

A HISTORY OF THE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES
OF CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

By Hon. Roger A. Bennett

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The introduction of the judiciary to the area now known as Clark County, Washington came about as a result of events transpiring in 1841 in the Willamette Valley.

Settlers in the valley had addressed a petition to the United States Congress in 1838 and again in 1840 requesting that the protection of the laws of the United States be extended to the Oregon Territory. The petitioners emphasized their need for protection against crime, as well as a growing apprehension that native tribes in Eastern and Southern Oregon were becoming increasingly hostile toward the settlers, such that a military force might be needed.

The need for law in civil cases and to protect private rights was also present, though not so immediate. In a meeting held on February 7, 1841 at Champoeg, which was then the principal settlement in the Willamette Valley, the Reverend Jason Lee advocated the selection of a committee for the purpose of drafting a constitution and code of laws for government of the settlements located South of the Columbia River. Protection of these laws was also to be extended to settlers North of the Columbia, so long as they were not affiliated with the Hudson's Bay Company.

The death of Ewing Young, on February 15, 1841, made the

adoption of civil laws, and a judicial system to administer them, a more urgent proposition. Ewing Young was the richest settler in the region, and had taken possession of a land claim constituting practically the entire Chehalem Valley. This claim included a market place, a store, a bank, and a factory, as well as the largest farm in Oregon. Many of the region's inhabitants were involved in Young's affairs as creditors or debtors. Young died with no known heirs, and it was essential to the community that distribution be made of his property.

At a meeting of nearly all the male settlers in the Willamette Valley on February 18, 1841, Doctor Ira L. Babcock was appointed Supreme Judge with probate powers. It was directed that until a code of laws could be drafted, Dr. Babcock would be governed by the laws of the State of New York, although apparently there was not a copy of the New York code existing in the territory. One of the first judicial acts accomplished by Supreme Judge Babcock was to appoint an administrator for the estate of Ewing Young.

A subsequent meeting at Champoeg, on May 2, 1843, resulted in selection of a legislative committee directed to formulate a legal code. At a meeting on July 5, 1843, the body of laws presented by the legislative committee was adopted by the settlers of Oregon. The first law books which had reached the territory in 1842 were the laws of the First Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Iowa and thus, the Oregon statutes were based almost entirely upon

Iowa statutes.

On July 5, 1843, the newly formed Provisional Government of Oregon established four districts, two of which extended into the area which would later become Washington Territory.

On June 27, 1844, the legislative committee delineated the area lying north of the Columbia River, from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, as the Vancouver District. On December 22, 1845, an act was passed substituting the word County for District.

By an act of August 14, 1848, the Congress of the United States established the Territorial Government of Oregon, encompassing all territory of the United States lying west of the summit of the Rocky Mountains and north of the forty-second degree of North latitude.

On September 3, 1849, the Oregon Territorial Legislature changed the name of Vancouver County to "Clarke" County, in honor of explorer William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, whose name was misspelled. The first meeting of the county probate court occurred in 1850 in a room in the residence of Vancouver pioneer Amos Short.

By act of Congress on March 2, 1853, the Territory of Washington was created out of a portion of the Territory of Oregon lying North of the Columbia River. The act vested the judicial power of the territory in a Supreme Court, District Courts, probate courts, and justices of the peace. The Supreme Court consisted of a chief justice and two associate justices. The

territory was divided into three judicial districts and a district court was presided over in each district by one of the justices of the Supreme Court. Clark County was placed in the Second Judicial District. The salary of the justices was set at \$2,000 per year.

Under the Washington territorial government, 21 men served as justices of the Supreme Court, and sat as district court judges in their respective districts. They were: Edward Lander, Obadiah B. McFadden, Frances A. Chenoweth, William Strong, Edward Fitzhew, Christopher C. Hewitt, Ethelbert P. Oliphant, James E. Wyche, Charles B. Darwin, B. F. Dennison, Orange Jacobs, James K. Kennedy, Roger S. Greene, Joseph R. Lewis, Samuel C. Wingard, John P. Hoyt, Richard A. Jones, George Turner, William Langford, Frank Allyn, and Lucius B. Nash.

In October, 1855, the first courthouse designed for that purpose in Washington Territory was built in Vancouver, at the present location of 9th and Reserve Streets, now the East end of the Hudson's Bay High School football field. For 28 years this building was the site of the 2nd Judicial District Court when it sat in Clark County. In 1883, a new three story courthouse was built on the present courthouse site at 11th and Franklin.

When Washington attained statehood in 1889, twelve superior court judges were elected to serve the thirty-nine counties. The judges sitting in Clark County since that time are listed hereafter.

JUDGESPAGE

NATHANIEL H. BLOOMFIELD	(1889 - 1892)	6
ELMER A. WISWALL	(1893 - 1894)	9
A. L. MILLER	(1894 - 1904)	13
W. W. McCREDIE	(1905 - 1909)	17
DONALD MCMASTER	(1909 - 1912)	21
R. H. BACK	(1913 - 1920)	24
GEORGE B. SIMPSON	(1921 - 1937)	26
CHARLES W. HALL	(1937 - 1955)	30
EUGENE CUSHING	(1945 - 1966)	34
J. GUTHRIE LANGSDORF	(1955 - 1976)	38
VIRGIL V. SCHEIBER	(1963 - 1970)	41
ROBERT D. McMULLEN	(1966 - 1982)	43
EDWARD P. REED	(1970 - 1975)	46
JOHN N. SKIMAS	(1971 - 1992)	50
THOMAS L. LODGE	(1975 - 1997)	55
J. DEAN MORGAN	(1975, 1977 - 1990)	59
ROBERT L. HARRIS	(1979 - 2009)	62
JAMES D. LADLEY	(1983 - 2001)	68
BARBARA D. JOHNSON	(1987 -)	71
ROGER A. BENNETT	(1990 - 2011)	74
EDWIN L. POYFAIR	(1992 -)	78
JAMES E. RULLI	(1996 -)	81
JOHN F. NICHOLS	(1997 -)	85
DIANE M. WOOLARD	(2000 -)	89
JOHN P. WULLE	(2001 -)	92
ROBERT LEWIS	(2004 -)	96
SCOTT A. COLLIER	(2008 -)	100
RICHARD MELNICK	(2010 -)	103



NATHANIEL H. BLOOMFIELD 1889 - 1892

NATHANIEL H. BLOOMFIELD (1889 - 1892)

The first judge elected to the superior court of the State of Washington for Clark County was the Honorable Nathaniel H. Bloomfield. Bloomfield was born at Bowling Green, Kentucky on November 21, 1850, and was educated at Washington University, in St Louis. He and his family also lived for a time in New Orleans. In May of 1870 he accompanied his parents to the Washington Territory, where they first lived in Olympia.

In 1871, Bloomfield began studying law under Judge Elwood Evans of Olympia and then later with the Honorable Thomas A. McBride. Bloomfield was admitted to the bar in 1873 and was sworn in by Judge Orange Jacobs of Seattle. That same year, Bloomfield began practice in Kalama, and in 1874 was the Republican nominee for district attorney of the Second Judicial District of Washington Territory, comprising ten counties. Bloomfield lost the election by 137 votes. In 1876, Bloomfield was nominated as a Republican candidate for district attorney of the same district and defeated Democratic opponent Judge Columbia Lancaster, a well known Vancouver attorney. In 1878 and 1880 Bloomfield was reelected to the position of district attorney of the Second Judicial District.

In 1882 Bloomfield resumed the practice of law in Vancouver, and when statehood approached, Bloomfield was elected by the Republican party as a candidate for the superior court judge position of the district containing Pacific, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz,

Clark and Skamania Counties. In the election held in October of 1889, Bloomfield defeated Democratic opponent J.A. Munday and former Chief Justice B.F. Dennison of the Independent party. The Vancouver Independent newspaper of October 30, 1889, shows Bloomfield receiving 2,366 votes to Munday's 1,452, followed by Dennison with 240.

Probably the most unusual event of Judge Bloomfield's career on the bench occurred four months after his election when the Clark County courthouse burned to the ground on February 24, 1890. All court records and land ownership records were lost, resulting in litigation over title to real estate which lasted for years.

Following one term on the bench, Judge Bloomfield returned to private practice, and his name shows up again in the August 8, 1894, Vancouver Independent newspaper wherein it is reported that he filed a lawsuit against J.J. Stratton, for unpaid attorney's fees.

Judge Bloomfield resided at Seaview, Washington until his death on September 7, 1922.



ELMER A. WISWALL (1893 - 1894)

Clark County's second superior court judge was Elmer A. Wiswall. Although there is some conflict in the ancient documents relating to Judge Wiswall, his obituary in the August 15, 1894, Vancouver Independent claims that he was born in Iowa in the year 1859. Other records state that he was born in New York in 1861. He graduated from Grinnell College in 1886, and later became the principal of Norwood High School in Norwood, Iowa. He stayed with this job for three years, and then entered law school at Iowa City, Iowa, graduating from the Law Department of Iowa State University in 1890.

Also in 1890, Wiswall moved to Vancouver, Washington, and began the practice of law. He entered into a partnership with W. W. McCredie, and formed the law firm of Wiswall and McCredie. Two years later the firm was dissolved when Wiswall was elected to the position of judge of the superior court, in November of 1892. Wiswall ran for election against attorney A.L. Miller and was successful in defeating the man who would eventually take Wiswall's place on the bench.

As a forerunner of a family tradition to follow, Judge Wiswall was a prodigious fisherman. The Vancouver Independent newspaper of May 2, 1894, reports:

"Judge Wiswall, and attorneys Bowles, Coovert and Miller went out to Salmon Creek yesterday and caught an average of fifty trout per man. The creek was too high to make a record."

The Vancouver Independent newspaper of July 25, 1894, carries this seemingly innocuous entry:

"At Seaside there is quite a colony of Vancouver people camped near to each other. They are as follows: . . . E.E. Coovert and family, Judge Wiswall and family . . ."

This item was followed three weeks later with the news that Judge Wiswall had drowned in the surf. The newspaper reported as follows:

"A great gloom was cast over the city and community Sunday evening by a dispatch by attorney E.E. Coovert to Mr. W.W. McCredie that the latter's bosom friend, ex-law partner and the present judge of the superior court, Hon. E.A. Wiswall, had met his fate in the surf at Clatsop Beach. The sad news created widespread sorrow and consternation."

There followed a reprint of a letter from Mr. Coovert setting out the details of Judge Wiswall's demise. Judge Wiswall and several others had gone swimming in the breakers, and the tide had turned and he was unable to make it back to land.

The newspaper went on:

"Judge Wiswall had been at the beach some time and was enjoying life and health. It is said that he had gained ten pounds in flesh and was jubilant over the beneficial effects of sea air and coast life . . . Mr. Dillard, of St. Helens, is said to be the person to whom Judge Wiswall addressed his last words. The two men entered the water together, and, as both were strong swimmers, they struck out for the big breakers. Mr. Dillard was first to reach them, and when he turned around he saw his companion about 150 feet behind, and evidently in trouble. Mr. Dillard at once swam back, and as he approached Judge Wiswall the latter shouted that he did not think that he could get back to shore. A strong ebb tide was running at the time, and Mr. Dillard himself experienced much difficulty against it. He told the judge to keep cool, however, and said that the next big

inward swell would ride them to safety . . . Judge Wiswall said that if help did not come at once he would drown. These words were the last he was heard to speak."

The newspaper described Judge Wiswall as a person who filled the position of superior court judge with distinction and honor.

"He was a man of sound sense, a bright mind, and was an able lawyer. He was strong in his likes and dislikes but not prejudiced in the latter. He was universally respected and in his death the community suffers the loss of a valuable citizen."

The newspaper goes on to comment:

"Judge Wiswall was a prudent man and had left twenty five hundred dollars life insurance for his widow."

Judge Wiswall's body was recovered approximately a week later near the location where he had last been seen. Due to speculation that his death had been the product of reckless behavior, Judge Wiswall's widow issued a statement to the Vancouver Independent, printed on August 22, 1894, which read as follows:

"Rashness of thought or action was entirely foreign to the character of Judge Wiswall. He was an unusually deliberate man. . . . It was a sad, most sad, accident, in which unforeseen circumstances ended in a calamity that it is cruel to attribute to rashness in one whose whole life had been free from such action."



A. L. MILLER (1894 - 1904)

The third Clark County superior court judge was Abraham Lincoln, or "A.L.", Miller. He was born March 29, 1863 in Thurston County, near Olympia, and lived there with his parents until 1873 when they moved to Klickitat County. After receiving a "good, common school education," he attended Pacific University at Forest Grove, and afterwards studied law and was admitted to practice in 1886. He was elected and served one term as mayor of the City of Goldendale.

In 1888 and 1890, Miller was elected prosecuting attorney for the counties of Klickitat, Skamania and Clark, and due to the preponderance of workload he moved to Vancouver in 1889. After serving one term he was reelected for a second term as Clark County prosecuting attorney, and then in 1892 was the Republican candidate for superior court judge. However, as put by the Vancouver Independent newspaper, Miller "went down with most of the balance of his ticket in the wave of Democratic opposition which swept over this county and the country."

Miller was married in 1885 to a Miss Stapleton, whose brother was his business partner in the firm of Miller and Stapleton.

When the announcement of Judge Wiswall's death was made, and it became necessary to take steps to find a successor for the position of superior court judge, the attorneys of Vancouver, without regard to political affiliation, joined in petitioning Governor McGraw to appoint Miller to the bench. Miller received

an almost unanimous endorsement of the members of the bar of the district, and according to the newspaper:

"He has received one of the most emphatic expressions of approval and endorsement for uprightness and integrity of character and fitness for the position which could be accorded him. That he will make an able and upright judge, no one acquainted with him will for a moment doubt."

Miller was described as a "young man of pleasant address and superior attainments."

Miller was appointed on August 27, 1894 and remained in office for ten years, and thereafter was active in Republican politics. In November 1909, he ran for mayor of Vancouver. Although both Vancouver newspapers, the Vancouver Independent and the Vancouver Columbian, endorsed Miller for the position, he lost in the primary election. One of the urgent issues of the day was prohibition, and the Vancouver Independent opined that its endorsement of Miller drove off the drinking voters, and the Columbian's endorsement of Miller drove off the non-drinking voters. Miller also was a delegate to the 1909 Republican national convention, where President Taft was nominated.

