

## 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
<b>Matt</b>		<b>Williams</b>

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

**District Court Judge, South East King County, Position 06**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

**23 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**23 Years**

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan?       Partisan       Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

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#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:      **Committee to Elect Matt Williams**

Address:      **PO Box 2300**

City/State/Zip:      **Auburn, WA 98071**

Campaign Phone:      **(206) 604-0140**

Campaign Fax:      **(253) 833-8785**

Campaign E-mail:      **ElectMattWilliams@gmail.com**

Campaign Website:      **www.ElectMattWilliams.com**

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
<b>Washington State Bar Association</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>2003- Present</b>	<b>Special Disciplinary Counsel, Adjunct Investigative Counsel, ELC Task Force</b>
<b>National Institute for Trial Advocacy</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>2007 to Present</b>	<b>Northwest Deposition Program Director</b>
<b>Washington Defense Trial Lawyers</b>	<b>Appointed</b>	<b>2001- 2003</b>	<b>Board of Trustees, Editorial Board, Strategic Planning Committee</b>
<b>Home Owners Assn</b>	<b>Elective</b>	<b>1990-2007</b>	<b>Various terms as President, Chair Arch Control Comm.</b>

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
None	

## SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
  - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
  - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
  - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

Our District Court here in King County is about real people who have real issues. It is the court where the average King County resident is most likely to find themselves, either to resolve a dispute, deal with a criminal matter, or seek protection. I want to bring my experience in improving public safety, ensuring justice and fairness and put it to work in a way that will make a difference within our community.

The District Court handles an immense number of cases and King County is experiencing a budget crisis. We must do more with less. We must find new ways to use our people and our technology to keep our courts functioning effectively. I believe that I can leverage my experience as a trial attorney, as a Managing Attorney, and as a general manager to help our Courts better weather this financial storm while still improving public safety and fairness within our justice system.

As a prosecutor, defense attorney, arbitrator, and pro-tem judge, I feel that I bring the qualities of Balance and Fairness to the job. 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, where you can see the perspective from the other side of the bench. I want to bring home the experience that I've acquired helping Prosecutors and Law Offices across the United States as well as governments in the Middle East, and the Balkans to improve courtroom procedures.

It also takes a strong work ethic and extensive knowledge of the law to process each case efficiently and thoroughly so that every citizen is guaranteed their case is handled fairly. If our justice system is to survive our current budget crisis here in King County, we need judges who can find ways to make our system more efficient, while at the same time improving the quality of fairness that each citizen receives. That's a tough challenge...but one that I'm uniquely qualified to tackle.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

Decisiveness: The ability to make a decision and then take action has been one of my assets through out my career. My experience within both government and the private sector has taught me that inertia and fear can immobilize an organization. I've had the duty and responsibility to make choices and implement actions in both private and public sector organizations. I have been successful because I took initiative. As a judge, it would be my duty to make reasoned decisions that would protect our citizens and ensure fairness.

Balance: As an Arbitrator and Pro-Tem Judge, as well as an advocate prosecuting and defending cases, I have learned that a balanced perspective results in a more comprehensive understanding of the issues, and better results. Balance leads to better decisions that move everyone toward sustainable resolutions, not just quick fixes. This leads to fair results, and greater public safety. I bring balance in experience and perspective to the job.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

It has been my great honor to train well over 1000 lawyers through my work at Seattle University School of Law, and through the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Many of the lawyers practicing within Washington State are attorneys that I have had the pleasure to train in advocacy and courtroom skills. Along the way, I've tried to instill a sense of community service and ethics in those attorneys.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. State Department, I have been dispatched to Kosovo three times to train Judges, Prosecutors, and Defense Attorneys in the rule of law/fair and effective courtroom processes. Kosovo is the world's youngest nation. It is the only successful example of post-conflict governance. Creating a sustainable democracy with a criminal justice system that does not create martyrs, and a civil justice system that will sustain property rights to support their economic development is crucial to the long term success of their democracy. The success of Kosovo, as an emerging democracy will help us stabilize the region and bring greater likelihood of being able to succeed in other post-conflict areas, such as Iraq.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

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

**KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, ARBITRATOR,** 1993 to Present.

**PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, ARBITRATOR,** 1996 to Present

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF LAW, SEATTLE UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND SCHOOL OF LAW,** Adjunct Faculty, January 1991 to Present. Teach Trial and Pre-Trial including all phases of trial practice, motion practice, negotiation & legal discovery

**ADJUNCT FACULTY, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF LAW,** January 2003 to 2006.  
Teach trial techniques, and pre-trial advocacy.

**WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION,**

Special Disciplinary Counsel, 2008 to present

Adjunct Ethics Investigative Counsel, 2003 to present.

ELC (Enforcement of Lawyer Conduct) Task Force, 2009 to present

Taught and Chaired Numerous CLE Programs.

**WASHINGTON DEFENSE TRIAL LAWYERS,**

Board of Trustees, 2001 to 2003.

Editorial Board, 2000-2003.

Strategic Planning Committee, 2001 to 2003.

**DEVELOPED AND TAUGHT IN EXCESS OF 250 TRAINING PROGRAMS RELATED TO:**

Trial Practice and Advocacy

Investigative Techniques and Forensics

Law Enforcement Practices and Use of Deadly Force

Leadership and Professional Service Organization Management

Law Office Management

Legal Ethics

Confidentiality and Regulatory Compliance

Negotiation

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

King County District Court is a Court of Limited Jurisdiction. It has jurisdiction of most misdemeanor crimes, and traffic offenses, as well as civil actions under \$75,000. The District Court Judges hold jury trials, hear bench trials, take pleas, sign warrants, and hear anti-harassment petitions. The King County District Court hears and resolves a very large number of cases, and disputes. King County District Court is the court where the average citizen of King County is most likely to have contact with our justice system, either as a party, a victim, or an offender.

The most important duty of a King County District Court is one of fairness and impartiality. For the citizens of King County to be best served, a judge who sits on this bench must be balanced, and focused on public safety and fairness.