2016

King County Superior Count Annual Report



Message from Presiding Judge Laura Inveen

On behalf of the judges, commissioners, and staff of the King County Superior Court, I am pleased to present our 2016 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find it informative and useful.

I am proud of the court's many achievements in 2016, but I am perhaps most excited by several recent innovations at our Juvenile Court. Over the last several years, the court has placed increasing emphasis on "restorative services" within the juvenile justice system. These services sometimes seek to restore a youth's productive relationship with the community and other times seek to restore a youth's relationship with his or her own family.

Perhaps the most significant accomplishment in this area in 2016 was the implementation of the Family Intervention and Restorative Services Program, or "FIRS." FIRS focuses on youth who have been violent in the home against a family member. Parents often do not want to contact the police when their child has been violent because they do not want their child to have a criminal record. The traditional court process does little to address a youth's underlying issues, which may include mental health challenges, substance abuse, or difficulty managing emotions. FIRS flips everything around. It functions as a diversion program for youth who have been violent at home. Youth can be referred without charges being filed, and services offered by the program can address underlying issues without the need for adjudication and court orders. This is a truly groundbreaking approach to juvenile justice.

I also want to acknowledge the departure of seven judges from our bench. Judges William Downing, Richard Eadie, Brian Gain, Bruce Heller, Ron Kessler, Laura Gene Middaugh, and Palmer Robinson stepped down from the bench at the end 2016 and headed toward new adventures, but they left a legacy of countless accomplishments and contributions to this court which have improved the administration of justice for all, and we are most grateful.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of King County citizens who served as jurors in Superior Court and to the 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 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:

- 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 9 commissioners
- Is supported by more than 500 staff in Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration (Clerk's Office)





Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2016, the court offered new services, expanded existing programs, and worked to promote access and inclusion. In the pages that follow, you will read about our many accomplishments for the year, including articles on the following topics:

New Jury Summons. In 2016, the court's Jury Department began using a new jury summons the size of a postcard. Research shows that keeping a summons short increases the likelihood that it will be read and responded to. The new format also saves the court money in postage costs.

Dependency 201. In 2016, the court's Parents for Parents Program, which supports parents in the dependency system, added a set of 'upper division' classes. Called "Dependency 201," the new classes provide information on resources available to parents working to reunite with their kids; information on navigating the dependency system; and life skills.

Family Treatment Court Expansion. In 2016, our Family Treatment Court (FTC), which serves as a drug court for families in the dependency system, used a federal SAMHSA grant to extend the Kent FTC calendar from a half day to a full day and to hire two more family support staff. This made it possible for the FTC to serve almost one-third more adults in 2016 than in the year before.

Diversity and Inclusiveness Events. In 2016, the court partnered with many community organizations to celebrate King County's diverse cultural heritage. Programs for Black History Month, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, LGBT Pride Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Native American History Month provided opportunities to recognize and celebrate the many communities and traditions that make our county great. The court's popular Equity and Social Justice Book Club also read and discussed seven books that touch on issues affecting different ethnic and social groups.

Family Court Statistics. In 2016, our Unified Family Court continued to serve thousands of family law litigants. A significant majority of parties to family law actions find themselves without an attorney at some point in the court process, and the court offers services that can help. More than 24,000 people visited our Family Law Information Center alone!

Language 161. In 2016, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services provided service in 11 new languages, raising the grand total of languages served to 161. Every day, the court provides interpretation services for 60 to 100 events, sometimes in unfamiliar languages where interpreters are hard to find.

King County Superior Court – Jurisdiction:

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





Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2016

William L. Downing Appointed, 1989	Douglass A. North Elected, 2000	Regina S. Cahan Elected/Appointed, 2009	Suzanne R. Parisien Elected, 2013
LeRoy McCullough <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Catherine D. Shaffer Elected, 2000	Mariane C. Spearman Elected, 2009	Sean P. O'Donnell Elected, 2013
Laura C. Inveen	Cheryl B. Carey	Timothy A. Bradshaw	Ken Schubert
Appointed, 1992	Elected, 2001	Elected, 2009	Elected, 2013
Brian D. Gain <i>Elected, 1993</i>	John P. Erlick	Hollis R. Hill	Susan H. Amini
	Elected, 2001	Elected, 2009	Appointed, 2013
Richard D. Eadie	Laura G. Middaugh	Barbara A. Mack	Julia L. Garrett <i>Appointed, 2013</i>
Appointed, 1995	Elected, 2001	Elected, 2009	
Jeffrey M. Ramsdell	Mary E. Roberts	Jean Rietschel	Roger S. Rogoff
Elected, 1996	Appointed, 2003	Appointed, 2010	Appointed, 2014
Dean S. Lum	J. Wesley Saint Clair	Beth M. Andrus	John H. Chun
Appointed, 1998	Appointed, 2004	Appointed, 2010	Appointed, 2014
Ronald Kessler	Andrea A. Darvas	Patrick H. Oishi	John Ruhl
Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005	Appointed, 2011	Appointed, 2014
Palmer Robinson	Theresa B. Doyle	Lori K. Smith <i>Appointed, 2012</i>	Tanya Thorp
Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005		Appointed, 2014
Helen L. Halpert	Jim Rogers	Barbara Linde	A. Chad Allred <i>Appointed, 2014</i>
Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005	Appointed, 2012	
Julie A. Spector Appointed, 1999	Susan J. Craighead Appointed, 2007	Bill A. Bowman Elected/Appointed, 2012	Samuel S. Chung Appointed, 2014
Richard F. McDermott Appointed, 2000	Bruce Heller	Judith H. Ramseyer	Veronica Alicea-Galvan
	Appointed, 2007	Elected/Appointed, 2012	Appointed, 2015
James D. Cayce	Monica J. Benton	Elizabeth J. Berns	Janet M. Helson
Appointed, 2000	Appointed, 2008	Elected, 2013	Appointed, 2015
			Johanna Bender Appointed, 2015

Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2016

Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986	Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998	James Kahan, 2013
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993	Meg Sassaman, 2006	Jennie Laird, 2013
Hollis Holman, 1996	Mark Hillman, 2007	Melinda Johnson-Taylor, 2014
Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998	Jacqueline Jeske, 2008	Henry Judson, 2014





FIRS Respite Center Opens Its Doors

In 2015, the court laid the groundwork for FIRS – Family Intervention Restorative Services – which offers a new approach for handling youth who have been violent in their homes. Under this approach, an eligible youth may enter into a "FIRS Agreement," which allows the youth to skip formal court processing and benefit from interventions and services right away.