Judge Miller was the father of Hap Miller, an All-American football player at the University of Washington, and who later practiced law with his father after Judge Miller reentered private practice. Judge Miller was reputed to be one of the best trial lawyers in Southwest Washington in that era, being "able, aggressive, a fine advocate, a good lawyer and a good judge."

Judge Miller was active in his law practice after leaving the bench, and argued before the United States Supreme Court. He also associated with the prosecuting attorney's office and successfully prosecuted a celebrated case, State v. Maude Johnson, against a woman accused of defrauding the Northern Pacific Railway with hundreds of false injury claims all over the country.

On November 15, 1927, Judge Miller was found dead at the wheel of his car in Portland, Oregon, the victim of a heart attack.

Judge Miller holds the distinction of being the youngest person to ever hold the post of Clark County superior court judge, having been appointed at the age of 31.



W. W. McCREDIE

1905 - 1909

W. W. McCREDIE (1905 - 1909)

Judge McCredie had a background which paralleled that of Judge E.A. Wiswall, and the two were close friends. McCredie was born on April 27, 1862, at Montrose, Pennsylvania. His father was a Union soldier in the Civil War, which was then in progress, and the father was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg. Shortly after the Civil War, McCredie, his mother, his three brothers and a sister moved to Iowa, settling at Manchester. Judge McCredie was educated at Cornell College in Iowa.

Similar to Wiswall, after graduating from college, McCredie was a school principal at Parkersberg, Iowa. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa.

McCredie came to Vancouver in 1890, establishing a law practice with Elmer Wiswall, and in 1894, was elected prosecuting attorney of Clark County. He served one term.

McCredie was active in Republican politics. In 1898 Clark County proposed his name as a candidate for Congress, but he was defeated in the election by Frances W. Cushman of Tacoma.

When Judge Miller declined to run for re-election in 1904, W. W. McCredie sought the position. The Vancouver Columbian of October 27, 1904 zealously supported McCredie's candidacy, calling him "a popular and capable attorney and a citizen above reproach."

The newspaper stated:

"He has made a reputation for honesty and he is recognized as one of the brightest attorneys in the State. By his unswerving loyalty to the Republican party at all times he has made himself further popular in the Party. He is not a bolter. He is a fighter for

principles which he believes to be right, but if he chances to be defeated temporarily he never sulks but does his duty to the party. The Columbian has been an active supporter of Mr. McCredie for the position, and his election by a tremendous majority will vindicate this course. His opponent will not know he is running.
. . ."

In the ensuing election, McCredie defeated Joseph O'Neil by a landslide of 1500 votes. McCredie ran unopposed for the judgeship in 1908.

A passage in an October, 1908, Columbian newspaper recites that in an eleven day session, Judge McCredie presided over six criminal trials and eight civil trials.

In 1909 a special election was held to fill the Congressional seat vacated by the death of Frances W. Cushman. McCredie was elected chairman of the county's Republican committee which was entrusted with nominating a successor to Cushman. The committee was directed to tout the candidacy of E.E. Beard, a staunch Republican and the editor and publisher of The Columbian newspaper. At the convention held in Tacoma, however, McCredie emerged as the Republican candidate for the Congressional seat.

Judge McCredie won the election of 1909 and served in Congress for one term thereafter.

One of the criticisms of McCredie was that he held business interests in Portland, Oregon, specifically the Portland professional baseball team. The Vancouver Independent newspaper, however, supported McCredie and addressed these criticisms as follows:

"There has been a lot of comment since Judge McCredie received the nomination to Congress concerning the property he owns in the city of Portland, Oregon. He has been referred to as the "gentleman from Oregon." . . . It is true that the Portland baseball team in the Pacific Coast League was financed by Judge McCredie, but it was done to start his nephew, Walter H. McCredie, in the baseball business. Judge McCredie's name has been for many years connected with baseball. He was elected vice-president of the Pacific Coast League and has, since his boyhood days, been one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the game. He comes by this love naturally, for while his nephew, Walter H. McCredie, is the only member of the family that has played professional baseball, the entire family have all played the game; the Judge himself during his college days was considered a great amateur baseball player. . . ."

The McCredies owned the baseball club from 1907 until 1921, and under the McCredie ownership and management the team won the Pacific Coast League championship five times.

Judge McCredie died on May 10, 1935, in Portland.



DONALD McMASTER

1909 - 1912

DONALD MCMASTER (1909 - 1912)

Following the election of Judge McCredie to Congress, Governor May appointed Donald McMaster to the judgeship for the district comprising Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties.

Judge McMaster was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on October 3, 1870. His family moved to Canada when he was three years old, and ten years later they moved to Camas, Washington. At the age of fourteen, he went to work in a saw mill, and thereafter took a job at the Camas paper mill. While employed at the paper mill, he studied civil engineering and in two years became a surveyor.

McMaster worked in the family store in Camas, and during this period of time he studied law by correspondence course, and was admitted to the bar in 1896. In 1898, he moved to Vancouver and opened up a law practice there.

McMaster became Clark County prosecuting attorney in 1903, and served until 1905.

On November 17, 1909, McMaster received a telegram from the office of the Governor asking him to come to Olympia, which he did, and he received the appointment to succeed Judge McCredie. Judge McMaster ran unopposed in 1910 and served as judge until 1912.

During the first month of his term as a superior court judge, a Clark County jury returned the largest jury verdict in county history to a worker injured in a coal mining accident. The

verdict of \$20,000 was described as "unprecedented" by attorneys involved in the case. Also during Judge McMaster's term, a record was set on February 4, 1910 for the most lawsuits filed in one day, ten. In September 1912, a seat opened on the state Supreme Court, and the Vancouver Columbian lauded McMaster as a potential appointee for this spot, however, it was awarded to a Seattle judge.

He did not run for reelection, a decision which, according to attorneys who knew him at the time, was based on his preference to actively try cases as an advocate. Judge McMaster was considered to be one of the best trial attorneys in Southwest Washington.

During his career, in addition to being a superior court judge, and prosecuting attorney, Judge McMaster was a justice of the peace and chairman of the Board of Education from 1910 to 1916. He also held the office of president of the Clark County Bar Association at the time of his death.

Judge McMaster was known all over the State of Washington for his long and active work in public service, and was considered to be one of the leading members of his profession in western Washington. He was a member of the prestigious firm of McMaster, Hall and Schaefer.

Judge McMaster died in Vancouver on March 12, 1922.



R.H. BACK

1913 - 1920

R. H. BACK (1913 - 1920)

Clark County's sixth superior court judge was Roscius Harlow Back. He was born at Union, Connecticut in 1865, and graduated from the University of Boston Law School in 1889.

Back came West to Vancouver in 1903 and held the post of Vancouver city attorney in 1907 and 1908. He practiced law in Clark County before seeking election to the Superior Court spot vacated by Donald McMaster. In the election of 1912, Back defeated opponent M.M. Connor, and held the superior court judgeship through two terms, running unopposed in 1916.

Following the completion of his terms of office, Back returned to private practice, and during World War II was the chairman of Clark County's Legal Advisory Board. Back was active in lodge membership, being a member of the board of trustees and the grand master of the Odd Fellows, and commander of the Knights Templar and chancellor of the Knights of Pythias.

Back died at his home in Vancouver on June 17, 1941.



GEORGE B. SIMPSON (1921 - 1937)

One of the most highly regarded judges in the history of Clark County was George B. Simpson, the only local judge to attain the position of Justice of the Supreme Court of Washington.

Judge Simpson was born in Pomeroy, Washington on August 12, 1881. He was the oldest of nine children and grew up in Eastern Washington. He attended Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, to study pre-law and law, and received his degree in 1907. He was an accomplished athlete, playing football and basketball at Willamette. After finishing college, he returned to Vancouver and was selected as football coach for Vancouver High School in 1908.

Judge Simpson was admitted to the practice of law in 1907 in the State of Washington, and opened a law office in Vancouver shortly thereafter. He was city attorney for Vancouver in 1915, 1916, and 1917, and during that period of time never lost a case for the city.

In 1920, Simpson was elected judge of the superior court of Clark County and served that position until 1937, when he was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Martin.

While living in Vancouver, Judge Simpson was very active in community affairs. He organized the Mt. St. Helens Council for Boy Scouts and also the Vancouver Playground Association, which was later taken over by the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver School District. He was the first recipient of the Vancouver Junior Chamber of Commerce Award for outstanding civic work. He

also worked for the Washington Children's Home.

Judge Simpson, during his career, was active on state bar committees, and held high offices in the Elks, Masons, Kiwanis, and Chamber of Commerce.

As a justice of the Supreme Court, Judge Simpson took office on September 20, 1937, and served for over thirteen years. Twice he was elected to the office of chief justice. He wrote 362 opinions for the court, including many important decisions which are landmarks today. His opinion in Tucker v. Brown, 20 Wn.2d 740, 150 P.2d 604, is a treatise on the law of trusts. The opinion is 142 pages long and involves a determination of 77 legal contentions as to various issues raised in this case.

One of Judge Simpson's more important contributions to the law was his drafting a revision and compilation of the Rules of Court. In preparing his draft of these rules, Judge Simpson read the rules of practically all the appellate courts in the United States. His draft incorporated not only the rules relating to appeals but also rules relating to procedure in the superior court, the Canons of Ethics, and rules concerning admission to the bar and the discipline of attorneys. Judge Simpson's compilation was the forerunner of the court rules in use today.

After his retirement from the Supreme Court, Judge Simpson was appointed as a member of the State Highway Commission and served on this body until his death, on June 21, 1954.

Judge Simpson's son, Donald, also entered into the practice

of law in Vancouver, following a clerkship with Justice William O. Douglas of the United States Supreme Court. Donald Simpson, who practiced law in Vancouver, was regarded as one of the finest probate lawyers to practice in this county.

Judge Simpson was honored for his years of exemplary service with the installation of a permanent bronze memorial plaque, located on the first floor of the courthouse, near the County Clerk's Office.



CHARLES W. HALL (1937 - 1955)

Judge Hall was the eighth person to hold the post of Clark County superior court judge. He was born December 17, 1878, in Andover, Ohio. Following the death of his mother, he, his father, and two brothers crossed the plains to Pullman, Washington in 1894. Eventually, the Halls settled on a timber homestead northeast of Yacolt, and Judge Hall began attending the Vancouver public schools. Judge Hall's education was interrupted with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, when he enlisted with the 1st Washington Volunteers and saw combat in the Philippine Islands as a corporal. After returning to Vancouver, Judge Hall completed his studies at Vancouver High School, and after receiving his diploma, stayed on to teach Latin and mathematics for several years at the high school. During this period of time he saved enough money to enter the University of Washington to begin studying for a law degree.

After five years of working himself through the University, where he served as president of the Associated Students of the University of Washington, Judge Hall received his law degree in 1906.

Judge Hall returned to Vancouver and began private practice with A.L. Miller and then with Donald McMaster, both of whom also held the position of Clark County superior court judge.

Judge Hall was elected to the Vancouver School Board in 1916 and was board president from 1918 until 1926. In 1924, he was elected to the state legislature and served until 1932, for two

terms as a state representative, and for two terms as a state senator. Judge Hall was a member of the governor's committee to revise the state constitution and was one of the original members of the Judicial Council of the State of Washington.

Perhaps Judge Hall's most enduring contribution as a legislator was his sponsorship of a bill which corrected the long-standing spelling error in the name of Clark County. Several years earlier, a clerk had mistakenly attached an "e" to the name Clark as it appeared in state statutes, and Judge Hall's bill made the correction by removing the "e".

Judge Hall was very active in community matters, being affiliated with the Elks, the Rotary Club, the Spanish-American War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also a member of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and the Phi Beta Kappa Scholastic Honorary Fraternity. He served as president of the Clark County Bar Association, as well.

On September 23, 1937, Hall was sworn in as superior court judge, after being appointed by Governor Clarence D. Martin, to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Judge Simpson.

