

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010



RECEIVED
JUN 28 2021 ME
WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL
COUNCILMEMBERS
Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS WHATCOM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT JUDGE TO FILL VACANCY

Name: Shoshana Paige

Street/Mailing Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Day Telephone: _____ Evening _____

Fax Number: n/a E-mail Address: shoshpaige@gmail.com

A. Qualifications: Per RCW 3.34.060, to be eligible to serve as a district court judge, a person must:

1. Be a registered voter of the district court district and electoral district, if any; and
2. Be a lawyer admitted to practice law in the state of Washington.

Are you a registered voter of Whatcom County? (X) Yes () No

Are you a lawyer admitted to practice law in the state of Washington? (X) Yes () No

B. Resume: A resume up to two (single-sided) pages in length may be attached to address the following:

- Occupation (if retired, please indicate occupation prior to retirement).
- Professional/Community Activities.
- Education.
- Qualifications related to the position of Whatcom County District Court Judge.

C. References:

- Please provide three letters of reference.

D. Questions: No more than two sheets of paper (single-sided) may be attached to address the following:

1. Describe why you are interested in serving as Whatcom County District Court Judge. In narrative fashion, relate your qualifications to this position.
2. Do you intend to run for the office of District Court Judge in the next general election (see RCW 3.34.100, RCW 29A.24.050, 1973 AGO No. 76, and 1975 AGO No. 73 for meaning of "next general election" in this instance)?

3. Are you currently, or have you in the past been an employee, agent, consultant, or officer of any business or agency (including the field of law enforcement or corrections) that is currently or in the future potentially seeking to establish a business relationship with Whatcom County? If so, please explain.
4. Have you ever had a sustained complaint against you by the State Bar Association (Office of Disciplinary Counsel) or the Commission on Judicial Conduct? If so, please explain.

E. Essay: Please describe your familiarity with the current problems, litigation, rules, regulations, and policies of the Whatcom County District Court Office. Provide a one-page (single-side) summary of your top three concerns regarding the above issues.

F. Certification: I certify that this application and any other submitted materials contain no misrepresentations or falsifications and that the information given by me is true and complete. I hereby authorize Whatcom County to verify or supplement information given by me in this application and any other submitted materials. I hereby release any and all of my employers or references from any liability or claim that I might have as a result of disclosure of information. I further understand that should investigation at any time disclose any misrepresentation or falsification, I may be disqualified from appointment to the office of Whatcom County District Court Judge.

As a candidate for appointment as District Court Judge to fill the vacancy, I understand the above information and any other materials submitted with this application will be available to the County Council, County Executive, any County department, and the public.

Signature of applicant:  Date: 6/28/21

Applications must be submitted to the Clerk of the Whatcom County Council by 4:00 p.m. on June 28, 2021

Your application may be no more than thirteen single-sided pages total, composed of the following maximum number of pages (all single-sided).

Application	2 pages
Resume	2 pages
Reference Letters	6 pages
Question Responses	2 pages
Essay	1 page

