

CLERK'S ALERT

New Year Marks Start of New Leadership for King County Superior Court

On January 12, Judge Averil Rothrock became Presiding Judge of the King County Superior Court, and Judge Tanya L. Thorp became Assistant Presiding Judge.

Judge Rothrock takes on the role of Presiding Judge after having served as Assistant Presiding Judge in 2024 and 2025, and Chief Judge of the Judge Patricia H. Clark Children and Family Justice Center in 2022. Judge Rothrock was appointed to the King County Superior Court bench in 2018.

Judge Tanya L. Thorp takes on the role of Assistant Presiding Judge in 2026. She served as Chief Civil Judge in 2022 and 2023 and Chief Unified Family Court Judge in 2019.

The Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge are elected to their positions separately; each by a vote of all King County Superior Court judges, per Local General Rule 29. The Presiding Judge position is a two-year position. The Assistant Judge position is a one-year position.

The Presiding Judge leads the management and administration of the court's business. The Presiding Judge recommends policies and procedures to improve the court's effectiveness, to promote access to courts, and to allocate financial resources to fund mandated programs. The Presiding Judge also serves as the spokesperson for the court, as described in Local Court Management Rule 3.

The Assistant Presiding Judge serves as Acting Presiding Judge during the absence or at the request of the Presiding Judge. The Assistant Presiding Judge also oversees trial assignments on a weekly basis and chairs the Education Committee to ensure the judicial officers have access to resources and training.

Judge Rothrock appointed the following chief judges for 2026:

- Judge David Keenan, Chief Judge of the Civil Department

- Judge Brian McDonald, Chief Judge of the Criminal Department
- Judge Veronica Galván, Chief Judge of the Clark Children and Family Justice Center
- Judge Aimée Sutton, Chief Judge of Unified Family Court
- Judge Josephine Wiggs, Chief Judge of the Maleng Regional Justice Center

Each chief judge serves a term of twelve months beginning January 1. The judge may be reappointed for successive one-year terms, in accordance with LCMR 5(a).

Additionally, the Court is fortunate to have Judge Adrienne McCoy serving as lead of Dependency, and Judge Sean O'Donnell serving as lead of Involuntary Treatment Court.

For more about judges and judicial assignments in King County Superior Court, see the [court's directory](#).



<https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/dja>