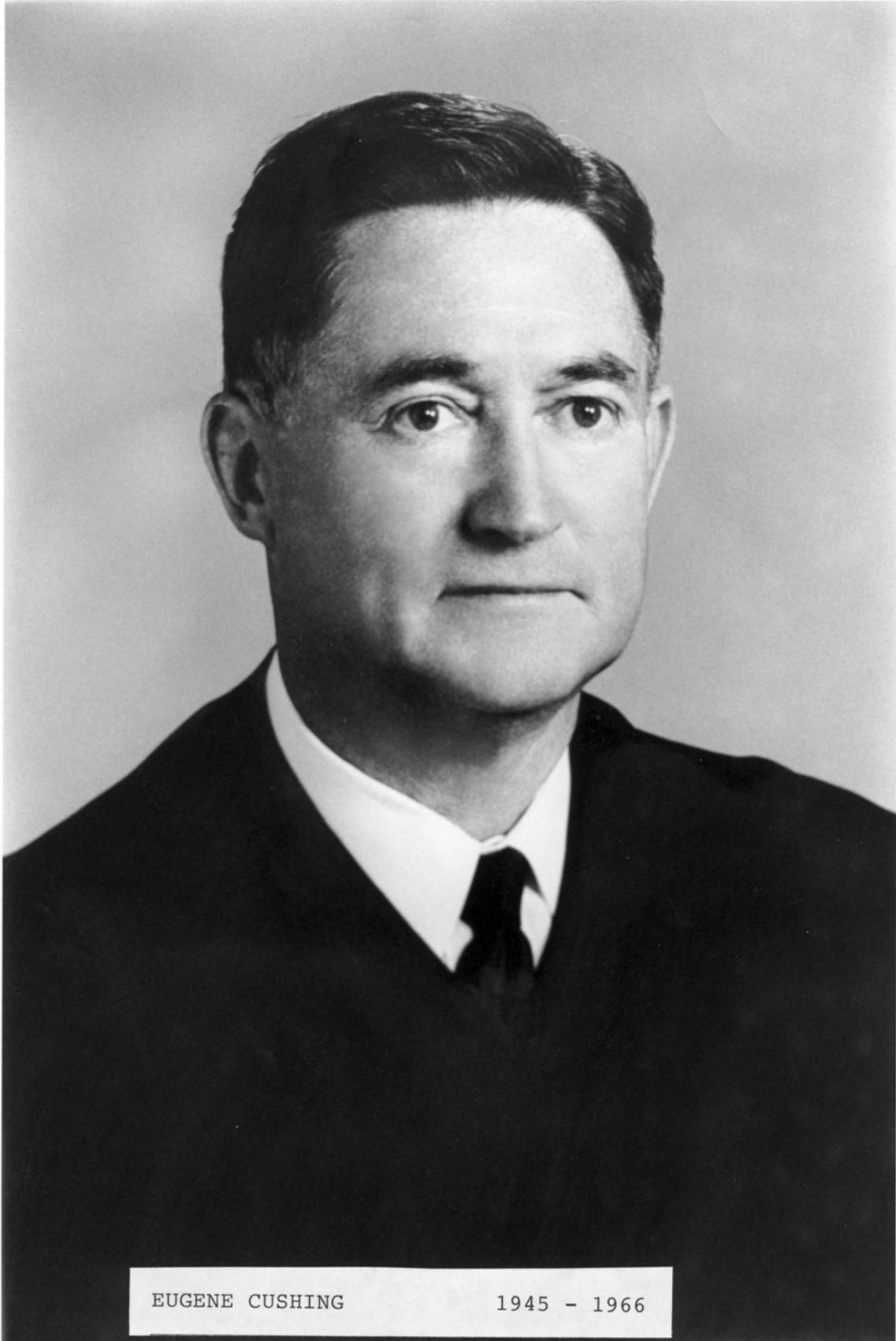
Up until 1946, when department #2 of the Clark County superior court was created, Judge Hall was the county's only judge, and his court bore all of the major litigation, both criminal and civil, during the hectic years of World War II. This was the period of the greatest number of court cases in the history of the county, which found itself, almost overnight, cast

into the role of an industrial giant with an accompanying influx of thousands of war workers and their families.

During this busy period of time, Judge Hall would try cases continuously, one after the other, and make time for impromptu motion dockets on other cases whenever three or more lawyers would congregate at the courthouse.

Judge Hall's brother, Joseph E. Hall, and his son, Ned Hall, were also prominent attorneys in Vancouver.

Judge Hall resigned in February of 1955, and died shortly thereafter.



EUGENE CUSHING

1945 - 1966

EUGENE CUSHING (1945 - 1966)

Eugene Cushing was born August 24, 1905, in Portland, Oregon. His family moved to Vancouver, where he graduated from Vancouver High School. He attended college at the University of Washington, beginning in 1924, and graduated from the law school there in 1929. While attending the University, he worked as a musician and also directed the University of Washington band.

In January of 1930 Cushing passed the bar, and upon returning to Vancouver, worked in the city attorney's office. In 1934, he was elected prosecuting attorney and served two terms until being called to military service, entering as a major in May of 1941. He was assigned to the Military Justice Section of the Judge Advocate General's Office in Washington, D.C. Cushing was one of three majors selected to attend the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth and later served as division judge advocate of the 82nd Infantry Division under the command of General Omar Bradley, who had Cushing appointed to the rank of lieutenant colonel in July, 1942. Colonel Cushing was later assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and the 4th Service Company, where he was detailed as chief of clemency and an expert in military justice. In September, 1943, Colonel Cushing was assigned by the War Department to the position of port judge advocate of the New Orleans Port of Embarcation.

While serving in Louisiana, Colonel Cushing was notified in 1945 that he had been appointed to the newly created department #2

of the superior court of Clark County. Colonel Cushing agreed to accept the appointment on the condition that he could finish out his tour of duty with the army, and he therefore was granted a leave of absence for that purpose. Due to his location at the time, Judge Cushing was sworn in as a Clark County superior court judge by the Louisiana Supreme Court sitting in New Orleans.

On his return to Vancouver in 1946, and upon assuming the bench, Judge Cushing's first day on the job was spent hearing twenty eight divorce cases.

The uncompleted Clark County Courthouse contained only one superior court courtroom, occupied by Judge Hall, and therefore Judge Cushing held court in the county commissioner's hearing room until a spacious new courtroom could be built on the fourth floor of the courthouse.

After twenty years on the bench in Clark County, Judge Cushing was contacted in 1966 by Senator Warren Magnuson, and was informed that President Lyndon Johnson was going to appoint him to the position of U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington. Cushing indicated that he wasn't interested in leaving Clark County, and that he believed there were twelve other people who actually wanted the job. In any event, Magnuson called Cushing again the next day and informed him that he was the new U.S. Attorney. At that time, in addition to being a Superior Court judge, Cushing was a Major General and Division Commander of the 104th Timber Wolf Division of the United States Army.

Judge Cushing served for four years as the U.S. Attorney, and then resigned, as was the custom, when a new president was elected. Having grown used to living in Seattle, Cushing went to work for a large Seattle law firm until 1976, when he decided to return to the bench. Cushing ran against an incumbent judge in Seattle on a platform of accountability and tough sentencing in criminal cases and won the election by a landslide.

Somewhat against his will, Judge Cushing submitted to mandatory retirement in 1980 at the age of 75, after a career in public service spanning fifty years.

Judge Cushing spent the last several years of his life in Seattle, Washington. He was listed by the state bar association as an active member until his death on September 4, 2004, at the age of ninety-nine.



J. GUTHRIE LANGSDORF 1955 - 1976

J. GUTHRIE LANGSDORF (1955 - 1976)

Following the resignation of Judge Hall from Dept. 1 of the court in February of 1955, three attorneys were recommended by the Clark-Skamania Bar Association to fill the vacancy. They were Dale Read, Donald Simpson, (son of former Judge George B. Simpson), and J. Guthrie Langsdorf.

Another potential candidate, Dale McMullen, former prosecuting attorney and a state senator, requested that the bar association withdraw his name from consideration due to the fact that he had been a member of the 1953 legislature which passed a \$3,000 salary increase for superior court judges. Governor Langlie eventually selected J. Guthrie Langsdorf for the position.

Judge Langsdorf was born in Salmon, Idaho, on February 28, 1911. his family moved to Vancouver and he eventually graduated from Vancouver High School. He worked for a year in Padden's clothing store, and then went north to Seattle, where he graduated from the University of Washington undergraduate program, and thereafter in 1935 received his law degree from the University's law school. Judge Langsdorf practiced continuously in Vancouver, except for five years of service during World War II. This included some military law work, but most of which was spent with the Army Air Force Intelligence Division. Judge Langsdorf's wartime duty included overseas service in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations where he served on the staff of General George E. Stratemeyer, and was decorated with the Bronze Star.

Judge Langsdorf was discharged from the service in early 1946 as a lieutenant colonel and resumed his law practice in Vancouver, although he remained a member of the Air Force Reserve until 1971.

Judge Langsdorf was active in the Republican party, and was chairman of the Clark County Republican Central Committee. He also was president of the Clark-Skamania Bar Association which recommended him for appointment in 1952 to the Southern Division Federal Judgeship of the Western District of Washington. The appointment, however, went to Judge George Boldt of Tacoma.

Judge Langsdorf's civic contributions included membership in the Boy Scout Eagle Court of Honor, Vancouver Library Board, Elks Club, Masonic Lodge #4, St. Joseph Hospital Board, Alcoa Scholarship Committee, advisor for the State Deaf School, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Navy League U.S., Kiwanis, Washington State Grange, Beta Theta Pi, and Vancouver Rose Society.

Judge Langsdorf was sworn in on March 17, 1955, and remained on the Superior Court bench until his retirement in 1976. He also sat as a judge pro tem on the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

Judge Langsdorf had the pleasure of seeing two of his children, Michael and Linda, admitted to the practice of law.

In 1994, Judge Langsdorf's health deteriorated, and he passed away at home on March 14, 1994.

VIRGIL V. SCHEIBER (1963 - 1970)

In 1955 the State Legislature passed a bill which would merge Clark, Klickitat and Skamania Counties into one judicial district, with three superior court judges. The amount of judicial business occurring in Klickitat and Skamania County was somewhat negligible, so the major thrust of the proposal was to authorize an additional superior court judge for Clark County. Governor Langlie vetoed the bill, citing the expense of adding a new courtroom and support staff, despite testimony from Judge Cushing which indicated that Clark County, with two judges, had the highest case load per judge in the State.

In 1959, Representative Bob Schaefer, the grandson of Judge McMaster, introduced a bill to establish a third Superior Court department for Clark County alone. The Clark County Commissioners unanimously opposed this bill, citing cost concerns, and specifically, the high judicial salary of \$12,000 per year.

Finally, in 1963 a bill passed which created the third judgeship for Clark County, and Virgil V. Scheiber was appointed to the position.

Judge Scheiber was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 21, 1909 and lived briefly in Montana, before his family moved to Vancouver in 1926. He later attended the University of Oregon and was a letterman on the track team.

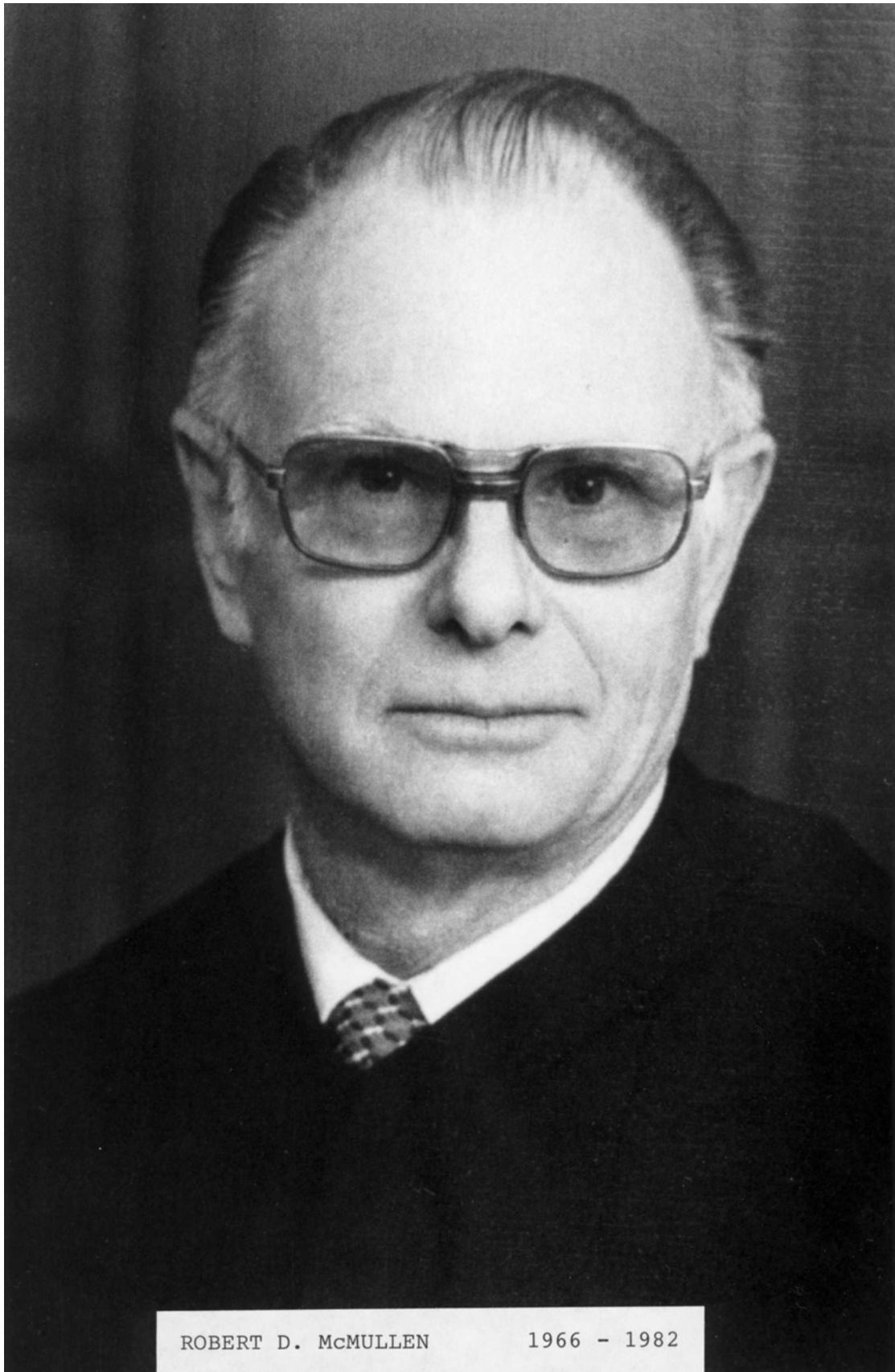
Judge Scheiber graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1936, and worked for two years in Olympia for the State

Department of Agriculture. He then worked for two years as an insurance adjuster in Portland.

In 1941, Judge Scheiber began practicing law in Vancouver. He served as a member and chairman of the Vancouver Planning Commission, as a long time member of the Selective Service Appeals Board, and as a member of the Vancouver Urban Renewal Commission, and the Clark County Mental Health Board.

After twenty two years in the practice of law, Judge Scheiber was appointed as the first judge of department #3 of the Clark County superior court. At the time, he was a partner in the firm of Scheiber, Schaefer and Wynne. Judge Scheiber defeated Duane Lansverk in the 1964 general election to retain the seat.

After six years on the bench, Judge Scheiber's health deteriorated severely, and he died of kidney failure on January 23, 1970.



ROBERT D. McMULLEN

1966 - 1982

ROBERT D. McMULLEN (1966 - 1982)

Judge Robert D. McMullen was born in Vancouver on August 29, 1918 and was surrounded by a legal tradition throughout his life. His father was Dale McMullen, a deputy prosecutor who later became Clark County Prosecuting Attorney, and after that was a state senator. Judge McMullen graduated from Vancouver High School and attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, where he received degrees in business and economics. After graduating from college, in 1942, he entered the Navy and served with the Amphibious Corps in the Pacific. He was an officer and skipper of an LCT, making amphibious landings in New Guinea and the Philippines.

