

King County Superior Court 2013 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 2013 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find it informative and useful.

In 2013, the court invested a great deal of time and energy in addressing facility-related deficiencies. Planning for the new Children and Family Justice Center, which will replace the aging Youth Service Center in Seattle, moved substantially forward. The court and its juvenile justice system partners completed facility 'programming' work, determining which services would be located in the facility and what kind of space each service would have. Planning for a new Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Court also advanced. The court has outgrown its single-courtroom space at Harborview and seeks a long-term solution to the overcrowding there. Various options were explored over the course of the year, with a preferred option – relocation to a larger space in Harborview Hall – emerging before year's end.

In 2013, the court also worked to deepen understanding of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the justice system. Jurisdictions across the country, including King County, have found that a disproportionately large number of minority individuals come into contact with the criminal justice and child welfare systems. Although King County has made impressive efforts to reduce it, DMC remains unacceptably high. The court promoted discussion, implemented training, and laid plans for additional DMC reduction work in the years ahead. Though many roots of DMC lie outside the justice system, the court is committed to doing what it can to reduce and hopefully eliminate this troubling phenomenon.

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 services offered by the court. 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.

King County Superior Court – Mission Statement:

• To serve the public by ensuring justice through accessible and effective forums for the fair, understandable, and timely resolution of legal matters.

King County Superior Court – 2013 Summary Statistics:

- General jurisdiction trial court
- Serves the 14th most populous county in the nation
- Handled a caseload of almost 53,000 new cases in 2013
- Operates at four sites, including the King County Courthouse, Juvenile Court, and ITA Court at Seattle locations; and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent
- Has 53 judges and 12 commissioners
- Is supported by 520 staff in Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration

Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2013, the court implemented new services, promoted efficiencies, and worked to ensure access to the court. In the pages that follow, you will read about our many accomplishments for the year, including articles on the following topics:

eCourtroom. In 2013, the court outfitted an existing courtroom in the King County Courthouse with the latest in courtroom technology. Funding was provided by a federal grant, which was secured with the help of the King County Executive and Council. The courtroom serves as a prototype for future technology investment, and is available for use as appropriate and upon request.

Hard Copy Case Files. The Superior Court Clerk's Office reached a significant milestone in 2013. The office eliminated the last of its paper records, meaning all Superior Court case files are now completely electronic.

Simple Divorce Program. In 2013, the court launched a pilot program to resolve simple divorce matters more quickly. If parties to a divorce have no minor children, they may be eligible for the program. Simplified forms and instructions help parties proceed without attorneys, and court staff are available to assist with court orders.

OIS Site Visit. Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) continues to serve as a national model. In 2013, the office hosted a site visit from the Center for Court Innovation in New York City. Representatives from nine states, Guam, and the National Center for State Courts attended. Information gathered from the visit will be used to develop a language access and interpretation curriculum for court interpreters and administrators.

CSEC Task Force/Program. In 2013, the King County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Task Force was convened. Funded with a grant from the Center for Children & Youth Justice, the CSEC program helps law enforcement officers, child welfare workers, and others identify sexually exploited children and children at risk of being exploited. Identified children are then connected to services.

King County Superior Court – Jurisdiction:

- Civil matters involving more than \$300, unlawful detainers, and injunctions
- Felony criminal matters
- Misdemeanor criminal cases not otherwise provided for by law
- Family law, including dissolutions, child support, adoptions, parentage, and domestic violence protection matters
- Probate and guardianship matters
- Juvenile offender matters
- Juvenile dependencies, including abused and neglected children, children in need of services, at-risk youth, and truancies
- Mental illness and involuntary commitment matters

Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2013

Carol A. Schapira	Ronald Kessler	Laura G. Middaugh	Barbara A. Mack
Elected, 1989	Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2001	Elected 2009
William L. Downing	Palmer Robinson	Mary E. Roberts	Jean Rietschel
Appointed, 1989	Appointed, 1999	Appointed, 2003	Appointed 2010
Joan E. DuBuque	Helen L. Halpert	J. Wesley Saint Clair	Beth M. Andrus
Appointed, 1989	Appointed, 1999	Appointed, 2004	Appointed 2010
LeRoy McCullough	James Doerty	Andrea A. Darvas	Patrick H. Oishi
Appointed, 1989	Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005	Appointed 2011
Deborah D. Fleck	Julie A. Spector	Theresa B. Doyle	Lori K. Smith
Appointed, 1992	Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005	Appointed 2012
Laura C. Inveen	Richard F. McDermott	Jim Rogers	Barbara Linde
Appointed, 1992	Appointed, 2000	Elected, 2005	Appointed 2012
Michael C. Hayden	Mary I. Yu	Susan J. Craighead	Bill A. Bowman
Elected, 1992	Appointed, 2000	Appointed, 2007	Appointed/Elected 2012
Brian D. Gain	James D. Cayce	Bruce Heller	Judith H. Ramseyer
Elected, 1993	Appointed, 2000	Appointed, 2007	Appointed/Elected 2012
Richard D. Eadie	Michael J. Heavey	Kimberley Prochnau	Elizabeth J. Berns
Appointed, 1995	Elected, 2000	Appointed, 2007	Elected 2013
Michael J. Trickey	Douglass A. North	Monica J. Benton	Suzanne R. Parisien
Appointed, 1996	Elected, 2000	Appointed 2008	Elected 2013
Jeffrey M. Ramsdell	Catherine D. Shaffer	Regina S. Cahan	Sean P. O'Donnell
Elected, 1996	Elected, 2000	Appointed/Elected 2009	Elected 2013
Jay V. White	Gregory P. Canova	Mariane C. Spearman	Ken Schubert
Elected, 1996	Elected, 2001	Elected 2009	Elected 2013
Patricia H. Clark	Cheryl B. Carey	Timothy A. Bradshaw	Susan H. Amini
Appointed, 1998	Elected, 2001	Elected 2009	Appointed 2013
Dean S. Lum	John P. Erlick	Hollis R. Hill	Julia L. Garrett
Appointed, 1998	Elected, 2001	Elected 2009	Appointed 2013

Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2013

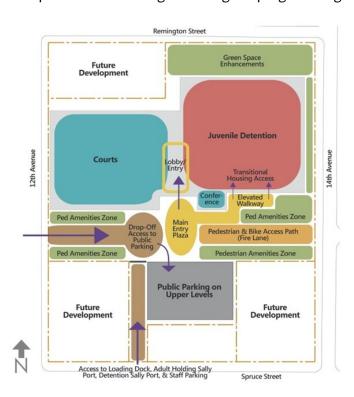
Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986	Richard Gallaher, 2000	Julia Garrett, 2008
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993	Elizabeth Castilleja, 2006	Jacqueline Jeske, 2008
Hollis Holman, 1996	Meg Sassaman, 2006	James Kahan, 2013
Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998	Mark Hillman, 2007	Chad Allred, 2013
Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998		Jennie Laird, 2013

Planning Work Continues for King County's Children and Family Justice Center

In 2013, the court and its juvenile justice system partners made significant progress in the effort to develop a new Children and Family Justice Center for King County. This new voter-approved facility will replace the aging Youth Services Center (YSC) in Seattle. The goal is to build a modern, efficient, and safe facility to support court-involved families and youth.

During the first half of 2013, the court participated in the 'programming' phase of planning for the new facility. Programming covers which services will be located in the facility, how much space and what kind of space each service will need, and which services should be located close together. A final programming report was delivered in July.

In August, the county issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify teams interested in designing and building the new facility. The top three RFQ respondents subsequently were invited to compete for the winning bid. Using the programming report, each team will develop and submit a



preliminary design and construction proposal. This work was ongoing at the end of the year, and the county expected to select a winning applicant in the summer of 2014.

The court also participated in extensive community outreach efforts during 2013. In March, the court hosted a well-attended open house at the YSC. During the summer, judges and project staff attended eight summer events and festivals and shared information about the new facility with more than 2,000 interested citizens. In August, an 11-member Neighborhood Advisory Committee was appointed to provide focused input on site design. Representatives from the Squire Park Community Council, the 12th Avenue Stewards, Seattle University, and the neighborhood's residents and businesses are participating.

The Youth Services Center includes juvenile court, juvenile detention, and related functions and services on a nine-acre site at 12th Avenue and East Alder Street in Seattle. Replacing this aging facility has been the county's highest-priority capital project since 2008. In August 2012, King County voters approved a nine-year property tax of seven cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to fund the new facility. The cost to the median homeowner in King County will be \$25 per year for nine years.

Construction at the site should begin in mid-2015, and the new facility is expected to open in 2018. To stay informed about this project, please visit www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice.

Superior Court Builds Courtroom of the Future

In April 2013, Superior Court opened 'the courtroom of the future' in the King County Courthouse. This courtroom has been outfitted with state-of-the-art video conferencing equipment, a wide-screen projector, high-definition cameras, a smart board, computers, electronic signature pads, microphones, and surround-sound speakers. The new courtroom demonstrates how modern equipment in a trial courtroom can improve court proceedings for the public, litigants, judges, staff, attorneys, jurors, and witnesses.

The new technology makes it possible to display evidence electronically on a large screen, offering a more meaningful representation of evidence for jurors. Witness testimony and/or interpreter assistance can be provided from remote locations – even from across the country or the world. The courtroom also can be linked to an 'overflow' room when more members of the public want to watch a proceeding than can fit into a courtroom.



The eCourtroom is outfitted with a wide-screen projector, a smart board, ceiling-mounted microphones, computers and other equipment.

Development of the 'eCourtroom' was a collaborative effort involving all branches of King County government. The County Council got the ball rolling with a budget proviso promoting the use of video in the justice system. Funding was provided by a federal grant secured by the Executive's Office. A workgroup convened by the County's budget office reviewed twelve possible projects and selected this one for funding. If you would like to learn more about the eCourtroom, please contact Paul Manolopoulos at 206-263-9542.

What's Next in Court Technology?

In September 2013, representatives from Superior Court attended the Court Technology Conference in Baltimore to learn more about how courts around the country are using technology. Some of the 'big ideas' were:

- **Mobile Apps.** Mobile apps are being used by the public to look up court dates on their smartphones, and by judges to read, sign, and file documents on tablets.
- **Video.** Video is being used for remote interpreting and witness appearances.
- **Kiosks.** Kiosk technology is advancing rapidly and is being used for everything from managing jurors to making court payments.

Superior Court is investigating all of these options to determine whether they can help improve our service delivery.

Task Force Convenes to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Under the leadership of Superior Court Judge Barbara Mack, the King County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Task Force began meeting in April of 2013. The group's mission is to develop and implement a coordinated, county-wide, victim-centered response to childhood prostitution.

The nonprofit Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) has selected King County as one of five statewide regions to receive CSEC training and technical assistance for this effort. "Children and youth don't choose prostitution; they are the victims of manipulative adults," explains retired Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, founding president and CEO of CCYJ. "Yet law enforcement, the courts, and society often fail to recognize that they have been coerced into prostitution and respond to them as criminals."