Shoshana L. Paige

Experience

Whatcom County Public Defender | Bellingham, WA

Deputy I, Deputy II, Senior Deputy, Senior Deputy II *July 2006* – Present

- Represent adults and juveniles charged with misdemeanors and felonies in the Superior Courts of Whatcom County, including extensive experience representing individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health disorders, and substance use disorder.
 - Representation includes: representing clients in court at first appearance, arraignment, juvenile decline hearings, all pre-trial hearings, evidentiary and non-evidentiary motion hearings, competency proceedings, plea hearings, jury and bench trials, sentencing hearings, revision hearings, sentence reviews, restitution hearings, probation violation hearings, and sentence modification hearings; conducting thorough case evaluation and preparation for resolution, including directing investigation, interviewing witnesses, consulting with experts, and developing mitigation evidence; and plea negotiation and advisement.
 - Served as first chair in numerous jury and bench trials for a variety of felony offenses, including numerous Class A felonies. Recently served as second chair on a jury trial for a charge of Murder in the First Degree, where my focus was on the medical examiner evidence and other DNA evidence.
- Supervise juvenile court, where I am responsible for attorney case assignment, as well as direct supervision of the other juvenile public defender, in juvenile offense and truancy proceedings. I also work with supervisors in juvenile court services and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on issues of policy and procedure in juvenile court. Within the Public Defender's Office, I work with the Director, Chief Deputy, and District Court Supervisor on policy and management issues and attorney hiring.
- Represent all participants in the Superior Court Adult Drug Court, including advising clients on all manner of issues that arise as part of their drug court participation. As a member of the drug court team, I participate in the discussion and decision-making for all participants in regards to phase advancement, imposition of sanctions, granting incentives, and general progress review. Represent participants at termination hearings and stipulated bench trials. Participate in drug court policy reviews and advocate for stronger participation in the drug court program.
- Represent juveniles in truancy petition and contempt hearings, and, previously, in At-Risk-Youth and Child in Need of Services petitions and contempt proceedings.
- Represent adults subject to petitions for involuntary civil mental health commitments, including in adversary hearings.

Shoshana L. Paige

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Dallas County Public Defender's Office | Dallas, TX

Assistant Public Defender *September 2001 – March 2006*

- Represented adults charged with misdemeanors and felonies in Dallas County criminal courts.
 - Representation included: representing clients in court at pre-trial hearings, evidentiary and non-evidentiary motion hearings, competency proceedings, plea hearings, bench and jury trials, sentencing hearings before juries and judges, and probation violation hearings; conducting thorough case evaluation and preparation for resolution, including directing investigation, interviewing witnesses, consulting with experts, and developing mitigation evidence; and plea negotiation and advisement.
 - Tried numerous cases to juries on guilt/innocence and punishment, including serving as second chair on two murder cases, and a case involving multiple counts of aggravated assault of an elderly person with a successful insanity defense.

Education

The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas

May 1999 J.D., with honors

- Order of the Coif
- Board member, Texas Law Fellowships
- Board member, Public Interest Law Association
- Founding member, Law Students for Diversity
- Staff member, The Review of Litigation
- Staff member, American Journal of Criminal Law

Ambassador University, Big Sandy, Texas

May 1996 B.A., with highest distinction, Liberal Studies

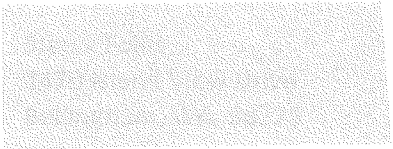
- Student Body Secretary (1 year), Outreach Public Service Organization (4 years), Ambassador Public Speaking Club (3 years), Academic Achievement Award

Community

- Board member, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, January 2016 – Present (Treasurer, January 2018 – December 2018; President, January 2019 – Present)
- Member, Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee, Whatcom County Bar Association, January 2019 – May 2020

Licenses

- Washington State Bar Association, Admitted 2006, #38056
- State Bar of Texas, Admitted 1999 (currently inactive), #24013283



Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Shoshana Paige, Candidate for Appointment to Whatcom District Court

Dear Council:

I have been asked to provide a reference for Shoshana Paige in her candidacy for Judge, Whatcom County District Court. Shoshana has been employed at the Whatcom County Public Defender for fifteen (15) years and is currently one of our two Senior Deputy II Defenders. I directly supervised Shoshana from 2011 to 2018 as Chief Deputy here, and have been her Director since my appointment in late 2017.

Shoshana has one of the highest senses of justice I have ever seen. She quickly and rightly identifies right from wrong and is very adept at stating her point of view in a forceful, creative, and understandable way. She listens to others and has the ability to cut to the central issues involved. All of these traits are characteristics of a great judge.

Her background is varied and complex. She started practice in a civil firm in Texas before she realized her true calling of public defense. She had been a defender in Texas for several years before relocating to Washington to be near family. Texas' loss has been our gain as Shoshana had excelled as a defender of the citizen accused in Whatcom County.