Historically, nearly a third of bookings into Juvenile Detention have been related to juvenile violence in the home. Under the traditional court model, a youth and the youth's family could not receive beneficial services until after a formal court process had run its course. This meant that charges had to be filed and a court case had to be processed to adjudication before a family could receive help.

FIRS changed all that. Within hours of being detained, each eligible youth meets with a FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC), and the youth's family meets with Step-Up Program social workers. (You can read more about the Step-Up Program later in this report.) The JPC and Step-Up social workers work together to determine what interventions and services are needed for the youth and family. These may include drug or alcohol treatment; mental health treatment; evidence-based services such as Aggression Replacement Therapy; and/or participation in the 21-session Step-Up curriculum. The key is that the youth and family get help at their time of crisis, without the delay associated with formal court processing.



The FIRS Team

Back Row (I to r) Darryl Spencer & Jeremy Crowe
Front Row (I to r) Francesca Peila-Phariss, Lily Anderson,
Cecilia Camino, Claudia Pineda

In 2016, the FIRS Program opened a small respite center in a converted section of the Juvenile Detention facility. The center serves as an alternative to secure detention for youth who have been violent in

the home. Youth can stay in the center until it is a safe for them to return home or until a safe place outside the home can be identified. While in the center, youth have the opportunity to continue their work with the FIRS team.

FIRS is a partnership between the court and clerk's office, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Defense, the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, and the City of Seattle.



The FIRS Respite Center

In 2016, 151 youth entered into FIRS Agreements. As the program grows, the court believes that up to 300 fewer youth will be booked into detention each year.





Jury Department Begins Using "Postcard" Summons

In 2016, the court's Jury Department began using a new jury summons the size of a postcard. Not only is this format cheaper to print and mail, but available research also indicates that keeping the summons concise increases the likelihood that it will be read and not set aside and forgotten.

The new summons directs candidates to the court's website, where they can confirm their eligibility, reschedule to a more convenient date, or request excusal on the basis of undue hardship. The court recognizes that



not everyone can or will log in online, but so far the change has brought a significant and welcome reduction in the number of hard copy "snail mail" responses.

The court is using a portion of its postage savings to send reminders to prospective jurors who do not timely reply. Studies have found that such reminders result in significantly improved juror turnout.

Court Announces Interpreter Rate Increase

In 2016, the court was happy to announce that, effective July 1, 2017, the hourly rate for non-certified interpreters will go from \$40 to \$50 and the hourly rate for registered and certified interpreters will go from \$45 to \$55. Superior Court worked closely with the King County Executive and the County Council to increase the hourly rates paid to interpreters. The increase should help the court maintain and expand the highly-skilled pool of interpreters that serve the court on a daily basis.

Office of Interpreter Services Reaches Language 161

In 2016, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) provided assistance in its 161st language: Rohingya, spoken in northwestern Burma. OIS also provided service in ten other new languages in 2016—an unusually active year for new languages. The office sometimes must go to great lengths to locate and vet interpreters for languages which, in many cases, are just beginning to appear in the U.S.

On any given day, there are 60 to 100 events in Superior Court that need interpreters. The most requested languages are Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, Russian, Amharic, Tigrinya, Mandarin, Tagalog, and American Sign Language.





Family Court by the Numbers

Overview. Family Court offers programs that support Superior Court's Dependency and Family Law litigants and cases. Twelve judges, five commissioners, and roughly 80 staff are assigned to this area of the court. This represents approximately 28% of the court's judicial and staff resources.

Dependency Operations. When there is reason to believe that a child has been abandoned or abused, or when a child has no parent or guardian capable of providing adequate care, the State files a petition with the court to take custody of the child. This is called a 'dependency' case.

Dependency CASA Program. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) – specially-trained citizen volunteers – represent children in dependency cases and make recommendations to the court regarding their care. The court's Dependency CASA Program recruits, trains, supervises, and provides legal support for these volunteers.

Family Treatment Court (FTC). FTC is a "drug court" for parents with dependency cases pending. Parents join FTC to receive help in achieving and maintaining sobriety. Additional services, such as mental health treatment, are provided as needed. The goal is to ensure that children live in safe and drug-free homes.

Parents for Parents (P4P). P4P supports parents with dependency cases pending. Parents who have successfully navigated the dependency system meet with incoming parents at their first court appearance. Program staff subsequently provide a two-hour orientation class called Dependency 101 and a set of follow-up classes called Dependency 201. Parents who receive support from P4P are more likely to attend court hearings and comply with court orders.

Dependency Mediation. The Dependency Mediation Program provides a non-confrontational environment for resolving issues related to dependency cases. Parents in mediation often reach agreement on allegations, recommended services, child placement, visitation, and other matters through the sup-

In 2016:

- 724 dependencies were filed
- 2817 dependencies were active at year's end

In 2016:

- 83 new CASAs were trained
- 816 children were represented by 320 CASAs
- 1742 reports were submitted to the court

In 2016:

- 84 adults were served (45% were homeless upon intake)
- 107 children were served (48% were aged 0-2 yrs.; 74% were <6 yrs. old

In 2016:

- 493 parents met with P4P in court
- 11 parents met with P4P in jail
- 478 parents signed up for the Dependency 101 class
- 57 parents signed up for the Dependency 201 class

In 2016:

- 289 cases were referred for mediation
- 80% of mediated cases reached full or partial agreement

port of program staff. This allows parents to exert more control in determining what will happen with their children and their cases and to understand more fully the orders issued by the court.