Through the program, actively exploited children, or children at risk of becoming exploited, are identified by law enforcement, child welfare workers, service providers, hotels, health clinics, schools, probation counselors, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and others. Identified children then are referred to CSEC

'Multidisciplinary Teams' that work to make sure each child's immediate needs are met, each child is assessed for safety and placed accordingly, and each child gains access to needed services. King County CSEC Hotline
Talk to a Community Advocate
(855) 400-CSEC / (855) 400-2732

Response by partner agencies has been remarkable. By the end of 2013, training on 'model protocols' to serve this population had been provided, or was scheduled to be provided, to key law enforcement personnel in the Auburn, Bothell, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Kirkland, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, and Tukwila police departments, as well as the King County Sheriff's Office. Staff in each of King County's Children's Administration offices, in many of the County's school districts, and in Public Health for Seattle & King County also had received or had committed to receive training.



Kimberly Mays, Parents for Parents Program Manager

Parents for Parents Named "Promising Program"

In 2013, Superior Court's 'Parents for Parents' program was named a 'promising program' by the Washington State Evidence Based Practice Institute. Under state law, 'evidence-based,' 'research-based,' and 'promising' programs are preferred providers of child welfare services.

The Parents for Parents program connects parents who have successfully navigated the juvenile dependency system – called "Veteran Parents" (VPs) – with parents who have just become involved with the system. The VPs provide support and help parents new to the system understand what they must do in order to successfully reunite with their children.

Interpreter Services Hosts the Center for Court Innovation

In October 2013, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) hosted a visit from the Center for Court Innovation in New York City. Attendees included judges, court administrators, advocates, attorneys, and resource coordinators from nine states and Guam. Also attending were representa-

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tives from the National Center for State Courts.

The Center for Court Innovation, in conjunction with the Asian-Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence, has been developing a language access and interpretation curriculum for court interpreters and court administrators. King County Superior Court was selected as a model site for viewing best practices in action.

Over the two-day visit, attendees saw presentations on OIS programs, recent legislative changes, working with advocacy groups, and advances in remote interpretation. Attendees asked questions, shared ideas, and began developing their own Language Access Plans.

OIS Turns 21

April 1, 2013, marked the 21st anniversary of the Office of Interpreter Services. The OIS had humble beginnings in a small, windowless office on the 9th floor of the King County Courthouse. Now the Office welcomes visitors to a comfortably-appointed space on the 7th floor. The OIS also operates at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent and the Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court) in Seattle.

Over the years, the OIS has received numerous honors and accolades, including:



- Professionals of the Year, from the Family Law Section, Washington State Bar Association,
 1999;
- Outstanding work in ensuring the accessibility of court services for people with disabilities, from the King County Office of Civil Rights, 2002;
- Special Contribution to the Judiciary Award, from Washington Women Lawyers, 2003;
- Community Justice Award, from the Access to Justice Institute of Seattle University Law School, 2004; and
- National Center for State Courts recognition of the OIS as one of three model programs, selected nationwide, for delivering excellent interpreter services to persons seeking protection orders, 2005.

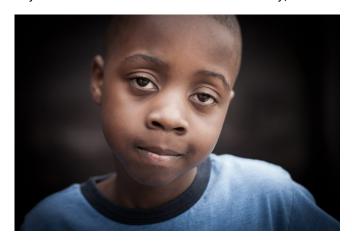
Addressing Justice System DMC

Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) with the criminal justice and child welfare systems has been documented in many jurisdictions around the country, including King County. DMC refers to the disproportionately large number of minority individuals who come into contact with the justice system.

In 2013, the University of Washington (UW) published the results of a statewide study on DMC in the juvenile justice system. The study found that King County had engaged in impressive efforts to address DMC. King County Juvenile Court has had a DMC workgroup for many years. This group has helped develop and implement a wide array of DMC reduction strategies. In addition, staff understand DMC and monitor DMC data, several cross-system collaboration efforts are underway, and

community engagement and mobilization is a major aspect of DMC reduction efforts. The study noted that it would be difficult to provide recommendations for improvement that are not already known to the county.

Despite this work, and despite a sharply decreasing number of youth in the juvenile justice system over the past decade, DMC remains high for some groups, particularly African Americans. Although data is less readily available for the adult offender population, similar rates of DMC also are believed to exist there.



In 2013, the court took a number of steps to continue deepening the understanding of DMC and to find new ways to combat it:

- The court and its criminal justice partners convened a workgroup to study DMC. At the end
 of the year, the group was exploring options to collect and monitor DMC data in the adult
 offender system.
- One of the court's judicial committees sponsored a six-part discussion of Michelle Alexander's book, 'The New Jim Crow,' which addresses the impact of drug laws on communities of color. Discussion was facilitated by Seattle Times columnist Jerry Large, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, and others, and generated a host of ideas for change.
- The court's judges and commissioners received training on the neuroscience and psychology of decision-making, using a curriculum developed by the California Administrative Office for the Courts. The curriculum addresses hidden sources of bias and how this may impact the decision-making process.

The court also laid plans for additional study and discussion in 2014.

No More Hard Copy Case Files!

The Superior Court Clerk's Office has eliminated its last hard copy case files. The Clerk's Office no longer stores files in the county warehouse, and there are no more files collecting dust on open shelving. The court's case files are now completely electronic.

In the early 1990's, the court and Clerk's Office began planning for an electronic court records sys-

tem (ECR) that would replace paper records. One of the first steps toward full implementation of the system was an "archival scanning" project that began in 1997. This project allowed the Clerk's Office to test document imaging and storage systems in advance of full ECR implementation.

After ECR became the system of record in 2000, the Archival Scanning Section continued to scan pre-2000 case files into ECR. It took many years and a continued and steady staff commitment, but now the scanning project is complete.

