

May 11, 2023

Snohomish County Council
Robert J. Drewel Building
8th Floor
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

It is with great enthusiasm and determination that I humbly and respectfully seek your appointment to the upcoming judicial vacancy in South District Court. Judge Fair is an outstanding judge with remarkable character, and whose legacy and contribution to the Snohomish County bench will be long felt. Indeed, I hold him in the highest regard and attribute him as being the one who gave me my start as a pro tem judge in 2014 when he was still presiding over Edmonds Municipal Court. I am committed to carrying on the high standard of practice that he established and firmly believe I have both the qualifications and temperament to do so.

In addition to having the privilege of working as a pro tem judge for the past nine years in Snohomish County, where I have handled all manner of criminal and civil court calendars on well over 200 occasions, to include presiding over 30 criminal jury trials, I am a full-time Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County, where I have faithfully served for nearly 23 years. As a prosecutor I have dealt with virtually every category of criminal case, personally taken more than 100 cases to trial, and handled approximately four dozen felony appeals. For roughly the past 10 years my prosecution focus has been on the civil commitment of Sexually Violent Predators under RCW 71.09, who comprise the most dangerous and highest risk category of sex offenders in Washington State. Prior to becoming a prosecutor I also served an average of 20 hours per week as a reserve police officer for over two years. This collective experience has prepared me well for a full-time career in the judiciary, in particular Snohomish County District Court where I am already familiar with the judges and staff who I would be working alongside, the relevant law and types of calendars I would be dealing with, and the court's culture. If appointed, I will be able to hit the ground running.

In terms of the judicial philosophy that I currently hold and would continue to bring to the bench, it is one that tempers justice with mercy and appropriately balances my responsibility to community safety with my obligation to safeguard individual liberty. It further involves treating everyone in the courtroom with dignity and respect, not stereotyping people, and keeping an open mind. With my professional background it is noteworthy that the defense bar never seeks to disqualify me from their cases, which is a strong testament to my ability to embody the above principles and demonstrates that I am fair to both sides. My sampling of support letters from a cross section of both legal and non-legal professionals, to include judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, court administrators, victim advocates, support staff, and several other individuals, further speak to my qualifications and character, and should provide added confidence to your decision to appoint me.

Outside of my core qualifications, I realize the critical importance of having a good working relationship with the other judges and the staff; indeed, the staff are the lifeblood that enables the

court to properly function. To that end, I strongly believe in being a team player and in working toward consensus whenever possible, all while maintaining a civil and professional discourse even during those times where there is strong diversity of opinion.

If appointed, I have a team of willing and eager supporters who could volunteer should I draw an opponent in a general election next year. Also, as a judicial officer and a citizen of Snohomish county, I strive to be cognizant of the fiscal impacts that certain approaches taken by the court may have and am invested in considering alternative and/or innovative options for appropriate cases or classes of cases, as opposed to doing things a certain way just because that has historically been the way they were done.

On the personal front, I have been a Snohomish County resident for almost 35 years. I currently reside in Edmonds with my wife of 22 years and our two daughters, ages 11 and 14. Living in Snohomish County but working as a prosecutor in King County is what has made it possible for me to serve as a pro tem judge in Snohomish County District court for the past nine years, and enabled me to better maintain my objectivity toward the lawyers who appear in front of me because I have not worked with or against them. Finally, I am active in my church, where I devote much of my free time outside of my busy work schedule doing two jobs and spending time with family. This includes having served on the church's elder board for the past 12 years, over which time I have come to believe that although holding people accountable for their crimes is important, nobody is beyond redemption.

Lastly, if appointed, I would bring added diversity to the bench, as I am unaware of any other judges of Middle Eastern descent who have served in Snohomish County. My father legally came to the United States alone when he was 17 years old in order to flee an oppressive regime in Iran and has remained here ever since. He arrived with nothing but a suitcase in one hand and an accordion in the other, didn't speak English, and worked many menial jobs (sometimes three at a time) to eventually put himself through medical school. I have always looked to him and attribute my strong work ethic to his example. He also experienced and overcame significant instances of bigotry, which sensitized me to the ills of prejudice and the importance of tolerance.

Although there is some overlap with the content of this cover letter, for a notably more extensive window into my qualifications, experience, and mindset regarding things relevant to this judicial appointment, I would invite you to review both my Governor's Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire (namely sections 5, 7, 9, and 10) that I submitted with my application materials, along with my responses to the four substantive supplemental district-court-specific questions that were part of the online application for this current position. In doing so, you will readily see that I have devoted my entire professional life to public service and developed an informed and compassionate understanding of the justice system that goes beyond simply seeking to punish people for their actions. It would truly be an honor to continue my lifelong commitment to public service by serving as the next full-time judge in South District Court.

Very Sincerely,



Michael Mohandeson

Michael Mohandeson

(C) 206/498-5392

Mike.Mohandeson@gmail.com

EDUCATION: Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA

Juris Doctor, May 2000

Class standing: **Top 20%**, *Cum Laude*

Dean's List (Top 10%): 1998

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Bachelor of Arts: Society & Justice and Sociology (double major), June 1997

G.P.A. 3.89, *Magna Cum Laude*

EXPERIENCE: King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Seattle, WA

Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney August 2000-Present

Have handled virtually every category of criminal case in King County Superior and District Court, and done both jury and bench trials, appellate work, and cases involving competency to stand trial. Four years devoted to managing all the juvenile sex offender cases in King County and with the supervision and training of newer prosecutors and Rule 9 interns. Currently assigned to handle Sexually Violent Predator civil commitments under RCW 71.09. Have taken in excess of 100 trials to verdict and handled roughly four dozen felony appeals.

Pro Tem Judge, Snohomish County, WA March 2014-Present

Serve as a pro tem judge in Snohomish County District Court and in various municipal courts. Handle a wide range of criminal and civil calendars, including jury trials, arraignments, pretrials, guilty pleas, sentencing, probation violation hearings, warrant quashes, criminal motions, felony and misdemeanor probable cause determinations, bail hearings, small claims matters/trials, protection orders, police search warrant applications, name change requests, and traffic infraction cases. Presided over 30 criminal jury trials and over a combination of criminal and civil dockets on more than 200 occasions.

Des Moines Police Department, Des Moines, WA

Reserve Police Officer March 1998-August 2000

Attended the reserve police academy and performed all aspects of street level law enforcement, including routine patrol, felony and misdemeanor arrests, DUI investigations, traffic enforcement, report writing, and victim, witness and suspect interviews. Worked on average about 20 hours per week. Reserve Police Officer of the Year for 1999.

CURRENT AND/OR

Berean Bible Church Elder Board Member (2011-Present);

PRIOR AFFILIATIONS: YouthCare's "Bridge" Program Core Advisory Committee Member;

Washington State Bar Association; King County Bar Association

May 10, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is Jennifer Ritchie and I am a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and the Chair of the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Unit at the King County Prosecutor's Office. Individuals who qualify for SVP consideration are among the highest risk and most dangerous sex offenders in the state. I have been a prosecutor for over 28 years and worked with Mike Mohandeson on a daily basis for nearly 10 years in my role as the SVP Unit Chair. I am writing in full support of Mike's appointment to the Snohomish County District Court bench. Mike has been an exemplary leader in our unit where he essentially serves as the de facto vice chair. The two of us work together closely to manage the unit, which is comprised of senior attorneys who have extensive trial experience, to include particularized experience in handling the most serious sexual assault cases as a prerequisite to rotating to the SVP Unit. Among his peers, Mike has stood out as a leader because of his sharp analytical skills, his mastery of the law and its application, his deep appreciation of equitable and fair justice, and his dedication to his team. He is also very well liked by the support staff, who he treats with the utmost respect and kindness.

Other unit chairs in the office have several times over the past 10 years tried to lure Mike to their units because of his solid reputation and stellar work ethic. One of the most recent examples involved our Criminal Chief trying to convince Mike to take on a very difficult and complex homicide case with tens of thousands of pages of discovery that involved roughly 20 experts between the State and defense. It came as no surprise to me that they sought Mike out for that case, as our SVP cases often involve voluminous discovery and expert witnesses, and Mike is incredibly proficient at handling these aspects of case management and trial work.

Mike is the attorney in the unit toward whom his peers naturally gravitate with questions about our practice. Mike has developed a two-day immersive training for senior deputies who are accepted into the SVP Unit. He provides this training to his colleagues and then continues to mentor them in their development toward becoming successful attorneys in this very specialized field. Mike remains a resource for not only attorneys within this office, but also for attorneys, SVP forensic psychologists, and other stakeholders around the country who regularly seek out his expertise in this field. He has exhibited this type of leadership role for many years and does this in addition to his full SVP caseload and the frequent work that he does as a pro tem judge. Mike is well-regarded as a trial attorney throughout the state and when he is in trial the Attorney General's Office sends lawyers from both its Criminal Division and Sexually Violent Predator Unit to watch and learn from him. The judges he appears in front of also highly respect and trust him when he speaks, impressions which they have shared with me numerous

times. Mike is a natural leader driven by his devotion to this practice, and has done an exemplary job in the years I have known and, technically, supervised him (truth be told, Mike doesn't really need actual supervision).

Mike is smart, well regarded, an incredibly hard worker, and has the patience and trial experience that is critical on the bench. There is no doubt that Mike will hit the ground running, an important attribute, as the caseload in District Court can be rather large. Mike has the courtroom experience and legal acumen to handle the heaviest volume of calendars and he is known throughout our practice as an attorney who can handle any kind of case.

It is with great hesitation that I write this letter, as I depend on Mike for a lot of what needs to be handled in our practice. He is an excellent colleague and resource. As much as I would rather not see him go, I know he will be an equally valuable addition to the District Court bench.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Ritchie", is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Ritchie

(206) 477-1077

Jennifer.Ritchie@kingcounty.gov

Linda W.Y. Coburn
Washington State Court of Appeals
600 University Street
Seattle, WA 98101
206-464-7423

April 1, 2023

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

RE: Appointment to Snohomish County District Court Bench, South Division

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council:

I join you in congratulating the Honorable Douglas Fair as he retires from the South Division of Snohomish County District Court. I had the privilege of filling Judge Fair's shoes in Edmonds Municipal Court when he moved on to South District Court in 2015. In doing so, I was fortunate enough to retain some of his pro tem judges he relied on before I was elected to the Court of Appeals. One of them was Michael Mohandeson. With Judge Fair's upcoming retirement, you will be tasked with appointing his replacement. When I learned that Michael was submitting his name in for the appointment, I did not hesitate to write this letter of recommendation.

It is undisputed that Michael can step in on day one and do the job because he has already served this county as a pro tem in Snohomish County District Court as well as in multiple municipal courts since 2014 and continues to do so. In other words, his colleagues and practicing attorneys are already aware of his work first-hand. Michael continues to be a pro tem judge in high demand. This is because he is well-respected by attorneys on both sides of the aisle. The importance and impact of that to the administration of the court is huge. Any party can, without question, ask for a different judge by timely submitting a notice of disqualification (more commonly referred to as affidaviting a judge). When this occurs frequently, it greatly disrupts court calendars and creates concerns about the ability to keep cases moving forward to avoid violating anyone's speedy trial rights. Frequent disqualifications can turn into an administrative nightmare.

