



1969-2019

YEARS OF JUSTICE



WASHINGTON STATE COURT OF APPEALS

celebrating fifty years

“The greatest and the most far-reaching of the changes that have taken place on the Supreme Court since my coming on the Court has been the promulgation of the rules of procedure for the Court of Appeals.”

Honorable Robert T. Hunter
Chief Justice, Washington Supreme Court, 1969–1971

Authorized by the 50th Amendment to the Washington Constitution, the new, 12-member Court of Appeals opened for business in August of 1969.

Created to alleviate the escalating workload of the Washington Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals faced formidable caseload challenges in its early years.

Three separate divisions of the Court were established in Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane.

By 1978, four new judges were added to the Court. Driven by a steady increase in litigation in the county-level superior courts, the number of backlogged cases still grew, particularly in the more populated areas served by Divisions One and Two.

As the number of backlogged cases grew, all Divisions

instituted measures — the temporary use of other judges, adoption of unpublished opinions, motions on the merits, the employment of settlement conferences, the hiring of commissioners and additional law clerks, automated record-keeping and processing of opinions to deal with the problem.

In 1986, an ambitious program entitled “ABLE”, or Appellate Backlog Elimination, turned the caseload deficit around. Supported by temporary staff members, special three-judge panels worked their way through the backlogged cases within a year’s time.

Celebrating its fiftieth year in 2019, the Court is continuing its extensive efforts to accurately measure, monitor, and reduce case processing times. Twenty-two judges currently serve on the three-division court.

HB 183 SIGNED INTO LAW

Then-Gov. Dan Evans signed HB 183 into law creating Washington State’s new, three division, Court of Appeals on May 8, 1969. On-lookers included Sen. Wes Uhlman, then chair of the state Senate Judiciary Committee, and later mayor of Seattle; Norman Allen, chairman of the Citizens Committee on Washington Courts; then-Chief Justice Robert C. Finley, Washington Supreme Court; and DeWitt Williams, a Seattle lawyer who coordinated bar and bench efforts on behalf of the new court. After voters approved the constitutional change that provided for the Court, the state bar association publication gave credit to the Citizens Committee on Washington Courts, noting it was “the first time in the history of this state that a body of laymen actually influenced the Legislature and the voters for the improvement of the judicial system.”





FIRST 12 APPOINTEES TO THE COURT OF APPEALS

The first 12 appointees to the Washington Court of Appeals. One of them, Charles F. Stafford (top row, third from right), served the new court only four months before Governor Evans elevated him to the Washington Supreme Court in December, 1969. He died in office 16 years later. Ward Williams was appointed to replace him on the Court, where he served until retirement in 1989. He died in 1999. Others pictured are (front row, left to right) Frank D. James, Jerome Farris, Governor Dan Evans, Robert F. Utter, Charles Horowitz (back row, left to right) Herbert A. Swanson, Ray E. Munson, Vernon R. Pearson, Harold J. Petrie, Ralph Armstrong, Charles F. Stafford, Dale M. Green, Hugh H. Evans. As in other states at that time, Washington's new intermediate appellate court was established to relieve the burgeoning caseload of the state Supreme Court.

“...It began with the serious concern of the members of the Supreme Court and the leaders of the state bar, with the overwhelming and constantly increasing burden to which the Supreme Court was being put. It grew from there to the interest of a number of leading citizens who were not lawyers, was taken up by the press, and submitted to the people of this state by the Legislature in an almost unanimous vote, accepted by the people of this state just last November. . .

We who are concerned daily, of course, with the administration of justice, must always relate our concern with that of the people who are the support of our democratic system and the system of justice, and there is some justice, I believe, in the fact that a new court is meeting here in a new building . . . the growth to completion of this court, will, of course, be a very real part of the future.”

