Diversity in the Judiciary

A Directory of Judges, Commissioners, and Magistrates of Color In the State of Washington 2022

Washington State Minority and Justice Commission Outreach Committee
This Directory is Dedicated to
Judge LeRoy McCullough
King County Superior Court
Currently the longest serving elected judge in Washington State.

Judge McCullough began his service in King County Superior Court on November 8, 1989.

IF WE STAND TALL IT IS BECAUSE WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF MANY ANCESTORS

African proverb
Washington State Minority and Justice Commission (WSMJC) Mission Statement
WSMJC was created by an order of the Washington State Supreme Court to determine whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of the State of Washington. To the extent that it exists, WSMJC is charged with taking creative steps to overcome it. To the extent that such bias does not exist, WSMJC is charged with taking creative steps to prevent it.

Outreach Committee Mission Statement
The mission of the Outreach Committee is to facilitate communication between the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, the public, and the legal and court communities of Washington State, including to promote equal employment in judicial and non-judicial leadership positions for racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities, and to study and improve the conditions under which minorities or persons of color interact with and participate in the justice system.

Acknowledgements
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Esperanza Borboa, Eastside Legal Assistance Program
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Chad Enright, Esq., Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office
Jason Gillmer, Esq., Gonzaga University School of Law
The Honorable Anthony Gipe, Kent Municipal Court
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This directory was last updated March 1, 2022
Dear Friends –

On behalf of the Minority and Justice Commission, we are pleased to share this updated directory of judicial officers that reflects the diversity of our judiciary in the State of Washington. It is an excellent resource for locating speakers, networking, and mentoring.

The Minority and Justice Commission, established by the Supreme Court of the State of Washington in 1990, was originally charged with the task of fostering and supporting a fair and bias-free system of justice. While we have not fully realized a perfect system of justice, we believe our work has helped move us in the right direction. Building a judiciary that reflects the richness of our state in all of its diversity is a significant step toward this goal.

Each judicial officer has opted to be included in this directory. By “opting in” they have agreed to serve as a resource to you, the community which we serve. They have agreed to serve as mentors, speakers and are available to share information on how to become judicial officers and the work we are called to do.

We thank the following for their tremendous work in compiling the directory:

Judge Faye R. Chess
Esperanza Borboa
Frank Thomas
Moriah Freed

Finally, we wish to acknowledge and pay tribute to Judge LeRoy McCullough, a tireless champion for youth and justice. Judge McCullough has been a mentor to many of us and we wish to thank and honor him for his kindness and generosity over the years. His service has impacted a generation of judicial officers and attorneys, and we are ever so grateful for his example.

Sincerely,

Justice Mary I. Yu
Washington State Supreme Court
Co-Chair, Minority and Justice Commission

Judge Veronica Galvan
King County Superior Court
Co-Chair, Minority and Justice Commission
DIVERSITY OF VOICES

Robe of Justice..., we belong!

Robe of justice..., I watched you from afar.
Too far for so long, like a faded dream.
Could I reach you?
How might you feel?
Would we fit together?
Was I your color?
Questions without end, until....
I believed!
I am here now.
Wondering no more.
Robe of justice..., together..., We belong!

Judge David Estudillo, US District Court of Western Washington

I too, am Justice

I too, sing justice

I am the darker brother
the resilient sister

The discounted

They ask me for directions

if I have met my public defender

Attorneys chatter and hand me copies
for the Judge

But I laugh, I study hard,
and watch
and learn
Today,
I am at the table
beyond the bar, on the bench

Nobody'll dare
Say to me
“Wait in the back of the courtroom”
Then.
They will see how just I have been
How just I have always been
and be ashamed.

I, too, am Justice.

Commissioner Jonathon Lack (with administration of Langston Hughes), King County Superior Court

**Justice Is Not Blind**

Some may say our justice system is blind, unfortunately, we all know that’s not true.
Especially for people of color,
Like me and you.

How can that be? many have said.
To answer this question,
just look at what you’ve read.
The founding of our nation was inequitable starting day one,
from the very time the revolution was won.
While the patriots may have fought for liberty and justice,
an admirable concept most will find,
this concept, however, did not apply to folks of a different kind.

The forefathers claimed all men were endowed with inalienable rights,
what they failed to mention is, this only applied to whites.
Our whitewashed history ignores the bigotry and hate,
that formulated the very essence of this nation and its current fate.
From court decisions regarding slavery to internment decisions during World War Two,
our system of justice seems to be stacked against me and you.

