

**SPOKANE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
JUDICIAL APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE**

PLEASE TYPE

1. Name, business address and telephone number.

**Patti Connolly Walker
P.O. Box 18974
Spokane, WA 992228-0974**

2. Year of admission to practice of law in Washington : **1988**
3. Please identify and summarize the general nature of your current law practice/judicial experience.

On February 8, 2001 I was appointed by the District Court Judges to the position of District Court Commissioner. In November of 2002 I was elected to the District Court Bench. For the last five and a half years, I have handled every type of docket, both civil and criminal, over which the District and Municipal Court presides. Last year I was elected by our District Court as Acting Presiding Judge and am currently assigned to our newest docket, the DUI and Intensive Supervision Court established on January 2, 2006.

4. List other legal practices or judicial offices you have held.

Spokane County Prosecutor's Office, 1996 to 2001

Office of the City Attorney, Civil Litigation, 1990 to 2001

**U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Law Clerk to Hon. L. Warden Hanel,
1990**

**Spokane City Attorney's Office, Legal Intern & Prosecuting
Attorney, 1987-89**

**Spokane County Public Defender's Office, Law Clerk & Legal
Intern, 1986-87**

5. List colleges, universities and law schools attended, years of attendance and degrees awarded.

Gonzaga School of Law, 1985-88, J.D. *cum laude*

Carleton University, 1981-1985, Bachelor of Arts Degree

6. Other than your legal/judicial experience, list your employment history.

Since law school I have only had legal and judicial employment. At the age of 11 I was employed as a newspaper carrier. When I turned 13, I went to work for McDonalds. While in high school I worked at Steinbergs, a grocery store chain, where I took my first union position as a deli worker and later advancing to the position of cashier. I stayed with Steinbergs until I graduated from college and moved to Spokane to attend law school. During my 7 years with Steinbergs, I also worked dual jobs during the summers, first as a golf course grounds keeper and second as a delivery courier.

7. Please list all courts and jurisdictions in which you are admitted to practice and the dates of admission, including the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements. Are you in good standing with each of these courts/jurisdictions?

Washington State Supreme Court, 1988

U.S. District Court, Eastern Dist. WA, 1991

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, 1994

United States Supreme Court, 1995

I am in good standing in all of these courts and jurisdictions but am on judicial status.

8. State the number of cases you have tried to conclusion in courts of record during the past ten years: 22. Of those, in how many did you serve as sole counsel 19, chief counsel 1 or associate counsel 3.

These figures only cover the time period from 1996 through February 2001 since I took the bench at that time. Since that time, I have heard approximately one hundred jury trials and non-jury trials as a District and Municipal Court Commissioner and Judge.

(a)What percentage of your trials during the past five years were:

Civil: 5% Criminal: 95% Jury: 95% Non-jury: 5%

During all the years of your career, what percentage of your trials were:

Civil: 25% Criminal: 75% Jury: 35% Non-jury: 65%

9. State in detail your experience in administrative adversary proceedings before boards of commissions during the past ten years.

I have litigated numerous administrative adversary proceedings before the City Hearing Examiner, the County Hearing Examiner, the Board of County Commissioners, the City Council, the City Planning Commission and the County Plan Commission. These matters consisted of administrative hearings on zoning issues, enactment of ordinances, application of local legislation, challenges to licensing and to regulatory matters concerning local businesses. Much of this work focused on the area of adult bookstore/entertainment regulation and zoning. I drafted the legislation, presented it to the legislative body, and subsequently successfully defended its constitutionality in both State and Federal Courts of Appeals.

10. How many appellate cases have you handled through appellate decisions? **14** And of these, in how many did you do the bulk of the written briefing and/or oral argument?

I wrote all of my own briefs and did all of my own oral argument in all of these appeals.

11. If you had other experiences in the legal profession that may enhance your qualifications for service as a judge, briefly describe and include dates. Also, please list any non-legal activities in which you have been involved which you feel have enhanced your qualifications for a judicial position.

