

King County Superior Court 2015 Annual Report



Message from Presiding Judge Susan J. Craighead

On behalf of the judges, commissioners, and staff of the King County Superior Court, I am pleased to present our 2015 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 2015, but I am perhaps most excited about our recent innovations at Juvenile Court. In 2015, we worked hard to expand the type and number of alternatives to detention for youth.

Restorative mediation is now an option for youth in the juvenile diversion program and on probation. A restorative mediation brings together the victim of a crime and the youth who committed that crime. The goal of this encounter, which is facilitated by a trained mediator, is for the victim and youth to develop a plan together for mitigating the harm caused by the crime. Completion of this plan helps restore the youth's relationship with the victim and the community.

Juvenile Court also is expanding its "two-tier" approach when issuing warrants. Historically, about 1,000 warrants each year are issued for youth who miss a court hearing—often the first hearing of their case. Youth may miss hearings for a variety of reasons, including a failure to receive the court summons, confusion about where and when to report, lack of transportation to the court, etc. Placing a youth in detention in response often does not make sense. Under the new two-tier approach, a judge selects between a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 warrant based on a set of criteria. Tier 1 warrants require detention, but youth subject to a Tier 2 warrant often can simply be given a new court date. This is helping to reduce warrant-related detention.

In 2015, we 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, a youth detained for domestic violence may enter into a FIRS agreement, which allows the youth to benefit from interventions and services immediately, skipping formal court processing. Families develop safety plans and receive assistance in handling future conflicts. FIRS will be expanded in 2016 to include a small respite center where youth can stay until it is safe for them to return home or begin living in another location.

I also would like to highlight the great work of our Family Court Department, which offers programs and services for family law litigants and families involved in the child welfare system. In recent years, with the addition of the Dependency Mediation Program, the Family Law Orientation class, and the services of the Early Resolution Case Managers, the department has significantly enhanced the assistance available to unrepresented litigants. The Family Treatment Court is a national model.

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 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.



Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2015, Superior Court worked to enhance service offerings, promote diversity and inclusiveness, and ensure access to justice for all. In the pages that follow, you will read about our many accomplishments for the year, including articles on the following topics:

Civil Case Schedule Reduction. In 2015, Superior Court and the Superior Court Clerk's Office completed a three and a half year project to reduce the standard time from filing to trial for general civil cases. The 'civil case schedule' is now 12 months, down from 17.5 months when the project started. Civil trial attorneys report appreciation for this change.

CASA Diversity Recruitment. In 2015, Superior Court's Dependency CASA Program, which serves children involved in the child welfare system, received a grant to recruit new volunteers from diverse backgrounds and communities. About 350 community volunteers serve as CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) representing the best interests of dependent children. The grant has helped the court increase the diversity of our volunteers.

Diversity and Inclusiveness Events. In 2015 the court partnered with many community organizations to celebrate King County's diverse cultural heritage. Events like our second annual Juneteenth celebration and 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.

Language 150. In 2015, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services reached a service milestone when it provided assistance in its 150th language. Every day, the court provides interpretation services for 60 to 100 events in a wide variety of languages that reflects the rich diversity of our county.

I hope you will enjoy reading more about the great work of our court in 2015!

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

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



Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2015

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

Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2015

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |



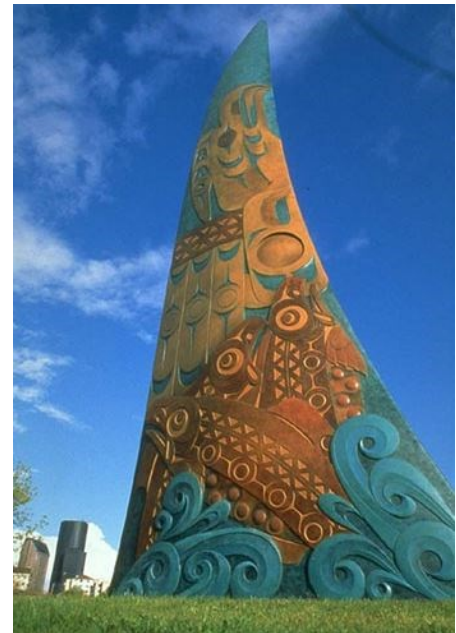
Planning Continues for the King County Children and Family Justice Center

Working together with the county and its community partners, the court continued to make progress toward replacement of the aging Youth Services Center at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street in Seattle.

In February 2015, the King County Council approved a contract officially selecting the design-build team of Howard S. Wright (a Balfour Beatty company), HOK, and Integrus Architects to design and construct the Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC). This new facility will replace the existing Juvenile Court building and detention center with a new courthouse, detention facility, and parking garage. The CFJC will be modern and efficient and will demonstrate respect for the families, staff, and service providers who enter the building each day.

The County also completed two design phases in 2015:

- During the spring, project stakeholders worked with the design-build team to complete the **schematic design phase**. This included confirming program locations and adjacencies within the building and finalizing the design of exterior facades and the integration of the building into the surrounding neighborhood.
- During the fall, the **design development phase** was completed. This included refining designs for individual courtrooms, program areas, and interior office suites, and selecting colors and finishes. As part of this phase, the project created a full-scale courtroom mock-up in the Alder Gymnasium at the current Youth Services Center. This mock-up was used to refine the layout of the juvenile dependency, juvenile offender, and therapeutic courtrooms.



