

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

WHATCOM COUNTY  
COUNCIL

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

Name: ANGELA ROSE ANDERSON

Street/Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: A

**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: JUNE 27, 2021

***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

# Angela Anderson

## BAR ADMISSION

Member of the Washington State Bar since November 2005

## ASSOCIATIONS & ACCREDITATIONS

Whatcom County Bar Association

Washington Defenders Association

National Criminal Defense College Trial Practice Institute July 2009

## EDUCATION

**Washington and Lee University School of Law, Lexington, VA**

Juris Doctor, May 2005

Honors: National Association of Women Lawyers- Top Female Graduate  
Mock Trial Competition- Semi Finalist  
Moot Court-Negotiation Competition, Finalist

Journals: Race and Ethnic Ancestry Law Journal- Volume X

Activities: Women Law Students Organization, President; American Constitution Society,  
Secretary; Public Interest Law Student Association

**Truman State University, Kirksville, MO**

Bachelors of Science with Honors in History, *summa cum laude*, May 2002

Honors: Omicron Delta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi; Pershing Scholarship (Full Tuition)

Activities: Pre-Law Club; Delta Zeta; Public Defender volunteer, Study Abroad in England

## EXPERIENCE

**Anderson Legal PLLC- Bellingham, WA**

Attorney and Owner, October 2019-currently

- Defends clients accused of felonies and misdemeanors throughout Whatcom and Skagit
- Appears on behalf of clients at Civil Protection Order Hearings in Superior Court
- Represents individuals in traffic infraction hearings in District Court
- Public Defense contract for the City of Lynden

**Whatcom County Public Defender's Office- Bellingham, WA**

Chief Deputy, January 2018-October 2019

Deputy Public Defender, July 2006- December 2017

- Supervised 15 attorneys and support staff, assisted Director in administrative duties
- Represented felony clients in Superior Court (avg. 80+ open cases/mo)
- Drug Court Public Defender
- District Court Unit Supervisor
- Represented clients in all aspects of District Court (avg. 170+ open cases/mo)
- Previously represented clients in Dependency Court and Family Treatment Court
- Exceptional trial experience- Over 30 jury trials, including two homicides

**John A. Walsh, P.S. & Associates- Seattle, WA**

Attorney, October 2005- February 2006

- Represented clients in criminal cases at a variety of levels including RALJ appeals

**JUDGE PRO TEM EXPERIENCE**

- Whatcom County District Court
- Blaine Municipal Court
- Everson Municipal Court

**LEGAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Incarceration and Reduction Task Force (2015-2019)
  - Original member representing the Public Defender's Office
  - Legal and Justice Subcommittee
  - Vera Project Participant
  - Pretrial Processes Small Group member
- Opiate Abuse Prevention Task Force
  - Whatcom County Health Department committee on preventing opiate abuse
- Planning member of Mental Health Court
  - Attended original training in California with Health Dept. and District Court
  - Assisted with the initial development stages of the program
- Warrant Quash Day
  - Worked as the Public Defender representative with newly elected Prosecutor Eric Richey to develop and implement
- Whatcom County Judicial Selection Committee
  - December 2014 and July 2018
- Guest speaker
  - Professor K. Anderson's class at WWU on Domestic Violation (three times)
  - Professor Majumdar's class at Fairhaven College (four times)
  - Options High School mock trial class with Ms. Reidel (three times)
  - Lynden High School
  - Legal Care Academy
- High School Mock Trial Competition Judge
- Teen Court Volunteer Judge
- Moot Court Judge- Fairhaven College

**LEGAL INTERNSHIPS**

- Commonwealth Attorney's Office (Prosecutor for State of Virginia) 2004-2005
- Public Defender District of Columbia- Parole Division, Washington DC- Summer 2004
- Georgia Justice Project-- Shepherd Poverty Alliance, Atlanta, GA- Summer 2003
- Department of Justice- Office of Legislative Affairs, Washington DC- Summer 2002

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Pickford Film Center, Board Member 2015-2018
- Whatcom County Amateur Hockey Association, Board Member 2020-current
- Parkview Elementary parent volunteer

June 15, 2021

RE: Letter or Recommendation for Angela Anderson

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned attorneys recommend Angela Anderson for appointment to District Court Judge. We have all had the distinct pleasure of working with Angela for several years as colleagues and adversaries in the arena of criminal justice.

In regards to her judicial qualities, Angela is highly experienced and accomplished in the profession of criminal law. She is uniformly respected among her peers, and she displays exemplary interpersonal skills.

Angela has dedicated her entire professional career to defending criminal defendants in court. She rose through the ranks at the public defender's office to become the Chief Deputy. She continues to represent criminal defendants in private practice, where she has made a name for herself as a trusted and knowledgeable counsellor.

Throughout her career as a defense attorney Angela has maintained a graceful disposition, that would suit her well in the role of a judge. Angela would have no problem controlling the courtroom, and making difficult decisions, without upsetting the parties. She can be trusted to be fair and impartial. Angela Anderson would represent the community very well as a judge.

We recommend Angela Anderson for District Court Judge. Please do not hesitate to call the undersigned if you have any questions or if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,



Eric Richey,  
Whatcom County Prosecutor

Sincerely,



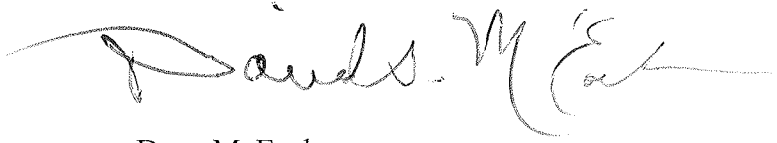
Erik Sigmar,  
Whatcom County Chief Prosecutor

Sincerely,



Dona Bracke  
Whatcom County Assistant Chief Prosecutor  
District Court Supervisor

Sincerely,



Dave McEachran,  
Former Whatcom County Prosecutor

Sincerely,



Warren Page,  
Former Assistant Chief Prosecutor,  
Former District Court Supervisor

## Charles and Johanna Snyder



June 15, 2021

Members of the Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Re: Whatcom County District Court Judge appointment

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing this letter to strongly recommend Angela Anderson for appointment to the Whatcom County District Court Judge position being vacated by Judge David Grant.

As a judge in Whatcom County Superior Court I had many years of experience with Ms. Anderson as she practiced law. Not only did she appear in my courtroom as an advocate in her role as criminal defense attorney but she was an integral part of the Drug Court for a number of years. She tried two homicide cases before me and did an outstanding job in both. She was never less than fully prepared and her clients were given the best defense that they could get. Her skills as a trial attorney are consummate.

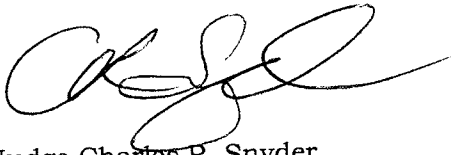
But perhaps the strongest support for my recommendation comes from the time that she served in Drug Court. As you know, Drug Court involves working toward a common goal by all involved, from prosecutor to defense counsel to treatment providers and case managers, including the judge. Angela was always fully aware of what was best for her clients as well as for the program itself, without which her clients would face much longer odds in overcoming their addiction and criminal behavior. What stood out to me was her neutrality and fairness toward all of those involved. She was not hesitant to recommend a more harsh sanction if it was what she believed would be best for the person involved. Yet, at the same time, she advocated forcefully for the best interest of her client. To me, this was clear evidence of her ability to see all sides of an issue, to analyze it thoroughly, and to recommend a resolution that took into account all sides, not just that of her client. That is the essence of judicial reasoning, to my way of thinking.

