



2024 WLI Advisory Board

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WLI Founder*

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William H. Gates Hall
Box 353020
Seattle, WA 98195-3020
Tel: (206) 543-0346
Email: belld3@uw.edu

2024 Washington Leadership Institute Advisory Board

Biographies



Ronald R. Ward

Washington Leadership Institute Founder and Advisory Board Member *Emeritus*

LAW OFFICES OF RONALD R. WARD, PLLC

1000 2nd Ave.
Ste. 3200
Seattle, WA 98104-1023
(206) 850-5558

Ron@ronwardlaw.com

Direct Line: (206) 850-5558

Ron Ward is the founder of the Washington Leadership Institute (WLI) for diverse young lawyers, program winner of the national 2005 American Bar Association Partnership Award, and of the 2006 LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Legal Fellowship.

HISTORY

In 2004-2005, Mr. Ward was elected the first person of color to serve as President of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA), in the organization's then 116-year history.

In 2008, Ron became the first person of color to receive the *Award of Merit*, the WSBA's highest honor.

From 2008-2011, Ron was the first person of color to serve as President of the Washington State Bar Foundation.

In 2013, Mr. Ward became the first person of color to serve as President of the Washington Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Ron's career has been characterized by his devotion to service. In 2006 one organization which honored him indicated that their award was "conferred in recognition of Mr. Ward's outstanding leadership, dedication, commitment and service to the citizens of the State of Washington, in his endeavors to preserve the constitutional right to trial by jury, to maintain the independence of the judiciary, to guarantee equal access to justice, and to enhance diversity in our society."

SERVICE AND RECOGNITION

- Member, Board of Governors, Washington State Bar Association (2002-2005)
- Past President of the Washington State Bar Foundation (2008-2011)
- Past President, Washington Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (2013).
- Former member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates (2004-2010).
- Currently (and since 2012) a member of the United States District Court Monitoring Team, charged with implementation of a federal consent decree between the U.S. Department of Justice and the City of Seattle, mandating police reform of the Seattle Police Department.
- Mr. Ward is an avidly sought speaker locally, nationally and abroad, on important societal issues involving service, community, contemporary social issues, and the law. Ron's motto is: "I want to make a difference."

Ronald R. Ward

Washington Leadership Institute Founder and Advisory
Board Member *Emeritus*

PRACTICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

As managing partner of Law Offices of Ronald R. Ward, PLLC, Mr. Ward's practice focuses on wrongful deaths, and serious auto, brain, construction site and medical negligence personal injuries.

As a Trial Lawyer of the first magnitude, in 2022/2023 Mr. Ward's clients were the beneficiaries of successful personal injury recoveries in a gross amount in excess of \$17 million dollars.

OTHER HONORS AND AWARDS INCLUDE:

- 2020 - Distinguished Service Award for Civil Rights – Washington State Bar Association
- 2014 – Sally P. Savage Leadership In Philanthropy Award Washington State Bar Foundation
- 2014 - Lifetime Achievement Award-Loren Miller Bar Association;
- 2009 - Carl Maxey Diversity Award – Washington State Association for Justice
- 2008 – Award of Merit - Washington State Bar Association;
- 2007 - Excellence in Diversity Award – Washington State Bar Association
- 2007- Present -Top Seattle Lawyers Award honoree selected by Seattle Metropolitan Magazine;
- 2006 - President's Award – Washington State Trial Lawyers Association;
- 2006 - Loren Miller Bar Association Presidents' Award *renamed Ron R. Ward Presidents' Award*;
- 2006 - Outstanding Plaintiff Trial Lawyer of the Year - Washington Defense Trial Lawyers;
- 2003 – Present – Selected by Washington Law and Politics as a *Super Lawyer*
- 2003-Present-- "*Top 40*" – Who's Who in Washington Personal Injury Lawyers



Erika Evans

Co-Chair

**ASSISTANT UNITED
STATES ATTORNEY
FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT
OF WASHINGTON**

Lake Union Mail
117 E. Louisa Street
Box 231
Seattle, WA 98102

ErikaEvansSeattle@gmail.com
(253) 254-9689

Erika Evans, a Pacific Northwest native, graduated from the University of Washington for her undergraduate degree and Seattle University School of Law for her Juris Doctorate.

Currently, Erika serves as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington. In this capacity, she represents the United States on criminal offenses before the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington. Prior to serving as an Assistant United States Attorney, Erika served as a judge *pro tempore* in the Tukwila, SeaTac, and Puyallup municipal courts. She also served as an Assistant City Attorney for the Seattle City Attorney's Office focusing primarily on complex civil litigation matters. Erika started her career as a City Prosecutor for the Seattle City Attorney's Office.

She is heavily involved in her community. Erika is a past president of the Loren Miller Bar Association ("LMBA"), one of the largest and oldest non-profit minority bar association in Washington State. She also revived and taught the LMBA bar studies program for seven years—a program aimed at preparing diverse law school graduates to pass the bar examination and enter the legal profession. Erika is a current Co-Chair of the Charles V. Johnson Youth and Law Forum, which aims to bridge the gap between youth and law enforcement and inspiring middle and high school students to pursue professions in the law. She also serves as an appointed member representing the public of the Washington State Public Engagement and Education Committee.

Erika is a recipient of many awards including the Seattle University School of Law Black Law Students Association Alumni of the year award, the Loren Miller Bar Association Young Lawyers Award, and the National Association of Women Judges Equal Access to Justice Scholarship Award. In her free time, Erika loves traveling the world with her husband, Christopher Sanders, practicing hot yoga with weights, and spending time outside.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
ADVISORY BOARD



Craig A. Sims

Co-Chair

Craig A. Sims

Schroeter Goldmark & Bender
401 Union Street, Suite 3400
Seattle, WA 98101
206-233.1241
CSims@SGB-Law.Com
CraigSims.Law@Gmail.com
(WLI please reach out to
gmail)
206.618.3127 (c)

Craig is an accomplished trial lawyer with over 25 years of litigation and leadership experience. His calling, “to be of service to others,” is what drew him to Schroeter Goldmark & Bender to represent victims of asbestos exposure, civil rights violations and other catastrophic injuries. Craig’s focus is to seek accountability while honoring the lives of his clients and their families. Craig has a proven record of accomplishment litigating civil cases, including several multi-million-dollar settlements and jury verdicts. Craig was the lead trial lawyer for the team that received one of the largest asbestos jury award in the state of Oregon (2016). He has been recognized as a Washington “Super Lawyer” (2023) and was honored as one of the Best Lawyers in America (Best Lawyers – 2022, 2023, & 2024 editions)

Prior to joining Schroeter Goldmark & Bender, Craig served as a Senior King County Prosecutor. While on assignment with the Most Dangerous Offender Program, he prosecuted a number of homicides and high-profile cases; seeking justice while advocating for those who’d been harmed. Craig also served as the Criminal Division Chief in the Seattle Attorney’s Office where he oversaw a team of more than sixty attorneys and staff.

Craig has taught trial practice as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law and a visiting lecturer at the University of Washington Law School. He’s a member and past president of the Loren Miller Bar Association, which gave him the Excellence in the Legal Profession award. During his career, Craig has also been presented with the Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Award and named as The King County Bar Association Mentor of the Year for the Young Lawyers Division. Craig has traveled the country consulting on issues of mentorship, civility and diversity. He is often asked to speak at lawyer trainings on all aspects of lawyering skills.

Craig takes pride in his educational background, having graduated from Seattle University School of Law and The University of Oregon.

