



King County Superior Court

2022 Annual Report

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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.

Core Values	Strategic Focus Areas 2019-2023
» Fair, Understandable, and Timely	Access, Services, and Programs that Ensure Justice
» Leadership	Case Management and Timely Resolution
» Respect	Funding for Core Responsibilities and Court Innovations
» Accessible	Facilities, Security, and Technology Expansion/Improvement
» Safe	Judicial Officer/Staff Development and Workforce Engagement
» Service to the Public	
» Innovation	

King County Courthouse | 516 Third Avenue | Seattle WA 98104
Clark Children and Family Justice Center | 1211 East Alder | Seattle WA 98122
Maleng Regional Justice Center | 401 Fourth Avenue North | Kent WA 98032
Ninth & Jefferson Building | ITA Court | 908 Jefferson Street | Seattle WA 98104



Message from the Presiding Judge and Chief Administrative Officer

COVID-19 fundamentally altered the way we provide access to justice. Yet throughout this tumultuous time, we remained true to our mission: To serve the public by ensuring justice through accessible and effective forums for the fair, just, understandable, and timely resolution of legal matters.

Our core values rest at the center of this mission. We have focused this Annual Report on the ways in which our efforts embodied these values during 2022.

Fair, Understandable, and Timely: We provided interpreters for more than 7,000 court events, including more than 200 trials, and replaced legalese with plain language so that forms are understandable to juvenile respondents.

Leadership: To enhance understanding of our work, we invited state legislators and county councilmembers to visit the court, meet judges and staff, and observe proceedings. Our judges were also recognized for their leadership. Judge Jim Rogers was honored by the WSBA for keeping the court operating during the pandemic. Judge Veronica Galván was recognized by Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association for mentoring others in the legal profession.

Respect: Courts across the state must protect the public against discrimination because of their gender identity and gender expression, thanks to a new amendment to the Code of Judicial Conduct proposed in 2022 by King County Superior Court judicial officers.

Accessibility: In partnership with the Urban League, Superior Court sponsored a summer program to acquaint local youth with the justice system. The court also improved the application process and response times for ADA accommodations and administrative records.

Safe: The court took a leading role in requesting added security personnel, facility improvements, and communications about security incidents.

Service to the Public: Middle school students visited the Maleng Regional Justice Center to observe court, meet judicial officers and staff, and ask questions.

Innovation: The court created a plan to improve the process of seeking protection from domestic violence, stalking, and harassment in response to new legislation. Also, jurors in 2022 participated in jury selection through Zoom, enabling many to perform their civic duty without bearing the costs of parking or child care.

The judicial officers and staff of King County Superior Court are deeply committed to these values and are dedicated to the work they do every day to uphold our system of justice. We are pleased to offer this report as representative of their good work.

Hon. Patrick Oishi
Presiding Judge

Ms. Linda K. Ridge
Chief Administrative Officer



Fair, Understandable, Timely

"We set out to ensure every probation order a young person receives is worded in a way that meets them where they're at."

— Jovi Catena, Juvenile Court Services Data Analyst

By Using Plain Language in Juvenile Probation Forms, Juvenile Court Removes Barriers for Youth

The 1967 Supreme Court decision *In Re Gault* affirmed that children in juvenile court are guaranteed the same due process rights as adults. Youth have a right to a fair process that they can understand.

But legal documents like court orders are often difficult even for adults to understand. To fulfill the promise of an understandable process for all youth, Juvenile Court Services (JCS) embarked on an effort to revamp juvenile probation orders, the binding orders from the court intended to make clear to young people what is expected of them while they are under court supervision.

Central to this effort was the recognition that language that is difficult to understand can exacerbate disparities. This is especially relevant for youth of color, who are disproportionately involved in King County juvenile legal proceedings.

"We know that youth who show up in the juvenile system have already faced systemic racism and inequities that exist in our society," said Juvenile Court Services Director Paul Daniels. "We can't undo this unfairness, but we can and must work to mitigate its effects in our court system. Ensuring that every young person who is going through the legal process can comprehend it is one place

to start."

At each stage in the juvenile court system, from referrals to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office by law enforcement to filings by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and sentencing to community supervision by the court, youth of color are disproportionately involved. Probation is no exception. Of the 357 individuals sentenced to community supervision in 2019, 277 (78%) were youth of color.

Making language in juvenile probation orders accessible is a critical part of addressing existing racial disparities. In the United States, youth of color have historically tested at lower reading levels than white youth of the same grade level.

At the invitation of JCS, experts from the Gault Center, which advocates for the rights of children, brought together attorneys, young people, and court staff to examine juvenile probation orders used in King County for ease of comprehension and for fairness.

The Gault Center referred to an assessment conducted by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Known as the Nation's Report Card, it is the only assessment that measures what students in the United States know and can do in various

subjects.

Data from NAEP show that in Washington state, 51% of Black youth in 8th grade are reading at a below Basic level compared to Black youth nationally where 46% of Black youth in 8th grade are reading at a below Basic level. (Basic level in 8th grade includes the ability to use context to derive the meaning of words, make simple inferences, and formulate an opinion about the text.) White youth in Washington state are far more on par with national rates of reading comprehension.

"Young people cannot be expected to follow orders that they struggle to understand," said Juvenile Court Services Data Analyst Jovi Catena. "To increase fairness, we set out to ensure every probation order a young person receives is worded in a way that meets them where they're at."

Led by Chief Juvenile Court Judge Averil Rothrock, the workgroup started with the orders involving Release or Hold in Detention, Disposition, Arraignment and First appearance, as these frequently used orders hold the greatest consequence for youth. They used Flesch-Kincaid tests, which determine ease of readability and establish an approximate grade level by looking at factors like word choice, sentence construction, and length of sentence. The workgroup also looked for opportunities to eliminate language that is dehumanizing. Gendered pronouns were replaced with gender neutral terms wherever possible, and the word "juvenile" was replaced with "youth."

The workgroup then began an iterative process of rewriting the orders so that they scored at grade levels appropriate for the youth who receive them, seeking a balance between language that is required by law and language that is understandable to the those it is meant to compel.