Over the years, Archival Scanning staff:

- Scanned more than 46 million pages;
- Scanned an average of 10,000 pages per day, using only one scanner;
- Prepared roughly 4,000 pages per day per staff member for scanning; and
- Indexed an average of 16,000 pages per day.
 ('Indexing' involves reviewing a document image and associating it with a case file.)



Unclaimed Property – Could it Be Yours?

The Clerk's Office sends thousands of unclaimed property (UCP) notices annually in an attempt to find the rightful owners of disbursable funds in the court's registry.

Pursuant to state statute, funds become "abandoned" two years after becoming payable if they remain unclaimed by the owner. Unclaimed funds often include a victim's restitution check that is returned as undeliverable or surplus funds from a foreclosure. If no-one claims these funds within two years they are considered abandoned and are paid over to the state.

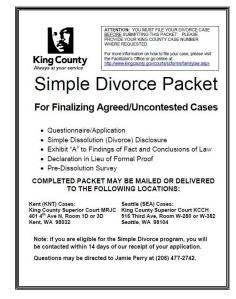
Before funds become abandoned, however, the Clerk's Office makes a concerted effort to locate rightful owners. Each July, the Clerk's Offices receives a report of UCP funds in its registry from the State Administrative Office of the Courts. In 2013, the report contained 2,465 items totaling \$1,334,578. Clerk's Office staff located the rightful owners of just under half of this amount. If you believe you may be entitled to funds held in the court's registry, please contact the Clerk's Office at 206-296-9300.

Court Launches Simple Divorce Pilot Program

In 2013, the Family Court Early Resolution Case Managers (ERCMs) and the Family Law Facilitators began accepting applications for a Simple Divorce Pilot Program. The program allows litigants with no attorney, with little or no property, and with no minor children to finalize a divorce more easily, with ERCM assistance.

Interested parties may get a Simple Divorce Packet from the Family Law Facilitator Program. The packet includes a set of threshold questions to determine eligibility and a set of forms which must be completed and returned to the Facilitators Office. Eligible parties are contacted within two weeks of submitting their packets, and ERCMs prepare the final court orders, which both parties sign. After a 90-day waiting period required by state statute, the dissolution is finalized. The parties are not required to appear to finalize their case.

The Simple Divorce Pilot Program has been well-received. Following the pilot's inception, the number of application packets increased steadily each month. By the end of the year, 224 packets had been submitted, and nearly all applicants had been accepted into the program. More than 100 cases had been finalized.



Simple Divorce Packets are available for download on the Superior Court website at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/familycourt/facilitator, and for pick up in the Family Law Orientation sessions and the Family Law Facilitator Offices in Seattle and Kent. If you have additional questions please contact the Family Law Facilitator Program at (206) 296-9092.

Court Seeks Pro Bono Attorneys for CASA

Superior Court's Dependency CASA Program routinely recruits pro bono attorneys willing to represent CASA volunteers in litigation. CASAs, or 'Court Appointed Special Advocates,' are ordinary people trained to monitor the well-being of children in foster care. They advocate on behalf of these children in court hearings and trials, and receive both staff and legal support.

Each year, the lives of abused and neglected children are greatly affected by decisions made in hundreds of dependency hearings and trials. CASA volunteers, and the often pro bono attorneys who represent them, make invaluable contributions to these court events and to the lives of these children. The significance of this work is part of what makes this volunteer program special.

If you are an attorney and are interested in volunteering for CASA, please contact the court's Dependency CASA Program at (206) 296-1120. Likewise, if you know an attorney who may be interested in volunteering, please encourage them to volunteer for CASA.

Planning for the Future of the Involuntary Treatment Act Court

Under Washington's Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA), mentally disordered persons may be civilly committed to hospital or treatment settings, if a Superior Court judicial officer finds that they pose a threat to themselves or to others.

In recent years, the court's ITA caseload has increased dramatically. In 2007, fewer than 2,400 ITA cases were filed. Five years later, nearly 3,600 cases were filed. — an increase of 50%. In the process, the court outgrew its single courtroom at Harborview, and in 2013 a small second courtroom was constructed in what had been a public waiting area. While this may work as an interim solution to courtroom overcrowding, attorney work areas and other parts of the ITA Court suite are similarly out of space. The problems here require a long-term solution.

As if the current situation were not challenging enough, further caseload increases may be on the horizon. In 2010, the state legislature passed Second Substitute House Bill 3076, which expanded the criteria that 'designated mental health professionals' (DMHPs) may use to recommend initial 72-hour detentions to the court. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimates that the expanded criteria could increase initial detentions from a current rate of 40% of investigations statewide to as high as 55%. The implementation date for this bill has changed several times, but currently is set for July 1, 2014.

The court is working with the County Executive, County Council, and other partners to plan for a new ITA Court. One proposal is to develop a new two- or three-courtroom facility in a refurbished



Ninth and Jefferson Building at Harborview—current location of ITA Court

Harborview Hall. If plans come together as currently envisioned, the ITA Court could relocate to the space as early as 2016. While the expected filing increase will arrive before the new ITA Court does, the Harborview Hall plan does provide a long-term solution to existing and anticipated overcrowding in the current ITA Court.

In the meantime, the court is working diligently to streamline its handling of ITA cases. The ITA Court now hears some matters via video connection with area treatment facilities. This obviates the need for transport to the ITA Court, reduces crowding in patient waiting areas, and minimizes disruptions to treatment. The ITA Court also now uses 'electronic orders,' which make it possible to deliver final orders to mental health system partners more quickly. The ITA Court is conducting a 'Lean Analysis' of its operational practices. Lean Analysis uses process mapping and other techniques to identify opportunities for efficiency. Finally, the creation of a new ITA Court Manager position will provide more onsite resource to tackle and resolve challenging problems.

