
From: Eco, Debbie on behalf of Contact Council
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 9:52 AM
To: Beazizo, Heidi; Cheesman, Darcy; Contact.Council; Dunn, Megan; Ewert, Angela; Ford, Jillene; Low, Sam; Mead, Jared; Nehring, Nate; Peterson, Strom; Rhyne, Paula; Thompson, Joshua; Wiita, Russell
Subject: FW: Letter of Recommendation for J. Ness (judicial position)
Attachments: Letter for J.Ness.pdf

From: Adam Ballout <adamballout@abclawgroup.net>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 9:49 AM
To: Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Letter of Recommendation for J. Ness (judicial position)

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Happy Friday! Please see attached letter of recommendation for Jessica Ness to the Snohomish County Council (hard copy to follow) Thank you so much!

Adam Ballout
Attorney at Law
6303 Wetmore Ave
Everett, WA 98203

PLEASE NOTE OUR CHANGE IN ADDRESS:



March 17, 2023

Snohomish County Council

3000 Rockefeller Ave.

8th Floor, Jackson Board Room

Robert J. Drewel Building

Everett, WA 98201

To the Honorable Members of the Snohomish County Council,

My name is Adam Ballout, I am an attorney in Snohomish County and a partner at ABC Law Group. I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Jessica Ness, who is applying for the position of Judge for the Snohomish County District Court. I have had the pleasure of knowing and practicing with Jessica Ness for almost 20 years and have witnessed her unwavering commitment to the law, fairness, and justice.

For the past three years, Jessica has served as the Monroe Municipal Court Presiding Judge, where she has gained invaluable experience in leading the management and administration of the Court's business, as well as supervising its daily operations. During this time, Jessica has shown remarkable dedication to her work, ensuring that justice is served fairly and efficiently.

One of Jessica's greatest accomplishments during her tenure as Monroe Municipal Court Presiding Judge was the creation of the Monroe Municipal Community Court, which provides social services to individuals facing low-level, quality of life offenses. Under her guidance, this court has had a significant positive impact on the lives of participants and our community as a whole.

March 17, 2023

Jessica has served the Snohomish County District Court as a Judge Pro Tem for over **eleven** years. In this capacity, she has demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the law, a deep understanding of court procedures, and an unwavering commitment to justice. She has also served as a Judge Pro Tem in every Municipal Court in Snohomish County, which has provided her with a broad range of experience and expertise.

Prior to taking the bench Jessica worked as both a prosecutor and defense counsel, giving her a unique perspective on the law and the criminal justice system. This diverse range of experience has undoubtedly prepared her well for a position as a judge. I've watched Jessica handle litigants in open court who were struggling with mental health issues, may have been under the influence, who were angry and agitated all with grace and tact keeping in mind her role and the role and appearance of the Court. I have a great deal of respect of Jessica's personal ethics and her character. When Jessica began doing pro-tem work more full time many years ago, she stopped taking on private matters by her own initiative and choosing due to even the appearance of unfairness on her active cases.

In summary, I have no doubt that Jessica Ness would make an exceptional addition to the Snohomish County District Court bench. Her extensive experience, knowledge of the law, and unwavering commitment to justice make her an outstanding candidate. I highly recommend her without reservation.

Sincerely,



Adam Ballout #39298
ABC Law Group LLP
6303 Wetmore Ave Everett, WA 98203

April 2, 2023

The Honorable Debbie Eco

Snohomish County Council Clerk

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 609

Everett, Washington 98201

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL

ELECTRONIC COPY RECEIVED

DATE: 04/05/23 Time 10:30 a.m.

RE: Endorsement of Judge Jessica Ness as a Snohomish County District Court Judge

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I am honored to endorse Judge Jessica Ness for appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. She is highly qualified and has exceptional service to serve in this position.

