

Matthew Williams

Questionnaire

King County District Court

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

**Professional History**

8. Year admitted to practice law in Washington: 1987 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Employment History (in reverse chronological order):

a. Start Date: April 1993 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: To Present \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Safeco/Liberty Mutual Insurance \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1001 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle, WA 98185 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (253) 670-8141 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Product Director, Managing Attorney, \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: Janine Graff, Cheryl Maloney, Don Skinner \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I serve as a general manager of personal lines insurance products in several Midwestern states. As a Managing Attorney (1993-2003), I created & managed a law office with a diverse staff and caseload. The cases that we handled included personal injury, construction defect and complex commercial litigation with potential exposures in excess of \$5 million. I had weekly court appearances through 2003.

Reason for leaving: Changed position within company due to illness in family \_\_\_\_\_

b. Start Date: 1991 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: Present \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Seattle University (formerly University of Puget Sound) School of Law \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: 206.398.4000 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Adjunct Professor of Law \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: Marilyn Berger \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I teach Trial and Pre-Trial Advocacy including all phases of trial practice, motion practice, negotiation & legal discovery

Reason for leaving: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

c. Start Date: 1990 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: Present \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 361 Centennial Parkway, Louisville, CO 80027 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: 720.890.7069 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Instructor, Team Leader, Program Director \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: John Baker \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I serve as Trial Advocacy instructor in NITA programs throughout the US, and I serve as Program Director of NW Deposition Program \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

d. Start Date: October 1990 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: March 1993 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: City of Seattle Attorney's Office \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (206) 684-2489 \_\_\_\_\_

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

Position/Title: Supervising Assistant City Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: Sean Sheehan \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I managed Trial attorneys, and support staff handling "large loss" litigation including construction defect, land use, employment, personal injury, conspiracy, and malfeasance suits. Weekly Court appearances \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: Accepted Position at Safeco \_\_\_\_\_

e. Start Date: July 1989 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: October 1990 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Federal Aviation Administration \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1601 Lind Ave SW , Renton, WA 98057 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (425) 227-1913 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Enforcement Prosecuting Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: George Thompson \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I prosecuted cases throughout the Northwest Mountain Region, involving aircraft malfunction, pilot error, and aircraft crashes in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, and Utah. Bi-weekly appearances \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: Accepted Supervisory position at City of Seattle \_\_\_\_\_

f. Start Date: August 1987 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: July 1989 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Washington State Office of the Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1125 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98504 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (360) 753-6200 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Assistant Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: Michael Tardiff \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I prosecuted tax litigation and defended civil suits brought against the State of Washington. Bi-Weekly court appearances \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: Accepted Position at Federal Aviation Administration \_\_\_\_\_

G. Start Date: August 1983 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: June 1987 \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: Iowa Department of Justice \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines IA 50319 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: 515-281-5164 \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: Assistant Attorney General \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: Gordon Allen \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

I prosecuted post-conviction relief actions related to crimes committed within State institutions and was responsible for litigation and trial of civil rights, personal injury, medical malpractice, defamation, and welfare litigation, in both State and Federal Courts. Bi-weekly court appearances. \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: Moved to Washington State \_\_\_\_\_

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

10. Please list all other courts and jurisdictions in which you have been admitted to practice law and the dates of admission. Please provide the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements.

1983, Iowa (inactive).  
1983, Nebraska. (inactive).  
1983, U.S. Southern District of Iowa.  
1983, U.S. Northern District of Iowa.  
1987, Washington.  
1987, U.S. Western District of Washington.  
1987, U.S. Eastern District of Washington.  
1983, U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.  
1987, U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

- 
11. Please list all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups. \_\_\_\_\_

**TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.**  
**WASHINGTON DEFENSE TRIAL LAWYERS (WDTL),** Board of Trustees, 2001 to 2003, Editorial Board, 2000-2003. Strategic Planning Committee, 2001 to 2003.  
**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF TECHNICAL ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS.**

- 
12. Are you in good standing in every bar association of which you are a member? Yes / No. If you answered "no", please explain.