Superior Court Facilitates Access to Health Care

Superior Court wants every family in the justice system to have health insurance. The court's involvement with the Medicaid Administrative Match (MAM) program helps make this goal a reality.

Many court-involved youth and their families have low income and live in transitional housing, relocating frequently. Although these families may qualify for Medicaid, frequent relocation creates obstacles to enrollment. If Medicaid cannot locate an enrolled family via forwarding address, benefits will be terminated.

To overcome these challenges, the court partners with local, state, and federal agencies in the Medicaid Administrative Match (MAM) program. This program repays costs for MAM activities, including Medicaid outreach and education; identifying children, youth, and families who may be eligible; and helping people through the application process. Superior Court staff, including Juvenile Probation Counselors, Truancy and At-Risk Youth Case Managers, Family Law Facilitators, and Family Court Services Social Workers, work to identify Medicaid-eligible clients and get them enrolled.

The court's participation in the MAM program has been effective. Since the partnership began, 20% more court-involved youth have health insurance.

In 2013, Superior Court also participated in health plan enrollment efforts associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Two onsite events, one at the King County Courthouse in Seattle, and one at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, provided opportunities to deliver ACA information to court customers. These onsite outreach events were well-received.



Superior Court's Screening Unit Serves as the Gatekeeper to Juvenile Detention

Superior Court's Screening Unit, part of Juvenile Probation, serves as the 'gatekeeper' to juvenile detention. Law enforcement officials with a youth in custody contact the Screening Unit to determine whether the youth should be detained. If the youth satisfies the court's Detention Intake Criteria and is brought to detention, Screening Unit staff interview the youth, call the youth's parents, administer the Detention Risk Assessment, and prepare reports for the youth's first court hearing.

The Screening Unit is open for business 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The unit receives up to 300 calls each day from more than 30 police agencies, state caseworkers, school districts, other jurisdictions, and the public.

Court of Appeals Accepts Electronic Transmission of Files



In 2013, the Clerk's Office began transmitting clerk's papers electronically to Division I of the State Court of Appeals (COA). Clerk's papers are the portion of the Superior Court file sent to the COA by the Clerk's Office, per litigant request, for an appeal or discretionary review. The change reduces the time, paper, and toner used to prepare hard copy documents, and also significantly reduces the number of boxes the Clerk's courier must transport to the COA each week. As a point of reference, in 2012, before electronic transmission began, the Clerk's Office prepared 1,165 clerk's paper sets totaling more than 300,000 pages.

Before the Clerk's Office began using the Electronic Court Records system (ECR) to maintain the court record, a set of clerk's papers took at least four weeks to process. After the shift to ECR, though the process became simpler, the need to print paper copies and transport them

physically to the COA placed limitations on delivery speed. Now with electronic transmission, a set of clerk's papers can be delivered within 48 hours of receiving payment. Future upgrades to ECR are expected to shorten the turnaround still further.

Clerk's Office Begins Issuing Electronic Certified Copies

In 2013, the Clerk's Office implemented yet another electronic service for the public. The Office can now generate and deliver electronic certified copies of court records.

Previously, customers requesting certified copies had two choices. Either they could visit one of the Clerk's Office locations, or they could wait for the U.S. Mail to deliver their copies. With the new service, customers can both submit their request and receive their documents electronically.

Court Reporters Begin Submitting Notes Electronically

In 2013, following a successful pilot, Superior Court's court reporters began submitting notes to the Clerk's Office electronically for retention. The court reporters send the notes using a secure web transfer service. The Clerk's Office then reviews the notes and submits them to the King County Records Center for retention. This streamlined process reduces the amount of time court reporters and clerks spend processing notes and retrieving them. Court reporters can now submit their notes, without delivery delays, to the Clerk's Office at any time.



Use of eOrders Continues to Expand

In 2013, the court significantly expanded its use of electronic orders – or 'eOrders.' These are court orders that are completed and filed electronically in the courtroom. No paper is involved. The court began using eOrders in June of 2012 in one courtroom at Juvenile Court. Later in 2012, an additional Juvenile Court courtroom also began using eOrders. In 2013, eOrders expanded to all remaining juvenile offender courtrooms, to the Juvenile Drug Court, to the Truancy calendar, and to the Mental Illness Court at Harborview. Additional eOrder roll outs are planned for 2014.

More Judges Embrace eWorking Copies

In 2013, the court made an electronic working copies system – or 'eWorking Copies – available to all Superior Court judges. Court rules require that 'working copies' of motions and supporting documents be submitted to the judge or commissioner in advance of many types of court hearings.

These help the judge or commissioner prepare for the hearing. The new system gives judges a tool to manage working copies and proposed orders



electronically. Many judges find it easier to work at home after hours, as they no longer need to haul stacks of paper back and forth.



JPCs no longer need to carry bulky paper social files when they leave the office

Electronic Social Files Come to Juvenile Probation

In 2013, Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPCs) began using electronic social files to monitor court-involved youth on probation. Working out of offices in Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, and Federal Way, JPCs travel to schools, homes, and Juvenile Court as they work with the youth assigned to them. Previously, most JPC records, called 'social files,' were maintained in hard copy only and were housed in each JPC's home office. The new web-based social file system allows JPCs to access client information from any web-enabled location.

Clerk's Office Hires Court Recording Program Manager

Pursuant to state law, Superior Court maintains a verbatim record of all court proceedings. Much of this record is captured using an audio court reporting system called 'For The Record' (FTR). In 2013,

the Superior Court Clerk's Office hired a Court Recording Program Manager to ensure that all FTR systems work correctly. From her desk, the manager can conduct random sound checks throughout the day to verify recorded sound clarity and proactively monitor FTR system functionality.