Youth involvement was an important aspect of the review. The Gault Center interviewed a group of young people who had been on probation but were no longer under any court obligations. They shared their experiences with court orders, pointing out what parts of the process could have been smoother, clearer, and easier for them to follow.

The review scrutinized probation orders to ensure they contained only obligations that serve specific, meaningful goals. This reflects an understanding that a so called "zero-tolerance" approach to things like tardiness unfairly criminalizes adolescent behavior, and that youth of color are disproportionately punished under this approach.

"A number of conditions that were set in the order for probation were not aligned with research in how to support desisting from behavior that is criminalized," Catena said.

The workgroup will review all 35 juvenile probation orders used by King County Superior Court.

Fair, Understandable, Timely

In 2022, OIS provided interpreters for 7,161 events, including 209 trials.

Interpreter Services Makes Court Understandable to People with Limited English Proficiency

King County Superior Court is committed to providing equal access and meaningful participation to all court users, including individuals with limited English proficiency. Superior Court provides timely language assistance to court participants at no cost to them through the court's Office of Interpreter services (OIS). OIS also provides interpretation for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind (D/HH/DB) individuals.

"For many people who come to King County Superior Court, language is a barrier," said Superior Court Operations Director Rachael DelVillar. "OIS removes that barrier by providing quality interpretation services free of charge."

Language access begins as soon as the need is identified—often this is at the time of filing or first appearance—and follows the individual throughout the life of their matter in Superior Court. Once the need is identified, regular courtroom calendared events appear automatically on the OIS calendar who will contact and confirm with appropriate interpreters.

In 2022, OIS provided interpreters for 7,161 events, including 209 trials. Interpretation services were provided in 86 languages, by a total of 276 interpreters.

Interpreters assist litigants during attorney-client consultations and arraignments, hearings, trials, and other court events. They also interpret for deaf jurors, classes related to truancy matters, and appointments with court personnel.

In accordance with state law, OIS strives to provide only court-certified interpreters in the following languages: Arabic (Egyptian), Arabic (Levantine), Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Cantonese, French, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin, Marshallese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese. OIS carefully screens interpreters in all other languages, or when no court-certified interpreter is available. Some interpreter resources are scarce and securing the appropriate language interpreter can be difficult and time consuming. OIS communicates with courts in Washington and other states to share interpreter referrals for rare languages. OIS will fly interpreters in from other areas of the country when necessary.

OIS provides orientation for interpreters and education for judges, attorneys, and court personnel about procedures for obtaining and utilizing interpreters. The program has been cited as a national model and clearinghouse for interpreter-related information.

OIS provides services at all King County Superior Court sites: The King County Courthouse (KCCH), Involuntary Treatment Act Court (ITA) and Clark Children & Family Justice Center (CCFJC) in Seattle, and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (MRJC) in Kent.



Leadership

"Judge Rogers always had this dogged vision of, 'We can make this work.' He was relentless."

—Judge Ketu Shah on Superior Court's COVID-19 response

Courts 101: Lawmakers Visit the Courthouse to See Justice in Action



Presiding Judge Oishi answers a question about a proceeding visitors observed.

State and County elected officials visited King County Superior Court on Oct. 7 to meet with judicial officers and staff, learn about court operations and how recently implemented laws have affected them, and visit courtrooms to observe the breadth and depth of issues that come before the court each day. *Pictured above, from left, are: Chief Civil Judge Tanya Thorp, UFC Chief Judge Sean O'Donnell, Assistant Presiding Judge Mary Roberts, Chief Criminal Judge Karen Donohue, King County Councilmember Sarah Perry, State Rep. Debra Entenman (47th LD), State Sen. Jamie Pedersen (43rd LD), State Rep. Bill Ramos (5th LD), MRJC Chief Judge Ketu Shah, Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi, and State Rep. Lauren Davis (32nd LD).*

Superior Court Judges Receive Honors for their Leadership in Ensuring Equal Access to Justice

As Presiding Judge, the steps Judge Jim Rogers took to preserve access to justice in response to COVID-19 earned him the Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst Award of Merit from the Washington State Bar Association.

"From Day One he made it clear that we were going to keep the King County Superior Court open so that we could provide justice for all," said Judge Mary Roberts.

King County Superior Court Judge Ketu Shah said Judge Rogers was strategic in figuring out how to keep the court operating safely during the crisis and emphasized the court's strengths.

"Judge Rogers always had a dogged vision of, 'We can make this work.' Whenever there was a new hurdle that came up, he would get us together and problem solve, and then overcome that barrier, and then go on to the next problem, and solve that," Judge Shah said. "He was relentless."



Judge Jim Rogers was recognized for his leadership.



Judge Veronica Galván (above, third from left) received the Betty Binns Fletcher Leadership and Justice award from MAMA Seattle. MAMA (Mother Attorneys Mentoring Association) Seattle was founded in 2006 to empower attorney mothers and encourage professional success while celebrating their roles as attorneys and mothers.

Respect

"People of all gender identities and expressions must be respected in our courts."
— Commissioner Jonathon Lack

Keeping Courtrooms Free of Discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Expression

Judges across Washington are expressly prohibited from discriminating against someone because of their gender identity and gender expression, thanks to a rule change that went into effect September 1, 2022.

King County Superior Court Commissioner Jonathon Lack proposed the amendment to Canon 2, Rule 2.3- Bias, Prejudice, and Harassment. This Canon is part of the Code of Judicial Conduct, which governs the behavior of judges in Washington.

The amendment adds "gender identity and gender expression," to the prohibition against discrimination based on "race, sex, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, and political affiliation."

