

*AFRICAN AMERICAN JUDGES IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS
IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON*

October 26, 2008

Federal Courts (Presidential Lifetime Appointments)

J. Jerome Farris

United States Court of Appeals Judge
Ninth Circuit

Appointed 1979

Jack E. Tanner (Deceased 2006)

United States District Court Judge
Western District of Washington

Appointed 1978

Franklin D. Burgess

United States District Court Judge
United States Magistrate Judge
Western District of Washington

Appointed 1994

Appointed 1981

Richard A. Jones

United States District Court Judge
Western District of Washington

Appointed 2007

Washington State Courts (Appointments Subject to Election)

Nathaniel Sargeant (Deceased 1954)

Justice of the Peace for Seabeck, Kitsap County

Elected 1897

Charles Z. Smith (Retired 2002)

Seattle Municipal Criminal Court
King County Superior Court
Washington State Supreme Court

Appointed/Elected 1965

Appointed/Elected 1966

Appointed/Elected 1988

J. Jerome Farris
Washington Court of Appeals
Resigned to Accept Appointment to Federal Court 1979

Appointed/Elected 1969

Ronald E. Cox
Washington Court of Appeals

Elected 1995

Herbert M. Stephens (Deceased 2000)
King County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 1974

Charles V. Johnson (Retired 1998)
King County Superior Court
Seattle Municipal Court

Appointed/Elected 1981
Appointed/Elected 1968

Donald D. Haley (Retired 2004)
King County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 1983

LeRoy McCullough
King County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 1989

Philip G. Hubbard
King County Superior Court

Elected 1997

Patricia Hall Clark
King County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 1998

Frank Cuthbertson
Pierce County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 2001

Beverly G. Grant
Pierce County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 2003

Michael S. Spearman
King County Superior Court
Vacated for Move to Private Arbitration Agency

Appointed/Elected 1993

Theodore F. Spearman
Kitsap County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 2004

J. Wesley Saint Clair
King County Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 2004

Cameron Mitchell
Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court

Appointed/Elected 2004

Eric Z. Lucas
Snohomish County Superior Court

Elected 2005

Monica J. Benton
King County Superior Court
United States Magistrate Judge (2001-2008)
King County District Court Judge (1995-2001)

Appointed/Elected 2008

Charles M. Stokes (Deceased)
King County District Court

Appointed/Elected 1978

George W. Holifield
Seattle Municipal Court

Appointed/Elected 1980

Fred Bonner
Seattle Municipal Court

Appointed/Elected 1989

Judith Hightower
Seattle Municipal Court

Elected 1991

Edsonia Charles
Seattle Municipal Court

Appointed/Elected 2005

A Note on Appointment and Election of Judges

Federal Court judges (except magistrate judges) are appointed by the President, with advice and consent of the Senate, for life. During their tenure they serve as active judges, or may take senior status or retire. All judicial positions are non-partisan.

Washington State judges (Superior and Appellate courts) are either elected for specified terms or appointed by the Governor (to fill a vacancy) to serve until the next general election in which case they must stand for election by the voting public. Similarly, County District Court judges are either elected for specified terms or appointed by the County Commissioners to serve until the next general election; and Seattle Municipal Court judges are either elected for specified terms or appointed by the Mayor and City Council to serve until the next general election. All judicial positions are non-partisan.