Family Court by the Numbers

Family Court Services (FCS). FCS helps resolve conflicts between parents and provides information to the court in family law cases. Professional social work staff provide mediation and evaluation services for parenting plans (PPs), conduct domestic violence (DV) assessments, help finalize adoptions, and teach the mandatory parenting seminar. The primary objective of the program is to protect the best interests of children affected by family law actions.

Becca Programs. The court can provide assistance if a child is beyond a parent's control or is not attending school. Parents may file an At-Risk Youth (ARY) or Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition when their families are in crisis. School districts are required to file truancy petitions when students fail to attend their assigned school. Services provided by the court

are called "Becca Programs," named for Becca Hedman, a 13-year-old runaway found murdered in Spokane in 1993.

Family Law Information Center (FLIC). The FLIC provides assistance to family law litigants who do not have attorneys. Family Law Facilitators help litigants find the correct court forms for their cases, explain court processes, and ensure that family law court-rooms run smoothly. Early Resolution Case Managers teach the Family Law Orientation (FLO) class and help finalize documents for certain family law cases.

In 2016:

- 2736 referrals were screened
- 135 PP mediations were conducted
- 265 PP evaluations were completed
- 208 DV assessments were completed
- 4653 parents attended the parenting seminar
- 459 adoptions were finalized

In 2016:

- 247 ARY/CHINS families were referred to crisis intervention services
- 1222 truancy petitions were filed with the court by 22 school districts

In 2016:

- 3364 clients met with facilitators
- 7130 case files were reviewed for placement on court calendars
- 3588 litigants attended the FLO
- 24,091 people visited the FLIC

Training Oversight Committee Offers Free CLEs

Superior Court's Training Oversight Committee and the Family Law Section of the King County Bar Association offer free continuing legal education classes (CLEs) six times each year. Each class takes place over a lunch hour and is eligible for 1.25 CLE credits. Classes are offered both in Seattle and in Kent. No registration is required.

The Training Oversight Committee was established in 1997 to sponsor monthly trainings for attorneys, judges, commissioners, guardians ad litem, social workers, and other family law professionals. Trainings typically are scheduled for November and then each month from January to May. Topics covered include domestic violence, mental health, chemical dependency, cultural awareness and competency, and child development.

For information about upcoming classes, please call (206) 477-1475.





Case and Financial Management System (CFMS) Replacement Moves Forward

For more than 30 years, the clerk's office has used the Superior Court Management Information System (SCOMIS) and the Judicial Information System (JIS), both maintained by the state Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to fulfill many of its record-keeping responsibilities. AOC is working to replace these systems, but court data will be managed differently in the future. Many King County court records will move from the state systems to a new local system which also will need to track a large volume of financial transactions.

In 2015, the clerk's office kicked off a Case and Financial Management System (CFMS) replacement effort to identify and implement this new local system. The new CFMS will hold information from roughly 3.5 million cases the day it goes live. (Court case records go all the way back to the 1850s!) The new system also will help manage hundreds of thousands of financial transactions each year totaling many millions of dollars, and will interface with both the county's and AOC's financial systems. The prospect of implementing such a complex system is daunting, but replacing a 30-year-old legacy system also creates

In 2016, the clerk's office took several important steps toward making the new CFMS a reality. Early in the year, the office selected a vendor to deliver the new system. This required weeks of scoring proposals, participating in vendor demonstrations, visiting reference sites, and then negotiating the contract, but it kept the project on-track to meet its anticipated January 2018 "go-live" date.

Financial Transactions:

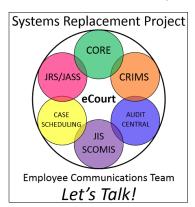
- 400,000 incoming payments per year, totaling \$150 million
- 25,000 disbursements per year
- 163,000 open accounts receivable, totaling more than \$800 million

Records to Be Migrated from AOC:

- Roughly 3.5 million cases
- More than 13.5 million case participants
- More than 60 million docket entries
- Roughly 75 million journal entries



The clerk's office also assembled a team of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to support the vendor's work. Each SME has in-depth knowledge of a particular business process that needs to be represented



many exciting opportunities.

in the new system. The SMEs are helping to define each business process, review vendor deliverables, and provide direction and feedback about configurations and customizations. Eventually, they also will create training materials, provide training, and help test the new system.

Finally, the clerk's office created a CFMS Employee Communications Team to help ensure that all clerk's office staff are fully engaged in the project. This team serves as a conduit for project communications between staff and the project team. The team's underlying goal is to address all questions, comments, and concerns as the system is being developed, and it's slogan is "Let's Talk!"



Step-Up Moves to Superior Court

In 2016, Superior Court assumed responsibility for the Step-Up Program. Previously this program had been housed in the Clerk's Office. Step-Up is a nationally recognized approach for addressing youth violence in the home. Violent behavior includes threats, intimidation, property destruction, degrading language, and physical violence. The goal of Step-Up is for the youth to stop his or her violent behavior and develop respectful family relationships, so that all family members feel safe.

Step-Up uses a 21-session cognitive behavioral, skills, and restorative practice-based curriculum. Teens and parents both come to group once a week for 90 minutes. Teens work in a youth group, where they learn skills to prevent their use of violence. Parents attend a parent group, where they learn safety

planning and parenting skills. In a combined parent/teen group, parents and teens practice respectful communication and problem solving together.

