

## JUDGE DEBORAH D. FLECK



King County Superior Court  
Regional Justice Center  
401 – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Kent, WA 98032  
206-296-9273

Admitted to Practice 1976  
Washington State Bar  
United States District Court  
(Western District of Washington)

### JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE AND COMMITMENT:

Judge, King County Superior Court, Department 47, 1992 to present, serving as Chief Judge of the Regional Justice Center, Chief Judge of the Unified Family Court, and in the Criminal, Civil and Juvenile Departments. Judge Fleck is committed to improving the justice system. She has been a leader on race and justice issues, adequate and stable funding for the trial courts, issues involving families and children, and public education about and access to the justice system.

### JUDICIAL RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

1999 Jurist of the Year, Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section  
2000 Judge of the Year, Washington State Trial Lawyers Association  
2004 Vanguard Award, Washington Women Lawyers, King County Chapter  
2005 President's Award, King County Bar Association  
2005 Outstanding Judge Award, Washington State Bar Association  
2009 Award of Merit, Washington State Bar Association  
2010 Seattle University School of Law, Distinguished Law Graduate Award

### JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES:

#### **Board for Judicial Administration**

*The Board for Judicial Administration is the policy-making body for the judicial branch of government.*

#### **Co-chair with Chief Justice Gerry Alexander, July 2003 to July 2005**

Member, 2001 to present

#### **Trial Court Funding Task Force**

*Initiated the Trial Court Funding Task Force; Chief Justice Gerry Alexander has called the steps outlined in its report, Justice in Jeopardy: the Court Funding Crisis in Washington State, to seek stable, adequate and long term funding of the trial courts "the most significant reform effort of the judicial branch of government since statehood."*

Member of the Task Force

Member of the Steering Committee

Co-chair of the Implementation Strategies Work Group

Member of the Funding Alternatives Work Group

Editor, Justice in Jeopardy: The Court Funding Crisis in Washington State

#### **Co-chair with Chief Justice Alexander of the BJA Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee, 2005 to 2009; and with Chief Justice Madsen, 2009 to present**

*Since 2005, the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative has achieved \$78 million per biennium in new funding*

*for the justice system and local government in court operations, civil equal justice, criminal indigent defense and parent dependency representation.*

Member, BJA Executive Committee, 2003 to 2005; 2008 to present

Member, Court Operations Committee, 2007 to present

Chair, Long Range Planning Committee, 2003 – 2005; member 2002 to present

*While Chair, the committee created the Long Range Plan for the BJA and developed the process to create the Long Range Plan for the judicial branch of government*

Chair, Judiciary & the Media Committee, 1999 to 2003

*In 2000, 2001 and 2002, the subcommittee was instrumental in the publication of large, public service ads in newspapers around the state during Jury Appreciation Week, expressing appreciation to citizens for their service as jurors. The committee's work is now included in the Public Trust & Confidence Committee.*

Member, Public Trust and Confidence Committee, 2000 to 2007

Member, Project 2001- *BJA Task Force addressing court structure; resulted in Trial Court*

*Coordinating Councils, stronger presiding judge rule and portability of judges*

*Jurisdiction and Portability Work Group*

*Domestic Relations Work Group*

Member, Domestic Relations Committee, 2000

### **Superior Court Judges' Association**

**President, 2002-2003**

*Three year commitment, serving as a member of the SCJA Executive Committee in the years as President-elect and Immediate-past President*

#### ***Established two Initiatives in year as President:***

***Trial Court Funding Initiative:*** *led to BJA's Trial Court Funding Task Force*

***Race and Justice Initiative:*** *Initiated efforts with the Legislature to address the racial disproportionality that exists in the enforcement of drug laws and the incarceration of persons of color; identified eight potential changes in the law to address this issue; the Association educated the legislature and the public regarding disproportionality with guest editorials in the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the News Tribune and the Spokesman Review; worked with the Secretary of the Department of Corrections identifying areas of common ground leading to legislative reform; testified before legislative committees; this work paved the way for passage of the community-based DOSA legislation in 2006 allowing judges to order treatment in a residential setting for otherwise prison-bound defendants.*

***Focused on families and children:*** *Established the working relationship between the SCJA and the Juvenile Court Administrators' Association and with the state CASA Association by finalizing the Memoranda of Understanding; began meetings with the Juvenile Rehabilitation Director and staff to save state funds and maintain programs critical to the judges' work with juveniles including funding for the "Becca" law; two of the alternatives were enacted into law; initiated discussions with the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services to address concerns for the safety of children arising out of the Department's change to a centralized intake system of reporting child abuse and neglect; these efforts together with those of others, led the Department to return to the former regional approach ensuring greater protection for children at risk of abuse and neglect.*

