

**KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE**

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**King County**

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# CLERK'S ALERT

## **New Pro Tem Judges and Unified Family Court (UFC) Case Transfers**

Effective October 18, 2021, Family Law Commissioners Leonid Ponomarchuk and Camille Schaefer will be appointed as Pro Tem Judges through the end of 2022 and will be assigned UFC caseloads transferred from other UFC judges. These transfers will allow two judges to be shifted from UFC to criminal rotations to assist in reducing the criminal trial backlog. Judge Whedbee's caseload will be transferred to Pro Tem Judge Ponomarchuk and Judge Sutton's caseload will be transferred to Pro Tem Judge Schaefer. Judges Sutton and Whedbee will then be shifted to the criminal rotation. Using federal COVID funds awarded by the county, the court will fill the commissioner vacancies with long-term pro tem commissioners to ensure that family law motions continue to be heard on a timely basis.

Parties in cases affected by this change will receive an order transferring the case in the mail. Newly filed cases assigned to the Pro Tem Judges will receive a case schedule with the assignment.

If your case is assigned to a Pro Tem Judge, both parties must sign and file an agreement (stipulation) before the pro tem judge hears the case. If your case has been assigned to a Pro Tem Judge, please promptly sign and file the stipulation confirming that you agree to have the pro tem judge preside over your case. A stipulation form will be sent with the transfer orders and a link will be provided in the case schedule notices with newly filed cases.



**King County**

Department of Judicial Administration

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