

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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| Candidate Name | Matthew W. Williams |
| Position sought | King County District Court Judge |
| Residence LD | 47th |
| Are you the incumbent? | New Position - King County District Court, SE Division, Pos. 06 |
| Campaign Information | |
| Campaign Name | Elect Matt Williams |
| Web page | www.ElectMattWilliams.com |
| Campaign Email address | ElectMattWilliams@gmail.com |
| Manager | Ellen Uhler |
| Campaign mailing address | P.O. Box 2300 Auburn, WA 98071 |
| Campaign phone number | (206) 604-0140 |
| Campaign FAX | (253) 833-8785 |

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| Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience. |
| Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees. |
| University of Nebraska, 1980, BS |
| University of Nebraska College of Law, 1983, JD |

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| Hours and types of pro bono work performed. |
| I have provided more than 800 hours of pro bono training to attorneys and advocates that provide free legal services. My pro bono training of advocates through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy for the past 20 years has resulted in many of my students entering the role of providing free legal services. Additionally, I have provided more than 150 hours of pro bono training to law enforcement personnel at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and the Washington State Patrol. |

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| Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long? |
| Assistant Attorney General - Washington State - Prosecuted tax litigation against Boeing Assistant Attorney General - Iowa - Handled Post Conviction Relief Trials for 4 years Aviation Enforcement Prosecutor - Federal Aviation Administration - Handled the prosecution of aviation related matters for 1.5 years |

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Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?
No. Although, I have handled the civil defense of individuals and government officials, and police officers in several hundred matters in Washington State and Iowa.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?
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. In addition to the many matters that I have served as an arbitrator, I have served as a mediator for both the King and Pierce County Courts 3 times.

How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:

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| Municipal Court | Once |
| District Court | More than 100 |
| Superior Court jury trials | More than 20 |
| Arguments in Court of Appeals | 1 |
| Arguments in State Supreme Court | 3 |
| Federal District Court trials | 3 |

What ratings and endorsements have you received?

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| Municipal League | In Progress |
| King County Bar Association | In Progress |
| Washington Women Lawyers | In Progress |
| Loren Miller Bar Association | In Progress |
| QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association | In Progress |
| Latina/Latino Bar Association | In Progress |
| Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee | In Progress |

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Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?

Hon. Hollis Hill, King County Superior Court, King County, WA
Hon. Richard McDermott, King County Superior Court, King County, WA
Hon. James Orlando, Pierce County Superior Court, Pierce County WA
Hon. Jack Nevin, Pierce County District Court. Pierce County, WA
Hon. Anne Harper, King County District Court, King County, WA
Hon. Marjorie Tedrick, Buckley Municipal Court, Buckley, WA
Hon. Rosalyn Solomon, Seattle, WA
Ronald Clark, Chief Deputy Criminal Division, King County Prosecuting Attorney (Retired),
Distinguished Practitioner in Residence, Seattle University Law School.
C. Steven Fury, Attorney
Robert Reinhard, Attorney
J.D. Smith, Attorney
David Groff, Attorney
August (Gus) Cifelli, Attorney
Rod Hollenbeck, Attorney
John Mocerri, Attorney
Nigel Malden, Attorney
Rod Ray, Attorney
Tim Malarchick, Attorney
Steven Fricke, Attorney
Eric S Newman, Attorney
Clarence Jones, Attorney
J. Todd Henry, Attorney
Dr. Lydia Bartholomew, M.D.
Dr. Sarah Simpson, M.D.
Dr. Patricia Read-Williams, MD
Dr. Nicola Walker, M.D.
Joe McCuiston, Auburn High School, Teacher Emeritus, Auburn, WA
As well as numerous prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement personnel from around
the United States

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?

Hon. Hollis Hill
Hon. Anne Harper

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.

No.

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List any complaints you have received through any Bar Association, Judicial Conduct Committee or Board, or private insurance carrier. (Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)

None

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

Trial Practice and Legal Process Management.

I have a broad background as a prosecutor and civil defense attorney, and have tried many cases as both an advocate and as a judicial officer in courtrooms throughout Washington State and the United States. This experience has given me exposure to many ways of solving the problems faced by our court systems.

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.

What recommendations do you have for improving court system funding and administration?

We should look at consolidating the administration of our multiple court locations and districts to unify and streamline the overall effectiveness of the King County Court System.

We should increase the use of video courtroom equipment at critical locations to reduce the transport and transfer of in-custody accused.

We should craft alternatives to incarceration that still allow us to protect the public by effective monitoring of prisoners. Examples of these alternatives include electronic home monitoring services, work details, and day reporting. We should seek available federal grant monies to implement and fund diversion programs.