Craig’s guiding life motto is: *“I am preparing my children for the world, while preparing the world for my children.”*



Hunter M. Abell

WSBA PRESIDENT

WILLIAMS KASTNER
601 UNION ST STE 4100
SEATTLE, WA 98101
206-626-6600

habell@williamskastner.com

Hunter M. Abell was elected to fill an at-large diversity position on the Board of Governors in 2019 and elected by the Board of Governors as president-elect in 2022. Abell is a member at the Seattle office of Williams Kastner. He is originally from Eastern Washington, where he was raised on a ranch in rural Ferry County. A graduate of the College of William & Mary, Abell attended Gonzaga University School of Law and received an LL.M. at Georgetown University Law Center. Before joining Williams Kastner, he served as a JAG officer with the U.S. Navy, and is currently a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Abell previously served as chair of the WSBA Professionalism Committee and Indian Law Section. When not in the office, he enjoys hiking, fishing, and playing with his two young daughters, Libby, 9, and Wynsome, 7.



Jeffrey A. Beaver

**MILLER NASH
GRAHAM & DUNN
LLP**

Pier 70
2801 Alaskan Way, Ste. 300
Seattle, WA 98121-1128
(206) 777-7445

Jeffrey.beaver@millernash.com

Jeffrey Beaver has extensive experience as a trial lawyer. He focuses his practice on condemnation, financial institutions and commercial litigation. Jeffrey has represented clients in a variety of industries, including transportation, timberlands, financial services and manufacturing. He has successfully tried numerous multimillion dollar cases and has obtained favorable verdicts or settlements in some of our area's largest eminent domain cases.

Jeffrey successfully defended a salmon processor in a four-month class action jury trial against antitrust allegations that the processor conspired with other processors and foreign importers to fix prices in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery. The class in that case sought damages in excess of \$1 billion.

He continues to try cases for Sound Transit and our real estate and banking clients. Following a recent bench trial Jeffrey successfully defended a commercial bank against allegations of wrongful foreclosure. Most recently, Jeffrey obtained successful verdicts for Sound Transit in the acquisition of real property for the extension of the East Link and North Link light rail projects.

Jeffrey has also been actively involved in the American Bar Association's efforts to provide advocacy training and assistance to Sudanese lawyers representing victims of the Darfur conflict before the International Criminal Court. In 2018 he spent two months in Tanzania with Lawyers without Borders and other NGOs to address wildlife trafficking and trafficking in persons. Early in his career, Jeffrey was a member of the Hirabayashi Coram Nobis team.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- United States Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel, member, 2016-present
- Elected to The Counselors of Real Estate
- Elected to The American Law Institute
- Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, commissioner appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court
- King County Bar Association, member
- Judicial Conferencing Committee, 2012-present
- Young Lawyers Division, past member and secretary
- Board of Trustees, past member
- King County Bar Foundation
- Board of Trustees, past member
- President's Council, past member of board of trustees
- Washington State Bar Association, member

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
ADVISORY BOARD

Jeffrey A. Beaver

- Special Disciplinary Counsel, 2013-present
- Adjunct Investigative Counsel Panel, 2010-2014
- Oregon Bar Association, member
- American Bar Association
 - Section of Litigation; Expert Witnesses Committee, co-chair, 2009-
 - Task Force Expert Witness Code of Ethics, member, 2010-2011
 - Section of Litigation; Condemnation, Zoning, and Land Use Committee, co-chair, 2007-2009
 - Section of Litigation; Darfur Project Working Group, member, 2008
- Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington, Appellate Practice, past co-chair
- National Bar Association, Board of Governors, past board member
- Loren Miller Bar Association, treasurer and past president
- Washington State Board of Judicial Administration's Court Security Committee, former member
- 2020 elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers
- 2020 elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Friends of the Children, board member
- Washington Leadership Institute, board member
- University of Oregon School of Law, Dean's Advisory Council, member

RECOGNITION & HONORS

- Recognized by the Loren Miller Bar Association with the Lifetime Achievement Award, 2018
- Selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* in Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law, Litigation–Real Estate, 2019
- Elected to The Counselors of Real Estate
- Elected to The American Law Institute
- Elected to the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation
- Selected for inclusion in *Washington Super Lawyers* magazine, 2003-present
- Peer-Review Rated Lawyer of AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
- John Warren Davis Award, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
- Earl Warren Scholar, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
- Received the 2019 Frohnmayer Award for Public Service from the University of Oregon School of Law.
- 2018 Loren Miller Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2019 University of Oregon School of Law Dave Frohnmayer Award for Public Service

PUBLICATIONS

- “Regulatory Takings 101,” Environmental Litigation Committee Newsletter (2009, 2008)
- “Voiur Dire in the Antitrust Case,” American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Antitrust Committee, *The Antitrust Litigator's Corner* (2007)”

Jeffrey A. Beaver

- “The Power of Networking,” Washington Leadership Institute—Session II (2016)
- “Trial Testimony Preparation,” Appraisal Institute, Fall Real Estate Conference (2014)
- “The Appraiser as an Expert Witness: Preparation and Testimony,” Seattle Chapter of the Appraisal Institute (2014)
- “Alternative Dispute Resolution: Real Tools You Can Use,” Suing and Defending Government Seminar (2014)
- “Reviewing an Appraisal,” Appraisal Institute, Fall Real Estate Conference (2013)
- “Getting the Most Out of Your Experts: Do’s and Don’ts in the Use of Expert Witnesses,” ABA Section of Litigation, Annual Conference, moderator (2013)
- “The Nuts and Bolts of Law Practice/Leadership Challenges on Gender, Race, and Sexual Orientation,” Washington Leadership Institute—Session II (2013)
- “Condemnation Procedure from A to Z,” The Seminar Group, Third Annual Issues in Condemnation (2012)
- “Pretrial Motions in Limine: Don’t Get Caught With Your Pants Down,” Appraisal Institute, Fall Real Estate Conference (2012)
- “Recent Developments in Alternative Dispute Resolution,” International Right of Way Association, Annual Education Conference (2012)
- “The Persuasive Trial Attorney: What Works and What Doesn’t,” Washington State Bar Association (2011)
- “Expert Life After Changes to Rule 26: Should Experts be Required to Comply With ABA Ethical Standards For Experts,” American Bar Association, Annual Meeting (2011)
- “Using Negotiated Settlements to Determine Damages: Sophisticated Analysis or Mind Reading,” ABA Sections of Litigation and Criminal Justice, Annual CLE Conference Miami (2011)
- “The Power of Networking,” Washington Leadership Institute—Session III, The Nuts and Bolts of Law Practice (2011)
- “Environmental Regulations - Compensable Takings or Permissible Legislation?” American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Teleconference Series (2008)
- “The Ten Things Every Patent and Antitrust Practitioner Must Know After Recent Supreme Court Decisions,” American Bar Association Section of Litigation, Teleconference Series (2007)
- Over and Under: A Practical Guide to the Condemnation of Aerial Guideway Easements and Tunnel Easements,” co-author (Dec. 2005)

PRESENTATIONS

- “International Right of Way Association Chapter 4 Eminent Domain Mock Trial,” Miller Nash Graham & Dunn (Sept. 2017)
- “The Power of Networking,” Washington Leadership Institute—Session III, The Nuts and Bolts of Law Practice (Mar. 2017)
- “Mediation Preparation: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats,” Appraisal Institute, Tenth Annual Fall Conference (Oct. 2016)
- “Ethical Considerations Affecting Government Agencies and Their Lawyers,” The Seminar Group, Government CLE (2016)