The Whale Fin, a prominent piece of Native American art on the site, is being restored as part of this project.

Early construction work is expected to begin in late spring 2016, starting with the relocation of a sewer line on 14th Avenue and the demolition of the Lower Alder Building. By late 2016, full construction will be underway. Construction of the CFJC is scheduled to take approximately three years. When the new



facility is ready to open, judges and staff will relocate to it. The existing facility then will be demolished, and a new parking garage will be built in its place. All onsite construction is scheduled to be complete in 2020.

The project launched a revamped website, with new renderings and up to date project information: www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice.



Restorative Mediation Begins at Juvenile Court

In 2015, Juvenile Court began piloting “restorative mediation” as an option for youth in the juvenile diversion program, and later extended the program to include adjudicated youth. The mediation option gives participating youth an opportunity to reduce their time on probation. Mediation also can take the place of court-ordered community service hours.

A restorative mediation brings together the victim of a crime and the person who committed that crime. The victim may ask questions of the offender and may describe how he or she was impacted by the offender’s actions. The offender, in turn, may describe the chain of events that led to the commission of the crime. The goal of the encounter, which is facilitated by a trained mediator, 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.

A restorative mediation brings together the victim of a crime and the person who committed that crime. The goal of the 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.

The first mediation held at Juvenile Court provides a good example of how restorative mediation can work. The crime was shoplifting from a neighborhood cooperative grocery. Participants in the mediation included the youth, two members of the youth’s family, two representatives from the co-op, a mediator from King County’s Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution, a youth co-facilitator from Garfield High School, and two community representatives. The co-op and community representatives explained that shoplifting can force a store to raise prices to cover the cost of lost merchandise. This in turn affects everyone in the neighborhood who must pay higher prices for things they need from the store. The youth thus learned that his actions could have consequences for people he knew and cared about.

Following the mediation, the youth gave the store a formal apology both in person and in writing, which encouraged the store to remove him from a list of individuals prohibited from shopping at the store. The youth’s mother found the process so helpful that she asked to have restorative mediation made available to her older son, who also was involved with the court. One of the community representatives established a mentoring relationship with the youth and began helping him advance his professional interest in automotive repair. The co-op began looking for opportunities to engage youth from the community to promote understanding of the store.

The court and mediation staff understand that some mediations will be more productive than others, but preliminary results appear promising. Restorative mediations are taking place at community locations in addition to Juvenile Court. Restorative mediation is just one way that King County is working to transform juvenile justice and achieve sustainable productive outcomes for our youth.



Family Court by the Numbers

Overview. Family Court offers programs that support Superior Court’s Dependency and Family Law litigants and cases. Nine judges, nine commissioners, and roughly 75 staff are assigned to this area of the court. This represents just over 25% 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.

In 2015:

- 848 dependencies were filed
- 2822 dependencies were active at year’s end

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.

In 2015:

- 91 new CASAs were trained
- 972 children were represented by 346 CASAs
- 1858 reports were submitted to the court

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.

In 2015:

- 64 adults were served (59% were homeless upon intake)
- 95 children were served (50% were aged 0-2 years)

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. Parents who receive support from P4P are more likely to attend court hearings and comply with court orders.

In 2015:

- 513 parents met with P4P in court
- 44 parents met with P4P in jail
- 527 parents signed up for the Dependency 101 class
- 42% of parents cited housing as the biggest barrier to family stability

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 support 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.

In 2015:

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



Family Court by the Numbers (cont.)

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.

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 courtrooms run smoothly. Early Resolution Case Managers teach the Family Law Orientation (FLO) class and help finalize documents for certain family law cases.

In 2015:

- 3014 referrals were screened
- 154 PP mediations were conducted
- 347 PP evaluations were completed
- 177 DV assessments were completed
- 5037 parents attended the parenting seminar
- 414 adoptions were finalized

In 2015:

- 2498 clients met with facilitators
- 7814 case files were reviewed for placement on court calendars
- 4824 litigants attended the FLO
- 1304 litigants received help with final documents
- 25,617 people visited the FLIC

The Value of 'CART' Reporting

The average person speaks 145-160 words per minute (wpm). CART reporters are certified to capture 180 wpm with 96% accuracy. It's not unusual for Superior Court's court reporters to capture 260 wpm!

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, approximately 15% of American adults report trouble hearing. One of the tools the court uses to assist the hearing-impaired is "Communication Access Realtime Translation," or CART, which is a way of instantaneously transcribing the spoken word into readable English text. CART also includes environmental cues that help make sense of other courtroom activity.

CART reporting pairs the latest realtime technology with a stenotype machine and notebook computer to generate a readable text copy of courtroom proceedings. This text can be displayed on a monitor or other device for a hearing-impaired litigant, witness, attorney, or juror. Eight of Superior Court's twelve court reporters are CART Certified. A Certified CART Provider must be able to capture at least 180 words per minute with 96% accuracy.

Office of Interpreter Services Reaches Language 150

In 2015, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services provided assistance in its 150th language: Carolinian, spoken in the Northern Mariana Islands of the South Pacific. 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.