**Yes. I am inactive in Iowa, and Nebraska.** \_\_\_\_\_

- 
13. If you have ever been a judge, please identify any court committees on which you have served or administrative positions you have held. Please state the dates of service for each.

**No committees** \_\_\_\_\_

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

14. Please list up to five of your most significant professional accomplishments. (If applicable, please provide the case and court name and the citation if a case was reported (and copy of the opinion).)
- 1) Through my work at Seattle University School of Law and the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, from 1990 to the present I have trained over 2000 advocates through out the United States in Effective Courtroom practices.**
  
  - 2) Due to my background and experience in court processes, advocacy and access to justice, I was selected by the US Department of Justice and the Kosovo Judicial Institute to build a curriculum, select team members, and lead training for judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors targeted on furthering rule of law initiatives, war crimes prosecutions, and development of civil justice system in Pristina, Kosovo in March 2009, June 2009, February 2010. I have been asked to lead further training in Kosovo and Albania later this year. This work is helping to build a justice system within the Balkans that will assist their emerging democracies and improve the stability of the region.**
  
  - 3) In September 2006, I was selected by ABA/CEELI and the US Department of Justice to assist the Azerbaijan Ministry of Justice by conducting training for judges, defense attorneys, and prosecutors, targeted on prevention of human-trafficking and money laundering.**
  
  - 4) As an Assistant Attorney General, and an Aviation Enforcement Prosecutor, I developed and implemented some of the first automated case and docket control systems that merged both PC and mainframe technology for various public sector offices, that allowed attorneys to effectively meet and manage complex litigation.**
  
  - 5) As a Pro Tem in Pierce County District Court on the Anti-Harassment Calendar, I balanced 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment freedom of speech interests and privacy/defamation interests in ordering the removal of a false webpage that was maliciously targeting a former supervisor of the respondent.**
-



The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

**Educational Background**

16. Please list all undergraduate and graduate (non-law school) colleges and universities attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

University of Nebraska _____	1976 - 1980 _____	BS _____
College/University _____	Dates of Attendance _____	Degree _____
_____	_____	_____
College/University _____	Dates of Attendance _____	Degree _____
_____	_____	_____

17. Please list all law schools attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

University of Nebraska _____	1980 - 1983 _____	JD _____
Law School _____	Dates of Attendance _____	Degree _____
_____	_____	_____
Law School _____	Dates of Attendance _____	Degree _____
_____	_____	_____

**Professional Experience**

18. Please summarize, briefly, the general nature of your current law practice.

**My current position is as a general manager of personal lines insurance products in several Midwestern states. I also serve as a Special Disciplinary Counsel for the Washington State Bar Association, and provide training and consulting services to public and private law offices**

19. If you are in practice, please describe your typical clients and any areas of special emphasis within your practice.

**Within my current practice, my clients are Law Offices, Prosecutors, and governmental entities seeking to improve their advocacy skills and court room processes. My focus is on improving the effectiveness of courtroom practice and advocacy. My work requires me to consult with the senior management of the office and lead them in building more effective management systems and better advocacy skills for the attorneys that practice within those offices.**

20. If your present law practice is different from any previous practice, please describe the earlier practice, including the nature of your typical clients and any area of special emphasis within your practice.