I consider Shoshana one of the best-read lawyers in the office and her intellect is second to none. I have been practicing criminal law for 35 years and find myself going to Shoshana for assistance on the law and tactics over and over again. She is a mentor to young lawyers in our office and is well-respected for her legal knowledge. The defenders maintain various list-serve sites and Shoshana is one of the frequent responders to the sites, providing her insight to lawyers around the state. We have had weekly felony meetings where the entire felony team comes together and Shoshana frequently shares her knowledge and intelligence to the entire team and is respected by all.

Shoshana has worked primarily in Superior Court defending adult felonies. However, she has also handled (and is currently handling) Whatcom County Drug Court as the designated defender. She has served in Whatcom County Juvenile Court and is currently the Supervising Attorney in Juvenile Court. She has appeared in Whatcom County District Court on numerous occasions throughout her tenure in the office.

Many serious cases have been assigned to Shoshana. I can think of at least four homicide cases she has handled and she has been assigned many of the more serious felonies in the office. In 2019 she tried a homicide with me that lasted three weeks in trial and her contributions were invaluable.

As much as it would pain me to lose Shoshana from the Whatcom County Public Defender, I can wholeheartedly recommend her for consideration. She would make a fine judge.

Sincerely

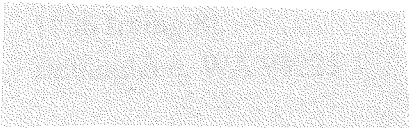


Starck Follis



Kellen B. Kooistra

June 22, 2021



Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Ave.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Councilmembers:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Shoshana Paige for the position of Whatcom County District Court Judge. In her nearly 15 years of service to Whatcom County, Ms. Paige has shown through her integrity, knowledge, and commitment to the rule of law that she would be an excellent District Court Judge.

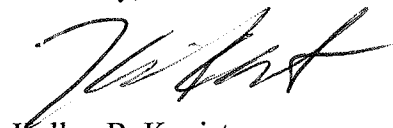
As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office, I have been opposing counsel to Ms. Paige for the past eight years. For the six years prior to that, I had the opportunity to observe her work in the courtroom as a fellow public defender. I have seen Ms. Paige demonstrate her skills as a courtroom litigator, her comprehensive knowledge of the law and the court rules, and her steadfast commitment to the ideals of justice and equity. She has consistently shown the judgment and knowledge required to be a capable and committed judicial officer.

Perhaps the most important skill for a judge is presiding over and conducting jury trials. There is simply no substitute for courtroom experience when it comes to ensuring trials are conducted efficiently, fairly, and according to the rules. Ms. Paige has spent her entire career arguing the law and trying cases in a courtroom. She has a deep understanding and familiarity with the rules governing court procedure and this wealth of experience makes Ms. Paige uniquely suited to the position of District Court Judge.

Throughout her career, Ms. Paige has always practiced law with a deep commitment to the values of fair play and equity. As a deputy prosecutor, Ms. Paige and I have found ourselves on the opposite sides of legal issues on many occasions. At all times she has represented her clients ethically, fairly and zealously, in all the best traditions of legal practice. She has devoted her practice to aiding and assisting the citizens of Whatcom County as a public defender, and in doing so has ensured the integrity of our criminal justice system. I am certain that she would make the Whatcom County District Court a court that ensures the fair and equitable treatment of every person who comes before it.

The job of District Court Judge requires integrity, knowledge, courtroom skill, and a deep appreciation of the power and importance of our legal system. At every stage of her career, Shoshana Paige has embodied and represented those skills and values. Her extensive practice in the litigation of criminal law gives her a wealth of experience that would make her a fantastic judge. I strongly recommend that this council appoint Ms. Paige as our next District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kellen B. Kooistra', written in a cursive style.

Kellen B. Kooistra

**Superior Court of the State of Washington
For Whatcom County**

311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225

**Chambers of
Judge Lee Grochmal**

Department 3



**Brooke Anderson,
Judicial Assistant
(360) 778-5604**

banderso@co.whatcom.wa.us

June 18, 2021

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to express my personal support for Shoshana Paige's application for the position of Whatcom County District Court Judge. I have known Ms. Paige both professionally and personally since 2006. In fact, I was on the hiring committee at the public defender's office when she was selected, and I was her supervisor in juvenile court. I then worked alongside her for many years as a defense attorney, and I work with her currently as part of the Whatcom County Drug Court team.

