

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

PRESS RELEASE

April 2, 2020

JUDGE CLARENCE HENDERSON

Pierce County Superior Court is pleased to announce that Clarence Henderson, Jr. has been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to be the next judicial officer for Department 21. Judge Henderson replaces Judge Frank Cuthbertson who announced his retirement in late 2019. Judge Cuthbertson's last day with the court will be March 31, 2020, after more than 19 years on the bench. Clarence Henderson has been a Commissioner with Pierce County Superior Court since January 2019. Prior to that he was an attorney with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel, assigned to Remann Hall, where he worked as the Lead Attorney in the delinquency unit. He is a graduate of Norfolk State University and earned a Juris Doctor degree from Regent University School of Law. His official swearing-in occurred on April 1, 2020. The date for his public swearing-in ceremony will be sent at a later time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mr. Henderson is a co-founder of the Youth Law Institute, an outreach initiative formed to foster relationships, mentor, and inspire youth of color and other underrepresented and/or at-risk youth toward careers in the legal profession. He was most recently the co-director of the Western Juvenile Defender Center, an organization which conducts delinquency defense trainings on various issues of youth law and policy. In 2012, Mr. Henderson was appointed to the Washington State Human Rights Commission by then-Governor Christine Gregoire. His appointment was later reconfirmed by Governor Jay Inslee. The mission of the Washington State Human Rights Commission is to prevent and eliminate discrimination through the fair application of the law, the efficient use of resources, and the establishment of productive partnerships in the community.

In appointing him as a Superior Court Judge, Governor Jay Inslee had this to say about Judge Henderson, "Clarence is a compassionate leader, and he is clearly dedicated to serving the Pierce County community. Not only does he have the legal experience to succeed on the bench, but everyone who has observed him speaks highly of his soft skills—his extraordinary ability to connect with people on a human level."

Please join us in congratulating Judge Henderson on his appointment to the Pierce County Superior Court bench.

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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>.

Media Contact:

Chris Gaddis, Superior Court Administrator

chris.gaddis@piercecountywa.gov

253-798-3963

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