



*King
County
Superior
Court*

*2010
Annual
Report*

Message from Presiding Judge Richard F. McDermott

On behalf of the judges, commissioners, and staff of the King County Superior Court, I am pleased to present our 2010 Annual Report highlighting the court's accomplishments over the past year. I hope you will find this informative and useful.

Superior Court weathered another challenging budget season in 2010. The court lost an additional 16 positions, primarily in Juvenile Probation and Court Operations. The Clerks' Office was similarly affected. While most services for family law litigants were preserved, the court is increasingly challenged to carry out its constitutional and statutory mandates. The court continues to invite citizen input and involvement as we seek solutions to the budget crisis and work to preserve critical programs.

Even having said that, it is important for our citizens to know that the court is constantly looking for efficiencies in our ways of doing business — and for methods to improve access to our court in these economically challenging times. To those ends in 2010 the court implemented an 'on call' jury service system. Prospective jurors are asked to call an information line or check the court's website the evening before each day of their service. If the court does not need them to report, they are excused from service for that day. The new system has reduced inconvenience for jurors and is saving money.

In 2010, the court also added several resources for family law litigants without attorneys. The Divorce Roadmap Class and the Non-Parental Navigation Class help litigants understand the court process for divorce and non-parental custody actions, and more than 50 new online instruction packets help litigants initiate and manage their own cases.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the thousands of King County citizens who served as jurors in Superior Court and to the hundreds of volunteers who served as Community Accountability Board members, Court Appointed Special Advocates, 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.

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 – 2010 Summary Statistics:

- General jurisdiction trial court
- Serves the 14th most populous county in the nation
- Handles a caseload of more than 60,000 new cases each year
- 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 14 commissioners
- Is supported by 613 Superior Court and Department of Judicial Administration staff

Message from Chief Administrative Officer Paul L. Sherfey

In 2010, King County Superior Court achieved greater efficiency, introduced new services for court clients, and strategically planned for the future.

Criminal Department Improvements. In 2010, the court significantly improved access to criminal department forms by adding more than 50 to its online forms directory. The court also published an updated version of its Criminal Department Manual, an online version which links directly to the online criminal forms.

E-Filing. Since implementing mandatory electronic filing in 2009, the Superior Court Clerk's Office has received hundreds of thousands of documents electronically. In 2010, the number of criminal orders signed and filed electronically by judges increased dramatically. Changes to Local General Rule 30 also simplified the process for e-filing Ex Parte matters via the Clerk and for using the Electronic Working Copies option for summary judgment motions.

Court Customer Survey. In 2010, the court conducted a customer satisfaction survey at its three primary locations. Results were favorable; 85% said they felt safe in the courthouse and were treated with courtesy and respect. The court also conducted a juror exit survey. Over 98% of respondents rated jury room staff, courtroom staff, and the judge as excellent or good.

Case Management System Replacement. In 2010, Superior Court replaced two of its three mission-critical case management systems with a single new system. This allows users who handle both criminal and civil cases to work within a single system, streamlining operations. The new system provides a stable and powerful tool for managing the court's sizable caseload.

Video Hearings in ITA Court. In 2010, the court installed a videoconferencing system in its Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) courtroom at Harborview. The new system allows mentally ill ITA Court participants to remain at treatment facilities as their hearings are held. This ensures due process while protecting patient dignity.

Celebrating Reunification. In 2010, the court held its first annual 'Celebrate Reunification' event to recognize the hundreds of King County families who reunite through the juvenile dependency process each year. The event recognized the accomplishments, dedication, and hard work of those parents who succeed in reuniting with their children.

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 trancies
- Mental illness and involuntary commitment matters

Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2010

Sharon Armstrong <i>Appointed, 1985</i>	Philip G. Hubbard, Jr. <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Michael J. Heavey <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Christopher A. Washington <i>Elected, 2005</i>
Michael J. Fox <i>Appointed, 1988</i>	Suzanne M. Barnett <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Douglass A. North <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Jim Rogers <i>Elected, 2005</i>
Carol A. Schapira <i>Elected, 1989</i>	Jay V. White <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Catherine Shaffer <i>Elected, 2000</i>	Susan J. Craighead <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
William L. Downing <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Patricia H. Clark <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	Gregory Canova <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Bruce Heller <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
Joan E. DuBuque <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Dean S. Lum <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	Cheryl Carey <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Kimberley Prochnau <i>Appointed, 2007</i>
LeRoy McCullough <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	Ronald Kessler <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	John Erlick <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Monica Benton <i>Appointed 2008</i>
Laura C. Inveen <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	Palmer Robinson <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Laura G. Middaugh <i>Elected, 2001</i>	Regina S. Cahan <i>Elected 2009</i>
Deborah D. Fleck <i>Appointed, 1992</i>	Helen Halpert <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Paris K. Kallas <i>Appointed, 2001</i>	Marianne C. Spearman <i>Elected 2009</i>
Michael C. Hayden <i>Elected, 1992</i>	James Doerty <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Steven Gonzalez <i>Appointed, 2002</i>	Timothy A. Bradshaw <i>Elected 2009</i>
Brian D. Gain <i>Elected, 1993</i>	Julie Spector <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	Harry J. McCarthy <i>Appointed, 2002</i>	Hollis R. Hill <i>Elected 2009</i>
Richard D. Eadie <i>Appointed, 1995</i>	Richard McDermott <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Mary E. Roberts <i>Appointed, 2003</i>	Barbara A. Mack <i>Elected 2009</i>
Michael J. Trickey <i>Appointed, 1996</i>	Mary Yu <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	J. Wesley Saint Clair <i>Appointed, 2004</i>	Jean Rietschel <i>Appointed 2010</i>
Jeffrey M. Ramsdell <i>Elected, 1996</i>	Bruce W. Hilyer <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Andrea A. Darvas <i>Elected, 2005</i>	Beth M. Andrus <i>Appointed 2010</i>
	James D. Cayce <i>Appointed, 2000</i>	Theresa B. Doyle <i>Elected, 2005</i>	

Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2010

Carlos Y. Velategui, 1986	Nancy Bradburn-Johnson, 1998	Meg Sassaman, 2006
Bonnie Canada-Thurston, 1993	Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998	Mark Hillman, 2007
Eric B. Watness, 1995	Richard Gallaher, 2000	Julia Garrett, 2008
Hollis Holman, 1996	Lori Kay Smith, 2006	Jacqueline Jeske, 2008
	Elizabeth Castilleja, 2006	

Superior Court Faces Additional Budget Reductions

Superior Court weathered yet another challenging budget season as the 2011 King County Budget was prepared and adopted. For the third year in a row, the county's general fund, more than 75% of which supports public safety, faced declining revenues and diminished reserves. Cuts to important services were unavoidable.