Jeffrey A. Beaver

- “What Happens When the Project Fails after the Property is Condemned?” The American Law Institute and the American Bar Association, Course: Eminent Domain and Land Valuation Litigation (2007)
- “Antitrust and Intellectual Property Trends in the Supreme Court,” American Bar Association Section of litigation, Teleconference Series (2006)
- “An Eminent Domain Legislation Update,” Industrial Asset Management Council Forum (2006)
- “How to Try Your Case for the Condemnor,” The American Law Institute and the American Bar Association, Course: Eminent Domain and Land Valuation Litigation (2006)

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Successfully represented Sound Transit in obtaining condemnor verdicts in more than ten cases at trial.
- Successfully represented property owner in expansion of the University of Washington Tacoma Campus resulting in a \$1.9 million verdict.
- Successfully represented property owner in City’s acquisition of a family farm for the creation of a park in Grays Harbor on 90-days notice (\$1.5 million verdict).
- Successfully represented commercial/industrial landlord against pass through claims for nuisance, breach of lease and breach of quiet enjoyment arising out of the migration of excessive and dense dust particles from one leased premises to another.
- Successfully represented joint venture and joint venturer against partner in breach of timber sale contract, breach of fiduciary duty and civil conspiracy claims.
- Successfully represented employee in ADA and State Law against discrimination action for unlawful discharge based on employer’s subcontract with federal government which disqualified contracted employees with organic heart disease. A contractual provision is not a defense as statutes, rules or regulations are.
- Represented employee against the State in ADA and State law against discrimination action for disparate treatment in the form of disciplinary action due to clinical depression.
- Successfully represented Japanese-American petitioner in action for writ of error coram nobis seeking vacation of convictions for violating wartime measures requiring Japanese-Americans to remain within their residences and to report to civilian control stations.
- Successfully represented bank in enforcing forum selection clause in financing lease.
- Successfully represented parents and children who had been racially harassed by admitted skinhead. obtained antiharassment order. Affirmed on appeal.
- Successfully represented public contractor to recover excess costs expended due to major utility conflicts not indicated on project plans and claim for extra work.
- Represented owner on \$8 million claim arising out of reconstruction of a high school specifically responsible for defending electrical subcontractor’s pass through claim.
- Represented defendant and cross-complainant biotechnology firm in patent infringement and Lanham Act case arising out of cattle feed lot industry and the use and efficacy of a lactobacillus acidophilus strain.



Dean Emerita Annette Clark

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

901 12th Ave, Seattle, WA
98122

Cell: (253) 226-1639
annclark@seattleu.edu

law.seattleu.edu

Annette E. Clark is Dean Emerita and Professor Emerita at Seattle University School of Law. She received her M.D. with Honors from the University of Washington's School of Medicine and her J.D., *summa cum laude* (first in class), from Seattle University School of Law. She joined the School of Law faculty in 1989 immediately upon graduation. In addition to being a faculty member for the past 35 years, she is also an experienced administrator, having served for ten years as Associate Dean and then Vice Dean. She was the Interim Dean at Seattle University School of Law from 2009-2010, a Visiting Scholar at The George Washington University Law School in 2010, and Dean at the Saint Louis University School of Law from 2011-12.

Dean Emerita Clark was named dean of Seattle University School of Law in 2013 and served in that capacity until 2022. During those 9 years, she led efforts to “right-size” the law school, grow its national reputation, and enhance the law school’s social justice footprint in the community. Under her leadership, Seattle U Law was recognized as one of the most diverse law schools and a top law school nationally for racial justice and equity. The law school also diversified its educational offerings, launching new LL.M. programs, a Master’s in Legal Studies, and a part-time Flex JD program that offers legal education in an innovative hybrid, online format. Among other DEI efforts, she spearheaded an initiative to bring access to legal education to Central Washington through a Law School Admission Council-funded pipeline collaboration among Heritage University, Seattle University School of Law, Gonzaga University School of Law, and the University of Washington School of Law.

Dean Emerita Clark counts teaching law students as one of her greatest joys. Her areas of expertise include civil procedure, medical liability, bioethics, and legal education, and she is a frequent regional and national lecturer on those topics. Her scholarship operates at the interface of health care, law, and health policy, with a particular emphasis on end-of-life issues. To commemorate Seattle University School of Law’s 50th anniversary this past year, she recently published an article describing the sale of the law school in 1993 from the University of Puget Sound to Seattle University and the impact the change in sponsorship had on the law school’s trajectory.

While on the Seattle U Law faculty, Professor Clark received the Seattle Journal for Social Justice Faculty Award in 2005, the Dean’s Medal in 2006, and the Outstanding Teacher Award from the graduating classes in 2007 and 2011. She was named the James B. McGoldrick, S.J., Fellow in 2008-09 by President Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J. This annual award is given to the faculty member or administrator who best exemplifies commitment to students and to the values of a Jesuit education.

Dean Emerita Annette Clark

Throughout her professional career, Dean Emerita Clark has been active in various professional organizations, including the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), where she served most recently as the 2022 Chair of the Workshop for New Law School Teachers Planning Committee. She is currently a Consultant to the Legal Education Consulting division of the Law School Admission Council. In the community, Professor Clark has been a member of the MultiCare Institutional Review Board, the Bloodworks Northwest Board of Trustees, the Washington Leadership Institute Advisory Board, the Safe Crossings Foundation Board, and the Overlake Medical Center Board of Trustees.

In recognition of her service to the legal profession, Dean Emerita Clark received the 2018 Betty Binns Fletcher Leadership and Justice Award from MAMA Seattle, which is given each year to an individual who has paved the way to success for, and has served as an inspiration to, other mother attorneys striving to excel in their legal careers while balancing family demands. In 2021, she was named the recipient of the Washington Women Lawyers Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst Passing the Torch Award, which is given annually to an individual who has gone above and beyond in mentoring women lawyers, making a difference, and “passing the torch” in support of WWL’s mission to further the integration of women in the legal profession, promote equal rights and opportunities for women, and prevent discrimination against them.



Hon. Bobbe J. Bridge (Ret.)

CENTER FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH JUSTICE

615 2nd Ave., Ste. 275
Seattle, WA 98104-2264
(206) 696-7503

bjbridge@ccyj.org

Justice Bobbe J. Bridge (ret.), served as the Founding President and CEO of the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) beginning in January 2008. The Center was established in February 2006 by Justice Bridge and her husband, Jon. Its mission is “Advancing justice for and enhancing the lives of children and youth through juvenile justice, child welfare and related systems reform.” CCYJ helps parents, advocates, judges, legislators, service providers, policymakers, and professionals to shape a brighter future for youth involved in Washington’s child welfare and juvenile justice systems by sponsoring research, targeting grant funding toward evidence-based programs, developing collaborative partnerships, providing training and education for system professionals, and, most importantly, by listening to the voices of youth and young adults with lived experiences in these systems. Justice Bridge retired from CCYJ in January, 2019.

Justice Bridge was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court by Governor Locke in 1999. She was elected in 2000 and again in 2002. Before serving on the Supreme Court, Justice Bridge served as a King County Superior Court judge for ten years and as Presiding Judge of the 51-member Court for two years. She was the Chief Judge of King County Juvenile Court from 1994 to 1997 and the President of the Superior Court Judges’ Association in 1999. Before joining the bench, Justice Bridge was the first female partner at the law firm of Garvey Schubert Barer.

Throughout her judicial career, Justice Bridge has been active in efforts to improve the administration of justice for children and families. She was the first and long-time co-chair for the Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care, whose mission is to establish safe, permanent families for all children in foster care. She led the Domestic Violence/Child Maltreatment Statewide Protocol Project, and chaired the State Becca Task Force, which focuses on truancy prevention. Justice Bridge was instrumental in the introduction of Unified Family Court to King County and has worked to expand its use to other courts. Also in King County, she led the creation of the Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plan, which effected significant changes in juvenile offender court practices and services, reduced the number of kids in detention, and eliminated the need for a new secure juvenile facility without sacrificing public safety. Under her leadership, King County’s Juvenile Drug Court was established, and she chaired the Oversight Committee for the Parents Representation Project, improving representation for parents in child abuse and neglect cases.