The fact that no one has made such a disqualification request to Pro Tem Mohandeson speaks volumes because he is currently a deputy prosecutor and has been one since 2000. His practice area would lend itself to defense attorneys preferring to have their case heard in front of someone who is not also a current prosecutor. The fact that parties, including the defense bar, are comfortable having Michael hear their cases exemplifies that he is fair and impartial. In other words, the Council can rest assured that Michael is not only fair and impartial, but that the local bar on both sides of the aisle share that view. I have no doubt the reason Michael is well respected is because of his vast experience.

He has presided over more than 30 criminal jury trials. He has also presided more than 200 times over criminal/civil dockets, meaning he has heard thousands and thousands of cases in Snohomish County. Attorneys generally prefer judges who themselves have extensive trial experience and know first-hand what it is like to take a case to trial. This is what most likely distinguishes Michael from others who seek the judicial appointment. Michael has taken more than 100 trials of his own to verdict. He has supervised and trained new prosecutors. The County would be served by having someone who can bring that type of experience to the bench while also having demonstrated that he can easily transition to the role of neutral decision-maker and apply the law fairly.

The County also would benefit from Michael's unique background. He is of Middle Eastern descent, which gives him life experiences that help form empathy and understanding for those who may look or sound different than others. Not only has Michael channeled this on the bench by ensuring all who appear before him are treated with respect, he exercised this skill when he was a reserve police officer. For over two years, Michael volunteered as a reserve police officer in Des Moines, Washington. He put his life in harm's way for free to serve the public. Not once did he generate a use-of-force complaint. In fact, he was the department's Reserve Police Officer of the Year in 1999. I love the fact that Michael takes pride in his ability to de-escalate the situation when he was a reserve officer. This is a life-long skill that our County will benefit from with him on the bench.

Though Michael's full-time job is currently in King County, make no mistake, he is a long-time Snohomish County resident. Not only has he lived in this County for more than three decades, he and his wife are raising their children here. He is active in the community, serving as an Elder Board Member at his church, which he has done since 2011. It would be a mistake for anyone to suggest that Michael has few ties to the County simply because he works for the King County Prosecutor's Office, and it's only because he works in King County that he has been able to serve extensively as a pro tem in Snohomish County District Court. Michael is an exemplary Snohomish County resident, who has, on top of a full-time job, used his own vacation time so that he can serve our County as a pro tem. That is hard work and dedication to public service.

I cannot think of a better way to fill Judge Fair's seat with someone who Judge Fair himself relied on as a pro tem judge both while he was in Edmonds Municipal Court and in Snohomish County District court. I have no doubt that the voters also will rally behind Michael, who has been so giving in his own community. I highly recommend Michael for appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Linda W.Y. Coburn, Judge

Patrick H. Oishi

PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE
SUPERIOR COURT KING COUNTY
COURTHOUSE SEATTLE,
WASHINGTON 98104-2381

April 17, 2023

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave
Mailstop 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am the presiding judge of King County Superior Court and am responsible for the oversight and management of all superior court departments in the county. It is my honor to recommend Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Michael Mohandeson for appointment as a Snohomish County District Court Judge. Mr. Mohandeson possesses the intellect, legal acumen, work ethic, judicial temperament, and commitment to public service that will serve Snohomish County extremely well.

Mr. Mohandeson has appeared before me numerous times in Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) jury trials. Because of the difficult subject matter and complex statutory provisions, SVP cases are extremely challenging cases. Mr. Mohandeson's legal acumen, intellectual abilities, and work ethic shines through in these cases.

Throughout my many interactions with Mr. Mohandeson, his written and oral advocacy and work product is always excellent. He has outstanding expertise with the court rules, evidence rules, and all court practices. Mr. Mohandeson communicates in a clear, calm, and concise manner. All of these attributes and skills will greatly benefit litigants, counsel, and jurors.

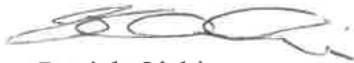
Mr. Mohandeson has the unique ability to deal with diverse and sometimes challenging individuals and counsel. One example is when Mr. Mohandeson was counsel in a matter and opposed an unrepresented respondent, who was an extremely vexatious litigator. Throughout his interactions with the respondent, Mr. Mohandeson was calm and clear in his communications and centered with a clear sense of fairness and justice. Mr. Mohandeson's demeanor and temperament will be great attributes on the bench.

Snohomish County will be well served by Mr. Mohandeson's commitment to public service. He has served as a reserve police officer, deputy prosecuting attorney, and a pro tem judge. Mr. Mohandeson has expressed to me his genuine and enthusiastic desire to continue to serve the public as a Snohomish County District Court Judge.

I highly recommend Mr. Mohandeson for appointment as a Snohomish County District Court Judge. He is fair, reasonable, and committed to the rule of law. Mr. Mohandeson will be an

outstanding addition to the Snohomish County District Court. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or if any further assistance is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Patrick Oishi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick Oishi
Presiding Judge
King County Superior Court

April 17, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

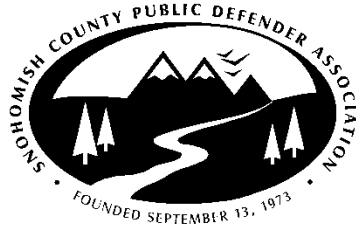
I am writing on behalf of Mike Mohandeson, who has applied to be a Snohomish County District Court judge. As a retired King County Superior Court judge, I have known Mr. Mohandeson for over twenty (20) years. During my judicial career Mr. Mohandeson appeared regularly in my courtroom whether it was in juvenile court, or downtown in adult criminal or sexually violent predator cases. I recommend Mr. Mohandeson unconditionally to become Snohomish County's next district court judge.

Mr. Mohandeson is a gifted lawyer, who writes well and can think on his feet. He is no stranger to the courtroom. His analytical skills are excellent as are his writing abilities. Often, government lawyers tend to rely on briefs others have written on similar issues in previous cases. Mr. Mohandeson has never relied on another colleague's work; he is an original craftsman and is responsible for writing each brief on an individual basis. It was always a pleasure to read his briefs and superb writing. He approaches each case with a balanced amount of energy, taking in defeats and victories with a pleasant smile and easygoing demeanor. These assets will transfer easily into his role as a judge. Mr. Mohandeson is accustomed to working under pressure and handling heavy cases and caseloads. I see his transition to the bench as a natural development of his broad skill set. Snohomish County is fortunate to have such a talented lawyer, who is devoted to his community and wants to continue pursuing his interest in serving the public and the greater good.

Mr. Mohandeson's commitment to the public has brought him many accolades as both a long-serving senior deputy prosecutor in a variety of trial roles as lead counsel, supervisor, and mentor. Other judges have spoken highly of Mr. Mohandeson's calm and professional approach to some of the most difficult cases we hear in Superior Court (sexually violent predator cases and cases involving sexual misconduct). I share my former colleagues' opinions about Mr. Mohandeson's professionalism both inside and outside of the courtroom. He is soft-spoken and humble – a rare combination in a trial lawyer who deals with some of society's most difficult cases. I realize that as a District Court judge, Mr. Mohandeson will be tasked with handling a high volume of misdemeanor cases. This is a challenge he welcomes and will hit the ground running. I urge you without reservation to appoint this fine individual to the bench. Please feel free to contact me at (425) 941-4498 if you have any questions about his candidacy.

Very truly yours,

Judge Julie Spector (ret.)



Snohomish County Public Defender Association

2722 Colby Avenue, Suite 200 • Everett, WA 98201-3527 • www.snocopda.org

Phone: 425-339-6300 • 1-800-961-6609 • Fax: 425-339-6363

May 03, 2023

Members of the Snohomish County Council
Robert J Drewel Building, 8th Floor
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Appointment of Mike Mohandeson to Snohomish County District Court Judicial Position

Snohomish County Council,

I am writing this letter to recommend that Mike Mohandeson be appointed to be a Judge in Snohomish County District Court. I am the Assistant Director at Snohomish County Public Defender Association (SCPDA) where I have been employed for 26 years and have known Mr. Mohandeson for approximately 10 years. This is my personal recommendation and I do not speak for SCPDA. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Mohandeson as opposing counsel and to observe his performance as a pro-tem judge in Snohomish County. I believe he will be a strong addition to the Snohomish County District Court Bench.

Mr. Mohandeson has significant experience dealing with not just a lot of cases, but very serious cases. I have had two serious cases with Mr. Mohandeson as opposing counsel. One of these cases was a three-week jury trial with several expert witnesses and voluminous motions and records. Mr. Mohandeson was courteous, efficient, and communicative throughout the pre-trial and trial process. He understands the roles defense and prosecution have and their importance in a fair system. Due to his extensive trial experience, he has a strong command of the rules of evidence and trial procedure, which assists him in creating a fair and efficient courtroom as a pro tem judge.

I have not only worked with Mr. Mohandeson as opposing counsel but have had ample opportunity in my supervisory role to speak to people in my office about his work as a pro tem judge. I supervise our District Court supervisors and their impressions of him are favorable. He treats every lawyer and defendant with dignity and respect and considers the personal

circumstances of each person who appears before him. Mr. Mohandeson is known as a pro tem who reads everything provided to him in advance and that he follows the law. To my knowledge, no attorney in our office has filed an affidavit of prejudice against him even though it is widely known that he is otherwise a full-time prosecutor. This demonstrates his ability to be both fair and impartial, qualities that are most important to the position.

It is important that judges have the knowledge and skills to run a fair and efficient courtroom and that they have the respect and trust of both defense and prosecution. Mr. Mohandeson has these qualities, which in my 26 years as a public defender are qualities that are not common. The District Court Bench of Snohomish County would be strengthened by the addition of Mike Mohandeson.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMcIntyre', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jennifer McIntyre
Snohomish County Public Defender Association
Assistant Director
2722 Colby Avenue, Suite 200
Everett, WA 98201-3527
Ph: (206) 372-4772
Email: jmcintyre@snocopda.org

May 1st, 2023

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

Letter of Recommendation

Re: Michael Mohandeson, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

It is our pleasure to strongly recommend Michael Mohandeson for the Snohomish County District Court Judicial position.