The court lost 16 positions. These layoffs, which primarily affect Juvenile Probation and Court Operations, constitute a significant human and professional loss for the court and will require a reprioritization of programs and services. The layoffs join more than 50 positions already lost by the court since 2002. The Clerk's Office has been similarly affected. For 2011, the Clerk's Office has lost an additional 13.5 positions.

As dire as the budget situation was, a few successful efforts helped save several vital court programs. An increase in court user fees has preserved most Family Court programs for the coming year. These programs include:

- Family Law Facilitators, which provides information and referrals to family law litigants not represented by attorneys;
- Family Court Services, which assists litigants and the court in family law matters involving children; and
- Dependency CASA, which assists the court in determining the best interests of children who allegedly have been abused and/or neglected by their parents.

Implementation of an on-call jury system during 2010 has reduced the number of underutilized jurors summoned to Superior Court. Corresponding reductions in per diem and mileage payments to jurors has generated savings for the court.

Finally, all court employees will forego a cost of living adjustment in 2011. The county council allowed the court to keep the savings generated by this reduction, and these were used to reduce cuts in various areas of the court.



Family Law Facilitators provide information to litigants without attorneys.

While the court is grateful to have avoided some of the more drastic cuts initially envisioned for this budget cycle, the court is increasingly challenged to carry out its Constitutional and statutory mandates with the resources at hand. The court also is increasingly reliant on user fees. And the court continues to seek a reliable source of funding to replace the county's Juvenile Court facility, which has fallen into a state of significant disrepair. The court welcomes citizen input and involvement as it works to find solutions to the budget crisis and to preserve programs that play critical roles in the quality of justice in our region.

Children and Family Justice Center Update

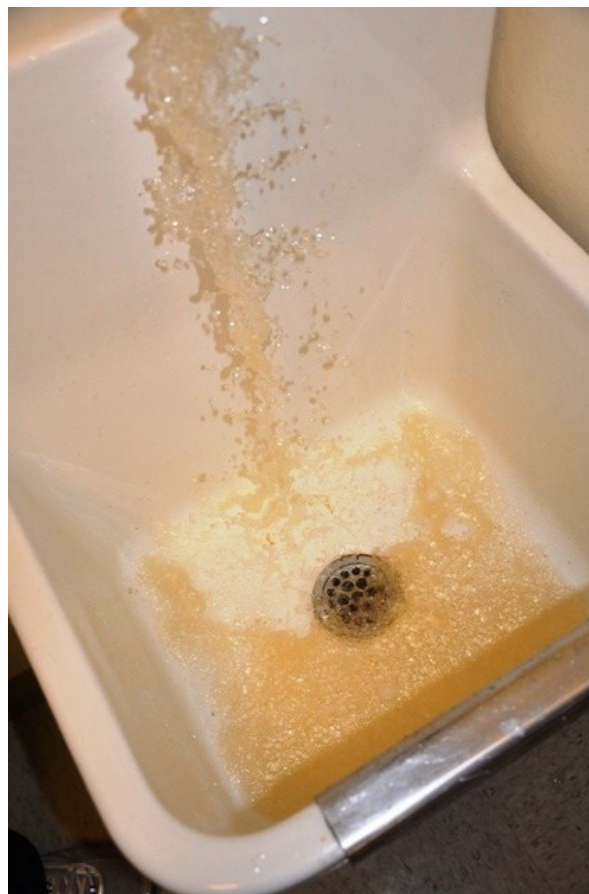
In 2010, the court continued to face significant challenges at its Juvenile Court facility. In August 2010, PCBs – hazardous industrial compounds which have been banned in the U.S. since the 1970s – were discovered in window caulking at the facility. Remediation efforts forced a partial evacuation of the building, with Juvenile Dependency and Status Offender matters moving temporarily to the downtown Seattle courthouse. In September 2010, an aging water line serving the facility ruptured, flooding the court's lower level and partially undermining its parking lot.

Meanwhile, the facility remains in serious disrepair. The electrical, plumbing, and heating/cooling systems are in extremely poor condition. Hot water has been shut-off to the lower floors due to significant leakage problems, and cold water lines often produce brown water. At times, sewer gases permeate the lower levels of the facility. In warm weather, temperatures may exceed 90 degrees in office areas upstairs. The estimated cost to replace just the building's core systems exceeds \$20 million.

Even if core systems were replaced, the facility still would not provide sufficient space. The courthouse opened in 1972 and was designed to accommodate anticipated juvenile court needs through 1982. It is now 2010, and the facility has never been enlarged. Courtrooms and waiting areas are overcrowded, creating a stressful environment for families. Fights involving rival gang members sometimes break out in the crowded lobby, and court security personnel are challenged to maintain order. Lack of office space means critical court personnel must be housed offsite.

Juvenile Court handles more than 7,000 cases each year; many involve families in crisis. Drug addiction and mental health issues are common problems. Juvenile Court provides a variety of therapeutic approaches to address these issues. This approach reduces the number of repeat offenders, promotes public safety, and lowers overall justice system costs to society. However, in order to continue providing high-quality services to families, the court needs an adequate facility in which to conduct its work. The current facility does not meet its intended purposes and quite simply needs to be replaced.

Although the sluggish economy and the county's fiscal problems have limited replacement options for the juvenile court facility, the court continues to work diligently with the county executive, the county council, and its justice system partners to explore all viable options.



Water runs brown and is undrinkable in many parts of the Juvenile Court facility.

Superior Court Implements 'On-Call' Jury Service

In 2010, Superior Court implemented a new system which has significantly reduced the number of underutilized jurors required to report. Prospective jurors are asked to call an information line or check the court's website the evening before each day of their service. If the court does not need them to report, they are excused from service for that day.