I am absolutely convinced that Angela Anderson has not only the skills required to be impartial and fair but the requisite demeanor to treat all who come before her in a courtroom with the utmost respect while also being able to impose a decision that may be difficult or unpopular. In my years of watching her practice it became clear that she had the full respect of her opponents, all litigants, and the court. Her public defender clients never asked for her to be replaced with another attorney, which is exceedingly rare. When one sits as a judge that respect is paramount, and I believe she will carry it on to the bench with her from her first day as a judge.

My colleagues on the Superior Court bench all agreed that Angela would make a fine judge. One look at her resume tells you a great deal about her energy and commitment. In addition, I believe that her most recent experience in private practice only reinforces that belief because it shows that she has a full understanding of the complexities of what happens in a courtroom from all sides and that she is much more than merely a defense attorney – she is a well-rounded practitioner with all the skills necessary to serve as a judge.

Again, I unequivocally recommend Angela Anderson for the position of District Court Judge, and I hope you will honor her with the appointment.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Snyder', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Judge Charles R. Snyder  
Whatcom County Superior Court, retired



Jack Hovenier



June 21, 2021

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Whatcom County Council Members:

I am writing to request that you appoint Angela Anderson to the District Court Judge position.

In my capacity as the Co-Chairperson of the Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force since it was formed in 2015, I have watched firsthand as Ms. Anderson represented the interests of the Whatcom County Public Defender's office, while balancing that with a deep understanding of the local criminal justice system's deficiencies, strengths and potentials.

Very few people are able to balance the concerns, interests and policy goals of such a diverse group as the Task Force while uniting criminal justice stakeholders that include former Prosecutor McEachern, Sheriff Elfo, former Councilman Mann and many others. Ms. Anderson always managed this deftly and I believe everyone on the Task Force enjoyed working with her.

In 2018 I had the opportunity to work with Keith Tyne and Whatcom County Superior Court Judge Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis before she became a Supreme Court Justice. We were asked to interview about a dozen candidates for Chief Deputy of the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office and recommend who should be hired. After several days spent in long, intimate candidate interviews in Justice Montoya-Lewis's jury room, we had the unique opportunity to consider Ms. Anderson's skills in relation to all the other candidates. Our unanimous recommendation was that Ms. Anderson be selected. Our reasons included her competence, experience, integrity, poise, strong administrative skills, kindness, wisdom, clarity, intelligence and our analytical and intuitive belief that she was an extraordinary resource for our criminal justice system and the best person for the job.

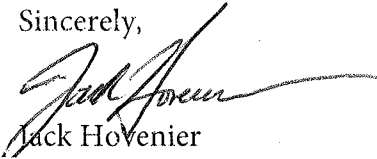
In 2020, my son Casey, had significant legal trouble. I adopted my son when he was 10 from foster care as he was being placed in self-contained classrooms at school and moved to a group home for troubled boys. He was diagnosed with oppositional defiance disorder, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, reactive attachment disorder, severe anxiety, ADHD and depression. My love for my son is deep and being his father has been a journey I wouldn't trade for anything. He is 23 now, and the father of a 2-year-old daughter. When he faced some serious legal charges, due in part to his impulsivity and mental health and substance abuse issues, I asked Ms. Anderson to represent him.

I know and respect many attorneys. But my son needed someone with the balance of wisdom and compassion to advocate for him with the court, while also understanding that he, like most criminal defendants, needed appropriate consequences. It's a very fine line to walk to harmonize the need for consequences with what is in the long-term, the best interests for that person and society. I know of no one who does that better than Ms. Anderson, which is why I chose her to represent my son. For these very reasons I am confident that Ms. Anderson will be an extraordinary judge.

Ms. Anderson is deeply and passionately committed to creating a criminal justice system that is consistent with the goals of the County Council as stated in the ordinance that created the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (ORD 2015-037). Her unique skill-set and experience in Whatcom County is unmatched, and they establish her as the most qualified candidate you could appoint. I give her my highest personal and professional recommendation and urge you to appoint her to this vacancy.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Hovenier", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jack Hovenier

1. The scales of justice are balanced by a fulcrum in the middle. If that fulcrum is not center, the scales tip unfairly to one side. I believe my work experience, dedication and service to Whatcom County provide me with the skills to be the balanced fulcrum needed. I am applying for District Court Judge because I possess the integrity, knowledge, and experience necessary for the position. I am a veteran criminal defense attorney with years of experience practicing in District Court. At the same time, I am also supported by the current and former prosecutors in my pursuit of this position. My experience and their support demonstrate that I will serve as a steady and neutral decision maker. In addition, my career is rooted in years of public service to this community. I spent fourteen years at the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office, the last two as the Chief Criminal Deputy. Currently, I am the Public Defender for the City of Lynden. I have also served as Judge Pro Tem in Whatcom District Court, and Everson and Blaine Municipal Courts. My commitment to serving Whatcom County and my immense experience practicing in District Court make me an ideal candidate for the position of District Court Judge.

I began my legal career as a public defender in Whatcom County District Court in 2006. I was promoted to District Court Supervising Attorney by the age of 30. I supervised four other attorneys and worked collaboratively with the prosecutor's office, probation, court staff and the District Court Judges to address issues related to court process and access to justice. I was later selected to be the Chief Deputy for the Public Defender's Office before the age of 40. In serving this community, I have always looked for opportunities to improve our court system. I helped to develop Mental Health Court, served as the Drug Court public defender, assisted Mr. Richey with the formation of LEAD, and I have participated on numerous county task forces/commissions addressing a variety of criminal justice issues. My extensive work with these groups has directly led to identifying issues and making improvements to our county's court system. Over the years I worked with the Vera Group on their study of incarceration in Whatcom County, served on the County's Incarceration Reduction Task Force, including the Law and Justice subcommittee and Pretrial Services work group, as well as the Opioid Use Prevention Task Force. I am proud of my hard-work on improving access to justice in Whatcom County and hope to carry my experience and dedication forward as District Court Judge.

Experience practicing in District Court and understanding the role the court plays in peoples' lives is important. For many individuals in our community, District Court is their only experience with the justice system. The participants in this court are community members who get traffic tickets, seek protection orders, file small claims, or are charged with a crime. In short, they are the clients that I have represented since 2006. The Judge should be patient, understanding and flexible with those navigating the system. I possess the experience and understanding that can **only** be gained by years of practice in District Court and other similar courts. I know the treatment providers in our community, the mandatory sentences for specific crimes, the probation department, jail guards and court clerks. I know the issues facing jail capacity, the complicated timelines for competency restoration, and the newly enacted laws regarding vacating criminal records. There is simply too much volume and specificity in District Court to turn it over to someone without the experience and understanding critical to this job. I have that experience.

