

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

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: Lisa M. Keeler

Street/Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/State: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Day Telephone: [REDACTED] Evening Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: [REDACTED] E-mail Address: [REDACTED]

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? Yes () No

Are you a lawyer admitted to practice law in the state of Washington? 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: 6/28/2021

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

Lisa M. Keeler

EXPERIENCE:

Carmichael Clark, P.S.

Bellingham, WA

Associate Attorney, June 2015 – present

Civil litigation practice has included appearances in or assisting on cases before Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Mason, Thurston, King, and Clallam Counties, the Office of Administrative Hearings, the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, the Pollution Control Hearings Board, and the Court of Appeals.

Litigation and/or transactional practice have included tort, insurance defense, employment, business/corporate, administrative/ licensing, property and real estate, guardianship, probate, Consumer Protection Act, and Public Records Act.

Have represented defendants, plaintiffs, large and small employers, employees, State agencies, and individuals.

Assist with blogging and marketing for the firm.

Prosecutor (backup) for City of Lynden, June 2015 - present

Lynden, WA

Prosecute misdemeanor cases for the City of Lynden as needed.

Whatcom County Superior Court

Bellingham, WA

Pro tem commissioner, February 2016 – present

Conduct hearings as judicial officer as needed, including Criminal First Appearances (setting pretrial release conditions and/or bail/bond); Uncontested Pro Se Dissolution matters, Child Dependency hearings, Juvenile Detention hearings, and Involuntary Civil Commitment hearings.

MAR/SSCAR Arbitrator, October 2018 – present

Conduct arbitration proceedings as assigned, including hearing testimony in case, ruling on evidentiary matters, issuing award, and ruling on any motions regarding discovery and fees and costs.

Washington State Attorney General's Office, Regional Services

Bellingham, WA

Assistant Attorney General, June 2008 – June 2015

Represented various State agencies including: Labor and Industries, Licensing, Employment Security, and Social and Health Services, both Adult Protective Services and Child Protective/Welfare Services. Occasionally assisted on research and advice projects for Western Washington University and Bellingham Technical College.

Trained, mentored, and aided in hiring Assistant Attorneys General, recruited law clerks for the Attorney General's Office, and aided in hiring and supervising law clerks for the Bellingham office.

Co-chaired Diversity Committee in Bellingham office planning events, speakers, a book club, and other Diversity related activities.

Assumption Catholic Church

Bellingham, WA

Substitute director/conductor (paid position)

Volunteer choir member and cantor, 2009 – present; occasional flautist and pianist.

Previously assisted in music ministry at Sacred Heart Church as a cantor and pianist.

EDUCATION:

Gonzaga University School of Law Spokane, WA
Juris Doctor, cum laude, May 2007
Linden Cup Champion (2006); National Appellate Advocacy Competition (2006-07);
Moot Court Honors Council (2006-07); Women's Law Caucus Political Action
Committee Chair (2006-07).

Gonzaga University Spokane, WA
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy, cum laude, May 2004

Oxford University Oxford, England
Study Abroad, Politics and Philosophy, January – July 2003

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND AFFILIATIONS:

- Washington State Bar Association, admitted to practice in 2007
- Supreme Court of the United States, admitted to practice in 2013
- American Bar Association, member since 2006
- Whatcom County Bar Association, member since 2010; Young Lawyers Committee 2012-17
- Skagit County Bar Association, member since 2015
- Washington Defense Trial Lawyers, member since 2015
- Washington Women Lawyers, member since 2014

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- American Bar Foundation Fellow
- 2019 Judicial Institute Fellow
- Super Lawyers Rising Star, 2017
- Washington Women Lawyers, Chapter Member of the Year – Whatcom 2019
- At the Attorney General's Office, earned Excellence Award for co-chairing a strategic planning committee that successfully created uniform training materials for social workers.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