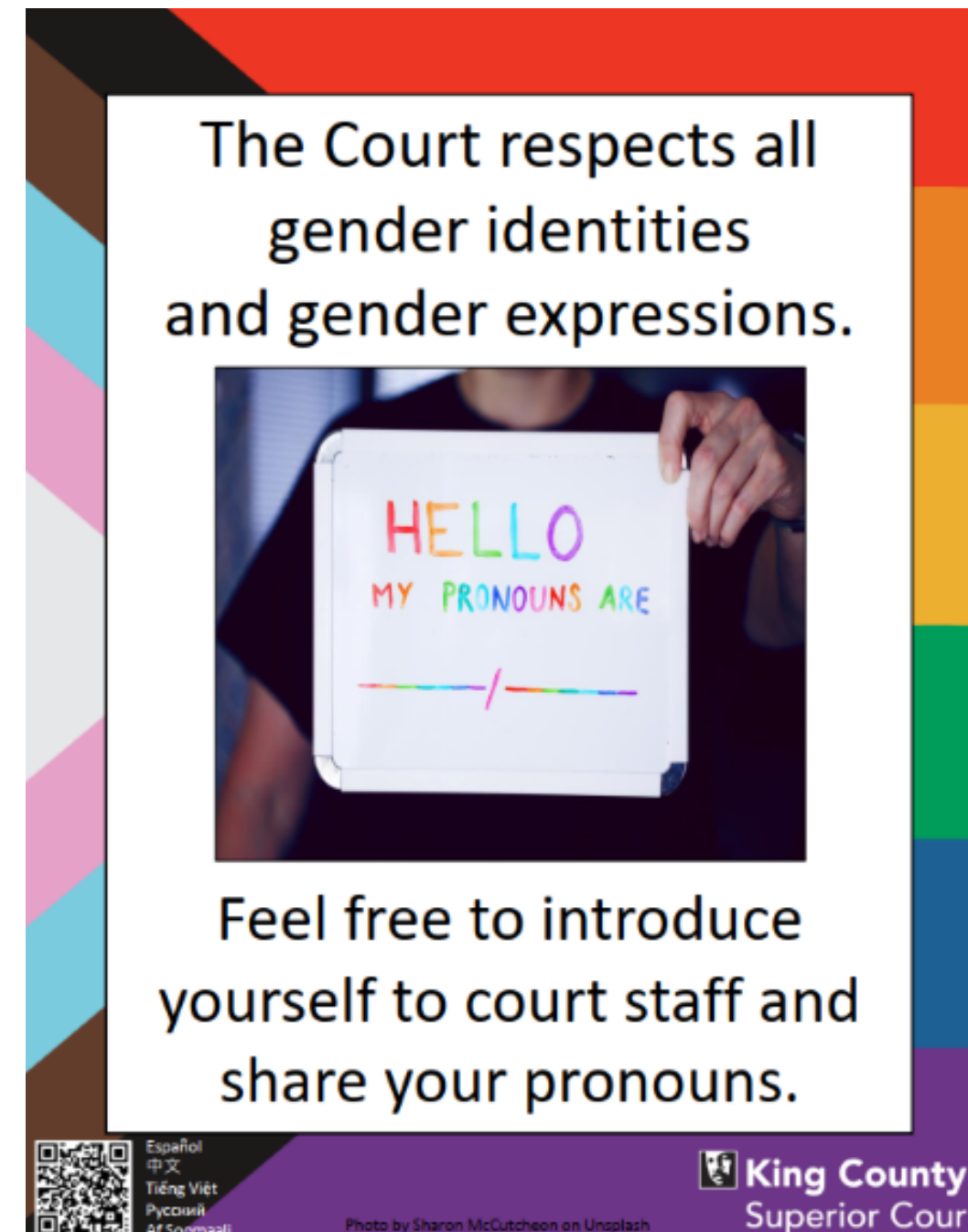
It was approved by the Washington Supreme Court in June.

"People of all gender identities and expressions must be respected in our courts," Commissioner Jonathon Lack said. "By approving this amendment, our state's highest court has made it clear that discrimination based on gender identity and expression is real, harmful, and it has no place in any courtroom in Washington."

In June, King County Superior Court held a training for judicial officers and court staff on the importance of recognizing and honoring gender diversity. The Court was grateful for the participation of local practitioners from the trans and non-binary communities who shared their lived experiences. Through the stories of our guest speakers, our judicial officers and staff were able to learn best practices for conducting courtroom proceedings in a manner that is welcoming to people of all gender identities and expressions.

"As judges, we are always learning. We wanted to provide the knowledge, skills, and information necessary to ensure our courtrooms are welcoming to people of all gender identities and expressions," said Judge Johanna Bender, who co-led the training with Commissioner Lack.

Superior Court also placed posters (pictured above) near the entrances to courtrooms inviting people to share their pronouns with court staff. The posters are available in multiple languages.



School Access Pilot Project Takes Inclusive Approach to Involving Youth in Courts

Department 54, the Court of Judge Adrienne McCoy, partnered with Urban League to host a student during the summer of 2022. Kathy Nguyen, a rising junior from Rainier Beach High School and a first generation American, wanted to participate in this project to learn about her local justice system. Kathy was with the McCoy Court three days per week, three hours per day for the month of July.

During this time, she was introduced to Drug Court Services and Drug Court Graduation, Adoptions, Becca, Juvenile Court, DJA, and Family Reunification Day.

Staff from DJA expressed that being able to share their work made them feel "valued and special." Staff from the Becca program said, "We loved having the opportunity to get direct feedback from her on some new materials."

A Juvenile Probation Counselor noted that Kathy was able to watch a Modification Hearing in Judge Lee's courtroom as well as a Reinstatement Hearing (removal to register as a sex offender) in front of Judge Ballinger, "which was pretty intense."

Kathy was surprised at the varied functions of the court. In particular, she was happy to learn the Court has many programs to help the public and does much more than conduct trials and hearings. She got ideas for potential career paths (public defender or social worker), and the JPC offered to help get an internship with Juvenile Court next summer. She collected business cards from court professionals she connected with. She said she feels they genuinely want to keep connected to her and help her in the future.

Kathy said that she would have liked to be introduced to more court professionals of color, specifically people with Vietnamese heritage. She enjoyed talking with the people of color she did meet, and that she felt a stronger connection to them. She suggested that we ask future students whether this is important to them so we can be more intentional about including more court professionals from diverse backgrounds in the rounds.

Kathy shared some of her family's story and her own personal experiences with us that were important to the judicial officers and the court.

"She is a wise young woman, and Joy and I learned a great deal from her," said Judge Adrienne McCoy, referring to her bailiff, Joy Stransky. "We intend to keep in touch, and she knows she can reach out for introductions to other professionals she may like to meet."

Department 54 is considering transition this summer program into a school

year semester program. The student would be with the court one afternoon per week and participate in as many of the same, and some new, activities depending on scheduling.