More than 30,000 King County citizens are summoned to serve as jurors in Superior Court every year. Most are summoned to a two-day jury pool – either a Monday-Tuesday pool, or a Wednesday-Thursday pool – at the King County Courthouse in Seattle or the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. The court works hard to match the number of jurors summoned to the number of jurors needed. However, because summonses must be mailed several weeks in advance, establishing a correct match is difficult.



The new 'on call' jury system has reduced inconvenience for jurors who are not needed at the court.

Under the new system, summonses continue to be mailed as before. However, each day court staff closely monitor the total number of cases that could be sent to trial the following day. This number is used to estimate juror need. If more jurors were summoned than are needed, the court can excuse some of these jurors.

Each summons includes a group number to which that prospective juror has been assigned. If the court needs to excuse jurors, it does so by group. Groups that have been excused are listed on the court's 'Juror Information' webpage and on the Jury Department's message phone line.

The new 'on call' jury system has reduced inconvenience for jurors who are not needed at the court. Although these jurors must remain available for the duration of their service, they are free to go to work or school or otherwise go about their lives, as long as they are not needed at the court. The new system also has saved money. The court no longer needs to pay mileage and per diem costs for jurors it does not need.

For more information on jury service in King County, please visit the court's Juror Information webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superiorcourt/juror.

Updates from the Clerk's Office

The Department of Judicial Administration (Clerk's Office) is responsible for keeping all King County Superior Court case files dating back to 1854. With some exceptions, case files are public records and must be available for viewing by the general public. In recent years, the Clerk's Office has made great strides in improving access to court records through the implementation of its Electronic Court Records (ECR) system. Several extensions of this system were implemented in 2010.

Update on Mandatory E-Filing:

Since the implementation of Mandatory E-Filing in July 2009 the Clerk's Office has received hundreds of thousands of documents filed electronically. Among these, the number of criminal orders signed electronically by a judge increased significantly in 2010. A majority of judges now have digital certificates which make it possible for them to sign orders in this way.

In September 2010, changes to Local General Rule (LGR) 30 began allowing customers to e-file into cases initiated prior to January 1, 2000. To accommodate these changes, the E-Filing application was updated, and at the same time several Ex Parte via the Clerk enhancements were added. The most significant enhancements were the addition of "shopping cart" functionality, which allows customers to upload multiple submissions for a single E-Commerce transaction fee, and the launch of a new system allowing approved State agencies to pay by voucher.

One other exciting change to LGR 30 was elimination of the E-Filing exemption for summary judgment-related documents. This change made it possible for customers to begin also submitting working copies for summary judgment motions within the E-Filing application. This change was welcomed by Clerk's Office customers, who appreciate the convenience of filing working copies in this way.

To learn more about the recent changes to the E-Filing application and LGR 30 please visit the Clerk's E-Filing webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk/e-filing.



Time consuming in-person filings now are unnecessary for many types of court documents.

Hard Copy Files a Thing of the Past in Kent

Since the implementation of ECR, all incoming court documents have been scanned or entered directly into ECR. Any hard copy versions of these documents are destroyed once scanning is complete, and the electronic version becomes the official version of these documents. However, many pre-ECR documents have remained in hard copy in all three Clerk's Office locations. As time and resources have allowed, the Clerk's Live Scanning project has worked to scan these files into ECR. Live Scanning resources generally have been spread evenly across the three sites.

In 2009, with a compromised Howard Hansen Dam raising the specter of Green River flooding, Live Scanning shifted into high gear at the Clerk's Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) location. Scanning was temporarily discontinued at the Clerk's two Seattle locations (King County Courthouse and Juvenile Court) to focus on scanning at the MRJC. By March 2010, all hard copy files in Kent had been successfully scanned into ECR and were out of harm's way. Since then, scanning has resumed at the other locations with the hope that soon hard copy files will be a thing of the past court-wide.



Hard copy files soon will be a thing of the past court-wide.

Online Records Requests

Historically, customers have had to either come to the Clerk's Office in person or submit a written request through the US Mail to get copies of court documents. Although these options are still available (and some records are available remotely via ECR Online), DJA has added a new option which allows customers to request and pay for copies of documents online. This application is called Electronic Records Request.

The new application offers both speed and convenience to the user. Requests are received almost instantaneously by the Clerk's Office, without the delay associated with moving hard copy mail. The cost of the request also is calculated automatically by the application and can be paid as part of the transaction. The mail option, by contrast, usually requires a mailed invoice that must be paid before copies can be delivered. And documents can be ordered, paid for, and received without any trips to the courthouse.

The Clerk's Office implemented Electronic Records Request on February 1, 2010, and a shift from mail-in to online requests took shape quickly. By late summer, nearly half of all document requests were being submitted online. To learn more about this new service, please visit the Clerk's Electronic Records Request webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/Clerk/Records/ERR.

Superior Court's Criminal Department Implements a Variety of Improvements

Scanning in the Chief Criminal Courtroom (Management of Criminal Orders)

In 2010, Superior Court and the Clerk's Office implemented a new system for managing criminal orders in the Chief Criminal and Chief Maleng Regional Justice Center courtrooms. These high-traffic, high-volume courtrooms handle arraignments, bond hearings, case scheduling, and a variety of other pre-trial matters.

Under the new system, all original orders signed in these courtrooms are scanned immediately into the Clerk's Electronic Court Records (ECR) system. The clerk provides courtesy copies of the order to counsel, but the original is retained by the clerk. This new system ensures that documents are immediately available in ECR and are not misplaced or delayed in filing.

Criminal Forms Online

During the spring and summer of 2010, the court also engaged in a major criminal forms project, adding more than 50 criminal court forms to the court's website. Up-to-date versions of all criminal forms first were located or prepared to ensure that posted forms would meet court standards. Next, an online directory was developed with separate sections for pretrial, trial, sentencing, alternative to secure detention, and various other types of forms.

Development of the online directory has greatly improved access to necessary criminal court forms. Additional forms are maintained internally and can be made available upon request, as appropriate.



Criminal orders are scanned immediately into the Clerk's Electronic Court Records system.

