# KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT



2014 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 2014 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find it informative and useful.

2014 was a year of bold decisions. In January, the Court decided to seek funding from the King County Council to build our own replacement for the 37-year-old mainframe data retrieval system rather than participate in a State effort to replace the system. We believed that it would be too difficult for the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop a single case management system that would work well for small, medium-sized and very large courts – and we were certain the State system would be less robust that King County's existing case management system. While our decision caused some hard feelings with some of our sister courts, we remain convinced that it was the right decision for our Court.

We also decided in 2014 to pilot video hearings in our Involuntary Treatment Act Court. The idea was controversial, because there were questions about whether patients would understand the proceedings if they were viewing them on a screen rather than in a courtroom. However, the price paid for attending in person was an ambulance ride tied to a gurney, followed by hours more on the gurney outside the Court waiting for the case to be called. We decided to start with the patients who suffered the most on the gurneys (our elderly respondents) and test whether procedural justice was diminished by holding hearings where the patient would see the judge and the prosecutor on the screen and see defense counsel and witnesses in person. When we discovered that the patients whose hearings were conducted via video were only slightly less satisfied with the fairness of the proceedings, we decided that on the whole video was better for these patients than a trip to court in an ambulance.

Our final major decision of the year was the selection of a design-build team to construct the new Children and Family Justice Center at 12<sup>th</sup> and Alder. The procurement process was excruciatingly slow, but in the end the Court was very satisfied with the choice of Balfour Beatty/Howard S. Wright as our contractor, a choice later ratified by the County Council. The courthouse will be flooded with light from windows on all sides, including floor-to-ceiling windows that offer views of Mount Rainier. The building will communicate serenity and hopefulness to the families who find themselves coming to our courtrooms. Families will be able to be connected to services in their neighborhoods at a Resource Center staffed by community service providers. They will leave with appointments made and bus routes mapped out, ready to do what they need to do to get their families back on track.

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 court-based services. 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.

# Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2014, the court advanced innovative programs, worked to ensure access to court services, and planned for the future. In the pages that follow, you will read about our many accomplishments for the year, including articles on the following topics:

**Information Kiosk.** In 2014, the court installed an electronic, self-service information kiosk in the lobby of the King County Courthouse. The kiosk provides information about court services in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese, and additional languages will be added. This is the first multi-lingual, self-service, court information kiosk in Washington State.

**Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC).** In 2014, the King County CSEC Task Force and its partner organizations were awarded a five-year, \$250,000/year, federal grant to provide additional services to sexually exploited youth in King County. This grant also will fund improved data collection and outcomes evaluation analyses for this groundbreaking program.

**Dependency Mediation.** In 2014, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) completed a research report on the court's Dependency Mediation Program. The NCJFCJ found a high correlation between cases that had been mediated and cases that ended in the reunification of children with their parents.

**Drug Court 20th Anniversary.** On October 14, 2014, the King County Drug Diversion Court celebrated its 20th anniversary. Hundreds of supporters gathered to hear stories of recovery and reminisce about the founding of this pioneering program. Guests enjoyed hearing the keynote speaker: award-winning Seattle rapper Macklemore.

**Strategic Agenda.** On September 15, 2014, the Superior Court bench adopted a new Strategic Agenda for the court. This plan will guide the court's decision-making for the next five years.

### **King County Superior Court – Jurisdiction:**

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

### **King County Superior Court:**

- Operates at four sites, including the King County Courthouse, Juvenile Court, and Mental Illness Court at Seattle locations; and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent
- Has 53 judges and 12 commissioners
- Is supported by more than 500 staff in Superior Court and the Department of Judicial Administration (Clerk's Office)



# Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2014

Carol A. Schapira	<b>Julie A. Spector</b>	Susan J. Craighead	<b>Bill A. Bowman</b>
Elected, 1989	Appointed, 1999	Appointed, 2007	Appointed/Elected, 2012
<b>William L. Downing</b> Appointed, 1989	<b>Richard F. McDermott</b> Appointed, 2000	<b>Bruce Heller</b> Appointed, 2007	<b>Judith H. Ramseyer</b> Appointed/Elected, 2012
<b>Joan E. DuBuque</b>	<b>Mary I. Yu</b>	Kimberley Prochnau	Elizabeth J. Berns
Appointed, 1989	Appointed, 2000	Appointed, 2007	Elected, 2013
<b>LeRoy McCullough</b> Appointed, 1989	<b>James D. Cayce</b> Appointed, 2000	Monica J. Benton Appointed, 2008	Suzanne R. Parisien Elected, 2013
<b>Laura C. Inveen</b>	Douglass A. North	<b>Regina S. Cahan</b> Appointed/Elected, 2009	Sean P. O'Donnell
Appointed, 1992	Elected, 2000		Elected, 2013
<b>Brian D. Gain</b> Elected, 1993	<b>Catherine D. Shaffer</b> <i>Elected,</i> 2000	<b>Mariane C. Spearman</b> Elected, 2009	<b>Ken Schubert</b> Elected, 2013
<b>Richard D. Eadie</b>	<b>Gregory P. Canova</b> Elected, 2001	Timothy A. Bradshaw	<b>Susan H. Amini</b>
Appointed, 1995		Elected, 2009	Appointed, 2013
<b>Michael J. Trickey</b>	<b>Cheryl B. Carey</b>	<b>Hollis R. Hill</b>	<b>Julia L. Garrett</b>
Appointed, 1996	Elected, 2001	Elected, 2009	Appointed, 2013
Jeffrey M. Ramsdell	<b>John P. Erlick</b>	Barbara A. Mack	Roger S. Rogoff
Elected, 1996	Elected, 2001	Elected, 2009	Appointed, 2014
<b>Jay V. White</b>	<b>Laura G. Middaugh</b>	<b>Jean Rietschel</b>	<b>John H. Chun</b>
Elected, 1996	Elected, 2001	Appointed, 2010	Appointed, 2014
<b>Dean S. Lum</b> Appointed, 1998	<b>Mary E. Roberts</b> Appointed, 2003	<b>Beth M. Andrus</b> Appointed, 2010	<b>John Ruhl</b> Appointed, 2014
<b>Ronald Kessler</b>	<b>J. Wesley Saint Clair</b>	Patrick H. Oishi	<b>Tanya Thorp</b>
Appointed, 1999	Appointed, 2004	Appointed, 2011	Appointed, 2014
Palmer Robinson	<b>Andrea A. Darvas</b>	<b>Lori K. Smith</b>	<b>A. Chad Allred</b>
Appointed, 1999	Elected, 2005	Appointed, 2012	Appointed, 2014
<b>Helen L. Halpert</b>	<b>Theresa B. Doyle</b> Elected, 2005	<b>Barbara Linde</b>	Samuel S. Chung
Appointed, 1999		Appointed, 2012	Appointed, 2014
	<b>Jim Rogers</b> Elected, 2005		

# Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2014

Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986	Richard Gallaher, 2000	Chad Allred, 2013
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993	Meg Sassaman, 2006	James Kahan, 2013
Hollis Holman, 1996	Mark Hillman, 2007	Jennie Laird, 2013
Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998	Jacqueline Jeske, 2008	Melinda Johnson-Taylor, 2014
Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998		Henry Judson, 2014



# Design-Build Team Selected for King County Children and Family Justice Center

In late 2014, King County selected the design-build team of Howard S. Wright (a Balfour Beatty company), HOK, and Integrus Architects to design and construct King County's Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC). This facility will replace the existing Youth Services Center (YSC) with a new courthouse, detention facility, and parking garage. The new center will be modern and efficient and will demonstrate respect for the families, staff, and service providers who come here each day.

During 2015, the county will work with stakeholders and the design-build team to refine and complete the CFJC design. Construction is planned to start in the spring of 2016. The YSC will remain in



operation during construction of the new courthouse and detention facility. Then the YSC will be demolished to make way for the parking garage. All onsite work is scheduled to be completed by late 2019-early 2020.

Replacing the aging YSC, which houses juvenile court, juvenile detention, and related functions and

services, 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 is \$25 per year.

Juvenile Court is responsible for handling all King County juvenile offender matters (cases where youth up to the age of 18 years are accused of breaking the law); status offender matters, which arise when youth are beyond the control of their parents ('At-Risk Youth' or 'Children In Need of Services') or are skipping school (Truancy); and juvenile dependency matters (cases where children

are abused, neglected, or abandoned by their parents or guardians). Juvenile Court works with a large number of youth-serving governmental and nonprofit organizations, elected officials, and community members to systematically examine and improve juvenile justice practices and programs.

For more information, please visit the CFJC project webpage at: www.kingcounty.gov/childrenandfamilyjustice.



# A Language Kiosk in the Courthouse

In 2014, King County Superior Court became the first court in Washington State to pilot a court information kiosk for visitors with limited English proficiency (LEP). This electronic, self-service kiosk provides way-finding information in English, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The first kiosk was placed in the main lobby of the King County Courthouse in Seattle. The deployment of similar kiosks was planned for the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent and the second floor lobby of the King County Courthouse.



**Professional Neutral Interpreters Are the Best Qualified Interpreters** 

Unless it is an emergency, there are several reasons why bilingual family members, friends, and neighbors should **not** be interpreting for Limited English Proficient persons (LEPs).

- Being bilingual is not sufficient. Interpreting is a skill that involves trained memory and being
  able to perform simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and sight translation. Summarizing and paraphrasing are not modes of interpretation.
- Family members and friends do not have sufficient understanding of legal terminology or the services offered by Superior Court.
- Family members and friends are not impartial and may have a vested interest in the results of the services received. They may filter the information between the LEP and court personnel through exaggeration or omission of information.
- LEPs may be inhibited to discuss confidential information about their case through someone they know.
- Children do not have the maturity or vocabulary to manage a conversation dealing with legal issues. They may feel pressured to interpret "in favor of" their parent or relative.

You are encouraged to contact the Office of Interpreter Services for all your language needs!



Martha Cohen, Interpreter Services Manager

# Clerk's Office Services Now Available During the Lunch Hour

In 2011, the Clerk's Office began closing during the lunch hour for budgetary reasons. The resulting staff time savings were valuable to the county but costly for Clerk's Office customers.

In 2012, the Clerk's Office conducted a survey of customers who came to Clerk's Office locations over the lunch hour but found the offices closed. The survey showed that many of these customers were non-lawyers coming to make payments or obtain copies of court documents.



In 2014, the Clerk's Office received funding to open a "limited service office" during the lunch hour. Customers can make payments, get court documents, and access other services there. At the King County Courthouse in Seattle, the limited service office is located on the 3rd floor in Room W378. At the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, the office is located on the 2nd floor in Room 2231.

### **Unclaimed Funds Process Improvements Produce Results**

Every year, the Clerk's Office files a report with the state documenting unclaimed property held in

the court's registry. Funds that remain unclaimed eventually are paid over to the state Department of Revenue. Prior to this, however, Clerk's Office staff work diligently to locate the rightful owners of these funds.

In 2014, Clerk's Office staff developed several forms and instructions which make it easier for claimants to obtain an order to disburse funds or document a change of address. The amount of property disbursed to rightful owners immediately increased.



# **ClerkShare: Expediting Court Access to Information**

In 2014, the Clerk's Office implemented a new service that allows judicial officers to receive superior court case records quickly and efficiently from 38 of the 39 county clerks in Washington.

Known as ClerkShare, the service fills a longstanding need for better information to support judicial decision-making. It also facilitates the secure transfer of sealed documents while ensuring speedy delivery to the intended recipient.



