

# Judge Brian McDonald

Judge Brian McDonald was appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Jay Inslee in August of 2019. Judge McDonald assumed the position in Department 48 previously occupied by Judge Laura Inveen.

Prior to his appointment, Judge McDonald worked for more than 25 years in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where he served as a senior deputy prosecuting attorney on both criminal trials and appellate matters. He handled many significant criminal cases, including the prosecution of serial killer Gary Ridgway. During his last seven years in the prosecutor's office, he was the Chair of the Homicide and Violent Crime Unit and supervised 15 experienced trial attorneys.

During his career, Judge McDonald frequently lectured on prosecutorial ethics, and was invited to speak on the topic by the Superior Court Judges' Association, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and the Washington Defender Association.

Judge McDonald devoted a good portion of his career to appellate work, and he frequently appeared before the Washington Court of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court. From 2008 to 2009, he left the prosecutor's office and served as a Commissioner for the Court of Appeals, Division One.

Early in his legal career, Judge McDonald was a civil litigator with Cairncross and Hempelmann in Seattle and Thelen, Marrin, Johnson and Bridges in San Francisco.

Judge McDonald has been active in numerous legal groups and committees, including the Washington Association of Appellate Lawyers, the WSBA Rules Committee, the WSBA Amicus Brief Committee, and the WSBA Judicial Recommendation Committee.

Judge McDonald served as a board member for Bellevue Youth Link and worked as an attorney adviser for Bellevue Youth Court. He acted as a mentor for the Future of the Law Institute, a program designed to introduce youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to the legal profession. He has also served as a board member and volunteer for the Chinese Information and Service Center.

Judge McDonald was a recipient of the King County Bar Association's 2004 Outstanding Lawyer Award.

Judge McDonald attended Stanford University and the University of Michigan Law School.