

Yakima attorneys appointed as Yakima County Superior Court commissioners

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YAKIMA, Wash. — Two local attorneys have been appointed as Yakima County Superior Court commissioners.

Elisabeth Tutsch and Shane Silverthorn were among 28 attorneys applying for the vacancies created by the retirement of Robert Inouye and the appointment of Kevin Naught as a Superior Court judge.

Tutsch, an attorney with the Northwest Justice Project in Yakima, has practiced law in Yakima County since 1997, and has been active with Volunteer Attorney Services and the YWCA. She is also on the board of Rod's House, a resource center for homeless and at-risk youths.

Silverthorn, a Selah lawyer, has spent 18 years as a criminal defense attorney, and has also represented people in divorce, child-custody, dependency and other domestic-relations cases. He has also served as a commissioner pro tem in district and municipal courts, according to a news release from the court administration.

Unlike judges who are elected, commissioners are appointed by the court. They can preside over nonjury trials and uncontested divorces.