Judge Ness served as a Pro Tem Judge for over 11 years in Snohomish County, including serving as a Pro Tem Judge in all four divisions of the Snohomish County District Court. She was sought out to serve as a Pro Tem Judge due to her excellent performance, judicial demeanor and sound decision making.

Judge Ness is well respected in the legal community and known for her keen legal acumen. As the City of Monroe Presiding Judge for the past three years, Judge Jessica Ness has made important and significant contributions to improving our court system.

As a member of the Washington State Bar Association for over forty years I have had the honor to appear before and work with numerous outstanding judges. Judge Jessica Ness is one of those outstanding judges.

Your selection of Judge Ness will make both you and the citizens of Snohomish County proud.

Feel free to contact me regarding my endorsement of Judge Jessica Ness at any time.

Sincerely,

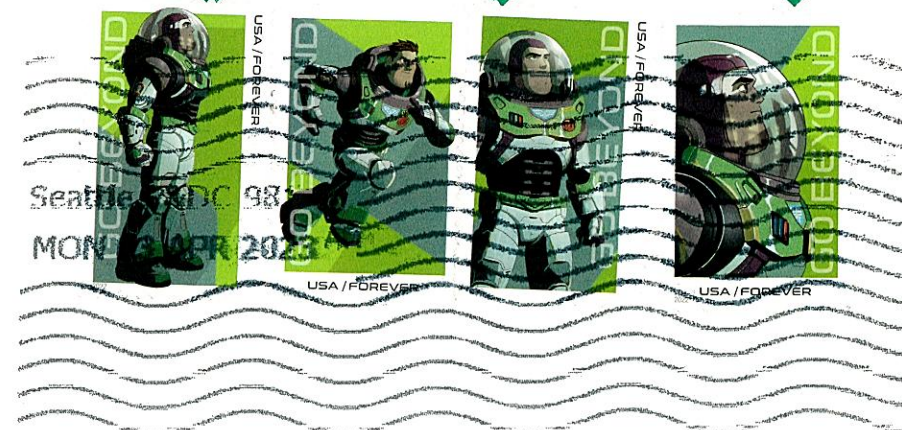


Judge Kevin Peck

King County District Court

206 612-7812, peckfam4@comcast.net

Peck
6825 84th Ave SE
MI, WA
98040



The Honorable Dobbie Eco

Snohomish County Council Clerk

3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609

Everett, WA. 98201

First Class Mail
First Class Mail

From: adamcornell@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 5:21 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Support for Matt Baldock for South District Court Judicial Appointment
Attachments: Baldock-Support-Letter-SDC.pdf

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

Please see the attached letter of support for Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Matt Baldock for appointment to the South District Court bench.

Sincerely,
Adam Cornell

Adam Cornell
P.O. Box 3072
Edmonds, WA 98020

May 8, 2023

Members of the Snohomish County Council

Sent Via Electronic Mail: Contact.council@snoco.org

Re: Recommendation for Judicial Appointment to South District Court / Matt Baldock

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

I write in enthusiastic and wholehearted support of the judicial appointment of Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Matt Baldock to Snohomish County District, South Division.

My recommendation is rooted in my experience as a colleague of Matt's for over 20 years. We served together in the trenches as trial Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys for many years, we were peers as line supervisors, and we also served as the DPAs assigned to the County's SMART team. Most recently, Matt led my administration's Criminal Division from February of 2020 until the end of my term. In a professional capacity, I doubt anyone else has more insight into—and profound appreciation for—Matt's abundant and varied talents, undisputed integrity, sacrifices as a humble public servant, and commitment to justice over the course of his long and distinguished career than I. I am quite certain there is no one more qualified for the honor of your appointment to this position.

