

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

**PRESS RELEASE**

**December 19, 2019**

**RE: Superior Court Judge John Hickman retires**

Pierce County Superior Court announces the retirement of Judge John Hickman from the bench after more than 14 years. Judge Hickman's last day will be Dec. 31, 2019.

Judge Hickman was born in Los Angeles, then his family moved to Chicago, ultimately settling in Seattle. Some of his earliest jobs include a paper route and working as a caddie at Sand Point Country Club. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in 1973 and his juris doctor from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1977. While in law school, Judge Hickman worked for Governor Evans.



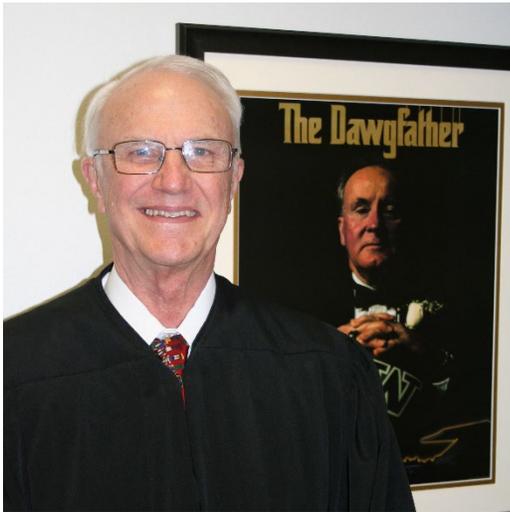
Judge Hickman started his own practice in the City of Fife shortly after graduating in 1978 and kept it with his partner Frank Dacca from 1980 to 1988, until his appointment to the bench in 2005. During his time as a general practice lawyer he worked as a Pro-Tem Judge for Milton and Fife, was a pro-tem commissioner for Pierce County Superior Court and was also a court appointed guardian ad litem. In December 2005, then-Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Judge Hickman as Pierce County Superior Court judge for the newly created Department 22.

Judge Hickman has spent time in the court's various rotations, including criminal, civil, family and juvenile courts, and will likely be remembered most for his contribution to the award winning "Baby Court" docket at Remann Hall Juvenile Court. This program was developed in 2016 in order to provide the most vulnerable infants with a fast track to permanency. Judge Hickman and the "Baby Court" team were awarded the Lee Ann Miller Group award and the Champions for Children award in 2018. Judge Hickman hopes to come back and fill in on the "Baby Court" docket as a retired Judge.

In addition to "Baby Court," Judge Hickman was extremely proud of his time as the chair of the Pro-Tem Committee. During the 2008 recession, Judge Hickman remembers when over 30 lawyers from the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association stepped in to handle settlement conferences for the court and was very moved by those lawyers who helped out in a very selfless way.

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He is excited for Judge Burton to take over the reigns of Department 22. Judge Hickman will miss the members of the bench and Superior Court staff who he considers a great group of people. Shortly after he retires, he and his wife will take a cruise to the eastern Caribbean. He will spend more time playing golf with other retired judges and lawyers and will also spend time at his cabin in the South Puget Sound. Most of all, he is looking forward to getting his First Amendment rights restored as a private citizen.



When Judge Hickman was appointed to the bench in 2005, Governor Gregoire described him as, “an honorable practitioner with the highest of ethics complemented by passion for the law and friendly demeanor.” Current Presiding Judge Garold E. Johnson said, “Judge Hickman is an incredible asset to the court and will be missed by his colleagues and members of the court community.” Judge Johnson remarked how helpful he was to families and children who came before him.

Please join us in congratulating Judge Hickman on his retirement.

## **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 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Tacoma; and Western State Hospital, 9601 Steilacoom Blvd. SW, Lakewood. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.piercecountywa.gov/superiorcourt>.

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