Family safety is a priority of the Step-Up Program. Each family develops a 'safety plan' and participates in weekly check-ins with the parent/teen group to assess progress. Weekly behavioral goals are set by each youth, with progress reported each week in group. This helps foster accountability for behavior and keeps the focus on using newly learned skills at home



The Step-Up Team: Claudia Pineda, Lily Anderson, Francesca Peila-Phariss, Anna Doolittle

Evaluations of Step-Up have shown a significant reduction in the use of violent and abusive behavior in youth who complete the program. Step-Up was the first program of its kind in the country and frequently serves as a model for other programs. Juvenile courts, community agencies, youth counseling programs, and schools throughout the United States and even in other countries are now using the Step-Up curriculum.

Restorative Mediation Continues at Juvenile Court

Restorative mediation provides an alternative to the traditional court process for eligible cases. A restorative mediation brings together the victim of a crime with the person who committed that crime. The goal of this encounter is for the victim and offender to understand one another, to understand the scope of the harm caused by the crime, and to develop a plan that addresses the harm and restores the relationship between the victim, the offender, and the community at large.

In 2016, six cases were resolved through mediation. Charges in those cases ranged from shoplifting and truancy to burglary and assault. The youth who participated ranged in age from 12 to 16 years. The court also began using "peacemaking circles" as a restorative tool. The peacemaking process builds relationships between participants first before arriving at issues and seeking solutions.





Superior Court Celebrates Diversity and Promotes Inclusiveness

Each year, the Courts and Community Committee, a group of Superior Court judges and staff, sponsors a variety of events that celebrate King County's diverse cultural heritage. In 2016, the committee sponsored the following events:

 In February, to celebrate Black History Month and the legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall, Washington NAACP President, Gerald Hankerson, spoke about civil rights activism and the courage of dissent. Judge Hill, Judge McCullough, and King County Councilmember Larry Gossett also offered thoughtful comments on the topic, and Bailiff



Christine Robinson led attendees in singing the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

• In May, to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month, representatives from the Asian Coun-

seling and Referral Center provided information on the changing demographics of King County and the services available through their organization.

In June, to celebrate LGBT Pride Month, QLaw board member Yvonne Curtis moderated a "101" panel discussion of transgender legal issues. The panelists were David Ward, legal and legislative counsel with LegalVoice; Marsha Botzer, founder and board member of Ingersoll Gender Center; and Denise Diskin, an attorney with Teller and Associates. On Sunday, June 26, 2016, several judges and staff from the court and clerk's office also marched in the Seattle Pride Parade.



• In **September**, to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month**, Dr. Sandra Madrid, former assistant dean for students and community outreach at the UW Law School, spoke about how to foster and support a more representative and culturally competent bar and judiciary. The event also included artwork by Latina artist Raquel Garcia and a traditional dance performance by Grupo Bailadores de Bronce.



• In November, to celebrate Native American History Month, Washington's only Native American Superior Court Judge, Raquel Montoya-Lewis from Whatcom County, talked about her personal history and the legal history of Native American peoples; the Chief Seattle Drum Group performed; artist and member of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Anthony Jones offered remarks and shared his work; and several inspiring local Native American youth received recognition awards.





Office of Interpreter Services Hits Language 161

Since 1992, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services has provided assistance in 161 languages, and that list of languages grows longer each year. While one might expect to see requests for assistance in languages commonly spoken in our area, many of the languages on our list are ones you may never have heard of. The most recent iteration of the list is reproduced below. When a language does not share its name with a place (e.g., Bosnian with Bosnia), location information is provided.

Afrikaans [South Africa]	Gheg [Albania]	Lakota [U.S.A.]	Romany [Romania]
Akan [Ghana]	Grebo [Liberia]	Lao	Russian
Albanian	Greek	Latin	Saho [Eritrea]
American Sign Language	Haida [Canada]	Latvian	Samoan
Amharic [Ethiopia]	Haitian Creole	Lingala [Central Africa]	Sarahule [The Gambia]
Anuak [South Sudan]	Haka Chin [Burma]	Lithuanian	Serbo-Croatian
Arabic	Hakka [China]	Luganda [Uganda]	Shanghainese [China]
Armenian	Hausa [Nigeria]	Maay Maay [Somalia]	Siraya [China]
Ashuli [South Sudan]	Hawaiian	Malayalam [India]	Slovak
Bari [Sudan]	Hebrew	Malaysian	Somali
Bemba [Zambia]	Hiligaynon [Philippines]	Mandarin [China]	Somali Bantu
Bengali [S. Asia]	Hindi [India]	Mandinka [W. Africa]	Soninke [Mali]
Berber [Algeria]	Hmong [China]	Maraka [W. Africa]	Spanish
Bosnian	Hmong Njua [Laos]	Marshallese	Sudanese
Bulgarian	Hungarian	Matupi Chin [Burma]	Swahili [E. Africa]
Burmese	Icelandic	Mien [SE Asia]	Swedish
Cambodian	Igbo [Nigeria]	Mixtec [Mexico]	Tagalog [Philippines]
Cantonese [China]	Ilocano [Philippines]	Mizo Chin [Burma]	Taiwanese
Carolinian [Mariana Is.]	Ilonggo [Philippines]	Moldavian	Tamil [India]
Cebuano [Philippines]	Indonesian	Mongolian	Tarasco [Mexico]
Cham [Cambodia]	Italian	Mushunguli [Somalia]	Telugu [India]
Chamorro [Guam]	Japanese	Nahuatl [Mexico]	Thai
Chatino [Mexico]	Kanjobal [Guatemala]	Nepali	Tibetan
Chinanteco [Mexico]	Kapampangan [Philippines]	Norwegian	Tigrinya [Ethiopia]
Chaozhou [China]	Karay-a [Philippines]	Nuer [South Sudan]	Tlapanec [Mexico]
Chuj [Guatemala]	Karen [Burma]	Oromo [Ethiopia]	Toishanese [China]
Chuukese [Micronesia]	Karenni [Burma]	Oshiwambo [SW Africa]	Tongan
Czech	Kazakh	Palau	Trique [Mexico]
Danish	Khmu [Laos]	Pangasinan [Philippines]	Turkish
Dari [Afghanistan]	Kikuyu [Kenya]	Pashto [Afghanistan]	Twi [Ghana]
Dinka [South Sudan]	Kinyarwanda [E. Africa]	Patois [Jamaica]	Tzotzil [Mexico]
Dutch [The Netherlands]	Kirundi [E. Africa]	Polish	Ukrainian
Esan [Nigeria]	Kizigua [E. Africa]	Pohnpeian [Micronesia]	Urdu [S. Asia]
Ewe [Ghana]	Korean	Portuguese	Uzbeck
Falam Chin [Burma]	Korean Sign	Punjabi [S. Asia]	Vietnamese
Farsi [Iran]	Kosraen [Micronesia]	Purepecha [Mexico]	Visayan [Philippines]
Fijian	Krio [Sierra Leone]	Quechua [Peru]	Wolaytinga [Philippines]
Finnish	Kru [Liberia]	Quiche [Guatemala]	Wolof [W. Africa]
French	Kurdish [Iraq, Syria]	Rohingya [Burma]	Xamari [Somalia]
Fulani [W. Africa]	Lahu [SE Asia]	Romanian	Yoruba [Nigeria]
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Parents for Parents Adds "Upper Division" Classes