After the war, Judge McMullen returned to Vancouver and worked for the National Bank of Commerce before enrolling at the Willamette University College of Law. He attended law school from 1946 through 1949, and then returned again to Vancouver and joined his father's law firm, which became McMullen, Snider and McMullen.

Judge McMullen was elected to the Vancouver City Council and served as a councilman for six years. In January, 1966, he was elected by the council to the office of mayor of Vancouver.

In the summer of 1966, when Judge Cushing was appointed United States Attorney, Governor Evans appointed Judge McMullen to the vacated superior court position. Again, due to the shortage of courtroom space, Judge McMullen was a "roving" judge, holding court wherever he could, such as in the courthouse assembly room. In September, 1967, Judge McMullen received his first courtroom,

which had a unique round design patterned after U.S. District Court Judge Boldt's courtroom in Tacoma. Judge McMullen retained this courtroom throughout his judicial career.

During his thirty-three years as an attorney and judge, Judge McMullen was district chairman of the Boy Scouts, was one of the elected freeholders who wrote the Vancouver city charter. He coached Little League and Babe Ruth baseball for fifteen years. Attorneys who represented young men in court often told their clients to be sure to wear their baseball caps when they came into Judge McMullen's courtroom.

As a judge, he presided over several high profile murder cases, including State v. Golladay, State v. Harris, State v. Forrest, State v. Mathews, and State v. Marosi.

After his retirement on December 31, 1982, Judge McMullen and his wife moved to the Long Beach Peninsula for a few years, and then back to Vancouver.

Judge McMullen passed away on October 9, 1998.



EDWARD P. REED (1970 - 1975)

Edward P. Reed was born September 9, 1925 at Parris Island, South Carolina. His family moved to San Diego, California when he was young, and he attended public schools in Long Beach, California. Following graduation from high school, Judge Reed enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943, and served as a torpedo man on a sub-tender in the Pacific during the war. On August 5, 1945, he was sent to Oregon State University in the V12 program to receive officer's training, however shortly thereafter the war ended and he remained at Oregon State where he met his wife and pursued a business degree.

Judge Reed left Oregon State to enter Willamette University College of Law in Salem. During summers, while attending law school and raising a family, Judge Reed worked in sawmills and logging camps in White Salmon, Washington, where his parents had relocated during the war. He graduated from Willamette in 1950 with his law degree. Reed first practiced in White Salmon, and had the good fortune to step right into the practice of a friend, Ralph S. Barber. He stayed in White Salmon from 1950 until 1965, when he moved to Vancouver, and joined the firm of McMullen, Snider, and McMullen. In 1968, Judge Reed left the firm and formed the partnership of Reed and Gallup.

During his legal career in White Salmon, Judge Reed served as city attorney and as counsel for the local port and hospital districts. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary

Club and Klickitat County Bar Association, and served as a member of the County Board of Education, chairman of the Sheriff's Civil Service Commission, and legal advisor to the County Juvenile Committee.

In Vancouver, Judge Reed was a member of the Clark County Health and Welfare Planning Council, a trustee of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, and an advisor to an Explorer Law Post.

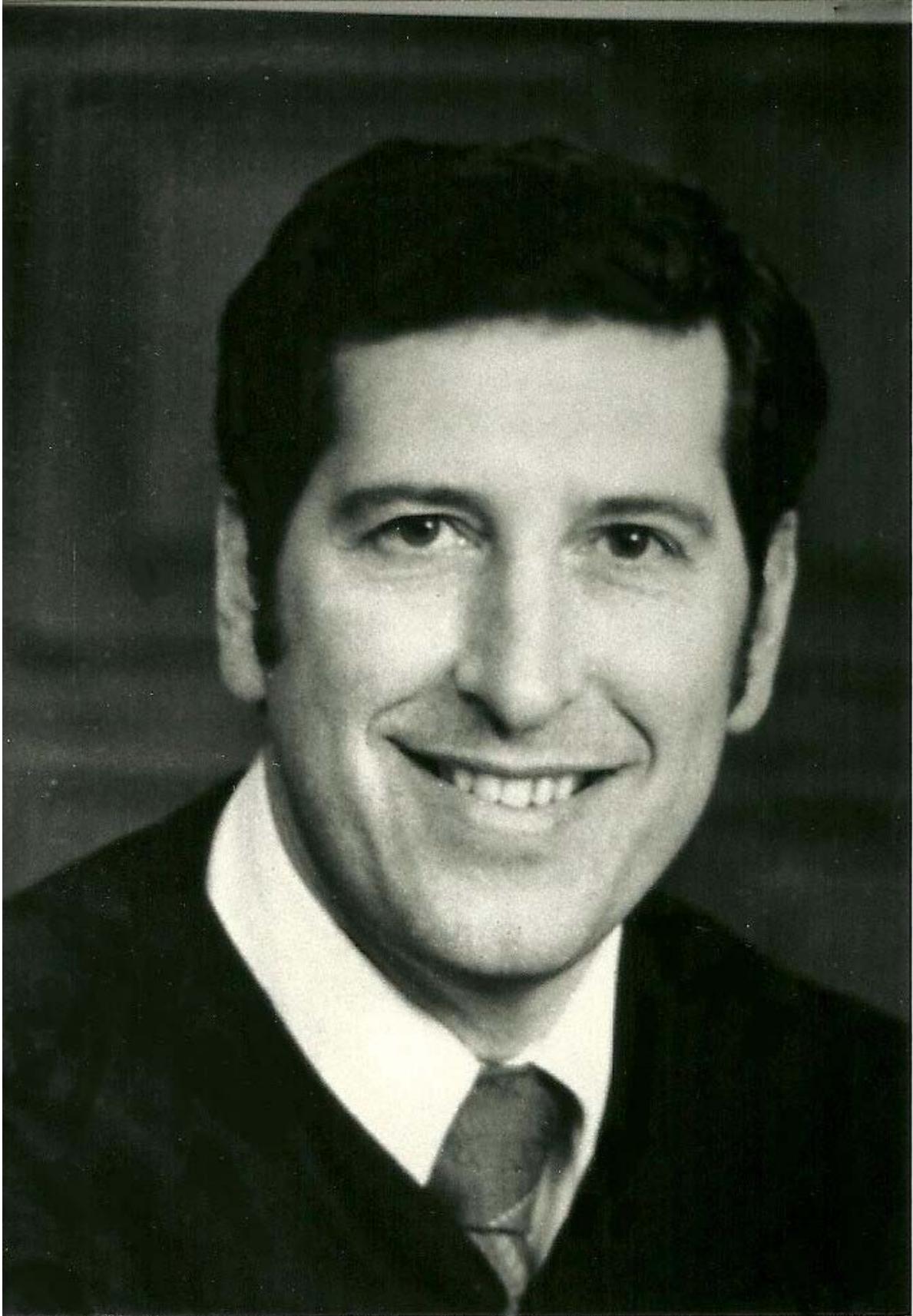
In February, 1970, Judge Reed was appointed to the superior court bench by Governor Dan Evans. Immediately following his appointment he defeated Prosecuting Attorney Dewitt Jones in a special election, and was unopposed thereafter.

In August of 1975, Judge Reed was appointed by Governor Evans to a seat on Division II of the court of appeals in Tacoma. In 1980 he ran unsuccessfully against Fred Dore for a seat on the state supreme court. Judge Reed sat on the court of appeals for fifteen years, retiring in October of 1990.

Judge Reed developed an interest in the law at an early age and as a young man hoped to join the FBI, which led to his interest in law school. He also had occasion to read law books belonging to his uncle, a law enforcement officer, and Reed became fascinated by the idea of becoming a judge. During his judicial career he greatly enjoyed both the trial court and the appellate court. After leaving the superior court he missed the contact with people, including juries, witnesses and attorneys, however he

also loved the academic aspect of the Court of Appeals. He found the perfect blend of the two judicial roles as a result of his career on the two courts.

Judge Reed was chairman of the Supreme Court's task force on court interpreters. The work of this task force came to fruition in the passing of legislation requiring the testing and certification of foreign language interpreters in the courts. Judge Reed retired from the bench in 1990, and passed away on April 8, 1999, due to complications from a heart attack.



JOHN N. SKIMAS (1971 - 1992)

In 1971, a fourth superior court department was authorized for Clark County, with the appointment of John N. Skimas to the position occurring on August 9 of that year.

Judge Skimas had grown up in Clark County, being born in Camas on August 1, 1931. His father worked in the Camas papermill. While at Camas High School, Judge Skimas lettered in baseball, football, and basketball. After graduating from high school he attended Willamette University in Salem for two years and then enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War.

Judge Skimas spent five years in the Air Force and was a navigator on B-29s. Later he spent ten years in the Oregon Air Guard as an intercept officer flying fighter jets.

While in the Air Force, Judge Skimas was stationed on the East coast and obtained his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of Maryland in 1956.

After graduating from college, Judge Skimas attended Willamette Law School and was later admitted to the Washington state bar. He worked in Seattle as an insurance adjuster for a short period of time, and then returned to Clark County, working for the firm of Robinson and Landerholm until 1962. At that time he joined William Boettcher in the firm of Boettcher and Skimas and stayed with this firm from 1962 until 1967. In 1968 he served as president of the Clark County Bar Association.

Judge Skimas left the firm and practiced as a sole practitioner until 1971, when he was appointed to the bench.

After being appointed, Judge Skimas, in his words, was a "judge on roller skates", until the new third floor courtroom, which he helped to design, became available.

Judge Skimas has had a significant effect upon the judiciary in this county and state.

In the fall of 1974, due to a significant backload of cases, Judge Skimas and his fellow judges developed and proposed a new individual calendaring system wherein each judge would be responsible for a certain number of preassigned cases, from the date of filing through disposition. This system was novel in the State of Washington. Senator Pete Francis, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, described Clark County's proposed system as "outrageous, arrogant, and ridiculous." He further claimed that the system was designed "so that the judges can go on vacation." In hindsight, the individual calendaring system has proven to be extremely effective. According to statistics provided by the Office of the Administrator for the Courts, Clark County, in 1990 had a case load sufficient to justify ten full time Superior Court judges, while in reality the court managed this case load with six full time judges and one full time court commissioner. In July of 1991, Judge Skimas accepted, on behalf of Clark County, the Washington State Trial Lawyer's Association Judicial Achievement Award, for creating an efficient and flexible individual

calendaring system. In the early 1980s, Judge Skimas and his fellow Clark County judges implemented a child support schedule, which has been adopted, in principle, across the State.

In 1986 - 1987, Judge Skimas served as president of the Washington Superior Court Judge's Association. He was instrumental in proposing legislation which created the Judicial Retirement Account, which was promulgated to attract quality lawyers to seek positions in the judiciary.

Another innovation brought to the court system by Judge Skimas was the video court reporter system which he had installed in his courtroom. Judge Skimas' system was the first use of such technology west of the Mississippi River, and has been copied extensively since its introduction. Every courtroom in the Clark County Courthouse is now equipped with this technology.

While on the bench, Judge Skimas was well known for his legal ability. In 1986 he heard the longest trial in the history of Clark County, V.S.L. v. Groves Atkinson. The trial involved the construction of the I-205 bridge across the Columbia River. The case was tried to the court for a period of five months, and despite the length and complexity of the case, Judge Skimas was able to render a three hour oral decision one day after the closing arguments were concluded.

Throughout his judicial career, Judge Skimas was known for his dignified, firm, and fair treatment of attorneys and litigants. His manner and demeanor have been a model for other

judges who followed.

Judge Skimas retired from the bench on November 15, 1992. He is still active in the legal field, performing mediation and arbitration services.



THOMAS L. LODGE (1975 - 1997)

Judge Lodge was born on August 6, 1936, in Sturgis, South Dakota, and, with his parents, two brothers and a sister, moved to Clark County during World War II, when his father got a job working in the Kaiser Shipyards. He grew up in Vancouver and attended Vancouver High School where he was the quarterback on the 1954 Vancouver High School team which was rated as one of the top teams in the State. After high school, Judge Lodge enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany with the 3rd Armored Division.

After two years in the service, Lodge returned to the Northwest and attended the University of Washington, starting in 1957 and graduating in August of 1960, with degrees in Business Administration and Professional Accounting. He attended Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Oregon, and was the editor of the Law Review. He graduated in 1963 and was the first person out of Willamette hired by the prestigious firm of Koerner, Young, which is now Spears, Lubersky. Judge Lodge practiced with the firm in Portland for a year and then received a scholarship to attend New York University's tax school. He received the degree of Master of Taxation from New York University in September of 1965 and was the student editor of the Tax Law Review at that school.

Judge Lodge took the Washington bar exam in the summer of 1964 and was admitted to practice in this state. Returning to

Vancouver, he was hired to work with William Boettcher and John Skimas in a firm that became Boettcher, Skimas and Lodge. This firm later merged with the firm of LaLonde and Ladley.

In November, 1975, Judge Lodge ran in a special election for department #3 of the superior court, and defeated J. Dean Morgan and Robert Harris. Since that election, he has never had an opponent.

Judge Lodge was the president of the Clark County Bar Association in 1971, and has been active in community affairs, holding the position of commissioner of the American Softball Association for Southwest Washington, for a period of sixteen years.

Judge Lodge is a member of the Law and Justice Council of Clark County and has served on numerous state wide committees for the Superior Court Judge's Association.