The school year program will necessarily be different in some ways, but we believe it is important to continue to bring young people into their King County Superior Court in this positive way," Judge McCoy said.



Accessible

“By improving the online experience, we are making Superior Court Clerk services and Superior Court records more accessible.”

—King County Superior Court Clerk Barbara Miner

New Request Portal Streamlines Applications for People Seeking Accommodations and Public Records

In 2022, Superior Court implemented a more streamlined method to assist anyone who needs to submit an ADA accommodation or public records request to the court. The court launched a pair of online portals accessible on the Superior Court accommodation and public disclosure requests web pages.

“We are constantly striving to ensure that our court is accessible to all, and these new portals make it easier to enter a request,” said Superior Court Public Access Specialist Ronda Bliey. “The portals improve our response time and help us to review our outcomes with future improvements in mind.”

The portals are secure and straightforward for requestors to use. The new system also provides better tracking and reporting for the court. The portals are the preferred method for entering accommodation and records requests, but those seeking ADA accommodations will always be able to use alternative methods to communicate their needs, including filling out and submitting a Request for Reasonable Accommodation form via email, fax or the U.S. Postal Service. A request can even be taken by phone, as needed.

The portals are kingcounty.gov/superior-court/ada and kingcounty.gov/superior-court/records.



Online Applications Eliminate a Trip to Clerk’s Office to file Protection Orders, Request Records

The King County Department of Judicial Administration (DJA), more commonly known as the Superior Court Clerk’s Office, is an executive branch department that serves as the independent record keeper for King County Superior Court cases.

In 2022, DJA replaced two of its customer applications, Electronic Court Records Online and Electronic Records Requests. Customers are now able to go to one place, the KC Script Portal, for both services. Customers may submit petitions online for civil protection orders, extreme risk protection orders or requests to enforce a Canadian Domestic Violence Protection Order. Previously, customers had to visit one of the Clerk’s Office locations in person. They may also:

- View a sealed record online (If qualified and approved to do so). Previously, the only way to access sealed records was to visit one of the Clerk’s Office locations in person.
- Receive immediate turn around on digitally certified documents. Previously, documents were only certified in the office for onsite customers or sent via US Mail. Digital certification now allows customers to order and receive certified documents online through a fully electronic process.
- View KC Script Portal delivery messages in six languages (in addition to English).
- Request a clerk fee waiver online which if granted allows customers to access the case documents for free for up to 12 months.

Online Payments Accepted for Court Fines and Fees

In the Fall of 2022, DJA began accepting online payments for legal financial obligations (LFOs) in criminal cases. People may make payments using a credit card. Since making this change, there are approximately 200 monthly online LFO payment transactions totaling approximately \$45,000 a month.

Website Available in Six Languages

Information regarding basic Clerk’s Office operations, court calendars, fees and fee waivers, assistance requesting court records, legal financial obligations, State v. Blake refunds, accommodations, and public disclosure requests was translated into six languages in 2022. DJA also added the DJATranslations@kingcounty.gov email inbox so customers can provide feedback about the translations.

Superior Court Continues to Push for a Safer Environment for King County Courthouse Visitors

The safety and security of everyone who visits the King County Superior Court is of utmost concern to Court leadership. As Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi said in a letter to the Seattle City Council Budget Committee, “Without safety, there can be no access to justice.”

In October 2021, the King County Council approved legislation to acquire City Hall Park from the City of Seattle and explore future uses and plans for the park. But in October 2022, King County Executive Dow Constantine reached a new agreement with Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell for Seattle to maintain ownership of City Hall Park, with a commitment from the City of Seattle to make investments and develop a plan to safely activate the park and surrounding area. Superior Court has urged the City of Seattle to fully fund this effort, so that the resources required to ensure its success are available.

Throughout 2022, Superior Court actively participated in efforts related to the planned re-opening and activation of City Hall Park, while continuing to monitor the conditions in and around the downtown Seattle courthouse. Court staff, jurors, litigants, and courthouse users were urged to report incidents they experienced, and these reports were communicated to King County’s Facilities Management Division (FMD) and the appropriate law enforcement partners.

2022 Milestones for Courthouse Safety

King County Facilities Management Division (FMD):

- Identified and mitigated a street and overhead lighting outage along Jefferson Avenue next to the courthouse. Coordinated with Seattle City Light to prioritize installation of a temporary cabling system to restore power and lights.
- FMD security guards escorted employees of King County over 450 times in 2022 to the ferry terminal, train station, or other downtown locations to increase their sense of security.
- Developed a communications plan, shared a series of informational videos, and ran stories in Employee News to enhance awareness and increase personal security.
- Delivered bi-weekly project updates to keep project members informed.



Service to the Public

*"I am a huge fan of real-life learning, and it does not get more real than this."
— Mill Creek Middle School Student*

Kent Middle Schoolers Visit the MRJC for a Day of Questions, Observation, and Inspiration



More than 100 students from Mill Creek Middle School in Kent visited the Maleng Regional Justice Center on April 5. Sponsored by the Courts and Community Committee, the visit from Mr. Vance Baker's language arts classes allowed students to observe the variety of proceedings that occur on a typical day in court. Afterward, they discussed what they saw with judges and court staff, asking probing questions.

A trial for first-degree murder was among the proceedings students observed.

In a follow-up survey, one student remarked, "Trials are a very slow pace compared to what they are on TV."



Judge Josephine Wiggs calls on a student with their hand up during a Q&A session.

Survey respondents also said they appreciated learning about the role of the jury, and the responsibilities of the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge and bailiff.

"I met a lot of public defenders and I'm interested to learn even more about it," one student said.

A number of students said they especially enjoyed interacting with judges, who "have fun personalities that we never usually see."

Nearly all student survey respondents said the experience was worthwhile. "I am a huge fan of real-life learning," one student remarked, "and it does not get any more real than this."

New Protection Order Court Designed to Improve Process for Petitioners

Civil protection orders exist to provide protection to people who are experiencing harm due to the actions of another person. Specific types of protection orders address the following categories of harm:

- Domestic violence (DVPOs)
- Sexual assault (SAPOs)
- Stalking (Stalking POs)
- Harassment (AHPOs)
- Vulnerable adult abuse (VAPOs)

Another type of protection order is the Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO). Family, household members or law enforcement can request an ERPO, which is designed to prevent people who pose a significant risk of danger to themselves or others from getting firearms.