**As a Managing Attorney of one of Safeco's litigation department, our typical clients ranged from individuals who had been involved in car collisions, to large and small commercial entities involved in construction defect litigation.**

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

21. Within the last 5 years, did you appear in trial court:
- Regularly                       Occasionally                      X Infrequently
22. Within the last 5 years, did you prepare appellate briefs and appear before appellate courts:
- Regularly                       Occasionally                      X Infrequently
23. Within the last five years, how often did you appear in the court for which you are applying:
- Regularly                       Occasionally                      X Infrequently

24. Career Experience

(a) What percentage of your appearances in the last five years was in:

(1) Federal appellate courts	0	%
(2) Federal trial courts	0	%
(3) State appellate courts	0	%
(4) State trial courts	0	%
(5) Municipal courts	1	%
(6) District courts	1	%
(7) Administrative tribunals	0	%
(8) Tribal courts	0	%
(9) Other	98	%
TOTAL	100	%

(b) What percentage of your practice in the last five years was:

(1) Civil litigation (excl. family law)	5	%
(2) Criminal litigation	0	%
(3) Family law litigation	0	%
(4) Non-litigation	95	%
TOTAL	100	%

(c) What percentage of your trials in the last five years were:

(1) Jury trials	0	%
(2) Non-jury trials	0	%
TOTAL	100	%

(d) State the number of cases during your total career that you have tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) in the following courts, and indicate for each court the following percentages: trials in which you were sole counsel or chief counsel, jury trials, and trials were you were the arbiter/decision maker.

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

<u>Number</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>% as Sole / Chief Counsel</u>	<u>% Jury</u>	<u>% as the Arbiter</u>
<u>7</u>	Municipal	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>200 -250</u>	State Dist.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>100%</u>
<u>3</u>	State Superior	<u>90%</u>	<u>10%</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>100</u>	Federal Dist.	<u>100%</u>	<u>0%</u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	Administrative	<u>100%</u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	Tribal Courts	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	Other	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

- (e) State the number of appellate cases during your total career where you appeared as counsel of record in the following courts, and indicate for each court the following percentages: cases where you were sole counsel or chief counsel, and cases where you were the arbiter/decision maker (if applicable).

<u>Number</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>% as Sole / Chief Counsel</u>	<u>% as the Arbiter</u>
_____	State Superior Court	_____	_____
<u>  1  </u>	WA. Div. I COA	<u>  0  </u>	_____
_____	WA. Div. II COA	_____	_____
_____	WA. Div. III COA	_____	_____
_____	WA. Supreme Court	_____	_____
_____	Fed. Cir. COA	_____	_____
_____	U.S. Supreme Court	_____	_____

- (f) Briefly describe no more than five significant litigation matters that you directly handled as the sole counsel. For each, please provide the name and telephone number of opposing counsel, the name of the judge or other judicial officer, and the citation (if applicable).

- 1) **Rodriguez v. WSU, Opposing Counsel, Halleck Hodgins, (206) 447-9681, Judge Wally Freel. Traumatic Brain Injury Case brought against Washington State University.**
  
- 2) **Topping Motors, Inc. v. Guernsey-Ostergard, Inc. & ASI, Opposing Counsel, Nigel Malden, (253) 627-0393, Action brought to obtain insurance company investigation records. Established attorney work product exception to portions of investigation.**
  
- 3) **Buffington v. Kildahl, Opposing Counsel, Hon. James Orlando, (253) 798-7578, Judge James Healy, Malicious Prosecution action brought against State Game Agents/ Pierce County, Deputy Sheriffs**
  
- 4) **Grimm v. City of Seattle, Opposing Counsel, Joe Wishcamper (888) 472-4455, EXT 3260, wrongful death case involving allegations of failure to inspect under municipal code.**
  
- 5) **Hall v. Woodward, Opposing Counsel: William Tucker, Iowa City, Iowa (Deceased). Prosecutor, along with the Chief of the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, was accused of targeting a criminal investigation and maliciously prosecuting a black football player for the 1973 murder of a University of Iowa Co-ed. This case has driven my passion for the improvement and training of law enforcement personnel.** \_\_\_\_\_

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

- (g) State in detail your experience in adversary proceedings before administrative boards or commissions during the last five years.

**I have not appeared before any administrative boards or commissions during the last five years. Prior to 1992, I frequently appeared before the NTSB and the Department of Transportation administrative tribunals as an aviation enforcement prosecutor. (Most of the 100 administrative hearings referenced in question 24(d) were during this period)** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

25. Please briefly describe any legal non-litigation experience that you feel enhances your qualifications to serve as a judge.