- **Washington Women Lawyers**, *Public Service VP*, 2020 – present; *Whatcom County Chapter*, member since 2014; *Previously President, Immediate Past President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Membership Co-VP, Judicial Evaluation Committee for Whatcom, Skagit, and San Juan Counties.*
- **LAW Advocates**, *Secretary*, 2020 – present; *Board Member*, 2013 – present; *Marketing Committee*, 2018 – present; *Street Law volunteer lawyer*, 2013 – present. While Board Chair, successfully guided the organization through the development and execution of a strategic plan in 2016-18 that included the introduction of a new fundraising event (Law Day Breakfast) and 30th Anniversary marketing campaign.
- **High School Mock Trial**, *Volunteer scoring judge*, 2013 – 2016. Rate students during and provide feedback following trial competition in February each year.
- Member: **Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce**, *Active participant*, **League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County**; **Whatcom County National Adoption Day**, *Planning Committee.*

Leon F. Henley, Jr

June 24, 2021

Dear Whatcom County Councilmembers,

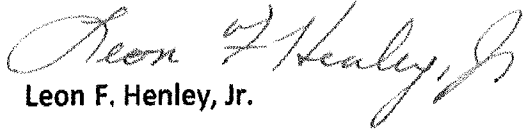
As a part-time and full-time court commissioner for the Whatcom County Superior Court for the last 15 years, I fully support Lisa Keeler's application for Whatcom County District Court Judge. From her days as Assistant Attorney General (AAG), through her private practice and community service leadership, and now for the many years she has served as a pro tem court commissioner, I have watched her grow to be one of the most trusted, qualified and experienced judicial candidates we could welcome to the bench. Always prepared, respectful to everyone, and extremely efficient in how she presented cases, Lisa appeared in front of me many times as an Assistant Attorney General. Few attorneys are as popular a choice to fill in when court commissioners like me are unavailable to conduct hearings in family law cases, child welfare dependency cases, criminal first appearances, and mental health civil commitments.

Given her long history and good work as a pro tem court commissioner and her broad legal background, I recently asked her to start conducting judicial settlement conferences for children's dependency matters. The AAGs, parent's attorneys, guardians ad litem, social workers and I meet regularly to improve this process. Recently we discussed attempting judicially-led settlement conferences in hopes of resolving disputes instead of going to trial. Lisa was a natural choice to conduct these conferences on behalf of the court. When all these different, and often opposing sides in such contentious cases, were all so supportive of Lisa's involvement, it is high praise.

Lisa has always been active in Whatcom's volunteer culture, especially when it involves the courts. For years, Lisa volunteered as a rating judge for the high school mock trial competition. It is often students' first introduction to the court system and many lawyers recall this longtime competition as when they first considered becoming lawyers. Lisa provided great feedback for the students and treated them with the same respect as she does her attorney peers. Lisa also spent years helping to plan and organize Whatcom County's National Adoption Day celebration. She began that work while an AAG handling family and children's cases and continued to make it her commitment in private practice. In securing community donations (gifts for the adoptees, family reception refreshments, etc.), Lisa's volunteer efforts are infectious and show her service side, both in and out of the courtroom.

Working closely with her, I can attest to her ability to focus on the law and not be sidetracked by emotional situations, political influences, or insider systemic biases. She is unafraid of change - in fact, she inspires and tackles it head on. Her writing is clear and direct; her compassion is honest but professional - and her commitment to high ethical standards is exemplary. Lisa would be an invaluable addition to the Whatcom County District Court bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leon F. Henley, Jr." The signature is fluid and elegant, with a prominent initial 'L' and 'H'.

Leon F. Henley, Jr.

Dear Whatcom County Councilmembers,

I recently retired after working for many years as a Project Manager for BP, and I am an enthusiastic supporter of Lisa Keeler in her efforts to fill the open seat on the Whatcom County District Court. I come to you as someone who, with my wife, Elsie, learned first-hand how knowledgeable, hard-working and committed Lisa is to justice for all.