Character and leadership are revealed in tough times. Matt became my Chief only days before the Coronavirus pandemic became official. That historic and long-lasting upheaval to our County and State's criminal justice system was followed by the racial reckoning after the murder of George Floyd in May of 2020, the Great Resignation, and the state Supreme Court's *Blake* decision. The reverberations of these unprecedented challenges were met blow by blow by the force of Matt's leadership and character and his wise counsel to me. His ability and dedication not only helped to foster trust and confidence among his peers and subordinates within the office and the County's criminal justice stakeholders, but he also engendered trust among the County's political leaders, many of you among them. Simply put, my former office could not have successfully come out the other side of these challenges without Matt's skill, sacrifice, and collaborative approach to management and the administration of justice.

Simply put, Matt is already a proven leader beyond the County's halls of justice. Called upon far and wide for his legal expertise—particularly in the field of investigation and prosecution in the use of genetic genealogy—in trial advocacy, and a forceful, impactful, and collaborative advocate for criminal justice matters within County government, I have no doubt that Matt will bring both his talents and his stellar reputation to bear as a leader among his fellow jurists.

Sincerely,

Signed Electronically

Adam Cornell

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney (2019-2022)

**GEORGE F.B. APPEL
SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
M/S #502
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98210-4060
(425) 388-3468**

May 15, 2023

Dear Councilmember Mead,

It is my understanding that the council must make a decision shortly concerning the appointment of a new judge to fill the vacancy soon to be left by Judge Douglas Fair. I would like to offer my recommendation for Matt Baldock. In doing so, I am not writing on behalf of anyone else.

I do not make my recommendations lightly. I know another applicant very well. Nathan Sugg worked for me 12 years ago as my law clerk. He is bright, an excellent lawyer, and he will also make a first-rate judge. But it is Mr. Baldock who draws my endorsement in this appointment.

I worked with Mr. Baldock in the Prosecutor's Office Special Assault Unit some 20 years ago. He was and is a brilliant trial attorney, highly motivated, and he excelled in the very difficult task of trying sexual assault cases. In the time we worked together, he displayed a strong work ethic, frequently working long hours and weekends in order to do his job correctly and with integrity. He knew the court rules and the rules of evidence. He also maintained coolness under fire. These are the qualities that one looks for in a judge. More recently, Mr. Baldock has tried the same kind of case before me. His grasp of the rules and procedures is second to none. His trial work is exceptional.

It is essential that trial judges be well acquainted with the rules which govern their craft. This is why good trial lawyers tend to be good judges. In Matt Baldock, the County will find a judge who will need not schooling in the most important work that district court judges do. I believe he will serve the people of this County well and without reservation recommend that the council appoint him.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. Nothing I have said should be viewed as lending the prestige of my current position. I defer to the County Council for its ultimate decision on this appointment.

Very truly,



George F.B. Appel

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2023

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY
CIVIL DIVISION**

TIME _____

From: Ivy Jacobsen <ivyjordan32@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 7:25 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Rec for Snohomish County Judge
Attachments: I. Jacobsen Letter of Support.pdf

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

Attached is a letter recommending Chief Criminal Deputy Matt Baldock for appointment to the Snohomish County District Court bench.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Ivy Jacobsen

Ivy Jacobsen

Marysville, WA 98270 | 425-232-1249 | ivyjordan32@gmail.com

May 15th, 2023

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

It is my great honor to provide this letter recommending Chief Criminal Deputy Matthew Baldock for appointment to the Snohomish County South District Superior Court bench.

In January of 2012 I sought help, disclosing a very vulnerable part of my life: My father sexually assaulted me for several years. Shortly thereafter, I met Matt Baldock as the prosecutor assigned to my case. I was a very vulnerable and emotionally unstable 16-year-old girl. Over the next 18 months, Mr. Baldock devoted hours to my family, absorbing every ugly detail so that justice could be served. During my testimony sharing the details of my abuse in front of my offender and a jury full of strangers, Mr. Baldock remained patient and collected in the courtroom. He remained neutrally tempered in the courtroom during outbursts of my emotion and angst. After first and second trials concluded in hung juries, Mr. Baldock supported me and pursued a successful third trial to achieve justice.