The Parents for Parents Program offers support for parents with dependency cases pending. The Program consists of three elements: Parent Ally* support at dependency hearings, a two-hour educational

class called Dependency 101, and—beginning in 2016—a new support course called Dependency 201.

Dependency 201 is a set of six classes designed to offer continued mentoring and resource support through the dependency case. Parents can choose to join one or all six of the classes offered, with certificates given for each class completed. Dependency 201 covers a variety of topics, including:

- Visitation;
- Housing and DSHS Services;
- Family Law Resources;
- Parenting and Childcare Resources;
- Navigating the Dependency System; and
- Life Skills.

The only requirement is prior attendance at Dependency 101.



Parent allies in Kent



Parent allies in Seattle

Family Treatment Court Expands with Grant

In late 2015, the Family Treatment Court (FTC) Program received a \$975,000 federal SAMHSA grant to expand and enhance services to King County residents involved in the child welfare system. Using this award, FTC began offering a full court day calendar in Kent, starting in September 2016. FTC also added and filled two Family Recovery Support Specialist (FRSS) positions. These positions help facilitate access to treatment and other services for program participants. They also assist in obtaining and coordinating services for dependent children. These additions made it possible for FTC to serve almost one-third more adults in 2016 than in the year before.

Court Hosts Visit from Maricopa County

In June 2016, Dependency Operations and the Parents for Parents Program hosted a two-day visit by judges, administrators, clerks, and attorneys from Maricopa County Dependency Court (Arizona). Casey Family Programs sponsored the visit, which focused primarily on our Parents for Parents program. Maricopa County is a very large court, with 24 dependency judges managing 13,000 children in care. King County has four dependency judges managing fewer than 3,000 children in care.

The Maricopa visitors learned about our dependency system, participated in a panel presentation with representatives from stakeholder groups, observed a Dependency 101 class, and had in-depth discussions with the Parents for Parents program managers and parent allies. The visitors were particularly impressed by our Parents for Parents Program and left with the intention of establishing a similar program in their court.





^{*&}quot;Parent Allies" are parents who have successfully navigated the juvenile dependency system.

Education Employment Training Named "Research-Based Program"

2016 was the Education Employment Training (EET) Program's first year as a "research-based program." Twenty years ago, the state legislature established a three-tiered system to identify effective programs for youth. "Evidence-based" programs—the top tier—have been rigorously evaluated more than once. "Research-based" programs have some research demonstrating effectiveness but do not yet meet the evidence-based standard. "Promising programs" show solid potential based on preliminary information. EET became a "promising program" in 2010. On December 31, 2015, EET met the criteria of a "research based program."

EET serves more than 200 court-involved youth each year. The program provides job readiness training and connects youth with jobs. The program also requires that youth stay (or reengage) in school or work toward completing their GED. Participation in the program has been shown to reduce recidivism.

Juvenile Court Offers Parent Youth Connection Seminar In Spanish

The Parent Youth Connections Seminar (PYCS) is an evidence-based program serving low-risk youth offenders and their parents or other adults involved in their lives. The 12-hour seminar takes place over 2 days (6 hours per day) and consists of five to eight interactive sessions guided by speakers from local community organizations. The program is designed to:

- Reduce recidivism for participants;
- Increase positive relationships between caregivers and children; and
- Increase a family's knowledge of, and connection to, community resources.



Claudia Pineda (left) facilitating a discussion on objectives

In 2016, for the first time, this seminar was offered in Spanish. Participating youth opened up about themselves in ways that would not have been possible for them in English, and mothers shared contact information at the end of the seminar in order to create a support system. The court hopes to continue offering the PYCS in Spanish.

Clerk's Office Consolidates and Streamlines Space

In 2016, the Superior Court Clerk's Office made several space-related changes designed to improve the customer experience and streamline operations. In Kent, the main service counter was pushed back four feet. This expanded the public waiting area, increasing the space for strollers, walkers, travel bags, and wheelchairs. Also in Kent, the protection order customer service counter was moved to a more private location. This provides a more comfortable place for customers to discuss these sensitive matters. In Seattle, storage of exhibits for open court cases was moved from the basement of the courthouse to the 6th floor, within the clerk's primary office area. This makes these exhibits more accessible for trials in the building. It also increases safety for the exhibit room staff person, who previously worked alone in the basement.





County Executive "Walks in the Shoes" of Court Reporters

King County's "Walk in the Shoes of a County Employee" program gives county employees a chance to show Executive Constantine how their position contributes to the success of their agency and why their job is important to King County residents. In 2016, Executive Constantine visited Superior Court to

learn more about our court reporters.