Member, SCJA Representative on the Joint Select Committee on Drug Offenses, 2002

*As SCJA President, served as its representative to the Legislature's Select Committee; arranged for the collection of data resulting in the first report in the state documenting that approximately 80% of the drug cases in King County involve very small quantities and significantly over-represent persons of color. Report, Quantity and Sentencing: An Analysis of Drug Dealing Cases in King County published in Minority and Justice Commission Biennial Report, 2003-2004*

Chair, Family and Juvenile Law Committee 1998-2001

Convener, Judicial Leadership Colloquium, 2000

Initiator, Juvenile Court Vision Retreats

Member and sole judicial officer on the committee that developed the Relocation Act

addressing residential relocation of children in Parenting Plans of their divorced parents  
Chair, Legislative Committee 2008 to present; Member 1999 to 2008  
Member, Family and Juvenile Law Committee, 1993 to present  
Member, DOSA Protocols Committee, 2006 to present  
Liaison with Benchbook Committee, 1994 -1995

Chair, Retirement Committee Work Group, 2006 – 2008

*To recruit and retain highly capable judicial officers, the Work Group successfully restored judicial retirement benefits through the legislative process*

State Court Civil Rules

*Served as a representative of the SCJA in drafting GR 22, relating to sensitive court records in family law cases; and GR 31 relating to access to and dissemination of electronic court records*

Minority and Justice Commission

*Established by the Washington Supreme Court*

Chair, Workforce Diversity Subcommittee 1998 to present, vice-chair, 1997

*Committee efforts include: publication of Diversifying the Bench Guidebook: How to Become a Judicial Officer in 2011; and of Building a Diverse Court, A Guide to Recruitment and Retention in 2002 and 2008 including training for all judicial branch organizations; presenting the curriculum, How to Be a Good Employer; sponsoring Youth and the Law Forums around the state; developing an Externship Program for law students with trial court judges; and bringing a leader of national stature to speak at Fall Judicial Conferences in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005 and 2007; updating and creating online version of the Commission's Resource Directory.*

Member, Executive Committee, 1998 to present

Member, Evaluation and Implementation Subcommittee, 1998 to present

*Participated in the redraft and rule passage process for Criminal Rule 3.2 relating to pre-trial release to clarify the presumption of release, the factors and analysis for judicial decisions in pre-trial release, including when to add conditions such as bail, and to broaden the analysis of ties to the community for economically disadvantaged people for purposes of release on the promise to appear for future court hearings; presented at Fall Judicial Conference in 2002 and Spring Judicial Conference in 2004; helped develop a proposed court order to guide pretrial release decision-making; committee sponsored research on the impacts and collateral consequences of legal financial obligation on defendants; helped rewrite Criminal Rule 2.2 (initiating felonies by summons rather than warrant unless certain conditions met)*

Member, Education Subcommittee 1996-1997

King County Superior Court

**Chief Judge, Unified Family Court**, January, 2011 to present

*Goals include implementing new Family Law Orientation for pro se litigants in family law cases*

**Chief Judge, Regional Justice Center**, November 2001 to November 2003

*Implemented improvements to RJC operations including reducing the number of omnibus hearings, fixing the filing bulge problem and the delay in arraignment of in-custody defendants, addressing the need for additional criminal department judges at the RJC, participating in reducing jail population through a variety of avenues, implementing the new speedy trial rule at the RJC, assisting in the expansion of Drug Court to the RJC, suggesting and implementing joint brokerage between the courthouses, providing cross training for judicial officers, and working to ensure positive employee morale. Invited the Supreme Court to conduct a session at the RJC during winter term in March 2003 with the public including students able to view the session and ask the justices questions.*

Member, Executive Committee, 2001-2003, 2008 to present

Member, Strategic Planning Committee, 2008 to present

Member, Operational Master Planning Committee for Family and Juvenile Justice Center, 2008 to present

Member, Personnel Committee many years to present  
Member, Local Rules Committee, 1995 to present

Chair, Family Law Committee 1994 to 1997; Member 1997 to 2005

*Committee developed administrative guidelines for GALs and developed an open process for attorneys applying to serve as family law and juvenile department pro-tem commissioners*

GAL Subcommittee 1995 to 1997

Pro Tem Subcommittee 1995 to 1997

Established the Family Law Settlement Program with attorney Larry Besk

*Approximately 100 senior family law attorneys serve as pro bono settlement magistrates for low and moderate income parties under the auspices of the court; several thousand cases settled since its inception in 1997.*