While District Court is an important institution, it is not above review, critique, and change. However, any critical review and implementation of systemic changes must include a thorough understanding of District Court process. Over the years, working diligently with the Task Force and practicing in District Court, I strive to identify what is working and what needs review/modification. I will not only bring a new vision to District Court, but I will also bring the knowledge of how to implement that vision with the various stakeholders. For example, adapting our approach to some probation services including increased technology can lead to efficiencies in the court process and better overall outcomes for defendants. I know there are ways we can continue to make modifications to better serve this community. I want to be District Court Judge because I have the skills, experience, and understanding that is required to do the job effectively.

As a practitioner, I lean heavily on creative problem solving and taking a collaborative approach to cases which includes working closely with treatment providers and/or Victim Advocates. Our courts need to do the same by expanding therapeutic courts and alternative sentencing arrangements. Our courts should also explore increasing the community's knowledge about the ability to vacate and expunge convictions. I look forward to working with Mr. Richey's Prosecutor's Office and my former teammates at the Public Defender's Office to explore these options. It is a sad truth that the majority of participants in court do not have the ability to meet court obligations. They may not have the finances for treatment or fines. They often struggle keeping track of court dates and appointments with probation and their attorneys. To sit in judgment of these people, you must also understand and have experience with this reality. After fifteen years of representing clients, I have that understanding. I know their challenges. On the bench, balancing that understanding and patience with accountability is a tightrope that only experience and knowledge can help a Judge to navigate.

In the last two years of private practice, I have worked in Lynden, Bellingham, Everson, Blaine, Sumas, Lummi Nation, Ferndale, and Skagit County in addition to practicing in Whatcom County's District and Superior Courts. I value the time I have spent in those other courts. Practicing in other court systems gives me perspective on things other courts are doing well and it gives me insight on ways to improve District Court. As one of the only candidates for this position *currently practicing in District Court*, I also know what the court is doing well and how to capitalize on those strengths.

Finally, it is critical that the person who serves as District Court Judge have integrity. On top of everything else the next Judge must be respected. In my private practice, I have almost no budget for advertising because all my cases come from referrals. I have been referred cases from current and former prosecutors, city attorneys, law enforcement, jail staff and former clients. My commitment to hard work, fair play and respect for others is well known. I encourage you to speak to the clerks, staff, jail guards, community members and county employees with whom I have served on committees and ask who they want as their next judge. I am confident they will say that I am professional, knowledgeable and well-equipped to take on the role of District Court Judge.

To conclude, like nearly all the Council Members, I am a working parent and business owner. My husband is the Lead Prosecutor for the City of Bellingham. We have two active children that play hockey, baseball, golf, horse-back riding, and even duck hunt! We love this community. I am applying for this position not only because I have the experience necessary to do the job, but also because I care about this community. I know that my experience and knowledge can be a benefit to the court system and our wider Whatcom County community. I am dedicated to the preservation and growth of Whatcom County. If you appointment me as your next District Court Judge, you will not be disappointed.

2. Yes, I intend to run for office.

3. Yes, Anderson Legal PLLC is a contracted with the County to provide conflict public defense services for Superior, District, and Juvenile Court.

4. No.

I have practiced in Whatcom County including District Court for the last fifteen years. For several years I practiced exclusively in District Court, much of that time assigned primarily to Judge Grant's courtroom. I was also the Public Defender's District Court Supervisor. My role in District Court included a robust caseload in addition to supervising and training five other attorneys. At that time case standards had not been imposed and there were years where I successfully defended 700+ misdemeanor cases in one year! No other candidate has as much District Court knowledge and experience as I do. I thoroughly understand the court rules, law and litigation surrounding the cases before the Court. I continue to use those same tools as the Lynden Public Defender. Not only do I know the issues facing the Court, but I also have ideas and solutions.

**1. Probation Resource Allocation:** District Court needs to explore a more focused and flexible approach to the use of probation resources. The Court needs to focus the limited resources and energy of our incredible probation department to offenders that could most benefit from intense supervision. By placing every defendant, including first-time offenders, on five-year probation, we are taxing our probation officers and diverting their valuable attention from high-risk and repeat offenders. A more focused approach to probation services is welcomed by probation officers as well. Developing a model to screen and determine which offenders need or deserve full-time probation services would drastically improve overall probation services and outcomes.

**2. Increase Access to Justice Through Technology:** Court process has gone through refinement over the past year. Included in that is a significant Criminal Court Rule change (CRLJ 4.3) adopted state-wide which makes defendant appearances in court less burdensome and more efficient. Many of our rural residents struggle with appearing for court. Court schedules do not always match bus schedules and getting to court can be expensive particularly if you do not have a driver's license or vehicle. This Court should continue to improve on the progress made by the Court during COVID by utilizing "remote appearance" and "remote access". Live streaming increases victim involvement by improving their comfort and safety. We also need to expand access to electronic court records, increase e-filing of court documents including public defender applications, and update our electronic records management systems. AOC already has some of these tools ready to launch. However, the Court needs someone who knows what to do with the tools available. I am excited to work on moving District Court operations into a more electronic and accessible future. Our next Judge must address many challenges and technology can offer some solutions.

**3. Expand Therapeutic Courts and Diversions:** Many of the cases before the court are there because the victims and families of defendants have nowhere else to go. Countless times I have heard the pleas of loved ones seeking help with their child's addiction or mental health crisis. Often, these people want help not jail. However, I also know the other side- that Mental Health Court and Drug Court change lives and heal the trauma. Other District Courts have expanded therapeutic options including Veteran's Court, DUI Court, DV Offender Court, and others. Because of the recent *Blake* decision, the landscape on drug prosecution is also changing. Having worked in Drug Court for many years, I know we can continue to make an impact on those seeking drug diversion. Further, there are opportunities to improve our approach to Domestic Violence cases, especially for low-level and first-time offenders. Diversions away from the traditional court model that include treatment and modified no-contact orders on appropriate individuals, will allow families to safely reunite. Finding a way to fully utilize our probation department's MRT program for DV perpetrators should also be a priority. Thankfully, the models and tools for many of these programs already exist. The next District Court Judge must seize these opportunities and march our Court and our community into a brighter future.

June 25th, 2021

To the Whatcom County Council:

I am writing in support of Angela Anderson's candidacy for the position of District Court Judge. I have known Angela personally for five years and believe her to be an ideal candidate for this position. The combination of her experience, her temperament and her commitment to a fair and accessible justice system make her an obvious choice. Not only does Angela possess the qualifications and the personal characteristics necessary to excel in this role, I also strongly believe that appointing a woman to be District Court Judge would be a victory for justice and progress. It's high time!

Angela has fourteen years of experience as a public defender, and was promoted during her tenure to Chief Deputy. Since then she has developed a successful private practice where she has continued to serve indigent communities as Lynden's Public Defender. Throughout her career, she has been actively engaged in the work of improving the criminal justice system, including serving on the Incarceration and Reduction Task Force and the Health Department's Opiate Use Prevention Task Force.

Angela is a collaborative problem solver and strategic thinker, and she is committed to addressing issues related to access, equity and expediency in the justice system. She has spent the last sixteen years listening to and advocating for defendants in District Court, and she has a deep understanding of their challenges and needs. She believes passionately in the need for courts to modernize and to explore more therapeutic courts at an earlier level to help move people out of the criminal justice system. Angela has a history of working constructively with multiple stakeholders, including prosecutors, treatment providers, probation officers, jail and court staff. She is known and respected as a reasonable and creative problem solver.

