
From: adamcornell@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 1:16 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Support for Jennifer DeJong / Cascade District Court Judicial Appointment
Attachments: DeJong-Support-Letter.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 above the attached letter of support for the appointment of Jennifer DeJong as Cascade District Court Judge.

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 Cascade District Court / Jennifer DeJong

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

I write in enthusiastic and unreserved support of the judicial appointment of Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney (DPA) Jennifer DeJong to the Snohomish County District Court, Cascade Division. Simply put, DPA DeJong will be an outstanding judge because she has universally respected and sound practical legal skills, proven leadership experience, and an uncompromising ethical compass.

My faith and trust in DPA DeJong's abilities as a fierce, talented and ethical advocate convinced me to include her as a member of my administration's leadership team when I served as Prosecuting Attorney. In her many years as my Juvenile Court co-supervisor, DPA DeJong elevated the role on many levels. I have no doubt she will bring the same practical, fair, thoughtful, and innovative approach to her role as a jurist as she has as a deputy prosecutor.

Among one of the many notable attributes that make DPA DeJong ideal for the position is her collaborative approach to her work—certainly an indispensable quality for a judge. This trait is particularly important in the Juvenile Court Unit, which has a necessary focus on rehabilitation-centered outcomes. I witnessed first-hand DPA DeJong's deft balancing of the interests of victims, respondents, probation officers, judges, and law enforcement, among others. Her evenhanded ability to consider and communicate the decisions of my former office to our stakeholders and the public at large served the highest interests of justice.

My unwavering confidence in my recommendation of DPA DeJong is also informed by her commitment to her community. The work of a criminal prosecutor can be trying in both subject matter exposure and time away from family. That DPA DeJong handles sexual assault offense prosecution only amplifies challenges. Notwithstanding the demands of the job, DPA DeJong contributes time and talent as a community volunteer, and in doing so, not only enhances the health and well-being of Snohomish County beyond her role as a DPA, but also fosters respect for the prosecutor's office.

I have no doubt DPA DeJong will bring her abundant talent, heart, and compassion to the position of District Court judge. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Signed Electronically

Adam Cornell

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney (2019-2022)

From: M Phillips <phillips.minda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 5:23 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of Support for Jennifer DeJong / Cascade District Court Judicial Appointment
Attachments: JenniferRecPDF.pdf

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Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

Please see above the attached letter of support for the appointment of Jennifer DeJong as Cascade District Court Judge.

Sincerely,
Minda Phillips

May 9, 2023

Members of the Snohomish County Council Sent Via Electronic

Mail: contact.council@snoco.org

Re: Recommendation for Judicial Appointment to Cascade District Court / Jennifer DeJong

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council:

I am writing you today to give my strong recommendation for Jennifer DeJong for the position of Cascade District Court Judge. I met Jennifer while I was working for the Snohomish County Prosecutors Office in the juvenile division. I was the victim/witness advocate assigned to the sexual assault/abuse cases, hate crime cases, and violent felony cases. Prior to that I was assigned to Evergreen District Court and Everett District Court.

I offer my recommendation because of the high quality of leadership, knowledge, and compassion I witnessed while working with Jennifer. Handling SAU matters in the juvenile division is challenging because the cases often feature a victim and an alleged offender who are immediate family. There is trauma, worry and confusion about what a court case will be like. I felt confident working with Jennifer on these cases. During our victim meetings Jennifer would warmly offer a clear and direct description of the relevant legal issues, as well as explain the process and her role as deputy prosecuting attorney. For most of the families we worked with this was their first involvement with the legal system. She would listen carefully to their questions and comments and take them into consideration when making her decisions. In particular, her respectful demeanor and clear language was very helpful to these families. She would explain that rehabilitation was a goal in the juvenile division. She would also give information about alternatives to prosecution. We served families of many backgrounds: married and divorced, longtime Snohomish County residents and recent immigrants, families with young children and families with teenagers, as well as families from the LGBTQ+ community. Jennifer related well to the wide variety of people we served.

Prior to my assignment in the juvenile division I was a victim/witness advocate in district court. Based on my experience I believe that Jennifer will be an excellent district court judge. Most of the people I saw in district court were there because of some poor judgement, lack of planning, lack of resources, or they made a bad decision one day that ended with police involvement. Coming before a judge can be a pivotal moment. I believe that Jennifer will be a fair, compassionate, consistent presence on the bench. She will offer leadership not only to the people in the room, but also to the entire community.

As Snohomish County struggles with homelessness, impacts of substance use disorder, and mental illness our courts can be an important pivot point, guiding people toward treatment and resources. When I worked with Jennifer I saw her value each person and each case. I watched her work with defense attorneys, probation, court staff and the staff in our office, and she was always well prepared. I feel confident she will bring a tremendous skillset to Cascade District Court.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. It is an honor to provide a recommendation for Jennifer DeJong. Please get in touch with me if you have any questions or require further explanation.

