

PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
PRESS RELEASE: October 11, 2018
RE: JUDGE WHITENER HONORED

Judge G. Helen Whitener recently received the Pierce County Washington Women Lawyers Woman of the Year award (AKA the J-FAB Award). The announcement for the event stated, “each year our group selects an honoree who not only positively contributes to our community as a professional, but who also embodies amazing personal qualities that make her Just Fabulous. Judge Whitener is an ambassador of self-worth and gentle perseverance who has been working tirelessly to increase diversity and inclusion in our community, and we are delighted to celebrate her.” Judge Whitener was presented the award by Washington State Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu. Pierce County Superior Court Presiding Judge Elizabeth Martin added, “You bring honor to our entire bench and we join with the Pierce County Washington Women Lawyers in recognizing the qualities and determination that make you Just Fabulous.” Judge Whitener also notified the Pierce County Superior Court bench that she has been elected as the co-chair for the Washington Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission. A link to that story can be found [here](#).



L to R: WA Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, Department #11 Judicial Assistant Rasheedah McGoodwin, Judge G. Helen Whitener, Court Reporter Kim O'Neill

About Washington Women Lawyers:

WWL is Washington's largest organization dedicated to furthering the full integration of women in the legal profession and promoting equal rights and opportunities for women. Through the combined resources of a statewide organization and a network of local chapters, Washington Women Lawyers offers programming and support for women lawyers throughout the state.

About the Washington Supreme Court Minority and Justice Commission:

The Minority and Justice Commission was established by the state Supreme Court in 1990 to examine whether racial and ethnic bias exists in the courts of Washington, to determine the forms it takes, and to take active and innovative steps to overcome and prevent bias. The Commission grew out of a task force established by state lawmakers in 1988. Some of its work includes annual symposiums that delve deeply into areas of the justice system impacted by racial and ethnic bias to examine causes and potential solutions; hosting Youth and Justice forums for high school students across Washington to introduce them to the justice system; grant projects such as a recent examination of Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs – court fines and fees) and how they impact people of low-income and people of color, and much more.

About Judge G. Helen Whitener:

Judge Whitener was appointed to the Pierce County Superior Court Bench by Governor Jay Inslee on January 13, 2015. Prior to her position with Superior Court, Judge Whitener was an Industrial Insurance Appeals Judge in Washington State and a Managing Partner at Whitener Rainey Writt PS. Judge Whitener is a former Attorney with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel, and a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with Pierce County, Island County and an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the City of Olympia. In 2017, the Washington State Supreme Court appointed Judge Whitener to serve on the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and on the Office of Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee. She is a member of the International Association of Women Judges, the International Association of LGBT Judges and the National Association of Women Judges. Judge Whitener is a graduate of Baruch College, City University of New York with a B.B.A. and holds a Juris Doctor from Seattle University School of Law.

**About Pierce County Superior Court:**

Pierce County Superior Court is the second largest Superior Court in the State of Washington and is proud to serve the citizens and visitors of Pierce County. The Court is staffed with 22 Judges and 9 Commissioners. There are three sites where court is held; the County City Building at 930 Tacoma Ave S Tacoma, Remann Hall Juvenile Court at 5501 6th Ave Tacoma, and Western State Hospital at 9601 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood. For more information, please visit our website at <http://co.pierce.wa.us/superiorcourt>.

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