

MATTHEW D. BALDOCK

23619 104th Avenue W, Edmonds, WA 98020 • 206-240-7845 • mattb1342@gmail.com

May 15, 2023

Snohomish County Council

Dear Council Chair Mead, Vice-Chair Nehring, and Councilmembers Dunn, Low, and Peterson:

For the last 21 years I have served the people of the State of Washington—specifically, the residents of Snohomish County. It is in that spirit of public service that I am seeking appointment to the Snohomish County District Court upon the retirement of The Honorable Douglas J. Fair.

I began working as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Snohomish County in January of 2002. Since then I have gained a substantial amount of litigation experience, arguing scores of contested motions and trying more than 100 cases to verdict. I have spent most of my career handling cases involving allegations of sexual and physical abuse of children, both as a line deputy and as a supervisor. In those assignments I acted as a steady advocate for some of the most vulnerable victims in the criminal justice system and worked to find innovative ways to better serve those victims and their families, while at the same time carefully and consistently adhering to my obligation to ensure that defendants were treated fairly and afforded due process. In addition to that work, I have been tasked with prosecuting some of the most significant cases referred to my office, including Washington's first prosecution of a police officer for murder and an aggravated murder cold case that resulted in the first ever conviction at trial based on the use of forensic genetic genealogy.

Since February of 2020 I have held the position of Chief Deputy of the Criminal Division. In addition to my responsibilities as the supervisor of the 120+ attorneys, advocates, and staff who work in that Division, I have served as the primary advisor to two Prosecuting Attorneys regarding all aspects of the Criminal Division's work, including internal and public policy, personnel issues, and case-specific decisions in major cases. I have also taken the lead in a number of forward-thinking criminal justice reform projects including redrafting our charging and disposition standards to divert nonviolent cases to our criminal justice alternative programs, and developing budget proposals to create specialized positions to focus on complex violent crimes, firearms offenses, and training for deputy prosecutors and law enforcement. I was also primarily responsible for helping our office navigate the uncertain waters of the COVID-19 pandemic, working with other criminal justice stakeholders to substantially reduce the inmate population at the jail, recasting the court's criminal calendars and modifying practices to accommodate video hearings, and developing procedures to safely resume jury trials.

I believe that my body of work as a trial lawyer and my more recent administrative experience make me uniquely qualified to serve as a jurist and a leader on the Snohomish County District Court bench, and I can assure you that I would carry my dedication to the interests of justice, my curiosity about innovation and reform, and my attitude of humble service to the people of Snohomish County into this new role if given the opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M D Baldock', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matthew D. Baldock

MATTHEW D. BALDOCK

Edmonds, WA 98020 • 206-240-7845 • mattb1342@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-d-baldock/>

Professional Summary

Highly accomplished trial attorney with over 20 years of litigation experience. Comfortable and quick-thinking in the courtroom but equally adept at navigating complex problems and developing effective strategies to find efficient, equitable, and just outcomes. Innovative leader with high-level administrative experience within County government. Effective communicator and confident public speaker with local, national, and international experience as a presenter and instructor.

Highlights

- Tried over 100 cases to jury verdict, including aggravated murder, child abuse, and sexual assault
- Represented office in work with other criminal justice stakeholders to modify practice in response to COVID pandemic
- Drafted and argued dozens of motions
- Obtained guilty verdict in first ever jury trial featuring arrest based on genetic genealogy
- Supervised 120+ attorneys and staff

Professional Experience

Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Criminal Division, February 2020-Present
Snohomish County, WA

- Responsible for supervising 120+ attorneys, advocates, and staff
- Primary advisor to elected Prosecutor regarding all aspects of Criminal Division's work, including internal and public policy, day-to-day operations, personnel issues, budget, and case-specific decisions in major cases
- Liaison between Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement agencies
- Chair of Potential Impeachment Disclosure Committee, responsible for identifying and disclosing exculpatory information regarding law enforcement witnesses