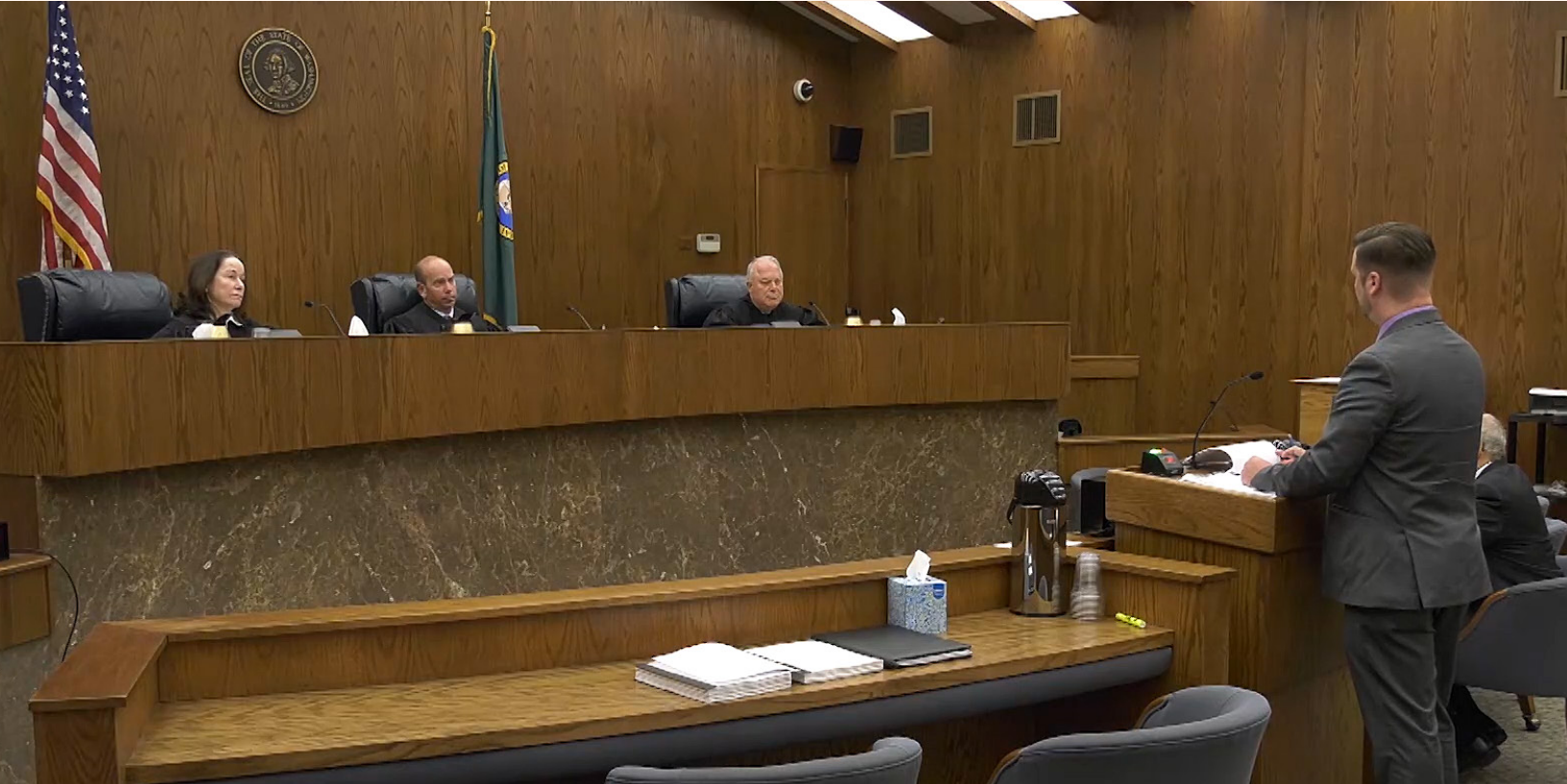
Slade Gorton

Washington State Attorney General
Division II Inauguration Ceremony, September 16, 1969



today's court

With a total of 22 judges, the three divisions dispose approximately 4,000 cases each year. Today, most cases appealed from superior courts go directly to the Court of Appeals which has the authority to reverse, remand, modify or affirm the decision of superior courts.



“The staff and judges of the Court of Appeals look forward to another 50 years of diligence, integrity, and excellence as we continue to announce and apply the law, administer justice to litigants in the state of Washington, and serve our role as the intermediate appellate court and the workhorse of the Washington state appellate system.”

Honorable George B. Fearing
Judge of Division III



court of appeals

2019



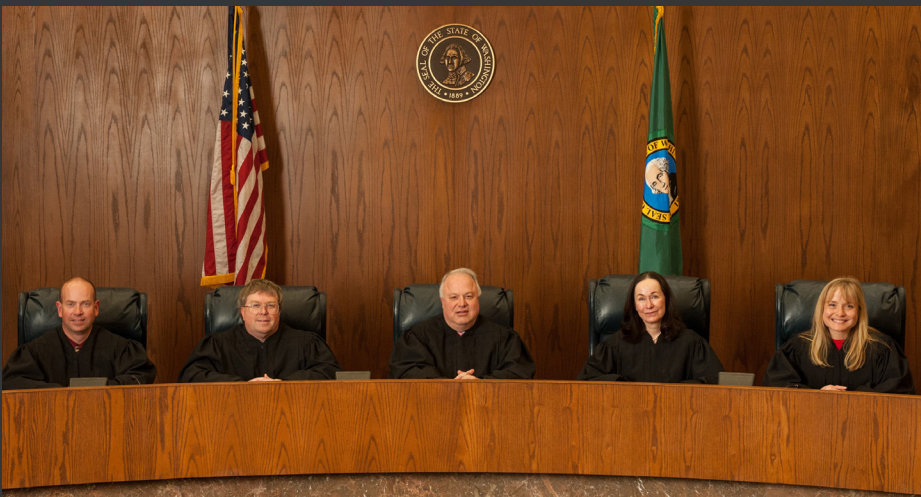
DIVISION I

From Left to Right: Judge Marlin J. Appelwick, Judge John H. Chun, Judge James R. Verellen, Judge Lori K. Smith, Judge J. Robert Leach, Judge Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez, Judge David S. Mann, Judge Beth M. Andrus, Judge Stephen J. Dwyer, Judge Ann Schindler.



