

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY

PRESS RELEASE

May 11, 2020

JUDGE MATTHEW THOMAS AND JUDGE SUSAN ADAMS

Both Judges will start later this year, a date has not been decided due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pierce County Superior Court is pleased to announce that Matthew Thomas and Susan Adams have been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to be the next judicial officers for Department 13 and Department 11, respectively.

Judge Thomas will replace Judge Kathryn J. Nelson who announced her retirement in early 2020. Judge Nelson's last day with the court will be Sept. 20, 2020. Thomas has been an assistant U.S. attorney for more than 20 years. Before that he was a deputy prosecutor for Pierce County. He helped start an anti-corruption training program at the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua, and he's a former president of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association.



Judge Adams replaces Judge Helen Whitener, who was recently appointed to the Washington Supreme Court. Adams is currently the City of Lakewood Municipal Court Judge, a position she has held since January 2017. Before that, from 2005 to 2017, Adams served as the founding director of the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center, a comprehensive service center for victims of domestic violence and their children. And earlier, Adams worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office from 1991 through 2005. In 2015, Adams was selected by the Tacoma Business Examiner as its Women of Influence Award recipient. For the past seven years, Adams has served on the board of St. Francis House, which is dedicated to serving those suffering from economic hardships in the Puyallup Valley. She is also a member of the Clover Park Rotary in Lakewood. Adams earned her law degree from the University of Puget Sound School of Law, and her bachelor's degree from Central Washington University.



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In appointing Thomas and Adams as Superior Court Judges, Governor Jay Inslee had this to say .

“Matt has the judicial temperament and experience to contribute to the court from day one, He is admired for his civility and fairness. He is a stellar attorney and leader in the local legal community. I have no doubt that Matt will flourish as a judge on the Pierce County Superior Court.”

“Susan has the experience to step onto the court and be ready on day one,” Inslee said. “She already has judicial experience, and her other professional leadership experience will be of great benefit to the Pierce County bench.”

Please join us in congratulating Judge Thomas and Judge Adams on their appointment to the Pierce County Superior Court bench.

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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