During her term as the Presiding Judge of the King County Superior Court, Justice Bridge helped establish a child care facility at the Regional Justice Center in Kent. It is the first court-based child care center in the

Hon. Bobbe J. Bridge (Ret.)

Pacific Northwest, allowing parents and guardians with business before the court to leave young children, who would otherwise have to wait in hallways or courtrooms, in a safe environment.

For over twenty years, Justice Bridge has served on a host of committees, commissions, and work groups advising the Governor, the Legislature, and the Department of Social and Health Services on issues relating to children and families. Justice Bridge is also past Chair and twenty-plus year member YouthCare, an organization dedicated to educating, employing, and empowering Seattle's vulnerable homeless youth. At the University of Washington Law School, she and her husband Jon have established a Professorship in Child Advocacy and she taught a course in legislative advocacy in the Child and Youth Advocacy Clinic. She currently serves on the boards of the DCYS Oversight, FIRSTClinic, Washington Leadership Institute, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center, MultiCare Behavioral Health Foundation, and the Whidbey Island Center for the Arts; and, on the Advisory Boards for Fair and Just Prosecution, Seattle Girls School, and UW Evans School.

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Jillian M. Cutler



**FRANK FREED SUBIT
& THOMAS LLP**

705 Second Ave., Suite 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104
(206) 682-6711

jcutler@frankfreed.com
<http://www.frankfreed.com>

Jillian M. Cutler is a partner at the Seattle law firm of Frank Freed Subit & Thomas LLP, where she represents plaintiffs in employment cases and unions in labor matters. Her employment practice focuses on discrimination, retaliation, and disability rights litigation.

Ms. Cutler is an active member of the Washington legal community. She serves as Secretary of the Washington State Bar Association Labor & Employment Law Section, Trustee of the King County Bar Association Labor & Employment Law Section, and a member of the King County Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Committee. She has served as an Associate Editor for multiple editions of the Lindemann & Grossman *Employment Discrimination Law* treatise. Ms. Cutler is a life-long disability rights advocate and currently serves on the Disability Advisory Council of Disability Rights Washington. *Washington Super Lawyers* selected Ms. Cutler as a “Rising Star” in employment and labor law from 2010 through 2017. She was a 2014 fellow of the Washington Leadership Institute.

Prior to entering private practice in 2007, Ms. Cutler practiced employment discrimination and civil rights law as a staff attorney and clinical teaching fellow at the Institute for Public Representation at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington D.C. She is a graduate of Yale University, *summa cum laude*, and Yale Law School, where she served on the law journal and as Co-Student Director of the Complex Federal Litigation Clinic. Prior to law school, Ms. Cutler earned a degree from King’s College, Cambridge, which she attended as a Marshall Scholar. She is a former law clerk to Judge Louis H. Pollak of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

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Raymond Delos Reyes

**DELOS REYES LAW,
LLC**

409B Maynard Ave S
Seattle, WA 98104
425.961.5950

raymond@rdelosreyeslaw.com

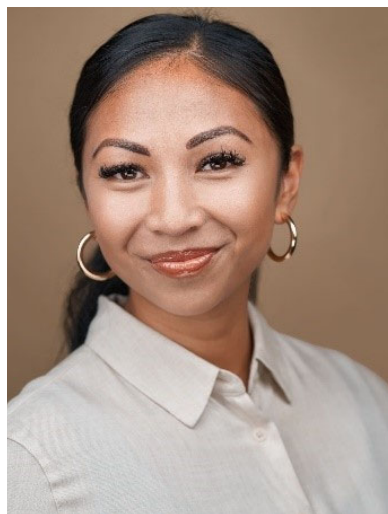
Raymond Delos Reyes is a first-generation Filipino American, Seattle native. Raymond currently provides public defense services in King County for dependency cases.

Raymond received his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and his JD from Seattle University School of Law. His prior experience includes working in litigation and municipal practice areas, and as a public defender with the King County Department of Public Defense.

In addition to his work, Raymond is a 2016 Fellow of the Washington Leadership Institute, serves on its Advisory Board, and was a long-time board member of the Filipino Lawyers of Washington. He was also an adjunct professor at the SU School of Law and an affiliate professor at the UW School of Law. Raymond also served as a Judge, Pro Tem for the City of Edmonds. Most recently, Raymond was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve on the Washington State Clemency and Pardons Board in July 2023.

Raymond lives in Columbia City with his son. When he is not working, Raymond spends time playing various sports, enjoys live music and reading the liner notes of records he collects.

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ADVISORY BOARD



Cynthia F. Delostrinos

**ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICE OF THE
COURTS**

1112 Quince St SE
Olympia WA 98504
PHONE: 206-683-1585

Cynthia.Delostrinos@courts.wa.gov

Cynthia Delostrinos Johnson serves as the Associate Director of the Office of Court Innovation for the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts. In this role she oversees the operations of several court programs focused on enhancing research, innovation, and equity in Washington state courts. These programs include the Washington Supreme Court Commissions, Washington State Center for Court Research, Family and Youth Justice Programs, Behavioral Health Courts, and Equity & Access.

Prior to becoming the Associate Director of the Office of Court Innovation, Cynthia served as the Manager of the Supreme Court Commissions. Through her work with the Commissions, she's been able to employ strategies to effect changes in court policy and practice through organizing with various justice system partners, from judges to prosecutors, community, and advocates. She's successfully helped secure grant funding to support innovative projects for the Commissions and has helped expand opportunities for youth of color to learn about careers in the justice system through statewide Youth and Justice Forums.

In 2019, Cynthia was elected to the Tukwila City Council. She became the first woman of color and first Asian American to ever be elected in the city of Tukwila. She is passionate about increasing diversity and representation in the government sector and elected office.

Cynthia serves on the Executive Board of the Tukwila Children's Foundation, was a long-time board member of the Filipino Lawyers of Washington and currently serves on the Joint Asian Judicial Evaluations Committee.

Cynthia was born and raised in Seattle, Washington to immigrant parents from the Philippines. She is a graduate of Garfield High School, Seattle Central Community College, the University of Washington, and Seattle University School of Law. She met her husband James F. Johnson through the ARC Program at Seattle University School of Law, and the two of them are raising their sons Isaac and Isaiah in Tukwila, WA.



Chief Justice Steven González

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 985-0929
360-357-2029 (direct line)
Fax 360-357-2103

j_s.gonzalez@courts.wa.gov

Chief Justice Steven C. González was sworn in as the Supreme Court's 58th Chief Justice on January 11, 2021, following a vote of his peers for a four-year term. He was appointed to the court effective January 1, 2012, and subsequently won two contested races for six-year terms starting in 2013 and 2019. Before joining the Supreme Court, Chief Justice González served for ten years as a trial judge on the King County Superior Court hearing criminal, civil, juvenile, and family law cases.

Prior to his election to the King County Superior Court, Chief Justice González practiced both criminal and civil law. He was an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Washington, a Domestic Violence Prosecutor for the City of Seattle and in private practice at a Seattle law firm.

As an Assistant United States Attorney, Chief Justice González was part of the team that successfully prosecuted the international terrorism case *U.S. v. Ressay*, for which he received two Department of Justice awards: the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service and the Director's Award for Superior Performance. He also prosecuted organized crime cases and served as the Hate Crimes Prosecution Coordinator. After September 11, he lectured on international terrorism prosecution to U.S. Attorneys in Washington D.C.