Clerk's Office Now Accepting Credit Cards

In 2015, the Superior Court Clerk's Office began accepting credit cards for over-the-counter transactions. For years, the office has accepted credit cards over the internet for electronic filing, copy requests, and other services, but taking electronic payments for court-ordered victim restitution—a payment type which cannot be made online—has not been possible. Restitution funds are distributed quickly to victims, long before the window for cardholder payment disputes closes. A dispute resulting in a reversed payment would leave the clerk's office without recourse.

We accept debit cards and the following credit cards



There is a transaction limit of \$500.00
An additional fee* of \$1.49, or 2.49% of the payment if the amount is over \$60.00
*This fee is not retained by King County

Fortunately, the clerk's office now has an agreement in place with King County's electronic payment processor that protects against reversed payments. Individual transactions may not exceed \$500, and the clerk's office must collect a signature for each transaction, but these restrictions are minor when compared to the convenience of paying by credit card. The office is very pleased to offer this service.

Lunch Hour Assistance Available through Limited Services Counters

In 2015, clerk's office staff helped more than 55,000 people at protection order counters and information windows! Between 15% and 17% of clerk's office customers are served during the lunch hour (12:15 to 1:15), when the full office is closed. Lunch-hour assistance is provided at "limited services" counters in both the King County Courthouse in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. Service offerings at these counters are based on a 2012 survey that asked customers what services they were trying to obtain when they visited the Clerk's Office during its lunch-hour closure period.

- **More than 55,000—the number of customers helped at clerk's office customer service counters in 2015**
- **More than 30—the average number of customers assisted during the lunch-hour closure period each day**

More Court Customers Embrace eWorking Copies

Since 2009, attorneys and litigants have been able to submit their "working copies" online. Working copies of motions and supporting documents are required by court rules and must be submitted to a judge or commissioner in advance of many types of hearings. They help the judge or commissioner prepare for the hearing.

- **More than 143,000—the number of electronic working copy submissions received since the service began**
- **More than 130—the average number of submissions received each day**

Clerk's office staff have processed over 143,000 sets of working copies since this service began, ranging in size from one page to over 2400 pages. In 2010, the office

received roughly 67 submissions per day. By 2015, the submission rate had nearly doubled.

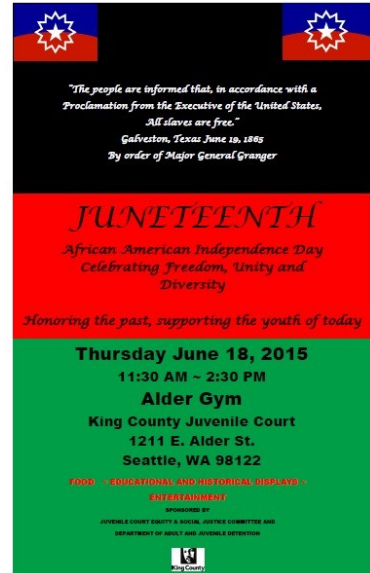


Superior Court Hosts Second Juneteenth Celebration

On June 18, 2015, the Juvenile Court Equity and Social Justice Committee and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention sponsored the county's second Juneteenth celebration at the Youth Services Center in Seattle. Juneteenth, also known as African American Independence Day, marks the day in 1865 when the last slaves in Texas were freed. 2015 was the 150th anniversary of this event.

More than 400 attendees were treated to performances by Unleash the Brilliance, Creative Justice, It's All About Me Step Dance Team, and Dolls & Gents Drill Team & Drumline. There also were exhibits and information tables on the history of slavery, Negro League Baseball, the Life Enrichment Bookstore, Career Bridge, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Lambert House, BGLAD of Youth Eastside Services, King County Public Health, and more.

This event was free and open to the public.



Family Treatment Court Receives New Support and Recognition

Family Treatment Court (FTC) is a 'drug court' for families involved in the child welfare system. It is an alternative to regular dependency court and provides access to drug and alcohol treatment for parents, judicial monitoring of sobriety, and support services for the family. FTC also operates the Parents for Parents program (P4P), which connects 'veteran parents' (parents who have successfully navigated the dependency court system) with parents who are newly involved with the system.

On April 25, 2015, Governor Inslee signed Senate Bill 5486, which standardized the P4P curriculum and replicated the program statewide. Pursuant to this legislation, Superior Court received additional funding for this important program.

In December 2014, the FTC was selected to be a National Peer Learning Court (PLC) for its demonstrated use of evidence-based practices and strong collaboration among the court, child welfare, and substance abuse treatment agencies. The court will serve as a PLC through 2016 by hosting visits from other courts, providing technical assistance, joining webinars, and sharing operational documents.



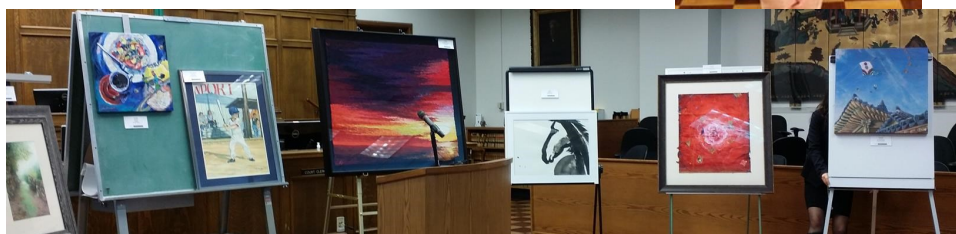
Finally, FTC was featured in a documentary called 'Tough Love,' which premiered on PBS's 'Point of View' series on July 6, 2015. You can learn more about this video here: www.pbs.org/pov/toughlove/.



