

November 2011

CHANGES, CHANGES, CHANGES

As we approach 2012 the following are the rotations: Presiding Judge Bryan Chushcoff; Drug Court: Judge Larkin; CDPJ: Judge Stolz Jan-June; Judge Tollefson July-December; Civil Panel Judges: Arend, Serko, Hickman, Murphy, Johnson; Family Court: Judge Orlando and Judge Martin; Juvenile Court: Judge van Doorninck and Judge Felnagle.

SHIFT TO YEAR LONG PANELS

Beginning January 3, 2012 Superior Court will move to year-long panel assignments for all judges. There will be five judges in dedicated rotations: 2 judges at Juvenile Court, 2 judges in Family Court and 1 judge in Drug Court. The remaining judges will be divided: 5 civil judges and 12 criminal judges (includes Presiding Judge and Criminal Division Presiding Judge). The 12 criminal judges will provide all CD court coverage. The 12 criminal and 5 dedicated civil departments will continue to be assigned civil cases that do not have a trial date assigned at filing. Cases will be reassigned in December 2011.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM TRAINING

Commissioners' Roundtable, Thursday, November 17 at noon in Courtroom 315 (Judge Nelson's courtroom).

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

Pierce County Juvenile Court will again be celebrating National Adoption Day on November 18, 2011. The focus of this event is to celebrate the adoption of foster children being adopted into their forever families. The festivities include cake, gifts, photos, balloons, and traditional teddy bears. Agencies participating in the event include, Pierce County Adoptions, Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Home Society, Wendy's Wonderful Kids and the Dave Thomas Foundation. We anticipate approximately ten families will be finalizing adoptions that day which will usually adds up to 200 people including staff, media and relatives. Pierce County Judges always do a great job at making sure each family and child feels very special. The event will begin at 9 am and should conclude by 11:30 am.

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 is available 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