



Seattle City Attorney

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Mike Finkle Unanimously Named King County District Court Judge

Assistant City Attorney Mike Finkle, best known for his work with Seattle's Mental Health Court, was appointed as a King County District Court Judge on Monday. He will preside in the Northeast division of King County District Court, in Redmond.

King County Council members voted 8-0 to appoint Finkle to the judicial position.

Finkle celebrated 20 years with the Seattle City Attorney's office on Valentine's Day. He has worked in the Criminal Division the entire time.

"Seattle's loss is King County's gain," said City Attorney Pete Holmes. "We are very pleased for Mike; he is an excellent attorney and will be an excellent jurist."

The King County District Courts handle misdemeanor crimes, anti-harassment cases, domestic violence no-contact orders, traffic tickets, civil matters up to \$75,000 and small claims cases up to \$5,000.

"I feel overwhelmed, but overjoyed," said Finkle.

Finkle participated on a task force in 1997 that advised Seattle and King County to create a Mental Health Courts. Both King County District and Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court began operation in 1999 and hear hundreds of cases every year.

Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court is feels like a part of me; I was with it as it was being created," said Finkle. "That is really hard to give up. I plan to stay involved in the issues and continue public speaking on the issues."

King County District Court Judges are elected to four year terms. The vacancy filled with Finkle's appointment is a new position created by the state because of the growing caseload in King County.

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