Sincerely,
Minda M. Phillips
Victim/Witness Advocate
(360) 421-4992
phillips.minda@gmail.com

From: Valerie Bouffiou <bouffioulaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 8:25 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter in support of judicial candidate Ms. DeJong
Attachments: Scan_20230510.pdf

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

Please see the attached letter in support of Ms. Jennifer DeJong for appointment to Cascade District Court.

Best,

Valerie S. Bouffiou

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Members of the Snohomish County Council:

I am writing this letter in support of Jennifer DeJong as she seeks the judicial appointment in Cascade District Court. I am the Presiding Judge of Lynnwood Municipal Court. I make this recommendation based upon my personal knowledge of Ms. DeJong and it should not be viewed as an attempt to exert pressure by reason of my judicial office. I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. DeJong during her time as a superior court law clerk, as a co-worker at the Snohomish County Prosecutor' Office, as a friend, and now in her service as a Judge Pro Tempore in my courtroom. She has the knowledge, temperament, and work ethic to make an excellent judge. Additionally, her involvement and devotion to the greater Arlington community and the youth of Snohomish County will make her a strong and electable candidate in the future.

Ms. DeJong has managed thousands of cases, ranging from district court infractions to felony sexual assaults. She has served as a prosecutor in Cascade District Court, Evergreen District Court, Snohomish County Superior Court, and Snohomish County Juvenile Court. She currently serves as the lead prosecuting attorney at juvenile court, working closely with the probation department and youth enrichment services programming. Ms. DeJong understands the importance of early intervention and the value of rehabilitation. She is an effective communicator and listener, who has the appropriate demeanor to engage with people from many different backgrounds.

I have personally observed Ms. DeJong on the bench. Lynnwood is a diverse community, and court participants come from a variety of backgrounds. Going to court is often the first opportunity someone has to directly interact with local government, and the temperament of the judge creates lasting impressions. When Ms. DeJong is on the bench, she is warm and professional. She comes to the bench prepared, and is knowledgeable, thorough, and fair. She treats every court participant with respect, ensures they have an opportunity to be heard, and actively listens in return. She avoids the use of confusing legalese and communicates her decisions to the parties in a way that can be clearly understood. She is the type of judge that will make a lasting contribution to the judiciary and access to justice as a whole.

Ms. DeJong is an excellent candidate for this much-needed addition to the bench. She is well-versed in high-volume courts, and has vast experience in prosecuting, diverting, and coordinating treatment alternatives in criminal cases. Given the likelihood of a surge of misdemeanor drug cases to our district and municipal courts, Ms. DeJong would be an asset to the bench both in knowledge, experience, and unique background in prosecution alternatives and rehabilitation.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (425) 241-0901.



Judge Valerie Bouffiou

From: Bridget Casey <bridgetecasey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 12, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Contact Council
Cc: Jennifer DeJong
Subject: Judicial Appointment Recommendation
Attachments: Judicial Appointment letter 05122023.pdf

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Good Morning,
Please see the attached letter recommending Jennifer DeJong for the Cascade Division Judicial Appointment.

Thank you,
Bridget Casey

Bridget E. Casey
(425) 765-3660

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue 8th Floor Drewel Bldg.
Everett, WA 98201

Re: Cascade District Court Judicial Appointment.

Dear Councilmembers,

I write to recommend Jennifer DeJong for appointment to the Snohomish County District Court Bench, Cascade Division. Based on my twenty-plus years of experience in the Snohomish County legal community and as a Snohomish County resident, I believe Jennifer would be an incredible asset to the Snohomish County District Court bench.

Jennifer has worked in public service in the Snohomish County legal community for nearly twenty years. Jennifer began her career as a law clerk to Judge Linda Krese (ret), learning first-hand how judges evaluate cases, research the law and reach legal decisions. After serving as a law clerk, Jennifer joined the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in 2007 and has served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in various units of the Criminal Division since then. In her current role as the co-lead of the Juvenile Division for the Prosecuting Attorney's office, Jennifer routinely engages with various stakeholders in Juvenile Court, litigates a wide range of cases in the juvenile court process and oversees a unit of deputy prosecuting attorneys. Combined with her lengthy experience litigating criminal cases, Jennifer's temperament, legal acumen and experience as a unit leader make her a perfect fit for the Snohomish County District Court bench.

Jennifer grew up in and still lives in the community she wishes to serve as a judge. In addition to her commitment to public service, she continues to give back to her community through her involvement in youth sports as a parent and coach in the local soccer, basketball and volleyball leagues. I have worked with Jennifer in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and cheered on our daughters together on the soccer field. When she gets to work every day, Jennifer uniquely understands the Cascade Division community, having grown up in the community, having worked to keep the community safe, and now raising her family in the community and coaching in the gyms and on the fields of the community.

