

JENNIFER DEJONG
218 266th PI NE
Arlington, WA 98223
(425) 293-7671
dejongj21@hotmail.com/jdejong@snoco.org

May 16, 2023

Members of the Snohomish County Council
Re: Cascade District Court Judicial Appointment

Dear Esteemed Members:

I am submitting my materials to aide in consideration for appointment to the Cascade District Court bench. As a native of north Snohomish County, I am honored to be afforded the opportunity to continue my legal career as a judicial officer in my hometown of Arlington. I have been a Snohomish County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for 17 years, and prior to that served as a superior court law clerk to the Honorable Judge Linda Krese (retired). As a trial attorney, I have handled numerous high-volume caseloads, and was assigned as the criminal prosecutor in Cascade District Court for 2 years. I have vast experience in conducting jury trials, bench trials, motion practice, and infraction work. I am currently the co-lead prosecutor in Juvenile court, supervising a team of trial prosecutors and staff, and participating in the management team of the prosecutor's office.


In my current assignment as the supervisor in Juvenile Court, I work closely with the probation department and treatment providers in supporting alternatives to prosecution, youth enrichment service programming, and intensive outpatient treatment programs. Working closely with a robust diversion program makes me uniquely qualified to assist in implementing the likely passage of new misdemeanor drug ordinances and the treatment/diversion programs that will assuredly be a part of the framework of new legislation coming to courts of limited jurisdiction.

As my enclosed resume details, I am currently appointed as a Judge Pro Tempore in Lynnwood and Everett Municipals Courts. As a Judge Pro Tem, I have gained valuable judicial experience serving members of the community from varied backgrounds and becoming familiar with administrative court operations. I have years of experience working with and applying the Court Rules of Limited Jurisdiction, criminal procedure, and rules of evidence.

I am extremely excited about the opportunity to serve my community as a district court judge. My family is very active in this community and serve in a variety of ways, including regularly volunteering at the Arlington Boys and Girls Club and coaching youth sports. I am supported by local leaders, and members of the legal community, making me a well-qualified and electable candidate with the experience, integrity, and temperament that is well suited to serve the community in this valuable leadership position.

Thank you for taking the time to review my qualifications. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,


Jennifer DeJong
Enclosure

Professional Summary

Licensed trial attorney with over 20 years of experience in trial work, legal research and writing, and administration, with a background in public policy/relations. Extensive litigation experience including numerous felony and misdemeanor jury and bench trials. Served as a law clerk in superior court and acted as a liaison/advisor to numerous state and local agencies providing legal advice, training, and directives pursuant to changing legislation and case law. Currently serving as the lead attorney of the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Juvenile court trial unit.

Core Qualifications

- Extensive experience in courtroom setting as a law clerk, trial attorney, and Judge Pro Tem
- Expertise in Washington State law and Criminal/Civil Procedure

Legal Experience

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

2007-present

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Everett, Washington

- Lead Attorney of the Juvenile Court Criminal Division, tasked with overseeing the unit while handling a felony caseload
- Tried dozens of misdemeanor/felony jury and bench trials
- Charged/prepared thousands of cases for court filing, reviewed hundreds of search warrants
- Drafted memorandums, interpreted legislation, and formed charging policies/standards
- Served as advisor/liaison to various police/government agencies (to include Animal Control, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, State Patrol, School Resource Officers)

Judge Pro Tempore

2023-present

Everett and Lynnwood Municipal Courts

Everett/Lynnwood, Washington

Snohomish County Superior Court Judicial Law Clerk

Law Clerk to the Honorable Linda C. Krese

2005-2007

- Drafted advisory memorandums on a variety of civil/criminal cases
- Worked with court staff and served as a judicial intermediary

Everett, Washington

Washington State Attorney General's Office Law Clerk

Legal Intern

2003-2005

- Drafted extensive legal documents, interviewed witnesses, appeared in court frequently on various motions, hearings, and reviews
- Performed extensive research and review regarding various statutes, codes, legislation, and policies as well as a variety of complex litigation

Spokane, Washington

Education

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*

2005

Gonzaga University School of Law

Spokane, Washington

Bachelor of Arts Public Relations (English/Advertising minors), *Cum Laude*

2002

Central Washington University

Ellensburg, Washington

Expanded List of Professional References/Endorsements

Former Judge Linda Krese Snohomish County Superior Court

Judge Jennifer Langbehn Snohomish County Superior Court

Judge Edirin Okoloko Snohomish County Superior Court

Judge George Appel Snohomish County Superior Court

Judge Valerie Bouffiou City of Lynnwood Municipal Court

Jason Cummings Elected Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney

Mayor Barbara Tolbert City of Arlington

Adam Cornell former Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney

Emily Hiskes Snohomish County Public Defender Juvenile Division

Renee Defreece Civil Attorney at Tuohy Minor Kruse PLLC

Ida Keeley Assistant Administrator of Juvenile Court Probation Operations

Ron Gaudette Juvenile Court Probation Counselor

Kamille Norton Marysville City Council Member

Elise Deschenes Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney – Assistant Chief Criminal Division

