

Colin J. McMahon

Washington State Bar #49152
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EXPERIENCE

SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSOCIATION, Everett, Washington

August 2017-Present

Attorney

- Assigned counsel for indigent criminal defendants
- Assigned counsel for Superior Court Appellate matters
- Lead counsel on twelve trials and eighteen criminal appeals
- Evaluating cases under the Revised Code of Washington, Tulalip Tribal Code, and relevant federal and state caselaw
- Assisting clients with housing, mental health, and substance use disorder services
- Managing up to 150 felony cases per year

EVERETT LAW GROUP, Everett, Washington

June 2015-August 2017

Attorney

- Assigned counsel for Everett Municipal Court indigent criminal defendants
- Lead counsel on thirteen jury trials through verdict
- Effectively negotiated case dispositions with Assistant City Attorneys
- Trial Advocacy Program participant

EDUCATION

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF LAW, Salem, Oregon

2014

Juris Doctor, International and Comparative Law Certificate 2014

- President, Class of 2014 (two terms)
- Member, Moot Court Board 2012-2014
- Staff Writer, Willamette Law Online 2012-2014 (March 2013-Writer of the Month)
- Executive Editor; Source and Cite Editor, Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution 2012-2014

EAST CHINA UNIVERSITY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND LAW, Shanghai, China

Summer 2012

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, Pullman, Washington

2009

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ACTIVITIES

- Mental Health Advisory Councilmember – Disability Rights Washington
- Board of Trustees – Snohomish County Bar Association
- Second Vice Chair – Snohomish County Democrats
- Precinct Committee Officer – 21st Legislative District (2019-2021)
- Endorsement Committee and Issues Committee member – 21st Legislative District (2019-2020)
- Downtown Everett Association – Parking and Transportation Committee (2020)
- Coordinated Free Expungement and Legal Financial Obligation Relief Clinic (October 2019)
- Washington State Bar Association Young Lawyer's Committee – Snohomish County Rep. (2016-2019)
- *The United Nations Convention on the Law of International Territoriality Disputes*, 21-2 Willamette Journal of International Law & Dispute Resolution 155, (2014)

County Council Questions

1. Please explain in 200 words or fewer your qualifications to serve as a county councilmember.

I am a registered voter and I reside within the geographic border of County Council District Three. I am also a member of the Democratic Party.

In recent years, and not likely changing any time soon, “Law and Justice” has dominated the allocation of the general fund. Law and Justice allocation has been over 75% of the general fund for the past decade, yet no one on the Council has experience with the court system. I have been a public defender for over seven years in Snohomish County and have an intimate knowledge of the courts, as well as established relationships with stakeholders in the Law and Justice realm. It is my understanding that the person appointed to fill this seat will almost certainly become the chair of the Law and Justice Committee – I am unique among the candidates in my qualifications to fill this role.

2. Please describe in 200 words or fewer the role of a county councilmember.

A county councilmember is a member of the legislative branch of the County's government. Along with the obvious duties of a council member - budgets, contracting, code and resolution promulgation - the person should also be present in their district as much as possible and accountable to the constituents in Snohomish County. The role is largely driven by the needs and wants of those constituents. So, interacting with members of the community by being present in the district is paramount.

Additionally, county councilmembers are required to sit on, and fill, local boards and commissions. In addition to regular and special set council meetings, a county councilmember is required to attend various meetings of these boards and commissions.

3. Please identify and summarize the three most important issues facing Snohomish County and how you would begin to address them.

- Safety and security of our residents – whether that comes in the form of necessary services, effective law enforcement policies, or under the realm of public health, mental health, or abortion rights. I would use my position on the Law and Justice Committee to engage with citizen members and law enforcement personnel at the same table to discuss the major concerns and the proposed solutions. I would also research and visit other jurisdictions where positive steps have been taken to address issues of safety and security in an effective way.
- The need for affordable housing is already significant in the District and will only see more strain as additional public transportation comes to our region. I would begin by again researching and visiting other jurisdictions to learn how housing issues have been positively impacted, as well as a meet with the folks who are personally impacted by a lack of affordable housing.
- Infrastructure development as it relates to Highway 99 streaking through the District and the (eventual) introduction of the lightrail. I'd first meet with the folks at transit to build a deeper understanding of the current plan and begin figuring out solutions other jurisdictions have undertaken.

4. Please describe in 200 words or fewer how you will work with people with different points of view than you.

As a public defender, much of my day-to-day responsibilities include working with people who have different viewpoints from my own. The first thing to do is to understand the goal we are all working toward. I think, ultimately, the end goals for folks are often the same. We may have different ideas on how to achieve those goals, which requires some level of compromise between the parties. I think there are always give and takes that can be exchanged in any negotiation and I have spent my entire career negotiating toward a compromise everyone can live with. Results are almost never going to completely satisfy every member of the negotiation, and there will be times when an agreement cannot be reached. The most important thing to remember in these situations is that nothing is personal and we all serve the interests of someone else.

5. Please describe in 200 words or fewer your experience working with others to advance policy and budget issues.

I have worked with a number of boards and committees to lobby legislators for various bills and policies. I've testified before the State Senate committee in favor of amending the bail jumping statute so that it would no longer be a felony to miss a court appearance. I've met with my local legislators with Disability Rights Washington to discuss proposed legislation that impacted members of various classes. I've attended and provided public comment to the County Council in favor of County policies to improve equity in Snohomish County. I've helped manage budgets for campaigns, student organizations, and public boards and commissions.