About three years ago, we came to Lisa in a complicated vulnerable adult matter; we were desperate for help and facing very tight timelines. Another family member was making false claims about our relationship with Elsie's mother, Dora, and trying to restrict us and others from having contact with Dora. They were also trying to gain control over her finances for their own benefit.

From the moment we first met Lisa we knew we were in good hands. She clearly explained the law, the process, and all our options for addressing the issue. She even helped my mother-in-law get her own attorney to fight what was going on and take other steps to protect herself and her finances moving forward. Most importantly, Lisa's strength and calm demeanor were infectious making the whole family feel at ease even as we sat through multiple meetings and hearings to resolve the issue.

Lisa came up with a very well thought out, strategic plan to work through our case and then executed it beautifully. You may be in the right, but you still need to effectively navigate the system to succeed; and Lisa did just this. I want a judge who understands both the law and process like Lisa. She was respectful to everyone, even our opposing family members who were causing all the trouble. She made us feel empowered and safe as we worked through a very emotional court process. In the end, the baseless claims against us were thrown out by the court. But Lisa reminded us to be, and gave us opportunities to be, compassionate to the family members causing all the trouble. Again, I want a judge to be like Lisa, compassionate and respectful to all.

We came into the legal system upset, confused, and angry. Lisa's confidence and her extraordinary legal experience gave us the power to take action, and allowed us to see beyond the immediate turmoil to focus on what really mattered – making sure Dora was okay. My daughter, Kimberly – then a college student and now an engineer – was so impressed with Lisa that she expressed an interest in possibly becoming an attorney. Lisa immediately offered her mentorship and to answer any questions Kimberly had.

Lisa is older than her years – with wisdom that allows her to see the big picture: she really listens to all sides. So many people listen defensively and, in their heads, begin countering before the other side barely begins. Lisa is a good listener and is able to explain extremely complicated legal issues in clear, direct terms. It is obvious that she cares about the law and having an accessible, strong judicial system.

Lisa is an excellent attorney and would make a great judge. Her fairness and compassion – without compromising the law – made us better people and a better family. Whatcom County would be lucky to have her as a District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Scott Hazlett

Dear Whatcom County Council Members,

It is an honor to write this letter in support of Lisa Keeler for Whatcom County District Court. I served for many years alongside Lisa on the board of LAW Advocates. LAW Advocates is a non-profit that provides legal assistance to low-income community members. I have seen Lisa in action through various community outreach activities of LAW Advocates and her leadership abilities when as President of the board of LAW Advocates, she successfully led the organization's long term strategic plan. That was no easy feat! As one of only a few non-lawyers on the board, I was always fascinated by the lively legal conversations when discussing our mission and the issues. Managing those strategic planning conversations with a board of primarily lawyers took an *extraordinary* amount of listening skills, focus, diplomacy and critical thinking to arrive at our end result – a plan that would successfully lead LAW Advocates for years. It was a lot of work but the whole board was profoundly satisfied with the result as it gave direction to the work and inspired us all to continue the commitment of providing legal assistance to those in need. Lisa's masterful leadership was critical in accomplishing this goal. For me, my participation on this board has one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had in my 30+ years in Bellingham.

In addition to Lisa's unwavering commitment of access to justice, she also demonstrates that same commitment to the community. I too am very involved in my community and have served on multiple boards and I constantly see her at Chamber events, fundraisers for non-profits (like Lydia Place which serves homeless families) and other community gatherings. Having a deep connection to community gives a context for the nuances of life that confront our citizens. And wouldn't we want someone on the bench who not only is brilliant in the practice of law but also committed to equal justice, diversity and an openness to hear all sides and then with a disciplined methodology, to arrive at the best conclusion? The answer is of course – yes!