In 2021, state lawmakers passed legislation to streamline the process of obtaining a civil protection order. Until that time, each of these six protection order categories occupied unique chapters in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), with different procedures and requirements governing the petition process, jurisdiction, hearing protocol, relief granted, process for modification, termination, and renewal, as well as enforcement and penalty protocols.

The implementation of RCW 7.105 in July 2022 brought substantial changes to civil protection orders. In response, King County Superior Court, through the leadership of Judges Sean O'Donnell, Janet Helson, and Tanya Thorp, began to develop policies to implement these changes. With the support of the King County Council, funding was secured for the Protection Order Pilot Project. The Pilot Project includes additional staffing to coordinate ongoing training for judicial officers, maintain statistical data, and monitor/troubleshoot the Weapons Surrender Calendar.

In addition, Family Law Commissioners will hear return hearings on most Civil Protection Orders, including Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, Extreme Risk, and Antiharassment. The Pilot Project will be implemented in January 2023.

Jurors, Litigants Reap the Benefits of Remote Access



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the only area of Superior Court where video was widely used was the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) Court, which handles civil petitions for court-ordered mental health treatment and is located at Harborview Medical Center.

Video is now an integral part of Superior Court operations. Jury selection for civil and criminal trials is conducted remotely, via Zoom, as are all Ex Parte hearings. Family law litigants, many of whom are unrepresented because they cannot afford an attorney, have the option of meeting Family Law Facilitators via video.

"Remote court technology has done more to help King County Superior Court deliver on our mission — Open to All, Access for All, Justice for All — than any other innovation in our history," said King County Superior Court Chief Administrative Officer Linda Ridge. "It would not have been possible without the support and resources provided to us by the King County Council."

Budget, Caseload & Performance

Superior Court Budget

2022 EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA		
Civil and Criminal Operations	Includes judges*, commissioners, bailiffs, court reporters, interpreters, arbitration, jury, Ex Parte, ITA, and Adult Drug Court .Also includes Coronavirus Local Federal Relief Funding (CLFR) for backlog reduction efforts.	\$28,495,000
Juvenile Court	Includes judges*, operations, diversion, probation, interpreters, assessments, and FIRS.	\$12,390,000
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, technology services, finance, facilities, and administrative support.	\$17,778,000
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, Unified Family Court, Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitators, Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Dependency, Dependency CASA, Truancy and At-Risk Youth, and Early Resolution Case Management programs.	\$13,061,000
TOTAL		\$71,724,000

**state of WA pays for half the salary and all benefits of judges*

Dept. of Judicial Administration Budget

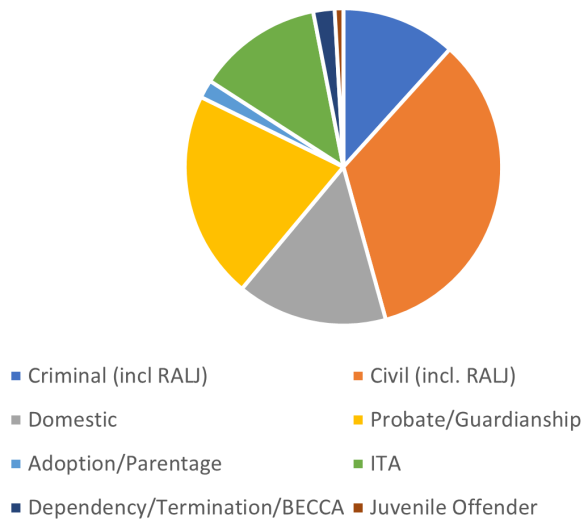
2022 EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM AREA		
Caseflow	Includes court clerk services, case processing, electronic document processing, and sealed document coordination.	\$5,056,534
Court Services	Courtroom clerks, records access, FTR program management	\$3,401,740
MRJC/Customer Services	Includes court clerk services, customer service, e-working copies, domestic violence and protection orders.	\$5,346,367
Financial Services	Includes court clerk services, cashiers, judgments, case auditing, disbursements, accounting, LFO collections, and witness payments.	\$4,348,347
Juvenile	Includes court clerk services, case processing, electronic document processing, customer service, records access, dependency publication costs at Juvenile.	\$890,793
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, transitional housing expenses, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program.	\$2,751,033
Administration	Includes administration staff, human resources, technology services, payroll, procurement, accounts payable, clerical services, statistical analysis, office equipment costs, intragovernmental services.	7,934,564
TOTAL		\$29,729,377

Caseload and Performance

Case Filings

In 2022, a total of 44,424 judicial cases were filed in King County Superior Court, up 10.4% from 2021. Compared to 2021, filings in criminal (excluding criminal appeals) were up 6.4%, civil up 15.8%, ITA up 9.8%, and juvenile offender up 40.4%. (Data source: KC Script)

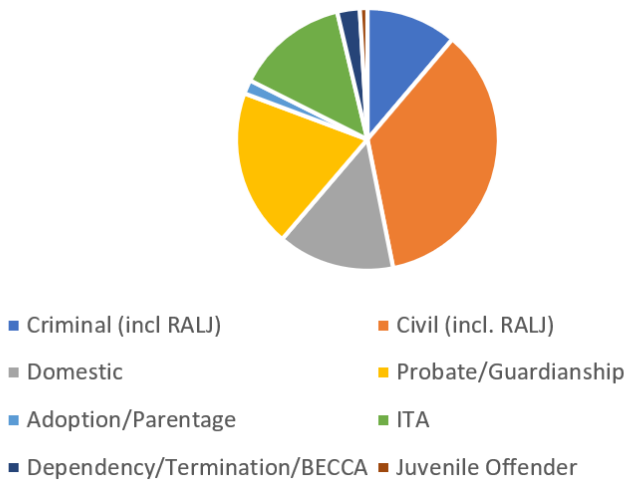
CASE TYPE	2021	2022	Change from 2021
Criminal (incl. RALJ)	4707	5,009	6.4%
Civil (incl. RALJ)	13,682	15,849	15.8%
Domestic	6,184	5,999	-3%
Probate & Guardianship	8,535	8,705	2%
Adoption & Parentage	748	710	-5.1%
ITA	5,159	5,665	9.8%
Dependency/Termination	566	565	-0.2%
Becca/Truancy/Other	312	1,422	355.8%
Juvenile Offender	356	500	40.4%
TOTAL JUDICIAL FILINGS	40,249	44,424	10.4%