Court reporters provide a service called 'Realtime,' which is a live stream of written verbatim testimony. Realtime is particularly useful in complex cases because the judge and attorneys can use the transcript to refer back to earlier testimony over the course of a lengthy trial. Court reporter Mike Townsend Jr. showed the Executive how Realtime works. Reporters create individual dictionaries in their stenotype machines so that when they type a specific sequence of characters in steno, specialized software can translate the characters into English instantaneously. Reporters create special steno "words" for



(L to R) Court Reporter Michelle Vitrano, Executive Constantine, and Court Reporter Mike Townsend, Jr.

proper nouns and technical terms for each specific trial. A reporter's individual steno language is constantly expanding—even during the length of one trial—as the reporter updates his or her dictionary to produce the most accurate Realtime. Executive Constantine enjoyed learning about this service.

County Executive "Walks in the Shoes" of Family Law Facilitators

In 2016, Executive Constantine also "walked in the shoes" of the Family Law Facilitator Program, which provides information and referrals to family law litigants who are not represented by attorneys. He learned about the numerous ways this program offers assistance.

A team of attorneys called Early Resolution Case Managers (ERCMs) provides information and referrals and conducts mediations, which are meetings aimed at resolving disagreements outside the court process. The Executive was able to observe a mediation first-hand. The ERCMs also teach the Family Law Orientation, which is designed for parties who do not have attorneys. It provides essential information

(L to R) ERCM Christina Luera, Executive Constantine, ERCM Kevin Rowles, and Facilitator Program Manager Jamie Perry

on court processes, court rules, and resources for seeking assistance.

The Executive also learned about the court's Simple Dissolution Program, which allows many couples to finalize their cases with minimal court involvement, and he learned about the Family Law Facilitators, who walk clients through the divorce process and review their forms for completeness. He thanked the team for his visit.





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 2016, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:



King County Courthouse (Seattle) and Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Kiese Wilburn. Kiese is bailiff to Judge Lori Kay Smith. During 2016, Judge Smith served as the court's Chief Family Court Judge, with Kiese as her right-hand assistant. Kiese is widely recognized for her good work. Judges and co-workers describe her as hard-working, a treasure, resourceful, generous, approachable, courteous, patient, compassionate, a ray of sunshine and a hub of communication and expertise. They state that she goes the extra mile to help people, even

under challenging conditions, and makes every day just a bit better for all.

Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Jackie Snodgrass. Jackie is a Court Program Specialist at Juvenile Court. She serves as a "court coordinator," helping to ensure that court proceedings run smoothly. She is familiar with many types of proceedings, and therefore is frequently called upon to fill gaps in coverage. Those who work with her describe her as highly reliable and dependable and rate the quality of her work as exceptional. They also appreciate her willingness to share her knowledge and assist others. They describe her as approachable, respected, and gracious even under pressure.



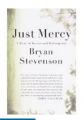
Court's Equity and Social Justice Book Club Explores Ideas Together

In 2016, the court's ESJ Book Club discussed issues raised by the following seven books:

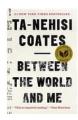
'Just Mercy'—Bryan Stevenson 'Everything I Never Told You'—Celeste Ng 'War Dances'—Sherman Alexie 'Night'—Elie Wiesel 'Life on the Color Line'—Gregory Howard Williams 'Between the World and Me'—Ta-Nehisi Coates

'Enduring Conviction'—Lorraine Bannai

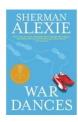
Participants find that the club is a great way to share ideas about interesting reads!



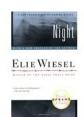














Superior Court Budget

2016 Expenditures by Pro	2016 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship and probate staff, jury, interpreters, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (39%)	\$21,939,218	
Juvenile Court	Includes judges, bailiffs, court coordinators, probation and treatment services, intervention programs, Juvenile Drug Court, Reclaiming Futures, and the Partnership for Youth Justice. (22%)	\$12,715,488	
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, technology services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (19%)	\$10,874,134	
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Family Treatment Court, Dependency, Dependency CASA, Truancy and At-Risk Youth, and Early Resolution Case Management programs. (20%)	\$11,108,867	
TOTAL		\$56,637,707	

2016 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$52,223,208	92%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$4,414,499	8%
TOTAL	\$56,637,707	100%

Department of Judicial Administration Budget

2016 Expenditures by Pro	2016 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow & Court Clerk Services	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, case auditing and sealed document coordination. (24%)	\$5,687,186	
Customer & Financial Services	Includes cashiers, judgments, disbursement, accounting, customer service, records access, e-working copies, LFO collections, and witness payments. (19%)	\$4,492,032	
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, e-working copies, dependency publication costs at Juvenile and MRJC. (23%)	\$5,422,235	
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program and Step-Up program. (9%)	\$2,126,893	
Administration	Includes administration staff, human resources, technology services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, statistical analysis and intragovernmental services. (25%)	\$6,090,093	
TOTAL		\$23,818,439	

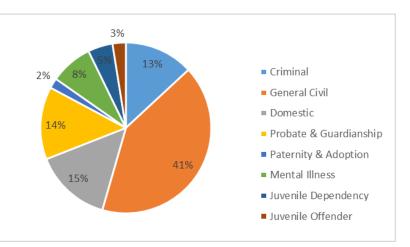
2016 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$23,818,439	100%
TOTAL	\$23,818,439	100%

Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Case Filings

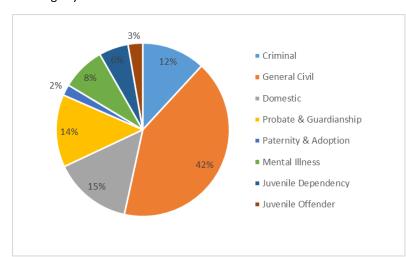
In 2016, a total of 51,472 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 0.3% from 2015. Criminal, probate & guardianship, and mental illness filings rose; general civil and domestic filings were flat; paternity & adoption, juvenile dependency, and juvenile offender filings fell. In addition, 8,742 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2016	Change from 2015
Criminal	6,743	5.1%
General Civil	21,288	0.1%
Domestic	7,512	-0.6%
Probate & Guardianship	7,081	1.3%
Paternity & Adoption	986	-11.2%
Mental Illness	4,152	3.7%
Juvenile Dependency	2,415	-8.8%
Juvenile Offender	1,295	-21.5%
Total Filings	51,472	-0.3%



Case Resolutions

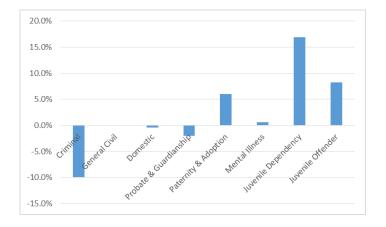
In 2016, the court resolved a total of 51,234 cases. Total case resolutions were down 1.8% from 2015 and also lagged total 2016 filings by 0.5%.



Case Type	2016	Change from 2015
Criminal	6,074	-7.8%
General Civil	21,297	-3.7%
Domestic	7,479	-5.1%
Probate & Guardianship	6,936	2.2%
Paternity & Adoption	1,045	-5.7%
Mental Illness	4,178	4.1%
Juvenile Dependency	2,824	32.6%
Juvenile Offender	1,401	-8.6%
Total Resolutions	51,234	-1.8%

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.

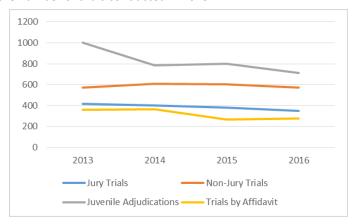


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Trial Activity

The 1,912 trials conducted in 2016 represent a 7.1% decrease from the number of trials conducted in 2015.

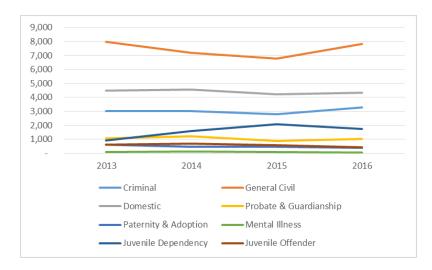
Trial Category	2016
Jury Trials	351
Non-Jury Trials	572
Juvenile Adjudications	712
Trials by Affidavit	277
Total Trials	1,912



Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2016, 19,119 cases were pending – an increase of 6.9% from 2015.

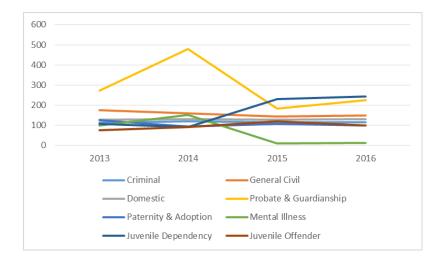
Case Type	2016
Criminal	3,300
General Civil	7,829
Domestic	4,337
Probate & Guardianship	1,013
Paternity & Adoption	388
Mental Illness	60
Juvenile Dependency	1,751
Juvenile Offender	441
Total Pending Cases	19,119



Age of Pending Caseload

The age of pending caseload is measured as the median age of pending cases (in days) at the end of 2016. The age of all pending cases in 2016 changed little from prior years, though changes occurred within some case types. Note that a 2015 administrative clean-up significantly reduced the median age of pending probate & guardianship cases.

Case Type	2016
Criminal	115
General Civil	149
Domestic	129
Probate & Guardianship	226
Paternity & Adoption	99
Mental Illness	12
Juvenile Dependency	242
Juvenile Offender	98
Median for All Active Pending	143
Caseload	



COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer **Paul Sherfey** JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge Director Barbara Miner

> Policy Analyst **David Reynolds**

Project/Program Manager Michelle Garvey Facilities and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos

Facilities Specialist Kirby Pierce

Facilities Technician Rodrigo Jacinto Executive Specialist Angelina Jimeno

Rose Bridenstine Administrative Support Technicians

Malinda You

HUMAN RESOURCES Minerva Villarreal Director

Senior Human Resources Consultant Kathryn Schipper

> Human Resources Analyst **Gertrude Fuentes** Human Resources Technician Cynthia Williams

> > Director

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Andy Hill

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Business & Finance Specialist Rob Bradstreet Senior Systems Engineers Finance Technician **Guy Brook Kevin Daggett**

Payroll & Accounts Payable Tech. Jose Ramos Senior Systems Specialist **Ted Shaw**

Mail Service Assistant Kristan Johnson IT Systems Specialists Jerry Ito

Michael Kim

Senior Desktop Support Technician Michelle Croy

Desktop Support Technician Kawai Tang

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

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Paul Daniels Managers Supervisor Diane Korf

Ryan Pinto Juvenile Probation Counselors **Yvette Gaston**

Equity & Justice Advocate Jason Clark Lisa Gistarb

Project/Program Manager Catherine Pickard **Brandon Lyons** Assistant to the Director Kimberley Rosenstock Administrative Specialist Stephanie Jones

JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS Supervisor Jacqui Arrington Supervisor Christine Kahikina

Case Setting Coordinator Low-Level Supervision Lead Katie Davidson Rosemary Fraine **Court Program Specialists Jackie Snodgrass** Diversion Program Manager Shirley Noble Michelle Wyman FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselors Cecilia Camino

Jeremy Crowe

FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselor Anttimo Bennett

JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Program Coordinator William Schipp

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

CSEC Taskforce Coordinator Kelly Mangiaracina





JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

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Supervisor Josalyn Conley Lead Karen Austin

Education/Employment Specialists Demetrius Devers Juvenile Probation Counselors Bill Bodick

