

March 2011

NON CRIMINAL TRIALS UP IN 2010

The 2010 year end statistics are in and there was a significant increase in the number and percent of non-criminal trials in 2010. The increase, in large part, can be attributed to: 1) elected pro tem judges Justice Madsen and Judge Van Deren relieving a sitting superior court judge from the criminal division rotation so the judge could conduct trials and 2) having a full complement of judges beginning mid-May 2010. Due to budget constraints the pro tem judge program was virtually non-existent during the year.

	Civil Jury	Civil Non Jury	Civil Total Trials	Domestic Non Jury	Juvenile Civil (held at County City Bldg.)
2009	32	60	92	180	20
2010	57	78	133	294	27
Change			44.57%	63.33%	35%

COURTROOM 100 COMMISSIONER RELOCATION

Matters normally heard before the Court Commissioner in Room 100 will be heard in Courtroom 2A until further notice. **Please watch for signs.**

GUARDIAN AD LITEM CERTIFIED REGISTRIES

Applications for the RCW 26.09 Guardian ad litem/Parenting Investigator and the RCW 11.88 Guardian ad litem Certified Registries will be accepted January 3, 2011 through March 24, 2011. Both Certified Registries are effective July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012. You may obtain your application packet in Superior Court Administration, 334 County City Building, Tacoma, WA 98402 or on the website at: www.co.pierce.wa.us/superior

Only applications with the revision date of 12/1/2010 will be accepted. All new applicants and former registry members not currently serving on the RCW 11.88 Certified Registry and the RCW 26.09 Guardian ad litem/Parenting Investigator Certified Registry must complete the “new applicant” application packet and supply all written documentation including a resume. All current members on the Certified Registries must complete the “renewal” application packet, submit a resume, and an updated residential history. The application period closes on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. All application must be submitted by the close of business to the Superior Court Administrator. No late applications shall be considered. If you have not attended the required training by the application closing date, you may timely submit your application and indicate when and where you will be attending the training. Once the training is completed, you must immediately forward a copy of your Certificate of Attendance to the Superior Court Administrator.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING

GAL training is scheduled on the third Thursday of each month. March training is Thursday, March 17, 2011 at noon in Courtroom 315 (CCB); speaker is James Cathcart and the subject is Legal Standards for GAL’s.

SEXUAL ASSAULT PETITIONS

On February 7, Department 12 (Judge Arend) began conducting a six month pilot program regarding sexual assault petitions as follows: Commissioners will continue to handle the initial ex parte hearing and the 14 day hearing. If a protection order is signed at the 14 day hearing, the case will be assigned to Judge Arend for case management and scheduled for an Assignment of Trial Date proceeding. The parties will be directed to court administration (Room 334) for the issuance of a trial assignment date. An Order Setting Case Schedule will be printed and given to the parties with the Assignment of Trial Date.

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.

SUPERIOR COURT HAS UPDATED THE CIVIL AND DOMESTIC/PROBATE CASE COVER SHEETS

Please use the new case cover sheet; destroy your old forms. The new case cover sheets are on the forms page: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/cfapps/linx/Forms.cfm> and have a revision date of 2/16/2011. Changes to the Domestic/Probate Case cover sheet include the new Cause Sub type of Committed Intimate Relationship, Guardianship of the Estate, Guardianship of the Person, Limited Guardianship of the Estate and Limited Guardianship of the Person. The change to the Civil case cover sheet was the removal of the Meretricious Relationship.