The overall process is simple. A judicial officer sends a request to the participating county clerk; the receiving clerk processes the request by uploading the files into ClerkShare; and this, in turn, triggers a message to the requester that the files are ready to download. Participating county clerks have agreed to complete each transaction in less than four hours. ClerkShare has been well-received by judicial officers statewide.

### **CSEC Task Force Receives Federal Grant**

In 2014, the King County Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Task Force and its partner agencies were awarded a five-year, \$250,000/year, federal grant to provide additional services to sexually exploited youth in King County. This grant also will fund improved data collection and outcomes evaluation analyses to help establish evidence-based best practices.

The CSEC Task Force was convened in 2013 by Superior Court Judge Barbara Mack and set as its mission "ensuring the safety and support of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and preventing further exploitation." In order to achieve this mission, the task force focuses its efforts in a number of areas.

- The Task Force coordinates training for people who may come into contact with exploited children to help them recognize these children. This includes law enforcement officers, Juvenile Court staff, Children's Administration case workers, social service providers, school personnel, the business community, and the community at large. Training is free for all participants.
- The Task Force has implemented "Multidisciplinary Teams" across the county with the help of participating partners in law enforcement and youth-serving agencies. These teams work to coordinate care for each individual youth referred for assistance.

A variety of services are available for these youth. The Bridge Continuum of Care, operated by YouthCare, Auburn Youth Services, and Friends of Youth, provides case management; outreach and advocacy; and shelter, housing, employment, and education services for CSEC youth. Therapeutic services, including mental health counseling, chemical dependency treatment, and survivor-led support groups, are available through partnerships with Ryther, Harborview Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress, and the Organization for Prostitution Survivors.

• The task Force also helps staff the 24/7 CSEC phone line (1.855.400.CSEC) and email address (CommunityAdvocate@YouthCare.org). Either will connect a youth with an advocate at any

time of day or night. This service is completely free and available throughout King County for youth ages 12-24.

The CSEC Task Force includes representatives from law enforcement, schools, the survivor community, the child welfare system, community service providers, and various governmental entities, including King County Superior Court, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Defense, Public Health of Seattle and King County, and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention. For more information, please contact Kelly Mangiaracina at 206.205.9534 or

Kelly.Mangiaracina@KingCounty.gov.



## **Superior Court Hosts Its First Juneteenth Celebration**

On Thursday June 19, 2014, the Juvenile Court Cultural Diversity Committee and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention sponsored a



"Juneteenth" celebration at the Youth Services Center. More than 400 people attended. Juneteenth also is known as "African American Independence Day." It marks the day in 1865 when the last of the slaves in Texas were freed. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration memorializing the emancipation of African American slaves and is recognized in over 40 states as a holiday celebrating achievement, freedom, unity, and diversity.



The event was held both inside and outside of the Youth Services Center. The program included music, song, and dance performances, and speeches by Chief Juvenile Judge Wesley Saint Clair, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Council Member Larry Gossett, and Department of Detention Interim Director William Hayes, who all reflected on the county's commitment to Equity and Social Justice. Exhibits marking significant contributions of Afri-



can Americans to American society also were on display. Event representatives received a tremendous amount of positive feedback.



# Dependency Mediation Negotiates Its 500th Order!

The King County Dependency Mediation Program reached a milestone near the beginning of 2014 when the program helped to mediate its 500th order of dependency. Dependency Mediation was established in February 2011 to increase parental involvement and improve timeliness of case processing for families that have become involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). The process convenes parents, social workers, attorneys, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) for thoughtful, collaborative, and confidential dialogue about issues affecting the family, the support/assistance available, and the changes necessary in order to safely return children to their homes. Mediation allows parties to be actively involved in negotiating the order of dependency proposed



by CPS, or to come up with a mutually agreeable alternative to dependency. When parties can come to agreement on some or all aspects of a case, divisiveness decreases, and less court time is required. Of the first 500 dependency orders handled by the Mediation Program, 87.8% reached partial or full agreement outside the courtroom.

# **Mediation Research Shows Continuing Program Effectiveness**

In 2014, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) released its third research report on King County's Dependency Mediation Program. The NCJFCJ found a high correlation between cases that had been mediated and cases that ended in the reunification of children with their parents (as opposed to permanent placement outside the parental home). In analysis of program outcomes, mediated cases resulted in reunification with parents in 60% of all closed cases, while non-mediated cases resulted in reunification in only 32% of the closed cases. To put this another way: mediated cases were 1.84 times more likely to end in reunification than non-mediated cases.



Some evidence suggests a critical component of achieving such results is the involvement of parents in the process. The NCJFCJ research revealed that the majority of parents who participate in mediation report that they highly value JUVENILE AND FAMILY COURT JUDGES the opportunity to be at the table with other decisionmakers. The research reflects that 97.2% of parents felt me-

diation "gave them a chance to speak;" 85.3% said that "all of their questions were answered;" and 94.5% of the parents were either "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the outcome of their mediation. As one parent explained, "Mediation was very helpful. Not only were my children's needs met, but my needs were addressed as well. And I liked being able to hear things for myself." While no parent wants to find themselves across the table – or across the courtroom – from CPS investigative social workers, parties in mediation have the opportunity to tell their side of the story and to discover common ground with others while determining what is in a child's best interest.

# Recognizing the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) Who Volunteer for Kids



Judge David Soukup (ret.) and Lisa Petersen, CASA Program Manager

On May 17, 2014, Superior Court's Dependency CASA Program held its annual volunteer recognition event at the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture. With over 160 in attendance, the event was an inspiring celebration of the power of volunteering and child advocacy.

Volunteers enjoyed the special appearance of retired King County

Superior Court Judge David Soukup, who founded the nation's first Dependency CASA program in King

County over 35 years ago. Also in attendance were the Honorable Judge Hill, Judge Smith, and Judge McCullough.