In addition to her professional credentials, Angela also demonstrates a commitment to her community over the years through service, including by supporting our neighborhood public elementary school and volunteering through non profit board service. I know Angela to be a person of great character, and high integrity, intelligence and compassion, all essential characteristics of a good judge. I have no doubt that Angela will be an asset to the bench, and that she will work tirelessly to improve the system for all. I urge you to support her appointment to the position of District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Susan Hemingson  
Bellingham, WA



# WHATCOM LAW GROUP

A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Roger L. Ellingson, JD  
Rajeev D. Majumdar, MAIS, MPA, JD  
Cassie C. Rodenberger, JD

☎ (360) 332-7000  
☎ (360) 384-6400  
☎ (360) 332-6677  
🌐 WhatcomLaw.com

June 26, 2021

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038

*Sent by e-mail to avoid delay.*

***Re: Angela R. Anderson – Appointment to Whatcom County District Court  
Judiciary***

Dear Council Members,

I recently learned that Angela Anderson is applying for appointment to the Whatcom County District Court bench. In response, I am writing this letter of support to let you know that Angela is one of the most impressive lawyers I have had the privilege of collaborating with. I currently interact with Angela regularly as opposing counsel in criminal matters. I am the Prosecuting Attorney of the City of Blaine, and I am always pleased when I know that Angela is my opposing counsel; she is civil, forthright, hardworking, and critical of both my case and her own. Practicing with Angela forces me to contend with a person who truly understands the black letter of the law as well as the bigger societal ramifications.

I have known Angela since 2008 when I first began practicing in Whatcom County, and she had already established a reputation as a positive and zealous force for holding both the state of criminal defense and prosecution accountable to a higher standard. Beyond that, however, she is a professional who is always civil, positive, and is never overcome in the courtroom by negative emotion.

I have had the privilege as serving as President of the Washington State Bar Association, and in that role, I have interacted with thousands of judges, court clerks, and attorneys, and understand the issues that confront our courtrooms—Angela is exceptionally well qualified to meet the challenges. Our primary duty as officers of the court, and in the continued service of our country, should be ensuring access to impartial justice for all people. Part of protecting such access to justice is warranting that our leadership contains diverse perspectives and experiences; for without

✉ PO Box 1258, Blaine, WA 98231

289 H Street, Blaine, WA 98230 | 2417 Main Street, Ferndale, WA 98248



Whatcom Law Group, P.S.  
To: Whatcom County Council  
Page 2 of 2

such representation, it is not only the legal community that suffers from lack of perspective, but it is also the diverse parties that traditionally have had less access to the legal system who suffer. Angela brings a perspective not currently represented on the bench. Through her actions and the issues that she advocates for, Angela has demonstrated to me a commitment to reforming the inefficiencies and inequities that plague our courts of limited jurisdiction, which I believe is a threshold for anyone holding the office of District Court Judge.

Her character is also exemplary. In addition to a naturally pleasant and professional demeanor, she has also established a reputation as a civically engaged and responsible lawyer. I have observed her a *pro-tem* judge with skill, and she has a strong grasp on the issues that judges face and how judges statewide get those issues both right and wrong from an appellate perspective. That is an important perspective to have, because no matter how much effort a judge puts into an issue, if it is outside the bounds of the law, it is unnecessary and wasted effort.

For all of the above reasons, I can unreservedly endorse and support Angela Anderson as a candidate for appointment to the Whatcom County District Court Bench. She would undoubtedly enrich our system of justice and would safeguard the rights of the people.

Sincerely,

**Rajeev D. Majumdar**  
**Attorney at Law**

RDM/jra



*-From the Private Desk of-*

**Judge Robert E. Olson**

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

I am writing this letter of reference for Ms. Angela Anderson, 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. Anderson since 2006 when we served together in the Whatcom County Public Defender Office. Ms. Anderson was initially assigned to the section of the office that served clients in Whatcom County District Court. Although I was assigned to a different section in the office, Ms. Anderson very quickly came to be recognized in the office as a diligent attorney who was very skilled in trial court advocacy. 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 to the Superior Court, I have had many opportunities to observe Ms. Anderson in court, notably in her role as Chief Deputy of the Whatcom County Public Defender Office. It is testament to her skills with the law and as an administrator that she was selected for appointment to chief deputy. I have also been able to observe her in court, handling heavy case load, and doing so with skill and grace. In her appearances before me, Ms. Anderson has always demonstrated a thorough understanding of court rules and the rules of evidence which are critical skills for any judge. Although she is no longer with the public defender office Ms. Anderson has done Whatcom County a great service by being willing to serve as one of our conflict public defender attorneys without whom our system of justice could not properly function.

Ms. Anderson also demonstrates a detailed understanding of the various administrative duties of serving as a District Court judge. She is a proponent of programs to help bring about incarceration reduction including District Court's specialty mental health court.

Ms. Anderson would also bring a unique perspective to her work as a judge. She is a working mother who has managed to raise a family while balancing that against an obviously dynamic career. I have every reason to believe that the hard work she has done all these years would be an enormous benefit to Whatcom County District Court.

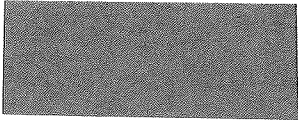
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Olson

Phillip Pruner



June 21, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I have known Angela Anderson and her husband Ryan since 2015. They are an amazing and extremely humble family who are really involved within the Whatcom County community, like youth ice hockey and baseball. Angela donated her time to vacate some of my misdemeanor criminal convictions last year. She did a great job explaining the process and helping me understand the issue. I know Angela has a real passion for helping people clear their criminal record. It is important for people like me to be able to move on from poor decisions I made when I was younger, now that I have a professional career, am youth hockey coach and a father.

Angela has the right temperament for the job as a Judge. Again, she is easy to understand, she is patient as well as hard working. I know she cares about all of members of Whatcom County and appreciates some of the challenges those of us who live outside of Bellingham have with District Court. I have spoken with her many times and I know how excited she is to improve the courts and make access easier for all.

Please appoint Angela Anderson as our next District Court Judge.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Pruner', is written over a horizontal line.

Phillip Pruner

## WHATCOM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

### CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

Erik Signar

### ASST. CHIEF CRIMINAL DEPUTY

Dona Bracke

### CRIMINAL DEPUTIES

David Graham  
Kellen Kooistra  
Benjamin Pratt  
Gordon Jenkins  
Kacie Emerick  
Christina Garcia  
Jesse Corkern  
Evan Sterk  
Nicole Meyer  
Julia Monroe  
Maggie Peach  
Andrew Bogle  
Kayleigh Mattoon

### Eric Richey

Whatcom County Courthouse  
311 Grand Avenue Suite 201  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4079  
(360) 778-5710 /Main Office FAX (360) 778-5711

### CHIEF CIVIL DEPUTY

Karen Frakes

### CIVIL DEPUTIES

Royce Buckingham  
Christopher Quinn  
George Roche  
Brandon Waldron

### CIVIL SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT DEPUTIES

Janelle Wilson/Lead  
Dionne Clasen

### APPELLATE DEPUTIES

Kimberly Thulin  
Hilary Thomas

### ADMINISTRATOR

Vanessa Martin

June 25, 2021

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Council Members,

My name is Benjamin Pratt. I am a Senior Criminal Deputy Prosecutor with the Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office, where I have served the county since 2017. I'm writing to you in support of Angela Anderson's candidacy for appointment to Whatcom County's District Court bench. I've had the opportunity to work with Ms. Anderson many times in her role as defense counsel, and can confidently say that her sharp legal reasoning, her fair-minded perspective, and her preternatural communication skills make her well suited for the judgeship.