While working in private practice, Chief Justice González gained significant civil and business law experience, including acquisitions, mergers, land use, intellectual property, commercial litigation, and contract negotiation. He regularly provided pro bono representation to people who could not afford to pay for a lawyer. Chief Justice González continues to be a lecturer at continuing legal education seminars and speaking engagements.

Chief Justice González has received numerous awards throughout his career, including: the Golden Scarf from the Seattle Sounders FC; the "2022 Spirit of Excellence Award" from the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession; the "2012 Difference Makers Award" from the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division; the 2021 CZ Smith Trailblazer Award and 2011 Exceptional Member Award from the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington; and the 2009 Vanguard Award from the King County Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers. He also received "Judge of the Year" awards from the Washington State Bar Association, the Washington Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Asian Bar Association of Washington in 2011.

Chief Justice Steven González

Chief Justice González is passionate about providing open access to the justice system for all. He was appointed by the Supreme Court to the Washington State Access to Justice Board and served on the Board for seven years, Chair to the Interpreter Commission for eight years, supporting efforts to enhance language access across our state, including, the amendment to General Rule 11.3 to address remote interpreting as courts continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the adoption of General Rule 11.4 to establish protocols for team interpreting. Chief Justice González also mentors students, regularly participates in the Northwest Minority Job Fair, and serves as a Board member for the Washington Leadership Institute, a program that aims to develop Bar and community leaders who reflect the diversity of Washington State.

Chief Justice González chairs the Board of Judicial Administration (BJA) and COVID-19 Court Recovery Taskforce. He is a member of the Conference of Chief Justices and chairs the Court's Administrative, Budget, and Circulation Committees.

Chief Justice González earned his B.A. with Honors in East Asian Studies from Pitzer College and his J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law where he was the Technical Editor of the La Raza Law Journal. As a part of his undergraduate degree, Chief Justice González studied at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan and at Nanjing University in China. Before law school, he did graduate work in Economics at Hokkaido University on a scholarship from Rotary International. He received Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2011 and the University of Puget Sound in 2015. In 2018, he taught State Constitutional Law at Gonzaga University School of Law.

Chief Justice González speaks Japanese, Spanish and some Mandarin Chinese. He lives in Olympia with his wife, Michelle, and their two sons.

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Nancy Isserlis

**WINSTON & CASHATT
LAWYERS**

5th Floor, City Hall
601 Riverside Avenue
Suite 1900
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 838-6131
FAX (509) 838-1416

Nancy served as the City Attorney for the City of Spokane from 2012 to 2016. She was just appointed by Governor Inslee to serve as commissioner on the Public Disclosure Commission. Nancy rejoined Winston and Cashatt in October 2016 as “Of Counsel” and will continue to focus her practice on debtor-creditor matters and municipal law. She served as a Governor to the Washington State Bar Association from 2009-2012. Nancy has been the chair of the Health Sciences and Services Authority since its inception and has served as Chair of several state and local non-profit boards.



Zabrina Jenkins

STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY

Zabrina Jenkins executive advisor
Starbucks Coffee Company

Phone: 206-393-2724

zjenkins@starbucks.com
LinkedIn

Zabrina is an executive advisor to the office of the Chief Executive Officer and the former acting general counsel and executive vice president for Starbucks Coffee Company. Additionally, Zabrina is an executive champion to the Starbucks Black Partner Network and an advisor to the diversity committee for the Law & Corporate Affairs department. A Starbucks partner since 2005, Zabrina previously held roles as the general counsel to the COO, interim chief ethics and compliance officer, lead legal advisor for Teavana, and was a core member of the Starbucks 2018 Philadelphia incident crisis management response team.

Prior to joining Starbucks, Zabrina was an associate at the law firm of Garvey Schubert Barer in Seattle. During her tenure with the firm, Zabrina focused her practice on commercial litigation matters, including labor and employment law.

Zabrina is an independent board director for Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. (NASDAQ: ROIC). Appointed by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in 2019, she is a Trustee for Central Washington University and a member of the Enrollment Management subcommittee. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Washington Leadership Institute and the Loren Miller Bar Foundation. Zabrina previously served on the Board of Directors for Artist Trust and Central Washington University Foundation, and on the advisory board of the Central Washington University College of Business.

Zabrina received her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Central Washington University, Master of Science degree from Syracuse University School of Education and Juris Doctor cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law. She is a member of the International Women's Forum 2019-2020 Fellows Program.

As a proud daughter of an Air Force pilot, Zabrina grew up living in various states across the country, eventually settling in the Lakewood-Steilacoom area of Washington state where she spent most of her childhood. In her spare time, Zabrina enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends.

Zabrina Jenkins

Zabrina is an independent board director and member of the Compensation Committee for Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. (NASDAQ: ROIC). Appointed by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in 2019, she is a Trustee for Central Washington University and a member of the Enrollment Management subcommittee. She also serves on the advisory boards of the Washington Leadership Institute and the Loren Miller Bar Foundation. Zabrina previously served on the Board of Directors for Artist Trust and Central Washington University Foundation, and on the advisory board of the Central Washington University College of Business.

Zabrina received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Finance from Central Washington University, her Master of Science degree in Higher Education Administration from Syracuse University School of Education, and her Juris Doctor cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law. She was selected as a 2019-20 fellow of the International Women's Forum.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
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Dean Tamara Lawson

UNIVERSITY OF
WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF LAW

William H. Gates Hall
Box 353020
Seattle, WA 98195
206-543-0640

Lawdean@uw.edu

Tamara F. Lawson is the Toni Rembe Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Washington School of Law in Seattle. Dean Lawson previously served in the roles of Dean, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and Professor of Law, at St. Thomas University College of Law in Miami. She was the founding dean of the Benjamin L. Crump Center for Social Justice. Dean Lawson holds several leadership appointments in the legal community: Association of American Law Schools Deans' Steering Committee, Law School Admissions Council Board of Trustee, Society of American Law Teachers' Board of Governors, National Bar Association's Board of Governors and Chair of the NBA's Law Professors' Division. Dean Lawson has previously served as the Chair of three different AALS Sections: Women-in-Legal Education, Evidence Law, and Law and Humanities. She currently serves as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for LSAC's Board, and the Chair of the Committee on the Regulation of Legal Education for SALT's Board. Dean Lawson is regularly invited to speak on issues of criminal justice and race, educating student and practitioner audiences, both domestically and internationally.

Prior to joining the legal academy, Dean Lawson served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Clark County District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas, Nevada. Among other prosecutorial duties, she worked on the Special Victims Unit for Domestic Violence, as well as successfully argued multiple cases before the Nevada Supreme Court, including death penalty appeals.

As a faculty member, Dean Lawson was twice awarded Professor of the Year. As a scholar, her publications include a lead article in the American Journal of Criminal Law, entitled, Can Fingerprints Lie?, two co-authored casebooks, and an invited book chapter in CONTEMPORARY CONTROVERSIES: FORENSIC TECHNOLOGY. Dean Lawson's research has appeared in prestigious law journals.

Her article A Fresh Cut in an Old Wound – A Analysis of the Trayvon Martin Killing: The Public Outcry, the Prosecutors' Discretion, and The Stand Your Ground Law garnered Dean Lawson media appearances as a legal expert, and she was selected as the Reporter for the American Bar Association's National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws. Her timely research on excessive force cases is published in Powerless Against Police Brutality: A Felon's Story and in Awakening the American Jury: Did the Killing of George Floyd Alter Juror Deliberations Forever?"