Superior & District Court Trial Coordinating Committee, 2006 to present

Union Negotiation Committee, Local 270, 2006 to present

Union Negotiation Committee, Local 1553, 2006 to present

District & Municipal Court Executive Committee, 2005 to present

Jail Alternatives Committee, 2004 to present

Assistant Hockey Coach, Squirts, 2005 - 2006

Domestic Violent Perpetrators Treatment Committee, 2004 – 2005

New City of the Valley Court Formation Committee, 2002

National Justice Coalition Committee, 2002

District Court Budget Committee, 2001-2002

President, Spokane Chapter Washington Women Lawyers, 2000-01

Hockey Coach, Mites Teams, 2000 to 2002

Assistant Hockey Coach, Mites & Squirts, 1998 to 2000

Sex Offender Management Committee, 1996-98

President, PTO North Wall Schools, 1995-97

Guardian Ad Litem, Juvenile Court CASA Volunteer Program, 1994 to date

President, Spokane County Young Lawyers, 1992-93
Trustee, Spokane County Young Lawyers, 1992-93
Trustee, State Young Lawyers, 1992-93

Neighborhood Accountability Board Member, Juvenile Court Diversion Program, 1989 – 1991

District Court Liaison Committee, 1990

Project READ Volunteer, 1988

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, 1986

Elizabeth Fry Society, Provincial Court Client Representative, 1984-85

12. Please state whether you have ever held a judicial office or have been a candidate for such an office. If so, give the details, including the court, whether it was elected or appointed and periods of service. Include service as a pro tem judge giving courts and approximate dates.

On February 8, 2001 I was appointed to the position of District & Municipal Court Commissioner by the Spokane County District & Municipal Court Judges. I served for a year and a half in that capacity covering my assigned dockets and serving as a pro tem judge when I filled in for the judges in their absence. Since having been elected to the bench in 2002, I have handled every docket and assignment that the Court hears including: signing/reviewing felony complaints and search warrants, handling first appearance or inmate dockets for all felony and City and County misdemeanor defendants, jury and non-jury trials, small claims and civil motions and trials, infraction hearings, impound hearings, mental health and anti-harassment cases, domestic violence dockets, and all phases of criminal trials.

Additionally, I have worked on many District and Municipal administrative matters including drafting/reviewing court policies, forms, establishing court procedures and the formation of the new DUI Court.

13. List any organizations, other than a law practice, in which you have been an owner, director or officer, and dates:

Acting Presiding Judge, Spokane District & Municipal Courts, 2006 to present

Board Member, Sit & Be Fit, 2005 to present

President, Spokane Chapter Washington Women Lawyers, 2000 to April 2001 (Stepped down early due to appointment to the bench and constraints for judicial officers to head organizations involved in judicial appointments or recommendations)

President, PTO North Wall Schools , 1995 - 1997

President, Spokane County Young Lawyers, 1992 - 1993

Trustee, Spokane County Young Lawyers, 1991 - 1992

Trustee, State Young Lawyers, 1991 - 1992

14. State the qualities that you consider to be most important in an individual holding judicial office.

The following qualities are essential for judges to administer justice: a sense of fairness, impartiality, strong work ethic, the ability to digest complex legal facts and issues and explain them, often in lay terms. I also believe a level temperament is crucial to working with all of the individuals who appear in court. A good judge must have the ability to effectively communicate with and guide attorneys, pro se individuals, victims, various agencies and defendants, while at the same time effectively manage a considerable caseload. Strong leadership and a solid knowledge of the law are crucial to imparting justice.

My education and life experiences have afforded me the tools and common sense to be an effective judge. Growing up in countries like Lebanon and India, where human rights and access to justice were not particularly well defined or evenly implemented, gave me a great appreciation for our system of justice. The knowledge I gained as a prosecutor of sex crimes and violent crimes provided me with some expertise in assessing danger to the community. Knowledge of not only the law but the dynamics of these cases is particularly important in District Court where all of the felons are seen when first arrested and because large numbers of new attorneys are practicing in this court.

