

District Court



Position No. 3



Ronald E. Culpepper
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CulpepperR@aol.com

Education: B.A. in History (magna cum laude) University of Washington; Juris Doctor University of Washington School of Law, 1976

Occupation: Pierce County District Court Judge

Professional Qualifications: Private Law Practice 1976 – 1987; Court Commissioner, Pierce County District Court, 1987 – 1997; Judge 1997 – present

Personal Information: Native of Pierce County. One of 5 children of Alfred and Leona Culpepper. Married to Wendy Firth for 22 years. 2 children, Kristina and Stephen.

Community Involvement: Past membership on various Bar Association committees, Past Director Eastside Boys' and Girls' Club, past Cubmaster for Pack 218 Cub Scouts, Past President Pierce County Film Society.

Personal Views: It has been my honor to serve as a Pierce County District Court Judge for almost six years. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities presented by consolidation of the District Courts and continued cooperation with the Superior Court. It is the Court's duty to fairly and impartially decide disputes and to hold individuals accountable for their actions. A court must do this while respecting the rights of persons appearing in court, the rights of victims, and the interests of the public. As a judge, my responsibility to the public is to ensure that justice is done openly, fairly, and expeditiously. With your continued support, I will do my utmost to meet this responsibility.

Position No. 4



James R. Heller
1406 Browns Pt Blvd
Tacoma, WA 98422
(253) 952-5336

Education: University of Northern Iowa, BA; United States Air Force Officer Training School; University of Puget Sound, JD with honors

Occupation: Pierce County District Court Judge

Professional Qualifications: Pierce County District Court Judge since 1985; Attorney, Private Practice

Personal Information: Married

Community Involvement: District & Municipal Court Judges Association; Community speaking

Personal Views: I have been privileged to serve on the District Court for Pierce County since November, 1985. To be a judge on this court is to be involved in many of the problems of daily life in our community. By dealing with domestic violence and people who drive while under the influence and with civil cases involving both small claims and significant civil suits for damages up to \$50,000, we, as judges, are constantly being asked to fairly and consistently resolve your disputes. It has been and continues to be a privilege to serve you.