Jennifer's experience litigating cases in the Cascade Division and other Snohomish County courts, experience managing a unit of attorneys in the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and commitment to community service in Snohomish County and the Cascade Division make her uniquely qualified to serve as a District Court Judge in the Cascade Division, and I enthusiastically recommend you appoint her to the judicial position. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (425) 765-3660.

Sincerely,

Bridget E. Casey

From: Contact Council
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 9:41 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 or recommendation for Jennifer DeJong
Attachments: DeJong rec letter.pdf

From: Mohr, Julie <Julie.Mohr@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:56 AM
To: Contact Council <Contact.Council@co.snohomish.wa.us>
Subject: Letter or recommendation for Jennifer DeJong

Attached please find a letter recommending Jennifer DeJong for the newly created Cascade District Court Judicial Position.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this letter.

Julie A. Mohr
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Family Support Division
Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Email: Jmohr@snoco.org
Direct Phone: 425-388-7298

****CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT****

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May 10, 2023

The Honorable Members of the Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Re: Recommendation of Jennifer DeJong for Cascade District Court Judge

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I am writing this letter to highly recommend Jennifer DeJong for newly created District Court judicial position in Cascade District Court. I have worked as a Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the past 26 years and I have known and worked closely with Ms. DeJong for much of that time. My experience with Jennifer gives me confidence she is the best person for this position.

I have had the pleasure of supervising Jennifer in two separate units of the prosecutor's office – first when she was a newer Prosecutor in District Court, and later in Juvenile Court. Jennifer has an exceptional work ethic, intelligence, and passion for law. I have also always appreciated her strong moral compass and her ability to think quickly and make difficult decisions with a solid factual foundation supporting them. I am confident these skills will serve her well in as a Judge.

Jennifer took on the role of Supervising the Juvenile Division of the Prosecutor's Office after I was transferred to another unit, which also means she has handled a caseload of juvenile Special Assault Unit cases and led a team of deputy prosecutors. Jennifer is extremely well-respected and well-liked in this role. She maintains excellent relationships with defense attorneys, probation, staff and other stakeholders involved in the juvenile system. She also fully supports alternatives to prosecution including diversion, youth enrichment programming, and treatment alternatives.

I also know Jennifer outside of the workplace. I am a resident of Arlington and also have a young daughter who Jennifer has coached in basketball for two seasons. I have seen Jennifer's connection to her community and to being a role model and educator of children through her coaching. Though Jennifer expects a lot of the kids in coaching, she is kind and direct with her requirements. Jennifer cares about others and about doing the right thing. She has a calm demeanor and even in high stress situations I have never seen her lose her composure. She is well respected in the community and would be a very electable candidate within the district.

Jennifer DeJong has the legal experience, intellect, decisiveness, demeanor, and connection to community that are the makings of an ideal Judge. I highly recommend her as a Snohomish County District Court Judge.

Sincerely,



Julie A. Mohr, WSBA # 25528
Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
Family Support Division
Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office

From: Wendy Van Der Meersche <wendyv@arlingtonwa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 8:18 AM
To: Contact Council
Subject: JennDeJong
Attachments: JenniferDeJong.pdf

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.
Please see attached letter from Mayor Tolbert.

Best regards,



Wendy Van Der Meersche
City Clerk / Executive Assistant to the City Administrator
238 N Olympic Avenue, Arlington, WA 98223
360-403-3481 | www.arlingtonwa.gov

Note: Emails and attachments sent to and from the City of Arlington are public records, and may be subject to disclosure, pursuant to the Public Records Act.



City of Arlington

Administration

May 17, 2023

RE: Appointment of Jennifer DeJong to the Cascade District Court Opening

Dear Chair Mead and members of the Snohomish County Council,

As mayor of a city served by the Cascade District Court we are highly invested in issues of public safety and community justice which are critical to our constituents. With the Legislature's and Council's authorization for a new judicial position at the Cascade District Court, our County has the opportunity to improve access to justice and increase public safety. We need a jurist who has strong community ties, understands the criminal justice system, and possesses the leadership and administrative skills to bring about meaningful change to our communities. Jennifer DeJong is this jurist!

As a life-long resident of Snohomish County, having grown up in Marysville and now raising her family in Arlington, Jenn has deep community ties. Jenn is a committed public servant – from coaching youth sports to serving on a local school board. Jenn cares about this County and works hard every day to make this a great place to live and work.

