovered at the YSC. PCBs are industrial compounds which can be hazardous to health, and remediation was required to remove them.

While dependency proceedings were downtown, a number of lessons were learned. Courtrooms for the dependency judge and the dependency commissioner were located in a separate wing of the building. The waiting area was quiet and separated from other types of court proceedings. Space was available for parties and families to have private conversations. This setup reduced anxiety and created a calmer, more productive atmosphere for everyone.

The court was able to take many of these lessons back to the YSC. Dependency proceedings are now located on the third floor of the building, separate from offender matters and with a quieter designated waiting area. Dedicated meeting rooms and support staff are located on the same floor. Families can meet with mediators, social workers, attorneys, and CASAs (court-appointed special advocates) when they come to court for hearings. This provides solid support for families in crisis.



A new CASA Volunteer Room provides multiple workstations and meeting spaces for CASAs



The separate dependency waiting area is quiet and enjoys plenty of natural light

Facilitators Office Develops 'Plain Language' Instructions

In 2012, Superior Court's Facilitators Office began translating its instruction packets into plain language. Plain language is text that relies on words and images which are easily understood. Plain language documents typically are organized and formatted in ways that are inviting and intuitive for the reader.

The Facilitators Office assists parties who do not have attorneys with family law and guardianship actions. Plain language instructions for a dissolution, child support modification, or other action can play a key role in helping someone get their matter before the court.

The Facilitators Office contracted with a plain language translation vendor, which translated 11 instruction packets into plain language. The facilitators reviewed each draft for accuracy and made edits where needed. A judicial committee approved the final packets for use.

Translation had profound effects on the usability of these instruction packets. Taking the 'Agreed Dissolution' instructions as an example, translation reduced the reading level from 11th grade to 5th grade, and the length of the packet was shortened by a full page. Formatting changes made the document less cluttered and easier to read. Client response has been overwhelmingly positive. The court hopes to translate more packets in 2013.

Court Technology News

In 2012, the court reached major milestones in three technology projects. The court's primary case management system was expanded to include Juvenile Court matters. Another juvenile justice system, used to manage juvenile detention and prosecution referrals, went live. And the court and clerk's office partnered to introduce electronic orders.

KCMS Adds Juvenile Court Functionality

On February 27, 2012, the court expanded its unified case management system, called KCMS, to include juvenile offender cases. In the not so distant past, the court used separate systems to manage its criminal, civil, and juvenile offender caseloads. Now KCMS is used to manage all three. This offers significant benefits to the court. On the user side, most judges and staff need only learn one system for case management rather than three. For the court's technology team, maintaining a single case management system is more efficient than maintaining three.

Juvenile Justice Partnership Launches JIMS

On May 12, 2012, the court partnered with the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and King County IT to launch a new system, called JIMS, to manage the juvenile detention population and Prosecutor case referrals. Court Probation staff use this system when they screen and assess detention youth. Court Diversion staff use this system when the Prosecutor refers cases to the Diversion Program rather than filing them with the court. This new system was built using the same technology as KCMS, so it has a similar look and feel. The two systems also are able to share data easily, reducing the need for duplicate data entry.

eOrders Begins at Juvenile Court

On June 21, 2012, Judge Saint Clair completed and filed the first eOrder – that is, an order that was completed and filed electronically in the courtroom. Using eOrders, which is a component of KCMS, the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA) completed the order in court based on the judge's ruling. The DPA, Respondent's attorney, and the Respondent then signed the order using electronic signature pads. Finally, Judge Saint Clair reviewed the order and filed it electronically from the bench. A hard copy was printed for the Respondent, and electronic copies were emailed to the attorneys. Since implementation, the eOrders project has expanded to other Juvenile Court courtrooms, and plans are under way to begin using eOrders in the Mental Illness Court at Harborview.

The screenshot displays the eOrders user interface. At the top, there are three dropdown menus: 'Select a Document:' with the option '--- Create a New Document ---', 'Select a Template:' with 'Order Modifying Dispo or Deferred Dispo (Ver1.3)', and 'Document Name:' with 'Order Modifying Dispo or Deferred Dispo (Ver1.3) (08-8-88888-8)'. Below these is a tabbed interface with 'Enter Data' and 'View Document' tabs. The 'Enter Data' tab is active, showing a form titled 'ORDER MODIFYING DISPO / DEFERRED DISPO / STIPULATED ORDER OF CONTINUANCE'. The form includes fields for 'Case Number:' (08-8-88888-8), 'Respondent's Name:' (TEST, CASE), and 'Mod Hearing Re:' with three radio button options: 'Dispo Order', 'Deferred Dispo Order', and 'Stipulated Order of Continuance'. There are also fields for 'Next Review Hearing:' and 'Final Review Hearing:', each with 'Date:' and 'Time:' sub-fields. A checkbox labeled 'May be stricken by JPC for compliance' is present. The 'View Document' tab is currently inactive.