Working as a civil litigator helped provide perspective about the needs of our community and the importance of ensuring access by all to our court system. While great trial skills are imperative for the trial attorney, a good litigator must also be an effective mediator. As a District and Municipal Judge I have taken a leadership role in addressing all of these issues both from a civil and criminal perspective to ensure access to justice and a diverse approach to difficult issues. As an experienced judicial officer, I am not constrained by a learning curve. In my first term I was active in our association, our bench and our community. After seeing an opportunity to enhance the service of our court and safety of our community, I was instrumental in designing and implementing the new DUI Court, and am proud to be one of the first of two judges to be assigned to this court. These qualities of compassion, legal expertise and leadership coupled with an even judicial temperament are necessary to effect justice.

15. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? **No** (Do not include infractions.) If any episode occurred, please give your view of how it bears on your present fitness for a judicial office.
16. Have you ever been disbarred, suspended, reprimanded or otherwise disciplined by any bar association or Supreme Court? **No**, If so, please give particulars.
17. Do you know of anything that might interfere with the performance of your duties as a judicial officer? **No**. If so, please give particulars.
18. Please state the title, citations and date of any books or articles published in the field of law, as well as dates and forums of any CLE presentations you have made.

Presenter – Ethics CLE, Washington Women Lawyers, September 2006

Valley Business Beat Radio KSBN 1230 AM, DUIs in Our Court, 2006

Presenter – District & Municipal Judges Association, Best Practices in Sentencing, Ocean Shores, 2006

Guest Speaker – “I on Spokane” Television Series, DUI Courts, 2006

Presenter – Numerous Neighborhood Associations - DUI & DUI Intensive Supervision Court, 2006

Guest Lecturer – Spokane Community College, Report Writing Techniques, 2006

Presenter – Washington State Traffic Safety Association’s DUI Conference, DUI Courts, La Conner, 2006

Guest Lecturer – Gonzaga University, Players in the Court System, 2005

Presenter – District Court CLE, Speedy Trial Rule, 2005

Guest Lecturer – Whitworth College, Legal Rights and Gender, 2004

Guest Lecturer – Spokane Community College, Criminal Law, 2003

Presenter – WSTLA, Disciplines of Ethics – Navigating Ethically in a Virtually Reality World - High Tech Ethics CLE, 2001

Presenter - Spokane City Library Conference on Shared Values, 2000

“Presentation on intellectual freedom and the right to receive information from all points of view without restriction.”

Presenter - Police/District 81 Liaison Committee, Internet Crime, 2000

Presenter – Numerous Organizations & Groups on Issues of Adult Entertainment, 1994 to 2001

Guest Lecturer – Spokane Community College, Constitutional Law, 1999

Presenter - Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program, 1998

Presenter – Boys State, 1995

Co-Chair - Law & Justice Video Project – ABA Award, 1993

Presenter - Canine (Police Dog) Training Seminar, Seattle, 1993

Chair - Young Lawyers Orientation Program, 1989-90

Presenter – Leadership Spokane Training, 1988

19. Please list all bar associations and professional societies in which you are a member, giving dates, titles of any offices, any major committees you have chaired, and memberships on any committees believed to be noteworthy.

District & Municipal Judges Association Member, 2001 to present

Washington State Bar Association Member, 1988 to 2002

Spokane County Bar Association Member, 1988 to 2006

Washington Women Lawyers Association Member, 1998 to 2001

President Washington Women Lawyers Spokane Chapter, 2000

President Spokane County Young Lawyers, 1992 to 1993

20. State your reasons for seeking a judicial position.

I am seeking re-election to District & Municipal Court Position 4 because for the last 5 years I have tremendously enjoyed being a judicial officer. Service to our community is an important part of my life and I believe this position has enabled me to contribute in a very positive way to our community. Our charge as judicial officers is to effect justice. In my court each party to an action has a voice that is heard. Despite the fact that most days I will see more than 75 individuals in my courtroom, I am ever mindful that each litigant has a great deal at stake in each action and I endeavor in all cases to articulate a reasoned decision that has a solid legal foundation to ensure justice is done.