From a non-lawyer standpoint, I would want someone to judge a case not only with a thorough understanding of the law, but also with the wise discretion that comes from a variety of experiences in life and in community service. That approach is essential in breaking down barriers to justice and providing access to justice. This is exactly what Lisa has done in her professional life and in her service to community. Her diplomacy as President of LAW Advocates leading a very diverse board that was not shy in expressing those various opinions speaks not only to her effectiveness in the legal community but also her autonomy of staying true to doing 'the right thing' and her approachability, and thus electability in the public arena. That is the kind of judge I want in my community. That is the kind of justice that benefits our community. And that is why I jumped at the opportunity to write this letter in support of Lisa Keeler for Whatcom County District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

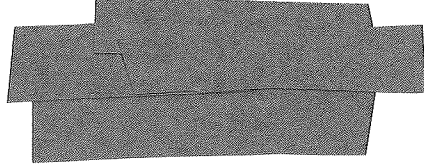


Mary Kay Robinson
Windermere Real Estate Realtor Broker
2021 Vice President Elect, Washington Realtors Government Affairs
2019 Chair, Washington Realtors Legislative Steering Committee
2017 Realtor of the Year
2016 President, Whatcom County Association of Realtors



Windermere
REAL ESTATE

Lisa M. Keeler



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.

My primary motivation as a person and an attorney has always been to serve others and our community. I recognize what privilege I have and work to ensure all of us – not just some of us – have meaningful access to the legal system. Serving as a judge on the Whatcom County District Court would allow me to tackle this issue in a new and more impactful way. Given my broad legal experience – from substituting as a Prosecutor for the City of Lynden to litigating family law and civil cases to serving as a Commissioner for the County – and my long and varied community service which includes leading strategic improvement initiatives, I am uniquely qualified to immediately take on the work of a judge in and out of the courtroom.

As an attorney in private practice, I have handled civil cases in Whatcom County District Court and stay abreast of the rules and procedures of the Court because I often have to evaluate whether to file cases there or in Superior Court. I have handled the same type of criminal and civil infraction cases that come before District Court as the back-up Prosecutor for the City of Lynden. As a volunteer lawyer I have assisted clients with questions related to District Court matters from medical and credit card debt collection matters to small claims cases for minor car accidents. As an Assistant Attorney General, I stayed informed about District Court process in order to assist others with vehicle impound cases involving the Washington State Patrol, and I regularly handled the civil side of DUI cases (driver’s license suspensions and revocations) which are similar to cases appearing in District Court. And through my volunteer board work, I have participated in many discussions about the work of the District Court and how access, support, and representation for people appearing in that court can be improved and increased.

I am particularly drawn to the work of District Court, often called the “people’s court,” given the closer connection to residents of our County. It includes small claims court (monetary claims up to \$10,000 by natural persons and \$5,000 for other entities), civil infractions (such as driving without insurance), criminal misdemeanors including the Mental Health Court program (like assault 4 and shoplifting charges), civil monetary claims (up to \$100,000, such as medical debt collection and wage withholding claims), and even name changes. Many of the issues that arise in District Court are the same questions I am presented with when volunteering as an attorney for LAW Advocates of Whatcom County, which especially for civil matters is no surprise given the results of the most recent 2015 Washington State Civil Legal Needs Study Update showing huge increases in individuals with legal problems related to employment and consumer/financial services/credit card and health/medical debt.

Because of the close relationship to individuals and type of legal issues that can be raised in these courts, District and Municipal Courts around the country are often where community and alternative courts are developed and find their greatest successes. There is a great opportunity to continue working towards court improvements that can have a vast impact on people in our County. It is important for the Court to take time to evaluate its work, bring together and collaborate with the stakeholders, and lead the team to create news systems and projects. I have done this work for other

Lisa M. Keeler

organizations, specifically leading LAW Advocates in a very successful strategic plan while serving as its Board Chair.

I stay up-to-date on civil legal needs information and criminal court improvements projects as a director with the LAW Advocates Board, as a member of the American Bar Association (which reports on civil and criminal justice reforms around the United States), and as a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation (which conducts evidence-based legal research around the world). The work of the Court must first be committed to serving our community, but much can be learned from others courts and communities. And through my professional and volunteer work, I have sharpened my ability to lead strategic improvement initiatives, created cooperative system changes, and met the judicial challenges of today's society in dealing with poverty and limited access to justice.