What I appreciate most about Mr. Baldock is his dedication for seeking justice for victims, and his efforts to support and encourage women in particular, as they grow into Survivors. Mr. Baldock has helped many victims since he helped me. In particular, I had a former teammate of mine reach out to me and open up regarding sexual abuse she had also endured. We were not only bonded through our love for basketball but we had experienced similar abusive behavior from a trusted family member. We also discovered that we had the same Prosecutor who fought for us in our pursuit for justice, Mr. Baldock.

As I finished high school and transitioned to my professional career, Mr. Baldock became a mentor for me as I witnessed his continued dedicated service to victims seeking justice. His leadership among his peers is contagious and transfers to the courtroom for his victims. He instills a spirit of hope in those he helps. His devotion inspired me to want to be a public servant in a similar capacity. As a female Police Officer now, I can confidently say I would not be in these boots today if it weren't for Mr. Baldock's compassion for victims in getting justice, recovering, and becoming that Survivor.

Mr. Baldock has paved the road for many victims and will continue to do so in any capacity that he can. I truly cannot think of anyone more suitable for this honorable and trusted position. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivy Jacobsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Ivy Jacobsen, *Survivor*

From: eokoloko@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 8:11 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Recommendation
Attachments: Matt Baldock Letter of Recommendation[43887].pdf

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear County Council,

Please find attached a letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Matthew Baldock who is seeking a judicial appointment to the Snohomish County District Court, South Division.

Best regards,
Edirin Okoloko

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

May 16, 2023

Snohomish County Council,
Robert J. Drewel Building
Eight Floor
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Mr. Matthew Baldock

Dear Council Members,

I write to recommend Matthew Baldock for appointment to a judicial position on the Snohomish County District Court, South Division. I had the pleasure of working with Mr. Baldock in my former employment as a Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. In that capacity, I had the opportunity to try a couple of cases as co-counsel with Mr. Baldock. I also got to observe his work ethic as a deputy prosecutor, and later, as a lead supervisor with the office. Mr. Baldock was always very well prepared on his cases. I found Mr. Baldock to be highly motivated, courteous, ethical, and reasonable in the exercise of his discretion and in the execution of his duties. Mr. Baldock has vast courtroom experience from many years of courtroom trials and appearances before the court on motions and other matters. Mr. Baldock has a good command of the court rules and rules of evidence. He is passionate about the law and recognizes the importance of exploring multiple approaches to the criminal justice system that go beyond traditional reliance on incarceration alone. Mr. Baldock has administrative experience from his position as Chief Criminal Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. In that role, Mr. Baldock helped his office navigate the changes to the workings of the court brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

I have also had the opportunity to observe Mr. Baldock from the bench in my role as a judge on the Snohomish County Superior Court. He is respectful to the bench, court staff, parties, and opposing counsel.

Mr. Baldock is fair, humble, patient, and considerate. I believe these qualities are essential in a judge especially when interacting with litigants and the public. I am confident that Mr. Baldock will be fair and respectful to all who appear before him, and that Snohomish County will be very well served with Mr. Baldock on the bench of the Snohomish County District Court. It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Baldock to you without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding Mr. Baldock's ability to serve on the Court.

Sincerely,

Edirin Okoloko

(425) 315-5247

From: Elise Deschenes <elisedeschenes@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 6:17 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Support for Baldock
Attachments: Baldock Letter of Support.docx

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Please find attached a letter of support for Matt Baldock.

Elise Deachenues.

Elise Deschenes
2314 Stafford Way
Bothell, WA 98012
(206)455-0705

May 16, 2023

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave
Everett, WA 98201

Council Members,

I am writing in support of Mathew Baldock's application to be appointed as a District Court Judge in the Snohomish County District Court, South Division.