I initially met Ms. Anderson in 2017, when I joined the Prosecutor's Office's District Court team. At the time, she was serving as a defense attorney for the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office. It was immediately apparent that Ms. Anderson was a formidable adversary and force to be reckoned with. She had a strong command of the law, was a skillful and fair negotiator, and had tirelessly worked to build collegial relationships with my colleagues -- to the frequent benefit of her clients. Because our roles are directly adverse to one another, relations between prosecuting attorneys and defense attorneys can often become quite tense; this was never the case with Ms. Anderson, whose relentless kindness and pragmatism ensured that her cases resolved fairly, efficiently, and without unnecessary conflict.

In the years since we met, I watched Ms. Anderson's talents drive her rapidly up the ranks of the Whatcom County Public Defender's office. She handled both misdemeanor and felony level crimes and was ultimately named Chief Criminal Deputy, and served in a supervisory capacity over other defense attorneys. When she decided to depart the Public Defender's office and open a private practice, she was awarded the Defense contract to represent Defendants in the City of Lynden.

I've had occasion to observe Ms. Anderson's advocacy and analytical abilities in many criminal jury trials. In criminal prosecution, the odds are generally stacked against the defense; prosecutors are loath to take cases to trial unless there is ample evidence to prove the defendant's guilt. Time and time again, I've watched Ms. Anderson upend those odds. Much to my office's chagrin, she wins far more than she loses. Her prowess as an advocate and her ability to communicate complex concepts in an accessible, persuasive way are truly remarkable. These skills are crucial for judges to harness; in District Court, especially, it falls to the judge to

explain the proceedings to defendants who are often overwhelmed, confused, and/or navigating the criminal justice system for the first time.

As Judge Grant retires, he leaves behind not just a vacancy on the bench but an important and lasting legacy: people enjoyed appearing in his courtroom. Attorneys, jurors, and even defendants facing serious criminal consequences felt that their time in court was worthwhile, in part because every effort was made to help them understand the process. In turn, they were able to recognize the critical role the court plays in keeping our community safe. If the Council is searching for a successor to maintain that legacy, it needs look no further than Ms. Anderson. That she would serve competently and fairly is a given; her skills in legal analysis and argument are well-honed.

As you consider a field of candidates who possess a wide range of talents, what most sets Ms. Anderson apart from her peers is her kindness and her unparalleled communication skills. She is supported by all sides of this community, whether it be legal or non-legal, police or citizen, criminal or civil, and prosecutor or defense. She is the candidate that everyone wants to practice in front of. And if appointed, I believe she would be the most likely to retain her position in a future election.

Ms. Anderson would make an excellent addition to the Whatcom County bench, and I strongly recommend her for the job.

Thank you for your time,



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Benjamin Pratt  
Senior Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



June 28th, 2021

In re: Letter of Recommendation for Angela Anderson

Dear Whatcom County Council,

I am writing today to express my sincere admiration and respect for Angela Anderson. I have personally appeared before Angela Anderson while she served as a Judge Pro Tempore in Whatcom County District Court as well as Blaine Municipal Court. Angela Anderson is fair minded, incredibly intelligent and singularly committed to access to justice.

Angela Anderson possesses one of, if not the sharpest legal mind I have ever had the pleasure to practice in front of. Angela Anderson also has a keen insight into the circumstances which cause people to appear before her. Angela Anderson has a firm but compassionate hand when making rulings and during sentencing.

I believe Angela Anderson would be a credit to the bench and would be a breath of fresh air in these ever changing and troubled times. Angela Anderson is the person to lead the criminal justice system into the future.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jason Ans. Smith

Owner – North County Public Defense

1720 IOWA ST  
BELLINGHAM WA 98229  
PHONE: 360-684-3062  
FAX: 360-393-4823  
admin@northcountypd.org



**Colorado Office & Attorneys:**

Robert J. Keating\* 3020 Carbon Place, Suite 202  
Tanya S. Keating Boulder, CO 80301  
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Malcolm A. Naftulin Fax: (888) 350-9917

\*Also Licensed in WA

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Thomas P. Lyden 119 N Commercial Street, Suite 910  
Megan N. Yeates Bellingham, WA 98225  
Tel: (360) 296-0344  
Fax: (888) 350-9917

[www.keatingandlyden.com](http://www.keatingandlyden.com)

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**VIA EMAIL**

Whatcom County Council  
[council@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:council@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Re: Whatcom County District Court Vacancy

Dear Whatcom County Council:

I am contacting you to voice my support for Angela Anderson to fill the vacancy in Whatcom County District Court.

I currently practice in Whatcom County as a criminal defense attorney and have known Ms. Anderson since I moved to town in 2007. She has the combination of experience, attitude, and honesty that make her a great fit for Whatcom County District Court's bench.

Ms. Anderson was my supervising attorney when I worked with the Whatcom County Public Defender from 2008-2010. I worked with her daily and can attest to her intelligence, great attitude, and true care for our community. Ms. Anderson still serves as a reliable source of advice for my legal questions and we remain friends.

I also know Ms. Anderson in our capacities as parents of young children. Her involvement with, and investments in our community set her apart as the candidate most qualified and deserving of appointment to the Whatcom District Court. Ms. Anderson is dedicated to improving our community through both her personal and professional endeavors – Whatcom County would do well to put her on the District Court bench.

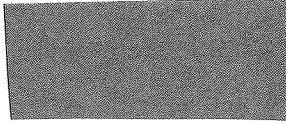
I encourage you to contact me directly if you believe I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

KEATING & LYDEN, LLC

Thomas P. Lyden

**STEPHEN GOCKLEY**



June 28, 2021

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

Re: Application of Angela Anderson for appointment as District Court Judge

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to extend my support for the application from Angela Anderson for appointment to the open position of Whatcom County District Court Judge. From first-hand experience, I believe Ms. Anderson would be a very 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 and I am increasingly aware of the value it can lend to improvements in our local judicial system.

I worked with Ms. Anderson for several years in various aspects of the task force's work. She was always a thoughtful contributor in discussions, and she was respected as a fair and open-minded participant in task force work. Ms. Anderson has experience practicing in District Court, she understands its workings, and she is also sensitive to the fact that both its civil and criminal litigants often come before the Court having struggled with disruptive pressures from economic stress, unstable housing, and multiple health complications. Ms. Anderson has indicated to me she considers the District Court an important setting for making balanced decisions that respond constructively to both community and individual needs, because it handles criminal and civil matters of a less serious nature, and thus provides greater opportunities for diversion and rehabilitation. Beyond individual cases, she is also capable of promoting these approaches at a system level as well. Her perspectives on a judge's role are fully in line with promising practices being employed by judicial officers at national, state, and local levels.

