

KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

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CLERK'S ALERT

New Judges to be Sworn in to King County Superior Court

King County Superior Court looks forward to welcoming two new judges. Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi will swear in Jason Holloway on March 14, 2022, and Haydee Vargas will be sworn in on March 21, 2022.

“Being a judge is an enormous responsibility that requires courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to justice,” said Presiding Judge Oishi. “On behalf of King County Superior Court, I thank Haydee Vargas and Jason Holloway for undertaking this important role. The administration of justice, and the people of King County, will be better off for their service.”

Judge Vargas will replace Judge Dean Lum, Department 12, who retired in January. Judge Holloway will replace Judge Catherine Moore, Department 44, who retired February 25, 2022.

Both were appointed by Gov. Jay Inslee on February 18, 2022.

Judge Haydee Vargas

Vargas was managing attorney of the Associated Counsel for the Accused Division of the King County Department of Public Defense, a position she held since March 2020. In this role she managed approximately 110 employees and led recruitment and hiring within the agency. She served as a public defender since joining the King County Department of Public Defense in 2004.

Vargas earned both her bachelor's and law degrees from Seattle University. She participates in Community Visions in Burien focusing on the needs of diverse communities in south King County. She is also a frequent volunteer at a local school, serving as a mentor for law students and new attorneys, and volunteering with the Latina(o) Bar Association's Legal Clinic.

Judge Vargas' first assignment will be at the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent, where she will inherit the civil caseload of Judge Dean Lum and also hear criminal trials.

Judge Jason Holloway

Holloway has been a family law practitioner since 2004. In 2018, he became a King County Superior Court pro tem family law commissioner. In 2021, he joined the court as a full-time Superior Court Commissioner presiding over family law and domestic violence motions daily.

Holloway earned his bachelor's degree from Bard College and his law degree from Willamette University. He is a past president and board member of QLaw, the LGBT Bar Association of Washington (2011-2016), and he served on the board of managers of the University Family YMCA of Seattle (2013-2014).

Judge Holloway's first assignment will be Unified Family Court at the King County Courthouse in Seattle. He is inheriting the UFC caseload of Judge Moore