Working with Superior Court IT, courtroom clerks, judicial officers, and others, the manager helps identify and resolve problems quickly.

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 2013, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:



Czar Peralta

King County Courthouse (Seattle): Czar Peralta. Czar is a Business and Finance Technician in the court's Business and Finance Department. He delivers a range of services related to accounts payable, payroll, and other accounting functions. He takes on new duties and responsibilities with enthusiasm and gladly assists with special projects. His supervisor notes that Czar receives positive feedback from everyone he works with and assists, and says he is one of the main reasons the Business and Finance group functions so well. His coworkers describe him as an extremely pleasant person to work with.

Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Marsha Kishida. Marsha is a Calendar/Scheduling Specialist in the court's Court Operations Department. Much of her work involves helping bailiffs schedule and manage trials, calendars, and motion hearings. As a former bailiff herself, Marsha understands the complexities involved in managing the many hundreds of cases assigned to each judge. Those who work with Marsha describe her as both professional and personable and report that she is able to find efficient and effective solutions to problems, even under challenging circumstances.



Marsha Kishida



Susie Bridges Weber

Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Susie Bridges Weber. Susie is the Medicaid Match / Education Advocacy Program Coordinator at Juvenile Court. She spends much of her time making sure that low-income, underinsured or non-insured youth and families have access to basic services and insurance. Court-involved youth needing inpatient treatment cannot go to treatment without current health insurance coverage. Susie works closely with Medicaid representatives and Superior Court judges and staff to get eligible youth enrolled. Co-workers describe her as a role model and a tremendous asset to court and praise her positive disposition and upbeat passion for her work.

Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition Award include:

- 2012 Chair-Li Chang (Seattle), Rita Amaro (Kent), Kathy Santucci (Juvenile Court)
- 2011 Katherine Glenn (Seattle), Melinda Johnson-Taylor (Kent), Michelle Wyman (Juvenile Court)

Superior Court Budget

2013 Expenditures by Program Area			
Civil & Criminal Opera- tions	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship & probate staff, jury, interpreters, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (38.2%)		\$19,912,695
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. (32.1%)		
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, computer services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (17.6%)		\$9,146,055
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Dependency CASA, and Early Resolution Case Management programs. (12.1%)		\$6,298,934
TOTAL			\$52,098,119
2013 Funding by Source Funding		% of Total	
County \$47,541,673		91.2%	
Grants (Federal, State, & Local) \$4,556,446		8.8%	
TOTAL \$52,098,119		100%	

Department of Judicial Administration Budget

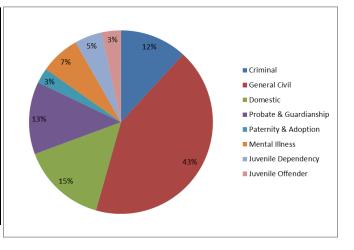
2013 Expenditures by Program Area			
Caseflow & Court Clerk Services	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination. (24.3%)		\$5,140,766
Customer & Financial Services	Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies. (18.2%)		\$3,834,864
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies at Juvenile and MRJC. (26.8%)		
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program. (7.2%)		\$1,519,502
Administration	Includes admin staff, human resources, computer services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, witness payments, statistics and dependency publication costs. (23.5%)		\$4,954,411
TOTAL			\$21,106,428
2013 Funding by Source Funding		% of Total	
County \$21,106,428		\$21,106,428	100%
TOTAL \$21,106,428		100%	

Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Case Filings

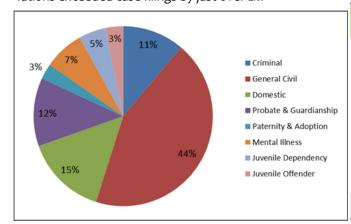
In 2013, a total of 52,755 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 3.8% from 2012. General civil, paternity & adoption, and juvenile offender filings fell, while criminal, domestic, probate & guardianship, and mental illness filings rose. In addition, 15,046 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2013	Change from 2012
Criminal	6,226	1.5%
General Civil	22,463	-8.6%
Domestic	7,897	2.9%
Probate & Guardianship	6,728	5.6%
Paternity & Adoption	1,414	-15.4%
Mental Illness	3,678	2.4%
Juvenile Dependency	2,541	-0.9%
Juvenile Offender	1,808	-19.6%
Total Filings	52,755	-3.8%



Case Resolutions

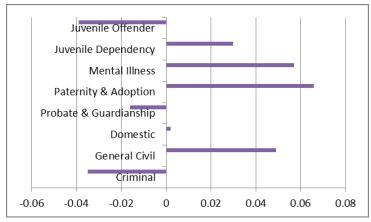
In 2013, the court resolved a total of 53,859 cases. Although case resolutions were down 2.7% from 2012, resolutions exceeded case filings by just over 2%.



Case Type	2013	Change from 2012
Criminal	6,011	4.0%
General Civil	23,566	-8.5%
Domestic	7,915	2.6%
Probate & Guardianship	6,617	6.2%
Paternity & Adoption	1,508	-2.2%
Mental Illness	3,887	2.5%
Juvenile Dependency	2,617	8.5%
Juvenile Offender	1,738	-19.2%
Total Resolutions	53,859	-2.7%

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.

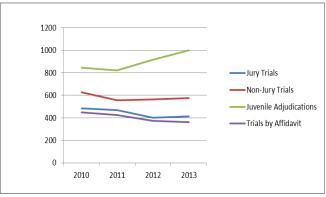


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Trial Activity

Trial activity was up in 2013. The 2,352 trials conducted in 2013 represent a 4.4% increase from the number of trials conducted in 2012.