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 2015, the committee sponsored the following events:

- In **February**, to celebrate **Black History Month** and the legacy of **Justice Thurgood Marshall**, and in honor of the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, ACLU attorney La Rond Baker, who helped argue *Montes v. City of Yakima*, a recent voting rights case, and Prof. Lisa Manheim from the UW School of Law led a thought-provoking discussion on the current state of U.S. Election Law. You can find a video of this event here: www.kingcounty.gov/courts/SuperiorCourt/info.aspx.
- In **June**, to celebrate **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month**, Prof. Margaret Chon from the Seattle University School of Law gave a presentation on her personal history and self-identity journey as a Korean American. The Korean-American Artists Association joined the celebration.
- Also in **June**, to celebrate **LGBT Pride Month**, retired Justice Bobbe Bridge, Founding President and CEO of the Center for Children and Youth Justice, presented data from the first comprehensive study of LGBT youth in Washington's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. On Sunday, June 28, 2015, judges and staff from Superior Court and the Clerk's Office also marched in the Seattle Pride Parade.
- In **September**, to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month**, Enrique Cerna, Director of Community Partnerships at KCTS 9, delivered a moving keynote speech, and attendees were treated to an opera performance by Jose Iniguez and an art installation by Blanca Santander.
- 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 generally. The Chief Seattle Drum Group also performed, and an inspiring local Native American Youth received a recognition award.



CASA Program Provides a Voice for Children

Superior Court's Dependency CASA Program serves children up to 11 years of age whose families have become involved with the juvenile dependency system. CASAs (Court Appointed Special Advocates) are trained volunteers who become full parties to a civil dependency case and represent the best interests of dependent children in court. CASA Program staff recruit, train, and support these volunteers.

Diversity Recruitment. In 2015, the CASA Program received a grant from the National CASA Association to focus specifically on recruiting volunteers from diverse backgrounds and communities. The grant was used to hire two part-time recruitment coordinators, who worked to develop recruitment capacity, primarily in south King County. The coordinators spoke about the CASA program at community events and with local media. Their goal was to recruit volunteers who reflect the rich diversity of the children the CASA Program serves.

As part of this diversity recruitment effort, the CASA Program participated in the 2015 Umoja Fest African Heritage Festival & Parade on July 31st in Seattle. The festival is part of Seattle's annual Seafair celebration and highlights the history and contributions of the local African-American community.



DV Training for CASA Volunteers. In 2015, as part of an ongoing commitment to provide high-quality education and training for CASA volunteers, the CASA Program conducted a full-day workshop focused on coercive control and the abusive use of conflict. Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Berns was joined by Tracee Parker, a local domestic violence (DV) consultant; Susan Winston, the Director of Child and Family Services for Sound Mental Health; and Amy Bullard, of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Protection Order Advocacy Program, who all brought their expertise to the training. Their presentations highlighted a growing understanding that domestic violence is not limited to physical force, and helped workshop attendees understand how to consider coercive control dynamics when representing a child's best interests in court.

CASA Recognition. On October 28, 2015, Superior Court judicial officers and staff gathered at the Tukwila Community Center to celebrate the work of the court's CASA volunteers. More than 150 people attended the 2015 Dependency CASA Recognition Event. Keynote speaker Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, Director of the Trauma Stewardship Institute, discussed the effects of trauma and offered suggestions for caring for oneself while caring for others.



Court and Clerk's Office Complete Civil Case Schedule Reduction

On May 22, 2015, the court and clerk's office completed a project to reduce the time from filing to trial for most civil cases. Court rules require the Superior Court Clerk to prepare and file a scheduling order when a new civil case file is opened. The 'Order Setting Civil Case Schedule' includes a list of events and deadline dates necessary for the case to proceed in a timely manner. Penalties may be imposed for non-compliance with the schedule.



Prior to 2012, the Civil Case Schedule was 17.5 months for most civil case types, but the court and clerk's office determined that this was unnecessarily long and developed a plan to reduce the schedule from 17.5 months to 12 months over a three-and-a-half-year period. The schedule was reduced by eight weeks in 2012, six weeks in 2013, eight more weeks in 2014, and one final week in 2015. Evaluations of the schedule reduction have found only minimal impact on the court and on civil trial attorneys.

Case and Financial Management System (CFMS) Replacement Move 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 system replacement effort to identify and implement this new local system. The new system will hold information from roughly three and a half 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 finding and implementing such a complex system is daunting, but the opportunities afforded by replacing a 30-year-old legacy system are even more exciting.

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

Clerk's Office Completes ECR Core Stabilization Effort

Electronic Court Records (ECR) is the data system used to maintain copies of all court documents, some dating back as far as the 1850s. In 2015, the clerk's office successfully completed a system upgrade that will protect the integrity of this system as the new CFMS replacement project moves forward.



King County TV Spotlights Superior Court

King County TV, the county's cable access television station, spent lots of time covering Superior Court in 2015. KCTV released 16 videos spotlighting Superior Court programs, court-sponsored special events, and the court's chief judges. These videos are in broadcast rotation on the [KCTV channel](#) and also are available on the station's [YouTube channel](#). You can find an exhaustive list of KCTV videos about Superior Court here: www.kingcounty.gov/courts/SuperiorCourt/info.aspx.

