

The Times recommends: Nicole Gaines Phelps for King County Superior Court judge, Position 14

Originally published September 22, 2016 at 3:11 pm Updated September 22, 2016 at 3:51 pm

Nicole Gaines Phelps has already proven herself as an administrative law judge and should be elected as King County Superior Court judge.

By [Seattle Times editorial board](#)

The Seattle Times

NICOLE Gaines Phelps has already proved herself as an administrative law judge and should be elected as a King County Superior Court judge for position 14.

Her legal background is varied and impressive, from her time as a deputy prosecutor in King County to stints as a public defender, a lawyer in private practice, an adjunct law professor and a temporary judge in King County District Court. Her combination of experience, compassion and philosophy would be a good fit for the court.

The Times recommends:

Nicole Gaines Phelps



King County Superior Court judge, Position 14

Strengths: Longtime attorney; experience, compassion and philosophy

“

Gaines Phelps has been an attorney for more than 20 years, including more than eight as an administrative law judge. She could step onto the King County Superior Court bench and not miss a beat. ..."

She has been an attorney for more than 20 years, including more than eight as an administrative law judge. She could step onto the King County Superior Court bench and not miss a beat.

Phelps would add needed diversity to the Superior Court bench and, if elected, would be one of just a few African-American women judges in the state. She has some good ideas about legal reforms she would like to pursue as a judge, including more specialized courts and better ways to help people with mental illnesses that would keep them out of court.

Phelps is passionate about offering better services to juveniles and their families and replacing the county juvenile-justice facility to make it a safe place for kids to get help.

Her opponent, David Greenspan, might make a good judge someday, but he would first benefit from more experience as a lawyer.

Voters should choose Phelps for King County Superior Court for her mastery of the law.

Editorial board members are editorial page editor Kate Riley, Frank A. Blethen, Donna Gordon Blankinship, Brier Dudley, Mark Higgins, Jonathan Martin, William K. Blethen (emeritus) and Robert C. Blethen (emeritus).