

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Karen Donohue
Position sought	Seattle Municipal Court
Residence LD	46
Are you the incumbent?	No
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Karen Donohue for Judge
Web page	TBD
Campaign Email address	karendonohue@comcast.net
Manager	TBD
Campaign mailing address	P.O. Box 20664 Seattle, WA 98102
Campaign phone number	206 227-8249
Campaign FAX	

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees.
University of Washington - B.A. Political Science 1983
University of Puget Sound School of Law (now Seattle University) - J.D. 1987

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
I haven't kept track of pro bono hours, but early in my career I was a Neighborhood Legal Clinic Volunteer and I've helped low income or elderly people with property disputes or simple contractual matters. Most of the volunteering work that I have done has been for schools, non-profit or community based organizations.

Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?
Yes - Seattle City Attorney's Office. 1990 - 1994

Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?
Yes - in private practice (Bird & Percival) prior to becoming an Assistant City Attorney and after leaving the City Attorney's office as a sole practitioner. I don't recall the exact number of cases I had or helped other attorneys with.

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Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?

No

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How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	I've worked in Seattle Municipal Court as an attorney or a judge pro-tem off and on since 1990. As an attorney, I tried over 75 jury trials and over 100 bench trials and countless pre-trial hearings. I appeared in court daily as an Assistant City Attorney for three years and 2 or 3 times a week for one year. As a judge, I've heard so many mitigation hearings, contested hearings, arraignments, pre-trials, motions and jury trials that I don't have an accurate estimate. I first started working as a Judge and Magistrate Pro-Tem in 1994 and have worked hundreds of times. I've also worked as a Judge Pro-Tem in Des Moines Municipal Court approximately 10 days.
District Court	As a judge ~ 20 days, starting in October 2009
Superior Court jury trials	I've never tried a jury trial in Superior Court, but I handled many appeals (approximately 60) from the lower court in Superior Court.
Arguments in Court of Appeals	1- I wrote the brief, but another attorney in our office argued the case while I was on maternity leave.
Arguments in State Supreme Court	
Federal District Court trials	

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Municipal League	Pending
King County Bar Association	Pending
Washington Women Lawyers	Pending
Loren Miller Bar Association	Pending
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	Pending
Latina/Latino Bar Association	Pending
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	Pending

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Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?

I have just begun my campaign and am in the process of gathering endorsements. I will post endorsements on my website.

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

None

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

No

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?

Criminal Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor law is by far my strongest area of expertise, although I have broad general experience as a general practitioner and as general counsel to a telecommunications firm.

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

Courts have been suffering for years from inadequate state funding. Judges are asked to handle increasing caseloads with less resources and come up with new and innovative ways of sentencing. The state reaps the benefit of a large portion of traffic fines and fines for

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DUI but does not fund the courts adequately. The Court Funding Task Force has made several recommendations that should be implemented.

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

I have worked almost exclusively in the most recent past as a Judge Pro-Tem in criminal courts of lower jurisdiction. All defendants have a right to appointed legal counsel if they cannot afford to hire one and all defendants that require assistance with language are entitled to an interpreter. When in court, I will not proceed with any aspect of a case if a defendant is not represented or does not understand what is being said in court.

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

Right now there are a number of organizations that allow people of low or limited income to have access to both Civil and Criminal legal services. Unfortunately, many have not heard of the organizations that offer these services. I will work to educate the public more about access to the justice system and the resources available in the community.

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 assignment within the court on committees that would work to improve court technology, reduce paper and link information systems. I would also like to review the efficiency of juror assignment to trials in Seattle Municipal Court and the amount that jurors are paid for their service. I would also like to review the contracts for Electric Home Monitoring to ensure that defendants in Seattle Municipal Court are able to afford this important alternative to confinement. Outside of the Seattle Municipal Court I would like to participate in the Washington District and Municipal Court Judges Association in the areas of long-range planning, court technology and education.

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-

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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 Practice of Law Board's Rules and Regulations. I am in favor of any rule that assists people of limited means have access to legal assistance.

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?

I have not recently been in a position to promote diversity within an employment setting. While serving on the Woodland Park Zoo board, I actively advocated for diversification of the board.

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?

I deeply care about Seattle Municipal Court and would like to bring my leadership, fiscal and administrative skills to the court for the next several years. We need judges who are willing to work hard - especially now that SMC is facing extreme budget challenges and will be working with one less judge - and will implement changes to the court system. I have a proven record of being a fair, ethical and impartial jurist - one who treats everyone who appears before me with respect.

I plan to run a strong grassroots campaign. I will actively attend community events and legislative district meetings and will reach out to the community through legal and business leaders and as many other community members as I can. I will engage in some direct mailing and will use yard signs to give me name recognition.

At this point, my fundraising chair has indicated that he has commitments of approximately \$60,000. Most of my campaign will be run through the use of volunteers, although I am in discussions with a potential paid campaign manager and I have hired a campaign strategy consultant.

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I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.		
Printed Name	Karen Donohue	Date
Signature	/s/	6/1/2010