

Judge Susan J. Craighead

Judge Craighead was appointed to the King County Superior Court on September 6, 2007, by Governor Christine Gregoire. She assumed the position previously occupied by the Hon. Michael Spearman, who left the bench for private practice earlier that year.

Judge Craighead served as a commissioner for the Washington state Court of Appeals for five years before her appointment to Superior Court. Prior to that, she was a staff attorney for the Seattle-King County Public Defender Association. Judge Craighead also served as the law clerk for Justice Shirley Abrahamson at the Supreme Court of Wisconsin, worked as a courts reporter and staff writer for the Louisville Courier-Journal, and worked for the Federal Defenders of San Diego and the Alabama Capital Representation Resource Center.

Judge Craighead received her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. She received a master's degree in international relations from the University of Oxford, which she attended as a Rhodes Scholar, and received her Juris Doctorate degree, cum laude, from Harvard Law School. She has been a member of the Washington Board for Court Education and the Appellate Education Committee, the chair of the Task Force on Expediting Dependency/Termination Appeals, and the co-chair of the King County Bar Association's Community Legal Service Committee. Judge Craighead also has served on the board of the Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS) and on the advisory board of the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

Judge Craighead has been active on various King County Superior Court committees and currently serves as the court's Presiding Judge.