Superior Court Begins Using Twitter

In 2015, Superior Court began using Twitter, a social media tool, to announce court-related events and deliver court news to interested parties. The court now is using Twitter to announce:

- Court closures and other emergencies;
- Information about court-sponsored events;
- The release of King County TV broadcast segments, the court's annual report, and high-profile judicial decisions;
- Judicial appointments;
- Awards and recognitions received by judges, programs, and staff; and
- Court-related media generated in-house or by others about the court.



You can follow the court on Twitter at twitter.com/KingSupCourt.

Court Works to Implement 2014-2018 Strategic Agenda

In 2015, Superior Court and the Superior Court Clerk's Office began implementing the Strategic Agenda approved by the Superior Court bench in September of 2014. Thirteen 'Strategic Action Teams' formed to carry out 17 'Strategic Initiatives.' These initiatives addressed objectives in all five of the court's 'Strategic Focus Areas.' To learn more about the court's Strategic Agenda, please visit this Superior Court webpage: www.kingcounty.gov/courts/SuperiorCourt/strategic-agenda.aspx.

Court Joins County Effort to Develop an Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan



On May 20, 2015, twenty-five Superior Court judges, commissioners, and staff participated in an Equity and Social Justice 'SWOC Session.' 'SWOC' stands for 'Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges,' and the goal of the session was to assess how well the court does as an equitable employer, service provider, and community partner. Ideas and insights gathered in the session were delivered to the team responsible for developing the county's first ever Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, which is due for completion in 2016.



Court Completes JDAI Assessment

In 2004, King County was selected to participate in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a program sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. JDAI employs the following eight strategies to reduce confinement for court-involved youth:

- Promoting collaboration between justice system partners, schools, and community organizations;
- Relying on data collection and analysis in decision making;
- Using objective admissions criteria for detention;
- Implementing alternatives to detention;
- Expediting the handling of cases;
- Reducing detention for probation rule violations and failure to appear in court;
- Working to eliminate policies and practices that disadvantage youth of color ; and
- Improving the conditions of confinement.

JDAI Objectives:

- **Decrease the over-representation of youth of color in the King County Juvenile Justice System**
- **Reduce unnecessary youth incarceration consistent with public safety and liability interests**
- **Promote the use of community-based alternative programs in lieu of secure detention**

In 2015, a team of consultants from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Burns Institute assessed the current status of the eight JDAI strategies at Superior Court.

The assessment resulted in a report that summarizes how King County's juvenile justice system currently functions. The assessment also provided leaders, stakeholders, and the community with recommendations for improving the system. As the year concluded, the court was developing an implementation plan to address these recommendations.

Juvenile Court Director Bruce Knutson Retires



In June of 2015, Juvenile Court Director Bruce Knutson retired after 38 years with Juvenile Court. Among his professional accomplishments, Bruce helped implement the Juvenile Drug and Family Treatment Courts; the Reclaiming Futures, Uniting for Youth, and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives; and numerous evidence-based programs. He was recognized as 'Administrator of the Year' by the Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators in 2005 and 2006, and received leadership awards from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee and the

Annie E. Casey Foundation. Happy retirement, Bruce!

Archive of Juvenile Court Annual Reports Now Available Online

Ever wonder what Juvenile Court was like in 1911? Want to learn more about how Juvenile Court evolved and changed over the years? If so, you might want to check out the Juvenile Court Annual Reports from 1911-1995, now posted on the Juvenile Court website. Copies of these reports were located in various city and county archives and were scanned so that they could be shared with everyone. To read the reports, just visit: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/JuvenileCourt/Reports.aspx>.



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 2015, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:



King County Courthouse (Seattle): Laura Contreras. Laura is a Civil Case Specialist in the court's Family Law Information Center (FLIC). She coordinates Family Court's Status/Non-Compliance Calendar, one of the most complex calendars at the court. She plays a significant role in the case assignment process and helps keep cases prioritized and moving forward. Her supervisor, her co-workers, and the judges she works with describe her as gracious, respectful, reliable, tactful, and willing to go the extra mile.

Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): The Early Resolution Case Manager Team. The Early Resolution Case Managers (ERCMs) are part of the Family Court Department. They administer the court's Simple Dissolution Process, teach the Family Law Orientation, and assist family law litigants who lack attorneys. They also participate on a variety of judicial committees and work to help implement the court's Strategic Agenda. Their manager and co-workers and the court's judges appreciate their customer-service, insight, and willingness to tackle tough situations.



Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Marci Parducci. Marci is the bailiff to Judge Erlick and, in addition to carrying out her regular duties, serves as a wonderful resource for other bailiffs and the court as a whole. Her fellow-bailiffs describe her as a go-to person when they have questions about a court procedure or other matter. They also describe her as friendly, courteous, patient, knowledgeable, and passionate about her job. She can be relied upon to respond to requests for assistance as soon as she has time, often within an hour, sometimes within a few minutes.

Congratulations to these award winners, and thank you for your exemplary work!

Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition Award include:

- **2014**—Heidi Bugni (Seattle), Tiffany Klein (Kent), Kendy Rossi (Juvenile Court)
- **2013** – Czar Peralta (Seattle), Marsha Kishida (Kent), Susie Bridges Weber (Juvenile Court)



Superior Court Budget

| 2015 Expenditures by Program Area | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Civil & Criminal Operations | Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship & probate staff, jury, interpreters, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (37%) | \$19,931,276 |
| 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. (24%) | \$12,894,744 |
| Administration | Includes executive staff, human resources, technology services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (20%) | \$10,997,825 |
| Family Court Operations | Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Family Treatment Court, Dependency, Dependency CASA, Early Resolution Case Management programs. (19%) | \$10,091,971 |
| TOTAL | | \$53,915,816 |

| 2015 Funding by Source | Funding | % of Total |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| County | \$49,244,917 | 91% |
| Grants (Federal, State, & Local) | \$4,670,899 | 9% |
| TOTAL | \$53,915,816 | 100% |

Department of Judicial Administration Budget

| 2015 Expenditures by Program Area | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Caseflow & Court Clerk Services | Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination. (24%) | \$5,474,408 |
| Customer & Financial Services | Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies, witness payments. (19%) | \$4,328,053 |
| Satellites | Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies, dependency publication costs at Juvenile and MRJC. (23%) | \$5,225,283 |
| Drug Court | Includes case management, treatment expense, support services, and program management for the adult drug court and Step-Up programs. (7%) | \$1,636,173 |
| Administration | Includes admin staff, human resources, technology services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, statistical analysis and inter-government services. (27%) | \$6,035,363 |
| TOTAL | | \$22,699,280 |

| 2015 Funding by Source | Funding | % of Total |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| County | \$22,699,280 | 100% |
| TOTAL | \$22,699,280 | 100% |

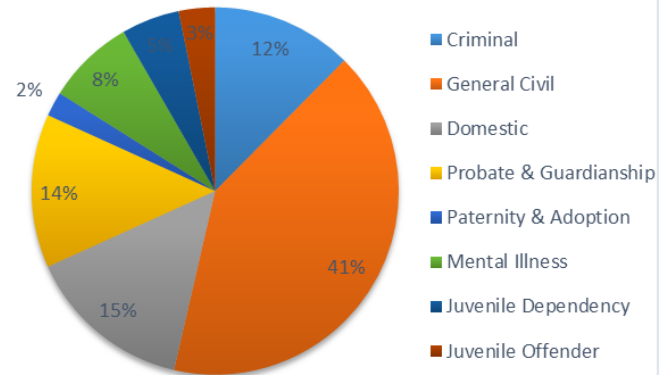


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Case Filings

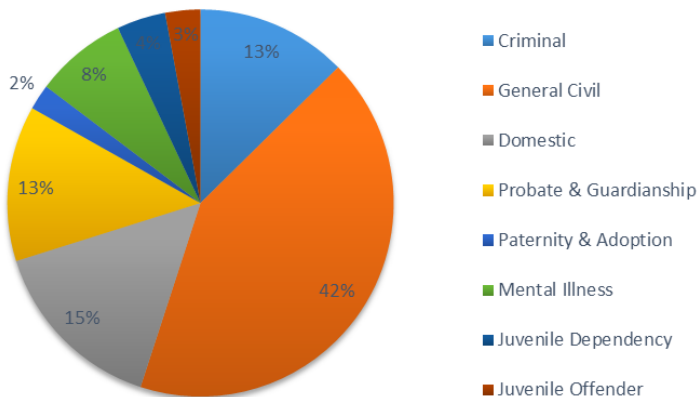
In 2015, a total of 51,652 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 1.1% from 2014. Criminal, probate & guardianship, and mental illness filings rose, while general civil, domestic, paternity & adoption, juvenile dependency, and juvenile offender filings fell. In addition, 9,581 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

| Case Type | 2015 | Change from 2014 |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Criminal | 6,417 | 0.5% |
| General Civil | 21,274 | -0.9% |
| Domestic | 7,559 | -4.6% |
| Probate & Guardianship | 6,991 | 2.1% |
| Paternity & Adoption | 1,110 | -5.3% |
| Mental Illness | 4,004 | 3.9% |
| Juvenile Dependency | 2,648 | -4.7% |
| Juvenile Offender | 1,649 | -8.5% |
| Total Filings | 51,652 | -1.1% |



Case Resolutions

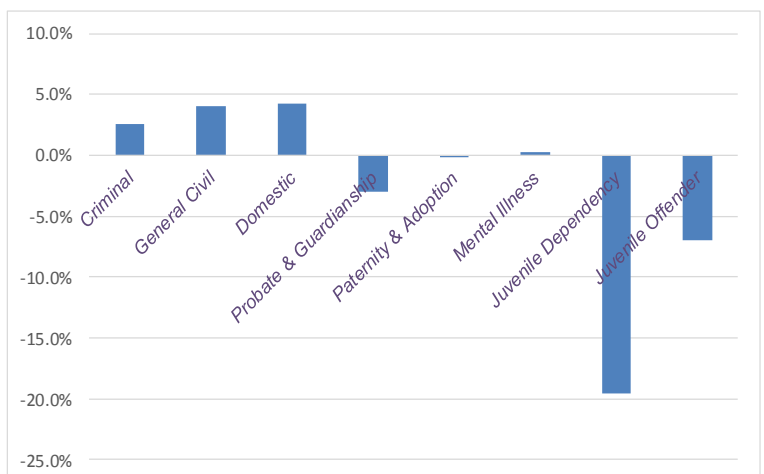
In 2015, the court resolved a total of 52,157 cases. Although case resolutions were down 0.7% from 2014, resolutions in 2015 exceeded case filings by 1.0%.



| Case Type | 2015 | Change from 2014 |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Criminal | 6,586 | 6.9% |
| General Civil | 22,117 | -2.2% |
| Domestic | 7,885 | 0.3% |
| Probate & Guardianship | 6,784 | -0.1% |
| Paternity & Adoption | 1,108 | -17.7% |
| Mental Illness | 4,015 | 4.7% |
| Juvenile Dependency | 2,129 | -6.9% |
| Juvenile Offender | 1,533 | -5.1% |
| Total Resolutions | 52,157 | -0.7% |

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.