Hon. Lorraine Lee

**OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS**

2420 Bristol Ct. SW
Olympia, WA 98502
(360) 407—2710
lorraine.lee@oah.wa.gov

Lorraine Lee has served as Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings since July 2009. She was initially appointed by Governor Chris Gregoire and, in 2015, was reappointed by Governor Jay Inslee. Judge Lee leads an agency of 100 administrative law judges who conduct administrative hearings for Washingtonians and many state agencies.

Her public service career includes varied positions in state government over the past 20 years. From 2002-2009, Judge Lee worked at the Liquor Control Board, first as the Licensing Director and, in 2006, became LCB Chairman. She has also been a staff attorney with the Washington State Court of Appeals (Division II), an assistant director at the Washington Lottery, and Policy Advisor for Governors Gary Locke and Mike Lowry on criminal justice issues and matters relating to the courts.

In the early 1990's, Judge Lee was an appellate lawyer with the Washington Appellate Defender Association, representing indigent criminal defendants before the Washington State Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals (Division I). From 1984 –1990, Judge Lee was a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, representing soldiers at courts-martial and on appeal, and was an administrative law attorney advising military commanders.

She received her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington. In 2017, Judge Lee led the formation of the Washington Immigrant Network, a business resource group focused on expanding opportunities for immigrants who are current and future employees within Washington state government. Judge Lee is an active member of the National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary, Judicial Division, American Bar Association. She is married to John Felleisen, a career public defender, and they have a teenage daughter Grace. Judge Lee enjoys tennis and family-style feasts with friends and relatives.



Rajeev Majumdar

RAJEEV D. MAJUMDAR
WHATCOM LAW
GROUP, P.S.

P.O. Box 1258 / 289 H Street
Blaine, WA 98231-1258

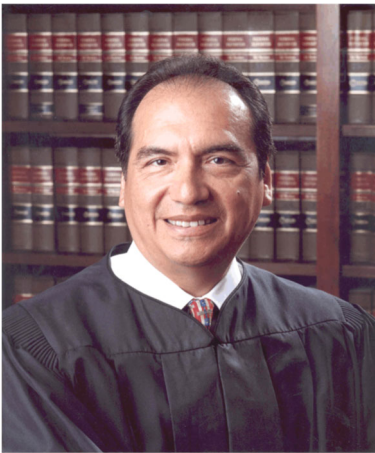
(360) 332-7000
www.whatcomlaw.com

Rajeev D. Majumdar serves as the Managing Partner for the Whatcom Law Group, P.S, and is a past President of the 41,000+ strong Washington State Bar Association.

Raised in rural Eastern Idaho, Rajeev completed his undergraduate studies at Albertson College of Idaho in the sciences. He came to Washington in 1999 to do graduate work at the University of Washington, earning Masters in both Public Administration and International Studies. While completing his graduate research, he traveled extensively in Burma and India, worked as a consultant in matters of international security, and was recruited to work for the National Nuclear Security Administration in Washington D.C. Working for the Federal Government during the events of 9/11, he had a first-hand view of the Pentagon hours after it was hit, and visited the New York site several weeks later. He worked to establish protocols of cooperation between the United States and several other nations to ensure the containment of WMD technology, which inspired him to go to law school.

He currently serves as a trustee of the Washington State Bar Foundation, a delegate to the ABA's House of Delegates, and a serves on the National Conference of Bar Presidents' DEI Committee. In 2015, he received the WSBA Local Hero Award for his work in improving public access to civil legal aid and advocating for homeless youth.

He focuses his practice on real estate, civil litigation, and business-oriented law at locations in Whatcom County. Rajeev also serves as the Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Blaine, and the City of Bellingham's Special Prosecutor for its Mental Health Diversion Court, as well as an adjunct professor at Western Washington University. Rajeev also is the Land Use Hearing Examiner for the cities of Blaine and Lynden, and serves as the Conflict Hearing Examiner for Island and Whatcom Counties.



Hon. Judge Ricardo S. Martinez

UNITED STATES
DISTRICT JUDGE
UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT

700 Stewart Street, Suite 13134
Seattle, WA 98101

(206)370-8880 (Phone)
(206) 370-8881 (Fax)

ricardo_martinez@wawd.uscourts.gov

Educational Background

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Washington, Seattle (1975), and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Washington School of Law, Seattle (1980).

Organizational Activities, Fraternal and Professional

He is currently the chair of the Ninth Circuit Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and is a member of the Federal District Court Judges Association. He serves as the Ninth Circuit representative to the Criminal Law Committee of the U.S. Judicial Conference. He is a founding member of the Washington Leadership Institute, and a member of the American Judicature Society. He has held membership in the Federal Magistrate Judges Association; the Washington State Bar Association; the King County Bar Association; the Washington State Hispanic Bar Association; the National Association of Drug Court Professionals; and Order of the Coif.

Present Professional Position

He currently serves for the Western District of Washington as Chief United States District Judge . He was nominated by President Bush on October 12, 2003 and confirmed by the Senate on June 15, 2004.

Previous Professional Positions

He served as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington from June of 1998 to June of 2004. He previously served for almost nine years as a Judge of the Superior Court for King County. He was appointed to that position by Governor Booth Gardner on March 23, 1990. He took his oath of office on April 17, 1990 and was elected unopposed for every term until his appointment to Federal Court.

He has served as a general trial judge in the Civil, Criminal and Juvenile departments of Superior Court. During his tenure on the Superior Court bench he gained extensive experience in all aspects of case disposition including serving as the trial judge in a death penalty case. He was responsible for the inception of the first Drug Diversion Court in the state of Washington. He served as the Drug Court Judge in King County from 1994 to 1997.



Hon. Raquel Montoya-Lewis

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 985-0929
360-357-2029 (**direct line**)
Fax 360-357-2103

Raquel.Montoya-
Lewis@courts.wa.gov

Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis was appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court by Governor Jay Inslee in December 2019 and took the oath of office on January 6, 2020. Justice Montoya-Lewis is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta and a descendant of the Pueblo of Laguna, two federally recognized tribes in New Mexico. She is the first enrolled member of any tribe to sit on a state supreme court in the U.S. and the second Native American to sit on a state supreme court. She is also of Jewish descent. Prior to becoming an Associate Justice, she served as a Superior Court judge for Whatcom County for five years, where she heard criminal and civil trials and presided over the Whatcom County Therapeutic Drug Court. In the 15 years prior to her work on the Superior Court, she served as a tribal court judge for multiple tribes in the Pacific Northwest and the Southwest. She served as Chief Judge for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, the Nooksack Indian Tribe, and the Lummi Nation. In addition to her work as a tribal court judge, she was a tenured Associate Professor at Western Washington University's Fairhaven College where she taught law-related courses and courses on cultural identity development. She has continued to use her teaching skills as a jurist, teaching a wide variety of audiences including judges, social workers, lawyers, and advocates on implicit bias, the Indian Child Welfare Act, and best practices in child welfare and domestic violence cases. Justice Montoya-Lewis graduated with her BA degree from the University of New Mexico in 1992 and completed her law degree and Master of Social Work degree at the University of Washington in 1995 and 1996 respectively.

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Nam Nguyen

**GOVERNOR,
DISTRICT 10
(2022-2025)**

namn@atg.wa.gov

Nam Nguyen was elected to the Board of Governors in 2022. He is an assistant attorney general in the Revenue and Finance Division in Tumwater. Prior to the Attorney General's Office, Nguyen worked in private practice in Bellevue and Houston, Texas. Immediately after law school, he volunteered in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, for AmeriCorp's BP oil spill relief program. Aside from the WSBA, Nguyen serves on the board for the Family Support Center, a nonprofit social service organization serving homeless families in the Olympia area, and he is the chair of the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Nguyen was born in Saigon, Vietnam, and grew up in the South Seattle area. He graduated from the University of Washington and Boston University School of Law, and he has a master's degree in foreign policy from the University of Michigan. Nguyen resides in Tumwater and enjoys running, reading, cooking, and spending time with his dog, Dog Vader.

