

Judge Ketu Shah

Judge Ketu Shah was appointed to the King County Superior Court and took the bench in May 2019. Previously, Judge Shah served on the King County District Court from 2013 to 2019. While in District Court, Judge Shah presided over the Regional Mental Health Court and the Regional Veterans Court. In addition, he sat on the District Court's Executive Committee, and was the MIDD Advisory Committee designee for District Court for four years.

Judge Shah is a graduate of Whitman College and the University of Minnesota Law School where he was a Managing Editor for the Journal of Law and Inequality. Prior to being appointed to the bench, he prosecuted domestic violence cases, helped to implement a domestic violence court in the City of Vancouver and assisted in forming a domestic violence unit for the City of Bellevue. Judge Shah also had his own private practice focusing on immigration law, and as part of his work, volunteered extensively representing pro bono clients through API Chaya, ReWA, Immigrant Family Advocacy Project, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP).

Judge Shah, during private practice, had API Chaya's first pro bono case in 2001 and then later served as Board Chair for over six years. He was awarded the 2008 Community Service Award by the South Asian Bar Association and 1998 Community Award by the City of Vancouver.

Judge Shah is looking forward to co-chairing the MIDD Advisory Committee because it offers a chance for government systems to get valuable feedback and advice from community partners in how best to serve the community. The various non-profits provide the day-to-day delivery of service that makes our community recover and thrive. Judge Shah's knowledge of court systems and long experience in community non-profit work will serve him well as co-chair.

Judge Shah is endorsed by Superior Court Presiding Judge Jim Rogers and current County co-chair Judge Laura Inveen to succeed Judge Inveen in co-leading the MIDD Advisory Committee (alongside community co-chair Claudia D'Allegrì), based on his history of service to MIDD and his demonstrated commitment to serving people with behavioral health conditions in our region. Judge Shah's service as County co-chair is proposed to begin in September 2019.