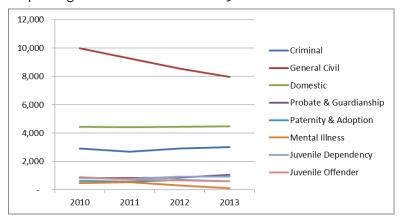
Trial Category	2013
Jury Trials	415
Non-Jury Trials	575
Juvenile Adjudications	1002
Trials by Affidavit	360
Total Trials	2,352



Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2013, 18,794 cases were pending – a decrease of more than 3% from 2012.

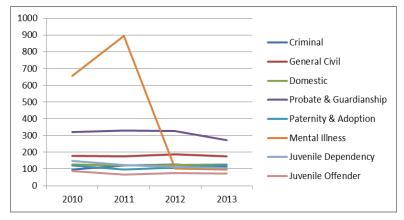
Case Type	2013
Criminal	3,008
General Civil	7,974
Domestic	4,486
Probate & Guardianship	1,071
Paternity & Adoption	612
Mental Illness	104
Juvenile Dependency	927
Juvenile Offender	612
Total Pending Cases	18,794



Age of Pending Caseload

The age of pending caseload is measured as the median age of pending cases (in days) at the end of 2013. Median age changed little from 2012 for most case types. However, a 2012 administrative clean-up significantly reduced the median age of mental illness cases.

Case Type	2013
Criminal	113
General Civil	174
Domestic	127
Probate & Guardianship	273
Paternity & Adoption	125
Mental Illness	98
Juvenile Dependency	106
Juvenile Offender	74
Median for All Active Pending Caseload	142



COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Paul Sherfey **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Dep. Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge Human Resources Manager Minerva Villarreal Policy Analyst **David Reynolds** Sr Human Resources Consultant Kathryn Schipper

Facility and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos **Human Resources Analyst Gertrude Fuentes**

Facilities Specialist II Kirby Pierce Administrative Specialist III Mei Barker **Facilities Specialist** Rodrigo Jacinto

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Lea Ennis

IT Director

Supervisor

Area Manager-Lead

Jill Murphy

Shirley Noble

PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Project/Program Manager IV Michelle Garvey Confidential Secretary II Angelina Jimeno Director of Judicial Administration Barbara Miner Administrative Specialist III Mei Barker

Administrative Specialist II Rose Bridenstine

BUSINESS & FINANCE

IT Applications Supervisor Hugh Kim Business & Finance Manager Steve Davis Senior Database Administrator Rita Napitupulu Business & Finance Officer II Doug Buckmeier Terri Bayless Web/Applications Developer Project Program Manager II Pat Ford Campbell **Business Analyst** Sathia Vann Purchasing Fiscal Technician **Gary Cutler** IT Systems Supervisor **Kevin Daggett Business & Finance Technician** Czar Peralta Senior LAN Administrator Chair-Li Chang

Fiscal Technician **Ted Shaw Guy Brook**

Fiscal Specialist II Lisa Tran IT Systems Specialist Michael Kim Kristan Johnson Senior Desktop Support Technician Office Assistant Michelle Crov

Desktop Support Technician Jerry Ito

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Director of Juvenile Court Services JUVENILE DRUG COURT **Bruce Knutson**

Juvenile Probation Manager Susan Waild Supervisor Steve Noble Juvenile Services Manager Steve Gustaveson Community Outreach Liaison **Roland Akers** Juvenile Treatment Services Mgr Juvenile Program Services Coord. Mark Wirschem Josalyn Conley

Project Program Manager III Juvenile Probation Counselor Teddi Edington Fred Aulava

> Yvette Gaston JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

Lisa Gistarb Court Operations Supervisor Jacqui Arrington Christine Kahikina Case Setting Coordinator Katie Davidson Administrative Specialist III Karen Lanpher

Court Program Specialist II

Nichole Rodriguez **Jackie Snodgrass FAMILY TREATMENT COURT**

Family Treatment Specialist Cathy Lehmann AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS Michelle Szozda

Program Manager Jan Solomon Court Program Specialist II Dajani Henderson

Case Management Specialist Amy Andree Parent for Parent Program Coord. Kimberly Mays

Karen Chapman

JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Court Program Specialist II

Youth Program Coordinator

Michelle Wyman

Melody Edmiston

Susie Bridges Weber

Area Manager Matthew David Social Worker/Team Coordinator William Schipp Administrative Specialist II Estrellita Kovacs

Dr. Michael Archer Psychologist Sheila Singleton

Fiscal Specialist II Paula Moses

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

NORTHEAST UNIT

Education/Employment Spec Mark Farrell JPC Supervisor Melissa Sprague

John Leers JPC Lead Kris McKinney
Guy McWhorter Juvenile Probation Counselor Norm Charouhas

Dawn Nannini Dawn Closs Hiroko Vargas Dan Higgins

Administrative Specialist III Dorcas Olegario Pat Hunziker-Pepoy

Randy Kok Gideon Oyeleke Kelli Sullivan

SCREENING UNIT

Melinda Fischer

JPC Supervisor Gene Dupuis Administrative Specialist I Renee Olin

Juvenile Probation Counselor Elaine Evans

Lisa Higgins

Geri Horrobin

SOUTH I UNIT – RENTON

JPC Supervisor JoeAnne Taylor

Lee Lim

JPC Lead

Staci Delgardo

Francisca Madera

Juvenile Probation Counselor

Todd Foster

Francisca Madera Juvenile Probation Counselor Todd Foster
Dianna Quall Darlin Johnson
WACIC Data Coordinator Dominick Beck Michelle Mihail