I am Megan Allen, the Legal Advocacy Manager at the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC). I have over 23 years experience collaborating with prosecutors on criminal sexual assault cases. KCSARC is an independent non-profit, community-based organization building a system to be accessible and work more effectively for victims; we advocate for individual victims and for system change. Our mission is to give voice to victims, their families, and communities, to create change in beliefs, attitudes and behaviors about sexual violence, and to instill courage for people to speak out about sexual assault. Last year, KCSARC helped close to 5,000 individuals and their families, and our legal advocates supported almost 2500 survivors through the complex and challenging legal system. KCSARC has a team of 20 legal advocates who assist individuals and families impacted by sexual assault as they navigate the criminal justice process working side by side with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

I have had the privilege to work with Mr. Mohandeson since 2007 when he was a Trial Deputy in the Special Assault Unit, then as a Supervisor in the Juvenile Division, and most recently in his role as a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Sexually Violent Predator Unit. In my years working closely with Mr. Mohandeson on sexual assault cases, I have valued his willingness to listen to advocates' unique perspectives and questions. In his work with victims of sexual assault he is giving of his time and expertise, thoroughly answering questions and listening to their concerns. His trauma informed approach recognizes the importance of allowing people to regain their voice and be acknowledged for their experiences. His openness and patience with victims in meetings speaks to his character and conveys a much-needed sense of respect and dignity. When I worked with Mr. Mohandeson in his role as the Juvenile Division SAU Supervisor he was instrumental in helping to improve the backlog of criminal cases in the juvenile unit, which had left victims without information or closure. He was thorough and effective, establishing new processes for communication and improving the victim's experience and perception of the criminal justice process. He set in place a new standard of operation that continues today. His communications with advocates were timely, honest and open about

24 hour Sexual Assault Resource Line
888.99.VOICE

Post Office Box 300
Renton, WA 98057

tel 425.226.5062
fax 425.235.7422
www.kcsarc.org

the challenges and he was interested in victim input to inform his decisions.

In his most recent role as a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Sexually Violent Predator Unit he has given his time and expertise by providing multiple trainings over the years to the KCSARC legal advocates. He recognized that increasing the knowledge of the advocates helping victims ensured increased equity and access to the justice system, especially for victims of sexual assault.

Lastly, on several occasions he has presented to the KCSARC Board of Directors to help illustrate how the collaboration between advocates and the KCPAO supports victims of sexual assault. He has fiercely advocated for victims' voices and a more equitable legal system to ensure victims have the needed support. He has been a supporter of KCSARC events for over 10 years, including acting as a Table Captain at the Be Loud Breakfasts, to ensure that all victims regardless of their involvement with the legal system are provided access to services and healing.

Michael Mohandeson has shown himself to be a dedicated public servant whose commitment is matched with intellectual humility, a quality that is essential for a judicial officer. KCSARC has the utmost confidence in Mr. Mohandeson's ability to fulfill the duties of this role and bring an important and informed perspective to the bench that considers victims.



Megan Allen
Legal Advocacy Program Manager
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
mallen@kcsarc.org

425 282-0359



Mary Ellen Stone
Chief Executive Officer
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
mstone@kcsarc.org
425 282 0354

Stephanie Trollen
Stephanie.trollen@gmail.com
215b 21st Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122

May 3, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I am writing to express my strongest recommendation for Mike Mohandeson, a respected colleague and a career prosecutor, who is seeking appointment to the open Judicial seat in your county. I've known Mike for fifteen years and I had the pleasure of working closely with Mike for five years, during which he managed the mainstream felony trial cases and then the sexual assault caseload in the Juvenile Division of the King County Prosecutor's Office.

I have been with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for 26 years, serving in various victim services and management roles. Needless to say, I've had the privilege of working with countless talented attorneys, but few stand in the same league as Mike Mohandeson. Mike is keenly intelligent, and I observed his relentless dedication to solving the most challenging legal issues. Most importantly, though, Mike consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to justice and the rights of victims of crime.

As a prosecutor, Mike has always shown himself to be an exemplary professional. He has an unimpeachable reputation for honesty and integrity, and his track record of success in the courtroom speaks for itself. But what really sets Mike apart is his deep-seated compassion and empathy for those who have suffered harm. This is nowhere more evident than in his work with victims of sexual assault and abuse.

Mike has dedicated his career to prosecuting some of the most heinous crimes and ensuring that justice is served for the victims. He is acutely aware of the physical and emotional trauma that these individuals have suffered, and he goes above and beyond to provide them with the support and guidance they need to navigate the legal system. He is always available to answer their questions, ease their fears, and provide them with the comfort they need to move forward.

In his role as the manager of our sexual assault caseload, Mike was widely beloved by everyone in the division. He was a true team player, always willing to lend a helping hand or offer guidance to his colleagues. He was the calm coach to attorneys with less experience and a fierce ally to support staff whom he always treated with deference. Despite his many accomplishments, Mike remains humble and

Snohomish County Council Members

May 3, 2023

Page 2

approachable, and always eager to learn from others – a character trait that is critical for someone serving as a judicial officer.

In addition to his work as a prosecutor, Mike has also been a loyal supporter of organizations that provide services to victims of sexual assault. For the last decade he has served as a table captain at a sexual assault fundraiser, where he has consistently raised thousands of dollars to support the important work of these organizations. Many of the attendees at the fundraiser have become loyal supporters of Mike's table, in large part because of their high regard for him as a prosecutor and as a person. His commitment to this cause is a testament to his character and his deep-seated belief in the importance of supporting victims of crime.

In short, I cannot recommend Mike highly enough for the position of Judge in Snohomish County District Court. He is a dedicated, hardworking, and compassionate individual who has spent his entire career fighting for fairness. His integrity, professionalism, and commitment to justice make him an ideal candidate for the position, and I have no doubt that he would serve our community with distinction.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie Trolen", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Stephanie Trolen
Operations and Victim Services Manager, Juvenile Division
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

May 10, 2023

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is Rachael Greenlee and I am the Division Supervisor at the Snohomish County District Court South Division where there will soon be an open judicial position. I have worked at the South Division for almost 16 years and served in my current role as supervisor for close to 11 years. During those years, I have had an abundance of opportunities to interact with the pro tem judges who frequent our court. As the supervisor, I am also in a position to hear what my staff members think of the pro tem judges, as they spend considerable time with them in the courtroom.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mike Mohandeson for roughly eight years and wholeheartedly support his appointment to the bench in South District Court. He stands out to me as being one of the best and most capable pro tem judges who has served here. Mike is very friendly, polite, and respectful with the staff, who have consistently told me that they appreciate it when he is the pro tem for that day. Those qualities in particular are very important to me as the staff supervisor, and ones that are essential for the next judge. He has a true appreciation for the valuable role that staff play in the day-to-day operations and overall ability for things to function at the courthouse.

Mike is also incredibly reliable and is willing to come in on short notice despite having a full-time job elsewhere. He is never late, and often early. He is readily able to do the work he's required to do when he is here. In fact, he's one of the few pro tems who I can call on to cover any type of calendar including jury trials. He always prepares for testimonial criminal motions beforehand and works on written legal rulings afterward on his own time without seeking any additional payment from the county. It is also my understanding that he has to use his own personal vacation time whenever he does pro tem work, which is added evidence in my mind of his commitment to serving here. It is telling that the defense bar never files affidavits of prejudice against Mike on their cases, even knowing he is full-time prosecutor. This not only demonstrates that he can be fair and impartial but makes it far easier for me and my staff to schedule him as a pro tem because we don't have to worry that the defense will exclude him and require us to find alternate coverage.

I never hear anything but good things about Mike from the staff, lawyers and judges at the South Division. I also hear the same positive attributes that I have described from the division supervisors at the other District Court locations. We appreciate his ability to cover all of the District Court calendars and the assurance of knowing that they will be handled at the highest level of professionalism and quality.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or need any further information. I am hopeful that you will select Mike for the position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink. The first part of the signature is the name "Rachael" written in a cursive style. The second part is a stylized, abstract mark that appears to be a combination of the letters "J" and "L" or "G" and "L", also in cursive.

(206) 235-9346
rmgreenlee@comcast.net.

May 5, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is Robin Blair. I am currently the Evergreen Division Supervisor for Snohomish County District Court. In this capacity, I supervise the clerical staff and provide administrative support to the two elected Judges for this district. I am writing this letter in support of Michael Mohandeson, Judicial candidate for Snohomish County District Court.

I met Mike several years ago when I was Judge Lyon's courtroom clerk. He was one of the regular Judge Pro-tempores that we would hire to cover court calendars in the absence of Judge Lyon and Judge Clough (retired). Having a Judge Pro-tempore can be very stressful on the courtroom clerks. However, Mike was never one of those Pro-tempores and he was someone that I requested when we needed coverage. He always communicates with the clerks regarding the normal processes of the calendars and cases, comes in early to review the cases, and is excellent at maintaining proper courtroom decorum and efficient case flow.

As the prior Division Lead and now Division Supervisor, I can say that Mike is one of the very first people that I reach out to when we need coverage for the courtrooms. He is very professional, dependable and the staff loves working with him. When I book Mike to cover a calendar, I do not have to worry about a party filing a motion/affidavit of prejudice against him. He has the respect of prosecutors and defense counsel. As a matter of fact, not too long ago after a two day jury trial, an attorney from the public defender's association stated that Mike was very fair and praised him for remaining neutral and for giving both parties the chance to present their side of the case to the jury. This kind of compliment does not come easily or often.

Over the past 10 plus years I have gotten to know Mike professionally and personally. His entire career has been built around public service. His accomplishments are quite impressive and I was excited to hear that he was ready to take the next step in his career and join the bench for Snohomish County District Court.

I don't often write letters of support, but in this case I consider it a true honor to do so. Mike is someone who is fair to all parties on a case. He takes the time to listen. He is respectful to staff, case participants, stakeholders and all members of our community. Mike is someone that will represent the District Court Bench and Snohomish County Officials in an honorable and dignified manner. In my opinion, he is a candidate to be taken seriously and Snohomish County, as a whole, would be lucky to have him on our team.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Robin Blair
(360)333-8771
(360)805-6788

robinjblair@hotmail.com

April 24, 2023

Dear Snohomish County Council members:

My name is Marla Polin and I am currently a Spokane County Superior Court judge. I write this letter of recommendation from my personal experience and in my personal capacity.

Before becoming a judge, I was a defense attorney representing individuals whom the State sought to civilly commit as a sexually violent predator (RCW 71.09). I had many opportunities over the course of seven years (2015-2022) to interact with Mike Mohandeson in his role as opposing counsel (prosecutor), to include two lengthy trials that each spanned several weeks.

Mr. Mohandeson was always incredibly well prepared and thorough in the presentation of his cases. He is a highly capable and effective prosecutor, and one of the most reasonable and ethical prosecutors I ever encountered. I never had any reason to question his representations or integrity. He was always candid with both me and the court. He never took legally unreasonable positions, nor did he make explicit or veiled jabs at me in open court in front of the judge or jury. Mr. Mohandeson promptly communicated with me, returning phone calls and emails in a timely manner and meeting case scheduling deadlines, which is another testament to his professionalism.

Even outside the courtroom, Mr. Mohandeson was always a pleasure to interact with. He is very friendly, personable, and down to earth.

Mr. Mohandeson would undoubtedly bring the qualities of what is important for a judge to the bench if you appoint him to the open position.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (509) 979-6637.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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

Marla L. Polin



April 20, 2023

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

RE: Michael Mohandeson
Snohomish County District Court Appointment

Dear County Council Members:

This letter is to recommend the appointment of Michael Mohandeson to fill the judicial vacancy of the soon to retire Judge Douglas Fair. Mr. Mohandeson has the experience, temperament, and background to best serve as a Judge in our community.