Not only do I have the skills to conduct the hearings of the District Court, but I have the skills and experience in managing the judicial work outside the courtroom, from personnel management to long-term strategic planning. I hope to serve our community as the next District Court Judge, and I am committed to continuing the good work the Court is doing and always finding ways to do it better.

2. Do you intent to run for the office of District Court Judge in the next general election...?

Yes, that is my intent; I have run for and managed a campaign for public office twice previously.

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

I am an officer and director of non-profit volunteer legal services provider LAW Advocates of Whatcom County. That program currently has two contracts with Whatcom County, one related to the Access ID program (assisting residents in getting government-issued identification) and one related to Veterans Assistance. We have had prior contracts/grants with the County.

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. I am not aware of any grievances, of any kind, ever being raised against me. (Please note, the WSBA Office of Disciplinary Counsel receives grievances that are dismissed without investigation and the subject attorney is never notified of the grievance.)

Lisa M. Keeler

E. Essay regarding familiarity with and top three concerns for Whatcom County District Court.

I have handled Whatcom County District Court civil matters as a private and volunteer attorney, and I generally stay informed about the rules and procedures of the Court. As the back-up Prosecutor for the City of Lynden, I handle similar misdemeanor criminal cases and civil infractions cases as come before this Court, and I did comparable and related work as an Assistant Attorney General. In my work in the access to justice arena, I have participated in discussions on how to improve access to and representation for parties in District Court.

My top three concerns for the District Court are:

1. How can the Court meet the increased litigation needs of the public and grow community courts? Our local courts will continue to have opportunities to increase or develop new community courts to play its role in addressing increased criminal cases related to social needs such as housing, substance use, and mental health treatment. The recent civil legal needs study showed ever growing civil legal issues facing our residents, especially the types of cases filed in District Court like medical debt collection and wage withholding claims. The study also showed people are unaware that their issues are even legal issues or how to address them. The better informed individual litigants are, the smoother the process goes. The District Court will, and should, play a key role in increasing public awareness of its work and availability to Whatcom residents for resolving disputes, growing and updating community courts, and constantly working to improve courtroom efficiency and equity. These strategic initiatives are exactly the type of work I excel in conducting.

2. How can the Court improve communication with the public about its work and how to navigate the Court system? People do not know there is a District Court or how it fits in with all the other courts in our County. This is even more problematic when someone finds themselves in front of our District Court as a pro se litigant (representing themselves without an attorney). With little or no familiarity with the Court, people face increased stress and more time and expense in trying to understand the process and piecing together strategies and responses. And all levels of the District Court system spend more and more time trying to bring parties up to speed on what is needed, why it is needed, and the consequences of making an uninformed decision. It is a system change needed everywhere; preparing people with few resources to understand the basics of the process so they have a fair chance at presenting their side. My communication, mediation, and marketing skills would allow me to quickly tackle these issues.

3. How does the Court embrace new technologies without abandoning people who do not have access to these technologies? Frustratingly, attorneys and courts are often slow to embrace innovation and new technology. The “lock down” during COVID forced the legal profession and courts to take big leaps forward in using audio-video technology, conducting remote hearings, and using online/electronic filing. It is very important that courts continue to explore and improve courtroom and clerk technology, which can improve efficiency and broaden access for all. However, especially in a vast geographic county like Whatcom, it is essential that courts do not abandon in-person document filings and court hearings because not everyone has access to this technology, or even reliable internet or phone service. It is essential that the Court ensure everyone has access to information, can proceed with filings, present their case, and conduct settlement negotiations. The goal should be to invest in infrastructure that allows improved digital access, maintains “analog” access, and allows the two modes to interface as seamlessly as possible. It will be a hard goal to achieve, but recently I conducted a settlement conference where I did just that: conducted the conference over Zoom, but provided an in-person location with access to the technology so all the parties could interact together. I can help the Court advance forward without leaving anyone behind.