Update of Criminal Department Manual

Superior Court maintains a Criminal Department Manual, the purpose of which is to advise judges and attorneys, pursuant to local court rules, of procedures and practices to be followed in criminal cases. In 2010, the court undertook a major rewrite of this manual in order to capture various procedural changes implemented in recent years. The updated manual also includes 'hyperlinks' to forms that have been posted online and references to forms that are maintained internally. The Criminal Department Manual is available on the court's website.

For more information about the Criminal Department, please visit the court's Criminal Department Webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superiorcourt/criminal.

Family Court Offers New Services for Pro Se Litigants

A recent study found that in roughly 70% of family law cases at least one party is without legal counsel at some point during the handling of the case. The Family Court offers a variety of services to help people who do not have an attorney. In 2010, the court added several new resources to help unrepresented litigants.

Divorce Roadmap Class

For people who are confused about how the divorce process works, this brief seminar can help. A free service offered by Family Court Operations, the 'Divorce Roadmap' class is designed to give participants the direction they need to navigate the road ahead of them. The class is offered twice every month at the King County Courthouse in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. No registration is required.

Non-Parental Navigation Class

For people who have questions about how the non-parental custody process works, the one-hour Non-Parental Navigation Class is designed to help participants understand the court process and legal paperwork. Participants learn about starting and finishing non-parental actions and become familiar with community resources designed to assist and support them through the process. The class is offered twice every month at the King County Courthouse and the Maleng Regional Justice Center. No registration is required.

Forms and Instructions

The Family Law Facilitator Program maintains an extensive list of instruction packets for starting and managing a variety of family law actions. In 2010, many of these instruction packets were made available online, along with required family law forms. Instruction packets cover subjects such as:

- Legal Separation and Divorce
- Parenting Plans and Child Support
- Third-Party Custody
- Guardianship
- And procedural matters, such as service of process, motions for contempt, and filing for temporary orders.

For assistance with forms and instructions, litigants also may meet with a facilitator on a walk-in basis or by pre-scheduled appointment. The Family Law Facilitator Program operates in the King County Courthouse in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent.

For more information about these and other services, visit the court's Family Court Webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/familycourt.



The Non-Parental Navigation Class teaches participants how to start and finish a non-parental custody action.

Superior Court Completes Two Satisfaction Surveys

Court Customer Satisfaction Survey

On May 13, 2010, Superior Court conducted a customer satisfaction survey at all three of its primary locations – the King County Courthouse and Youth Services Center in Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. The court used a survey instrument developed by the National Center for State Courts designed to assess overall customer satisfaction, perceptions of fairness, and court accessibility. Superior Court is indebted to the team of criminal justice graduate students from Seattle University who helped administer the survey and analyze its results.



Seattle University graduate students helped the court assess court customer satisfaction.

Seattle University graduate students helped the court assess court customer satisfaction. They completed a survey evaluating their experience as jurors. Results were overwhelmingly positive.

Of jurors answering the question, more than 91% rated the jury waiting rooms as excellent or good, and more than 93% gave these ratings to the courtrooms and the courthouses as a whole. Perhaps even more impressive, over 98% rated the jury room staff, the courtroom staff, and the judge as excellent or good. Survey respondents also provided a wide array of comments and suggestions. These covered such topics as the facilities, the juror orientation process, transportation to court, and personnel.

The court used comments and suggestions received through both surveys as a basis for developing its 2011 work plan.

Overall, survey results were quite favorable. Roughly 85% of respondents reported feeling safe in the courthouse and said they had been treated with courtesy and respect. About 80% said they easily found the courtroom or office they needed. More than 75% said the court made reasonable efforts to remove physical and language barriers, said court staff paid attention to their needs, and said they knew what to do next about their cases as they left the court. Less favorable ratings were given to parking. Just 40% said finding parking was easy. For visitors who came for a hearing, nearly two-thirds said they were satisfied by the outcome of their case.

Juror Satisfaction Survey

During the month of May 2010, all jurors serving in Superior Court were asked to complete a survey. More than 1,600 jurors completed the survey.

Superior Court Replaces Mission-Critical Case Management Systems

In 2010, Superior Court replaced two of its three mission-critical case management systems with a new single system. This complex undertaking helps ensure that cases will continue to move expeditiously through the court.

Each year, more than 60,000 cases are filed in Superior Court. The court uses ‘case management systems’ to track case information, events, milestones, status, and the parties involved in each case. Given the court’s extensive caseload, tracking cases manually becomes impossible, so a robust and fully-functioning automated system is essential.

Until 2010, Superior Court used one system, called KCMS, to manage its civil and family law caseload, and another system, called CMIS, to manage its criminal caseload. Both systems had exceeded their useful life. KCMS incorporated a software product called ‘WebPutty,’ which was based on a Microsoft platform that Microsoft would no longer support. CMIS was based on still older technology, and finding technology staff with the knowledge needed to support it was becoming increasingly expensive and difficult.

In examining options for replacing these systems, the court determined that the business requirements for criminal, civil, and family law case processing were similar enough that both systems could be replaced with a single new system. An added benefit of this option was that system users who work with both criminal and civil cases could work in a single system, resulting in operational efficiencies.

After evaluating several alternatives, the court determined that rebuilding KCMS was the most cost-effective way to meet its case management needs. To carry out the rebuild, criminal functionality first was added to KCMS. Next, the portions of KCMS that had been based on WebPutty were replaced with up-to-date technology. Finally, the new system was integrated with the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention’s Jail Booking Information System, which tracks custody status, and the State Court Calendar system. Once these upgrades had been completed, CMIS, the old criminal system, was retired.

The new system was completed on-time and on-budget, and provides a stable and powerful tool for managing the court’s sizable caseload.

KCMS
King County KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Welcome, Heidi Milnor-Iewis | My Profile | Logout

Cases Calendar Groups Persons Reports Users Administration

Search Cases

Case Number: [text box] Case Name: [text box] Case Designation: [dropdown] Case Status: [dropdown]

Judge: [dropdown] Case Pool: [dropdown] Nature Of Case: [dropdown]

Bar Number: [text box] Service Number: [text box] UFC Number: [text box] Group Type: [dropdown]

Charge: [dropdown] Person Last Name: [text box] Person First Name: [text box]

CCN: [text box]

Event: [dropdown] Event Status: [dropdown] Date From: [text box] Date To: [text box]

Clear Search

Version 2.0.030311.01

KCMS allows judges and staff to access a wealth of case-related information on a single screen.

