

Top candidates OK'd to continue for Pierce County District Court judge seat

Published: May 18, 2013 at 12:05 a.m. PDT— **Updated:** May 18, 2013 at 3:33 a.m. PDT

The top three candidates for a vacant judgeship in Pierce County District Court passed their first hurdle this week.

An ad-hoc committee appointed by the Pierce County Council chose three candidates as “top tier” choices to fill the seat vacated last year by Judge Jack Nevin, who moved to Pierce County Superior Court in January. Two of the candidates work in the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office. The third is a highly regarded defense attorney.

The top three candidates: deputy prosecutor Kevin McCann, deputy prosecutor P. Grace Kingman, and defense attorney G. Helen Whitener. The ad-hoc committee listed a larger group of hopefuls in the second tier.

Pierce County Council members make the final choice, and they can choose any name on the list, said Susan Long, the council's lawyer.

The next steps in the process remain to be decided. Council members could choose to interview candidates, or simply pass a resolution for first reading that names a potential appointee. A resolution could appear as soon as next week, Long said.

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