Jacqueline Lassiter

From: joan jimenez <
Sent: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 5:03 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lisa M. Keeler, endorsement for Whatcom County District Court Judge

Council members, it is with great confidence and assurance that I endorse your consideration for the appointment of Lisa M. Keeler to the position of District Court Judge in Whatcom County.

I am proud to say that I have known Lisa her entire life. She is a person of great integrity, intelligence and compassion. Lisa's educational background, work experiences and community involvement have given her a broad perspective to the issues and situations at hand. She is quite capable of dealing with people from various backgrounds and circumstances providing the support and direction that is needed.

Thank you for reading and considering my endorsement for the appointment of Lisa M. Keeler.

Sincerely,
Joan Jimenez

Jacqueline Lassiter

From: Brenda Burnett
Sent: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 4:20 PM
To: Council
Subject: Lisa Keeler for Whatcom County District Court vacancy

I am writing to offer my support for Lisa Keeler to be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Whatcom County District Court that opened when Judge David Grant retired.

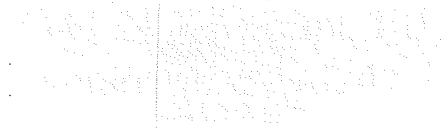
I have known Lisa Keeler since 2009, and heartily endorse her as an outstanding candidate for your consideration. She is fair, honest and a person of the highest integrity. She has an extensive background as an attorney and a sincere desire to be of service to the community. I have no doubt she would fill this position with the honor and competence required.

On a personal note, Lisa is a delight to know and I am proud to be counted among her many friends.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Burnett



-From the Private Desk of-
Judge Robert E. Olson

DISTRIBUTED TO

JUL 09 2021

ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS
WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

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

I am writing this letter on behalf of Ms. Lisa Keeler, 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. Keeler since 2010 when I joined the Washington State Attorney General's Office here in Bellingham. Beginning in 2012, Ms. Keeler became my immediate colleague with both of us assigned to represent Child Protective Services in Whatcom County cases. For much of that time, the two of us were the only attorneys assigned to a caseload designed for three attorneys. I had ample opportunity to observe Ms. Keeler in the courtroom and greatly appreciated her knowledge of the law, her skill at advocacy, and her commitment to the cause of protecting abused and neglected children. In my view, Ms. Keeler is an attorney and professional upon whom I could completely rely – a trait that is, sadly, all too rare in the modern workplace. When Ms. Keeler sought to broaden her horizons by entering into private practice in 2015, while I was happy for her new prospects, it was a great loss to the Attorney General Office and to me personally because we had developed such an excellent working relationship.

Since my appointment to the Superior Court, I have had a number of opportunities to observe Ms. Keeler in court. It is clear she continues to display her knowledge and skill representing her clients and their many diverse cases. Ms. Keeler is nimble-minded and she presents with a bright yet even-keeled demeanor that recommends her well for service as a judge.

In addition to the many community activities to which Ms. Keeler donates her time and financial support, one thing of particular note is her devotion to her faith and her congregation, where she frequently lends her considerable musical talents. She has an amazing stage presence, which is a difficult-to-learn skill that cannot be overstated for a judge on the bench.

All of Ms. Keeler's amazing abilities recommend her for Whatcom County District Court. She brings with her a diversity of thought and experience that will greatly enrich the Whatcom County bench as a whole. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or insight regarding Ms. Keeler.

Respectfully,



Robert E. Olson

REO/-

Jacqueline Lassiter

From: Grant
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Council
Subject: Support Lisa Keeler for Whatcom County District Court

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Dear Whatcom County Council Members,

Please consider Lisa Keeler as a strong candidate for Whatcom County District Court. I have known Lisa for more than 10 years. I have always been impressed that in work or volunteer efforts she always shows earnestness, intelligence, hard work, and ideas to make things work better. In the judicial area I know that Lisa has spoken repeatedly of increasing the efficiency of the court and making it more available.