Bridget Casey Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney – Chief Civil Division

Julie Mohr Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney – Chief Family Support Division

Luella Parker Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney Legal Assistant

Minda Phillips Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney Victim Advocate

Dyllyn Werthan Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney Victim Advocate

Detective Russ Sattarov Lynnwood Police Department

Anthony Fletcher Sergeant Gang Unit Everett Police Department

Tom Dalton Police Chief Granite Falls Police Department

Detective Daniel Rabelos Sergeant Everett Police Department

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)

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



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

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

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

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

Letters of Support RE:
Judicial Appointment of Jennifer DeJong to Cascade
District Court

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 the Desk of
Jason Cummings

P.O. Box 788
Edmonds, WA 98020

RE: Appointment of Jennifer DeJong

Dear Council Chair Mead and members of the Snohomish County Council,

I write in support of Jenn DeJong's appointment to the Cascade Division of the Snohomish County District Court. I have had the opportunity to work with Jenn since 2007. Her current post in the office is the co-Lead Attorney for the Juvenile Court Unit of the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Jenn is a leader in the office, an accomplished trial lawyer, and a caring mentor to younger lawyers. She has the experience and, most importantly, the temperament, to make her an excellent jurist.

Today's District Court judge must be prepared for the expanded role that courts of limited jurisdiction will play in a post-Blake environment. Jenn's experience in Juvenile Court has afforded her the unique opportunity to appreciate the very real and potentially life-changing value of the restorative justice models the county and legislature seek to utilize in response to the chronic substance use disorders plaguing our communities. Her experience includes implementing a robust prosecutor-referred diversion program, and working with the juvenile probation department to provide alternatives to traditional prosecution when appropriate. Jenn will be ready on day-one to help the District Court implement the necessary programs to deal with Possession of Controlled Substance cases.

Snohomish County's citizens are well served not only by having jurists with strong legal minds who understand the importance of fair, effective, and efficient trial practice; we also need judges who understand the administrative responsibilities that come with the job. Jenn's role as a lead attorney in my office has provided her the opportunity to finely tune the necessary supervisory skills, and administrative acumen, to fully understand how a good, constituent-responsible county departments function. One of the most difficult transitions for attorneys is from practicing law to supervising others. Jenn has successfully made this transition and is a respected supervisor in the office.

Snohomish County needs Jennifer DeJong on the District Court bench. Please join me in supporting Jenn!

Yours truly,

Jason Cummings
Jason Cummings

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's 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VBouffiu', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Judge Valerie Bouffiu

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.

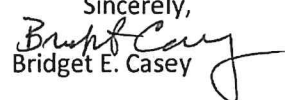
Dear Councilmembers,

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

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 Jennifer DeJong's application to be appointed as a District Court Judge in the Snohomish County District Court, Cascade Division.

I have worked as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with Ms. DeJong for over fifteen years. We have both learned and grown in this position together over the years. Ms. DeJong is a thoughtful, intelligent and ethical prosecuting attorney. Her experience as a trial attorney would be invaluable to her role as a judicial officer. However, I feel her experience as a supervisor in the Juvenile Unit of the Prosecutor's office that has best prepared her for this role.

While she has prosecuted some very serious crimes in the Juvenile Unit and understands the importance of getting justice for victims and keeping the community safe, she has also closely experienced the role the court can play in helping defendants/respondents overcome the cause of them entering the criminal justice system. The Juvenile court system focuses a great deal on rehabilitation and having a reasonable approach to those who have made a mistake.

District Court is most often the first, and only, contact many members of the public will have with the legal system. Ms. DeJong understands need to address the risk many District Court cases can pose to community safety. However, I believe her experience with the Juvenile Courts will also give her an ability to balance the need to provide services to those who will benefit from them, especially those who are first having contact with the criminal justice system.

Additionally, as a lead of the Juvenile Unit, Ms. DeJong has undertaken many administrative duties and been required to work with the various departments throughout the courthouse. This includes working and collaborating with the probation department, court staff, Judges and outside community groups, etc.. This collaboration is much more involved in the Juvenile Division as they must all work closely together to provide services to respondents. This administrative and leadership experience will be directly transferrable and beneficial to her role as a District Court Judge.