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, January 2002 – February 2020
Snohomish County, WA

- Tried over 100 cases to jury verdict
- Supervisor of Special Assault Unit 2015-2020; supervisor of District Court Unit 2013-2014
- Member of Management Team at Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center
- One of two attorneys assigned as advisors to Snohomish Multi-Agency Response Team, tasked with providing legal advice and assistance to detectives investigating law enforcement use-of-force incidents

Adjunct Instructor, December 2008 – March 2013
ITT Technical Institute School of Criminal Justice, Everett, WA

- Taught in undergraduate criminal justice program; courses included Juvenile Justice, Criminal Procedure, Drugs and Crime, Controversial Issues in Law Enforcement, Cybercrime, and Policing in America

Law Clerk, August 2000 – December 2001

Chambers of the Honorable H. Joseph Coleman

Washington State Court of Appeals, Division One, Seattle, WA

- Reviewed parties' filings, conducted extensive and thorough legal research, and drafted memoranda to judges providing legal analysis and recommended dispositions of criminal and civil appeals
- Prepared draft judicial opinions

Education

Juris Doctor

University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, WA

- *Moot Court Honor Board*

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, cum laude

Whitworth College, Spokane, WA

- *Talent scholarship, instrumental music*

Additional Information

- **Instructor**, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, May 2023
Basic Trial Skills Training
- **Judge pro tempore**, Edmonds Municipal Court, March 2023
- **Panelist**, National Association of Attorneys General, November 2022
2022 Forensic Genetic Genealogy Webinar Series
- **Panelist**, Public Safety Town Hall, June 2022
Marysville, WA
- **Instructor**, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, April 2019
Corroborating the Forensic Interview
- **Panelist**, Washington Children's Justice Conference, May 2018
Working in the Child Advocacy Center Model
- **Presenter**, NW Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Conference, October 2017
When Virtual Becomes Reality: Encountering "hands-on" victims in Child Pornography Investigations
- **Member**, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Best Practices Committee, January 2022-present
- **Member**, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Special Assault Committee, 2015-present

"Exceptionally Well Qualified", Washington State Veterans Bar Association

"Well Qualified", QLaw (LGBT Bar Association of Washington)

"Well Qualified", Joint Asian Bar Association of Washington

"Well Qualified", Latina/o Bar Association of Washington

Community Involvement

- Mock Trial Team Coach, Kamiak High School, December 2022-present
- Youth Soccer Coach, Sno-King Youth Club, September 2014-May 2017
- Edmonds resident since April 2002

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)

ISLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

GREGORY M. BANKS

Eric M. Ohme, *Chief Criminal Deputy*
Pete Smiley, *Chief Civil Deputy*

Deputy Prosecutors
Michael W. Safstrom
David E. Carman
Robert J. Johnson
Joseph B. McPherson
Savanna L. Duncan

Kristin LeClercq, *Office Administrator*

May 15, 2023

Snohomish County Council – VIA Email Only

Hon. Jared Mead, Chair	jared.mead@snoco.org
Hon. Megan Dunn	megan.dunn@snoco.org
Hon. Sam Low	Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us
Hon. Nate Nehring	Nate.Nehring@snoco.org
Hon. Strom Peterson	Strom.Peterson@snoco.org

Re: Support for Matt Baldock to be District Court Judge

Dear Chair Mead and Council Members:

Although it would mean the loss of one of Washington's exceptional prosecutors, I write to offer my unconditional support for Matt Baldock's appointment to fill a Snohomish County District Court vacancy. Matt's career in the law has developed in him the ideal qualities we should all hope for in our state's judges.

I have been the Island County Prosecuting Attorney since 1999. In the past decade I've been fortunate enough to have encountered Matt in various professional capacities. That fact alone speaks to the high regard in which Matt has been held by the last three Snohomish County Prosecutors.

Most recently, I have worked closely with Matt on two projects with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) that speak to Matt's devotion to public service and the improvement of the administration of justice.