The Dependency CASA Program serves children up to 11 years old who have allegedly been abused and/or neglected. CASA volunteers are trained to investigate the case and provide information to the court; to help identify resources to address a child's special needs; and to recommend temporary and permanent plans for the child. If



Judge Hollis Hill (l.) and Judge Lori Smith

you are interested in learning more, please email <a href="mailto:BEaCASA@kingcounty.gov">BEaCASA@kingcounty.gov</a>.

# **Court Re-Launches Mandatory Arbitration Training**

In 2014, the Mandatory Arbitration Department re-launched its arbitration training class for lawyers in two half-day sessions. In the first session, current Chief Civil Judge Mariane Spearman, former Chief Civil Judge John Erlick, and former Presiding Judge Richard McDermott focused on what it means to be an arbitrator, specifically addressing the ethical duties of the arbitration panel. In the second session, attendees worked through various arbitration scenarios, asked many questions, and discussed the finer points of arbitration practice.

If a civil lawsuit in Superior Court is for less than \$50,000, arbitration provides an opportunity for the case to heard by a court-appointed arbitrator in a less formal setting. Court-based arbitration provides a simplified, economical process for obtaining prompt, equitable resolution of disputes. State legislation enabling court-based arbitration was adopted in 1979 and implemented in King County in 1980.

More than 150 people attended the 2014 training, which received solid reviews. Special thanks to the Arbitration Department staff, King County Bar Association, Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, and Washington State Association for Justice for organizing and promoting this event.

## Court Conducts 'Lean Analysis' 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 risen significantly, more than doubling since 2000, and increasing by more than 40% in just the last five years. The court is doing everything it can to handle this larger caseload. In 2013, the court opened a small second ITA courtroom in what had been a public waiting area. In 2014, the court conducted a 'lean analysis' to determine whether operational changes could streamline case resolution.

Lean analysis maps every step in a workflow process and then asks people who perform these steps how the process can be improved. Although this approach originally was applied to industrial assembly lines, it has been successfully adapted to help public entities analyze how they work.

The lean facilitators identified six projects that could improve operations at the ITA Court. By the close of the year, several of these projects had been implemented, and the rest were underway.



Ninth and Jefferson Building at Harborview Medical Center, location of the ITA Court

# **Drug Court Celebrates 20 Years of Changing Lives**

In 2014, King County Drug Diversion Court ("Drug Court") celebrated its 20th anniversary and its more than 2,000 lifetime graduates. On October 14, 2014, hundreds of supporters gathered to share

gratitude and joy, hear stories of recovery, and reminisce about the founding of this pioneering program.

Judge Greg Canova, who would soon complete his third year as the Drug Court Judge in Seattle, led the celebration in the court's packed Presiding Courtroom.

King County Executive Dow Constantine recognized Drug Court as a national model of cost-effective, compassionate, government programs, and lauded its role in helping people charged with drug-related felonies to rebuild their lives and give back to their communities.

King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert detailed the important role Drug Court plays in keeping families together, and King County Councilmember Larry Gossett applauded the Drug Court program for addressing the root causes of incarceration.

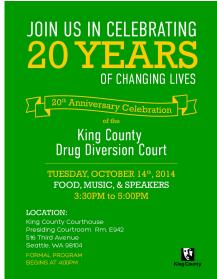
US District Court Judge Ricardo S. Martinez recalled his efforts to start the program 20 years earlier and recognized the advocacy and support of late King County Prosecuting Attorney Norm Maleng.

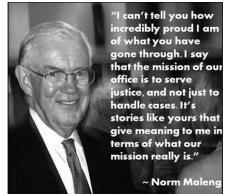
Dan Satterberg, current King County Prosecuting Attorney, also spoke of Mr. Maleng's commitment to the program. He read from a transcript of a 2007 Drug Court graduation ceremony in which Mr. Maleng told a group of Drug Court gradu-

ates that each of them was a blessing in his life.

Keynote speaker Ben Haggerty, the award-winning Seattle rapper better known as Mack-lemore, shared his story of drug addiction and recovery, encouraging Drug Court participants to continue their own work on the difficult but rewarding journey to sobriety. At the end of the celebration, Mr. Haggerty joined the young adults in Drug Court for a group photo, which later was tweeted to his followers.

For more photos and videos about the Drug Court program, participant stories, and the 20th Anniversary event, please visit: <a href="https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/DrugCourt/20thCelebration">www.kingcounty.gov/courts/DrugCourt/20thCelebration</a>.





# **Court Adopts New Strategic Agenda**

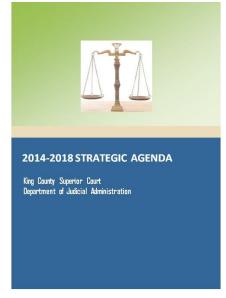
On September 15, 2014, the Superior Court judges approved a new Strategic Agenda for the court. This agenda, which guides the work of Superior Court and the Clerk's Office for the next five years, is available on the homepage of the Superior Court website.

The new Strategic Agenda is the product of a year-long effort to set priorities for the future of the court. The court hired a consulting firm that specializes in court strategic planning, organized a 21-member judge, commissioner, and staff planning team, and solicited input from all judges and staff and many external stakeholders. The plan reaffirms the court's mission, vision, and core values, and reconfigures the court's strategic focus into five Strategic Focus Areas (SFAs). These are:

• SFA 1: Access, Services, and Programs that Promote Justice. The court will work to ensure that the court is fair, bias-free, and equally accessible to all.

• SFA 2: Case Management and Caseflow. The court will strive to resolve all legal matters referred to it expeditiously using fair, understandable, efficient, and effective processes.

- SFA 3: Public Understanding and Intergovernmental Relations. The court will work to ensure that elected leadership and the public understand and support the work of the court.
- SFA 4: Operational Infrastructure. The court will strive to promote leadership and develop / improve the facilities, technology, and human resources needed to conduct court business.
- SFA 5: Work Environment and Workforce Development.
   The court will work to ensure that its judges, commissioners, and staff are fully engaged and supported in their jobs.