Case Resolutions

The total judicial resolutions in 2022 were 42,687 cases, 605 higher than 2021 (42,802). The court resolved fewer cases than the filings received in 2022; the total resolution volume was 1,737 lower than the total filings. (Data source: KC Script)

CASE TYPE	2021	2022	Change from 2021
Criminal (inc. RALJ)	5,715	4,778	-16.4%
Civil (incl. RALJ)	14,577	15,224	4.4%
Domestic	6,224	6,145	-1.3%
Probate & Guardianship	7,881	8,301	5.3%
Adoption & Parentage	713	733	2.8%
ITA	4,817	5,924	23%
Dependency/Termination	682	494	-27.6%
Becca/Truancy/Other	849	689	-22.7%
Juvenile Offender	624	399	-36.1%
TOTAL JUDICIAL RESOLUTIONS	42,082	42,687	1.4%



Caseload and Performance

Clearance Rate

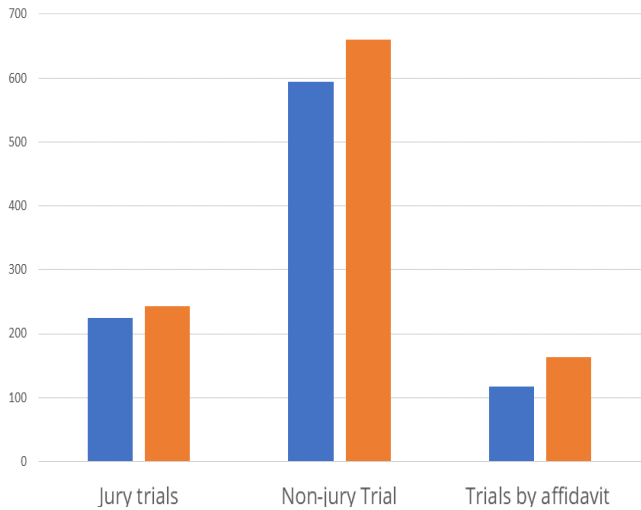
CASE TYPE	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Criminal	-4%	-3%	-12%	-29%	21%	-5%
Civil	0%	-4%	1%	-4%	7%	-4%
Domestic	0%	1%	0%	-3%	1%	2%
Probate & Guardianship	-4%	-4%	-1%	-5%	-8%	-5%
Adoption & Parentage	-2%	0%	-3%	-11%	-5%	3%
ITA	-1%	-5%	0%	-3%	-7%	5%
Dependency/Termination	-10%	-11%	-16%	-8%	20%	-13%
Becca/Truancy/Other	-1%	-31%	-5%	185%	172%	-52%
Juvenile Offender	-11%	2%	-8%	5%	75%	-20%

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. (Data source: KC Script)

Trial Activity

TRIAL CATEGORY	2022	Change from 2021
Jury Trials	224	-8%
Non-Jury Trials	594	-10%
Trials by Affidavit	117	-47%

The court had fewer trials in 2022 than 2021, totaling 818 trials (224 jury trials and 594 non-jury trials) in 2022. The court had 19 fewer jury trials and 66 fewer non-jury trials when compared to 2021. (Data source: KC Script)



Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active. The overall pending caseload at the end of 2022 was 20,095 cases, showing a slight increase from the end of 2021 (+2.7%). When compared to 2021, notable decreases in pending caseload include: criminal down 11% and ITA down 47%. On the other hand, the pending caseloads increased in the following case categories: civil up 9%, Becca/truancy up 171%, and juvenile offender up 5%. The significant decrease in criminal pending was mainly due to the court resuming the use of warrants for defendants not appearing for court proceedings. Please note cases in warrant status are not in the “pending caseload” category. Even with the decrease in 2022, the criminal pending caseload is still significantly higher than the pre-COVID level. It is worth noting that the court has many more unresolved serious criminal cases in homicides, sex crimes, burglary 1st degree, and assaults (1st and 2nd degree) since COVID-19. (Data source: KC Script)

CASE TYPE	2021	2022	Change from 2021
Criminal	4,889	4,340	-11%
Civil	6,265	6,828	9%
Domestic	4,317	4,281	-1%
Probate & Guardianship	1,844	1,877	2%
Adoption & Parentage	515	485	-4%
ITA	535	282	-47%
Dependency/Termination	489	544	11%
Becca/Truancy/Other	427	1,157	171%
Juvenile Offender	286	301	5%