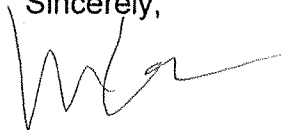
Ms. Paige has one of the brightest minds of any attorney I have known. As an advocate for the accused, she understands the barriers to justice that many of our citizens face and is dedicated to eradicating those barriers. Specifically, as an advocate in drug court, she displays creativity in addressing the individual needs of her clients. I would look forward to collaborating with her to increase the use of safe alternatives to incarceration in both superior and district courts, particularly now that drug possession has been reclassified as a misdemeanor. Ms. Paige's training and experience in drug court for the last three years puts her in an ideal position to bring those programs to district court.

Ms. Paige's substantial trial experience sets her apart from other candidates for the position. As a trial judge, it is imperative to make quick decisions on evidentiary and substantive issues which arise during trial. Ms. Paige's experience trying many challenging cases gives her a good foundation for presiding over trials in district court.

As a judge, I am well aware of the personal commitment that is required of judges, and I have spoken with Ms. Paige at length about that. I know her to be of strong character and excellent judgment both personally and professionally.

If there is any additional information that would help you to reach a decision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Grochmal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lee Grochmal

D. Questions

1. Describe why you are interested in serving as Whatcom County District Court Judge. In narrative fashion, relate your qualifications to this position.

I have the experience, skills, work ethic, integrity, empathy, and commitment to public service that this important position requires, and my many years serving as a public defender in Whatcom County would enable me to bring a depth of knowledge and experience, and an important perspective to the bench.

Almost 20 of my 22 years of legal experience, including 15 here in Whatcom County, have been dedicated to serving my community as a public defender. This work has provided me with a keen understanding of the impact the legal system, particularly the criminal justice system, can have on the members of our community. That impact can be especially profound on those who are dealing with poverty, physical and developmental disabilities, mental health issues, substance use disorder, trauma, and homelessness. As a public defender, I have zealously advocated for all my clients, including many dealing with one or more of these challenges. Many of my clients have themselves been victims of crime and suffered trauma as a result. Whatever my clients' circumstances, I fought to ensure that their constitutional rights were upheld, that their voice was always heard throughout the legal process, and that their lives remained free of government intrusion unless the high legal burden for such intrusion was met. Just as importantly, I always sought to ensure that those making decisions about any punishment my clients would receive, be they prosecutors or judges, had a better understanding of my clients' lives and circumstances in order to make a more fair and equitable decision. I would bring the same commitment to public service and to ensuring a fair and equitable judicial system to the position of district court judge.

It is essential that a district court judge have a depth of knowledge of the procedural rules and substantive law she will be applying in court proceedings of all kinds, including jury trials. No judge or attorney can know everything there is to know about the law which is why the ability to identify issues that require further study and to apply appropriate legal reasoning to novel situations is equally important. Throughout my career, I have devoted substantial time to learning and understanding the law, both through self-study, continuing legal education, and substantial legal research done on issues arising in my cases. I have also spent considerable time working with experts in a number of forensic disciplines such as pathology, toxicology, DNA evidence, and psychology and psychiatry. As one of the most senior attorneys in my office, I have always been available to colleagues with questions about the law and procedure, as well as assisting with case strategy and preparation. Perhaps nothing has provided as great an education as the many trials I have conducted in front of juries and judges, and the substantial preparation for those trials and the many other cases that ultimately resolved without the need for a trial. I have handled trials for juveniles and adults for offenses ranging from minor in possession of alcohol to first degree murder. In addition, I have litigated numerous substantial pre-trial hearings ranging on issues ranging from whether evidence should be suppressed due to violations of the state and federal constitutions to whether the government had a right to force a legally incompetent client to take psychotropic medications against his will. The knowledge and experience I bring from my years of practice will be a strong asset I bring to the bench.