Following adoption of the new Strategic Agenda, the court began the work needed to implement it. At the end of 2014, the court was in the process of identifying "strategic initiatives" for 2015 and of forming teams to carry out those initiatives.

### **ADA-Compliant Juror Restroom Debuts**

Parts of the King County Courthouse (KCCH) in Seattle are nearly 100 years old, and the county struggles to make it accessible to people with disabilities. Jury room restrooms in particular are difficult for jurors in wheelchairs to access.

In 2014, a jury room restroom was reconfigured and now complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The restroom, which was enlarged and retrofitted with appropriate hardware, will serve as a template for other KCCH jury restroom remodels in the future.



### Courtroom of the Future Comes to the MRJC

In 2013, Superior Court opened 'the courtroom of the future' in the King County Courthouse. In 2014, a similar "e-courtroom" came online at the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent. Both courtrooms have been outfitted with state-of-the-art video conference equipment, a wide-screen projector, high-definition cameras, a smart board, computers, electronic signature pads, microphones, and surround-sound speakers. Both courtrooms demonstrate how modern equipment in a trial courtroom can



The new e-courtroom at the MRJC

improve court proceedings for the public, litigants, judges, staff, attorneys, jurors, and witnesses.

### **Superior Court Expands Video Options for Court Proceedings**

With the permission of a judge, some court participants may be allowed to attend a court proceeding via video. By downloading a software program called 'Jabber' to their own computers, authorized participants can connect to videoconferencing equipment at the court. This equipment is available in the e-courtrooms, in Juvenile Court and ITA Court courtrooms equipped for video, and via mobile videoconferencing units available for check-out pursuant to a judge's request. Video participation is arranged through the judge's bailiff.

# New Technology Is Coming to the Clerk's Office

Three major Clerk's Office technology systems will be replaced in the near future:

- **Core ECR.** Electronic Court Records, or ECR, is the system the Clerk's Office uses to maintain most court records. The core of the system, called "Core ECR," holds well over 150 million pages of records; yet the system, developed in the late 1990s, is based on technology that is old and cannot be adapted to meet current and anticipated business needs.
- **SCOMIS.** The Superior Court Management Information System, or SCOMIS, is a state system used to manage and report case information from the state's superior courts. SCOMIS, which first came online in the 1970's, will be retired in the near future. The Clerk's Office then expects to maintain case information locally and share it with the state using a data exchange hub.
- JRS/JASS. The Clerk's Office receives and disburses all payments made in Superior Court cases. In an average year, the Clerk processes more than 350,000 transactions totaling roughly \$300 million. The Judicial Receipting System (JRS) and the Judicial Accounting Sub-System (JASS) are used to track these funds. The retirement of SCOMIS and related systems make replacement of JRS and JASS desirable.

Contemplating the replacement options is daunting, yet exciting. The Clerk's Office looks forward to offering customer service improvements made possible by this change.



### **New Grants Fund Services for Court-Involved Youth**

In 2014, the court received four new grants to fund services for court-involved youth.

- The **King County CSEC Task Force** and its partner agencies have been awarded a five-year, \$250,000/year, federal grant to provide additional services to commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) in King County, particularly those who are involved with the child welfare system. This grant also will fund improved data collection and outcomes evaluation to support development of evidence-based best practices for working with these youth.
- The **King County Employment and Education Resources Network**, a partnership between Juvenile Court and King County's Department of Community and Human Services, was awarded a two-year, \$750,000/year, federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to serve youth in South King County. The program, titled 'Bridge to Prosperity,' will work with youth ages 14 to 24 to support participants with mentoring and case management services and help them complete educational goals, have their juvenile records sealed, and obtain employment.
- The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice has funded **two Juvenile Court technical assistance grants**. One will pay for the W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI), nationally recognized for its work in juvenile justice racial equity issues, to administer and analyze a Probation Violation survey. Insights from the survey will inform subsequent review of the Probation Violation Response Grid.

The second technical assistance grant will fund a training on the City of Seattle's Racial Equity Toolkit. This Toolkit was highlighted at King County's Race and Ethnic Disparity Symposium in July of 2014. Attendees asked for more information and training on the tool.

# **Expanding the Vision for Reclaiming Futures**

Reclaiming Futures (RF) is a national organization, a local coalition, and a vision for the youth of King County that focuses on substance abuse and mental health recovery. RF began in 2001 with a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Seattle-King County was one of ten pilot sites. RF is now in place at 39 sites in 18 states across the nation.

In 2014, King County hosted two visioning events to chart a course for the next ten years. Hundreds of people attended these events and championed a vision which includes:

- Welcoming, rigorous schools;
- Supportive, connected neighborhoods;
- Community support beyond treatment;
- Transformative justice;
- Collaboration and Equity.

To learn more about this vision, read: King County's Journey: A Vision for 2024.



Members of the 'Reclaiming Futures Fellowship,' which hosted the 2014 visioning events

# **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 2014, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:



King County Courthouse (Seattle): Heidi Bugni. Heidi is a Customer Service Specialist II in the court's Jury Department. She works in the Jury Assembly Room in Seattle, where King County residents report for jury duty and wait to be assigned to jury pools. Heidi helps jurors sign in for their service and answers a staggering number of questions every day. She does so in such a consistently friendly and helpful way that jurors go out of their way to relay compliments to her manager. Her manager and co-workers describe her as highly motivated with a positive attitude that is contagious to be around. She leaves her customers feeling good about their service for the court.

Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Tiffany Klein. Tiffany is a Civil Case Specialist in the court's Family Law/Unified Family Court Operations Division. She provides staff support for the court's eight family law judges, and during 2014 she also supported court calendars in the family law and dependency commissioner courtrooms, assisted with family law confirmations, and helped staff the Family Court Services reception desk and Parent Seminar check-in. She is flexible, broadly-trained, and happy to jump in during staffing emergencies to cover any station. Her manager and co-workers appreciate her reliability, determination, positive attitude, and especially her smile.





Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Kendy Rossi. Kendy is a Dependency Mediator in the court's Family Court Services Division. She helps settle child abuse and neglect matters – some of the most challenging cases handled by the court. Many dependency cases have multiple parties and attorneys and require a lot of juggling, but Kendy is passionate about mediation and helps make sure that the mediation environment feels safe and that everyone involved has an opportunity to feel heard. Her manager and coworkers describe her as professional, yet compassionate, and her clients appreciate her warmth and understanding.

Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition Award include:

- 2013 Czar Peralta (Seattle), Marsha Kishida (Kent), Susie Bridges Weber (Juvenile Court)
- 2012 Chair-Li Chang (Seattle), Rita Amaro (Kent), Kathy Santucci (Juvenile Court)

# **Superior Court Budget**

2014 Expenditures by Program	2014 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, guardianship & probate staff, jury, interpreters, and the Mandatory Arbitration program. (38.6%)	\$20,404,590	
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. (28%)	\$14,694,311	
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, computer services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (18%)	\$9,473,781	
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Dependency CASA, and Early Resolu- tion Case Management programs. (15.4%)	\$8,353,992	
TOTAL		\$52,926,674	

2014 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$48,667,932	92%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$4,258,742	8%
TOTAL	\$52,926,674	100%

# Department of Judicial Administration Budget

2014 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow & Court Clerk Services	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination. (24.3%)	\$5,363,236
Customer & Financial Services	Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies, witness payments. (18%)	\$3,975,475
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies, dependency publication costs at Juvenile and MRJC. (25.5%)	\$5,610,699
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program. (7.2%)	\$1,585,292
Administration	Includes admin staff, human resources, technology services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, statistical analysis and intergovernment services. (25%)	\$5,513,093
TOTAL		\$22,047,795

2014 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$22,047,795	100%
TOTAL	\$22,047,795	100%

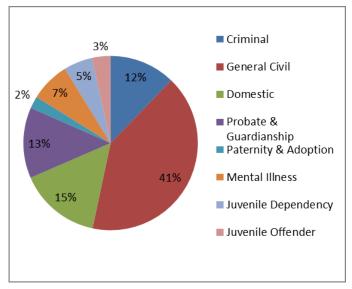
## **Superior Court Caseload & Performance**

### **Case Filings**

In 2014, a total of 52,224 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 1.0% from 2013. Criminal, probate & guardianship, mental illness, and juvenile dependency filings rose, while general civil and paternity & adoption filings fell. In addition,

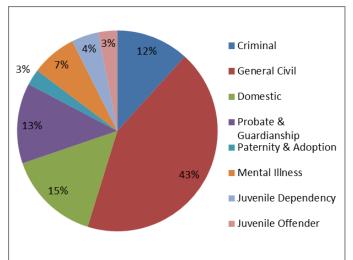
12,240 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2014	Change from 2013
Criminal	6,385	2.6%
General Civil	21,465	-4.4%
Domestic	7,921	0.3%
Probate & Guardianship	6,848	1.8%
Paternity & Adoption	1,172	-17.1%
Mental Illness	3,852	4.7%
Juvenile Dependency	2,779	9.4%
Juvenile Offender	1,802	-0.3%
Total Filings	52,224	-1.0%



### **Case Resolutions**

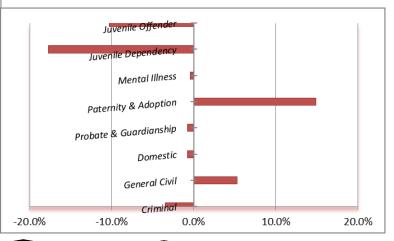
In 2014, the court resolved a total of 52,509 cases. Although case resolutions were down 2.5% from 2013, resolutions exceeded case filings by 0.5%.



Case Type	2014	Change from 2013
Criminal	6,163	2.5%
General Civil	22,608	-4.1%
Domestic	7,861	-0.7%
Probate & Guardianship	6,790	2.6%
Paternity & Adoption	1,347	-10.7%
Mental Illness	3,836	-1.3%
Juvenile Dependency	2,288	-12.6%
Juvenile Offender	1,616	-7.0%
Total Resolutions	52, 509	-2.5%

## **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.

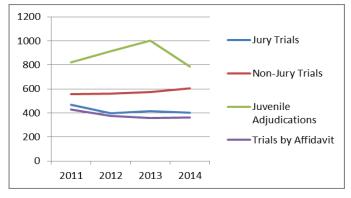


# **Superior Court Caseload & Performance**

### **Trial Activity**

Trial activity was down in 2014. The 2,157 trials conducted in 2014 represent an 8.3% decrease from the number of trials conducted in 2013.

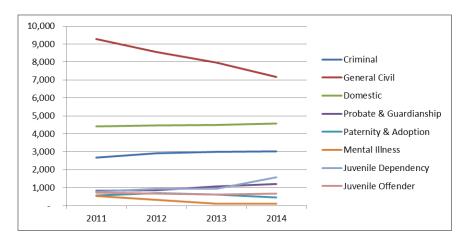
Trial Category	2014
Jury Trials	402
Non-Jury Trials	607
Juvenile Adjudications	784
Trials by Affidavit	364
Total Trials	2,157



### **Pending Caseload**

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2014, 18,811 cases were pending – an increase of 0.1% from 2013.