Video Appearance Debuts at Harborview

More than 2,500 Involuntary Commitment petitions are filed in King County Superior Court each year. These court matters pertain to the temporary detention of mentally disordered persons in hospital or treatment settings if the court finds that they pose a threat to themselves or others due to exhibited symptoms of mental illness.

For many years, Superior Court has operated an Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) courtroom to hear these cases at Harborview Hospital in Seattle. Patients transported to this courtroom come from hospitals in the greater Seattle area, including Harborview, Northwest, Fairfax, and Navos Inpatient Services, and are transported to court hearings by way of emergency transport vehicles and private companies.



Video hearings at Harborview ensure due process for mentally disordered patients while protecting their dignity.

In 2010, the court received funding to purchase and install videoconferencing equipment in the ITA courtroom and in two pilot hospitals. This equipment now makes it possible to hold Involuntary Commitment hearings without transporting the patient who is the subject of the petition to the courtroom. Instead, the patient appears by videoconference. The high-quality video, audio, and other features built into the new system help ensure that these hearings run smoothly.

Superior Court Judge Julie Spector provided leadership for this project as procedural and logistical issues were identified and resolved. Judge Spector notes that videoconferencing enables an innovative proceeding that ensures due process for the patient while also protecting the patient's dignity. Pa-

tients, who sometimes are in poor health, are not needlessly subjected to the rigors of transport or the risks of delay as they wait for their hearings. Videoconferencing also allows evaluators to remain at their treatment facilities where they can focus on providing therapeutic services rather than waiting for court hearings. Family members likewise can remain at these facilities and meet with both the patient and the evaluator, furthering the therapeutic modalities of treatment. By the end of 2010, between six and nine Involuntary Commitment hearings were being held by videoconference each week.

Superior Court Celebrates the Reunification of Families

Every year in King County, hundreds of children are reunited with their parents through the dependency process. On June 24, 2010, King County Superior Court held its first annual ‘Celebrate Reunification’ event to recognize the hard work of these families and the community of people who support them.

Normally, the government does not interfere in family matters. However, the law allows the state to step in and protect a child from harm if the child is found to be dependent. A “dependent child” is one who has been abandoned by his or her parent, guardian, or other custodian; has been abused or neglected by a person legally responsible for his or her care; or has no parent, guardian, or custodian capable of providing adequate care. A dependent child may be removed from the home and placed with relatives or in foster care.

To regain custody, parents in dependency cases must prove they can provide a stable home for their children within a reasonable time frame – usually 12 to 15 months. If not, parental rights can be permanently terminated. The court, working with state social workers, legal counsel, and other team members, helps connect parents with treatment programs that can assist with substance abuse, mental health, and other types of problems. However, parents must engage and do the work that’s needed to stabilize their lives and demonstrate that they can be responsible parents.

Superior Court’s ‘Celebrate Reunification’ event recognized the accomplishments, dedication, and hard work of those parents who succeed in reuniting with their children. Of hundreds of children who are removed from their families each year in Washington State because of abuse and neglect, two-thirds are ultimately returned to their families, according to the Department of Social and Health Services. Hopefully the celebration also inspired the public and other families involved in the dependency system by reminding them that people can change and that families can and do reunite.

For more information on juvenile dependency in King County, please visit the court’s Juvenile Dependency webpage at www.kingcounty.gov/courts/juvenilecourt/dependency.



Commissioner Mark Hillman helped organize the court’s first annual Dependency Reunification Celebration.

Superior Court Recognizes Exceptional Employees

Each year, Superior Court recognizes one court employee at each of its three locations who represents the high standards that all court staff aspire to achieve. Nominated by judges, court supervisors, or their peers, the recognized 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 2010, the court recognized the following employees for outstanding contributions to the court:

King County Courthouse (Seattle): Kirby Pierce. Kirby is a Facilities Specialist working primarily in the King County Courthouse in Seattle. Parts of this facility are nearly 100 years old, but after more than 25 years with the court, Kirby knows the building and its idiosyncrasies intimately. He often is able to devise creative solutions to problems that others had not considered and that save the county money, and he is highly adept at providing fixes on the fly and resolving small problems before they become larger ones. However, where Kirby truly excels is in providing customer service. Facilities issues can disrupt court proceedings and other business, and may require urgent resolution. Kirby is consistently calm and respectful to all his customers, even as he hastens to resolve their difficulties.



Kirby Pierce

Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent): Desiree Canter, Paige Hacke, and Nicole Bynum.



*Desiree Canter, Paige Hacke,
& Nicole Bynum*

Desiree, Paige, and Nicole are Social Workers in the Family Court Services program. They are masters-level clinicians who conduct domestic violence (DV) assessments in protection order matters, and mediations and parenting plan evaluations in divorce, paternity, and third-party custody cases. Their DV assessments help the court protect victims of domestic violence. Their mediation work leads to settlement approximately 80% of the time, substantially reducing the number of cases assigned for trial. Desiree, Paige, and Nicole are regularly in their offices before dawn and after the court has closed for business, working to finish a report for a hearing or trial, or preparing for a contentious mediation.

Youth Services Center (Juvenile Court): Michelle Mihail. Michelle is a Juvenile Probation Counselor in the court's Renton Probation Office. Since 2009, Michelle has facilitated Girls Circle groups for girls on probation. This program helps promote resiliency and self-esteem in young women. Michelle also works with girls on probation who have been adjudicated or are suspected of being involved in prostitution in south King County. She helps these girls get off the street and into safe environments. Michelle serves as a trainer for the assessment process used to identify risk factors for court-involved youth. Knowing risk factors helps focus a youth's probation plan and promotes positive outcomes. Michelle's supervisor uses the words "dedication" and "excellence" to describe Michelle's work and calls supervising Michelle a privilege.