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Kevin D. O'Rourke

**SOUTHWELL &
O'ROURKE PS**

421 W. Riverside Ave.,
Suite 960
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 624-0159

kevin@southwellorourke.com

Kevin D. O'Rourke graduated *summa cum laude* from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1999. An attorney with Southwell & O'Rourke, P.S., his practice focuses on bankruptcy, reorganizations, and receiverships in Washington and Idaho. He serves on the Mediation Panel for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Washington and has served by appointment on the Advisory Rules Committee from 2003-2012, 2013-2015, 2016-2018, and 2022 to present. Mr. O'Rourke is the past president of both the Bankruptcy Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Washington, and the past chair of WSBA Creditor-Debtor Rights Section Executive Committee. He also taught as an Adjunct Bankruptcy Law Professor at Gonzaga University School of Law. Washington Law and Politics named Mr. O'Rourke as a Rising Star Super Lawyer in its 2006-2008, 2011-2013 editions, and a Super Lawyer in its 2014-2023 editions. He is a Chapter 7 Panel Trustee for the Eastern District of Washington, and a Chapter 11 Sub-Chapter V Trustee. Mr. O'Rourke is rated as an AV Preeminent lawyer with Martindale-Hubbell.

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Dean
Jacob H. Rooksby

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

PO Box 3528,
721 N Cincinnati St.
Spokane, WA 99220-3528
(509) 313-3700

lawdean@gonzaga.edu

<http://www.law.gonzaga.edu/about/>

Jacob H. Rooksby is Smithmoore P. Myers Dean of Gonzaga Law School. Since 2018, Rooksby's focus at Gonzaga has been on innovating the law school's programming, facility, and operations and integrating the school further with the broader university and regional communities. A champion of diversity who established the first LGBTQ+ rights legal clinic at a Catholic law school in the country, Rooksby has worked to establish pay equity for faculty and provide equality of opportunity for students, faculty, and staff alike. He holds a joint appointment as a Professor of Law and Leadership Studies and has taught five different courses throughout his deanship.

Rooksby's scholarship lies in two fields: IP law and higher education law. He published a book with Johns Hopkins University Press in 2016, *The Branding of the American Mind: How Universities Capture, Manage, and Monetize Intellectual Property and Why It Matters*. He also is co-author of the 6th edition of *The Law of Higher Education*, the leading treatise in the field. His edited book at the intersection of IP and higher education, *Research Handbook on Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer*, was published by Edward Elgar in 2020.

Rooksby enjoys a strong connection to the legal profession. He holds law licenses in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington and formerly practiced with McGuireWoods LLP and Dentons Cohen & Grigsby P.C., the latter while a full-time academic. He currently serves as IP Optimization Strategist for FIG. 1 Patents, PLLC, a boutique IP law firm based in Spokane, and is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Rooksby earned his A.B., *summa cum laude*, in Hispanic Studies and Government from the College of William & Mary, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and spent his senior year living amidst costumed interpreters in Colonial Williamsburg. He holds J.D., M.Ed., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia and completed post-graduate training in higher education leadership and management in 2019 at Harvard University.

An avid enthusiast of the outdoors, Rooksby enjoys hiking, biking, and camping with his daughter throughout the Inland Northwest.

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Fredrick
(Fred) B. Rivera



SEATTLE MARINERS

Safeco Field - 1250 First Avenue
South, Seattle, WA 98134
p (206) 346-4154

FRivera@mariners.com

Fred Rivera is the Executive Vice President & General Counsel for the Seattle Mariners. He began his legal career as a senior trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice for nearly five years after law school and spent close to 20 years in private practice as a partner at Perkins Coie LLP, including five years as the managing partner of the firm's Seattle office, and a stint with Fannie Mae from 2006-2008 as vice president in charge of internal investigations.

In his role at the Mariners, in addition to overseeing the Club's legal and government affairs department, Fred leads new business initiatives relating to real estate development, and manages several of the Club's external functions, including community relations, government affairs, and the Mariners Care Foundation. He also serves on the board of ROOT Sports – the Club-owned regional sports network.

Active in the business and philanthropic communities, Fred is member of the Board of Directors for Heritage Bank and OAC Services, Inc. and has held board and leadership positions with the United Way of King County (Past Chair), ArtsFund, Rainier Scholars, Downtown Seattle Association, Association of Washington Businesses, Legal Foundation of Washington, Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (Past President), and Hispanic National Bar Association. Prior to joining the Mariners, Fred was the Managing Partner of the Seattle office of Perkins Coie LLP. Among his many accolades, most recently Fred was presented with the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award at California State University Northridge, and previously received the Sally P. Savage Leadership in Philanthropy APEX Award by the Washington State Bar Association and was named Director of the Year by the Puget Sound Business Journal in 2022.

Related Employment

Fannie Mae, Washington, D.C., Vice President, Internal Investigations, 2006 - 2008 U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Washington, D.C., Senior Trial Attorney, 1993 - 1998 U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Washington, Law Clerk, 1991 - 1993.



Dean Anthony Varona

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

901 12th Avenue, Sullivan Hall
Seattle, Washington 98122-1090
(206) 398-4309

avarona@seattleu.edu

<http://www.law.seattleu.edu/abou-ut-us>

Born in Cuba and raised in Newark, NJ, Tony Varona is a first-generation college and law school graduate. Dean Varona has served as Dean and Professor of Law of Seattle University School of Law since July 1, 2022. He served as Dean and M. Minnette Massey Chair in Law at the University of Miami School of Law, from August 2019 through June 2021. His was a record-breaking deanship in spite of COVID-19's disruptions. He led the recruitment of the two strongest classes in the school's history to date. The law school achieved the highest representation of women law students and the lowest acceptance rate (30%) ever, and increased African American enrollment by nearly 22%. He boosted the bar success rate by 10% year-over-year, raised both US News & World Report reputation ratings, and improved the rankings of 9 of 12 specialties. Varona and his team brought in over \$8 million despite the pandemic, launched a number of new programs in international, environmental, human rights, transactional skills, and other areas, led the law school's prominent response to the national racial justice reckoning, and initiated a new SJD Program.

Before becoming Dean at Miami Law, Professor Varona was Vice Dean, Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs, and Professor of Law at American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL). Before his 14 years at AUWCL, Dean Varona was an associate professor at Pace University School of Law and adjunct professor at Georgetown. An award-winning teacher and scholar, Dean Varona has taught courses in Contracts, Administrative and Public Law, Media Law, Sexuality and Gender Law, Intellectual Property, and Criminal Law, and has published widely in law journals and reviews associated with some of the most prominent law schools in the nation.

Dean Varona currently serves as Co-Chair of the Washington Supreme Court's Task Force on Attorney Licensure, and as a member of the Association of American Law Schools Membership Review Committee. He has been a member of various national boards of directors, including those associated with the Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD, and Stonewall National Museum and Archives. Varona was General Counsel and Legal Director for the Human Rights Campaign, an attorney at Skadden Arps and Mintz Levin, and an FCC Honors Program attorney. Dean Varona served as a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow at Harvard Law School, and earned AB and JD degrees from Boston College and an LLM from Georgetown.



Hon. S. Kate Vaughan

**UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT
OF WASHINGTON**

700 Stewart Street
Seattle, Washington 98101

Judge Vaughan is a Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington. Prior to her appointment in May 2021, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the criminal division of the Seattle U.S. Attorney's Office for over a decade, serving as supervisor of the General Crimes Unit from 2019 to April 2021.