By way of background, I have been practicing law in Snohomish County for over ten years with a focus on criminal defense, traffic, and personal injury law. I am a member of the Snohomish County Bar Association, the Washington State Association for Justice, former President of the Snohomish County Young Lawyers Division, and former President of the Middle Eastern Legal Association of Washington, to name a few of my leadership and volunteer positions.

Through my law practice and leadership roles, I had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Mohandeson personally as well as appear before him (on many occasions) when he presided as a Judge Pro Tem in District Court.

Mr. Mohandeson stands out from the rest of the Judge Pro Tems for several reasons. The first of which is his excellent command of the law, rules of evidence, and court rules. When I appear before Mr. Mohandeson, I know his rulings will be consistent with the law and the facts of a case. In addition, Mr. Mohandeson has the ability to communicate with litigants and their counsel in a clear and calm manner, and in language they can understand. This is particularly important because many litigants in District Court are pro se (not represented by counsel), appearing for traffic tickets or protection orders.

Much of his qualifications comes from Mr. Mohandeson's experience and background. He has been practicing law for over 20 years and is currently a Sr. Prosecuting Attorney at the

King County Prosecutor's Office. In that position he's handled MANY jury trials, as well as appeals. It is telling that despite his extensive prosecutor background, many criminal defense attorneys (including myself and members of the public defense bar) enjoy having Mr. Mohandeson preside over our cases when he pro tems in District Court.

Having served as a Judge Pro Tem for the last nine years, Mr. Mohandeson has become very familiar with our District Court's processes and procedures. He is very efficient in his handling of the case calendars and does not waste time while on the bench.

Another factor that is important for consideration is Mr. Mohandeson's diverse background, as his father immigrated to the US from Iran several decades ago to escape the oppressive regime in power at that time. As it stands, there is not a lot of diversity in our Snohomish County District Court, despite having a rather large diverse populous in our County. We all know the importance of diversity in our government institutions, and Mr. Mohandeson's background helps fill this gap in our District Courts.

In summary, Mr. Mohandeson's legal experience, background, reputation and demeanor will make him an excellent Jurist in Snohomish County District Court. If there are any questions or additional information needed, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,



Omar Nur, WSBA #45195
Attorney at Law

May 5, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

I write this letter in support of Mike Mohandeson's application for appointment to the District Court bench. In my role as a defense attorney, I have observed Mr. Mohandeson both as an adverse party and as a Judge pro tempore. While I have not always agreed with his positions or rulings, I have found him to be both well prepared and eminently well qualified.

I have practiced in Snohomish County for 12 years. I have practiced both at the district court and superior court level. I also supervised newer attorneys for a period of two and a half years that regularly brought me in contact with different pro tempore judges. I have watched many pro tem judges preside over hearings, including my own, and have routinely sought to have them disqualified due to showing what I perceived as actual bias or having a general unfamiliarity with the law that governs district court practice. I have never sought to disqualify Mr. Mohandeson in his role as a judicial officer.

As the former District Court Supervisor for the public defenders' office, I have watched him preside over calendars, hearings and motions. Mr. Mohandeson works well with newer and more experienced attorneys alike. His knowledge of the rules that govern our practice stems from years as a prosecutor for both criminal and civil cases. He listens to the arguments of counsel, he is respectful to the parties that appear in front of him, and rules based on the law and fact. He strives to be fair in all of his rulings.

As opposing counsel, I have also witnessed Mr. Mohandeson treat my clients with respect. Mr. Mohandeson seems to understand that persons with mental illnesses are overrepresented in the criminal legal system and has shown compassion in dealing with some of my mentally ill clients. I appreciated working both alongside Mr. Mohandeson as well as appearing in front of him. It is for these reasons that I submit my endorsement in support of Mr. Mohandeson.

Sincerely,

Kelly Canary
(206) 992 8016

canary1969@gmail.com

March 22, 2023

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I am writing to convey my support for Mike Mohandeson, who is seeking an appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. I met Mike in January 2001, when I joined the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as a deputy prosecutor in the Criminal Division. Though I joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington in May 2020, I continue to have routine contact with Mike and have actually tried to convince him to come work with me as a federal prosecutor due to his excellent legal mind and unparalleled work ethic.

Having served for years on the King County Bar Association Judicial Screening Review Committee, it is clear to me that Mike is an excellent candidate. Not only does Mike have long standing criminal experience, but he has also gained extensive civil experience handling sexually violent predator civil commitments. It is rare for a candidate to have a breadth of knowledge in multiple facets of the law, and Mike's work history demonstrates his capabilities in both civil and criminal matters, as well as his ability to learn and master new areas of law.

Mike is one of the few peers I routinely relied upon for legal advice and trial strategy. His intellectual capacity and curiosity make him an ideal judicial candidate because Mike is able to research, analyze, and equitably consider the facts and applicable law pertaining to each case before him. Moreover, Mike is a huge team player and often volunteered to handle new referrals, trials, to cover hearings, and to review work product. Part of Mike's strength is his strong working relationship with his peers and investigators. People trust Mike's analysis and decision making and his willingness to meet and discuss the process he underwent to come to his conclusions and strategies. Finally, Mike's ethics and propriety are above reproach. Over the course of more than twenty years working with Mike there was not one occasion where his decision making or conduct was called into question for reasons of bias or malicious intent. In fact, Mike is one of the most upstanding peers with whom I have had the pleasure of working.

Two decades of routinely working with and knowing Mike, coupled with having rated hundreds of hopeful King County judicial candidates, has provided me with a true understanding of judicial aptitude. Mike exceeds in all respects: intellectually capacity, ethics, professionalism, and demeanor.

I am available at any time to provide additional information about my work history with Mike and the reasons I support his appointment to the Snohomish County District Court.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cecelia Gregson

Cecelia Gregson, WSBA #31439
(206)293-1280

March 26, 2023

Don Raz
2428 NW Market Street, #527
Seattle, WA 98107
donraz.1961@gmail.com
206-285-4083

RE: Mike Mohandeson

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

My name is Don Raz and I'm a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the King County Prosecutors Office (KCPAO) where I've served for over 35 years. During this time, I've have worked with hundreds of prosecuting attorneys, including Mike Mohandeson. I have known Mike since early in his career with the KCPAO, and worked with him on a daily basis for almost 5 years when we both were handling Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) cases. We were the assigned co-prosecutors on several such cases, and did two SVP jury trials together.

I know Mike to be one of my office's most capable, intelligent and fair-minded prosecutors. His capacity for hard work is astonishing. His approach to prosecution is tempered and ethical. He is extremely well-versed in the law and the Rules of Evidence. He has considerable experience in the courtroom trying bench and jury trials. Mike's knowledge and advice is frequently sought out by senior, peer, and junior prosecutors in the office. He will always drop whatever he's doing to help his colleagues. Mike holds an impeccable reputation in our office and his services are much sought after by various other units within the KCPAO.

Mike is well liked and respected by all. He treats his paralegals and other legal staff with the utmost kindness and consideration. He is admired and respected by the judges he appears before in King County Superior Court. Although opponents in an adversarial system, Mike treats the defense bar with the same respect and consideration he bestows on his KCPAO colleagues. Accordingly, he is respected and well-liked by the defense bar. Outside of his professional skills, he is a great person to be around.

I understand that Mike has decided to pursue an appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. From all that I know about him and have witnessed firsthand, he would make a remarkable addition to the Snohomish County bench. I've appeared in front of many judges over the course of my career and can say without reservation that Mike embodies the qualities of what I would consider important for any judge to have. Mike is smart, thoughtful, respectful of all and has years of experience in court, not only trying cases as prosecutor, but serving many years as a Judge Pro Tem in various Snohomish County courts. He has the intelligence, knowledge and experience to be an exceptional District Court judge. It would certainly be a loss for our office to have him leave, but his appointment would be a definite gain for the citizens of Snohomish County.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Don Raz

4504 W. Laurel Drive N.E.
Seattle, WA 98105
Halpert56@hotmail.com

April 18, 2023

Re: Michael Mohandeson
Applicant for Judicial Vacancy: Snohomish County District Court

Dear Snohomish County Councilmembers:

I am a retired King County Superior Court judge. I served in Superior Court for almost twenty years, and before that, served for ten years as a judge on the Seattle Municipal Court. I have seen a great number of attorneys during this time. It is my great pleasure to recommend Mr. Michael Mohandeson for a position as a district court judge. I have known Michael for more than ten years. He frequently appeared before me when I was the Chief Judge of the Juvenile Division of King County Superior Court. In addition, in his role as senior deputy prosecutor in charge of juvenile sex crimes, we often served on committees and work groups together.

Michael did an excellent job of respecting and protecting victims, while also recognizing that juveniles charged with sex offenses often, themselves, had been victimized in the past. He managed to be compassionate to all involved, while ensuring that the community would be protected. Michael is a hard worker and never was anything other than meticulously prepared when he appeared before me.

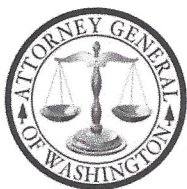
Michael has given to the community in many ways. His terms as a reserve police officer demonstrates his commitment to the citizens of Snohomish County. He is active in his church, and I know from our conversations, is a dedicated and involved father. His service as a pro tem judge is just one more example of his commitment to the community.

A number of years ago, in fact I believe this was before he began serving as a pro tem judge, Michael spoke with me about his interest in becoming a judge. He was thoughtful and sincere. I am pleased that he is following through on his long-held goal.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide further information.



Helen L. Halpert
(206) 799-4818



Bob Ferguson
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

May 1, 2023

Snohomish County Council
Robert J. Drewel Building
3000 Roosevelt Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am CJ Murray, a Managing Assistant Attorney General in the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) Unit, and I have practiced law for nearly 30 years as a King County Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, an Assistant Attorney General (AAG), and a King County District Court *Judge Pro Tempore*. I am honored to recommend Mike Mohandeson for the Snohomish County District Court judicial opening.

I have known Mr. Mohandeson professionally for many years, and, over the last four years as an AAG, I have sought his advice on many SVP cases. Mr. Mohandeson is readily available to discuss cases with me and other attorneys who I supervise. He never prejudices or assumes anything about an individual or case. He considers issues from different angles, and he is a reliable voice of reason and fairness.

I have also had the opportunity to observe Mr. Mohandeson's trial skills. His thorough and exceptional organizational skills, as well as his ability to effectively present a case to a jury, are impressive. In fact, I always recommend the attorneys I supervise to observe Mr. Mohandeson in trial when the opportunity arises; he is the Gold Standard of trial attorneys. He is highly regarded by his colleagues, the judges before whom he appears, and opposing counsel. Further, his even temperament, inclusiveness, and high ethics instill a sense of trust among a diverse community of jurors toward the justice system.