Initiator, with others, of the Court's Seismic Response

*Obtained records identifying serious concerns for the safety of the courthouse and its occupants; located earthquake engineering experts in California and arranged for judges to hire them. Ultimately the court itself hired the experts and their participation, both before and after the Nisqually earthquake in 2001, was critical in requiring and improving the level of seismic rehabilitation of the courthouse.*

Increased Federal Funding

*Initiated efforts in King County leading to a significant increase in the court's receipt of federal funding for cases involving determination of parentage and establishment and modification of child support.*

Family Law Educator

*Together with Judge Glenna Hall, provided family law training for new judges from 1995 to 2000.*

Chair, Governance Committee 1996 to 1997

Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee 1994 to 1996

Chair, Education Committee 1997, 1999; Member 1998

Member, King County Trial Court Coordinating Council, 2003-2004

Member, Region IV Juvenile Council, 2000-2003

Member, Construction and Facilities Committee 1993-1994

Member, Commissioner Evaluation Subcommittee 1994-1996; 1997

Member, Commissioner Selection Subcommittee 1994-2000

Member, Pro Tem Commissioner Subcommittee, 1998

Member, GAL Selection Subcommittee, 1997

Member, Juvenile Judges Committee April 1997-1998

Member, Regional Justice Center Venue Subcommittee 1993 -1995;

Member, Criminal Department 1992-1995, 1998-2000, 2008 to present

PSI Subcommittee 1993

Ad Hoc Subcommittee 1993 -1994

Omnibus Subcommittee 1994; Omnibus Judge (weekly 1994-1995, 2001-2003)

Drug Court, Substitute Judge

Ad Hoc Work Release 1994

Member, Civil Department, 1995-1997, 2003 to 2008

Member, Juvenile Department, 1997-1998

Member, Unified Family Court Task Force

Court Processes Subcommittee 1994

Calendars & Dockets Subcommittee 1994

Member, Infrastructure/Services Subcommittee 1995

Member, Long Range Planning Committee, 1995-1997

Member, Ad Hoc ADR

Member, Pro Se Workgroup

## **King County Local Court Rules**

*Drafted King County Local Rule 37(d) with Comment adopted in 2001 relating to discovery and sanctions following the Fisons case*

## **Other Memberships**

Member, Domestic Relations Commission, 1996 -1999  
Improved Access Subcommittee, 1996 -1999  
Access to Justice  
Seattle University School of Law; Community Advisory Board, 2001 to 2008  
Becca Task Force, 2004 to 2006  
Participant, King County Bar Association Drug Policy Task Force  
Participant, Judicial Selection Coalition, 2006 to present  
Chair, Recusal Rule Subcommittee – which developed proposed CJC rule addressing campaign contributions and recusal, and corollary appellate rule changes

## **EDUCATION:**

Seattle University School of Law (formerly University of Puget Sound School of Law), JD 1976  
Law Review Case and Comment Editor  
University of Washington, Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with a Minor in Education;  
also received teaching certificate, 1972  
Franklin High School, Seattle, 1965

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:**

Bench/Bar Conference presenter, several including 2008;  
National Association of Women Judges 1994-1997  
American Judicature Society 1994-1995  
Member, Washington State Bar Association, inactive judicial status 1992 to present  
King County Bar Association  
Co-Chair, Settlement Conference Pilot Project, 1996-1997  
South King County Bar Association  
Trustee 1991-1994  
YMCA Mock Trial Competition, April 1994  
Speaker, SKCBA Family Law GAL Training Seminar, Nov. 1994  
Speaker, SKCBA Family Law Seminar on Maintenance, Dec. 1994  
Speaker, WSBA Family Law Midyear, June 1994  
Speaker, Bridging the Gap Seminar, 1995, 1997  
Panelist, Ethnic Support Council "Access to Justice: Issues for Minorities," 1997  
Speaker, Seattle Forensic Institute of Washington Seminar, 1998  
Speaker, WSTLA Trial Masters at Work Seminar, 1998  
Speaker, Washington Law Institute "The Law of Confidential Records" Seminar, 1999  
Speaker, KCBA, King County Superior Court "New Rules & Ethics" Seminar, 1999  
Speaker, Successfully Trying Auto Cases to a Jury: From the Bench, WSTLA 2000  
Speaker, Washington Law Institute "The Law of Confidential Records" Seminar, 2000  
Speaker, KCBA Seventh Annual Family Law Institute, "Relocation," 2000  
Speaker, NWWLC, "Breaking the Code: Representing the Battered Client," 2001  
Speaker, SCJA Long Range Planning Retreat 2002, "Next Steps"  
Speaker, Presiding Judges Conference, 2002  
Speaker, WSTLA Trial Stars Seminar, 2002  
Speaker, Fall Judicial Conference 2002, "Changes in CrR 3.2 and CrRLJ 3.2"  
Speaker, "So You Want to be a Judge" Seminar, 2003  
Speaker, "Legally Bound 2: Relocation Issues in Parenting Plans," 2003  
Speaker, Spring Judicial Conference 2003, "Opening Remarks" and "Court Funding Task Force"  
Speaker, National Legal Aid and Defender Association Annual Meeting, "Justice Imbalanced: Strategies to Address Racial Disproportionality," November 2003  
Speaker, Spring Judicial Conference 2004, "Justice in Jeopardy: Update on the Trial Court Funding Task Force" and "Criminal Law Review"