Shortly after taking the bench Judge Vaughan launched and chaired the Court's first Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. As part of that work she launched and chairs the Court's Summer Diversity Externship Program for 12 law students from communities who are underrepresented in the legal profession. Judge Vaughan also co-chairs the Western District of Washington Judicial Institute which instructs middle and high school teachers on teaching civics, and she co-leads the Court's Constitution Day events.

Judge Vaughan has been active in the Seattle legal community for over 20 years. She served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for abused and neglected children from 1999 to 2004, and served as pro bono counsel for the CASA program in multiple trials from 2003 to 2010. Judge Vaughan worked as a litigation associate at Perkins Coie in Seattle from 2007-2010, during which she served for six months as a Community Service Fellow at the Center for Children and Youth Justice. During that fellowship, Judge Vaughan launched the non-profit program "Lawyers Fostering Independence," which paired youth aging out of foster care with pro bono counsel.

Judge Vaughan is a 2012 Fellow of the Washington Leadership Institute. She served for five years on the WSBA Judicial Recommendation Committee. She also served as the co-chair of the Western District of Washington FBA Criminal Law Committee, and in that role co-lead Youth Law Day, which provides programming on the Court system to high school students from vulnerable communities. She served as an adjunct professor of the University of Washington School of Law, teaching trial advocacy for four years. Judge Vaughan is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Law.



James Williams

Emeritus

PERKINS COIE LLP

1201 Third Avenue
Suite 4900
Seattle, Washington
98101

PHONE: 206.359.3543

FAX: 206.359.9000

JWilliams@perkinscoie.com

James Williams is the Seattle Office Managing Partner for Perkins Coie LLP. He has been trying cases and managing litigation for over 30 years as a government lawyer and a private practitioner. James graduated with honors in 1985 from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, and earned his law degree in 1988 from the University of Virginia School of Law. After graduating from law school, he served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Air Force before moving to Seattle and joining Perkins Coie in 1993. His practice involves complex business litigation and civil trials, with an expertise in contract disputes, mass torts defense, corporate plaintiff asset recovery, consultant liability, consumer protection and unfair business practices, trade secrets, bankruptcy, court adversary actions, and federal and state agency litigation.

James has served on the Perkins Coie firmwide Executive Committee and has chaired the firmwide Litigation Training Program, Community Service Committee, Women and Minority Lawyers Committee, and Diversity Committee. He served as the 2004 Washington Leadership Institute (WLI) inaugural chair and was the creator of the WLI initial policies and procedures, mission statement, and training curriculum.

Other notable examples of James's professional recognition, elected roles, and honors include:

- Appointed Member of the Advisory Board of the Ninth Circuit, 2022 - present
- Director of the Year, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 2022
- *Best Lawyers*, 2023
- Power 100 influential business leader, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 2019 to 2022
- Justice Charles Z. Smith Excellence in Diversity APEX Award, Washington State Bar Association, 2021
- The 40 Under 40 Hall of Fame, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 2018
- Top National Lawyer, out of 100 U.S. lawyers, *The Business Journal*, 2018
- Washington State Delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, 2017 to present
- Member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on the American Judicial System Subcommittee on Federal Courts, 2016 to 2019
- Member of the Ninth Circuit Jury Trial Improvement Committee, 2016 to 2018
- Advisor on The Restatement of Law Third Conflicts, American Law Institute, 2014
- President's Award for indigent-right-to-counsel class action litigation in *Wilber v. City of Mt. Vernon*, Washington Defender Association, 2014
- Burton Award for Legal Achievement, Burton Foundation, 2010

James Williams

Emeritus

- President's Award, Loren Miller Bar Association, 2008
- President's Award, Washington State Bar Association, 2005
- Member of the House of Delegates, American Bar Association, 2005 to 2011 and 2014 to present
- Member of the House of Delegates, King County Bar Association, 2014 to 2017
- Best of CLE Faculty based on student evaluations, Washington State Bar Association, 2004
- Best Lawyers in America, *Commercial Litigation*, 2012 to present
- Super Lawyer in Business Litigation, *Super Lawyers, Corporate Counsel Edition*, 2008 to present
- Top 100 Super Lawyers, *Washington Law & Politics*, 2001 to present
- The 40 Under 40 Hall of Fame, *Puget Sound Business Journal*, 2002
- Rising Stars, *Washington Law & Politics*, 2000
- Lawyer Representative to the Judicial Conference, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 2011 to 2014
- U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel Member, District Court for the Western District of Washington, 2004 and 2012

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Justice Mary I. Yu

Emeritus

TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

PO Box 40929
Olympia, WA 985-0929
360-357-2030
Fax 360-357-2054

Mary.Yu@courts.wa.gov

Mary Yu was appointed to the Washington Supreme Court on May 16, 2014, and subsequently elected in 2014, 2016, and 2022. Justice Yu joined the Supreme Court after serving more than 14 years as a trial court judge in King County Superior Court where she presided over a wide variety of criminal, civil, and juvenile cases, and presided over hundreds of adoptions and other family law matters.

Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Yu served as Deputy Chief of Staff to King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and as a deputy in the Criminal and Civil Divisions. Before attending law school, Justice Yu worked in the Peace and Justice Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago first as staff and later as Director of that office following her appointment to the position by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. Justice Yu has an extensive record of service both on and off the bench, mentoring young attorneys, law clerks, and students; co-chairing the Court's Minority and Justice Commission; co-chairing the Supreme Court's Rules Committee; chairing the Board for Judicial Administration's Public Trust and Confidence Committee; and teaching at Seattle University School of Law and serving as Jurist in Residence.

Justice Yu was raised in Bridgeport, a South Side neighborhood in Chicago, by immigrant parents; her mother came from Mexico and her father from China. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. She received her B.A. from Dominican University, her M.A. in Religious Studies from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago, and her J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Justice Yu is the first Asian, the first Latina, and the first member of the LGBTQ community to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court.

Justice Yu is the recipient of the following awards: 2020 Latina/o Bar Association of Washington CZ Smith Trailblazer Award; 2019 Crosscut "Courage in Elected Office" Award; 2019 "Established Leader" Pride Award, Mayor Jenny Durkan, City of Seattle; 2018 "Voice of Social Justice" from the Greater Seattle Business Association; 2017 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Northwest Asian Weekly; 2016 "Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award" from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; 2016 "Imagine Justice" Award from Columbia Legal Services; 2016 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington; 2016 Seattle Women's Pride, Luminary Award; 2015 Seattle Storm, "Inspiring Women" award; 2015 "Brava! Award" from the Women's University Club; 2015 "Woman of the Year" from the Seattle University School of Law and Women's Law Caucus; 2014 "Judge of the Year" from the Washington State Association for Justice;



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2014 "Betty B. Fletcher Judge of the Year" Award from Washington Women Lawyers, King County Chapter; 2013 "Public Official of the Year" from the Municipal League Foundation; 2013 Latina/o Amicus Award from Seattle University School of Law Latina/o Law Student Association; 2012 "President's Award" from the Asian Bar Association of Washington; 2012 "Difference Makers Award" from the American Bar Association Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division; the 2011 "Judge of the Year" award from the Washington State Bar Association (shared with Justice González); 2011 Seattle Girls' School Grace Hopper Award; 2009 Norm Maleng Award from the Washington State Bar Association; 2008 "Judge of the Year" from the Asian Bar Association; 2008 President's Award from Washington Women Lawyers; 2006 "Model of Excellence" Award from the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington; 2005 "Judge of the Year" award from the American Board of Trial Advocates; and 2005 Reah Whitehead Public Leadership Award from Seattle University School of Law.

Justice Yu maintains residency in Seattle and unincorporated Thurston County.