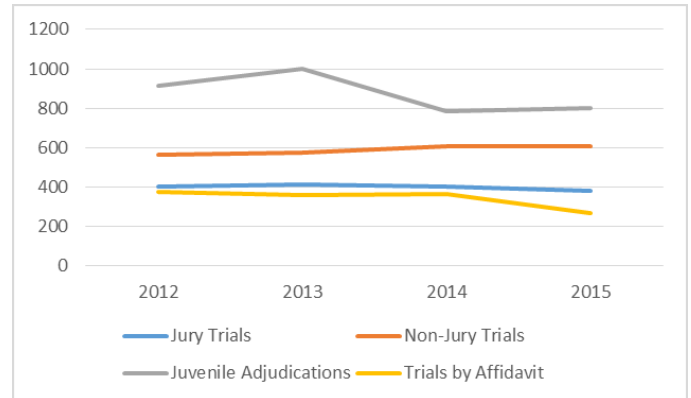


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Trial Activity

The 2,059 trials conducted in 2015 represent an 4.7% decrease from the number of trials conducted in 2014.

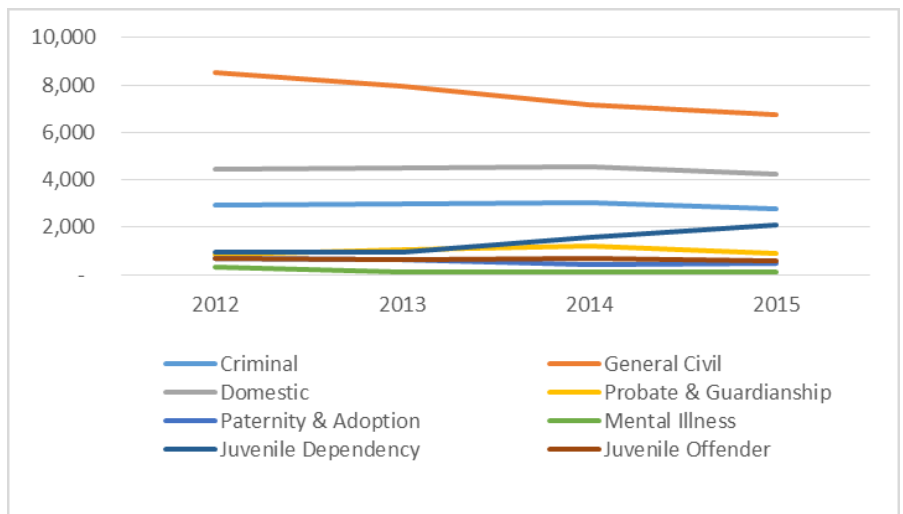
| Trial Category | 2015 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Jury Trials | 383 |
| Non-Jury Trials | 606 |
| Juvenile Adjudications | 803 |
| Trials by Affidavit | 267 |
| Total Trials | 2,059 |



Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2015, 17,886 cases were pending – a decrease of 4.9% from 2014.

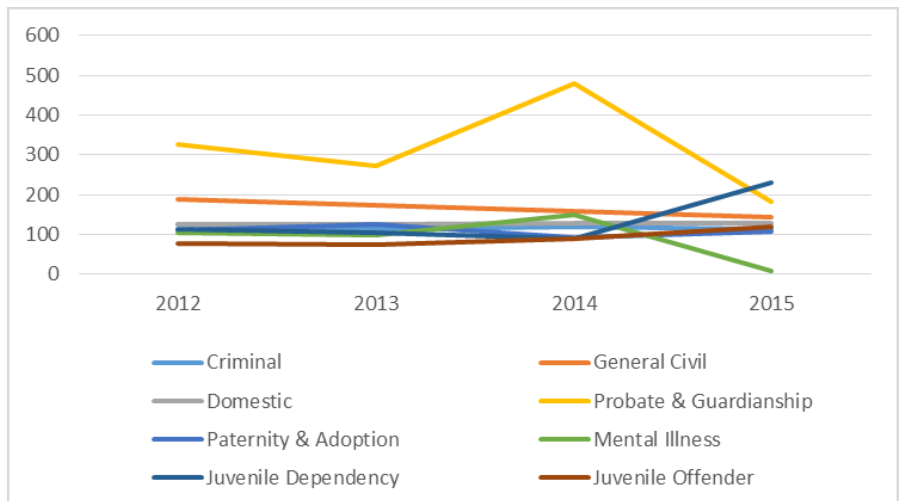
| Case Type | 2015 |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Criminal | 2,775 |
| General Civil | 6,780 |
| Domestic | 4,234 |
| Probate & Guardianship | 891 |
| Paternity & Adoption | 457 |
| Mental Illness | 90 |
| Juvenile Dependency | 2,078 |
| Juvenile Offender | 581 |
| Total Pending Cases | 17,886 |