Leslie HortonJason CanfieldJohn LeersDaryl CerdinioGuy McWhorterKiersten Knutson

Dawn Nannini Sex Offender Intake Bruce Gourley
Riley Todd Administrative Specialist Danielle Kidd

Review Monitor Dorcas Olegario

NORTHEAST UNIT—Bellevue

CITY UNIT

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Supervisor Staci Delgardo Lead Kris McKinney

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Geri Horrobin Dan Higgins
Lee Lim Randy Kok
Dianna Quall Gideon Oyeleke
Dominick Beck Pat Pepoy

WACIC Data Coordinator Dominick Beck Pat Pepoy

Administrative Specialist Sheila Singleton

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SupervisorTodd FosterSOUTH I UNIT—RENTONLeadKarla PowelsonSupervisorJoeAnne Taylor

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Kelly DePhelps Juvenile Probation Counselors Fred Aulava

Tracy Dixon Darlin Johnson
Dede Gartrell Michelle Mihail
Yoko Maeshiro Ron Tarnow
Shelley Moore Mai Tran

Gabrielle Pagano Administrative Specialist Lameania Bridges

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Administrative Specialists Julie Allen Lead Diane Rayburn

Joyce Chan Juvenile Probation Counselors Yvonne Clemente-Smith

Chris Hong Michelle Higa Lita Kovacs Rachel Hubert

Francisca Madera Gwen Spears Kelli Sullivan

SOUTH II UNIT—FEDERAL WAY

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH

Youth Program Coordinator Susie Bridges Weber Administrative Specialist Julie Stansberry





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Brian Ivanich

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Irene Szczerba

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Judicial Technician—Ex Parte Nadia Simpson

Judicial Technician—Arbitration

Keith Thomson GAL Specialist

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Karen Igo

Catherine Kuvac

Janie Smoter

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Barbara Winter

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Criminal Info Processing Technician **Emmanuel LaGuardia**

> Customer Service Assistant Nick Lacy

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Supervisor Irene Anulacion

Interpreter Services Technicians Dara Chiem

Hakim Lakhal

Charlotte Taylor

Julie Warfield

Amy Andrews Interpreter

ITA COURT

Manager Charlotte Daugherty

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Sung Kim

Jaymie Bennett Morgan Lake

> Amanda Loveless Teri Bush

Robert Byrne Jessica Marshall

Chase Craig Jennifer McBeth

Lati Culverson Linda Nguyen

Cheryl Cunningham Kelli Northrop

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Elaine Deines Marci Parducci

Maria Diga Erica Parkin

Yayi Ding Tikecha Pearson

Nhu Dinh Ricki Reese

Laura Dorris Pam Roark

Kathryn Evans **Christine Robinson**

Jill Gerontis John Schroeder

Monica Gillum **Spencer Thorson**

Kristin Grant Linda Tran

Kenya Hart Lisa Tran

Phillip Hennings Jacqueline Ware

Rebecca Hibbs Laurie Watson

Salina Hill Paige Weir

Theodore Hong Loyce Weishaar

Greg Howard Kiese Wilburn

Nicole Huppert Peggy Wu

Gabby Jacobson Lisa Zimnisky





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> Manager Lisa Petersen Supervisors Wai Ping Li-Landis

FAMILY LAW/UFC OPERATIONS Kathleen McCormack

Manager Jamie Perry **Program Attorneys** Kathryn Barnhouse

Supervisor Rosalia Henley Elizabeth Berris Early Resolution Case Managers Najja Bullock Lori Irwin

> Christina Luera Kathleen Martin Heather Muwero April Rivera **Gretchen Neal** Camille Schaefer

Kevin Rowles Staff GAL Specialists Pauline Duke

Family Law Facilitators Jeanna Bento Carolyn Frimpter

Shoshana Ellis CASA Specialists Rashida Ballard

Kristen Gabel Luis Galvan Nishi Shankar Janet Horton Alexandra Kirsch Peggy Larson Don Miner

Kassie Smith Intake Specialist Paula Moses Rie Takeuchi Civil Case Specialists Laura Contreras Reyana Ugas Tiffany Klein Deanna Watson

Paralegals Laura Chunyk Vickey Wilson

FAMILY COURT SERVICES Customer Service Specialists Stephanie Richardson

Manager Connor Lenz Joyce Stockman Supervisors Jennifer Bercot Jessica White

Tracey White Social Workers **Emily Brewer**

Daryl Buckendahl

Laura Willett

Nicole Bynum **COMMISSIONER SUPPORT Desiree Canter** Family Law Supervisor Merle Redd-Jones Debra Hunter Family Court Operations Lead Hannah Service Elly Khosravi Dependency Coordinator Sheila Rogers Margaret McCurdy Family Law Coordinators Jayleen Bowman

Julie McDonald Carolyn Bustamante Kara Michael Stevie Craig

Larkspur Van Stone Matthew Hodgman

Dependency Mediator Kendy Rossi Yen Phung Becca Program Specialists Melody Edmiston

Becca Case Managers Amy Andree **FAMILY TREATMENT COURT** Karen Chapman Jill Murphy Supervisor

Adoption Paralegal Gina Reyes Parents for Parents Coordinator Dana Dildine Customer Service Specialists **Brooklyn Adams** Family Treatment Specialists Cathy Lehmann

Taryn McCormack Michelle Szozda Darien Riffe Jennifer Turner Vanessa Snelson **Court Program Specialists** Dajani Henderson **Kandice Trenary**

> Family Recovery Support Specialists Teresa Anderson-Harper

FAMILY LAW & DEPENDENCY

Michelle Thomas **DEPENDENCY OPERATIONS**

FJCIP Specialist Stacy Keen

Program Fiscal Technicians



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.



King County Courthouse | 516 Third Avenue | Seattle Washington 98104-2312

Juvenile Court | 1211 East Alder | Seattle Washington 98122

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