Michelle Mihail

Recent past winners of the Employee Recognition award include:

- **2009** – Michael Kim (KCCH); Gina Reyes (MRJC); and Dominick Beck (YSC)
- **2008** – Karen Igo (KCCH); Imee Crisostomo (MRJC); and Cathy Lehmann (YSC)

Superior Court Budget

2009 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, court coordinators, interpreters, jury staff, payments to jurors, guardianship & probate staff, and the Mandatory Arbitration program.	\$20,191,289
Juvenile Court	Includes judges, bailiffs, court coordinators, and interpreters specific to Juvenile Court, as well as probation and treatment services, Juvenile Drug Court, Reclaiming Futures, Partnership for Youth Justice, and Truancy and At-Risk Youth programs.	\$15,164,744
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, and the Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitator, Dependency CASA, and Early Resolution Case Management programs.	6,548,573
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, computer services, finance, facilities, and clerical services.	\$5,782,510
TOTAL		\$47,687,116

2009 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$38,147,776	80.0%
Revenues & Fees for Service	\$4,247,833	8.9%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$5,291,507	11.1%
TOTAL	\$47,687,116	100%

Department of Judicial Administration Budget

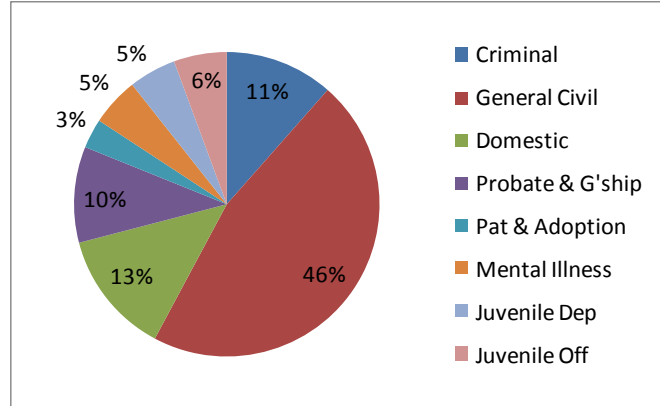
2009 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow & Clerks	Includes case processing, Seattle courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination.	\$4,754,626
Records & Finance	Includes cashiers, judgments, accounting, customer service, records access, case auditing, LFO collections, and working copies.	\$4,615,944
Satellites	Includes case processing, courtroom clerks, electronic document processing, cashiers, judgments, customer service, records access, case auditing, and working copies at Juvenile and MRJC.	\$4,804,551
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, program management, and support services for the adult drug court program.	\$1,410,470
Administration	Includes admin staff, human resources, computer services, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, clerical services, witness payments, statistics and dependency publication costs.	\$4,406,751
TOTAL		\$19,992,342

Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Case Filings

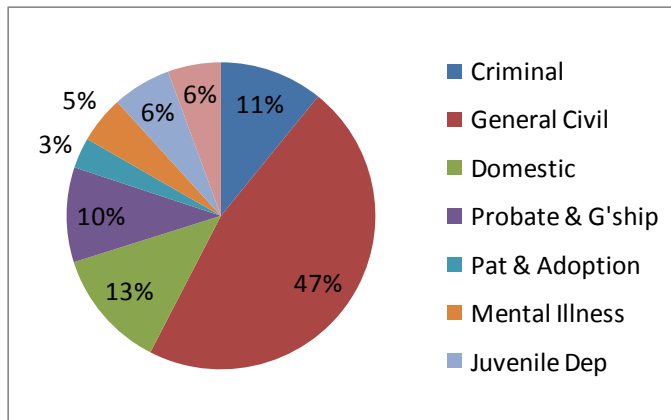
In 2010, a total of 59,798 cases were filed with King County Superior Court, down 3.8% from 2009. General Civil, Juvenile Dependency, and Juvenile Offender filings fell significantly, while Criminal, Domestic, and Mental Illness filings rose. In addition, 15,586 civil matters were filed with the Clerk.

Case Type	2010	Change from 2009
Criminal	6,867	2.8%
General Civil	27,696	-7.4%
Domestic	7,850	2.3%
Probate & Guardianship	6,096	2.4%
Paternity & Adoption	1,875	-2.2%
Mental Illness	3,059	12.2%
Juvenile Dependency	2,999	-9.9%
Juvenile Offender	3,356	-15.4%
Total Filings	59,798	-3.8%



Case Resolutions

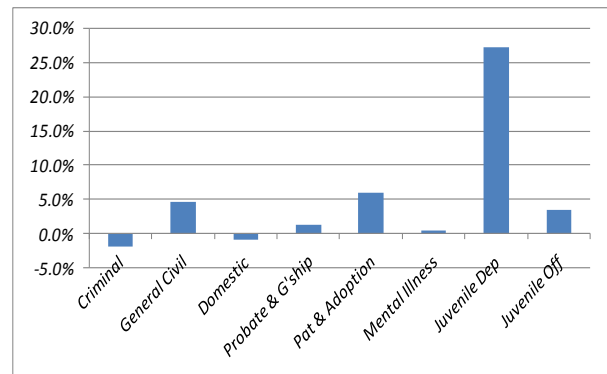
In 2010, the court resolved a total of 62,015 cases. Although case resolutions were down slightly from 2009, resolutions exceeded case filings by roughly 3.7%.



Case Type	2010	Change from 2009
Criminal	6,739	-14.1%
General Civil	28,978	0.3%
Domestic	7,781	3.3%
Probate & Guardianship	6,169	3.7%
Paternity & Adoption	1,987	5.9%
Mental Illness	3,072	23.2%
Juvenile Dependency	3,818	-18.1%
Juvenile Offender	3,471	6.7%
Total Resolutions	62,015	-0.8%

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.

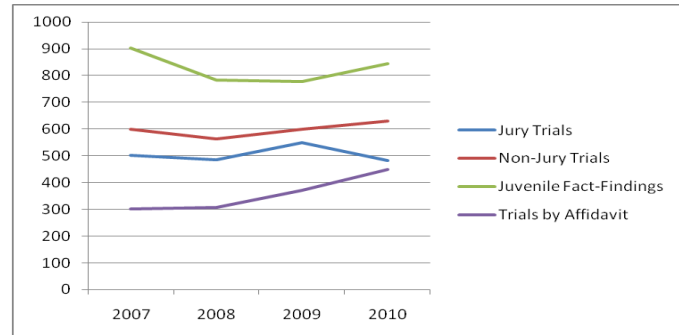


Superior Court Caseload & Performance

Trial Activity

Trial activity continued its recent upward trend in 2010. The 2,405 trials conducted in 2010 represent a 4.5% increase from the number of trials conducted in 2009 and a 12.5% increase from 2008.