So, you see our justice system is based on a faulty notion,
whose gap between truth and reality is wider than an ocean.
Systemic racism permeates justice every day of the year,
so much so that BIPOCS live in a constant state of fear.
Systemic Racism oppresses those not part of the privileged race,
making life extremely difficult for the oppressed to face.

Fear not all, do not despair,
we can create changes towards making the system fair.
Court decisions which enable this broken system to properly perform,
help to ensure that injustices and systemic failures can be reformed.

So how do we provide justice and make changes for all to see?
A small but significant step is to increase the bench diversity.
Seeing people of color in charge of a court,
will provide BIPOC people a comfort of sorts.
Because in the deep recesses of their minds,
they know our shared history brings an understanding of some kind. That we understand the systemic issues and the need to be treated fair, will help assuage some of the fears created by the system nightmare.

Having judges who understand systemic issues and the foundation created, can help the courts and the entire justice system that is related. It is hard to understand the struggles of those who before you stand, if you have never had similar experiences to the BIPOCs of our great land.

So, in closing I say this to all, from the tiniest of tiny to the tallest of tall, increasing diversity doesn’t take a great toll, but it will have a lasting impact on society as a whole.

Magistrate Judge Jerome Roache, Seattle Municipal Court

The Color of Justice

Here we stand the faces of justice
Various ancestries, languages, and hues
Giving voice to contrasting and diverse views

Here we stand at the portal of justice
Born of perseverance, hopes, and dreams
Climbing obstacles much harder than they seem

Here we stand a vision of justice
First in our family, in our community, in our court
First in this land or having come from a distant port

Here we stand a symbol of justice
Of the people, for the people, ready to serve
Our mere presence making the unseen heard

Here we stand the future of justice
Conveying belief that you’ll have the process that’s due
Providing confidence that this system is also for you

Judge Lori K. Smith, Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
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Federal Courts

Judge Salvador Mendoza, Jr.
United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington
salvador_mendoza@waed.uscourts.gov
509-943-8160
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latino
Languages spoken: Spanish

Chief Judge Ricardo Martinez
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
Richardo_Martinez@wawd.uscourts.gov
206-380-8880
Race/Ethnicity: Latinx
Languages spoken: Spanish

Judge David G. Estudillo
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
David_Estudillo@wawd.uscourts.gov
253-882-3840
Race/Ethnicity: Latino
Languages spoken: Spanish
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Richard Jones
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
206-370-8870
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Lauren King
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
206-370-8400
Race/Ethnicity: Native American - Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Tana Lin
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
tana_lin@wawd.uscourts.gov
206-370-8750
Race/Ethnicity: Asian/Chinese
Languages spoken: Conversational Mandarin and Spanish
Pronouns: She/Her

Magistrate Judge Brian Tsuchida
United States District Court, Western District of Washington
206-370-8930
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Judge Christopher M. Alston
United States Bankruptcy Court
Chris_Alston@wawb.uscourts.gov
206-370-5330
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Tribal Courts

Chief Judge John Macarro
Chehalis Tribal Court
john.macarro@yahoo.com
951-719-7307
Race/Ethnicity: American Indian (Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians)

Chief Justice Anita Dupris
Colville Tribal Court of Appeals
anita.dupris@colvilletribes.com
509-634-2506
Race/Ethnicity: American Indian/Colville Tribes member

Chief Judge Sarah Roubidoux Lawson
Stillaguamish Tribal Court
slawson@schwabe.com
206-658-5155
Race/Ethnicity: Native American/Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Associate Judge Meredith Drent
Tulalip Tribal Court
mdrent@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
360-716-4773
Race/Ethnicity: Native American, Pacific Islander
Pronouns: She/her
Associate Judge Joshua Heath
Tulalip Tribal Court
jheath@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
760-808-6056
Race/Ethnicity: Chickasaw, White

Justice Lisa Jill Dickinson
Northwest Intertribal Court System
lisa@dickinsonlawfirm.com
509-326-0636
Race/Ethnicity: Japanese American

Judge Jerry R. Ford
Northwest Intertribal Court System
bigsky2017@hotmail.com
253-279-7657
Race/Ethnicity: Native American
Washington State Supreme Court

Chief Justice Steve C. González
Washington State Supreme Court
Supreme@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2030
Race/Ethnicity: Latinx
Languages spoken: Japanese, Spanish and some Mandarin Chinese

Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis
Washington State Supreme Court
raquel.montoya-lewis@courts.wa.gov
360-306-1220
Race/Ethnicity: Native American
Pronouns: She/Her

Justice G. Helen Whitener
Washington State Supreme Court
Helen.Whitener@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2026
Race/Ethnicity: Black
Pronouns: She/Her