Matt and I served on a state-mandated committee to develop best practices for prosecutors to manage potential impeachment disclosures (so-called "Brady notifications") in criminal cases. Matt gave freely of his time, expertise, and wisdom developed over years as a top-flight trial attorney. With Matt's help we delivered a quality product before our deadline. Matt's easy-going demeanor made him an excellent partner. Like the skillset of the best judges, Matt consistently demonstrated an ability to fairly consider all sides of any sticking points in our deliberations, and then deliver a cogent and persuasive articulation of his positions.

ISLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

LAW & JUSTICE CENTER

PHYSICAL: 101 NE 6TH STREET, SUITE 200; MAILING: 1 NE 7TH STREET, COUPEVILLE, WASHINGTON 98239

Main extension: (360) 679-7363 / from South Whidbey: 321-5111, ext. 7363 / from Camano Island: 629-4522, ext. 7363

Fax (360) 679-7393 / ICProsecutor@islandcountywa.gov

Most recently, Matt devoted significant time and energy as a faculty member at WAPA's first-ever Trial Skills Basic Training – an intensive four-day training camp for deputy prosecutors who have had few opportunities to learn essential trial skills in the wake of the pandemic.

This program addressed a critical need for prosecutors in Washington, particularly those employed in smaller counties. Faculty members were required to be present for the entire four days and participate for eight hours per day (and evenings if necessary). Matt answered the call because he knows that achieving justice relies on skilled, ethical prosecutors throughout the state. Besides participating in preparatory meetings in advance of the training, I observed Matt at work for one full day of training. I came away confident that the students learned more from Matt than just the lecture, skills demonstration, and critiques he offered them. The way he carried himself through the training conveyed his work ethic, professionalism, and his commitment to mentoring them in the crucial work that they are entrusted to carry out. In short, Matt being Matt is what earned the students' respect and admiration.

The District Court is where most people who find themselves in litigation, for better or for worse, submit to the authority of judges. The District Court is where our prosecutors and defense attorneys traditionally develop their knowledge, skills, and ethical principles to become successful practitioners and leaders. Doing so under the tutelage of a worthy judge improves the administration of justice far beyond the time and place of a given case. Matt Baldock is exactly the kind of attorney who should be on that bench. You can be confident that he will bring his considerable skills and wisdom to bear and garner the respect of those who appear before him.

Sincerely,



Gregory M. Banks

Island County Prosecuting Attorney

Cc: Matt Baldock

Snohomish County Council
Contact.council@snoco.org

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council,

I am writing to support Matt Baldock as a Snohomish County South District Court Judge. I have known Matt since 2008 when he came to work as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Special Assault Unit which is located at Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center. As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Matt was respected and admired for his dedication to the victims in his cases. He often met with victims and families many times ahead of trial to make sure they were well cared for, informed, and confident about the trial ahead.

Matt was also humble enough to truly value the expertise of the other professionals in the building. He often met with nurses, therapists, advocates, and Child Interview Specialists about cases and about unusual issues that arose. If there was a complicated issue we needed to resolve at Dawson Place, Matt was one of our wise ones we consulted with for the best course of action. He could calmly and clearly articulate the best plan and the reasons why it was the best plan. He also was willing to listen if the plan needed fine tuning or adjusting.

Matt inspires confidence in those around him. There were many times in my role as Executive Director of Dawson Place that I was glad to have Matt presenting with me. Whether it was a staff luncheon, management team meeting, a presentation at a conference, or a talk to our board, things went better with Matt on the team.

Matt is willing to allow others to shine and grow. His gentle humor and good-natured encouragement push others toward the next steps in their lives. He is also willing to speak up if something is wrong. At Dawson Place, with fifty-five staff, six organizations and thousands of victims, something is going to go wrong from time to time. Matt was willing to bring up the issue, seek wisdom from others and, if necessary, work to correct what went wrong.