Judges and Commissioners

Judges of the King County Superior Court through Dec. 31, 2022

LeRoy McCullough
Appointed, 1989

Catherine D. Shaffer
Elected, 2000

Mary E. Roberts
Appointed, 2003

Andrea A. Darvas
Elected, 2005

James E. (Jim) Rogers
Elected, 2005

Patrick H. Oishi
Appointed, 2011

Judith H. Ramseyer
Elected/Appointed, 2012

Elizabeth J. Berns
Elected, 2013

Suzanne R. Parisien
Elected, 2013

Sean P. O'Donnell
Elected, 2013

Ken Schubert
Elected, 2013

Susan H. Amini
Appointed, 2013

Tanya L. Thorp
Appointed, 2014

A. Chad Allred
Appointed, 2014

Samuel S. Chung
Appointed, 2014

Veronica Galván
Appointed, 2015

Janet M. Helson
Appointed, 2015

Johanna Bender
Appointed, 2015

John F. McHale
Elected, 2017

Kristin V. Richardson
Elected, 2017

Matthew W. Williams
Elected, 2017

Steve G. Rosen
Elected, 2017

David S. Keenan
Elected, 2017

Nicole A. Phelps
Elected, 2017

Karen Donohue
Appointed, 2018

Sandra Widlan
Appointed, 2018

Michael R. Scott
Appointed, 2018

Marshall Ferguson
Appointed, 2018

Maureen McKee
Appointed, 2018

Averil Rothrock
Appointed, 2018

Melinda J. Young
Appointed, 2019

Annette Messitt
Appointed, 2019

Michael K. Ryan
Appointed, 2019

Aimée M. Sutton
Appointed, 2019

Josephine Wiggs
Appointed, 2019

Ketu Shah
Appointed, 2019

Brian McDonald
Appointed, 2019

David Whedbee
Appointed, 2019

Nelson K.H. Lee
Appointed, 2020

Cindi Port
Appointed, 2020

Andrea Robertson
Appointed, 2020

Hillary Madsen
Elected, 2021

Jason Poydras
Appointed 2021

Matthew J. Segal
Appointed, 2021

Adrienne McCoy
Appointed, 2021

Kristin E. Ballinger
Appointed, 2022

Jason Holloway
Appointed, 2022

Haydee Vargas
Appointed, 2022

Matthew Lapin
Appointed, 2022

Jaime Hawk
Appointed, 2022

Joe Campagna
Appointed, 2022

Taki Flevaris
Appointed, 2022

Judges Who Left the Court in 2022

Dean S. Lum
Appointed, 1998

Douglass A. North
Elected, 2000

Regina S. Cahan
Elected/Appointed, 2009

Julia L. Garratt
Appointed, 2013

John R. Ruhl
Appointed, 2014

J. Michael Diaz
Appointed, 2018

Catherine L. Moore
Elected, 2017

Mafé Rajul
Appointed, 2018

Commissioners in 2022

Hollis Holman
Appointed in 1996

Mark Hillman
Appointed in 2007

Henry Judson
Appointed in 2014

Melinda Johnson Taylor
Appointed in 2014

Jennie Laird
Appointed in 2014

Camille Schaefer
Appointed in 2018

Jonathon Lack
Appointed in 2019

Bradford Moore
Appointed in 2019

Monica Cary
Appointed in 2022

Jamie Perry
Appointed in 2022

Commissioners Who Left the Court in 2022

Nicole Wagner, 2018

Superior Court Employees

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Chief Administrative Officer, Linda Ridge
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Jorene Reiber
Communications Manager, Amy Roe
Project/Program Manager, Beth Taylor
Facilities and Security Manager, Paul Manolopoulos
Facilities Specialist, Kirby Pierce
Facilities Technician, Rodrigo Jacinto
Executive Office Manager, Hannah Service
Administrative Support,
Karissa Zeno
Lulu Miles

BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Business & Finance Director, Steve Davis
Purchasing Fiscal Specialist, Gary Cutler
Finance & Contracts Specialist, Irving Sanchez Gaona
Finance Technician, Regina Jacobs
Payroll & Accounts Payable Tech., Jose Ramos
Mail Service Assistant, Kristan Johnson

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Director, Barbara Miner

HUMAN RESOURCES

Director, Judy Hullett
Human Resources Analyst, Gertrude Fuentes
Human Resources Manager, Dr. Yolanda Geolingo
Training and Development Manager, Catherine Johns
Human Resources Technician, Cynthia Williams

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Director, Andy Hill
IT Applications Supervisor, Hugh Kim
Senior Database Administrator, Rita Napitupulu
Web/Application Developer, Doug Buckmeier
Senior Application Developers,
Rebecca Sanders
Thang Trinh
Business Analyst, Sathia Vann
Senior Systems Engineers,
Chair-Li Chang
Kevin Daggett
Senior Systems Specialist, Ted Shaw
IT Systems Specialists,
Jerry Ito
Michael Kim
Senior Desktop Support Technicians,
Michelle Croy
Kawai Tang

JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

Director, Paul Daniels
Managers,
Robert Gant
Aaron Parker
Assistant to the Director, Vacant
Project/Program Manager, Jovi Catena

JUVENILE COURT OPERATIONS

Supervisor, Jacqui Arrington

Loretta George
Natasha Jackson

JUVENILE ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT

Supervisor, Joanne Moore-Miller
Administrative Specialists,
Betty Jimerson
Chris Hong
Julie Allen

JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESMENT TEAM

Supervisor, Anna Doolittle
Program Coordinator, Tammy Wehmeyer
Clinical Psychologist, Chalon Irvin
Chemical Dependency Prof, Ashley Updike
Mental Health Technician,
Milana Davydova
Christian Quintanar-Aragon
SUD Specialist, Elizabeth Franzo

RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS

Supervisor, Jeremy Crowe
FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Cecilia Camino
Dede Gartrell
Diana Quall
Step-Up Social Worker Lead, Lily Anderson
Social Workers,
Fahmia Ali
Francesca Peila-Phariss

Superior Court Employees

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Supervisor,
Diane Korf

Education/Employment Specialists,
Dawn Nannini
Guy McWhorter
John Leers
Justin Cox

Administrative Specialist,
Dorcas Olegario

Diversion PYJ Program Specialist,,
David Elliott

Resource Center Admin Specialist,
Paula Moses

Community Engagement Guide,
Heather Patrick

CSEC Program Manager,
Kelly Mangiaracina

SCREENING UNIT

Supervisor, Melissa Sprague

Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Christy Cochran
Lee Lim
Yoko Maeshiro
Gabriele Pagano
Ronald Tarnow

On Call JPCs,
Claudia Scipio
Eddie Pompey
Harriet Slye
Katie Forbes
Michael West
Sharon Miller

WACIC Data Coordinator, Dominick Beck

BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH RESPONSE

Supervisor, Josalyn Conley

JPC Lead, Lisa Gistarb

Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Yvette Gaston
Kendra Morgan
Leonor Soliz
Vacant JPC

CITY UNIT

Supervisor, Tracy Dixon

JPC Lead, Diane Rayburn

JPCs
Daryl Cerdinio
Demetrius Devers
Williette Venkataya
Yvette Gaston

NORTHEAST UNIT— BELLEVUE

Supervisor, Todd Foster

JPC Lead, Gwen Spears

Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Bruce Gourley
Kiersten Knutson
Lisaa Lewis-Lucas
Mai Tran