The eOrders user-interface allows courtroom participants to select a template, enter information into checkboxes and fields, and then review the draft order for accuracy. Once the draft has been approved by all parties, the judge files it electronically from the bench.

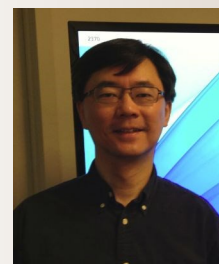
Superior Court Recognizes Exceptional Employees

Each year, Superior Court recognizes one court employee at each of its three primary locations who represents the high standards that all court staff aspire to achieve. Nominated by judges, commissioners, 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 2012, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:

King County Courthouse (Seattle): Chair-Li Chang. Chair-Li works in the court's Information Technology office, where he helps ensure that servers are online, up-to-date, and secure at all times. His job regularly involves night and weekend work that most of the court never sees but that everyone depends upon. His attention to detail, passion for innovation, and commitment to service make him an invaluable resource for the court. His co-workers laud his intelligence and dedication, appreciate his warmth and willingness to assist others, and note that for all his many contributions to the court he does not seek recognition for himself.



Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Rita Amaro. Rita is a Family Law Coordinator, who facilitates the flow of courtroom proceedings in busy family law commissioner courtrooms. Rita works with family law litigants – many of whom come to court without attorneys – to schedule court dates, prepare orders, set case priorities, and ensure case readiness. Family law commissioners and co-workers report that she is consistently kind and respectful to everyone, even in the most stressful situations, and describe working with her as an honor and a privilege. They note that she goes out of her way to ensure that people without attorneys are able to have their day in court.

Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Kathy Santucci. Kathy works as the Confidential Secretary for Juvenile Court. She supports Juvenile Court's top-level management team, and with over 20 years of experience, her institutional knowledge is both broad and deep. "Ask Kathy" is a common refrain, and her ability to solve problems, answer questions, and track down even obscure bits of information is highly regarded. She has been described as "the glue that holds Juvenile Court Administration together." Those who work with her appreciate her patience, warmth, humor, and dedication to the people she supports and the organization she serves.



Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition Award include:

- **2011** – Katherine Glenn (Seattle), Melinda Johnson-Taylor (Kent), Michelle Wyman (Juvenile Court)
- **2010** – Kirby Pierce (Seattle); Desiree Canter, Paige Hacke, and Nicole Bynum (Kent); and Michelle Mihail (Juvenile Court)

Superior Court Budget

2012 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship & probate staff, jury, interpreters, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (42.4%)	\$21,349,918
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. (27.6%)	\$13,931,085
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, computer services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (16.7%)	\$8,444,698
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%)	\$6,703,748
TOTAL		\$50,429,449

2012 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$45,393,660	90%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$5,035,789	10%
TOTAL	\$50,429,449	100%

Department of Judicial Administration Budget

2012 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow & Court Clerk Services	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination. (23.6%)	\$4,817,854
Customer & Financial Services	Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies. (22.7%)	\$4,621,726
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies at Juvenile and MRJC. (23.8%)	\$4,848,527
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program. (7.2%)	\$1,467,595
Administration	Includes admin staff, human resources, computer services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, witness payments, statistics and dependency publication costs. (22.7%)	\$4,624,379
TOTAL		\$20,380,081

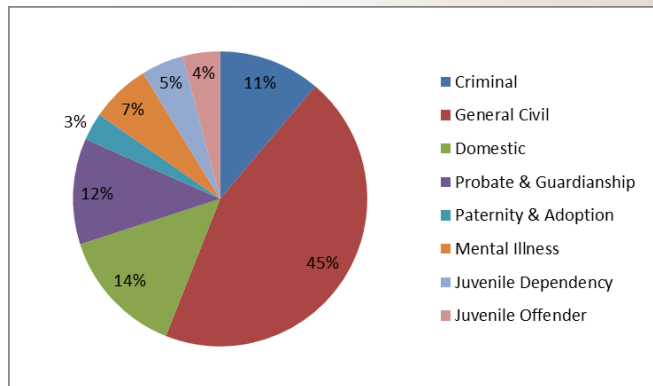
2012 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$20,380,081	100%
TOTAL	\$20,380,081	100%

Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Case Filings

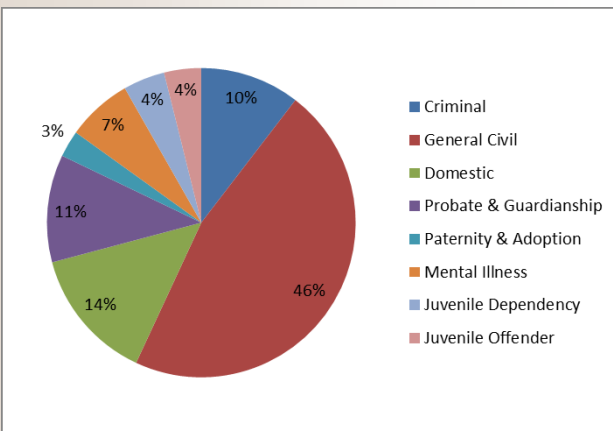
In 2012, a total of 54,834 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 6% from 2011. Filings fell for almost all case types, though Probate/Guardianship and Mental Illness filings rose. In addition, 15,046 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2012	Change from 2011
Criminal	6,134	-0.7%
General Civil	24,576	-11.0%
Domestic	7,678	-2.4%
Probate & Guardianship	6,371	1.9%
Paternity & Adoption	1,672	-3.2%
Mental Illness	3,591	2.4%
Juvenile Dependency	2,563	-5.5%
Juvenile Offender	2,249	-9.9%
Total Filings	54,834	-6.0%



Case Resolutions

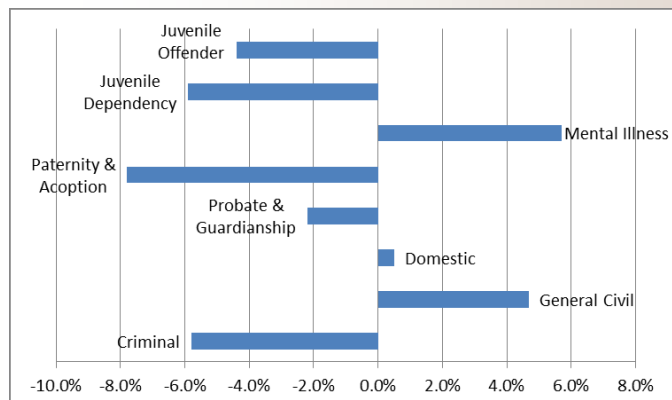
In 2012, the court resolved a total of 55,365 cases. Although case resolutions were down 8.7% from 2011, resolutions exceeded case filings by roughly 1%.



Case Type	2012	Change from 2011
Criminal	5,780	-10.7%
General Civil	25,743	-10.8%
Domestic	7,713	-3.0%
Probate & Guardianship	6,230	-0.5%
Paternity & Adoption	1,542	-15.5%
Mental Illness	3,794	10.5%
Juvenile Dependency	2,413	-24.9%
Juvenile Offender	2,150	-18.7%
Total Resolutions	55,365	-8.7%

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.

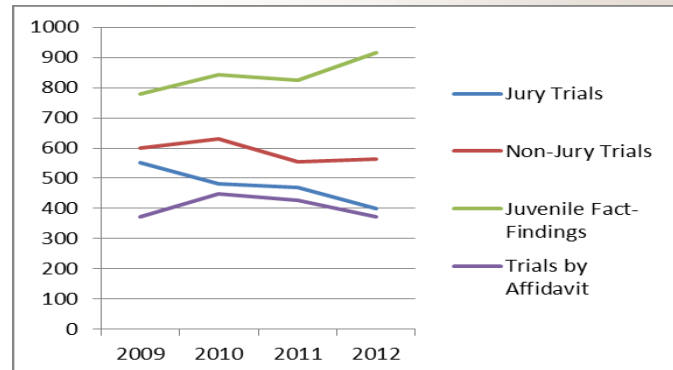


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Trial Activity

Trial activity continued the modest downward trend that began in 2011. The 2,253 trials conducted in 2012 represent a 1.0% decrease from the number of trials conducted in 2011.

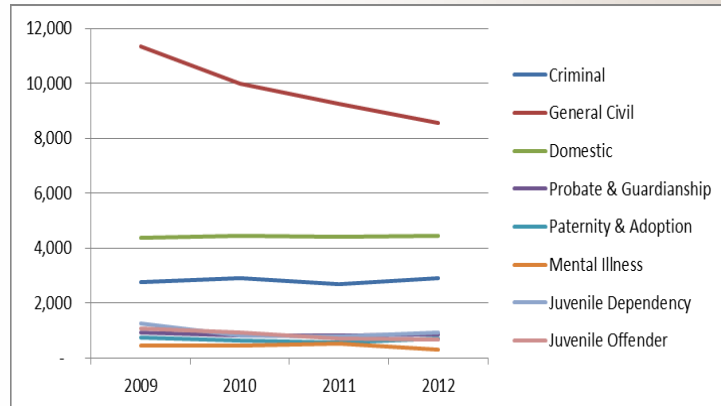
Trial Category	2012
Jury Trials	400
Non-Jury Trials	563
Juvenile Fact-Findings	916
Trials by Affidavit	374
Total Trials	2,253



Total Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2012, 19,396 cases were pending, a decrease of roughly 2% from 2011.

