

Judge Kristin Ballinger

Judge Ballinger joined the King County Superior Court bench on January 10, 2022. She assumed the position previously occupied by Judge David Steiner, who died in late 2021. A lovely tribute to Judge Steiner can be found [here](#).

Judge Ballinger is a graduate of Whitman College and the Columbia University School of Law. Prior to her appointment to the superior court, Judge Ballinger served as a law clerk to federal judge William L. Dwyer, a deputy prosecuting attorney handling criminal matters in King County and Clallam County, and, occasionally, as a pro tem judge. Most recently, she was a partner at Harrigan Leyh Farmer & Thomsen LLP handling complex civil disputes at trial and on appeal; her representation of a federally recognized Indian tribe included the successful defense of its sovereignty at the U.S. Supreme Court (138 S. Ct. 1649) and of its treaty-reserved fishing rights in *United States v. Washington*. Early in her career she was an associate at Perkins Coie.

Bailiff Cassie Fontenot

Ms. Fontenot joined the clerk's office in 2021, soon after she graduated magna cum laude from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. She began college at Highline College, earning an associate of arts in criminal justice and the Kurt Thomas Investwrite scholarship.