As a 17-year veteran Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Jenn has successfully handled cases from simple misdemeanors to serious felonies. More significantly, Jenn's experience as the lead attorney for the Juvenile Court Unit of the Prosecutor's Office makes her uniquely qualified to help lead the district court in the wake of a post-Blake legal landscape. She is involved with implementing a robust prosecutor-referred diversion process and assists in implementing alternatives to prosecution ranging from therapy support services to juvenile education training services. This legal background prepares Jenn with the insights needed as a jurist to implement the necessary programs to help break the vicious cycle of addiction, place people on a path to recovery, and – when necessary, require accountability.

Moreover, as a practicing attorney with administrative responsibilities within county government, Jenn is uniquely suited to assist with the administrative duties required to run the district court. Jenn has supervisory responsibilities and knows what it takes to manage people. This skill is often overlooked when selecting judicial candidates but is critical in ensuring the administration of justice. Jenn is also an experienced pro tem judge, ensuring a smooth transition from practitioner to the bench.

I urge the County Council to appoint Jennifer DeJong as our new Cascade District Court Judge.

Sincerely,

Barbara Tolbert

Mayor, City of Arlington

From: Linda Krese <linda.krese@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 2:22 PM
To: Contact Council
Subject: Letter of support for Jennifer DeJong
Attachments: letter to SC Council re J. DeJong.pdf

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Attached please find a letter supporting the appointment of Jennifer DeJong to new judicial position in the Cascade Division of the Snohomish County District Court. I would appreciate your assistance in making sure it is made available to the members of the Snohomish County Council for consideration.

Thank you,
Linda Krese

Linda C. Krese
1143 6th Avenue South
Edmonds, Washington 98020
425-750-5787 linda.krese@outlook.com

The Honorable Nate Nehring
The Honorable Megan Dunn
The Honorable Strom Peterson
Snohomish County Council
Robert J. Drewel Building
8th Floor
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

The Honorable Jared Mead
The Honorable Sam Low

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:


I am writing on behalf of Jennifer DeJong, who is seeking appointment to the new Cascade Division judicial position of the Snohomish County District Court. I am a retired Snohomish County Superior Court judge and first became acquainted with Jennifer when I hired her to serve as my law clerk shortly after she graduated from law school in 2005. Jennifer performed exceptionally well in that position, not only was she hardworking and smart with excellent legal skills, but she proved to have a great deal of common sense and demonstrated courtesy and respect for the individuals she interacted with on a daily basis, both members of the public as well the insiders with the justice system: staff, lawyers, other law clerks, and judges.

Jennifer left her position as my law clerk in 2007 to become a criminal deputy prosecuting attorney with the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. I observed Jennifer in her new role and continued to be impressed with her abilities and her respectful treatment of others.

It may also be of interest to you that she is a life-long resident of Snohomish County. She was raised and continues to reside with her family in the very part of Snohomish County where she hopes to serve as a District Court Judge. Jennifer has a true commitment to public service. She has the type of respect for the law and people that we should all hope for in our judges. I have no doubt that if appointed she will continue to serve the citizens of Snohomish County and Washington State with wisdom, compassion, and a sense of what is just and fair.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Should you have any questions for me, I would be happy to answer them and can be reached at the above telephone number or email address.

Very truly yours,


Linda C. Krese

May 22, 2023

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

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Ms. Jennifer DeJong

Dear Council Members,

I write to recommend Jennifer DeJong for appointment to a judicial position on the Snohomish County District Court, Cascade Division. I have had the opportunity to observe Ms. DeJong from the bench in my role as a Snohomish County Superior Court Judge, currently assigned to the Juvenile Division where Ms. DeJong currently practices. She is professional, fair, respectful to the bench, court staff, opposing counsel, and other participants in the courtroom. Ms. DeJong's collaborative and respectful style results in civility in the courtroom between the parties. This is important to the running of a courtroom. Civil discourse between the parties often results in productive and efficient resolution of legal disputes. Ms. DeJong is one of the members of the Juvenile Court Offender Committee. On the committee, I have observed Ms. DeJong work closely with defense counsel, probation department, court administration, judges, and other stakeholders to resolve matters related to legislative changes, court services, formation of local court rules, case charging decisions, juvenile programs, and other issues that impact the criminal justice process in juvenile court. Ms. DeJong's experience is of great value to the Committee.

Ms. DeJong is very familiar with the workings of a courtroom. She served as a former law clerk to the Honorable Linda Krese (rtd) of the Snohomish County Superior Court. In this role, she gained a unique insight into the running of a courtroom and judicial decision making. Ms. DeJong also has experience from many years of trying cases in court. I have observed her to be a skilled trial attorney. She possesses strong reasoning and analytical skills, and a good grasp of procedure, court rules, and the rules of evidence. I am confident that Ms. DeJong will be fair and respectful to all who appear before her, and that she will serve the Snohomish County Judiciary and citizens with distinction. It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. DeJong to you without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions regarding Ms. DeJong's ability to serve on the Court.

Sincerely,

Edirin Okoloko

(425) 315-5247