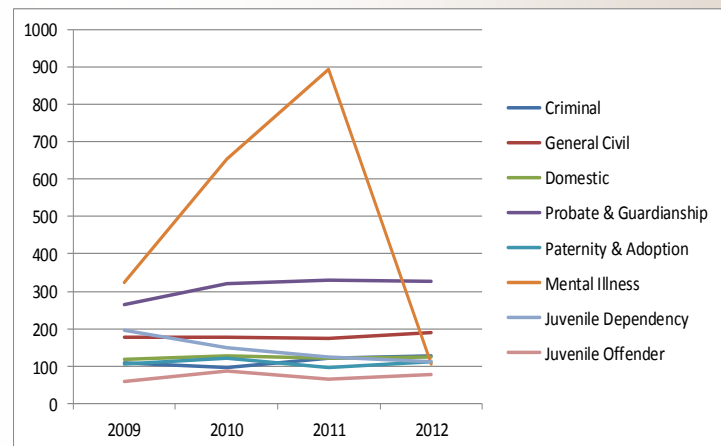
Case Type	2012
Criminal	2,922
General Civil	8,552
Domestic	4,458
Probate & Guardianship	863
Paternity & Adoption	699
Mental Illness	311
Juvenile Dependency	928
Juvenile Offender	663
Total Pending Cases	19,396



Age of Active Pending Caseload

The age of active pending caseload is measured as the median age of active cases (in days) at the end of 2012. Median age changed little from 2011 for most case types. However, a 2012 administrative clean-up significantly reduced the median age of mental illness cases.

Case Type	2012
Criminal	127
General Civil	189
Domestic	125
Probate & Guardianship	328
Paternity & Adoption	110
Mental Illness	104
Juvenile Dependency	113
Juvenile Offender	77
Median for All Active Pending Caseload	148





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Chief Administrative Officer Paul Sherfey
Dep. Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge
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Facility and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos
Facilities Specialist Rodrigo Jacinto
Kirby Pierce
Project/Program Manager IV Michelle Garvey
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Tech. Info. Processing Spec. II Rose Bridenstine
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Project Program Manager II Pat Ford Campbell
Purchasing Fiscal Technician Gary Cutler
Business & Finance Technician Czar Peralta
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IT Applications Supervisor Hugh Kim
Senior Database Administrator Rita Napitupulu
Senior LAN Administrator Chair-Li Chang
Jerry Ito
Ted Shaw
Web/Applications Developer Doug Buckmeier
Senior Desktop Support Technician Michelle Croy
Desktop Support Technician Michael Kim
Business Analyst Sathia Vann

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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

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

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

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Psychologist Dr. Michael Archer

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Juvenile Program Service Coord. Josalyn Conley
Juvenile Probation Counselor Tracy Dixon
Yvette Gaston
Lisa Gistarb
Kendra Morgan
Administrative Specialist III Karen Lanpher

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Family Treatment Specialist Cathy Lehmann
Court Program Specialist II Dajani Henderson
Treatment Liaison Michelle Szozda
Parent for Parent Program Coord. Kimberly Mays

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Area Manager Matthew David
Administrative Specialist II Estrellita Buza
Sheila Singleton
Fiscal Specialist II Paula Moses

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

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	Gail Nichols
	Darien Riffe

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	Elaine Evans
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	Geri Horrobin
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	Claudia Scipio
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<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Dan Baxter
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	Shelley Moore
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	Debra Stuckman
	Ron Tarnow
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	Rebecca Kirkland
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	Patricia Nilsson
	Gwen Spears
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<i>Juvenile Services Technician</i>	Jason Canfield

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	Hiroko Vargas
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<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Julie Espinoza

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<i>Customer Service Specialist III</i>	Hakim Lakhali
	Cheryl Spriggs
<i>Interpreter</i>	Amy Andrews

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	Bonnie Larson
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<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Susan Wells

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<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Karen Igo

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<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Catherine Kuvac

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<i>Guardianship GAL</i>	Keith Thomson

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Salina Hill	Lisa Zimmisky
Greg Howard	

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	Jamie Perry
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	Tracey White
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	Shayna Israel
	Gina Reyes

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<i>Asst. Program Manager</i>	Carolyn Frimpter
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	Peggy Larson
	Wai-Ping Li-Landis
	Don Miner
	Emma Puro
	Cheryl Retic
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<i>Program Attorney</i>	Kathryn Barnhouse
	Kathleen Martin
<i>Attorney Guardian ad Litem</i>	April Rivera
<i>Pro Bono CASA Assignment Tech</i>	Janet Harris
<i>Paralegal</i>	Kathleen McCormack
	Vickey Wilson
<i>Administrative Specialist II</i>	Kathleen Hasslinger
	Charlene Kern
	Joyce Stockman

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	Rose Morrison
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	Fabian Fereshtefar

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	Sarah Williams Olson

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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.

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