

June/July 2011

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO COMMISSIONER OISHI**

Congratulations to Commissioner Patrick Oishi on his appointment to the King County Superior Court bench! In January, 2010 he began as the first criminal court commissioner. He will be missed by Pierce County.

### **CONGRATULATIONS JUDGE HOGAN**

Judge Vicki L. Hogan was elected to a three year term, 2011-2014, as the District 2 judicial representative to the Superior Court Judges' Association Board of Trustees. District 2 is comprised of the Pierce and Kitsap County's Superior Court Judges. Judge Hogan assumes the position previously held by Judge Russ Hartman, Kitsap County Superior Court.

### **NON JURY TRIAL WEEK**

The first non jury week in 2011 is June 20-24. This is a part of the budget reduction for the year. No *NEW* jurors will be brought in during the week of June 20-24. However, any jury trials already in session will continue during this time as normal.

### **ADDITIONAL PROPOSED LOCAL RULE**

Any comments, questions or other inquiry regarding this proposed revision to the Pierce County Local Rules should be addressed to Judge Elizabeth Martin at [supcrtdept16@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:supcrtdept16@co.pierce.wa.us) or by phone to 253-798-6630 no later than June 10, 2011.

Proposed:

#### **PCLGR11 COURT INTERPRETERS**

The court may appoint certified/registered/qualified interpreters for hearing impaired or non English speaking persons in accordance with RCW 2.42, 2.43, GR 11 and the Pierce County Superior Court Language Assistance Plan.

### **WHAT IS VETERANS DRUG COURT?**

Pierce County was awarded a grant in September 2009 to begin a Veterans Drug Court and admitted the first veteran participant in December 2009. Now the Veterans Drug Court has admitted 62 participants and 2 have graduated. The Pierce County Veterans Drug Court is presided over by the Honorable Thomas Larkin, successor to retired Judge Gary Steiner who began the program. The Veterans Drug Court continues to grow in numbers and provides a combination of structure and encouragement to Veterans charged with a nonviolent felony crime. Veterans Drug Court works in tandem with Pierce County Alliance to complete an intensive recovery program. Veterans within the program receive substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling and assistance in receiving veteran benefits. Veterans have separate dedicated groups and review hearings they attend together designed specifically to meet veteran needs. Graduates and participants of the program have stated how the program has changed their lives, helped them reunite with family, and provided camaraderie and support no other program offers. In April a new veteran mentor program was implemented to provide another avenue of support to participants in the program. The veteran mentor program is a volunteer program that accepts

veterans of the armed services. The veteran mentors serve as an advocate to assist veteran participants as they progress through the court and treatment process to reach their full potential as productive members of society. Pierce County's Veteran Drug Court is dedicated to help every Veteran complete the program and go on to live healthy lives.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:mmadden@co.pierce.wa.us)