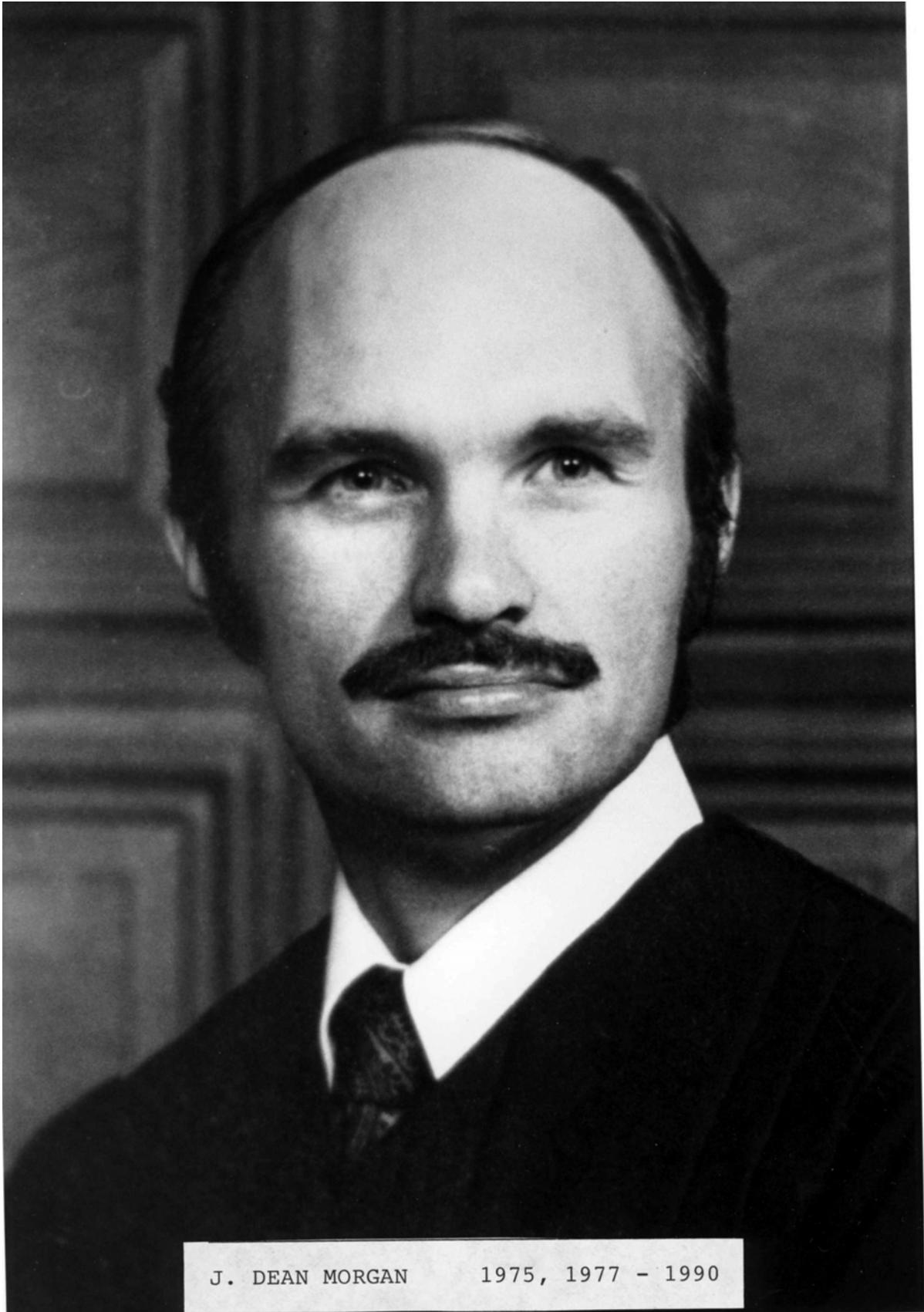
In 1983 Judge Lodge decided the case of County of Skamania and the University of Washington v. The State of Washington, in which he held that legislation enacted to relieve timber companies of burdensome contracts with the state was unconstitutional. This decision was affirmed by a unanimous opinion of the state Supreme Court.

In the early 1980's Judge Lodge heard several civil cases involving a litigant named Jack Stein. Stein developed a belief that he was unlikely to prevail in the courtroom, and he hired some men to kill opposing litigants and Judge Lodge. One person

was killed, and several attempts were made on the life of attorney Ned Hall. At one point the conspirators discussed a plan to plant a bomb in the Clark County courthouse near Judge Lodge's chambers, although the plan was not carried out. Stein was later convicted and sentenced by a visiting judge to 45 years in prison

Throughout his judicial career, Judge Lodge has been known as a "no-nonsense" judge who never loses sight of the rights of victims and society in criminal cases, and who cuts through procedural technicalities in order to dispense justice in civil cases. The opinion in State v. Edwards, 22 Wn.App. 352, is an example of Judge Lodge's candor and insight.

Judge Lodge was senior judge, presiding over the Clark County superior court from 1992, until his retirement in 1997.



J. DEAN MORGAN 1975, 1977 - 1990

J. DEAN MORGAN (1975, 1977 - 1990)

Judge J. Dean Morgan is the third Clark County superior court judge to achieve the position of appellate court judge. He is a native of the Bay area, born on September 3, 1942, in Berkeley, California. He received his undergraduate degree in 1964 from the University of California at Berkeley. He attended Hastings College of Law and graduated in 1968, having been admitted to the Order of the Coif.

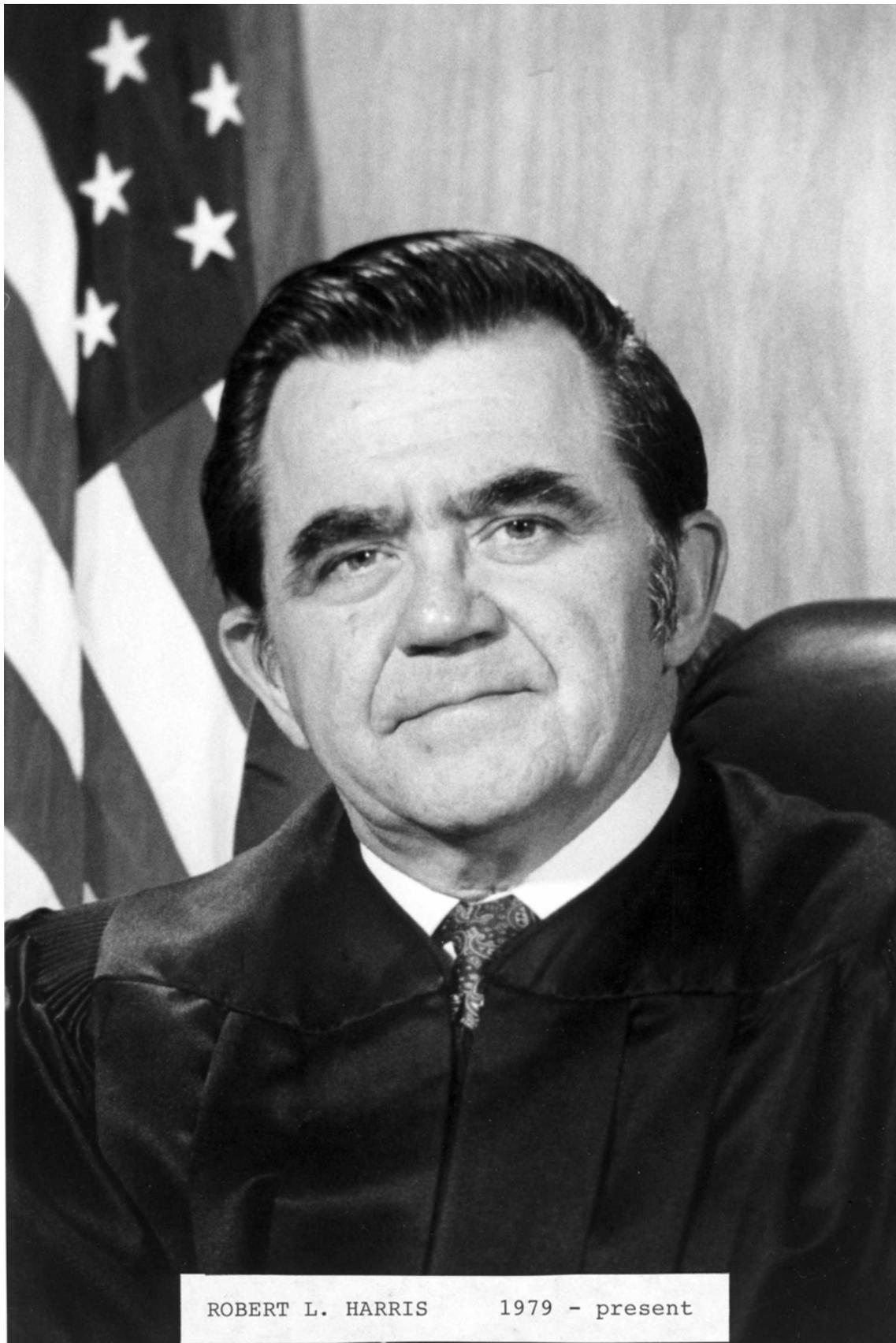
After graduating from law school, Judge Morgan practiced in Seattle with the firm of Houger, Garvey and Schubert from 1968 to 1972. Part of his practice with this firm included representing the City of Bellevue in a city attorney capacity. In 1972, Judge Morgan came to Vancouver and started the Clark County Public Defender's Office and served as the public defender until 1976. During this period of time, he also held the position of superior court judge in the fall of 1975, having been appointed by Governor Dan Evans to fill out the term of Judge Reed, who had left for the court of appeals.

In 1977, Judge Morgan assumed the judgeship in department #1 of the superior court following the retirement of J. Guthrie Langsdorf. During his career on the superior court bench, Judge Morgan was recognized for his meticulous and analytic approach to the law. He taught evidence at the law school at Lewis and Clark College between 1983 and 1990, and also taught evidence at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada from 1979 to 1985. He

has been a faculty member teaching criminal procedure and evidence at the Washington Judicial College from 1978 to the present and was an adjunct faculty member teaching General Jurisprudence at the University of Washington School of Business Administration between 1968 and 1972. As a lecturer, he is greatly in demand at legal education seminars and has taught at conferences for the Washington Superior Court Judge's Association, the Washington State District Court Judge's Association, the Washington State Prosecutor's Association, the Washington State Defender Association, and the Washington State Bar Association. He has taught evidence at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle University School of Law in Seattle.

Judge Morgan is an accomplished musician, playing the trumpet, piano and guitar, and stays active by running, hiking and other outdoor activities.

When Judge Reed retired from the court of appeals in the fall of 1990, Judge Morgan was appointed by Governor Gardner to Reed's position in Tacoma. After a very distinguished career on the appellate court, Judge Morgan retired from public service on October 5, 2005.



ROBERT L. HARRIS 1979 - present

ROBERT L. HARRIS (1979 - 2009)

Judge Harris was born October 3, 1934, in Spokane, Washington and grew up in the Eastern Oregon area of the John Day Valley. He attended Washington State University as an undergraduate, from 1952 to 1955, and graduated in political science. While at Washington State University, Judge Harris was a member of the baseball team. He attended the University of Washington Law School from 1955 to 1958 and, after receiving his law degree, worked for a year as clerk for Chief Justice Frank Weaver of the Washington State Supreme Court.

After graduating from law school, Judge Harris served in the Air Force Reserve for six years.

After leaving the Supreme Court, Judge Harris came to Vancouver and was hired by Prosecuting Attorney Dewitt Jones. From 1959 through 1970 Judge Harris worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney, with a part-time private practice on the side.

In 1970 Judge Harris left the prosecutor's office and was a solo practitioner for two years, before joining the firm of Mason and Foley in 1972.

From 1967 to 1974, Judge Harris was the president of St. Joseph's Hospital. He has been involved in coaching CYO football and basketball, little league baseball, Babe Ruth baseball, girls' softball and girls' basketball. He is a past member of the board of directors of the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and in 1978 was the president of the Clark County Bar Association.

In 1970 Judge Harris ran on the Democratic ticket for the state legislature and has been chairman of the Democratic County Convention on two occasions. Further, he was the campaign chairman for Congressman Mike McCormack.

Judge Harris, while in private practice, was a bar examiner for the State Bar Association and was one of the founders of the Washington State Young Lawyer's Association.

In 1975 he ran against Thomas Lodge and J. Dean Morgan for the position of superior court judge, and then, on September 1, 1979, was appointed by Governor Dixie Lee Ray to the newly created department #5 of the Clark County superior court. Immediately after the appointment, Judge Harris ran for election in November, defeating opponent Edwin Poyfair.

As was the case with all newly created judicial positions, there was no courtroom available for Judge Harris, so he sat primarily in juvenile court and set up an office in Judge McMullen's library until an office could be built for him.

Judge Harris has presided over several sensational criminal trials. These include the case of State v. Clark Hazen, which was the first death penalty case in Clark County after reenactment of a constitutional death penalty statute. He also heard the case of State v. Sean Stevenson, which was the first potential death penalty case in Skamania County in many years, and he presided over the case of State v. Westley Dodd, which received national attention and resulted in the first actual execution in Washington

in over thirty years.

Judge Harris handled the Stein Estate probate case which took several years to work its way through the courts, and also was involved in the Weinberg Estate malpractice case.

Judge Harris is widely admired in legal and community circles for his devotion to youth and civic activities, and his concern for the safety of the community.

Judge Harris ran unopposed in 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, and 2004. In 2008, he was opposed by an unknown and unqualified opponent, who campaigned on the premise that Judge Harris had been in office too long, and would not finish out his last term, due to the mandatory retirement age for judges. The voters easily saw through this foolishness, and re-elected Judge Harris by a margin of 70% to 30%.

Judge Harris served as Senior Judge and Presiding Judge for Clark County superior court for eleven years, and at the time of his retirement was the longest serving superior court judge in the state, with 30 years on the bench. His 30 years of service as a judge was the longest tenure in the history of Clark County, and one of the longest in state history.

The Columbian newspaper decried Judge Harris' forced retirement with the following editorial:

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Editorial

In our View, July 20: Skills Suffocated

No judge, and especially not Robert Harris, should be forced out of office because of age

Monday, July 20 | 1:00 a.m.

If Clark County Superior Court Judge Robert Harris were quarterback of the Seattle Seahawks, his forced retirement would be easier to understand. But he's not a quarterback, and his skills are not declining. Harris, whose 75th birthday is Oct. 3, must by state law step down from his post at the end of the calendar year upon turning that age.