Debra Stuckman Ron Tarnow Mai Tran

Julie Stansberry

CONSOLIDATED INTAKE UNIT Mai Trai

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JPC Lead Karla Powelson

Juvenile Probation Counselor Michael Bowles

Administrative Specialist I

Christy CochranSOUTH II UNIT – FEDERAL WAYKelly DePhelpsJPC SupervisorKelli LauritzenTracy DixonJPCLeadDiane Rayburn

Dede Gartrell Juvenile Probation Counselor Yvonne Clemente-Smith

Bruce Gourley Michelle Higa
Diane Korf Rachel Hubert
Yoko Maeshiro Rebecca Kirkland
Shelley Moore Rob Legge
Gabrielle Pagano Patricia Nilsson

Administrative Specialist I

Joyce Chan Gwen Spears

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Daryl Cerdinio Administrative Specialist III Julie Allen

Jeremy Crowe
Juvenile Services Technician
Paul Daniels
CSEC Taskforce Coordinator
Kiersten Knutson

Administrative Specialist I Danielle Kidd

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Administrative Specialist II Chris Hong

Darien Riffe

COURT OPERATIONS

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Administrative Specialist IV Cynthia Williams
Ct Ops Spec II – Floater, Kent Karen Igo
Ct Ops Spec II – Floater, Seattle Lauretta Watson

Calendar/Staffing Specialist Marsha Kishida Customer Service Specialist II Julie Espinoza **JURY DEPARTMENT**

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Customer Service Specialist III Irene Szczerba
Customer Service Specialist II Katherine Glenn

Heidi Bugni

ARBITRATION DEPARTMENT

Arbitration Manager Charlotte Daugherty
Court Operations Specialist II Catherine Kuvac

CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Civil Case Manager Sandy Ogilvie
Court Operations Supervisor II Heiti Milnor-Lewis

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Criminal Case Manager John Salamony
Court Operations Supervisor I Erica Conway

Barbara Winter

Crim. Calendar Coordinator II Carla Gaber

Bonnie Larson

Court Operations Specialist II Sumi Enebrad
Customer Service Specialist II Susan Wells
Crim. Ct Info Processing Spec Kisha Gibson

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Mgr.

Guardianship GAL Keith Thomson

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Customer Service Specialist III Erica Daniels

Hakim Lakhal Cheryl Spriggs

Interpreter Amy Andrews

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Dana Butler Bridget O'Donnell

Marci Chatelain Dolores Rawlins

Jodi Dean Joseph Richling

Kimberly Girgus Jim Stach

Janet Hoffman Michael Townsend Jr.
Joanne Leatiota Michelle Vitrano

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Angela Ashley-Smith Renee Janes

Dave Bandstra Kathleen Manning

Teri Bush Nyoka Maraire

Elizza Byrd Matthew McCauley

Robert Byrne Craig Morrison

Ava Chen Teresa Novak

Kristen Coverdale Kirstyn Palmisano Tricia Crozier Marci Parducci

Lati Culverson Erica Parkin

Cheryl Cunningham Tikecha Pearson

Leah Daniels Mary Powell

Katheryne Davis Ricki Reese

Elaine Deines Nikki Riley

Maria Diga Pam Roark

Maria Diga Pari Roark

Laura Dorris Christine Robinson

Linda Tran

Aaron Everett Rhonda Salvesen

Patrick Fell Aimee Silva

Monica Gillum Sherri Tye

Jill Gerontis

Monica dilidiri Sherri iye

Judy Hansen Jacqueline Ware Kenya Hart Loyce Weishaar

Christine Henderson Kiese Wilburn

Salina Hill Helen Woodke

Theodore Hong Peggy Wu

Greg Howard Lisa Zimnisky

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Director Jorene Reiber FAMILY LAW FACILITATORS
Family Court Operations Mgr Merle Redd-Jones & EARLY RESOLUTION PROGRAM

Court Operations Specialist II Tracey White Program Manager Melinda Johnson Taylor

Early Resolution Case Manager Christina Luera

Jamie Perry

FAMILY COURT SERVICES Kevin Rowles

Program Manager Rachael DelVillar Facilitator Jeanna Bento
Asst. Program Manager Connor Lenz Nhu Dinh

Dependency Mediator Kendy Rossi Kristen Gabel

Social Worker Jennifer Bercot Intake Specialist Laura Contreras

Emily Brewer Fabian Fereshtefar
Daryl Buckendahl Charles McElearney

Nicole Bynum Desiree Canter

Marina Horsting DEPENDENCY CASA

Debra Hunter Program Manager Lisa Petersen

Veronica Lopez Asst. Program Manager Edward Greenleaf
Rie Takeuchi CASA Case Specialists Carolyn Frimpter

Larkspur Van Stone Janet Horton

Administrative Specialist IV Demetrius Devers Peggy Larson

Amanda Peterson Wai-Ping Li-Landis Stacy Keen Don Miner

Adoption Paralegal Tanessa Blackmore Deanna Watson

Customer Service Specialist III Nina Huggins-Irving Lucyle Wooden

Malinda You Guardian ad Litem Sarah Jackson

Customer Service Specialist II Brooklyn Adams Pauline Duke

Stevie Craig Program Attorney Lori Irwin

Fiscal Specialist III Julie Allen Whiten Kathryn Barnhouse

Bryan Ivanich Kathleen Martin

Family Law Coordinator Rita Amaro April Rivera

Danielle Anderson Attorney Guardian ad Litem Elizabeth Berris

Mary Bromberger Paralegal Kathleen McCormack

Caroline Bustamonte Vickey Wilson

Gina Reyes Administrative Specialist Kathleen Hasslinger

Hannah Service

Joyce Stockman

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

Civil Case Specialist Tiffany Klein
Sarah Olson

DEPENDENCY COORDINATORS

Jackie Antich Kim Noble Sheila Rogers

Barb Whitney

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.



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