Finally, Ms. DeJong has the demeanor to be an effective member of the bench. She has supervised and mentored numerous less experienced attorneys. Guiding these new attorneys has required patience and understanding. She has practiced in front of numerous different judges and understands the importance of maintaining a proper judicial demeanor.

Ms. DeJong is highly qualified to be a District Court Judge. She would be an asset to the bench, attorneys, defendants, victims and the community at large.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elise Deschenes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elise Deschenes

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie A. Mohr".

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

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

Members of the Snohomish County Council,

RE: Judicial Appointment in Cascade District Court

I am writing this letter to offer my support and endorsement of Jennifer DeJong as a candidate for the judicial appointment in Cascade District Court. I am a legal assistant at the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and manage a full staff of administrative professionals who assist Jennifer DeJong as the sexual assault prosecutor and lead prosecutor of the juvenile court unit.

I greatly value the respect and professionalism that Ms. DeJong offers the administrative staff at the office. She is highly esteemed by staff and treats everyone in the office with courtesy and grace. One of the truest ways to judge the character of a successful professional is in observing how they treat their staff. Ms. DeJong is patient, honest, and gracious. She listens to the needs of staff and promptly and effectively communicates those needs to administration.

As Ms. DeJong's legal assistant, I also get to observe her as a talented advocate of law and justice. She presents clearly and articulately in court, has 17 years' experience working with State laws, procedure and court rules, has an excellent relationship with opposing counsel, and is an effective communicator to not only staff but law enforcement, victims, and probation. Juvenile court is a unique area of law, and Ms. DeJong advocates for youth and supports alternatives to prosecution. She is a supporter of youth enrichment services and the programming offered by the robust probation department here at Denney Juvenile Justice Center. As a juvenile prosecutor, she effectively balances the dual goals of accountability and rehabilitation. I have no doubt that she will carry that ability forward as a Judge and aim to support treatment and rehabilitation when addressing criminal issues.

On a personal level, I also know Ms. DeJong to be very engaged in her community. She is a coach, school board member, and frequent volunteer. She values the Arlington community and will be an advocate of community safety through investment in programming, treatment, and services with a robust probation department. Ms. DeJong brings with her the unique knowledge of the positive results an engaged and active probation department can have on recidivism, as we see here at juvenile court. With her community behind her, she is a successful candidate for both an appointment or an election, and will be a hardworking, intelligent District Court Judge.

Please feel free to contact me at (360)770-5421 or parker.luella@gmail.com if you have any questions. I would be happy to discuss my support for Ms. DeJong.

Thank you for your consideration,



Luella Parker (Legal Assistant Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office)

To: Snohomish County Council

RE: The Judicial Appointment for Cascade District Court

My name is Ron Gaudette. I am a Juvenile Probation Counselor with Snohomish County Juvenile Court. I have been in this role for 25 years at the Court. I'm writing this letter of recommendation for Jennifer DeJong. I have known Jennifer since she started her rotation as a Prosecuting Attorney in the Juvenile Court from 2016. Jennifer and I have consulted on many youth that have come before the Court on Felony and misdemeanor matters both pre and post adjudication. Jennifer and I have worked in the courtroom on many occasions since 2016. I have experience in supervising the sex offender caseload from 2006 to 2009. In recent years Jennifer has been one of the Prosecutors that charge alleged sex offenses. We have consulted on numerous occasions about these kinds of offenses. I find Jennifer to be exceptional in her approach with all of her cases that are before her. Jennifer has sound judgement. She cares greatly for the safety of the community. She cares greatly about the rehabilitation of the youth that are charged in Juvenile Court. Jennifer is a seasoned team player with her staff of Attorney's, Defense counsel and with Probation staff. Jennifer communicates exceptionally well and timely in my experience with her. I have witnessed Jennifer's attention to detail in aspects of her work, in particular with the sex offenses she has charged. These are some of the hardest cases to deal with and Jennifer is highly skilled in her approach to finding resolve in these cases. I have witnessed Jennifer in trial situations since I have known her. She has exceptional courtroom presence. Jennifer is a valued member of the Snohomish County Juvenile Court. I am proud to support Jennifer in her effort to be appointed to the Cascade District Court.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me for more information.

Sincerely,



Ron Gaudette

Juvenile Probation Counselor/Officer

425-388-7872

The application for appointment for Jennifer DeJong has been withheld from the online materials.

Pursuant to RCW 42.56 a copy of this document may be requested through a [public records request](#).