Despite a brilliant career as the longest-serving superior court judge in the state, Harris has said he will leave office on Dec. 31, 14 months before his term expires. His game is not football, but knowledge of the law. His skills are not throwing or running, but judicial wisdom and fairness. His experience is not in seasons played but active duty on the bench. His scoreboard reflects sound decisions covering a generation of jurisprudence.

Harris has served for 30 years with honor and distinction. A tribute to his professionalism is sparsity of competition for the job. A 2008 *Columbian* editorial supporting his re-election — in a campaign against the first candidate he had faced in three decades — pointed out: "Judge Robert Harris has served not only admirably, but unopposed since 1979 ... Harris should continue in office because he is an excellent judge ..."

The judge is stepping down from the bench not on his own volition. The culprit is Amendment 25 of the state constitution, passed by Washington voters in 1952. Harris said its roots rest in the overly-long service — from 1910 to the 1940s — of a King County judge.

House Bill 1522, an attempt to nullify the age restriction for superior and Washington State Supreme Court judges, has been introduced at least twice in recent years, but no action taken. According to the bill report: "In the 1950s, when the constitutional provision was adopted, a judge had arguably overstayed his welcome. Lacking the means to move him from office, the presumption that a person over the age of 75 was incompetent to perform the duties of a judge was adopted."

Judge Harris said "this form of age discrimination does not make sense." He said he would "prefer the voters make the decision" about when he should retire, and not a state rule. As a staunch opponent of term limits, *The Columbian* agrees. Voters should never be prohibited from voting for an incumbent. That is their choice, not the government's. And good public servants like Harris should not be forced out of office by absurd laws.

Other good people are being forced out by this same amendment. One is Judge Gerry Alexander, the longest-serving chief justice of the State Supreme Court, who must retire in 2011, before his six-year term expires.

Now, more than a half-century after that amendment was added, people are living longer, and serving longer in all aspects of sports and public and private service, and thus the amendment should be removed.

This is not to say there's a lack of qualified candidates, and Gov. Chris Gregoire has proved herself capable of making good appointments. Possible contenders include District Court Judge Rich Melnick, Superior Court Commissioner Carin Schienberg, Superior Court Commissioner Daniel Stahnke and Vancouver attorney James Senescu, a former deputy prosecutor. Applications must be submitted to the governor by Sept. 1. The successful applicant must stand for election in 2010, and run for election for a four-year term in 2012. Clark County has 10 Superior Court judges.

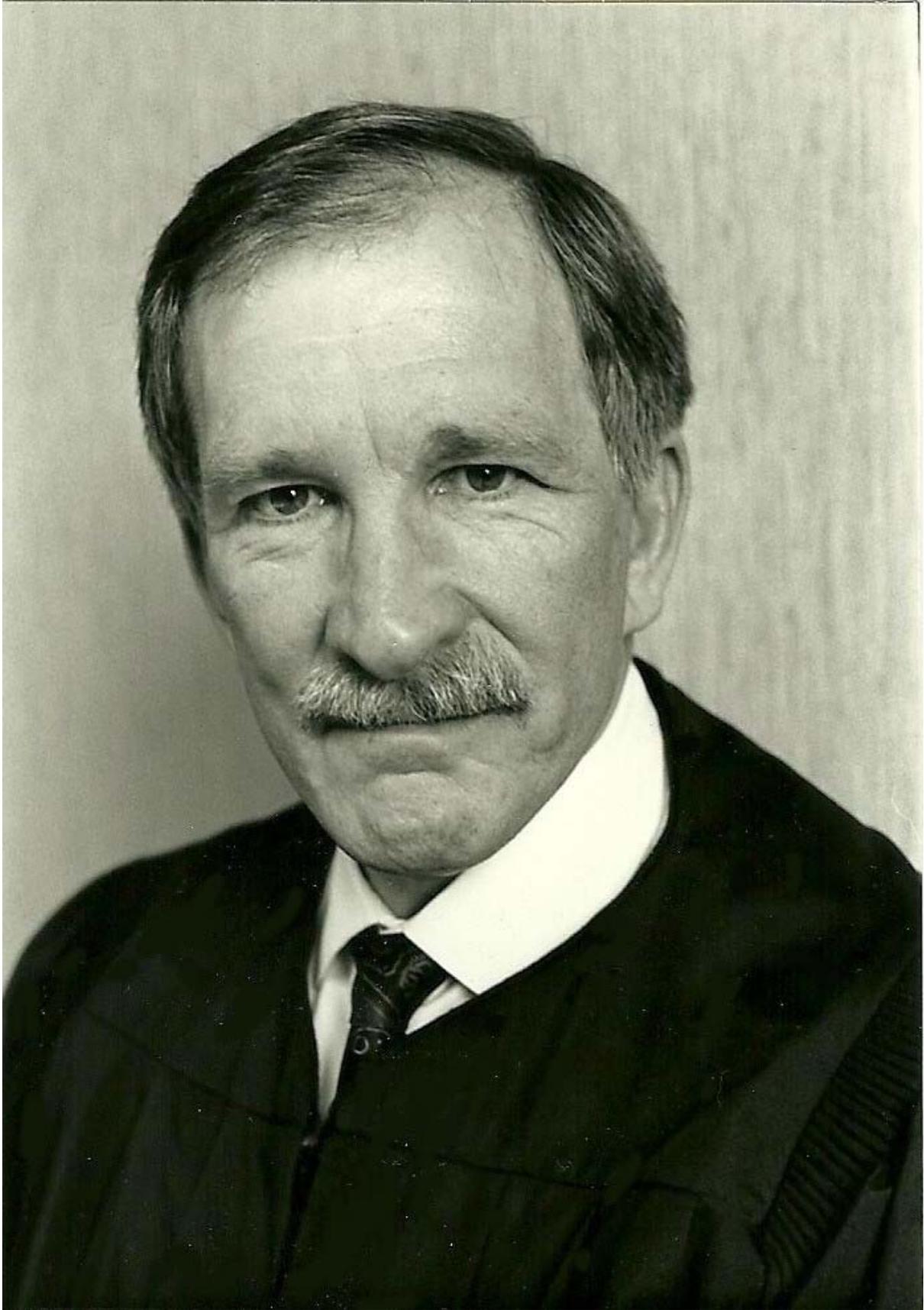
Judge Harris said he will likely serve as judge pro tem on occasion, and may be called back for special cases in which he has knowledge or experience. Still, it's unfortunate that a highly competent person is forced to retire at the peak of public service.

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On September 24, 2009, Judge Harris was honored by the Washington State Bar Association with the Lifetime Service Award for his three decades of judicial service, and his fifty years of professional service to the community. This award is bestowed only when there is someone especially deserving of the recognition.

On December 18, 2009, the staff of the Clark County Superior court and the Clerk's Office honored Judge Harris with a going away party at the courthouse. Commissioner Mark Boldt represented the county at the function, and astonished Judge Harris by informing him that the board of commissioners had chosen to re-name the Juvenile Hall as the "Robert L. Harris Juvenile Justice

Center." No Clark County judge had ever received such an honor, but Judge Harris certainly deserved it.



JAMES D. LADLEY (1983 -2001)

James D. Ladley was the third member of his law firm to become a Clark County superior court judge. He was born June 26, 1936, in Aberdeen, Washington and grew up in Hoquiam, graduating from Hoquiam High School in 1954. He attended Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, and graduated from there in 1958 with degrees in economics and business.

Judge Ladley attended the University of Washington Law School in Seattle, graduating in 1961. After law school he worked in the Seattle regional office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

On July 4, 1964, Judge Ladley began private practice with the firm of Robinson and Landerholm and in December of 1965 moved to the firm of LaLonde, LaLonde, and Ladley. This firm later merged with the firm of Boettcher and Lodge.

In 1978 and 1979, Judge Ladley was president of the Clark County Bar Association.

On December 15, 1982, Governor Spellman appointed Judge Ladley to the bench in department #2 of the Superior Court, replacing Judge McMullen. Since his appointment, Judge Ladley has been consistently regarded by the members of the bar and the judiciary as one of the brightest and most personable judges to honor this position. Judge Ladley's mastery of the Rules of Evidence and other legal precepts was legendary. His courtroom demeanor, and the atmosphere surrounding his courtroom proceedings of his trials can be characterized as respectful, yet with good

natured dignity. His treatment, both in and out of court, of litigants and attorneys was professional and gracious. Many attorneys who appeared in front of Judge Ladley reported back to their clients that although they lost the case, the judge said they did an excellent job.

Judge Ladley retired from the bench in 2000, and thereafter has kept busy and is widely sought as an arbitrator and mediator.



BARBARA D. JOHNSON (1987 -)

The nineteenth person to hold the position of Clark County superior court judge, and the first woman in the history of the county to receive that honor, is Barbara D. Johnson.

Judge Johnson was born and grew up in Walla Walla, Washington, graduating from high school in 1967. Thereafter, she received a Bachelor's Degree in English literature from the University of Washington in 1971, and stayed on at the University working in an experimental educational program. In the fall of 1972 she began the University of Washington Law School and graduated in 1975. While attending law school, Judge Johnson worked as an intern in the United States Attorney's Office and participated in trial preparation of the Indian fishing rights case which resulted in the historic Boldt decision.

After graduating from law school in 1975, Judge Johnson worked as an attorney for the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Seattle for one year. In January, 1976, she was hired as a deputy in the King County prosecuting attorney's office, working in the criminal department. In three and one-half years in the prosecutor's office she progressed through the various courts, and when she left the office in August of 1979, was handling major crimes and murder cases. Judge Johnson came to Vancouver in January of 1980, and was employed with the firm of Morse and Bratt. Later she worked for a law firm in Portland, Oregon, and in 1984 became a member of the firm of Read, Wolfe,

Hannan, and Mercer.

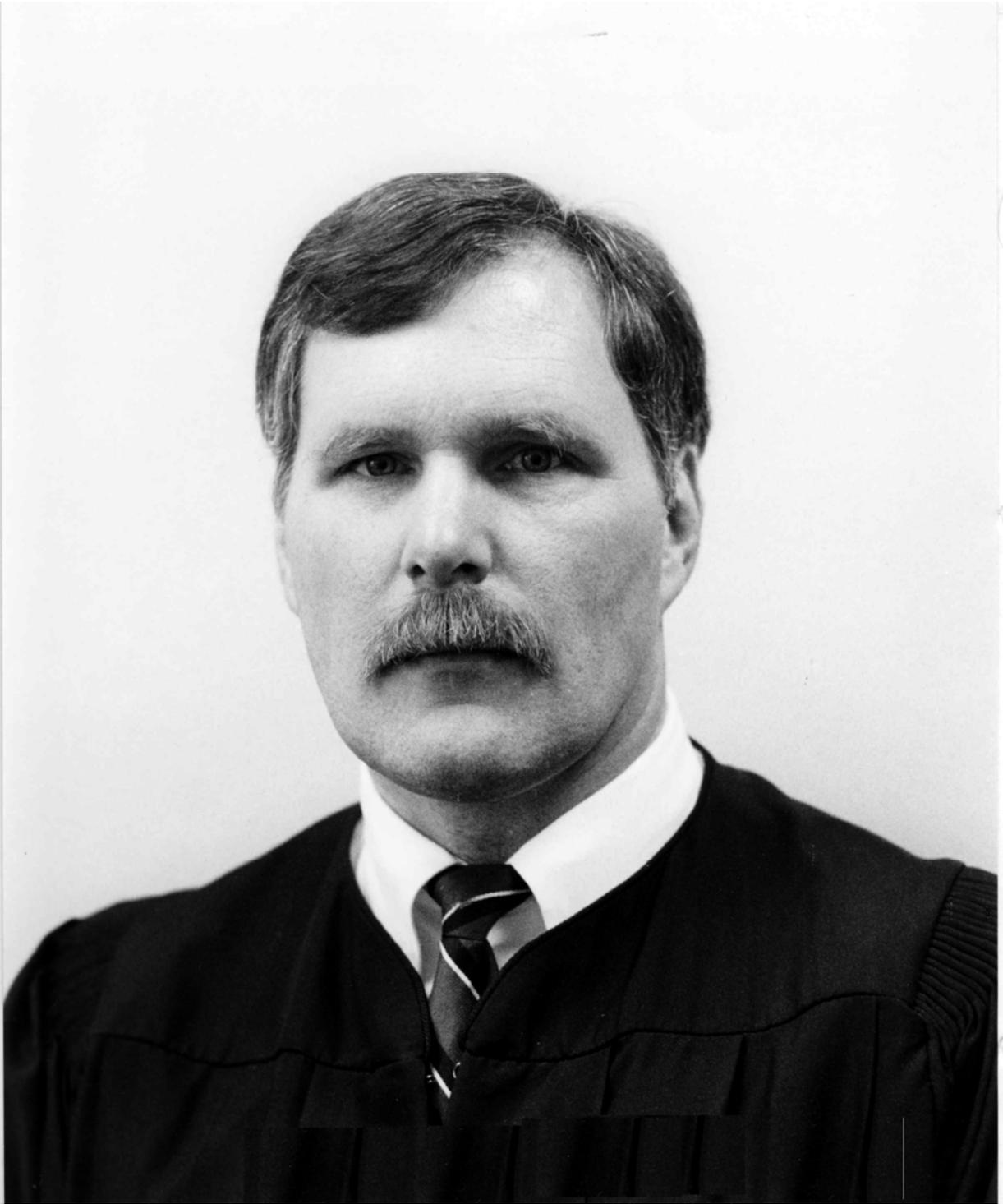
The 1986 legislature authorized a sixth judgeship for Clark County, and several highly respected and qualified attorneys applied for the position. Governor Gardner appointed Judge Johnson based upon her excellent showing in the bar poll and her many community and civic activities. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Johnson was a member of the Clark County Boundary Review Board, president of the Clark County Child Abuse Council, president of the Washington Women Lawyers, and vice-president of the Clark County Bar Association.

She was sworn in on January, 1987, in an historic ceremony, as the first woman judge of the superior court of Clark County.