As a Rule 9 at the Public Defenders Office, a civil attorney and then a prosecutor, I was a zealous advocate for my clients/victims/citizens; as a judge one is able to take a more broad based approach to the problems and concerns of our community. In District Court we tend to see a lot of new attorneys and have the opportunity to set a high standard of achievement early in an individual's practice. It is in this court that many individuals will have their one and only brush with the law either as the accused or as a victim. If the justice system is able to function cooperatively and effectively the likelihood of keeping these individuals out of the system in the future is greatly enhanced. I have always enjoyed working with others and this court allows a team and a community focus on issues addressed by the Court. Both from a personal and professional standpoint, the work is extremely rewarding.

21. Please provide a statement of your personal experiences, awareness of and appreciation for the issues of equal access to justice, pro se litigants, and diversity.

During law school I worked as a law clerk and intern at the Spokane Public Defender's Office. I felt very fortunate and privileged during that time to have the opportunity to work with some of Spokane's less fortunate citizens at a crucial time

in their lives. It was apparent to me then that individuals of lesser economic means do not always have equal or adequate access to justice.

As a volunteer in the Juvenile Court CASA Guardian Ad Litem Program working with abused and neglected children for nine years I witnessed the helpless predicament of many of our poverty stricken children. Often the child's primary caregiver was also the abuser opening a host of Hobson's choices for the child and the system. I later came to work with abused children as victims as a prosecutor of sex crimes against children at the Spokane County Prosecutors Office. While the focus of a prosecutor of child sex crimes is most certainly accountability of the offender and safety of the community, a great deal of effort went into ensuring the child was not further victimized by the court process. At the time this protection of victims was somewhat unique in our criminal justice system. This awareness of victims' needs and rights is now quite prevalent in our system, for example, in our now 10 year old Domestic Violence Court.

As a young lawyer I worked very closely with a very well respected individual in the legal field who quite plainly and unapologetically felt persons of color and alternative lifestyles were not equal in worth or intelligence. Lady Justice reminds us with her blindfold that the law should be applied without influence. These experiences strengthened my resolve to be mindful of the plight of those who are not empowered in our system. Equal and even application of the law is crucial. The Court's function as arbiter and seeker of justice cannot be met without understanding and skill in working with all aspects of the system to fairly and consistently apply the law.

22. List the names and phone numbers of ten (10) lawyers who are familiar with your professional qualifications, skills, experience or attributes.

James C. Sloane	624-2212
Judge Maryann Moreno	477-4707
Prosecutor Steve Tucker	477-3662
Carl Hueber	995-5845

Kevin Korsmo	477-3662
Cary Driskell	879-0127
John Grasso	477-2852
Jeff Holy	230-5349
Kathleen Paukert	232-7759
W. Scott Mason	477-4863

23. Please provide any additional comments you feel are significant.

If re-elected I will continue to serve the District Court with dignity and respect. As a lawyer I had the luxury of working with highly skilled individuals who provided excellent mentoring both from a professional and personal experience. As a judge, I have been called upon for the last four years to use the skills that have been refined throughout my legal career. I have great energy and enthusiasm for my position with the Court and the public that I serve. With your support, I will continue to serve with honor and integrity in this key legal position.

I certify the above is true, accurate and complete. I further agree to notify the SCBA if there are material changes in this information between the time this questionnaire is completed and rating received.

Date: _____

Applicant

Return completed questionnaire to Executive Director, SCBA, 1116 W. Broadway, Fourth Floor Annex, Spokane, WA 99260 no later than **SEPTEMBER 29, 2006**. Completed questionnaire will be available at the bar office for review and will be posted on the website.