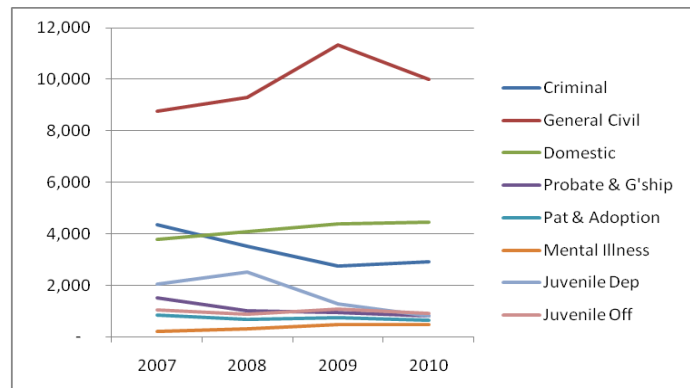
Trial Category	2010
Jury Trials	483
Non-Jury Trials	629
Juvenile Fact-Findings	844
Trials by Affidavit	449
Total Trials	2,405



Total Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. At the end of 2010, 21,051 cases were pending, a decrease of roughly 8.4% from 2009.

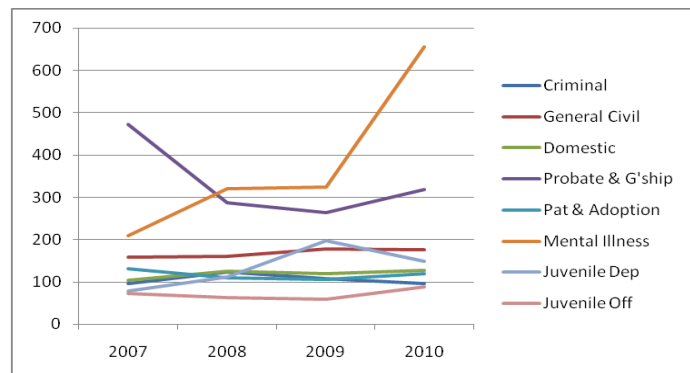
Case Type	2010
Criminal	2,917
General Civil	10,000
Domestic	4,453
Probate & Guardianship	827
Paternity & Adoption	651
Mental Illness	463
Juvenile Dependency	827
Juvenile Offender	913
Total Pending Cases	21,051



Age of Active Pending Caseload

The age of active pending caseload may be measured in a variety of ways. Here it is measured as the median age of cases (in days) in each primary filing category as of December 31, 2010.

Case Type	2010
Criminal	96
General Civil	177
Domestic	128
Probate & Guardianship	319
Paternity & Adoption	120
Mental Illness	655
Juvenile Dependency	149
Juvenile Offender	88
Median for All Active Pending Caseload	149



COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer Paul Sherfey
Dep. Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge
Policy Analyst David Reynolds
Facility and Security Manager Paul Manolopoulos
Facilities Specialist Rodrigo Jacinto
 Kirby Pierce
Project/Program Manager II Michelle Garvey
Confidential Secretary II Angelina Jimeno
Tech. Info. Processing Spec. III Heidi Davis
Tech. Info. Processing Spec. II Katie Loberstein
Customer Service Specialist II Pamela Carson

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Business & Finance Manager Steve Davis
Business & Finance Officer II Terri Bayless
Fiscal Specialist III Lynn Blakslee
Fiscal Specialist II Guy Brook
 Czar Peralta
Administrative Specialist II Gary Cutler
Office Assistant Kristan Johnson

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Human Resources Analyst Gertrude Fuentes
Administrative Specialist III Mei Chow

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IT Systems Supervisor Kevin Daggett
IT Applications Supervisor Hugh Kim
Senior Database Developer Rita Napitupulu
Senior LAN Administrator Chair-Li Chang
 Ted Shaw
Web/Applications Developer Doug Buckmeier
Senior Desktop Support Technician Michelle Croy
Desktop Support Technician Michael Kim
Business Analyst Montine Rummel

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Director of Juvenile Court Services Bruce Knutson
Confidential Secretary I Kathy Santucci
Juvenile Probation Manager Susan Waild
Juvenile Services Manager Steve Gustaveson
Juvenile Treatment Services Mgr Mark Wirschem
Project Program Manager III Teddi Edington
Project Program Manager II Pat Ford Campbell

JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

Court Operations Supervisor Jacqui Arrington
Case Setting Coordinator Katie Davidson
Court Program Specialist II Elaine Deines
 Carolyn Coleman
 Nichole Rodriguez
 Michelle Wyman
Juvenile Court Info. Specialist Vacant

AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS

Program Manager Jan Solomon
ARY Programs Assistant Mona Johnen
Case Management Specialist Amy Andree
 Karen Chapman
Court Program Specialist II Melody Edmiston
ARY Intervention Specialist Laura Willett

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY/MEDICAID MATCH

Youth Program Coordinator Susie Bridges Weber

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

Supervisor Steve Noble
Community Outreach Liaison Roland Akers
Juvenile Program Service Coord. Josalyn Conley
Juvenile Probation Counselor Tracy Dixon
 Yvette Gaston
 Lisa Gistarb
 Diane Korf
Administrative Specialist III Karen Lanpher

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Supervisor Jill Murphy
Family Treatment Specialist Cathy Lehmann
Court Program Specialist II Dajani Henderson
Treatment Liaison Michelle Szozda
Parent to Parent Program Coord. Kimberly Mays

JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESSMENT TEAM

Social Worker/Assess. Team Coord. William Schipp
Psychologist Dr. Michael Archer

PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Area Manager-Lead Shirley Noble
Area Manager Matthew David
Administrative Specialist II Estrellita Buza
 Darien Riffe
Fiscal Specialist II Paula Moses

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS/ LOW-LEVEL SUPERVISION UNIT

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Melissa Sprague
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Rosemary Fraine
<i>Juvenile Services Technician</i>	Jason Canfield
<i>Administrative Specialist III</i>	Julie Allen
<i>Administrative Specialist II</i>	Sheila Singleton