Justice Mary I. Yu
Washington State Supreme Court
maryyu@courts.wa.gov
360-357-2034
Race/Ethnicity: Asian, Latina
Languages spoken: Spanish
Pronouns: She/Her
Washington State Court of Appeals

Judge John H. Chun
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
john.chun@courts.wa.gov
206-464-7655
Race/Ethnicity: Asian/Korean
Languages spoken: Korean/French
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Linda W.Y. Coburn
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
linda.coburn@courts.wa.gov
206-464-7423
Race/Ethnicity: Chinese
Languages spoken: Mandarin (survival level only)
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Cecily C. Hazelrigg
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
cecily.hazelrigg@courts.wa.gov
206-464-7656
Race/Ethnicity: Chicana, White
Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

Judge Lori K. Smith
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
lori.smith@courts.wa.gov
206-464-6047
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black
Pronouns: She/Her
Commissioner Masako Kanazawa
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One
masako.kanazawa@courts.wa.gov
206-464-7763
Race/Ethnicity: Japanese, Asian
Language(s) spoken: Japanese
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Linda CJ Lee
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division Two
J_L.Lee@courts.wa.gov
253-593-5447
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Languages Spoken: Cantonese

Judge Bernard F. Veljacic
Washington State Court of Appeals, Division Two
J_B.Veljacic@courts.wa.gov
253-593-2970
Race/Ethnicity: Mexican, Croatian
Washington Superior, Juvenile, District & Municipal Courts

**Benton Franklin County**

Judge Norma Rodriguez  
Benton Franklin Superior Court  
norma@rihr-law.com  
509-531-6860  
Race/Ethnicity: Latina/Hispanic  
Language(s) spoken: Spanish  
Pronouns: She/Her

**Chelan County**

Judge Robert E. Jourdan  
Chelan County Superior Court  
Robert.jourdan@co.chelan.wa.us  
509-667-6210  
Race/Ethnicity: African American

**Clark County**

Judge Gregory M. Gonzales  
Clark County Superior Court  
Gregory.gonzales@clark.wa.gov  
564-397-2354  
Race/Ethnicity: Mexican American
Judge Camara Banfield  
Clark County Superior Court  
camara.banfield@clark.wa.gov  
564-397-4221  
Race/Ethnicity: Black  
Pronouns: She/her

King County

Judge Susan H. Amini  
King County Superior Court  
susan.amini@kingcounty.gov  
206-477-2548  
Race/Ethnicity: Middle Eastern; Persian, Iranian  
Language(s) spoken: Farsi (Persian), French  
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Samuel Chung  
King County Superior Court  
samuel.chung@kingcounty.gov  
206-477-1417  
Race/Ethnicity: Asian Pacific, Korean  
Language(s) spoken: Korean

Judge J. Michael Diaz  
King County Superior Court  
Jmd56@cornell.edu  
206-291-0079  
Race/Ethnicity: Latinx/Mixed Race  
Language(s) spoken: Spanish  
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Marshall Ferguson  
King County Superior Court  
marshall.ferguson@kingcounty.com  
206-477-1513  
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American  
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Veronica Galvan  
King County Superior Court  
veronica.galvan@kingcounty.gov  
206-477-1453  
Race/Ethnicity: Latina/x; Mexican American; Chicana/x  
Languages spoken: Spanish  
Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

Judge Nelson K. H. Lee  
King County Superior Court  
nelson.lee@kingcounty.gov  
206-477-1441  
Race/Ethnicity: Chinese/Japanese  
Language(s) spoken: Mandarin, Japanese, and French

Judge LeRoy McCullough  
King County Superior Court  
leroy.mccullough@kingcounty.gov  
206-477-1519  
Race/Ethnicity: African American  
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Maureen McKee  
King County Superior Court  
*m.mckee@kingcounty.gov*  
206-795-0245  
Race/Ethnicity: Korean American, White  
Pronouns: She/Her  

Judge Patrick Oishi  
King County Superior Court  
*patrick.oishi@kingcounty.gov*  
206-477-1471  
Race/Ethnicity: Asian - Japanese American  
Pronouns: He/Him  

Judge Nicole Phelps  
King County Superior Court  
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206-477-1414  
Race/Ethnicity: African American  
Pronouns: She/Her  

Judge Jason Poydras  
King County Superior Court  
*jason.poydras@kingcounty.gov*  
425-686-9651  
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American  
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Ketu Shah
King County Superior Court
ketu.shah@kingcounty.gov
206-447-1635
Race/Ethnicity: Asian Indian
Language(s) spoken: Gujarati
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Tanya L. Thorp
King County Superior Court
tanya.thorp@kingcounty.gov
206-477-1489
Race/Ethnicity: Black, Caucasian
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin
King County Superior Court
josephine.wiggs-martin@kingcounty.gov
206-477-4933
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Pronouns: She/Her