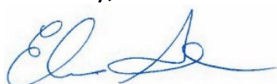
After working with Mr. Baldock for most of sixteen and a half years, I firmly believe he is the most qualified for the position. Mr. Baldock's extensive trial experience has allowed him to gain an unmatched understanding of court procedure, the court rules and the rules of evidence. As a trial attorney, being the one arguing a position on their proper use requires a deep understanding of their application and case law surrounding them. Mr. Baldock's many years of experience in the court room has well prepared him to intelligently and fairly rule on these questions of law, while being able to clearly explain his reasoning to the attorneys appearing before him.

Over the past sixteen years, I have worked with Mr. Baldock as both colleagues and with him as my supervisor. Mr. Baldock has consistently treated me with respect and valued my input regarding any issues before us. The first time Mr. Baldock was my supervisor, we were in the Special Assault Unit. I was new to the unit and lacked confidence in my ability to do the work. Mr. Baldock provided me with guidance and assistance in a way that helped educate me while also instilling that confidence in me. He made me a much better attorney. I know that Mr. Baldock would have the same demeanor and respect for the attorneys that appeared before him and help guide them to grow in their practice.

Most recently, I have worked very closely with Mr. Baldock as Assistant Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. I have watched him help guide and stabilize this office during some of the most difficult times. The pandemic, high turnover, constant changes in the law have made it hard to keep up moral. Mr. Baldock's leadership and administrative skills have helped right this ship. His administrative experience would also serve the South District Court well.

Mr. Baldock is highly qualified to be a District Court Judge. He would be an asset to the bench, as well as the community.

Cordially,



Elise Deschenes

From: Kelsey L. Affronte <KelseyA@beresfordlaw.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 8:04 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: 6.15.23 County Council Mtg - Snohomish County District Court - South Candidates - WWL Rating - Mohandeson
Attachments: WWL Rating - Mohandeson (003).pdf
Importance: High

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Good evening,

The Washington Women Lawyer's State Board recently adjourned. District Court Judicial Candidate Michael Mohandeson's "Well-Qualified" rating was ratified at tonight's meeting. The attached letter contains additional information.

Please let me know if there is a more appropriate e-mail to address this. I understand the County Council will be conducting interviews and deciding tomorrow afternoon. I do apologize for the close proximity between our meeting and yours!

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Let me know if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kelsey L. Affronte

Lawyer

BERESFORD  BOOTH

145 Third Ave S | Edmonds, WA 98020

Office: 425.776.4100 | Fax: 425.776.1700

Email | Bio | Website | Insights | YouTube

This message is intended for the exclusive use of the individual or entity to which it is transmitted and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable laws.



Washington Women Lawyers
P.O. Box 46107
Seattle, WA 98146
mail: wwl@wwl.org
web: www.wwl.org

June 14, 2023

Via email to: Mike.Mohandeson@gmail.com

Re: Washington Women Lawyers Judicial Evaluation Rating

Dear Mr. Michael Mohandeson:

Thank you for meeting with the Washington Women Lawyers' Judicial Evaluation Committee. The Committee completed its evaluation, and the WWL Board has approved your **"Well-Qualified"** rating for a position with the Snohomish County District Court. This rating shall remain in effect for two years until June 14, 2025. Your rating is effective only for the specific position for which you requested. This rating does not consider any residency requirements that may apply to this position.

Pursuant to the WWL judicial evaluation procedures, we will forward the rating to the Snohomish County Council's Office. Please note, since this is a rating for an appointed position and not an elected position, under our procedures you may decide whether WWL may release this rating for publication. Please let me know if you want WWL to publish your rating.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at kelseya@beresfordlaw.com. The other committee members and I enjoyed meeting you and discussing the future of our community. We wish you well in your future endeavors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kelsey", is enclosed within a light blue oval. Below the signature, the name "Kelsey Affronte" is printed in a black sans-serif font.

Kelsey Affronte
Snohomish County Judicial Evaluations Committee Chair

Cc: Kiera Miller, State Judicial Evaluations Committee Co-Chair