SCREENING UNIT

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Katie Forbes
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Fred Aulava
	Elaine Evans
	Todd Foster
	Geri Horrobin
	Lee Lim
	Claudia Scipio
	Dianna Quall
	Kendra Morgan
<i>WACIC Data Coordinator</i>	Dominick Beck

CONSOLIDATED INTAKE UNIT

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Gene Dupuis
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Karla Powelson
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Dan Baxter
	Michael Bowles
	Christy Cochran
	Kelly DePhelps
	Bryan Fry
	Dede Gartrell
	Bruce Gourley
	Elizabeth Higgins
	Christine Kahikina
	Yoko Maeshiro
	Shelley Moore
	Gabrielle Pagano
	Mai Tran
<i>Administrative Specialist I</i>	Joyce Chan
	Phillip Palana

CITY UNIT

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Tony Peguero
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Karen Austin
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Bill Bodick
	Cecilia Camino
	Daryl Cerdinio
	Jeremy Crowe
	Paul Daniels
	Melinda Fischer
	Kiersten Knutson
<i>Administrative Specialist I</i>	Danielle Kidd

NORTHEAST UNIT

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Tom Archer
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Kris Brady
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Norm Charouhas
	Dawn Closs
	Dan Higgins
	Pat Hunziker-Pepoy
	Randy Kok
	Gideon Oyeleke
	Kelli Sullivan
<i>Administrative Specialist I</i>	Renee Olin

SOUTH I UNIT – RENTON

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	JoeAnne Taylor
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Staci Delgado
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Darlin Johnson
	Michelle Mihail
	Francisca Madera
	Debra Stuckman
	Ron Tarnow
	Mike West
<i>Administrative Specialist I</i>	Pat Durr

SOUTH II UNIT – FEDERAL WAY

<i>JPC Supervisor</i>	Kelli Lauritzen
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor Lead</i>	Diane Rayburn
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselor</i>	Yvonne Clemente-Smith
	Michelle Higa
	Rachel Hubert
	Rebecca Kirkland
	Rob Legge
	Patricia Nilsson
	Gwen Spears
<i>Administrative Specialist I</i>	Julie Stansberry

RECORDS UNIT

<i>Administrative Specialist IV</i>	Joanne Moore-Miller
<i>Administrative Specialist II</i>	Teresa Chandler
	Chris Hong
	Gail Nichols

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<i>Education/Employment Specialist</i>	Mark Farrell
	John Leers
	Guy McWhorter
	Denise Ozeri
	Hiroko Vargas
	Dawn Nannini
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<i>Court Operations Manager, Kent</i>	Sandy Ogilvie
<i>Administrative Specialist IV</i>	Cynthia Williams
<i>Court Operations Spec II – Floater</i>	Lauretta Watson
<i>Calendar/Staffing Specialist</i>	Marsha Kishida
<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Julie Espinoza

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<i>Jury Services Manager</i>	Greg Wheeler
<i>Customer Service Specialist III</i>	Irene Szczerba
<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Katherine Glenn
	Heidi Bugni

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<i>Program Manager</i>	Martha Cohen
<i>Assistant Program Manager</i>	Susana Stettri-Sawrey
<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Charlotte Taylor
<i>Customer Service Specialist III</i>	Hakim Lakhali
	Cheryl Spriggs
	Maya Valladao-Jeffrey
<i>Interpreter</i>	Amy Andrews

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

<i>Criminal Case Manager</i>	VACANT
<i>Court Operations Supervisor I</i>	Erica Conway
	Barbara Winter
<i>Criminal Calendar Coordinator II</i>	Carla Gaber
	Bonnie Larson
<i>Criminal Court Info. Proc. Spec.</i>	Karen Igo
<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Sumi Enebrad
<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Susan Wells

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<i>Court Operations Supervisor II</i>	Heiti Milnor-Lewis
<i>Court Operations Specialist II</i>	Pamela Oldham
	John Rodenberg

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<i>Administrative Specialist III</i>	VACANT

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<i>Guardianship GAL</i>	Keith Thomson

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Kenya Hart	Helen Woodke
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Salina Hill	Karen Zehnder-Wood
Greg Howard	

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<i>Case Management Specialist</i>	Melinda Johnson Taylor
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<i>Administrative Specialist IV</i>	Imee Crisostomo
	Sathia Vann
<i>Fiscal Specialist III</i>	Bryan Ivanich

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<i>Asst. Program Manager</i>	Connor Lenz
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	Daryl Buckendahl
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	Desiree Canter
	Edward Greenleaf
	Paige Hacke
	Debra Hunter
	Kathleen Kennelly
<i>Adoption Paralegal</i>	Michelle Wang
<i>Customer Service Specialist III</i>	Jessica Bailey
	Nina Huggins-Irving
<i>Customer Service Specialist II</i>	Brooklyn Adams
	Debra Baker

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<i>Court Operations Supervisor I</i>	Teresa Koza
<i>Facilitator</i>	Jeanna Bento
	Nhu Dinh
	Kristen Gabel
	Rose Morrison
	Monica Osborn
<i>Intake Specialist</i>	Stacy Keen

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<i>Program Manager</i>	Linda Katz
<i>Asst. Program Manager</i>	Napoleon Caldwell
	Carolyn Frimpter
	Melissa Hartley
	Janet Horton
	Peggy Larson
	Wai-Ping Li-Landis
	Don Miner
	Emma Puro
	Cheryl Retic
	Deanna Watson
	Lucyle Wooden
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<i>Program Attorney</i>	Kathryn Barnhouse
	Kathleen Martin
	Heidi Nagel
<i>Attorney Guardian ad Litem</i>	April Rivera
<i>Pro Bono CASA Assignment Tech</i>	Janet Harris
<i>Paralegal</i>	Kathleen McCormack
	Vickey Wilson
<i>Administrative Specialist II</i>	Kathleen Hasslinger
	Charlene Kern
	Carolyn Bustamante
	John O'Bannon
	Gina Reyes

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	Sarah Williams

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	Mary Bromberger
	Laura Contreras
	Trisha Del Valle
	Tiffany Klein
	Catherine Kuvac

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<http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superiorcourt.aspx>

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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Clerk's Office (206) 205-9483

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Special Thanks to:

David Reynolds—Editor
Angelina Jimeno—Designer
Katie Loberstein &
Cynthia Williams—Photos