

KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S OFFICE

CONTACT: Amy Roe: Aroe@kingcounty.gov

ISSUED BY: Barbara Miner, Director and Superior Court Clerk

ISSUE DATE: January 9, 2023

ISSUE NO: 23-001



King County

CLERK'S ALERT

New Year Marks Start of New Leadership for Superior Court

Each year, the Presiding Judge of the King County Superior Court appoints a chief judge for the following departments: Civil, Criminal, Clark Children and Family Justice Center, Unified Family Court, and the Maleng Regional Justice Center. This is done in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Presiding Judge Patrick Oishi has appointed the following chief judges for 2023:

- **Judge Tanya L. Thorp**, Chief Judge of the Civil Department
- **Judge Ketu Shah**, Chief Judge of the Criminal Department
- **Judge Melinda Young**, Chief Judge of the Clark Children and Family Justice Center
- **Judge Sean P. O'Donnell**, Chief Judge of Unified Family Court
- **Judge Johanna Bender**, Chief Judge of the Maleng Regional Justice Center

Each chief judge serves a term of twelve months, beginning January 1. The judge may be reappointed for successive one-year terms, in accordance with [LCMR 5\(a\)](#).

Presiding Judge Oishi is in the second year of his term as Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge serves an initial term of two years. Thereafter, the Presiding Judge may run for re-election for successive one-year terms.

Assistant Presiding Judge Mary E. Roberts is serving her second term as Assistant Presiding Judge. Assistant Presiding Judges serve one-year terms. The Assistant Presiding Judge serves as Acting Presiding Judge during the absence or upon the request of the Presiding Judge.

The Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge are elected to their positions separately; each by a vote of all King County Superior Court judges, per [Local General Rule 29](#). The term commences on January 1 of the year in which the Presiding Judge's term begins.



King County

Department of Judicial Administration

www.kingcounty.gov/courts/clerk