Judge Johnson is one of the youngest and most active judges, having completed the 1984 Portland Marathon and having participated in numerous long-distance bicycle events, such as the Seattle to Portland ride.

Judge Johnson has served on the Board of Directors of the Clark College Foundation, Clark County Volunteer Lawyers, and Vancouver Rotary Foundation. She is also on the Vancouver Advisory Council for Washington State University, and is a faculty member for the Washington Judicial College, teaching criminal law and sentencing classes to newly appointed or elected judges.

In 2008, Judge Johnson was elected by her peers to the position of Presiding Judge of the Clark County superior court.



ROGER A. BENNETT (1990 - 2011)

In the fall of 1990, a three-way judicial switch occurred, effecting Clark County. Judge Ed Reed of Division II of the Court of Appeals retired, and Clark County Judge J. Dean Morgan was appointed to take his place. The vacancy left by Judge Morgan was filled by the appointment of Roger A. Bennett.

Judge Bennett was born on January 1, 1950, in Yakima, Washington and moved with his family to Bellevue, Washington in 1961. He attended the University of Washington and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology in July, 1973. While in college, Bennett worked for the United States Treasury Department as a "sky marshal" in the anti-skyjacking program, which was operative in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Immediately after graduating from college, he enrolled in the fledgling University of Puget Sound Law School in Tacoma, where his most (in)famous classmate was serial murderer Ted Bundy.

Judge Bennett graduated from the University of Puget Sound Law School in December of 1975, and after being admitted to the bar the following summer, was hired by Jim Carty to work in the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's office. In early 1977, Bennett was assigned to the felony criminal division and practiced as a trial and appellate lawyer for the next several years. In 1981 he was appointed as chief criminal deputy, and in 1984 was given the position of chief deputy prosecuting attorney. During his career with the Prosecuting Attorney's office, Bennett had a successful

trial record, winning all of his 100 or more felony trials, and was involved in prosecuting over thirty murder cases, including the widely publicized case of State v. Dodd, 120 Wn.2d 1, P.2d 86 (1992), a capital case which resulted in the first execution in the State of Washington in 40 years.

In 1984, Bennett married Janet Munson, a registered nurse, and they have since built a home on twenty-two acres in Brush Prairie. They have adapted to the life of gentlemen farmers and both greatly enjoy operating the family tractor. Janet spends the majority of her free time riding and caring for her small herd of quarter horses. They have three children: Joseph, a U.S. Army Special Forces green beret who has served numerous combat tours in the Middle East; Shasta, a high school all-state and college scholarship volleyball player, and honors graduate from Western Washington University; and Jesse, an honor roll student who has enrolled at the University of Oregon, an independent young woman who has traveled extensively in Europe and South America.

During his career as a prosecutor, Judge Bennett developed a high degree of respect and admiration for the sitting judges in Clark County. He considered Judges McMullen, Skimas, Lodge, Harris, Ladley, and Johnson to be "giants of the law," and therefore sought to earn the honor of following in their judicial footsteps. He competed against some of the finest attorneys in Clark County, Brian Wolfe, Ed Kelly, Ed Poyfair, and James Rulli for the appointment to Dept. 1.

Judge Bennett was sworn in to the bench on November 1, 1990,

and was elected without opposition in the special election of 1991 and the general elections of 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008. Also in 2008, he was elected to the position of Assistant Presiding Judge for the Clark County superior court.

Judge Bennett has been sought out by the local and state bar associations as a continuing legal education instructor, and has lectured extensively on evidence, criminal and civil procedure, bench-bar relations, and legal ethics.

Judge Bennett, throughout his career, attempted to achieve a balance of practicality and formality. He had a tremendous respect for the institutions and historical perspective of the law, while at the same time recognizing the need for flexibility and occasional informality when making decisions that can forever affect a person's life. Many a defendant who missed a court session was surprised by receiving a phone call: "This is Judge Bennett. I am in court and you are supposed to be. Where are you, and how long will it take for you to get here?"

Judge Bennett retired from the bench on August 31, 2011, in anticipation of a new career in the practice of law.



EDWIN L. POYFAIR (1992 -)

In the fall of 1992, Edwin Poyfair ran in the general election for the position of superior court judge, this time defeating James Rulli. Prior to taking office in January of 1993 for the full four year term, Poyfair was appointed to the judgeship of department #4 by Governor Booth Gardner, for the interim between the retirement of Judge Skimas and the beginning of Poyfair's elective term.

Judge Poyfair has lived in Vancouver for most of his life, and was born on December 3, 1943, in Portland, Oregon. He attended Hudson's Bay High School and graduated in 1962. He thereafter attended the University of Utah where he played on the football team. After a year at Utah, Judge Poyfair worked for a year to support his family, and then returned to college at Brigham Young University, graduating in 1967 with degrees in chemistry and psychology.

Upon returning to Vancouver, Judge Poyfair attended law school at Lewis and Clark and graduated in 1971.

The Judge's first job as an attorney was with the firm of Weber, Baumgartner, and Heller for a year, after which he left the firm and formed the partnership of Poyfair and Mitchelson, which later became Poyfair, Mitchelson and English.

Judge Poyfair, while an attorney, was president of the Clark County Bar Association and contributed to the community by coaching youth soccer, football and basketball. He has also been

Stake President of the Vancouver, Washington Mormon Church.

During his career as an attorney Judge Poyfair was highly respected by the bar association, and highly rated in the bar's judicial preference polls in 1979 and 1992. He often served the courts as a pro tem judge and court commissioner.

Judge Poyfair was re-elected without opposition in 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008. Also in 2008, he was appointed as the court's first Chief Family Law Judge, with the creation of a Family Law unit of the court, and the establishment of the Family Law Annex. To top things off, he was honored by the Washington State Bar Association as the Family Law Judge of the year for 2008.



JAMES E. RULLI (1996 -)

James E. Rulli was born in Astoria, Oregon but spent his entire youth growing up in Portland, Oregon where he attended grade school. He graduated from U.S. Grant High School and the University of Oregon, earning a Bachelor's of Science degree. Following college, he attended Lewis and Clark Law School, graduating with a JD degree in 1974. After passing the Washington bar exam, Judge Rulli went into private practice in Vancouver, Washington with attorneys Randall Ferguson and Kenneth Eiesland. His practice emphasized family, criminal and civil litigation and he became a pre-eminent family law practitioner.

With the retirement of Senior Judge John Skimas in 1992, the office of, superior court judge, dept. 4 became open. Judge Rulli ran for the position in the general election but Edwin Poyfair prevailed. Judge Rulli was then appointed by the judges to the position of superior court commissioner. He served as commissioner until 1996 when as a result of an increasing judicial caseload in Clark County, the legislature authorized a seventh department for the superior court. Judge Rulli's vast experience and knowledge in several areas of the law prompted Governor Mike Lowry to appoint Judge Rulli to this position in July, 1996.

In his several terms on the bench, Judge Rulli has been an innovative leader. In 1999 with other interested community leaders he established the first adult felony treatment court which was in response to the costly and time consuming approach to dealing with non-violent, substance abusing offenders that were overwhelming

the criminal justice system. Like many other treatment or "Drug Courts" nationally, Clark County's program has shown remarkable success in reducing the impact of drug addicted offenders on the court system and the community. In 2007 Judge Rulli established a similar program for juveniles with alcohol and substance abuse problems. This program not only provides alcohol and drug services but also addresses education, employment and family issues.

In addition to his duties with the Clark County Juvenile Court Judge Rulli has also served as one of the three superior court Family Law Judges specializing in the area of family law.

Judge Rulli has had the rare privilege and pleasure of seeing his daughter, Tonya Rulli, follow in his footsteps as an attorney in Vancouver. She is currently employed in the criminal division of the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

During Judge Rulli's tenure as a Judge he has served on many committees including the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse, the Superior Court Judges Criminal Law Committee and the Superior Court Judges Family and Juvenile Law Committee.

In June, 2010, Judge Rulli was honored by the Washington State Bar Association, as the Washington State Family Law Judge of the year.

In addition to his very busy schedule as a Judge he is an avid sports fan supporting his favorite football team, the Oregon Ducks and the Portland Trailblazers. He enjoys reading, traveling with his wife Jeanie and playing with his five granddaughters. And

who knows, maybe one of them will also follow in their grandfather's footsteps.



JOHN F. NICHOLS (1997 -)

Judge Nichols was born in Portland, Oregon on August 25, 1949, the fourth of seven children born to Dr. Gregory B. Nichols and Mary Francis (O'Neill) Nichols. John's father was the head of the Radiology department at Providence Hospital in Portland and his mother was a retired nurse devoting her time to raising the brood while specializing in cooking and Irish philosophy.

Judge Nichols graduated from Jesuit High School in Portland in 1967 and then matriculated to Seattle University majoring in history. Upon graduating in 1971 and foreseeing the limited opportunities for historians, he enrolled in Gonzaga University's School of Law. While attending law school, John worked full time for attorneys William Powell and Bryan Harnetiaux gaining invaluable guidance and experience. Judge Nichols graduated in 1975, cum laude, and upon passing the bar that summer, began working in Vancouver for the law offices of William Church.

After approximately a year of working for Mr. Church, John formed a partnership with Terry Wilson and eventually it expanded to the firm of Wilson, Nichols, Wynne and Marshall. Following Terry's untimely death; the firm morphed into Nichols, Lane and Marshall and established their offices at the corner of 9th and Franklin Streets in a renovated 1905 house. While in private practice, John focused on civil law with emphasis on family law, real estate, probate and commercial litigation.

While in private practice John served as Secretary and

Trustee for the Clark County Bar Association and was elected President of that body in 1990. For many years he published a column for the local and the Washing State Bar News outlining the foibles of the local bar. He was most infamous for the annual "Beagle Awards", awarded for dubious distinction in the field of Yellow Page advertising. For thirteen years this gala event was anxiously awaited by the entire Clark County legal community with both anticipation and with tongue firmly in cheek.

In 1994, John filed for an open position on the Clark County district court bench. Following a spirited election, Judge Nichols was fortunate enough to fill the position and assumed the bench on December 22, 1994. Judge Nichols was a district court judge for two and a half years acting as the presiding judge during his final year of service.

In 1997 with the retirement of superior court judge Tom Lodge, John was encouraged (especially by his wife), to submit his name for the position. In May of 1997, Governor Locke, in his first judicial appointment, selected John as a superior court judge for Clark County, Department No. 3. In so doing, Judge Nichols became the first judge in Clark County to "ascend" from district court to superior court. Judge Nichols has always acknowledged the valuable experience he received in district court and how this has prepared him for a seamless transition to the superior court.

Judge Nichols was married to Ginny Ann Nichols in 1971. They officially met at Seattle University, although both attended

the same Northeast Portland grade school (a year apart), many years before. Ginny Ann was the law firm's bookkeeper for many years and upon John becoming judge, she became a realtor for Coldwell-Banker. They have two daughters, Kelly and Shawn. Both graduated from the University of Notre Dame, where Kelly double-majored in Accounting and Computer Applications and is presently a project manager in the IT department for Standard Insurance in Portland. She was also a four year letterman at Notre Dame in softball and was awarded the Knute Rockne award her senior year for Scholar-Athlete of the year. Kelly is the proud mother of two children Nora and Zane, making Judge Nichols one of the youngest grandfathers in Clark County. Shawn double-majored in English and Anthropology and graduating with honors. Following graduation she obtained her PhD from University College of Dublin (Ireland), in Irish Literature and is now a professor at the University of Indiana at South Bend.

Judge Nichols's hobbies in his younger days included sports, and coaching basketball and softball. He now concentrates on golf, travel and grandchildren. He has lectured extensively in a variety of fields for the Washington State Bar; Oregon State Bar; Washington State Trial Lawyers; Washington State Judicial Conference; Clark and Multnomah County Bars; and is on the faculty for the Washington State Judicial College. His vision of the Court is one of respect and education for all participants. He is proud of his decisions and that many of these opinions have been well received by the Washington Supreme Court.



DIANE M. WOOLARD (2000 -)

Judge Diane Woolard was born into a Navy family and moved around the country several times while growing up. She attended numerous different schools, including three separate high schools, and eventually graduated as the number one student in her Illinois high school.

Judge Woolard's family had spent substantial time in the Northwest, so she treated this area as her home, and, after high school, she came back to attend Wenatchee Valley College from 1962 thru 1964, and then the University of Washington, graduating in 1967 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. Later, she attended Eastern Washington University in Cheney, taking graduate courses in English Education.

Judge Woolard had a rewarding career in the social work field, combating child abuse and neglect as a caseworker with DSHS from 1973 thru 1979. During that period, she found time to establish and direct a women's health care clinic from 1971 thru 1974. In 1979, she became a lead worker with DSHS, in Clallam County, investigating serious child abuse cases, and setting up training programs for caseworkers

Judge Woolard enrolled in Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, graduating with a Juris Doctor degree in 1985. While there, she worked in the Washington Attorney General's Office in Vancouver, and in the Prosecutor's Office in Clark County as a Rule 9 intern, and later as a deputy prosecuting attorney. In 1987 she went to work for James Rulli in private practice, doing primarily criminal defense

and family law. In 1991, she joined the firm of Morse and Bratt, again doing primarily criminal defense and family law and some civil cases, until June 2000. During this period, Judge Woolard developed an expertise and recognition as an expert witness testifying for plaintiffs in cases involving DSHS protocols and performance.

With the creation in 2000 of Department 7 of the superior court, Judge Woolard was appointed by Governor Gary Locke. The governor was concerned with problems in DSHS, and recognized that Judge Woolard's experience with that agency would make her a valuable contributor to statewide panels dedicated to improvement of DSHS.

Judge Woolard has served full time as a family law judge, and also for six years as drug court judge. She has served on a plethora of professional organizations and has been a guest speaker at numerous CLEs and legal seminars, and has been the recipient of community awards from the Clark County Volunteer Lawyer's Program, Vancouver parks and Recreation Commission, the FIFA Women's World Cup, and the Washington State Youth soccer Association. She has been actively involved as a soccer referee in Clark County for several years, and also is an avid scuba diver in tropical seas.



