

# Superior Court of the State of Washington for Snohomish County

## JUDGES

ANITA L. FARRIS  
ERIC Z. LUCAS  
DAVID A. KURTZ  
BRUCE I. WEISS  
GEORGE F.B. APPEL  
JOSEPH P. WILSON  
RICHARD T. OKRENT  
JANICE E. ELLIS  
MARYBETH DINGLEDY  
MILLIE M. JUDGE  
CINDY A. LARSEN  
JENNIFER R. LANGBEHN  
PAUL W. THOMPSON  
ANNA G. ALEXANDER  
EDIRIN O. OKOLOKO

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

M/S #502  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201-4060  
(425) 388-3421

## PRESIDING JUDGE BRUCE I. WEISS

## COURT COMMISSIONERS

JACALYN D. BRUDVIK  
TRACY G. WAGGONER  
PATRICK M. MORIARTY  
SUSAN E. HARNESSE  
PATRICIA J. NELSON

## SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR SHANE A. NYBO

June 17, 2020

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Legal Community,

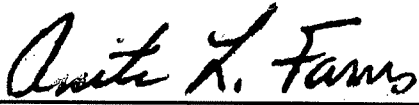
Our country is still plagued by the scourge of racism and people of color continue to suffer from a system that devalues and degrades their lives. Today, we answer the call from the Washington State Supreme Court to join them in an historic effort to eradicate racism in all its forms and wherever found within our system of justice. We echo the words of our highest court in acknowledging the painful fact that for centuries, Black Americans have struggled to enjoy the rights promised to all Americans by our Constitution and, instead, have continued to face the horrors of racism and brutality.

We see plainly the overrepresentation of Black Americans in the criminal justice system. We must recognize that responsibility for these wrongs belongs to all of us and that our courts have contributed to the systemic racism that exists in our communities. We agree with the Washington State Supreme Court's observation that legal professionals, lawyers and judges alike, bear responsibility for ensuring that systemic racism and discrimination is eradicated in all its insidious forms. We hereby dedicate ourselves to being part of the solution.

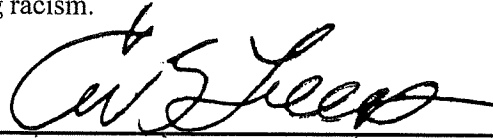
The Snohomish County Superior Court Judicial Officers have been educated about the unconscious bias that can affect legal decision-making by judges and juries. We pledge to persistently search within ourselves to identify our implicit biases and to be vigilant in ensuring that these biases do not influence how we receive evidence or render decisions in individual cases that come before the court. We have put in place measures to share this training with each new juror and encourage them to also be aware of and guard against their own biases.

We know there is more work to be done. As a bench, we are committed to the principles of justice, fairness, and equality, and we will continue to strive to achieve those principles each day. Part of this means taking a hard look at our own institution and rooting out discriminatory practices where we find them, and diversifying our work force to better represent the community we serve. This also means taking a hard look at our individual actions every day in our interactions with co-workers and other members of our communities. Systemic racism does not exist in a vacuum, it is a product of our collective actions. We must continue to reflect on how our individual actions enable racial injustice and discrimination and consistently strive to live up to the principles of justice, fairness, and equality that we have sworn to uphold. We must make sure that our public condemnation of racism is not merely an act done to make us feel good about ourselves today, rather, our words must come from a place of real concern and a genuine desire to do and demand better. We call on the members of our own legal community to be vigilant and tireless in shining a light on discriminatory laws and practices and in working with us to end them.

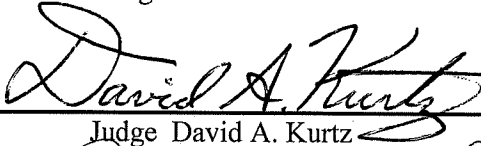
Now is the time for all citizens to come together to work for change. As the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals." We join with the Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court to reaffirm our deepest level of commitment to achieving justice by ending racism.



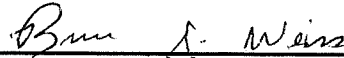
Judge Anita L. Farris



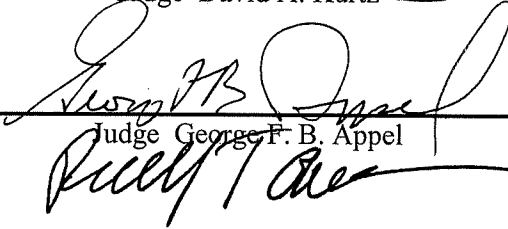
Judge Eric Z. Lucas



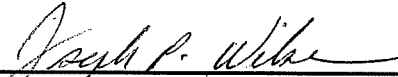
Judge David A. Kurtz



Judge Bruce I. Weiss



Judge George F. B. Appel



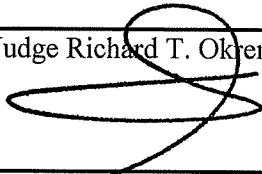
Judge Joseph P. Wilson



Judge Richard T. Okrent



Judge Janice E. Ellis



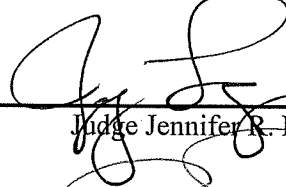
Judge Marybeth Dingley



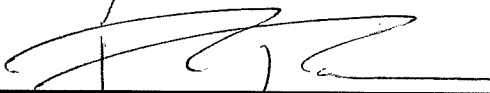
Judge Millie M. Judge



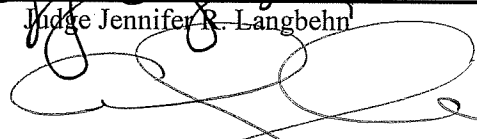
Judge Cindy A. Larsen



Judge Jennifer R. Langbehn



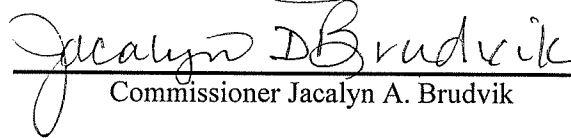
Judge Paul W. Thompson



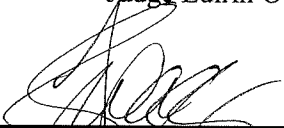
Judge Anna G. Alexander



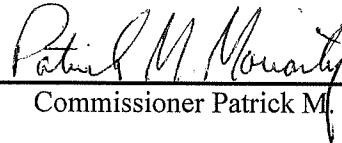
Judge Edirin O. Okoloko



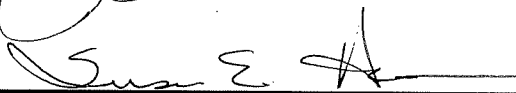
Commissioner Jacalyn A. Brudvik



Commissioner Tracy G. Waggoner



Commissioner Patrick M. Moriarty



Commissioner Susan E. Harness



Commissioner Patricia J. Nelson