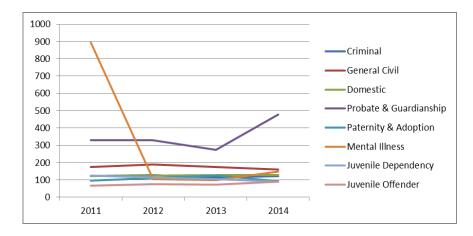
Case Type	2014
Criminal	3,021
General Civil	7,176
Domestic	4,579
Probate & Guardianship	1,209
Paternity & Adoption	449
Mental Illness	121
Juvenile Dependency	1,579
Juvenile Offender	677
<b>Total Pending Cases</b>	18,811



### **Age of Pending Caseload**

The age of pending caseload is measured as the median age of pending cases (in days) at the end of 2014. The age of all pending cases in 2014 changed little from prior years, though changes occurred within some case types. Note that a 2012 administrative clean-up significantly reduced the median age of pending mental illness cases.

Case Type	2014
Criminal	121
General Civil	160
Domestic	129
Probate & Guardianship	479
Paternity & Adoption	93
Mental Illness	150
Juvenile Dependency	90
Juvenile Offender	90
Median for All Active Pending Caseload	142



### **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

Paul Sherfey Chief Administrative Officer **HUMAN RESOURCES** 

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

Facilities and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos Human Resources Analyst **Gertrude Fuentes** Facilities Specialist II Kirby Pierce Human Resources Technician Rob Bradstreet (.5) Facilities Specialist Rodrigo Jacinto

Project/Program Manager IV Michelle Garvey JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Continuous Improvement Specialist Steve Gustaveson Director of Judicial Administration Barbara Miner Confidential Secretary II Angelina Jimeno

Administrative Specialist II Rose Bridenstine Customer Service Specialist II Stephanie Jones

## **BUSINESS & FINANCE**

Web/Applications Developer Doug Buckmeier Business & Finance Manager Steve Davis Senior Database Administrator Rita Napitupulu Business & Finance Officer II Terri Bayless **Business Analyst** Sathia Vann Project/Program Manager II Pat Ford Campbell Senior LAN Administrator **Ted Shaw** Purchasing Fiscal Technician **Gary Cutler** Senior Desktop Support Technician Michelle Croy

**Business & Finance Technician** Rob Bradstreet (.5) Senior Systems Engineers Chair-Li Chang Fiscal Technician **Guy Brook** Kevin Daggett

> **IT Systems Specialists** Fiscal Specialist II Jose Ramos Jerry Ito Office Assistant Kristan Johnson Michael Kim

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT Director Lea Ennis

Supervisor

PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Family Treatment Specialists

Area Manager-Lead

Jill Murphy

Cathy Lehmann

**Shirley Noble** 

Hugh Kim

IT Applications Supervisor

### **JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**

Director of Juvenile Court Services JUVENILE DRUG COURT **Bruce Knutson** Juvenile Treatment Services Manager Mark Wirschem Supervisor Josalyn Conley

Project Program Manager III Teddi Edington Community Outreach Liaison **Roland Akers** Confidential Secretary Juvenile Probation Counselors. Crista Johnson 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 Specialists II Nichole Rodriguez

Jackie Snodgrass **FAMILY TREATMENT COURT** 

# AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS

Michelle Wyman

Melody Edmiston

Michelle Szozda Program Manager Jan Solomon Court Program Specialist II Dajani Henderson Case Management Specialists Parent for Parent Prog. Coordinator Dana Dildine Amy Andree

Karen Chapman

### JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Youth Program Coordinator Susie Bridges Weber

Court Program Specialist II

Area Manager Matthew David Social Worker/Team Coordinator William Schipp Administrative Specialists II Estrellita Kovacs Psychologist Dr. Tara Iglesias Sheila Singleton

Fiscal Specialist II Paula Moses **EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH** 

# JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

**NORTHEAST UNIT** 

Supervisor Steve Noble JPC Supervisor Melissa Sprague Education/Employment Specialist Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead Mark Farrell Kris McKinney

Juvenile Probation Counselor Norm Charouhas John Leers **Guy McWhorter** Dawn Closs Dawn Nannini

Dan Higgins **Demetrius Devers** Pat Hunziker-Pepoy

Kelli Sullivan

Administrative Specialist III **Dorcas Olegario** Randy Kok Gideon Oyeleke

### **SCREENING UNIT**

JPC Supervisor Staci Delgardo Juvenile Probation Counselor Elaine Evans **SOUTH I UNIT - RENTON** 

JPC Supervisor Lisa Higgins JoeAnne Taylor

Geri Horrobin Juvenile Probation Counselor **Todd Foster** 

Lee Lim Darlin Johnson Francisca Madera Michelle Mihail Dianna Quall Debra Stuckman Dominick Beck

Ron Tarnow Mai Tran Administrative Specialist I Amie Mitchell

### **CONSOLIDATED INTAKE UNIT**

WACIC Data Coordinator

JPC Supervisor Dan Baxter Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead **SOUTH II UNIT - FEDERAL WAY** Karla Powelson

Juvenile Probation Counselor Michael Bowles Kelli Lauritzen JPC Supervisor

Christy Cochran Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead Diane Rayburn

Kelly DePhelps Juvenile Probation Counselor Yvonne Clemente-Smith

Tracy Dixon Michelle Higa Dede Gartrell Rachel Hubert Diane Korf Rebecca Kirkland Yoko Maeshiro Patricia Nilsson Shelley Moore **Gwen Spears** 

Administrative Specialist I Joyce Chan Administrative Specialist I Julie Stansberry

### **CITY UNIT**

**EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS/** Paul Daniels JPC Supervisor **INTERN-STUDENT UNIT** 

Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead Karen Austin Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead Rosemary Fraine

Juvenile Probation Counselor Bill Bodick Administrative Specialist III Julie Allen

Cecilia Camino Juvenile Services Technician Jason Canfield Daryl Cerdinio CSEC Taskforce Coordinator Kelly Mangiaracina Jeremy Crowe