JOHN P. WULLE (2001 -)

Judge John Wulle was born in New York City on October 20, 1950, the son of Walter O. Wulle, Sr. and Gertrude Feeney Wulle. John grew up on Long Island. Walter worked in the aviation industry, which exposed John to airplanes from an early age.

In college, Judge Wulle began a lengthy career in public service. He came to Washington State in 1970 as a VISTA Volunteer, planning to stay in the Northwest for only a year or so, however after meeting his future wife he fell in love with this part of the country and decided to stay. VISTA was the domestic Peace Corps paid for by the federal government. He worked in poor neighborhoods as part of the anti-poverty program. He was taught how to be a community organizer and worked to develop food bank, political organizations that gave voice to ethnic and impoverished neighborhoods, and a host of other projects, including legal aid to the poor.

Judge Wulle attended and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Western Washington University in 1975. After graduation, he moved south to attend and graduate from Northwest School of Law in Portland, Oregon. While attending law school, he worked as a rule 9 intern in the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's office , trying district court cases. He also gained experience as a public defender, defending the types of cases he had previously prosecuted.

Upon passing the bar exam and being sworn in as a lawyer,

John was hired by the Washington Attorney General's Office, and served as an assistant attorney general for 14 years. During this period of his legal career, John was the head of the child support enforcement branch of the Vancouver office, and gained great expertise and recognition in this specialty area of the law.

In 1997, an open seat on the district court bench became available, and following a spirited campaign, the Board of County Commissioners selected John to fill the position until the next election. Subsequently, in 1998, Judge Wulle was elected to the position, and served therein for three years. Twice during that period, he was selected by his fellow judges to be the Presiding Judge of the district court.

In 2000, Judge James Ladley retired from the superior court bench, prior to the November general election. Judge Wulle, and several others campaigned for the position, and ultimately, Judge Wulle won the election by a healthy margin over his opponent. He joined the superior court bench on January 11, 2001, and has served ever since.

Judge Wulle is a published legal author, and has donated his time and services as an educator in local classrooms and at continuing legal education courses. He is a recipient of the distinguished Angelo Petrus Award, given annually to an outstanding Washington State attorney in public service. He has also been awarded the Evergreen Award from the City of Vancouver.

Judge Wulle grew up in the aviation community, following in

his father's footsteps, and has always been active in this avocation. He has built and flown experimental aircraft, and has restored antique aircraft. He has also, throughout the years of his residency in Clark County, actively engaged in public service and volunteer work for the benefit of the community. He is the founder of Pearson Air Museum and was instrumental in the creation of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. He was one of the leaders in the creation of the Clark County Veterans War Memorial and the Law Enforcement/Fire Fighters Memorial.

One of Judge Wulle's goals in his professional life has been to provide a respectful, knowledgeable, and unbiased courtroom setting in which the public can get a fair hearing. In his career as judge, he has accomplished one of his most important life goals.

Judge Wulle is married to Susan Wolff and they have a son, Devin, who shares his father's love of motorcycles. They spend many hours and days in the summer on the roads of Clark County. Following the judge's unfortunate spill in 2006, however, Susan is not so hot about motorcycles.

Judge Wulle ran unopposed in 2004, and was opposed in 2008 by an attorney who mounted a despicably vicious campaign, marked by questionable tactics. The local bar association poll preferred the incumbent by a margin of 90% to 10%, while the voters were a little kinder to the challenger. Judge Wulle won the election by 89% to the opponent's 11% of the vote.



ROBERT LEWIS (2004 -)

Judge Robert Lewis was born in Chehalis, Washington on May 2, 1956, the son of Roger A. Lewis and Lona Hale Lewis. Robert grew up in Winlock, Washington, the "Home of the World's Largest Egg". His parents were longtime Lewis County residents, and currently reside on a portion of the Hale homestead, which was established before statehood. His father worked in the woods and local mills, as the manager of a service station, and for the county road department. His mother was employed primarily for the State of Washington, in the accounting department at Green Hill School.

Robert attended Mt. St. Helens High School in Winlock, where he met his wife, Kim Nicewonger. They have three children, Rachel Goldstein (currently a labor organizer in Seattle), Paul Lewis (currently a teacher in Ferndale), and Brent Lewis (a recent graduate, with a degree in creative writing, from Western Washington University).

Robert attended Western Washington State College in Bellingham, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1977. After graduation, he worked for a short time as an administrative assistant at the Kittitas County Health Department in Ellensburg. He then moved to Seattle to attend the University of Washington Law School, graduating in 1981.

While attending law school, Robert worked as a rule 9 intern with Eastside Defender Association, a public defense firm with offices in Seattle and Bellevue. After admission to the

Washington State Bar in October, 1981, he was hired by Eastside as a trial attorney. For the next three years, he worked in all of Eastside's sections, and provided indigent defense services in several of King County's district and municipal courts, juvenile court and adult superior court. He also supervised the firm's Seattle Municipal Court division, and represented individuals at on-site state parole violation hearings.

In 1984, Robert moved to Camas to work as an associate in the firm of Knapp, O'Dell & Knapp. He eventually became a partner, and practiced law in Camas for the next 20 years. The firm had a typical small town general practice, including both civil and criminal clients. Robert represented the Port of Camas-Washougal for a number of years, and prosecuted for the City of Camas. However, his primary focus was criminal defense and family law, and he tried a number of cases in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat County Superior Courts. His practice also included appeals to the Court of Appeals, Division II and the Washington Supreme Court, where he presented oral argument on a number of occasions.

Robert was an active member of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, and served for several years as a member of their board. He participated in Clark County's Volunteer Lawyers program, and was honored as Volunteer of the Year in 1995 and 2000. In the later years of his practice, Robert served as a pro tem judge and commissioner in Clark County and Skamania County.

In 2004, the Clark County commissioners authorized the creation of Superior Court Department No. 9. Robert was appointed to fill this newly created position by Governor Gary Locke on November 16, 2004. Judge Lewis was elected to the position without opposition at a special election in 2005, and again at the regular election in 2008.

In addition to serving as a judge in the Clark County superior court's general civil/criminal trial rotation, Judge Lewis has actively assisted the clerk's Guardianship Monitoring Program. He has presented at several continuing legal education seminars, usually on the subject of criminal law. He has served for several years as the chairman for the Washington State Mock Trial program, and convenes Clark County's annual district tournament. He is an active member of the Simpson Inns of Court, and the Kiwanis Club of Fort Vancouver.



SCOTT A. COLLIER (2008 -)

Judge Scott A. Collier was born in Spokane, Washington on June 10, 1957 and was raised by his parents with an older brother, older sister and a younger brother, who died at the age of 3. He was primarily raised in Eastern Washington living in Spokane, Dayton, Kennewick and Pasco. From the age of 3 to 6 he lived in Homer, Alaska. He was a graduate of Pasco High School in 1975 and Washington State University with a Degree in Political Science in 1980. He graduated from Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington, in May of 1983 and was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Washington in October of 1983.

His first job as an attorney was with the firm of Hagen, VanCamp and McClendon in Spokane, Washington. He worked at this firm during his last two years of law school and during the summers as a legal intern. His first job primarily was doing plaintiff's tort and family law litigation with some criminal law. He worked with this firm until July 1984 when he moved to Vancouver, Washington.

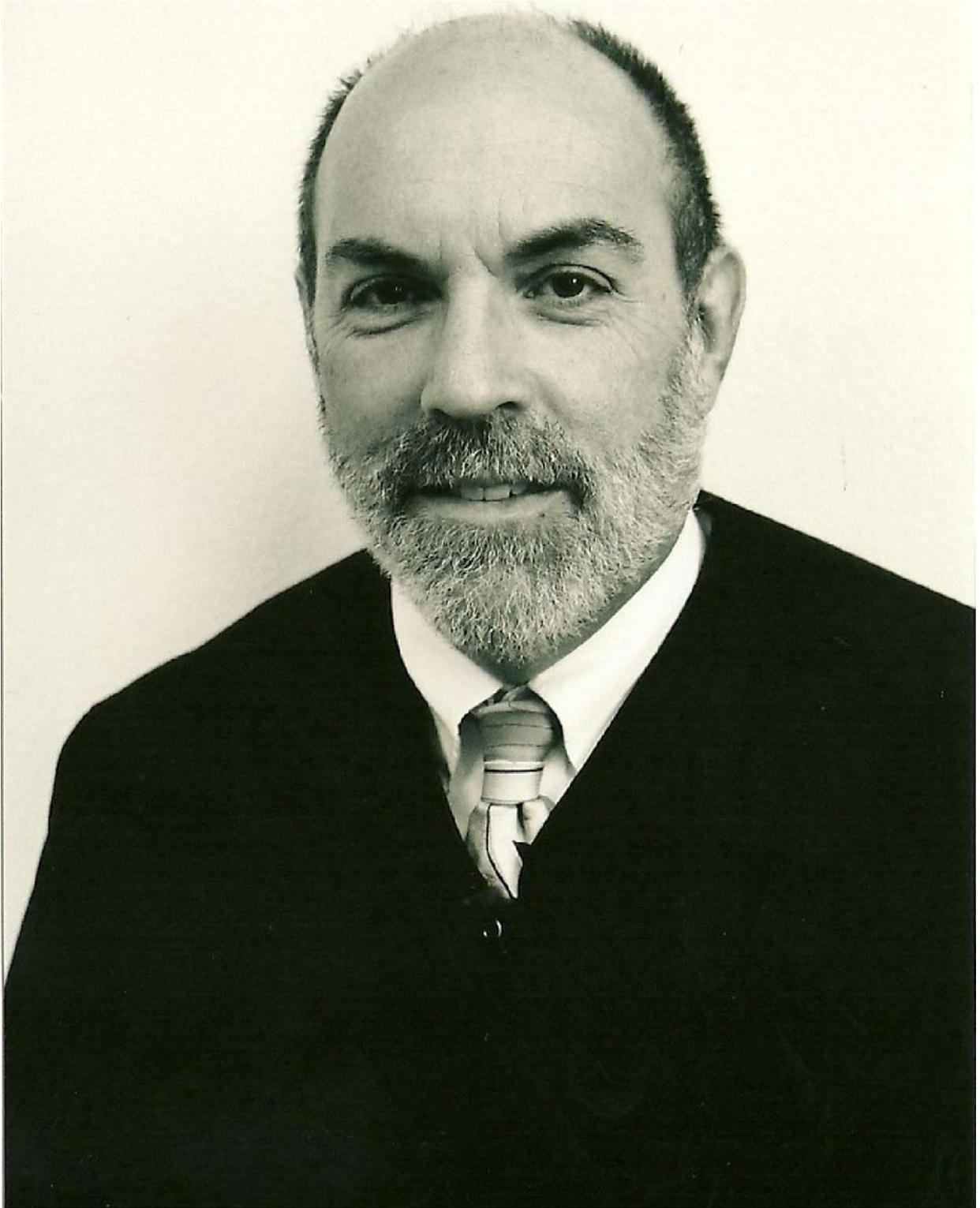
Judge Collier accepted a job with the law firm of Horenstein, Wynn and Horenstein in July, 1984, in Vancouver, Washington. Here his practice was very similar, emphasizing family law and torts, however, doing both plaintiffs and defense cases. His work also involved real estate litigation and some criminal work for the firm's clients. In 1989 he became a

partner in the firm then called firm of Horenstein and Horenstein. In April of 1993 he opened his own solo law practice emphasizing family law and plaintiff's tort law.

Judge Collier has always been active and involved in the community. In 1987, at the age of 29, he was appointed to the Vancouver City Council and was elected twice after that. He was the youngest person ever to serve on the council to date. He has served and chaired many boards and groups both related to the community and the law including being the President of the Clark County Bar Association.

He first started sitting on the bench as a part time Superior Court Commissioner in 1994 and in 1999 became a full time Superior Court Commissioner. After serving 14 years in this capacity, Governor Gregoire appointed him to fill the newly created Department 10 in Clark County Superior Court. This made him the first to serve in Department 10 and the 27th superior court judge in Clark County history. Judge Collier has been active in the State Superior Court Judges Association serving on a number of committees.

Judge Collier is married with boy-girl twins and is active with his family in the community.



RICHARD MELNICK (2010 -)

Rich Melnick became the second judge to preside in Department 5 of Clark County Superior Court. When Judge Robert L. Harris was forced to retire at the age of 75, Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Judge Melnick in February, 2010. Judge Melnick became the third Clark County district court judge to ascend to the Superior Court.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio on October 8, 1955, Judge Melnick attended public schools until moving to Evanston, Illinois in 1973 to enroll at Northwestern University. He graduated in 1977 with a double major in history and political science. After taking off a year to work, in 1978 Judge Melnick continued his move west to Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark College three years later. While in law school Judge Melnick worked various jobs, including Senior Teaching Assistant at the law school and interning with the Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

Judge Melnick accepted a position as deputy prosecuting Attorney, working under the legendary trial attorney, Roger Bennett, and during his twenty-three years as a prosecutor, Judge Melnick prosecuted every imaginable crime from drunk driving to the death penalty. He supervised the drug unit, district court unit, and founded the Appellate Bureau. He also was elected to serve as president of the Clark County Bar Association.

On April 1, 2004 Judge Melnick left the prosecutor's office when he was appointed by the Clark County Commissioners to a position on the Clark County district court. Always an advocate for therapeutic courts, Judge Melnick presided over the Substance Abuse Court for approximately five years.

Judge Melnick taught at Clark College and has lectured statewide on many topics including ethics, search and seizure, trial advocacy, evidence, and constitutional law. He was Dean of Washington's Judicial College.

Judge Melnick, as a community volunteer, has coached youth soccer and basketball, high school mock trial, and has prepared holiday meals for the elderly and needy. He served on various volunteer Boards including the T.O.D.A.Y. Foundation and the Clark County Skills Center Criminal Justice Advisory Board. He has been honored with the Washington State Bar Association's Local Hero Award, the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorney's President's Award, and the National Football Foundation (Clark County Chapter) Distinguished American Award.

Judge Melnick's interests include playing classical guitar, listening to music, attending plays, playing golf, and working out.