We should make court appearances count by improving our pre-trial processes. Many times, cases appear before the court simply to be continued or delayed at the last minute. Improving our pre-trial confirmation process would give clear notice to the parties that the case will move forward as promised, while eliminating unnecessary continuances. It would allow the court and the parties to better schedule and would save resources.

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We should increase our use of paperless technologies, and eliminate or streamline the associated manual processes. As one example, we have multiple databases and data sources that court personnel must use to process each case. This requires frequent switching between systems. Sometimes important information can be overlooked, and frequently court personnel will simply print out portions of various systems for easier access. With increased training, and some improvement in the interface that we use to access the various systems, we can reduce our costs and improve the efficiency of our court personnel.

As a Pro Tem District Court Judge in King County I am currently, working with Judge Anne Harper to develop improved practice checklists for District Court Judges

What actions have you taken in the last five years on issues regarding access to the judicial system?

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, and in Baku, Azerbaijan. 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, by providing access to justice.

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.

What recommendations do you have for increasing access to the judicial system (Civil and Criminal)?

In the civil context, we should increase the availability of both forms and pro bono advocates within our court locations. We should partner with King County Bar Association, the University of Washington and the Seattle University Schools of Law to increase the approved forms and resources that are available on site for King County citizens who come to the court house seeking help with legal issues.

In the criminal context, we should reduce the time spent by the court, public defenders, and prosecutors, and on cases and appearances that are continued. We should examine

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the screening criteria for public defender resources, and encourage increased partnerships and coordination within pro bono organizations.

In a more general sense, we should do community outreach and education programs within our area high schools to better familiarize our young people to our justice system.

If a sitting Judge, what committees have you been appointed to and what are the significant accomplishments of those committees or yourself? If not, which committee assignments would you seek?

I would seek to serve on those committees that are focusing on improving the court processes, management, and administration. I believe that my background in improving court processes and identifying best practices would best serve the citizens of King County by helping to create a more efficient, more effective, and more responsive court system.

Have you reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the Practice of Law Board's Work? – Do you have comments or ideas? Would you be in favor of the proposed Legal Technician Rule? This rule allows trained, tested and licensed non-lawyers to provide specifically defined legal services without supervision by a lawyer. Please explain.

I have reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the work of the Practice of Law Board.

The proposed Legal Technician Rule could have the result of improving access to needed legal services in the family law arena. Citizens who have entered this area of the law are especially vulnerable, and so the legal community has a duty to ensure that these citizens are well represented and that legal services are available.

The key to the success of this program is the establishment and enforcement of standards of competency, conduct and continuing education. We must be aware that there is potential for abuse, and that an effective monitoring and process must be put in place to protect those who use such services.

The rule provides a structure for the training, mentoring, and monitoring of those providing technical legal services, and who serve a group of citizens who might be reluctant for any number of reasons to engage with an attorney. The practice definitions should remain clear when referral to an attorney is required.

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In this context, the Legal Technician program should be viewed not only as a potentially lower cost alternative to legal services provided by an attorney, but also as an entry point that would allow a larger percentage of those facing legal issues to obtain legal services from the entire legal community.

While I generally support the limitations on the areas within which Legal Technician's are authorized to practice, I firmly support opportunities for legal technicians to receive enhanced training in the area of domestic violence.

Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If "yes", please give the details?

No.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

Yes. As a managing attorney, I actively recruited a diverse group of attorneys and support staff. I worked with the entire staff to create a work environment that valued and leveraged our differences in experience, background, perspective and culture.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

District Court is about real people, who have real issues, and who deserve real solutions. I want to bring my experience in improving public safety and ensuring justice and fairness and put it to work for the citizens of King County.

My campaign had several doorbell events, and I have personally knocked on over 100 doors to date. My campaign has a website, and we plan both direct mail and email outreach programs to align with key events (primary election, general election) to get our core message out to the voters of the SE District. Our campaign budget is approximately \$65,000. We have raised approximately \$23,000 to date. I currently have a campaign staff of 11 people plus myself.

I believe that I will win because being a District Court Judge requires more than just trying a case as an advocate for one side or the other. It requires a balanced view. With my experience as a prosecutor, defense attorney, arbitrator, and pro-tem judge, as well as my

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experience in improving judicial systems and advocacy, I bring these qualities to the bench.

Serving as a District Court Judge is the culmination of the career paths that I have chosen and my passion to serve.

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| I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information. | | |
| Printed Name | Matt Williams | Date June 10, 2010 |
| Signature |  | |