One of the most valuable experiences I have had as a public defender has been to serve as the assigned public defender in the adult drug court in Whatcom County Superior Court. Drug court provides an alternate model for dealing with defendants whose criminal conduct is related to substance use disorder, and particularly for those for whom traditional criminal justice interventions,

including incarceration and probation, have proven ineffective. The role of the public defender in a drug court is unique. While we are there to advocate for our clients' wishes and interests, we are also part of a team that includes the judge, prosecutor, treatment provider, and case managers. Together, by each team member bringing their diverse perspectives from their different roles, we work to respond to participants' positive and negative behaviors in order to incentivize better choices and assist them in meeting the progressive requirements of the program. This requires considering the individual risks and needs of each individual, and balancing concerns for individual and public safety and accountability. Through my work with drug court, I have had a front row seat to the profound change that is possible when the criminal justice system is willing to look at different ways to address criminal behavior with a goal of reducing recidivism, and the substantial costs, both financial and otherwise, of that behavior. I have also used my role to advocate to expand eligibility for the drug court program and greater use of other alternatives to traditional criminal penalties. As a district court judge, I would bring both the deep knowledge of the workings and value of a therapeutic court, but also a belief that the system should be open to innovative ways to effectively respond to criminal behavior.

Outside of the legal system, my commitment to justice and serving my community also extends to preserving our environment, and especially a healthy watershed here in Whatcom County. I have served on the board of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association for over 5 years, including as Treasurer for a year, and as President for the past two-and-a-half years. This work has involved leading strategic planning and budget oversight of the organization, and engaging with the thousands of diverse donors and volunteers who have a shared interest in preserving salmon and their waterways.

My legal knowledge, skills, and experience, from over 20 years of work as a public defender, advocating for my individual clients and for a more fair and effective approach to responding to criminal behavior, make me well qualified to be a district court judge. I have a demonstrated commitment to upholding the constitutional rights of all, and to serving the community through my professional legal advocacy and volunteer work. I would bring that same passion and commitment to serving all the people of Whatcom County as a district court judge.

- 2. Do you intend to run for the office of District Court Judge in the next general election (see RCW 3.34.100, RCW 29A.24.050, 1973 AGO No. 76, and 1975 AGO No. 73 for meaning of "next general election" in this instance)?**

Yes.

- 3. Are you currently, or have you in the past been an employee, agent, consultant, or officer of any business or agency (including the field of law enforcement or corrections) that is currently or in the future potentially seeking to establish a business relationship with Whatcom County? If so, please explain.**

No.

- 4. Have you ever had a sustained complaint against you by the State Bar Association (Office of Disciplinary Counsel) or the Commission on Judicial Conduct? If so, please explain.**

No.

E. Essay

The most pressing, immediate issue in the District Court is the backlog of cases created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspension of jury trials for over a year meant that those cases that could only be resolved by jury trial simply could not be resolved. For an even greater number of cases, the lack of any real, impending trial date meant that many of the incentives for parties on both sides to reach agreed resolutions were not present. Added to this existing backlog is the unknown impact of the change of possession of controlled substance from a felony to a misdemeanor, meaning these cases will now be filed in district and municipal courts. Large case backlogs mean the accused carry the burdens of the pending case for a longer time, victims wait longer for justice, and the potential needs of defendants for appropriate interventions are delayed. Backlogs also mean attorney caseloads on both sides are likely to be extraordinarily high, making it difficult to devote sufficient time and thought to the investigation and preparation of cases, and the prudent analysis necessary to reach reasonable plea agreements. If selected, I would work with my fellow District Court judge and other courthouse and county staff to efficiently try as many cases as possible, consistent with appropriate public health protocols, while maintaining all necessary safeguards of due process.