Commissioner Jonathon Lack
King County Superior Court
jjack@kingcounty.gov
206-477-0767
Race/Ethnicity: Asian/Japanese, White/Swedish
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Marcine Anderson
King County District Court
marcline.anderson@kingcounty.gov
206-477-2711
Race/Ethnicity: Japanese/Mixed Race
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Kuljinder Dhillon
King County District Court
kdhillon@kingcounty.gov
206-447-7113
Race/Ethnicity: South Asian
Language(s) spoken: Punjabi
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Nathaniel B. Green, Jr.
King County District Court
nathaniel.green@kingcounty.gov
206-263-1183
Race/Ethnicity: African American

Judge Fa’amomoi P. Masaniai, Jr.
King County District Court
fmasaniai@kingcounty.gov
206-263-1571
Race/Ethnicity: Samoan and Caucasian (Irish, Scottish, German and English)
Languages spoken: Samoan
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge Marcus Naylor
King County District Court
mnaylor@kingcounty.gov
206-477-9124
Race/Ethnicity: Asian

Judge E. Rania Rampersad
King County District Court
erampersad@kingcounty.gov
206-477-2040
Race/Ethnicity: White, South Asian, Trinidadian
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Leah Taguba
King County District Court
Ltaguba@kingcounty.gov
206-848-0031
Race/Ethnicity: Asian/Pacific Islander Filipino
Pronouns: She/Her

Presiding Judge Jennifer Johnson Grant
Lake Forest Park Municipal Court
jgrant@cityoflfp.com
206-364-7711
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic/Latina/Mexican
Pronouns: She/Her
Judge Anthony Gipe  
Kent Municipal Court  
agipe@kentwa.gov  
253-856-5734  
Race/Ethnicity: Indigenous/Tribal Member  
Languages: Russian

Presiding Judge Willie Gregory  
Seattle Municipal Court  
willie.gregory@seattle.gov  
206-684-8709  
Race/Ethnicity: African American; Native American  
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Faye R. Chess  
Seattle Municipal Court  
faye.chess@seattle.gov  
206-684-8709  
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black  
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Andrea Chin  
Seattle Municipal Court  
andrea.chinsmc@seattle.gov  
206-684-8709  
Race/Ethnicity: Asian  
Pronouns: She/Her
Judge Anita Crawford-Willis  
Seattle Municipal Court  
anita-crawford-Willis@seattle.gov  
206-684-8709  
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American  
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Judith Hightower (Ret.)  
Seattle Municipal Court  
Montysgirl1@gmail.com  
206-683-8614  
Race/Ethnicity: Black  
Language(s) spoken: Spanish

Judge Damon Shadid  
Seattle Municipal Court  
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206-234-9578  
Race/Ethnicity: Arab  
Pronouns: He/Him

Magistrate Judge Robert E. Chung  
Seattle Municipal Court  
robert.chung@seattle.gov  
206-684-5600  
Race/Ethnicity: Chinese
Magistrate Judge Park D. Eng  
Seattle Municipal Court  
park.eng@seattle.gov  
206-684-5600  
Race/Ethnicity: Asian American  
Pronouns: He/Him  

Magistrate Judge Jerome Roaché  
Seattle Municipal Court  
jerome.roache@seattle.gov  
206-684-5610  
Race/Ethnicity: Black, Asian  
Pronouns: He/Him  

Judge Kimberly Walden  
Tukwila Municipal Court  
kimberly.walden@tukwilawa.gov  
206-433-1840  
Race/Ethnicity: Filipino American  
Pronouns: She/Her  

Kitsap County  

Judge Tracy Flood  
Bremerton Municipal Court  
360-473-5260  
Race/Ethnicity: African American/Black  
Pronouns: She/Her
Mason County

Commissioner Cadine Ferguson-Brown
Mason County Superior Court
cferguson-brown@masoncountywa.gov
360-427-9670
Race/Ethnicity: African Caribbean/African American

Pierce County

Judge Sabrina Ahrens
Pierce County Superior Court
sahren1@piercecountywa.gov
253-798-3646
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Joseph Evans
Pierce County Superior Court
jevans1@piercecountywa.gov
253-798-6630
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Language(s) spoken: Sign Language

