

***SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FOR PIERCE COUNTY***

PRESS RELEASE

December 2, 2019

RE: NEW COMMISSIONER HIRED

Pierce County Superior Court is pleased to announce that Philip E. Thornton has accepted an offer to become our newest Commissioner, starting December 9, 2019. Mr. Thornton will fill the vacancy left by the appointment of Sabrina Ahrens to Pierce County Superior Court Department 14. Mr. Thornton currently owns his own practice, The Law Office of Philip E. Thornton. He is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and earned a Juris Doctorate from Creighton University School of Law. His official swearing-in will occur on December 9th. The date for his public swearing-in ceremony will be Thursday, December 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Thornton began his career as an Associate Attorney with Margullis, Luedtke & Ray in 1990. In January of 1997, he opened his own practice where focused on representing persons accused of crime in Municipal, State and Federal Courts. In 2003, he was certified as a SPRC Rule 2 – Qualified Capital Case Trial Counsel. He is also a member of the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association, Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. Commissioner Thornton has served on the Department of Assigned Counsel Advisory Board and the Best Practices Committee for Superior Court. He has also been active in his sons' youth sports programs as a coach and board member.

Please join us in welcoming Commissioner Thornton to the Pierce County Superior Court.

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 nine 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://www.piercecountywa.gov/superiorcourt>.

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