DIVISION II

From Left to Right: Judge Lisa R. Worswick, Judge Rich Melnick, Judge Rebecca Glasgow, Judge Bradley Maxa, Judge Anne M. Cruser, Judge Lisa L. Sutton, Judge Linda C.J. Lee.



DIVISION III

From Left to Right: Judge Robert E. Lawrence-Berrey, Jr., Judge Kevin M. Korsmo, Judge George B. Fearing, Judge Laurel H. Siddoway, Judge Rebecca L. Pennell.

judges of the court of appeals

DIVISION I

Position 1

1969–1982 Frank D. James
1982–1995 Jack P. Scholfield
1995–2018 Ronald E. Cox
2018–Present Beth M. Andrus

Position 2

1969–1979 Jerome Farris
1980–1985 Barbara Durham
1985–2001 Walter E. Webster
2002–Present Ann Schindler

Position 3

1969–1990 Herbert A. Swanson
1990–2005 Faye C. Kennedy
2005–Present Stephen J. Dwyer

Position 4

1969–1975 Charles Horowitz
1975–1984 James A. Andersen
1984–2007 H. Joseph Coleman
2008–2016 Linda Lau
2016–Present David S. Mann

Position 5

1969–1969 Charles F. Stafford
1970–1989 Ward Williams
1989–1993 Marshall Forrest
1994–2019 Mary Kay Becker
2019–Present Cecily Hazelrigg-Hernandez

Position 6

1969–1971 Robert F. Utter
1972–1985 Keith M. Callow
1985–2014 C. Kenneth Grosse
2014–2018 Michael J. Trickey
2018–Present John H. Chun

Position 7

1978–1980 Fred H. Dore
1981–1986 T. Patrick Corbett
1986–1995 Rosselle Pekelis
1995–2012 Anne L. Ellington
2012–Present James R. Verellen

Position 8

1978–1988 Solie M. Ringold
1988–1990 Robert W. Winsor
1991–2009 Susan R. Agid
2010–2018 Michael S. Spearman
2018–Present Lori K. Smith

Position 9

1990–2008 William W. Baker
2008–Present J. Robert Leach

Position 10

1998–Present Marlin J. Appelwick

DIVISION II

Position 1

1969–1975 Ralph L.J. Armstrong
1975–1990 Edward P. Reed
1990–2005 J. Dean Morgan
2005–2014 Joel M. Penoyar
2014–Present Rich Melnick

Position 2

1969–1982 Vernon R. Pearson
1982–1991 Stanley W. Worswick
1992–2004 Karen G. Seinfeld
2004–2013 Marywave VanDeren
2013–Present Bradley Maxa

Position 3

1969–1985 Harold J. Petrie
1985–1995 Gerry L. Alexander
1995–1995 Charles K. Wiggins
1995–1997 John E. Turner
1997–2014 J. Robin Hunt
2014–Present Lisa L. Sutton

Position 4

1978–1979 Hardyn B. Soule
1980–1993 John A. Petrich
1993–2010 Elaine M. Houghton
2010–Present Lisa R. Worswick

Position 5

1994–2011 C.C. Bridgewater
2011–2019 Jill M. Johanson
2019–Present Anne M. Cruser

Position 6

1995–1996 Edward L. Fleisher
1996–2012 David H. Armstrong
2012–2019 Thomas R. Bjorgen
2019–Present Rebecca Glasgow

Position 7

2000–2000 Arthur C. Wang
2000–2014 Christine J. Quinn-Brintnall
2014–Present Linda CJ Lee

DIVISION III

Position 1

1969–1972 Hugh H. Evans
1972–1972 Ralph P. Edgerton
1972–1988 J. Ben McInturff
1988–1993 George T. Shields
1993–2009 John A. Schultheis
2010–Present Laurel H. Siddoway

Position 2

1969–1991 Dale M. Green
1991–2013 Dennis J. Sweeney
2013–Present George B. Fearing

Position 3

1969–1997 Ray E. Munson
1997–2015 Stephen M. Brown
2016–Present Rebecca L. Pennell

Position 4

1978–1983 Willard J. Roe
1983–1997 Phillip J. Thompson
1997–2007 Kenneth H. Kato
2007–2007 Debra L. Stephens
2008–Present Kevin M. Korsmo

Position 5

1996–2005 Frank L. Kurtz
2006–2014 Teresa C. Kulik
2014–Present Robert E. Lawrence-Berrey, Jr.



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