**I built, from the ground up, a law office composed of members of several diverse communities which focused on commercial litigation. In the process, I developed training programs for the trial attorneys that I managed, and managerial training programs for the managers that I supervised. In addition to budgetary, training and staffing issues, we also dealt with cross-cultural issues.**

**For the last 5 years, I have been tasked as a general manager of a large business entity with the specific skill set of rooting out problems and managing cross-departmental teams to ensure growth and profit. These skills will help me add value to our court system by collaboratively identifying and implementing Best Practices to improve the functioning of our District Court.**

26. If you are now an officer or director of any business organization or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprises, please provide the following: the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title of your position, the nature of your duties, and the term of your service. If you are appointed and do not intend to resign such position(s), please state this below along with your reasons for not resigning.

**International Sensor Systems, Inc. Electronics manufacturing plant based in my home-town of Aurora, Nebraska. I am a Member of the Board of Directors. I provide advice and guidance to the President and Chief Operating Officer. I have no plans to resign. ISSI is a company started by my late father, They do no business in Washington State.**

---

27. Please list all chairmanships of major committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees that you have held and believe to be of particular significance.

**Washington State Bar Association – ELC Task Force, Special Disciplinary Counsel, Adjunct Investigator, and Practice Monitor.**

**Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association, Board of Trustees, Strategic Planning Committee, Editorial Board**

**Please see attached list of Continuing Legal Education Programs that I have chaired or organized.** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

**Judicial Interest and Experience**

28. In 50 words or less, please describe why you should be appointed / elected and are seeking a judicial position.

**District Court is about real people who have real issues. I believe It is the place where I can bring my experience in improving judicial systems and advocacy, and make a real difference in the lives of individuals and in our community. Serving as a District Court Judge is the culmination of the career paths that I have chosen and my passion to serve.**

---

---

---

---

---

29. In 50 words or less, please describe your judicial philosophy.

**My experience as a Pro Tem Judge is that for most people appearing in court, District Court is their first and only contact with our justice system. For the citizens of King County to be best served, a judge who sits on this bench must be open, transparent, balanced, fair, and focused on public safety.**

---

---

---

30. Have you ever held a judicial office or have you ever been a candidate for such office?

Yes / No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, and the periods of your service.

**PRO TEM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, PIERCE COUNTY, Appointed, Tacoma, WA. 2007 to Present.**

**PRO TEM DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, KING COUNTY, Appointed, Seattle, WA. 2009 to Present.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

31. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office, or have you ever been a candidate for such an office? Yes / No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the offices involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service.

**No** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

The Governor's Office's  
Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire

32. Please briefly identify all of your experience as a neutral decision-maker (e.g. judge (permanent or pro tem) in any jurisdiction, administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, etc.). Give courts, approximate dates, and attorneys who appeared before you.

**I have served as a Pro-Tem in Pierce County District Court since 2007 on the criminal, civil, anti-harassment, and infraction calendars. I have served as an arbitrator in King and Pierce County Superior Court for almost two decades and adjudicated cases ranging from simple personal injury matters to complex contract/commercial matters.** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Community and Civic Activities**

33. Please list your community and civic activities, including dates and leadership roles held, over the last 10 years.

**Northwest Sarcoma Foundation – Master of Ceremonies 2010 Fundraising Event**  
**Frequent Volunteer Speaker/Presenter for KCBA, WSBA, and other organizations (see attached)**  
**Guest Speaker, Auburn High-School (Physics/Math and Accident Reconstruction) 2004-2008**  
**Instructor, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (see attached)**  
**Instructor, Washington State Patrol Academy (see attached)**  
**President – Homeowners Association (2 terms)**  
**Chairman – Home Owners Assoc, Architectural Control Committee** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---