Administrative Specialist, Wendy Johnson

SOUTH I UNIT— RENTON

Supervisor, JoeAnne Taylor

JPC Lead, Nikki Burr

Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Fred Aulava
Darlin Johnson
Brandon Lyons
Yvonne Clement-Smith

Administrative Specialist, Lameania Bridges

SOUTH II UNIT—FEDERAL WAY

Supervisor, Kelli Lauritzen

JPC Lead, Kris McKinney

Juvenile Probation Counselors,
Michelle Higa
Rachael Hubert
Francisca Madera
Kelli Sullivan

Administrative Specialist, Danielle Kidd

FAMILY COURT OPERATIONS

Director, Melinda Johnson Taylor

Family Court Operations Lead, Wolfey Gerhardt

FAMILY LAW/UFC OPERATIONS

Manager, Kristina Ralls

Supervisors,
Joanna Antrim
Emma Keys

Early Resolution Case Managers,
Tamara Howie
Christina Luera
Heather Muwero
Gretchen Neale

Family Law Facilitators,
Jeanna Bento
Kristen Gabel
Darla Jara
Allison Lee
Kelsie Malyon

Parent Seminar Coordinator, Mary Ann Pennington

Civil Case Specialist, Caroline Leung

Family Law Coordinators,
Leena Ackerman
Tyana Ching
Alea Espina-Dumas
Mandy Holdener
Jessica Laiseni
Makio Pastolero
Lara Rodriguez

FAMILY COURT SERVICES

Manager, Connor Lenz

Assistant Program Manager, Julie McDonald

Supervisor, Tracey White

Social Workers,
Angela Battisti
Alisa Benitez
Jennifer Bercot
Holly Bernard
Nicole Bynum
Desiree Canter
Charity Criswell
Meagan Cordova
Jennifer Hillyard
Kristi McQueen
Sarah Zubair

Dependency Mediators,
Joshua Henderson
Kendy Rossi

Becca Program Specialists,
Melody Edmiston
Jennifer Tibbitts

Becca Case Managers,
Amy Andree
Karen Chapman

Adoption Paralegal, Gina Reyes

FCS Case Coordinators,
Brooklyn Adams
Taryn LaRoche

Customer Service Specialists,
Darien Riffe

DEPENDENCY CASA

Manager, Michael Griesedieck

Assistant Program Manager, Wai-Ping Li Landis

Supervisor, Kathy McCormack

Program Attorneys,
Elizabeth Berris
Jennie Cowan
Demetri Heliotis

Superior Court Employees

DEPENDENCY CASA (CONTINUED)

Lori Irwin
Kathleen Martin
April Rivera

Staff GAL Specialists,
Pauline Duke
Virginia Whalen

CASA Specialists,
Rashida Ballard
Carolyn Frimpter
Janet Horton
Fred Pfistner
Shellie Roush
Rie Takeuchi
Reyana Ugas
Deanna Watson

Paralegals,
Laura Chunyk
Vickey Wilson

Customer Service Specialists,
Diane Fields
Stephanie Richardson
Bryan-Peter Abejon

DEPENDENCY OPERATIONS

FJCIP Specialist, Stacy Keen

Dependency Coordinators,
Brandon Soltero
Malinda You

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Supervisor, Jill Murphy

Parents for Parents Coordinator, Shawn Powell

Family Treatment Specialists,
April Conniff
Cathy Lehmann
Linda Townsend-Whitham

Court Program Specialists,
Valerie Badillo-Eccles
Kandice Trenary

FRS Specialists,
Ivy Thompson
Mansiha Jackson

Administrative Support, Allison Gallagher

BAILIFFS

Mary Ballanger
Chad Berlin
Ann Brockenbrough
Chase Craig
Stevie Craig
Lati Culverson
Alessandra de Faria
Maria Diga
Nhu Dinh
Laura Dorris
Jennifer Eatchel
Kathryn Evans
Cassie Fontenot
Michael Getman-Gerbec
Monica Gillum
Kellie Griffin
Phillip Hennings

James Peterson
Dontay Proctor-Mills
Shannon Raymond
Ricki Reese
Julie Salle
Ayako Sato
Brenda Smith
Kassie Smith
Joy Stransky
Janie Smoter
Linda Tran
Lisa Tran
Regine Tugublimas
Jacqueline Ware
Sam Zarky
Lisa Zimnisky

Rebecca Hibbs
Salina Hill
Greg Howard
Sarah Hudson
Gabby Jacobsen
Renee Janes
Jillian Johnson
Jodi Johnson
Manny La Guardia
Sonam Lata
Beatrice Marquez
Craig Morrison
Linda Nguyen
Kelli Northrop
Erin O'Connor
Marci Parducci
Tikecha Pearson

COURT OPERATIONS

Director, Rachael DelVillar

Court Operations Managers,
John Salamony
Cherie Lusk

Court Operations Supervisor, Nikki Riley

Judicial Technicians,
Patricia Pizzuto
Yen Phung

Customer Service Specialist, Valerie Badillo-Eccles

ARBITRATION & EX PARTE DEPARTMENT

Supervisor, Nadia Simpson

Judicial Technicians,
Catherine Kuvac
Erica Walker

Guardian Ad Litem, Keith Thomson

JURY DEPARTMENT

Manager, Christina Ly
Supervisor, Gabriel Pimlott

Jury Services Technicians,
Sasha Mohnani (split OIS)
Katherine Glenn
Irene Szczerba

COURT REPORTERS

Michael Townsend Jr.
Kevin Moll
Miranda Seitz

CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Supervisor, Heiti Milnor-Lewis

Civil Case Scheduling Technician, Alice Gilliam

Judicial Technician,
Wendy Elizalde-Romero

CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

Supervisors,
Erica Conway
Jonathan Bussey

Technical Processing Specialist, Carla Gaber

Court Program Technician, Tress Heckler

Customer Service Specialist, Annie Glenister

Criminal Calendar Technician, Jackie Snodgrass

INTERPRETER SERVICES

Manager, Joseph Mansor

Acting Supervisor, Dara Chiem

Interpreter Services Technicians,
Dara Chiem
Hakim Lakhali
Charlotte Taylor

ITA COURT

Manager, Margo Burnison

Coordinator, April Ramirez-Chavez