As importantly, Mr. Mohandeson's nine years as a *Judge Pro Tempore* provide him with invaluable experience needed on the bench. He understands the day-to-day demands placed on sitting judges, and he cares deeply about the law and the integrity of the judiciary. This experience, coupled with Mr. Mohandeson's broad background in criminal and civil law, makes him an outstanding candidate for a judicial position. I unreservedly and ardently support him. I urge you to appoint Mr. Mohandeson to the position of Snohomish County District Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of Snohomish County.

Sincerely,

CJ Murray (she/her)
Managing Assistant Attorney General, SVP Unit
(206) 389-3876
cj.murray@atg.wa.gov

April 15, 2023

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

RE: Mike Mohandeson

Dear Council Members,

I write to recommend that you appoint Mike Mohandeson as a Judge in South County District Court. Mike has the wisdom, experience, knowledge, and skill to be an exemplary district court judicial officer. I make this recommendation in my personal capacity based upon my personal knowledge of Mike.

I have known Mike for at least fifteen years. We were colleagues at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office where I served as a deputy and senior deputy prosecutor from 1998-2021. We are also neighbors and still commute to work on the same bus. I know Mike as a humble, sincere, and earnest person. His decisions are made with care and after full consideration of all sides. He is of the highest moral character.

His character drives his work as a prosecutor. I witnessed him carefully prepare and try his cases insuring the accused persons a fair trial. He proceeded only on cases where there was significant evidence of guilt and never pursued a conviction in which he was uncertain. He looked at evidence objectively with an earnest desire to find the truth.

He has vast experience in criminal and civil commitment cases. Mike has always been a trial lawyer, as I was. Extensive recent trial experience is essential to becoming a successful district court judicial officer because district court consists of trials, calendars, and evidentiary hearings. A district court judge must quickly and correctly apply rules of evidence and substantive law to a matter, deftly process orally presented information, and make immediate decisions. These skills are well developed by trial lawyers, and particularly by trial prosecutors, who have a unique obligation to fairly apply the law and guard the rights of accused persons.

Through Mike's experience as a prosecutor and pro tem judge, he has accumulated a broad and deep working knowledge of the law. Mike is objective and dispassionate in his assessment of applying the law to facts and circumstances, but he also seeks to understand each individual person before him. He will accommodate the needs of all

litigants, especially the unrepresented, mentally ill, and non-English speakers, to insure they have access to the justice system.

Mike will provide Snohomish County with an equitable, efficient, and accessible forum for citizens to resolve disputes. He will protect the rights of accused persons and crime victims and afford vulnerable people the protection of the law.

If you would like to speak to me further about Mike, I would be happy to speak with you.

Very truly yours,


Judge Adrienne McCoy
206-477-9233

May 5, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I write to convey my fullest support for Michael Mohandeson as the next Snohomish County District Court judge. Mike has been an extraordinary colleague at the King County Prosecutor's Office during the 17 years I've been there, and it is with equal amounts of enthusiasm and regret that I present this letter of recommendation. His exemplary legal skills, work ethic, and collaborative approach to the law are well known in our organization, and his loss as a leader in the field of sexual violence prevention and as a highly supportive and principled colleague will be deeply felt.

I have worked at the prosecutor's office for almost 20 years and have been acutely aware of Mike's reputation as a standout attorney since early on. There are many hard-working employees in this organization, but it would be fair to say that the stories of Mike's level of dedication to his cases, his determination to research and examine all viable avenues of investigation, and his ability to recall complex legal and factual details throughout a case's progression preceded him well before our first actual introduction. Mike's level of case preparation is somewhat legendary. Mike has taken more cases to trial than the vast majority of people in our office, but his intensive trial preparation also facilitated a significant number of just and equitable resolutions short of trial.

Mike's approach to case management takes a significant amount of time outside of regular business hours and requires a high level of efficiency, organization, and sacrifice in terms of work/family life balance. His decision to approach cases by being nothing short of absolutely prepared arises out of his basic respect for the victims, defendants and public resources involved in the criminal justice system.


Mike's reputation as a leader in the field of sexual assault intervention/prevention led him to try the most difficult adult felony cases in our Special Assault Unit (SAU), run the Juvenile Division's SAU section for four years, and finally to merge his deep knowledge of SAU cases with the complex world of civil commitment litigation in the Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) unit. It would seem logical to assume that this level of distinction might make him somewhat unapproachable. But the other critical reason for Mike's effectiveness as a legal professional is his humility and generosity.

Mike listens. He listens to colleagues, opposing counsel, victims/witnesses, and anyone else involved in the case, regardless of their status or position. My first conversation with Mike occurred when I was a junior deputy seeking assistance on a misdemeanor case. Having heard of his reputation, I still remember being struck by the degree to which he treated me automatically as a peer rather than a trainee, listening carefully to the facts of my case and meticulously going through his files to get me the latest briefing on the relevant legal issue. He spoke with me at considerable length even though he was in the middle of an extremely demanding SAU felony trial rotation. As I later told another junior deputy, despite being someone of higher stature than me in the office, Mike seemed to genuinely want to share information with me as if I was simply another member of the team. By doing so he reminded me at that particular point in my career that despite being a rookie, I was someone in the office worthy of respect. Mike is utterly egalitarian.

Mike's constructive and respectful attitude continues to the present day. All who join the SVP unit, whether staff or attorney, will receive an immediate response from Mike when they need help, regardless of whether that person is a longtime senior prosecutor or a brand-new member of the team, or if the call comes on a weekend or in the middle of a proceeding. While I can't presume to know exactly how Mike came to be so knowledgeable and yet still without ego, I do know as a woman of color that there is something about one's lived experience that shapes how – and *who* – one sees in this world. Like me, Mike is the child of an immigrant, and I would submit that most children of immigrants are privy to a vision of this country to which other children are not familiar. Observing the real-life bias against one's own family members leaves an indelible impression on a child. I have rarely seen a child of an immigrant who has *not* been able to immediately identify the systemic barriers to human dignity that exist in our country, and yet are still invisible to so many. Mike is no exception. I believe his ability to see inequality is organic, and would thus be highly valuable to the bench. This awareness is complimented by his excellent judgment, legal acumen, and vast experience in the complex world of criminal justice.

I cannot think of a better candidate to take the bench, and I cannot think of a greater loss to the King County Prosecutor's Office and the SVP unit in particular.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nami Kim", written over a horizontal line.

Nami Kim
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
206.477.1858
nami.kim@kingcounty.gov

April 18, 2023

Re: Mike Mohandeson

To Whom it May Concern:

I serve frequently as a pro tem Judge for the District Courts of both King and Snohomish Counties, and I also serve as a Commissioner Pro Tem for King County Superior Court. I have practiced law since 1997 and have served as a judicial officer since 2013, and in the course of my professional endeavors I have had multiple occasions to interact with many, many other judicial officers – elected judges as well as pro-tempore judicial officers. To that end, I have worked with Mike Mohandeson as a fellow pro tem and have always counted on him as a reliable colleague from whom I can seek guidance, advice, and feedback on various thorny issues that have come before me.

I understand that Mike has expressed an interest in being appointed as a District Court Judge for Snohomish County District Court (South Division), replacing Judge Douglas Fair. I am writing to express my unreserved support for this appointment; Mike has always struck me as someone who has the temperament, demeanor, and intellectual knowledge and curiosity to make for an outstanding District Court judge. I know that Mike is a deputy prosecutor for King County, and yet I have never found his perspectives to evince a “pro-prosecution” bias. I know that he has presided over many jury trials, and as far as I know he has been very well received and regarded by both the defense bar and the prosecuting authorities. The fact that the elected judiciary has frequently called upon him to preside over such public events -jury trials – speaks volumes about his abilities. The departure of Doug Fair will leave enormous shoes to fill, and Mike is among those whom I believe would be capable of filling those shoes. I fully support the appointment of Mike Mohandeson to the Snohomish County District Court upon Judge Fair’s departure.

Very truly yours,
LAW OFFICE OF DAVID RUZUMNA, PLLC:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David Ruzumna". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "D" and a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Ruzumna

April 25, 2023

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

Re: Judicial Appointment of Michael Mohandeson

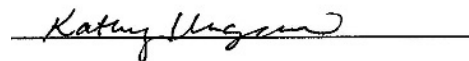
Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I highly recommend Michael Mohandeson for a judicial appointment to the Snohomish County bench. I have known Mike as a colleague in the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for approximately 15 years and have had extensive opportunity to work with him, to include co-trying multiple Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) cases together. Each of these cases takes months to prepare, followed by several weeks in trial. Even after leaving the SVP unit I have maintained contact with Mike and sought his advice on cases, most recently a gruesome sexual homicide. Mike's intelligence, professionalism, and wealth of experience make him, in my humble opinion, the top candidate for this role. He has exceptional critical thinking skills and knowledge of the law which enable him to readily analyze the legal issues, which will serve him well as a judge. His ethics are also beyond reproach.

Additionally, his calm, fair, and yet strong demeanor enables him to control courtroom proceedings to ensure justice is done. Mike has a lengthy history of trial work rather than a history of sitting behind a desk. From his experience as a litigator and as a pro tem judge, he knows how to preside over a trial and make quick but conscientious decisions. He is not one to shy away from making difficult decisions. No matter what side I'm on, I am confident that I would receive a fair trial in Mike's courtroom.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathy Ungerman", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathy Ungerman, WSBA #32798
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney
206.290.6738

April 11, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

A former colleague and friend, Mike Mohandeson, has applied for the open position in the Snohomish County District Court. I write to add my voice to those that know of his exceptional personal and professional qualities. I got to know Mike well when I served as the Chief Criminal Deputy for the King County Prosecutor's Office (KCPAO) for over 25 years (I retired in 2020). Mike and I also tried a murder case together in 2002-03 (his first, as I recall). Mike was a capable advocate, even then.

Throughout Mike's tenure with the KCPAO, he distinguished himself as both bright and hard working. In every rotation or unit in which he served, Mike was a highly valued member of the team. He is one of those people that has the gift of making himself invaluable. Mike took on tough jobs. For example, for years he oversaw all juvenile sex cases, earning a reputation as an extremely fair and capable advocate, not only with colleagues but with defense lawyers. Mike also spent years working to commit sexually violent predators. For obvious reasons, this work is challenging and also vitally important to community safety.

Looking ahead, I am confident that Mike would make an exceptional jurist. Mike's intellect, his attention to detail, his ability to thrive in fast paced legal environments and his temperament all point to a person that strives for excellence. In short, Mike has a servant's heart, a keen mind and a capacity to work hard that I envy and respect. He would be a superb judge.

Feel free to contact me if you need any additional information. I can be reached at 206-719-7111.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark Larson
KCPAO Chief Criminal Deputy (Ret.)
34432 SE Hall Street
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

MICHELE SHAW, P.S.

ATTORNEY AT LAW

April 17, 2023

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

Re: Recommendation for Michael Mohandeson for Snohomish County District Court

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I have been practicing law in the State of Washington since 1989, and was formerly a Deputy King County Prosecuting Attorney under the direction of Norm Maleng. In 1996 I left the King County Prosecutor's Office and started practicing exclusively in the field of criminal defense.