For the above reasons, I am confident Angela Anderson 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

WHATCOM COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BILL ELFO  
SHERIFF



PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
311 Grand Avenue  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4078  
(360) 778-6600

June 28, 2021

Dear Councilmembers:

Over the past 40 years, I have worked with a wide variety of professionals involved in the Criminal Justice system. One of these individuals is Angela Anderson, who is submitting her application for the position of Judge for Whatcom County District Court. Our interactions have covered some fairly unique territory over the 15 years I have known her, due in large part to the challenges involved with managing offender populations.

I have worked with Angela in her capacity as both a Public Defender and private attorney. During that time, I have seen her exhibit a rare balance of ensuring a vigorous and compassionate defense for her clients, while understanding the need for accountability for one's actions and community safety.

She has been able to regularly broker agreements between a prosecutor and her clients that will serve the cause of justice, while recognizing special circumstances that may justify creative solutions. Of particular note has been Angela's understanding, and ability to work with, behaviorally disabled offenders. Her patience with people who have a very different interpretation of the world enhances her ability to problem solve, and provide guidance and understanding. This has led to the resolution of some very complex cases.

Angela works well with the jail staff. She has always been rapidly responsive when we have needed an order to move someone to hospital, because the client's illness had exceeded the jail's capacity to provide care. Further, jail staff appreciates that she understands the nuances of transporting offenders to Court, the need for safety and security, and the competing demands on a Deputies time. That is not always the case with the other professionals we deal with.

Lastly, Angela has the ability and intelligence to see situations in a broader scope. This is quickly evident when observing her interactions in a variety of meetings, many of which are focused on potential changes in the criminal justice system. She is able to appreciate the ideas and opinions of others, while at the same time providing additional information or an alternative point of view. She is quietly self-confident and very effective.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my experiences in working with Ms. Anderson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendy Jones".

Wendy Jones, Chief  
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, Corrections Bureau



## Monica Rouse

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**From:** Kate Newell <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 1:13 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Angela Anderson - District Court Judge

Dear County Council Members,

It is my pleasure to write a note in support of Angela Anderson for the District Court Judge appointment. I have known Angela as a friend for the last few years and find her to be an honest, kind and hardworking individual.

In addition to her impressive list of accomplishments and experiences in her career, Angela has a true desire and dedication to bettering the system. She is a caring and down-to-earth woman who would contribute a fresh approach and energy to the District Court. I am confident Angela's appointment would be a beneficial asset to the District Court. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Kate Newell  
[REDACTED]

## Monica Rouse

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**From:** Jonathan Richardson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 12:43 PM  
**To:** Council; Rud Browne; Todd Donovan; Tyler Byrd; Kathy Kershner; Ben Elenbaas; Barry Buchanan; Carol Frazey  
**Subject:** Reference email for Angela Anderson

It is my great pleasure to serve as a reference for Angela Anderson regarding her application for Whatcom County District Court Judge. Most recently, I have been able to observe Angela's work in my current position of Court Commissioner in the Whatcom County Superior Court. I have only held my current position since August of 2020, however, I have known Angela from the time I started working in the Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in 2010. We worked as opposing counsel on numerous cases, both in District and Superior Court, taking multiple cases to trial through the years. Angela was always fair, honest and a pleasure to work with, even when we couldn't agree on how a particular case should be resolved.

I watched her transition with great success to the position of Chief Deputy Public Defender, and later to running her own law firm in our community. I'm sure that if given the opportunity, she would be equally successful on the bench.

Throughout her 15 year career in Whatcom County, Angela has consistently practiced in Whatcom County District Court and is uniquely qualified to work in that court. Additionally, she is well-liked and respected by defense attorneys, prosecutors and the bench. She knows the court staff, the probation officers, other judicial officers, and has a deep understanding of the inner workings of the court. I have no doubt that if selected, Angela will have a positive impact on the District Court, its staff and the citizens that utilize the court. She is a talented attorney and overall great person to be around.

Best regards,

Jonathan Richardson

June 28, 2021

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in regard to Angela Anderson's pursuance of Whatcom County District Court Judge. I am a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and have worked in Whatcom County Jail's Behavioral Health Program for approximately 7 years. I have collaborated with Ms. Anderson on several cases involving seriously mentally ill individuals.

Ms. Anderson has extensive knowledge of how the judicial system intertwines with other systems that significantly impact the lives of people involved with the criminal justice system. She is astute in early recognition of forensic mental health competency issues and has always been an excellent advocate for her clients to have access to appropriate treatment to address any barriers to their functioning. She understands how incarceration negatively affects an individual's access to both in- and outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment, and has been instrumental in helping many of my clients resolve their legal issues in ways that can truly help reduce recidivism – referrals to Mental Health Court, extended inpatient treatment episodes of care for both substance abuse and psychiatric civil commitments, connection with family and natural supports, etc. She has an intuition for recognizing an individual's level of motivation in addressing the underlying factors that contribute to criminal behavior. Her experience with the therapeutic/problem-solving court programs has created a unique insight into what helps an individual succeed, common barriers faced, and if that type of referral is beneficial for both the person and community.

In my experience, Ms. Anderson is knowledgeable about and experienced with the legal system at all local levels. She is approachable, reasonable, and able to objectively evaluate and conceptualize her cases, especially those involving special populations. I believe she has a realistic approach in knowing that the community's safety needs must be regarded yet an offender's psychosocial factors and access to treatment and other resources also needs to be attainable for an individual to be successful. Considering that mental illness and substance abuse problems are such a glaring concern and seem to be escalating at an alarming rate, I think it important to appoint individuals that have experience with, understanding of, and compassion for these populations. As a professional that works closely with the criminal justice system and as a lifelong Whatcom County community member, I strongly recommend consideration of Ms. Anderson's application.

Regards,

Heidi Zosel



WHATCOM MUSEUM | Old City Hall | The Lightcatcher | Syre Education Center

June 28, 2021

To the Clerk of the Council,

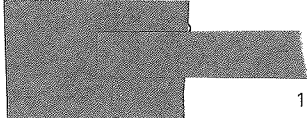
I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to introduce myself as the Curator of Art at the Whatcom Museum in Bellingham, Washington, and to formally offer my support for Angela Anderson for the position of District Court Judge. Angela has been a Public Defender for the last fourteen years and has held her own Private Practice for the last two of those years. I've known Angela for more than six years as our children have grown up together in the same elementary school and played on the same sports teams, but beyond these parenting interactions, I consider Angela a close friend.

Angela is always deeply involved in supporting and lifting up community organizations that she feels passionate about. She engages with the schools as a member of the PTO, organizes events and fundraisers for her son's ice hockey team, and is dedicated to important non-profit groups such as DVSAS, WCAHA, and Pickford Film Center. Knowing how busy her professional days are, I am always impressed by the energy and commitment she brings to these volunteer roles and board committees, and I have seen firsthand how this has positively impacted and improved our community.