Coordinator, Presiding Judges' Conference 2004, "A Smart Court is a Diverse Court"  
 Speaker, Fall Judicial Conference 2004, Trial Court Funding  
 Speaker, Spring Judicial Conference 2005, Trial Court Funding Task Force Report  
 Speaker, Bar Leaders Conference and Access to Justice Conference, "Justice in Jeopardy," 2005  
 Speaker, Fall Judicial Conferences 2005 - 2009, Justice in Jeopardy Initiative Updates  
 Panelist, Association of Counties Conference, "County Criminal Justice Funding," 2002  
 Panelist, KCBA/LMBA/WDA/ACLU "Race, Class and the War on Drugs," 2002  
 Panelist, Spring Judicial Conference, "Family Law Update – Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Plan Grant Legislation"  
 Panelist, Access to Justice Conference, 2005, "Building a Diverse Court"  
 Speaker, Spring Judicial Conference 2008, "Family and Juvenile Law"  
 Panelist, Presiding Judges' Conference 2008, "Positively Impacting the Legislative Process"  
 Panelist, National Business Institute, "What Family Court Judges and Commissioners Want You to Know," September 2008  
 Panelist, National Business Institute, "A View From Their Bench: Evidence and Expert Testimony Best Practices Seminar," November, 2008  
 Speaker, Bench Bar Conference, November 2008  
 Speaker, Inns of Court, "Court Funding," 2009  
 Speaker, National Business Institute, "Parenting Disputes From A to Z," March 2010  
 Speaker, WSAJ, "Motor Vehicle Litigation Seminar," March 2010

## **PUBLICATIONS; ARTICLES:**

"Successfully Trying Auto Cases to a Jury: From the Bench," WSTLA Automobile Accident Litigation Deskbook (1999; 2010)  
 "State Courts – Just How do They Work?" The Law Book (March, 2001)  
 "Drug Laws Unfair and Costly," Seattle Post-Intelligencer (April 2003)  
 "Justice Imbalanced," Tacoma News Tribune (May, 2003)  
 "Rethinking Our Court System: Judicial Initiatives," Bar News (May 2003)  
 "Justice Imbalanced," Minority & Justice Commission Biennial Report 2003-2004  
 "Justice in Jeopardy: View from the Bench," KCBA Bar Bulletin (May 2005)  
 "Letter to Judges" on first legislative session success of Justice in Jeopardy Initiative, with Chief Justice Alexander, reprinted for Washington Lawyers Bar News (June 2005)  
 "The Justice in Jeopardy Initiative: Celebrating Accomplishments and Setting Goals," with Chief Justice Alexander Bar News (June 2007)  
 "Family Law Program Making Its Mark," KCBA Bar Bulletin (October 2008)  
 "Court Funding in a Fiscal Crisis," KCBA Bar Bulletin (July 2009)  
 "Justice in Jeopardy 101," Bar News (November 2009)  
 "Honoring a Giant of the Bench" (Judge Mattson), KCBA Bar Bulletin (December 2009)  
 "Keeping the Courthouse Doors Open to All," KCBA Bar Bulletin (September 2010)

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

Judges in the Classroom, 1995  
We the People, 1998 to present – serve as judge at regional, state and national competitions for this civics program; organized presentation at judicial conference; worked with WSBA, OSPI and Seattle Schools superintendent in efforts to provide broader access to this program; participated in international program in Northern Ireland  
Washington Judges' Foundation – Board vice president; funds used to support student education programs including We the People and Street Law, as well as to help fund Teen Court expansion.