I have previously, and continue to represent many juvenile clients in the State of Washington. I met Mr. Mohandeson when he was the Sr. DPA in charge of the Juvenile Division of the Special Assault Unit for the King County Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Mohandeson was a unique Chair of that unit, given the time he took to engage with the defense bar. One of my goals with juvenile clients was to do everything possible during the time I was engaged with them to make sure they were never back in my office. Mr. Mohandeson was truly able to discern between the behavior of young people and adults who engaged in these offenses.

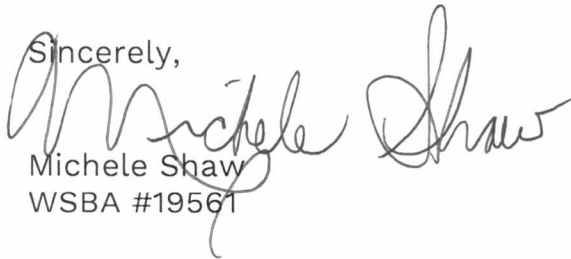
A big part of my practice is representing clients who present with complex mental health issues. During the time I worked with Mr. Mohandeson he took the time to really understand how a mental health diagnosis may have impacted the decisions a youth made. Mr. Mohandeson was always interested in reviewing mental health evaluations and in making recommendations at disposition for the youth to participate in both sexual behavioral counseling as well as mental health counseling. While the recognition of mental health in our community has evolved a great deal the last 5-10 years, during the time Mr. Mohandeson was the Chair of the Juvenile Special Assault Unit mental health was not a priority on everyone's radar.

Mr. Mohandeson was very respectful toward my clients of various backgrounds and ethnicities. Mr. Mohandeson often took the time to meet with parents, have protracted conversations with them and explain the options for their families. He was an excellent fit for that position, always exuding a balanced approach, a measured temperament and a professional demeanor.

Mr. Mohandeson would be an outstanding Judge. While I have not practiced in front of him, I feel the qualities I have attributed to him are what is needed on the bench. In addition, I understand that Judges have many duties and responsibilities in addition to their calendars and caseload. I am confident that Mr. Mohandeson would contribute in a very meaningful way both to the Bench and to the Court.

If there is anything you wish to discuss with me or if you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at michele@micheleshawlaw.com or at the number below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michele Shaw". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and bar number.

Michele Shaw
WSBA #19561

May 9, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

I have had the good fortune of working with Mike Mohandeson in a paralegal support staff role for approximately nine years. By way of context, I have worked at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office for over twenty years in three different positions – primarily in the sexually violent predator (SVP) unit, but also in the involuntary treatment unit, and the juvenile division. In these positions, I have supported numerous Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys (DPAs); Mike is exceptional and stands out in so many ways. I write this having had the opportunity to work with him on a regular, almost daily professional basis on multiple complex SVP civil commitment cases. The work we do under RCW 71.09 spans from initial investigation once a case is referred to our unit, to trial preparation, trial, post-trial monitoring with any appeals, community release, and release follow-up.

I am always happy to have a case assignment with Mike, and I know my support staff colleagues feel similarly, as we have discussed it. Not only is he easy to work with – always available for a quick question and appreciative of our work – but I feel assured he will have a thorough understanding of the case law, intimate knowledge of the discovery, intelligent work-up as the case progresses, and appropriate, considerate interactions with the victim and lay, law enforcement, expert, and fact witnesses. I am grateful that Mike goes out of his way to call witnesses early. There have been times when this early attention and focus provides Mike with information that has led to resolutions of cases outside of trial – protecting the community and saving taxpayer money by averting trial. As well, he is highly respected among our expert witnesses; I have heard at least three expert psychologists remark on how effectively he helps them prepare for trial. Furthermore, I know him to be skilled and compassionate towards victims and if possible, sensitive to managing trial even without victim testimony. Finally, he develops respectful rapport with a number of people involved in our cases, to include – even beyond witnesses – defense counsel, employees at the Special Commitment Center (SCC) where individuals are detained, investigators, court clerks, court reporters, pro se Respondents, and family members of Respondents.

Mike is unfailingly courteous and respectful. He is the person who greets others as he walks down the hall, offering a warm, down-to-earth presence in the office. His door is “always open” and he solicits feedback on his cases (to include differing opinions) from other DPAs as well as from administrative staff, valuing all opinions. I know that the jobs he asks of me are the result of his understanding of the case; they are well-considered, timely, and appropriate, and as such, I feel all the more determined to work to my highest level of performance. I have observed him interact with my colleagues, and they make similar remarks. He is clear, directed, and on target, conveying the gravity of these cases and the responsibility of the law. I have attended at least six all-day depositions of SVP Respondents on McNeil Island with Mike. The work-up to these depositions is intense, and we arrive early to take the ferry over with our video equipment and boxes of documents, and settle into a small room with many people. The way Mike handles the depositions of the SCC Residents sets the standard. He is extremely well-organized, prepared for any number of responses and scenarios, in control but flexible and good natured. The questions he poses convey an earnest curiosity and determination to pursue justice. I am always impressed by his preparation and command of these depositions.

As well, Mike has gone out of his way to orient the DPAs who rotate into our unit; recognizing he had no formal training when he rotated in, he took it upon himself to provide that to others. He personally created a detailed training for these incoming DPAs and acts as a mentor. During the isolated days of the pandemic, he coordinated a virtual presentation, as well, for the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC) victim advocates. He is someone who, upon recognizing a gap, strategizes and fixes it.

I would also like to mention that Mike takes the time to give consistent feedback on my work product, so I know how I can improve, and he does it sincerely and with such goodwill that I do not feel "micro-managed"; rather, it builds cohesion in a shared mission. There have been times when he has unexpectedly emailed my supervisor to advise her of a job I've done well. Such professional involvement and support goes a long way towards fostering an ideal professional work environment. Mike will also give general advice about life in everyday conversation, often with humor, and is someone we all look forward to interacting with at office events such as potlucks and going-away parties.

I am certain it is evident by now how much I enjoy working with Mike. He sets the stage for a harmonious work group, and I am lucky to work on these serious civil commitment cases with him. I am confident his background, experience, work ethic, professionalism, and intelligence would translate into an excellent district court judicial appointment. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marjorie Bedford". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marjorie" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Bedford".

Marjorie Bedford

(206) 330-6197 (personal cell)

(206) 477-9501 (work desk)

May 10, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish Council Members,

My name is Renee Navlet and I am a court clerk at Snohomish County South District Court. I have worked at South District Court for almost 15 years.

I am writing as we are soon to lose Judge Fair due to retirement. This is a huge loss for our division as he has been an incredible judicial officer during his time here, and an amazing advocate to the staff - someone who brought belief and value to staff that hasn't always existed.

I would like to voice my support for the appointment of Mike Mohandeson for the open judicial position at South District Court. He would be a fabulous asset to the bench.

Mike Mohandeson has been a pro tem at our Division here for many years and I have had the pleasure of working both in and out of the courtroom with him. Mike Mohandeson has always reminded me in so many ways of the great qualities that Judge Fair possesses both with the customers he serves and with the staff here at South District Court.

I have clerked in the courtroom with Mike who always is prepared for all hearings, and is capable of covering any of the many different calendars. He is reliable, very knowledgeable, wise, and treats people with compassion and respect while carrying out justice. He comes in on his own time prior to hearings to review files and read briefs/motions and ex parte motions and his rulings have always seemed very fair.

One of his qualities I value most is how positive he is with the staff he works with. He is always so friendly, respectful and values the work we as staff do. He has made sure that staff knows how vital they are to him and the courts. He has voiced his support and appreciation for staff numerous times and always tells us it takes all of us to make the place run. His kindness has also been appreciated as he has also checked in to see how I was doing numerous times after I went through a traumatic experience

Mike is not currently a regular employee or co worker of mine, yet he regularly checked in with me when he would come to pro-tem at our division, regarding a pretty traumatic matter he knew I was dealing with. It meant a lot to me that he took the time to come and make sure I was ok—and not just once but throughout the ordeal.

South District Court has not always had an environment where staff was valued. It was with the wonderful addition of Judge Fraser and Judge Fair to South District to work alongside Judge

Goodwin that staff began to experience such a positive change in our working environment. It's been so great to have three supportive judges who work so well together, but have also made supporting their staff a priority. It is clear by his actions over the years that this would continue should Mike Mohandeson be appointed. I believe he is an all around great choice.

Sincerely,

Renee Navlet
(206) 458-2128

Attorneys at Law:

James M. Zachor
Yelena I. Stock
Chad W. Krepps
Jeffrey D. Leeper
Hana Lee
Dane Z. French
Corey A. Rogers
Yi Xue
Rebecca N. Shumar

Legal Assistants:

Erin Ortega
Alena Stock
Kiera Randal

Zachor, Stock & Krepps, Inc., P.S.

Prosecuting Attorneys
Lynnwood Corporate Center
19401 40th Ave W, Suite 205
Lynnwood, WA 98036
Tel. 425.778.2429
FAX 425.778.6925

City of Arlington
City of Burlington
City of Edmonds
City of Lake Stevens
City of Lynnwood
City of Mill Creek
City of Monroe
City of Mountlake Terrace
City of Mukilteo
City of Oak Harbor
City of Sedro-Wooley
City of Sultan
Town of Woodway

May 11, 2023

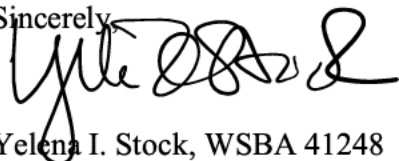
Snohomish County Council
Robert J. Drewel Building
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

Mike Mohandeson is a great choice for the appointment to be a judge at Snohomish County District Court South Division. For the past five years I have appeared many times before him. The justice system typically intercedes at a person's worst life moments. Mr. Mohandeson has an even temperament that has a calming effect in the court room. This is an incredibly important trait when working with a population that is appearing before the court during a personal crisis. He has always been respectful to counsels, court staff, and most importantly to defendants.

I have been a prosecutor for over fifteen years and have seen many judges and pro tem's come through the doors of Snohomish County District Court. As a prosecutor, I look for a judge that will be fair and constructs an accurate court record. Mr. Mohandeson's does that. His vast experience in trial as prosecutor and pro tem make his skill invaluable to the bench. I believe he has a commitment to fairness and equality for all persons in the justice system. I can sincerely say he is an excellent candidate for the position and exceptionally qualified.

Sincerely,



Yelena I. Stock, WSBA 41248



LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL EHRlich, PLLC.

3228 Broadway Ave, Everett, WA 98201

Phone: (425) 954 5578 Fax: (425) 296 1103 Email: Daniel@ehrllichlawyer.com
Mdunham@ehrllichlawyer.com

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Via Mail

To: Snohomish County Council
Robert J. Drewel Building
Eighth floor
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Snohomish County Council,

I am writing this letter in support of Mike Mohandeson's application for Judicial Office in Snohomish County District Court, South Division.