I have spent time around most of the Snohomish County judges and I truly believe Matt would make an outstanding addition to the court. He is dedicated to what is fair and just for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lori Vanderburg', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lori Vanderburg MS LMFT CMHS

Michael C. Held

Chief of Staff

Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

425-890-6253

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

Re: Snohomish County District Court Judicial Appointment

Dear Councilmembers,

It is my honor and privilege to recommend Matthew Baldock for appointment to the Snohomish County District Court bench.

I have spent the entirety of my adult working life, over forty years, in the professional and personal presence of judges, both inside and outside of the courtroom. I have worked for them and with them. I have appeared in front of them hundreds of times, from state district courts to federal courts of appeal. I have served with them on committees, taught alongside them in CLEs, and helped steer their campaigns. I have argued policy, procedure, and points of law to them from both the lower bench and across café tabletops. I count many of them as friends and hold many in high esteem. I believe I well understand what it takes to be a truly exemplary judge, and I can say, without hesitation, that I have not known an attorney better suited to ascend to the bench, or better prepared to serve upon it with distinction, than Matt Baldock.

For more than twenty years Matt and I have been colleagues; the last three-plus in the roles of Chief Criminal Deputy and Chief of Staff, respectively. I have watched Matt in action in the courtroom and in conference rooms. Together, we have staffed countless legal, administrative, law office management, and personnel matters. I have witnessed the grace and compassion with which he communicates with victims and their families, and I have participated in statutory discretionary resentencing meetings where Matt has argued, with a different but equally powerful kind of grace, that the interests of justice demand we petition the court for a criminal defendant's lesser sentence. Matt ascended to his current post at the onset of the pandemic. Over its long, unwelcomed stay, his administrative mettle was tested many times by Covid's unpredictable reach, and at every turn, with every challenge, Matt displayed impressive managerial dexterity, an innate ability to build consensus, and along with other criminal justice stakeholders, helped chart a clear and steady, responsible course forward.

Matt is exceptionally bright. He is both street smart and book smart; as comfortable going toe-to-toe with formidable opposing counsel as he is with obstreperous, antagonistic witnesses. He possesses an agile, inquisitive legal mind and an indelible sense of purpose and advocacy.

He is an excellent lawyer, a peerless trial tactician, and a fastidiously ethical practitioner who is tenaciously committed to doing what is right and just. He is also a superior administrator. Matt is approachable, open-minded, culturally competent, ever-presently engaged, an active, patient listener, and a thoughtful leader who empowers others to do and be their best.

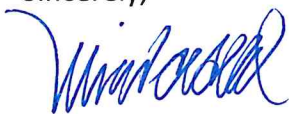
Throughout his career while handling some of the most complex, high-profile criminal cases in Snohomish County, and more recently while managing a division with over sixty trial lawyers, Matt has repeatedly demonstrated the enviable ability to keep his eyes on the big picture while maintaining a scrutinous focus on the details. He is a nimble, practiced, multi-tasker, capable of proficiently juggling multiple thorny legal, administrative, and personnel matters at once. And he is an excellent communicator, with an articulate but unpretentious everyday way of providing counsel, expressing his thoughts and opinions, and imparting regularly sought guidance and advice. He is also fearless. Matt will take on any task; he can be handed any challenge and he will do everything within his professional, resourceful, control to expeditiously find and secure the right result. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he is blessed with both a generous sense of humor and abundant common sense, which always keep him grounded.

All of these attributes, individually and collectively, will serve Matt well on the bench, as they will all those who appear before him. As a judge, you can count on Matt to be objective, impartial, and evenhanded, with a keen eye on the ultimate purpose of the judicial system, which is to serve justice.

Without question, Matt possesses the passion, the temperament, and the intellectual dexterity needed to be a truly exemplary District Court judge. He has my highest and unreserved recommendation for the position. His contributions to this office and his service to the citizens of Snohomish County as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and as Division Chief are too numerous to count. Years from now, if appointed, I expect we will be able to say the same thing about his tenure on the District Court bench.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Held

The application for appointment for Matthew Baldock 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](#).