Lisa has a long list of service to the field of law, and a wide experience before the courts. She has served as pro tem commissioner for Whatcom County Superior Court. Lisa has been a MAR/SSCAR arbitrator, and an Assistant Attorney General representing various State agencies.

Lisa Keeler would provide the best of judicial tradition for Whatcom County.

Sincerely,
Grant Deger MD
Bellingham City Council 2001-2004



STUART W. SCARFF, ESQ.
JOSEPH N. PEW, V, ESQ.

PHONE: 206.236.1500
FAX: 206.905.5912

stuart@scarfflaw.com
joe@scarfflaw.com

July 13, 2021

RECEIVED www.scarfflaw.com

JUL 16 2021

WHATCOM COUNTY
COUNCIL

Via U.S. First Class Mail

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

Re: Lisa Keeler for District Court Judge

Dear Councilmembers:

I recently learned the Honorable Judge David Grant has retired from his many years of service as a judge on the Whatcom County District Court. I heartily endorse my colleague Lisa Keeler as his replacement for the remainder of his term.

I met Lisa when I was hired as a pianist at Assumption Catholic Church, a job I took to earn some extra money during college at Western Washington University. Lisa has been an active participant in the church choir for many years and it was a pleasure to work with her in that capacity. But as I began to consider applying for law school, she also was kind enough to meet with me for coffee and answer my questions. She helped me get an internship at the Attorney General's Office in Bellingham, where she worked at the time, to get a glimpse into the day-to-day life of a lawyer.

I have since graduated law school and started my career, and Lisa played a wonderful part in helping me get here. She has the skills and temperament to serve as a judge, as is evidenced by her work as arbitrator and *pro tem* commissioner. She is smart, dedicated, and fair. She has led a life of leadership and service, and will continue to do so as a District Court judge.

Respectfully,

JADRIAN MICHAEL COPPIETERS
Attorney at Law

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 14, 2021

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

RE: Application of Lisa Keeler

Councilmembers,

I understand that the 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.

Lisa Keeler would make an excellent addition to the Whatcom County bench and I enthusiastically support her application. I have known Lisa for over a decade in both a professional and personal capacity. During that time, I have had many opportunities to observe her professional abilities and courtroom decorum, and also discuss with her larger matters of law, access to justice, and courtroom administration. In all these areas, Lisa has consistently shown herself as an impressive, capable, and thoughtful person. As a judge, I have no doubt that Lisa would continue this trajectory and provide the District Court with smart direction and positive leadership.

As you might know, Lisa ran a campaign for Superior Court Judge in 2020. I was her opponent in that race, and had a front row seat to her political demeanor and the messaging of her campaign. Much of my positive impression of Lisa comes from these observations. First, her campaign was efficient and organized. It was clear that Lisa has an advanced ability to administer and motivate people. Second, Lisa was truly "non-partisan." Instead, Lisa spoke -as a judge should- to all people in an unbiased and

open-minded manner. She intentionally remained cognizant of her ethical responsibilities to present herself as a neutral decision-maker. This was evident by her well-articulated remarks on the campaign trail, but also by her diverse body of supporters. Lisa was supported by individuals from all ends of the political spectrum, brought together by their mutual respect for her as a person, and also a recognition that a smart, open-minded judge would be good for Whatcom County.

This does not mean that Lisa does not have opinions about issues a judge might face. She surely does. But rather, what Lisa understands is that the best decisions are reached when individuals are able to present their "case" without a perception that those issues have already been decided. She listens first, and then provides her learned perspective to the decision.

The Council would do well to strongly consider the application of Lisa Keeler. She would be a great addition to the bench and would be a candidate that all people of the County could support.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evan Jones", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Judge Evan Jones
Whatcom County Superior Court, Dept. 2