

Bar News
December 2011

COURTROOMS RETURN

Courtroom 100 will return to a Commissioner Courtroom January 3, 2012 (barring any unforeseen circumstances) and Department 21 (Judge Cuthbertson) will be returning to Courtroom 2A January 3.

CRIMINAL COURT COMMISSIONER

Congratulations to Commissioner Meagan Foley who was approved by the Judges in October to take on the position of criminal court commissioner beginning January 3, 2012.

NEW COURT COMMISSIONER POSITION

The Pierce County Superior Court Judges solicit applications at this time for the permanent position of Court Commissioner with an anticipated start date in March, 2012, or sooner if possible.

Application Requirements:

Applicant shall complete a Pierce County Personnel Application and the Superior Court Declaration. Declarations may be obtained on or after November 14, 2011 from Superior Court Administration, Room 334, County-City Building, Tacoma, Washington 98402 or from the Superior Court website at www.co.pierce.wa.us/superior and by clicking on "Employment". Applications should include a resume describing education, experience and any other qualifications relating to the position. Please submit an original and 8 copies of the application materials.

The Declaration contains specific questions regarding education and employment history as well as other relevant information in order that the Judges will be able to give appropriate consideration to each applicant.

Applicants must have been admitted to practice law in Washington State a minimum of eight (8) years prior to appointment.

Job Responsibilities:

The duties of the Court Commissioner include the conduct of: mental illness hearings at designated hospitals; Juvenile Court, both criminal and dependency proceedings (Remann Hall) adoptions; domestic relations and domestic violence proceedings; probate; unlawful detainer; supplemental proceedings; settlement conferences in appropriate areas and provide coverage for the Criminal Division 2 court which includes arraignments, initial extradition hearings, acceptance of guilty pleas only, appointment of counsel, determination of probable cause, set/amend and review conditions of pre-trial release, set bail, set trial and hearing dates, authorize continuances, accept waivers of the right to speedy trial, quash hearings, re-arraignment, non-compliance proceedings pursuant to RCW 9.94A.6333.

Application Deadline:

Applications will be accepted through **Friday, January 6, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.** and should be

returned to Andra Motyka, Superior Court Administrator, Room 334, County-City Building, Tacoma, Washington 98402. **No late applications will be accepted.**

The 2012 annual salary for this position is \$133,949 plus benefits.
PIERCE COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TOP 10 SUGGESTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS WORKING WITH COURT INTERPRETERS

Please see the insert.

COURT COMMISSIONER EVALUATIONS

As part of the court's continuing evaluation of its commissioners, in 2011 three commissioner evaluations were conducted, discussed with the judges and - by the time you read this - been discussed with the commissioners evaluated. The evaluations are conducted by three judicial officers and involve watching video and listening to CourtSmart recordings of proceedings. Four new evaluations are planned for 2012.

EX PARTE SIGN IN SLIP

Prior to coming to Ex Parte please have your staff fully complete the Ex Parte Sign In Slip and bring with you; this will help eliminate legibility issues and speed the overall process. A fillable PDF slip will be available in the near future at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/supct/Forms.htm> A hard copy of the slip is included in this edition of the bar news as well. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

COURT INFORMATION DESK VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Pierce County Superior Court, District Court and Tacoma Municipal Court are seeking volunteers to work at the information desks on the 1st and 2nd floors of the County City Building. The goal of this project is to assist building visitors in finding what they need and to provide general information to anyone visiting the building. Volunteers are requested to make a minimum commitment of 5 hours per week. Volunteer service is contingent upon successfully passing a background check. The program was funded by a grant from the State Administrative Office of the Courts. If you are interested in this program or know of someone who might be, please contact Mary Madden at Pierce County Superior Court; (253) 798-2991 or email at mmadden@co.pierce.wa.us