Kiersten Knutson Sex Offender Intake **Bruce Gourley RECORDS UNIT** 

Gabrielle Pagano Administrative Specialist IV Joanne Moore-Miller

Administrative Specialist I Danielle Kidd Administrative Specialist II Chris Hong

### **COURT OPERATIONS**

Court Operations Director Rachael DelVillar Administrative Specialist IV Cynthia Williams Customer Service Specialist II Julie Espinoza

### ARBITRATION DEPARTMENT

Arbitration Manager Mandy Peterson Court Operations Specialist II Catherine Kuvac

### **CIVIL DEPARTMENT**

Civil Case Manager Sandy Ogilvie
Court Operations Supervisor II Heiti Milnor-Lewis
Court Ops Spec II – Floater, Kent Karen Igo
Court Ops Spec II – Floaters, Seattle Kathryn Evans

Alice Gilliam

Civil Case Specialist Sarah Olson Calendar/Staffing Specialist Nikki Riley

### **CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT**

Criminal Case Manager John Salamony
Court Operations Supervisors I Erica Conway

Barbara Winter

Criminal Calendar Coordinators II Carla Gaber

Sarah Hudson

Court Operations Specialist II Sumi Enebrad
Customer Service Specialist II Susan Wells

### **EX PARTE & PROBATE DEPARTMENT**

Probate/Guardianship Case Manager Beth Custer
Guardianship GAL Keith Thomson

### INTERPRETER SERVICES

Interpreter Services Manager Martha Cohen Court Operations Specialist II Charlotte Taylor Customer Service Specialists III Julie Warfield

> Hakim Lakhal Cheryl Spriggs

Interpreter Amy Andrews

### **ITA COURT**

ITA Court Manager Charlotte Daugherty

### **JURY DEPARTMENT**

Jury Services Manager Greg Wheeler
Customer Service Specialist III Irene Szczerba
Customer Service Specialists II Katherine Glenn
Heidi Bugni

### **COURT REPORTERS**

Stephen Broscheid Bridget O'Donnell
Marci Chatelain Dolores Rawlins
Kimberly Girgus Joseph Richling
Janet Hoffman Michael Townsend Jr.
Joanne Leatiota Michelle Vitrano

Kevin Moll

### **BAILIFFS**

Angela Ashley-Smith Sung Kim Danelle Bentley Lisa MacMillan Teri Bush Nyoka Maraire Elizza Byrd Jessica Marshall Robert Byrne Craig Morrison Cynthia Chu Kelli Northrop Kristen Coverdale Teresa Novak Lati Culverson Jonathan Palmer Cheryl Cunningham Kirstyn Palmisano Leah Daniels Marci Parducci Katheryne Davis Erica Parkin Elaine Deines Tikecha Pearson Maria Diga Mary Powell Ricki Reese Nhu Dinh Laura Dorris Pam Roark Christine Robinson Aaron Everett Jill Gerontis Spencer Thorson Monica Gillum Linda Tran Judy Hansen Lisa Tran Brittany Harris **Bradford Walzer** Kenya Hart Jacqueline Ware Christine Henderson Laurie Watson Salina Hill Loyce Weishaar Theodore Hong Kiese Wilburn

Peggy Wu

Lisa Zimnisky

Gabby Jacobson Renee Janes

**Greg Howard** 

### **FAMILY COURT OPERATIONS**

Director Jorene Reiber **DEPENDENCY CASA** 

> Program Manager Lisa Petersen Asst. Program Supervisor **Edward Greenleaf**

Program Attorneys Kathryn Barnhouse

Lori Irwin

Kathleen Martin

April Rivera Attorney Guardian ad Litem Elizabeth Berris

Staff Guardian ad Litem Specialists Pauline Duke

Sarah Jackson

CASA Case Specialists Carolyn Frimpter

Luis Galvan

Janet Horton Peggy Larson

Wai-Ping Li-Landis

Don Miner Deanna Watson Lucyle Wooden

Paralegals Kathleen McCormack

Vickey Wilson

Administrative Specialist Kathleen Hasslinger

> Hannah Service Joyce Stockman

**FAMILY COURT SERVICES** 

**FAMILY LAW/UFC OPERATIONS** 

Jamie Perry

Christina Luera

**Kevin Rowles** 

Najja Bullock

Gretchen Neal

Jeanna Bento

Julie Whiten

Kristen Gabel

Rosalia Henley

Fabian Fereshtefar

Bryan Ivanich

Sandy Nguyen

Tiffany Klein

Laura Contreras

Daryl Buckendahl

Nicole Bynum

Desiree Canter

Debra Hunter

Elly Khosravi

Rie Takeuchi

Tracey White

Veronica Lopez

Margaret McCurdy

Larkspur Van Stone

Heather Muwero

Program Manager

Family Law Facilitators

Fiscal Specialist III

Intake Specialists

Civil Case Specialists

Sup., Family Court Operations

Sup., Family Court Operations

Customer Specialists III

Early Resolution Case Managers

Program Manager Connor Lenz Asst. Program Manager Jennifer Bercot Dependency Mediator Kendy Rossi

> Social Workers **Emily Brewer**

> > FAMILY LAW/DEPENDENCY COMMISSIONER SUPPORT

Operations Manager Merle Redd-Jones Dependency Coordinators Jackie Antich

Kim Noble Sheila Rogers Gina Reyes

Family Law Coordinators Rita Amaro

Danielle Anderson Mary Bromberger Carolyn Bustamante

Stevie Craig

Nina Huggins-Irving

Malinda You Jax Nicolette

Tanessa Blackmore

Adoption Paralegal Customer Specialist II **Brooklyn Adams** 

**DEPENDENCY OPERATIONS** 

FJCIP Specialist Stacy Keen

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.



King County Courthouse | 516 Third Avenue | Seattle Washington 98104-2312

Juvenile Court | 1211 East Alder | Seattle Washington 98122

Maleng Regional Justice Center | 401 Fourth Avenue North | Kent Washington 98032-4429