Age of Pending Caseload

The age of pending caseload is measured as the median age of pending cases (in days) at the end of 2015. The age of all pending cases in 2015 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 | 2015 |
|---|------------|
| Criminal | 114 |
| General Civil | 143 |
| Domestic | 128 |
| Probate & Guardianship | 183 |
| Paternity & Adoption | 107 |
| Mental Illness | 10 |
| Juvenile Dependency | 231 |
| Juvenile Offender | 120 |
| Median for All Active Pending Caseload | 136 |



COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Paul Sherfey
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge
Policy Analyst David Reynolds
Justice Research Analyst LeTania Severe
Project/Program Manager Michelle Garvey
Facilities and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos
Facilities Specialist Kirby Pierce
Facilities Technician Rodrigo Jacinto
Executive Specialist Angelina Jimeno
Administrative Support Technicians Rose Bridenstine
Malinda You
Customer Service Assistant Stephanie Jones

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Business & Finance Officer Terri Bayless
Project/Program Manager Pat Ford Campbell
Purchasing Fiscal Specialist Gary Cutler
Business & Finance Specialist Rob Bradstreet
Finance Technician Guy Brook
Payroll & Accounts Payable Tech. Jose Ramos
Mail Service Assistant Kristan Johnson

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

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Human Resources Analyst Gertrude Fuentes

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IT Systems Specialists Doug Buckmeier
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Michael Kim
Ted Shaw
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Kawai Tang

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Equity & Justice Advocate Theresa Wea
Assistant to the Director Kimberley Rosenstock

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Court Program Specialists Kevin Beals
Nichole Rodriguez
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Michelle Wyman

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Psychologist Dr. Tara Iglesias

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

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Community Outreach Liaison Roland Akers
Juvenile Probation Counselors. Fred Aulava
Anttimo Bennett
Lisa Gistarb
Brandon Lyons
Administrative Specialist Karen Lanpher

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Manager Shirley Noble

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH

Youth Program Coordinator Susie Bridges Weber

COMMERCIALLY SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN

CSEC Taskforce Coordinator Kelly Mangiaracina



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John Leers
Guy McWhorter
Dawn Nannini
Riley Todde
Administrative Specialist Dorcas Olegario

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Elaine Evans
Kathleen Fisher
Lisa Higgins
Geri Horrobin
Lee Lim
Francisca Madera
Joseph Mingo II
Dianna Quall
WACIC Data Coordinator Dominick Beck

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Karla Powelson
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Kelly DePhelps
Tracy Dixon
Dede Gartrell
Yvette Gaston
Diane Korf
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Shelley Moore
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Cecilia Camino
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Sex Offender Intake Bruce Gourley
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Gideon Oyeleke
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Darlin Johnson
Michelle Mihail
Debra Stuckman
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Michelle Higa
Rachel Hubert
Rebecca Kirkland
Patricia Nilsson
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Judicial Technician—Ex Parte Nadia Simpson
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Criminal Info Processing Technician Emmanuel LaGuardia
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Hakim Lakhali
Charlotte Taylor
Julie Warfield
Interpreter Amy Andrews

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Chase Craig Kelli Northrop
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Elaine Deines Erica Parkin
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Nhu Dinh Mary Powell
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Rebecca Hibbs Lisa Tran
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Nicholas Kelly Lisa Zimnisky
Sung Kim



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Christina Luera
Heather Muwero
Gretchen Neal
Kevin Rowles
Family Law Facilitators Jeanna Bento
Kristen Gabel
Julie Whiten
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Nishi Shankar
Intake Specialists Fabian Fereshtefar
Paula Moses
Civil Case Specialists Laura Contreras
Tiffany Klein

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Tracey White
Social Workers Emily Brewer
Daryl Buckendahl
Nicole Bynum
Desiree Canter
Debra Hunter
Elly Khosravi
Veronica Lopez
Margaret McCurdy
Mark Stojak
Rie Takeuchi
Larkspur Van Stone
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Becca Case Managers Amy Andree
Karen Chapman
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Supervisors Wai Ping Li-Landis
Kathleen McCormack
Program Attorneys Kathryn Barnhouse
Lori Irwin
Kathleen Martin
April Rivera
Attorney GAL Elizabeth Berris
Staff GAL Specialists Pauline Duke
Carolyn Frimpter
CASA Specialists Luis Galvan
Janet Horton
Peggy Larson
Don Miner
Reyana Ugas
Deanna Watson
Lucyle Wooden
Paralegals Laura Chunyk
Vickey Wilson
Customer Service Specialists Kathleen Hasslinger
Stephanie Richardson
Joyce Stockman

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Lead Hannah Service
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Kim Noble
Gina Reyes
Sheila Rogers
Family Law Coordinators Rita Amaro
Danielle Anderson
Jayleen Bowman
Carolyn Bustamante
Stevie Craig

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FJCIP Specialist Stacy Keen

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Supervisor Jill Murphy
Family Treatment Specialists Cathy Lehmann
Michelle Szozda
Court Program Specialists Dana Dildine
Dajani Henderson



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