I am a family law and criminal defense attorney practicing in Snohomish County since 2009. I was born and raised in Snohomish County. I have had the opportunity to informally discuss many legal issues with Mr. Mohandeson over the years, as well as to witness firsthand on several occasions his work as a pro tem judge. I serve on the Cardozo minority bar association judicial evaluation committee and have had the opportunity to interview and rate many candidates for District and Superior Court, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court.

Mike Mohandeson has been both a trusted colleague and neighbor of mine (two houses away) for nearly 14 years. Mike Mohandeson is a highly respected prosecutor in King County and pro tem judge in Snohomish County. Mike is a fantastic pro tem judge and is exceptionally well qualified. Mike Mohandeson is legally knowledgeable, thoughtful, deliberate, and humanizing and has a calm judicial demeanor. Mike elevates those in his presence. He is solid, dependable, and trustworthy, serves with ease and grace, and is a very considerate person. Mike Mohandeson is fair and justice minded and favors neither the prosecution nor the defense. He knows trial procedure and the rules of evidence extremely well, and has presided over more than 30 jury trials as a pro tem judge. I think these qualities are especially important for District Court. Our county and bench need him, and I wholeheartedly recommend his application. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

LAW OFFICES OF DANIEL EHRlich, PLLC

Daniel Ehrlich
Attorney at Law

March 30, 2023

To: Snohomish County Council

The purpose of this letter is to provide a personal reference for Mike Mohandeson as he seeks an appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. I have known Mike for over 20 years in the capacity as Senior Pastor at the church where he and his family are members and regular participants. Mike has served on the church's Elder Board for two 6-year terms and has been very reliable and dependable in this capacity. Mike shows very good judgment in the many important decisions that come up in serving a congregation, and his interpersonal skills are very helpful in this role.

Mike has always demonstrated genuine integrity and his personal life is in accord always with the values that he espouses as part of his Christian faith. I trust his ability to carefully think through and examine important issues and to render decisions with sound judgment on what is best for all involved. His family life and relationships with all ages are clear indications of strong moral character, which have been of benefit in many ways for our faith community.

On a personal level, I consider Mike a dependable friend and colleague and he has always been an encouragement to our family. I also know Mike's wife, children and extended family and consider them all to be an integral part of our congregational service and life. I know that Mike desires to serve the community in which he lives and be a positive influence in other's lives, and this has been demonstrated to me and all of those on the leadership team where we have served together. I look forward to his continued participation and friendship and I would highly recommend him for this important position without reservation.

I recently retired from my professional role as the Senior Pastor, but am still actively involved in the church with Mike and would be pleased to provide any more information that could be helpful in reaching your decision. I can be contacted by phone at (206)832-9814 or by email at pastor@berean-shoreline.org.

Sincerely,



Pastor James E. Shemaria

March 21, 2023

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is John Spooner. I have been an ordained pastor for 44 years. I am the current Lead Pastor of Berean Bible Church where Mike Mohandeson is both a member and regular attendee. I'm writing you today in strong support for Mike's appointment to the Snohomish County District Court. I have known him for over 2 years since taking on the role of Lead Pastor at the church. I've gotten a chance to work with him extensively through his service on the church's Elder Board, and have gained tremendous respect for him as a family man and for his valuable contribution to the church as part of his significant leadership roles.

Mike brings the right mix of diligence and focus to the Board, taking meticulous minutes of meetings with the uncanny ability to accurately recall facts while at the same time getting to the heart of every issue. During the past several years the Elder Board has had to deal with numerous difficult staffing and personal issues common for a church of approximately 250 members. Mike has been sought out by his peers for a balanced, fair perspective that shows compassion, integrity and trustworthiness. His clarity of identifying the salient issues and focusing on solutions has shown intelligent leadership when needed most, especially in handling disagreements, and doing so in a collaborative way.

Since the Elder Board oversees all church activities, Mike has a significant say over the numerous community support programs our church supports by allowing use of our facilities and providing direct financial assistance. Some of these include Shoreline Community Care; Vision House (*partnership with homeless families*); Ethiopian Church of God; and our Food 4 Kids work with public elementary schools for children who are at risk of hunger over the weekend when free school meals are unavailable. Mike is also active in Men's small groups and other church activities as well.

I can only assume that all candidates for the judicial position will have the needed educational qualifications. However, I am most interested in the personal qualities of integrity, dedication to family and faith, strong work ethic, strength of character and remarkable empathy. Mike has shown all of these.

I hold Mike in the highest regard. He has my unequivocal recommendation for one of the most respected and critical positions in our justice system. Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my insights. Feel free to call me if I can be of any further assistance.

Gratefully,



John R. Spooner
Lead Pastor—Berean Bible Church
Jspooner@berean-shoreline.org
616-881-3750

Friday, May 5, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is Dan Royal and I am a business analyst for a major healthcare IT company. I am honored to send this personal letter of reference on behalf of Michael Mohandeson. I have known him for about 20 years, along with his wife and two children. Over that time, I have gotten to know him quite well on a personal level as we both attend the same church and have served together on the church's board of directors. Michael is a man of the highest integrity and moral character, easy to get along with, and always comes prepared to engage with the other board members. He has faithfully carried out his duties as an elder board member and in doing so contributed greatly to the functioning of our church. He is insightful and professional in all our discussions, listens well to what others are saying, and takes everyone's input into consideration.

One of his added responsibilities is to maintain the minutes of our meetings. He is meticulous in this duty and I appreciate his leadership and level of detail. He can skillfully participate in the discussions, analyze all that has been said, and then boil down our lengthy conversations into a succinct and accurate representation. The minutes are always highly organized and easy to follow.

On a personal level, I have always been most impressed with how even-tempered, polite, and caring he is. He is quick to give credit to others and very understanding of other people's feelings. He consistently looks out for the interests of others, rather than himself. Over this past year in particular, we have had to deal with a tough church personnel issue and Michael has been exceptionally patient, fair, yet deliberative in the decisions made in this matter. He can also be characterized as a family man, who has raised two wonderful daughters who I've had the pleasure to deal with in my role as a youth group leader.

I can't speak highly enough about him and his character. If I were to ever be in a situation where I faced a judge, I would want someone like him presiding over the case as I could count on him to be fair, compassionate, and timely in his decision making.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel Royal
(206) 399-4421
Danielroyal4421@gmail.com



Keith A. Kemper
direct: 206.224.6686
kkemper@elmlaw.com

May 2, 2023

Sent via US Mail

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

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Michael Mohandeson
Applicant for Judicial Appointment, South County District Court

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I have known Mr. Michael Mohandeson for nearly 20 years, both professionally and personally. I could not recommend him more strongly for the position of District Court Judge.

Professionally, I know Mike from a case he had prosecuting a client of my law partner. While I had little interaction with Mike during the case, I was very familiar with the facts and the manner in which it was prosecuted and defended. My law firm is small and we take a team approach to our cases such that I was involved in strategy discussions. In addition, the case was very high profile with difficult facts for the defense and a client who was in the United States on a student visa. Despite all that, Mike handled the matter as calmly and professionally as any other case, never attempting to take advantage of the media coverage, the salacious allegations, or any of the natural biases that might be present in the community.

On the personal side, I have served with Mike on the Board that governs the church we both attend for most of the last decade. That role requires a broad skill set and an even temperament. Board members must have a servant's heart, a skill for decision making, administrative ability, and an appreciation for how the Board decisions impact the lives of those we serve. Mike manifests all those attributes. That, and he "plays well with others" in every setting that I have seen him. I would hope that those are similar to the characteristics that the Council desires to see in those that ascend to the Bench and who are asked to sit in judgment on the affairs of other humans.

Again, Mike would be an excellent choice for the available position. I would be happy to answer any other questions the Council might have.

Very Best Regards,

ELLIS, LI & MCKINSTRY PLLC



Keith A. Kemper

Date: May 4, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

I am glad to have this opportunity to provide a recommendation for a great district court judge candidate. Let me introduce myself first. My name is Steven B. Duke and I have been a Snohomish County resident for most of my life. Born in Edmonds, and Graduated from UW as an Electrical Engineer. I am currently employed by Stryker Medical (28 years) and have lived in my current Snohomish County residence for the last 33 years.

I met Mike and his family at Berean Bible Church where we both are members of the elder board and have served many terms together. During this time, we have worked together on many sensitive and complex issues. I have found Mike's analytical skills and his attention to detail to be very helpful as we navigate the more complex issues put before us. Mike is always there to reminds us to look at the whole picture and to be patient as we consider all facets of any problem.

Mike is very compassionate and committed to his work and his community. He has shown me a solid track record for making good, well thought out decisions over a broad range of issues. It is truly my opinion that Mike Mohandeson is an excellent candidate for the district court judge position as has all the character traits that any law abiding citizen of Snohomish County would be looking for in a judge.

If you have any additional questions or if I can assist in any way, my contact information is included below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "St B Duke".

Steven B. Duke

Cell: 206 390 4894
E-mail: s_duke@frontier.com

May 4, 2023

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

Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

My name is Eric Kauppila and I am a Certified Public Accountant. I own my own accounting firm where I employ several people. I am writing to you with a character reference for Mike Mohandeson. I have known Mike for 11 years in both a professional and personal capacity.

Professionally, Mike provided me insight and guidance into the judicial process when I was faced with a threatening neighbor who was dumping trash on my property. Years later, I was again in need of his professional encouragement and guidance when I was sued in small claims court by a landscaper who demanded payment for work never completed. In these conflicts Mike rationally explained the court process and options for obtaining a protective order and the steps for coming to a peaceful settlement in small claims court. These are examples of how Mike communicates well, understands and explains a complicated process, and helps bring about peace and resolution.

Personally, I have served on our church's Elder Board with Mike for the past three years and have also spent time with him at several social get togethers. On the Board, all of the members look to Mike to record the minutes, communicate action items to sub-committees, and to do so with accuracy and consistency. Mike shows his commitment to the church Board as he consistently serves in these endeavors. Even in social situations, Mike is always thoughtful, helpful, and willing to share wisdom and insights in a conversation. He is a straight shooter and pleasant to be around.

Finally, I wanted to share a quick story about Mike's reputation. As a tax preparing CPA I received a referral to a new tax client; a recent King County judge. I asked her if she knew Mike Mohandeson and she said "Sure I know Mike. He is an honest guy and is very smart." As a citizen of this community, these and the other things I've already described are the qualities I would personally want to see in a judge.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at my number below.

Sincerely,



Eric Kauppila
206-420-7329

5/2/23

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

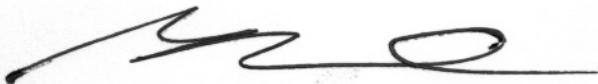
Dear Snohomish County Council Members:

Hi, I am a Snohomish county resident and have been for 28+ years. I am self-employed and have been a General Contractor in Edmonds for the last 23 years. It is my understanding that you are considering Mike Mohandeson for a Judge seat this next cycle and I would like to give my endorsement of him and his character.

My wife and I have known him and his family for 20 plus years and attend the same church together. We have served on parallel boards and have worked on various projects together over the years. We have kids the same age and watched our families grow over that time as well as go to the same schools. I have also worked for him personally on his home as well.