I also appreciate how hard she works as she balances a busy family life while fighting to defend the rights of clients throughout Whatcom County. When we gather as friends, I always enjoy our lively discussions around important social justice issues, or engaging debates on public art in our city. As a member of the City's Arts Commission and through my role as Curator of the Museum, I interface with a large swathe of our community, which includes city government officials. I believe Angela, with her leadership abilities, organization skills, and dedication to this community would be a superior choice for judge in Whatcom County.

Sincerely,

Amy Chaloupka  
Curator of Art  
Whatcom Museum



## Jacqueline Lassiter

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**From:** Council  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Kristi Felbinger; Jill Nixon; Jennifer Schneider; Jacqueline Lassiter  
**Subject:** FW: Angela Anderson to fill District Court Judge Vacancy

**From:** Chris Freeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 9:24 AM  
**To:** Council <Council@co.whatcom.wa.us>  
**Subject:** Fw: Angela Anderson to fill District Court Judge Vacancy

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

On Monday, June 28, 2021, 09:02, Chris Freeman [REDACTED] wrote:

Councilmen Ellenbaas,

My name is Chris Freeman. I have been a Whatcom County employee for 15 years with the Sheriff's Office Bureau of Corrections. In that 15 years I have spent over a decade working in the Whatcom County Court system with a multitude of attorney's and Judges as a corrections Deputy, and now as a Corrections Sergeant.

During the time I have spent working in the court system I have had the opportunity to work with, and observe Angela Anderson first as a District Court, and then a Superior Court Public Defender. I watched and worked with Mrs. Anderson as she was assigned to, or volunteered for the more sensitive, and difficult cases that involved defendants with mental health issues. Mrs. Anderson has always in my observations been compassionate, professional, ethical, and a fierce defender of her clients.

I also had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Anderson when she was the second in command at the Whatcom County Public Defenders Office, and I was the Sheriff's Office Court Transport Sergeant. Mrs. Anderson has always been a pleasure to work with, and treated the Corrections Deputies with the utmost respect. This is not always the case as there can at times be a strained relationship with the Public Defenders Office, due to the Corrections Deputies being seen as Law Enforcement.

Mrs. Anderson has been practicing Criminal Law for the entire 15 years that I have known her. She is an outstanding attorney, and I believe would be the best selection to fill the vacant District Court Judges position. She will be fair, and will make informed and educated rulings. Her work with mental health clients will give her a much needed insight and compassion to an issue that is running rampant, and back logging our criminal justice system.

As a Court Transport Deputy and later the court Transport Sergeant I had the opportunity to observe the impact that a civil attorney that became a judge had on the criminal side of the courts. Although the

Judge was a pleasure to work with, the lack of experience in criminal matters created a major back log of cases, and criminal court calendars that lasted 3-4 hours longer than normal. I believe from my experiences and observations that an attorney coming from the criminal side of the courts will prevent this slow down and backlog, especially with the impact COVID-19 has had on the courts, and cases getting pushed back to protect the public from the pandemic. I believe strongly that Angela Anderson is the most qualified applicant for the District Court Judge position, for all the reasons listed above.

Mrs. Anderson in my opinion will be able to assist Judge Elich to work efficiently to try and get the court schedules cleaned up, as well as be fair and impartial in each case she hears. Mrs. Anderson will ensure the law is followed, and that all cases are handled fairly and impartially. She has earned the respect of everyone she has worked with, and is held in high regard by the Corrections staff.

I highly recommend that the council select Angela Anderson to fill the vacancy on the District Court Bench, as it will be the best decision for citizens of Whatcom County, as well as the Court Staff. I know there are several applicants for this position, but having worked in the courts Mrs. Anderson is the stand out in the field of applicants.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully  
Chris Freeman  
Corrections Sergeant  
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

## Monica Rouse

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**From:** C Dunavan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 2021 8:53 AM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** District Court Judge opening

June 27, 2021

Dear County Council Members,

I am writing in support of Angela Anderson's candidacy for Whatcom County District Court Judge. Angela currently serves as the Public Defender for the City of Lynden, where I am the Domestic Violence Specialist. I work very closely with the City Prosecutor to help victims of domestic violence crimes have access to court information and a voice in the criminal justice process. As such, Angela and I are usually on opposite "sides" of our adversarial criminal justice system.

I have found Angela to be consistently thoughtful and respectful in her interactions with her clients, with court staff, and with victims and witnesses. While strongly representing her clients, she has been responsive to the wide range of concerns raised by victims in different domestic violence cases, from serious fears for physical safety to hopes for reconciliation with the defendant. She has also been interested in exploring ways we might expand options for our response to domestic violence, including potential development of restorative justice approaches in certain cases.

Angela began working in Lynden after several transitions in the Public Defender contract had resulted in a significant backlog of cases. She appeared to "hit the ground running," so that many cases that had been repeatedly postponed seemed to be quickly resolved.

In all of my interactions with Angela, I have found her to be professional, friendly, respectful, thoughtful, and interested in ways to make our criminal justice system function more effectively for the sake of all participants – defendants, crime victims, court staff, and the broader community. I believe she would make an excellent judge.

Sincerely,

Caryl Dunavan  
[REDACTED]

## Monica Rouse

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**From:** Fred Heydrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 27, 2021 4:52 PM  
**To:** Council  
**Subject:** Whatcom County District Court Judge appointment

Dear Council Members:

I write on behalf of Angela Anderson, who is applying for appointment to the position of Whatcom County District Court Judge.

I have known Angela since she came to work for the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office in 2006. I was serving as a Whatcom County Superior Court Commissioner during her entire time as a deputy public defender and she appeared and handled cases in my courtroom innumerable times. Ms Anderson was at all times prompt and well prepared. Her dealings with the Court, counsel, clients and all others in the room were at all times professional, courteous and respectful. I never saw her lose her temper or get flustered under even the most trying circumstances. In my 38 yrs of legal experience, including 21 + yrs on the bench, I would rate her as one of the finest lawyers I have ever known.

I also had the pleasure of working with Angela on the Whatcom County Incarceration and Reduction Task Force, a duty that involved working with many people with widely differing views as to what course should be pursued and how to get where we needed to go. I can say that Ms Anderson was always able to express her position clearly and without rancor, even when others in the room were not on their best behavior.

Finally, I personally know and have worked with all the other applicants for the job and can confidently state that none of them possess the combination of experience, knowledge and demeanor that Angela would bring to the job of District Court Judge. If appointed, I am sure she would provide the citizens of our county with many years of superior and outstanding service.

Respectfully,

Alfred L. Heydrich  
Whatcom County Superior Court Commissioner (ret.)

Sent from my iPad



Wesley B. Vanderheyden

June 25, 2021

Whatcom County Council  
311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105  
Bellingham, WA 98225

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to request your consideration and endorsement of Angela Anderson for the position of Whatcom County District Court Judge.

I have personally known Angela for over ten years and have been fortunate to provide investigative support to her in her law practice. I have found Angela to be the consummate professional and I know she is well respected throughout the justice system in Whatcom County. She has a keen intellect and an uncanny ability to communicate effectively with people from all walks of life. She is honest, sincere and has impeccable integrity.

Angela has a vision for addressing issues within the justice system as a District Court Judge. She would like to increase access to the court for rural residents through enhanced on-line filing, Zoom hearings and electronic records. She envisions refocusing probation efforts away from first-time offenders to get them out of the system thereby enhancing the ability of the probation office to more effectively administer recidivists. She also believes in increased education of defendants in vacating their convictions once they have paid their debt to society.

