Matt Lapin Sworn in as King County Superior Court Judge

Matt Lapin was sworn in today, May 4, 2022, by King County Superior Court Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi.

“Being a judge requires knowledge, experience, and an unwavering commitment to justice,” said Presiding Judge Oishi. “The people of King County, will be well served by the breadth of experience Judge Lapin brings to this important role.”

As a judge pro tempore and commissioner, Judge Lapin has been working for the court since November 2021, handling matters related to the State v. Blake decision, and more recently, covering plea and antiharassment calendars.

Judge Lapin’s first assignment is at the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle, where he will preside over criminal and civil matters. He was appointed by Gov. Inslee on April 11, 2022, and replaces Judge John Ruhl, Department 8, who retired last month.

Before joining the bench, Judge Lapin practiced as a criminal defense attorney with the Law Office of Robert Flennaugh. From 2007 to 2009, Judge Lapin served as the director of business development at Lighthouse Document Technologies, a Seattle eDiscovery company. He began his legal career in 1995 as a senior deputy King County Prosecuting Attorney, where he worked until 2007.

In the community, Judge Lapin has volunteered with a food bank and social services non-profit. He has also taught trial advocacy at the University of Washington School of Law. He has daughter who is a freshman in college.

Judge Lapin earned his bachelor’s degree at Princeton University. He earned his law degree at the University of Miami Law School.