Although a large amount of attention that is paid to the criminal justice system is focused on felony cases, most individuals who encounter the criminal courts do so at the misdemeanor level in district and municipal courts. This is where most driving offenses (including driving under the influence), domestic violence offenses, theft, and property damage cases are litigated. Although a judge does not decide what individuals and what crimes to prosecute, a judge can have a profound impact on what the experience in the criminal justice system is like for both victims and accused individuals, and whether that experience ultimately proves effective at providing justice to victims and reducing the likelihood of future criminal behavior. If selected as a judge for the District Court, one of my major priorities would be to promote greater participation in the existing therapeutic program (Mental Health Court), and to implement other proven, cost-effective therapeutic courts for those for whom traditional criminal justice interventions have proven ineffective, and for those whose known risks and needs indicate a therapeutic program is more likely to reduce future criminal behavior and promote public safety.

For individuals on probation and in therapeutic courts, a major issue continues to be the availability of affordable, community-based resources that are crucial to increasing the likelihood those convicted of offenses will not reoffend. For most individuals who already have the resources and ability to comply with the law and conditions of probation, the threat of incarceration and other potential consequences of further violations is more than enough to change behavior. But for those for whom trauma, poverty, substance use, mental illness, lack of stable housing, or a combination of two or more of these issues, are key factors in their criminal justice involvement, no amount of “locking them up” or threats to do so are likely to reduce criminal behavior without the supportive services necessary to address those key factors. As a judge, I would be a strong advocate for increased resources to provide treatment and case management for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorder, as well as affordable education and vocational programs, and to increase the availability of safe, affordable housing in our community.

I am familiar with the jurisdiction, statutes, rules, and policies of the Whatcom County District Court. Although the court has jurisdiction for a variety of civil matters, small claims cases, and infractions, a substantial amount of the docket of the court involves the litigation of criminal misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors. The vast majority of my legal experience is in the litigation of criminal offenses, including litigating felonies in Superior Court, and felonies and misdemeanors in Superior Court’s juvenile division. With limited exceptions, however, the constitutional rights that are relevant in criminal cases apply with equal force to misdemeanors as they do to felonies. The rules of evidence, burdens of proof, and rights to due process are the same. No lawyer is versed in every area of law, but my extensive knowledge and experience enable me to be ready for this position on day one.

**Whatcom County Superior Court
Therapeutic Treatment Court**
311 Grand Avenue, 3rd Floor, Suite 301
Bellingham, Washington 98225
(360) 676-6754, FAX (360) 676-7634

Lee Grochmal, Superior Court Judge
Eric Richey, Prosecuting Attorney
Stark Follis, Public Defender



A. Christine Furman, MMHS, MHP, CDP
Therapeutic Court Coordinator
Cfurman@co.whatcom.wa.us

RECEIVED

JUN 24 2021

WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL

6/23/21

Re: Letter of recommendation for Shoshana Paige for District Court Judge

Dear Kathy Kershner,

I am writing this letter to Whatcom County Counsel members to recommend Shoshana Paige for Whatcom District Court Judge.

I have worked closely with Shoshana Paige since her assignment to Drug Court in February of 2018. Shoshana's Drug Court role is to represent and defend those individuals being served in Whatcom Adult Drug Court, advocating for their fair and equal treatment. She collaborates with the Judge, prosecution and the clinical team to determine the best course of action for each participant. Additionally, Shoshana contributes to policy decision making that guides the program toward continued best practices.

I have been consistently impressed with Shoshana's command of the law and her familiarity with the myriad of issues our clients bring to the court. Shoshana is able to expand her role to include recommendations which may fall outside of the traditional advocacy role of a Public Defender. She seeks solutions that are in the best interest of the client, fair and balanced, while considering the health and safety of the community.

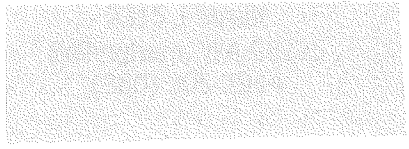
Shoshana is passionate concerning criminal justice reform and seeking alternatives to incarceration. She understands the benefit to the overall community for those criminally justice involved individuals presenting with public health problems; problems best served with advocacy, treatment and close supervision.

Shoshana's temperament is commensurate with a Judicial position. She is highly intelligent and self-disciplined. She is open-minded with a great sense of humor. Her work is essential to the operations of Drug Court and she performs her work with effective communication, sensitivity, timely decisions and recommendation, and overall professional accountability to the Drug Court Team and her clients.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Christine Furman'.

A. Christine Furman, MMHS, MHP, SUDP
Therapeutic Court Coordinator
Whatcom Superior Court

STEPHEN GOCKLEY



June 28, 2021

Whatcom County Council Members
Bellingham, WA 98225
(Submitted by collective and individual email)

Re: Application of Shoshana Paige for appointment as District Court Judge

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to extend my support for the application from Shoshana Paige for appointment to the open position of Whatcom County District Court Judge. From my first-hand experience, I believe Ms. Paige would be a capable, fair, and effective judge in service to the District Court and the Whatcom County community.

I spent my career as a civil legal aid lawyer representing low-income people in Whatcom County. For the past five years, I have been a leader in our local Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force. I know the role of the District Court in our judicial system and I am increasingly aware of the value it can lend to improvements in our local efforts.

My discussions with Ms. Paige indicate that she is knowledgeable about the letter of the law and court procedures. Within the task force's work, I have primarily talked with Ms. Paige about her representation of defendants participating in drug court and her contributions as a member of the team coordinating that program. Drug court is not, of course, a District Court responsibility but mental health court, a kindred therapeutic approach, is. The parties who come into District Court both civilly and criminally often struggle with similar disruptive pressures from economic stress, unstable housing, and multiple health complications. It is clear that Ms. Paige understands the circumstantial factors that can lead individuals into our courts and she is thoughtful about ways in which the court can effectively respond to such individuals. The District Court is a promising setting for humane individualized interventions because it deals with criminal and civil cases that are less serious in nature, and thus more amenable to positive redirection. Ms. Paige is prepared to carry out such interventions.

Based on the above, I am confident Shoshana Paige would be a strong choice to serve us as the next District Court Judge for Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Gockley".

Stephen Gockley
Attorney at Law

From: Angela Cueva [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 3:53 PM
To: Council; Rud Browne; Todd Donovan; Tyler Byrd; Kathy Kershner; Ben Elenbaas; Barry Buchanan; Carol Frazey
Subject: District Court Judicial Appointment - Shoshana Paige

To the Whatcom County Council:

I first had Shoshana Paige appear before me in Juvenile Court about a year and a half ago in my capacity as a Juvenile Court Commissioner.

I am impressed with her command of the law and familiarity of the issues before the court. Shoshana treats her clients and their family members with respect and empathy and is a zealous advocate for them. The issues in juvenile court range from truancy to serious sexual offenses. In all these matters she has understood the law and its application.

Shoshana is always respectful to the court and also informational and instructive in the law and procedure. She has a grasp on emerging issues before the court and policies affecting not just Whatcom County but also the State of Washington.

Shoshana is the lead attorney for the Juvenile Court - Public Defender's Office Division. Shoshana and those attorneys working under her supervision are well prepared when they appear before me.

I am not endorsing any candidate for District Court Judge. I will say, however, that if Shoshana Paige is appointed to replace the honorable

David Grant, that she would be a capable and competent replacement and jurist.

Angela A. Cuevas

Commissioner

Whatcom County Superior Court

-From the Private Desk of-

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2021
WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL

To the Honorable Barry Buchanan, Chair, and the Whatcom County Council:

I am writing this letter of reference on behalf of Ms. Shoshana Paige, Attorney at Law, who is pursuing appointment to Whatcom County District Court. The ethical considerations for judicial officers require that I preface this letter by saying that the observations and opinions expressed herein are personal to me, and should not be considered an endorsement by the court itself.

I have known Ms. Paige since 2006 when we served together in the Whatcom County Public Defender Office. Ms. Paige was my good colleague and we shared a number of both challenging and rewarding experiences in our work together. My relationship with Ms. Paige was that of peer and workplace friend and I came to admire both her tenacity and her diligence in representing her many clients. In 2010 I left the Public Defender Office and did not have regular contact until I was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 2018.

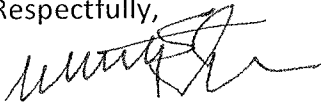
Since my appointment I have had ample opportunity to observe Ms. Paige in court. Not only has she demonstrated her perseverance in representing public defender clients over these many years, but it is clear that her courtroom skills have become well-polished, and she demonstrates a thorough understanding of court rules and the rules of evidence which is absolutely vital for a District Court judge. As a public servant attorney, she is also intimately familiar with carrying a heavy caseload, which is a necessary understanding in order to manage the large dockets our county courts all face.

Ms. Paige has been instrumental in developing and sustaining the primary incarceration alternative program in Whatcom County Superior Court – Whatcom County Drug Court. It is my observation that Ms. Paige has the combination of the right personality and the right skill sets to help Drug Court and other incarceration reduction and alternative adjudication programs be successful.

Finally, Ms. Paige brings her unique life and professional experiences to her work, whether as an attorney or as a judge. Her unique perspective would help enrich the judicial culture in Whatcom County District Court in a way that will ultimately benefit our whole community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Olson

REO/-

Superior Court of the State of Washington

Hon. Evan Jones, Dept. 2

Email: cmartin@whatcomcounty.us

(360) 778-5632

Fax: (360) 778-5561

**Judge's Chambers and Courtroom on
2nd floor**



Whatcom County Courthouse

311 Grand Avenue, Suite 301
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Send judge's copies to:

PO Box 1144

Bellingham, WA 98227-1144

July 7, 2021

Whatcom County Council
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105
Bellingham, WA 98225
ATTN: District Court Judicial Appointment

RE: Application of Shoshana Paige

Councilmembers,

I understand that Council is now engaged in the important process of filing the expected vacancy in Whatcom County District Court. By offering my comments below, I hope simply to add my experience with certain candidates to that discussion. Please accept my comments in the helpful manner in which they are intended.

I have known and respected Shoshana Paige for over ten years. Shoshana and I have interacted professionally -with her at the Public Defender's office and me at the Prosecutor's Office- but also socially, sharing many mutual friends in the community. Shoshana is a wonderful attorney, a strong proponent of positive reform, and generally a nice person to be around. She is smart, friendly, and a real leader on issues of criminal justice.

Shoshana is easy to admire because of her dedication. She has been standing up for the rights of individuals in the courtroom for as long as I have known her. While others talk about it, Shoshana is the type of person that actually does it. That is why people, including me, regularly ask for and respect her opinion. She speaks from a practical perspective. Shoshana knows how legal decisions made in the courtroom will actually affect people's lives.

I know that if selected, Shoshana will bring that same work ethic, empathy, and dedication to the bench. She'll require that effects of decisions be known and

appreciated before any decision is made. In turn, she will give individuals the serious deliberation that they deserve from a judge.

Please feel free to follow up with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evan Jones", written in a cursive style.

Judge Evan Jones
Whatcom County Superior Court, Dept. 2

Jacqueline Lassiter

From: Samya Lutz <
Sent: Monday, August 9, 2021 10:27 PM
To: Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Cc: Samya Lutz <
Subject: Comment on district court judge

Honorable County Councilmembers:

I would like to comment on your decision to appoint a district court judge. Thank you for your deliberative process to gather information and for having the information and videos available to the public.

After watching the interviews and reviewing the submitted information, I strongly support Shoshana Paige to be the next appointed district court judge. Shoshana Paige has experience, context, education, clarity, discretion, and ideas that will help our region at this point in time. While other candidates also have strong resumes and references, I believe she has the strongest handle on the current issues facing our region, and the opportunities available that can enhance the safety of our community in a way that is both efficient and equitable.

I strongly encourage you to consider appointing Shoshana Paige for this position.

Thank you,
Samya

Samya Lutz
Lummi Island, WA