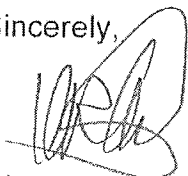
I believe strongly that Angela Anderson would excel at being a Whatcom County District Court Judge and I respectfully request your support for her.

Council Members

June 25, 2021

Page 2

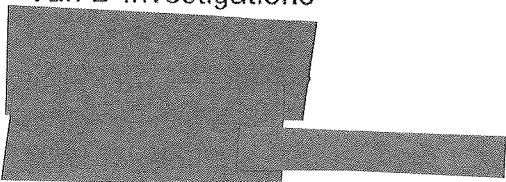
Sincerely,



Wesley B. Vanderheyden

Owner/Investigator

Van D Investigations



# Stephen W. Jackson

Attorney at Law

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Stephen Jackson and it is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Angela Anderson to the appointment of Whatcom County District Court Judge. I have known Ms. Anderson for several years and trust that she would be an excellent candidate for this position.

I first met Ms. Anderson when I was a Rule 9 Intern at the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office. Ms. Anderson was always willing to offer a helping hand for any legal issues and questions I had. As my internship came to an end, Ms. Anderson invited me to assist her in a jury trial, which became the highlight of the experience. After law school, I returned to the public defender's office and Ms. Anderson eventually became my supervisor. I have always thought of Ms. Anderson as a mentor and someone who was willing to the trade and help me improve.

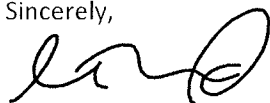
Ms. Anderson has been a tremendous public servant to this community. She was a public defender for several years, a member of the Incarceration Reduction Task Force, a member of the Pickford Theater's board, and the current public defender for the City of Lynden. During her time at the Whatcom County Public Defender's Office, Ms. Anderson was a supervisor – first for attorneys assigned to the District Court, and later for all attorneys in the office.

As an attorney who has moved through the ranks of the county's court system, I think people forget the important role District Court judges play in mentoring young attorneys. The lessons I learned from Judges Grant and Elich have proved invaluable in my current practice. Ms. Anderson will continue providing that service to this community – she was an excellent supervisor and I know she will be an excellent judge.

Ms. Anderson has significant experience working with disparate communities. Her ability to connect with her clients is a trait that is not easily emulated. She treats people with compassion and dignity and I am confident will maintain that respect for the people who appear before her as a judge. She is fair, deliberative, and extraordinarily intelligent. I am confident that this community will be well-served with Ms. Anderson on the bench.

I am happy and answer any further questions you may have. Feel free to contact me by email at

Sincerely,



Stephen W. Jackson  
Attorney  
Bellingham, Washington

To; Kathy Kershner  
Whatcom County Council District 4  
[KKershne@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:KKershne@co.whatcom.wa.us)

CC: [rbrowne@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:rbrowne@co.whatcom.wa.us), [tdonovan@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:tdonovan@co.whatcom.wa.us),  
[tbyrd@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:tbyrd@co.whatcom.wa.us), [BElenbaa@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:BElenbaa@co.whatcom.wa.us),  
[bbuchanan@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:bbuchanan@co.whatcom.wa.us), [cfrazey@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cfrazey@co.whatcom.wa.us),  
[council@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:council@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Re: Angela Anderson, candidate for Whatcom County District Court Judge

Councilperson Kershner,

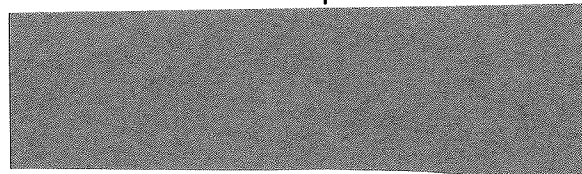
I am reaching out to you as a member of your district and as a person who is very familiar with the workings of the criminal justice system. I am recently retired, 2017, after a 40 year career as a criminal defense investigator, the last 35 years as the senior investigator for the Whatcom County Public Defenders.

I have known Angela Anderson since 2006 and worked with her on almost a daily basis until my retirement. I have seen Angela deal with clients suffering from a myriad of issues including drug dependence, mental health issues, homelessness and bad life decisions. She has interacted with veterans and the support agencies that provide help to the veterans in need. Angela worked on many mental health cases where the client was suffering from grave mental defects. She is familiar with the resources available to be able to utilize the tools for alternatives in the disposition of cases. Angela was particularly effective in Drug Court where she helped to make successful one of the first tools in the criminal justice system to effect alternative dispositions. She treats everyone with dignity and respect.

Angela has seen first hand how the system impacts those who find themselves dealing with courts, lawyers and probation officers. She is uniquely qualified to listen and to make judgment to reach a reasonable outcome that is both fair and equitable for the client and community.

I would welcome any contact to answer any questions you may have, thank you for your time

Michael Sparks



## Jacqueline Lassiter

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**From:** Council  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 10:06 AM  
**To:** Kristi Felbinger; Jill Nixon; Jennifer Schneider; Jacqueline Lassiter  
**Subject:** FW: Support for District Court Judge applicant - Angela Anderson

**From:** Michelle Malone <[Michelle.Malone@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:Michelle.Malone@co.whatcom.wa.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Todd Donovan <[TDonovan@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:TDonovan@co.whatcom.wa.us)>; Council <[Council@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:Council@co.whatcom.wa.us)>  
**Subject:** Support for District Court Judge applicant - Angela Anderson

Dear Mr. Donovan,

It is my understanding that the County Council will be appointing a judge to complete the term for retiring judge Dave Grant. As a resident of your district in North Bellingham (and your Columbia neighborhood), I would like to bring an applicant for District Court Judge to your attention. Angela Anderson is a friend of mine, and is the type of high-quality candidate that would serve our community with honor as a district court judge. While I am sure that you will hear from her colleagues about her professional qualifications, I can speak to her quality of character, dedication to her practice of law, and her care for our community members.

In my conversations with Angela about her work as a public defender and private practice attorney, her dedication to her community members and serving in the justice system has been evident. In addition to her work as an attorney, Angela has also served on the Incarceration and Reduction Task Force and the Health Department Opiate Use Prevention Task Force. She is interested in working with community members and organizations to find preventative measures to reduce crime and incarceration, balancing the needs of at-risk populations and community safety. She is an advocate of exploring drug and alcohol programs for misdemeanor offenses to help treat people with substance use challenges and hopefully prevent felonies or lifelong addiction. Angela has also talked about ideas to increase efficiency in the district court system, helping people move through the process of small claims, protection orders, name changes, and low-level offenses quickly and easily. She believes that technology could be useful to make court access easier for rural community members or victims of crime that may feel uncomfortable being in the courtroom.

Since Angela has served as a public defender in Bellingham and Lynden for 15 years, she is familiar with and well respected by the prosecutors, defenders, treatment providers, police and probation officers, and staff members of the jail and court. Having experience as Chief Deputy, she is known for her ability to work collaboratively with others and her problem solving skills. Angela's skill sets and connections would be strong assets as a judge on the District Court.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Michelle Malone