Judge Clarence Henderson, Jr.
Pierce County Superior Court
chender@piercecountywa.gov
253-798-7625
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American
Pronouns: He/Him
Judge André M. Peñalver  
Pierce County Superior Court  
apenalv@piercecountywa.gov  
253-228-8344  
Race/Ethnicity: Latino

Judge Karl Williams  
Pierce County District Court  
karl.williams@piercecountywa.gov  
253-798-3312  
Race/Ethnicity: African American, Choctaw Tribe of Alabama  
Pronouns: He/Him  

Judge Dwayne L. Christopher  
Pierce County District Court  
dwayne.christopher@piercecountywa.gov  
253-798-7487  
Race/Ethnicity: Black

Judge Lisa Mansfield  
Lakewood Municipal Court  
lmansfield@cityoflakewood.us  
206-229-0676  
Race/Ethnicity: African American  
Pronouns: She/Her
**Snohomish County**

Judge Cassandra Lopez-Shaw  
Snohomish County Superior Court  
cassandra.lopez-shaw@co.snohomish.wa.us  
425-388-3215  
Race/Ethnicity: Mexican American  
Language(s) Spoken: Spanish

Judge Edirin Okoloko  
Snohomish County Superior Court  
edirin.okoloko@co.snohomish.wa.us  
425-388-3954  
Race/Ethnicity: Black/Nigerian American  
Pronouns: He/Him

Judge Tam T. Bui  
Snohomish County District Court  
tam.bui@co.snohomish.wa.us  
425-388-3598  
Race/Ethnicity: Asian, Vietnamese American  
Language(s) Spoken: Vietnamese  
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Whitney Rivera  
Edmonds Municipal Court  
whitney.rivera@edmondswa.gov  
425-218-6338  
Race/Ethnicity: AAPI (Chamorro), White  
Pronouns: She/Her
Spokane County

Judge Charnelle Bjelkengren
Spokane County Superior Court
cbjelkengren@spokanecounty.org
509-477-6369
Race/Ethnicity: Black, Caucasian

Commissioner Jacquelyn High-Edward
Spokane County Superior Court
jhighedward@spokanecounty.org
509-477-6380
Race/Ethnicity: Japanese, Caucasian
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Aimee Maurer
Spokane County District Court
amaurer@spokanecounty.org
509-477-2901
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Gloria Ochoa-Bruck
Spokane Municipal Court
gochoabruck@spokanecity.org
506-622-5867
Race/Ethnicity: Hispanic
Language(s) Spanish
Pronouns: She/Her
Thurston County

Judge Sharonda D. Amamilo
Thurston County Superior Court
sharonda.d.amamilo@co.thurston.wa.us
360-754-4108
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Indu Thomas
Thurston County Superior Court
indu.thomas@co.thurston.wa.us
360-596-5152
Race/Ethnicity: Indian
Language(s) spoken: Malayalam
Pronouns: She/Her

Commissioner Pam Nogueira
Thurston County Superior Court
pam.nogueira@co.thurston.wa.us
360-709-3216
Race/Ethnicity: Latina; Brazilian; Mixed
Language: Portuguese
Pronouns: She/Her

Whatcom County

Commissioner Leon F. Henley, Jr.
Whatcom County Superior Court
lfhenley@co.whatcom.wa.us
360-961-7888
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Yakima County

Commissioner Sonia Rodriguez -True
Yakima County Superior Court
sonia.rodriguez-true@co.yakima.wa.us
509-574-1854
Race/Ethnicity: Latina
Pronouns: She/Her
Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH)

Chief Judge Lorraine Lee
Office of Administrative Hearings
lorraine.Lee@oah.wa.gov
360-968-9023
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Language(s) spoken: Chinese
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Annette Cook
Office of Administrative Hearings
annette.cooklaw@comcast.net
206-778-8813
Race/Ethnicity: Bi-Racial

Judge Stephanie Croom Williams
Office of Administrative Hearings
stephanie.williams@oah.wa.gov
253-548-5012
Race/Ethnicity: African American

Judge Bonnie J. Glenn
Office of Administrative Hearings
bonnie.glenn@oah.wa.gov
206-550-3568
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Pronouns: She/Her
Judge La Vonna A. Jones
Office of Administrative Hearings
lavonna.jones@oah.wa.gov
1-800-583-8271
Race/Ethnicity: Black/African American
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Janet Kim
Office of Administrative Hearings
janet.kim@oah.wa.gov
Race/Ethnicity: Asian
Language(s) spoken: Korean
Pronouns: She/Her

Judge Carolyn Pinkett
Office of Administrative Hearings
carolyn.pinkett@oah.wa.gov
206-549-5708
Race/Ethnicity: African American
Pronouns: She/Her

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