I believe Mike is a great candidate for a Judge position. He is very organized, has incredible attention to detail and is very reliable. He has great discernment and an ability to look at many angles of a problem and make sound judgements. In working with him I have found him to be easy to communicate with and clear and concise with his decisions. I have no doubt he will be an excellent Judge for Snohomish county and will serve our community with great dedication.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Ward', with a stylized, flowing script.

Greg Ward
Ward Homes LLC
206-719-7168
Wardremodel@comcast.net



To whom it may concern-

The Snohomish County Deputy Sheriff's Association (SCDSA) is a labor group within Snohomish County comprised of law enforcement Deputies and Sergeants. As a labor group the association is often asked about political endorsements which requires a general membership vote to endorse candidates for political offices. This is not an endorsement of the membership as no general membership vote has taken place.

As part of the "endorsement" process candidates will usually present their information to the executive board during an open meeting which is held monthly. In regard to Mike Mohandeson, he presented information and appeared before the SCDSA on April 19, 2023. Mr. Mohandeson requested an endorsement related to the pending appointment to the South District Court Judge position due to the retirement of the Honorable Judge Fair.

At this time no endorsement is before the general membership as the next meeting of the general membership is not until late June, at which time the consideration for endorsement will be presented to the SCDSA general membership.

This letter is not an endorsement from the SCDSA, rather it serves as documentation that Mr. Mohandeson provided information to the executive board, who expressed no objections to his qualifications for the open judge position. In fact, it is my personal opinion that generally speaking Mr. Mohandeson has an excellent resume, experience and reputation for fairness, honesty and integrity. It was notable in both his professional career and personal life; he appears to have all the qualities to fill the position at the highest level and maintain a good life balance.

Respectfully

Sergeant David Fontenot
SCDSA 1st Vice President



Snohomish County Corrections Guild

President
Charles Carrell

1st Vice President
Derek Henry

2nd Vice President
Glenn Blankenship

Secretary
Greg Barnett

Treasurer
John Woods

April 13, 2023

Mike Mohandeson,

I am pleased to announce that Snohomish County Corrections Guild has voted to endorse you as a Judge with Snohomish County.

Good luck on your campaign, and as always, if there is anything that I can do to help you in this endeavor please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
Chuck Carrell
SCCG President

2812 Lombard Ave. Suite 302
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 252-0952
sccguild@gmail.com

From: Mike Mohandeson <mike.mohandeson@gmail.com>

Date: June 13, 2023 at 6:39:51 AM PDT

To: "Wiita, Russell" <Russell.Wiita@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Rhyne, Paula" <Paula.Rhyne@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Cheesman, Darcy" <Darcy.Cheesman@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Ewert, Angela" <Angela.Ewert@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Thompson, Joshua" <Joshua.Thompson@co.snohomish.wa.us>

Cc: "Peterson, Strom" <Strom.Peterson@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Dunn, Megan" <Megan.Dunn@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Mead, Jared" <Jared.Mead@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Nehring, Nate" <nate.nehring@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Low, Sam" <Sam.Low@co.snohomish.wa.us>, "Beazizo, Heidi" <Heidi.Beazizo@co.snohomish.wa.us>

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

Good morning,

Please see the attached supplemental support letters from 3 of the Snohomish County District Court judges. I wanted you to consider these important additions prior to my interview on Thursday afternoon for the South Division position. Thanks very much.

Best Regards,

Mike Mohandeson



District Court of the State of Washington
for Snohomish County

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
M/S #508
Everett, WA 98201-4060
(425) 388-3895

Monday, June 12, 2023

To: Snohomish County Council
Council members Megan Dunn, Jared Mead, Nate Nehring, Sam Low and Strom Peterson

RE: Michael Mohandeson letter of recommendation

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to endorse Michael Mohandeson to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Judge Douglas Fair in the Snohomish County District Court.

Mike embodies all the critical qualities that a successful judge must have. I will go into some detail on these qualities below, but if you do nothing else, please read the letters of recommendation that Mike has provided. These say it all. I have sat on many judicial evaluation committees over the years. I have submitted 3 sets of my own judicial applications over the past 20 years. **Never** have I seen such a collection of informed, relevant, heartfelt, and diverse letters of support for a judicial candidate. It is one thing to sign a petition of support. It is quite another to sit down and spend thoughtful time writing in detail about why you think someone is so prepared, well-suited, and deserving of a position. Key to a review of these letters is appreciating the amazing diversity of the support. There are judges from District Court, Superior Court, and the Court of Appeals. There are prosecutors, public defenders, private attorneys and very tellingly, court staff. There are members of the community, victim's advocates, and law enforcement. **So many people** took the time to let you know why they believe Mike is the best person for this job. They all describe the same person: someone fair, kind, smart, prepared, hard-working, caring and committed to serving his community. I can't tell you how unique this is and how fortunate this County is to have such a rare and amazing candidate. Please listen to them. Please appoint Michael Mohandeson as the next judge for the Snohomish County District Court, South Division.

As for the qualities that Michael Mohandeson embodies that make him uniquely qualified for this position:

Commitment to the court in which he wants to serve. Mike has served as judge pro tem in the Snohomish County District Court for **9 years**. He has served in all four of our divisions. He understands the unique qualities of each and has a stellar reputation with the judges and staff at each division. I am impressed by the fact that Mike is always available to fill in for one of our judges, whether the phone call comes 2 months or 20 minutes before we need him (as happens if a judge is ill the morning of court). He uses his vacation time from his full-time job as a King County prosecutor to serve on our bench. He fully understands the importance of this work to the community, and he is valued and trusted by the litigants, the attorneys, the other judges, and our staff, as seen in his letters of recommendation.

Commitment to honing the craft of being a judge. All the applicants are good attorneys and understand the practice of law. Lawyering and judging involve very different skill sets. Lawyering is intense advocacy within the bounds of the law. Judging requires scrupulous impartiality applied to the law and facts of a case while appreciating the need for parties to feel fairly treated. This transition does not come naturally. It is achieved through diligence and practice. Mike has done the job of judging at the District Court level for over 9 years. He understands the practical aspects of doing the job because he has been doing it for so long. As he notes in his materials, he has presided over every type of calendar we have many times over. He has presided at over 200 calendars, including over 30 criminal jury trials. This level of experience is truly rare. As I can attest and as Mike's letters confirm, he knows the job, because he's done the job and he excels at the job.

Earned trust within the legal community. This is critical since both the prosecution and defense (in criminal cases) and plaintiff and respondent (in civil cases) must feel trust and confidence in the judge. Any judge will agree that fairness is at the core of our ability to do our job effectively. Included in fairness is actual fairness as well as the appearance of fairness. It expands far beyond our rulings. This trust is earned, after a judge has demonstrated the requisite knowledge, demeanor, and treatment of the parties. Basic due process requires this. The ability to run a court also requires this. Each party in a case has the right to file one "Notice of Disqualification" (affidavit of prejudice) which is one opportunity to say, "I choose to not have this judge". When there is a lack of trust and such a notice is filed, the court must accept it and must assign another judge. In extreme cases, this can render the judge's ability to perform their job completely useless. That judge is not able to hear cases and is of little assistance to the rest of the court. Mike in all his 9 years of judging has not been challenged in this way despite his long history as a prosecutor and as a law enforcement officer. As shown by his letters of support he has support from both the state and the defense, meaning that he has earned the trust of both sides and will be able to do his job.

Respect and understanding for the administrative aspects of the job. Bench time is one part of being a judge. Another part is the administrative aspect of the job. This requires a detailed understanding of what the court does and a deep respect for the staff and the work that they do. After 9 years in Snohomish County District Court, Mike has earned this reputation. Our court staff likes, respects and trusts Mike. This is exemplified by their letters. Mike's application packet and letters also describe his supervisory experience. While many attorneys with Mike's 23 years of experience have had the opportunity to supervise others, not many have shown the commitment, value and generosity of time and expertise that Mike has. As his letters note, he is highly sought-after by his colleagues to lead them.

I thank you so much for your time and attention. I truly believe that you could not do better than to appoint Michael Mohandeson to fill the judicial vacancy in Snohomish County District Court, South Division. Not only will he be a great asset to the County, he is ready to defend his seat in the next election, and win. He has devoted hundreds of hours to this appointment process, garnered the support of the community and even has a campaign manager. Michael has worked towards this goal for over 9 years and will make this County proud.

Sincerely,



Judge Beth A Fraser, South Division, Snohomish County District Court



District Court of the State of Washington
for Snohomish County

JUDGES
TAM T. BUI
RICK S. LEO

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COURTHOUSE
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
M/S #508
Everett, WA 98201-4060
(425) 388-3895

June 09, 2023

Dear Members of the Snohomish County Council:

We, the undersigned judges, have twenty-five years of collective experience on the bench. We also serve in leadership positions on committees and workgroups on behalf of the District and Municipal Court Judges Association, the state Board for Judicial Administration, and the state judicial branch. It is our privilege to write this letter in support Mike Mohandeson for appointment as a Snohomish County District Court Judge.

Judge Bui met Mr. Mohandeson almost ten years ago at a state-wide judicial leadership institute. The mission of the institute is to diversify the Washington State judiciary by pairing mentor judges with individuals interested in pursuing a career on the bench. As a judge mentor, Judge Bui recognized Mike's potential as a leader and invited him to serve as a *pro tem* judge in the city of Everett. Mike has also served as a *pro tem* judge in Judge Leo's courtroom in the city of Monroe.

For the past nine years, Mr. Mohandeson has been performing the duties of a judge by serving as a *judge pro tem* in all divisions of District Court. He has earned the trust of court staff because he is competent, familiar with court operations, and well-liked. Court staff can consistently depend on him to serve on short notice so that we can attend meetings with legislators or attend committee meetings on issues affecting the state judicial branch. His willingness to take vacation days from his full-time job as a senior deputy prosecuting attorney demonstrates his genuine commitment to be a judge. It demonstrates his commitment to public service.

We can confidently state Mr. Mohandeson has earned the trust of attorneys who appear before him because Mike knows the law, court rules, and evidence rules. This is evidenced by the many letters from attorneys from both sides of the aisle who have submitted letters of support.

Mr. Mohandeson has earned our trust to be thoughtful and intelligent on the bench. On the many occasions that Mike has approached Judge Bui to discuss difficult cases, he conveys a unique sense of fairness and empathy to self-represented litigants.

We highly recommend Mr. Mohandeson for appointment as judge to replace the Honorable Judge Doug Fair, who has served with distinction in South Division with Judge Beth Fraser. We wholeheartedly agree with Judge Fraser's sentiments expressed in her letter of support for Mr. Mohandeson.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tam T. Bui', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tam T. Bui

District Court Judge, Everett Division

Handwritten initials 'SL' in dark ink.

electronic

signature

Rick S. Leo

District Court Judge, Evergreen Division

The following documents for Michael Mohandeson have been withheld from the online materials.

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

1. Application for appointment
2. Washington State Governor's Office Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire