

King County Democrats

2020 Candidate Questionnaire: Judicial Level

Candidate Name	Carolyn Ladd	
Position Sought	King County Superior Court, Department #30	
Home County and Legislative District	King; 43rd	
Campaign Contact Information	Mailing address: P.O. Box 23125, Seattle, WA 98102	Phone:(971) 259-8692 Fax:
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Campaign manager or point of contact	Carolyn Ladd	
Consultant(s)	Michael Charles & Michael Fertakis, CD Strategic	

Please answer the following questions.		Yes	No
1	Have you ever been a member of another political party? Rule 4.1 of the Judicial Cannons does not allow me to answer this question.		
2	Have you ever failed to pay any taxes or court ordered judgments?		X
3	Have you ever been found in violation of a Public Disclosure Commission, Federal Election Commission or Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission regulation?		X
4	Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? If not, are you willing to implement one? Not yet, but yes, I am willing.		

Part I – Candidate Background (*maximum of 200 words per question please*)

Please briefly describe your education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation, and other relevant experience.

Education: National Judicial College's Judicial Academy; B.A. University of Washington; J.D. University of Oregon; LL.M. Georgetown University.

Employment: The past 20 years of my career have been devoted to ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusion at Washington State's largest private employer.

Community and Civic Activity: I am a Vice President of Washington Women Lawyers where I help organize events promoting equality for women. I am also a frequent speaker and author on issues regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

I am helping organize a continuing legal education (CLE) course for Women's History Month on March 3, 2020 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment entitled "Voting, Leadership and Women: Historical Insights and Contemporary Implications." I will be the moderator of a panel discussion.

<https://www.wsba.org/news-events/events-calendar/2020/03/03/default-calendar/voting-leadership-and-women-historical-insights-and-contemporary-implications>

In March 2019 I helped organize a CLE for Women's History Month entitled "Women in Law: Past, Present and Future." I spoke on a panel regarding the legacy of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. My particular portion of the discussion centered around a dissent that Justice Ginsburg wrote in the Lilly Ledbetter case regarding gender pay equity.

<https://www.nawj.org/schedule/events-calendar/women-in-law-past-present-and-future-second-annual-womens-history-month/2019-03-13>

And also in March 2019, I wrote a blog post for the Washington State Bar Association entitled, "Second-String Citizen—What Implicit Bias and Symphonies Mean for Lawyers and Gender Equity."

<https://nwsidebar.wsba.org/2019/03/04/second-string-citizen-what-implicit-bias-and-symphonies-mean-for-lawyers-and-gender-equity/>

In September 2019 I helped organized a CLE sponsored by Washington Women Lawyers entitled "Diversity Without Inclusion: Identifying & Eliminating Tokenism."

<https://www.wwl.org/event-3475843>

And also in September 2019 I spoke on a panel organized by the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations on "Investigations in the #MeToo Era."

<https://www.facebook.com/womensbar/photos/a.10150351701567983/10156908496337983/?type=3&th eater>

I am a volunteer for the King County Bar Association's Records Project that helps people vacate eligible criminal convictions. I wrote an article entitled, "Second Chances in Employment and Housing for Formerly Incarcerated People" that appeared in the King County Bar Association Bulletin:

<https://www.kcba.org/For-Lawyers/Bar-Bulletin/PostId/843/second-chances-in-employment-and-housing-for-formerly-incarcerated-people>

Union Affiliation: My grandfather worked in the auto industry in Detroit and was a member of a union affiliated with the AFL-CIO. My mother worked as a registered nurse for a county health department and was a member of AFSCME. My sister taught in a public high school and was a member of a union affiliated with WEA.

Describe your history of political involvement, if any, in the Democratic Party, particularly in Washington state politics. In what offices have you served or previously sought to be elected or appointed?

I have not been involved in politics. I have sought appointment to both the state and federal bench.

Describe the progress of your campaign and campaign goals. What is your plan to win? If you have received endorsements, please list them here.

I am working with Michael Charles and Michael Fertakis at CD Strategic. I am seeking individual and organizational endorsements.

Part II – Ratings and Endorsements

<p>Bar Association <i>ratings</i> received to date:</p>	<p>QLaw – “Exceptionally Well Qualified” Washington State Veterans’ Bar Association – “Exceptionally Well Qualified” King County Bar Association – “Well Qualified” Loren Miller Bar Association – “Well Qualified” Latina/o Bar Association of Washington – “Well Qualified” Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee – “Well Qualified” *Washington Women Lawyers – I am a Vice President of WWL and the bylaws do not allow me to be rated.</p>
<p><i>Endorsements</i> received to date:</p>	<p>Judges: Justice Mary Yu Justice Mary Fairhurst (Former) Justice Faith Ireland (Former) Justice Bobbe Bridge (Former) Judge Marilyn Paja</p> <p>Former King County Councilmember Larry Gossett Former Washington State Bar Association President Ron Ward Loren Miller Bar Association Founder Lem Howell</p> <p>*Since I have designated Department #30, I am in the process of confirming my endorsements. I have confirmed the ones listed above.</p>

From what other organizations are you planning to ask for an endorsement?

I am asking other Democratic legislative districts for endorsement. I also plan to seek endorsements from the National Women’s Political Caucus, The Stranger, and the Seattle Times.

Part III – Free Response Questions (*maximum of 200 words per question please*)

If elected, these would be my priorities as a judge:

1. To treat everyone who comes into my courtroom with dignity and respect, to give them their day in court, to listen, and to do justice.
2. To have juries that represent the community; to ensure black and brown people are not unfairly dismissed with peremptory challenges.
3. To make jurors aware of implicit bias so that it does not unfairly influence their decisions.

What ideas do you have to make our judicial system more open, transparent, and responsive?

As a volunteer at the King County Bar Association's Renton Legal Clinic, I saw many clients who had civil legal issues who could not afford a lawyer. Although I could provide them with some legal advice at the clinic during our one-hour meeting, they usually had to proceed *pro se*. Sometimes these were significant legal issues such as living in rental housing that was not in a habitable condition or being the victim of unscrupulous consumer practices. A significant barrier to access to justice today is that many people with civil disputes cannot adequately assert their legal rights because they cannot afford to hire a lawyer. I have supported organizations like the Campaign for Equal Justice that support legal aid and have done pro bono work myself.

How do you balance the judicial principle of *stare decisis*, or adherence to precedent, with a rapidly changing society and transformations in our society's understanding of justice?

With regard to *stare decisis*, as a trial court judge (King County Superior Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction), I will be bound by the precedent of the Washington Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court.

With regard to transformations in our society's understanding of justice, there is systemic racism in the criminal justice system that is evidenced by statistics such as the following:

African Americans were 4.5 times more likely to be sentenced to death in Washington State than similarly situated white defendants. *State v. Gregory*, 192 Wn.2d 1 (2018) (declaring the death penalty to be unconstitutional because it was applied in an arbitrary and racially biased manner).

African Americans make up about 4% of the population in Washington State, but almost 18% of the prison population. <https://www.doc.wa.gov/docs/publications/reports/100-QA001.pdf>

A judge should be aware of systemic racism and implicit bias and do what she can to change the system to ensure justice for all.

I affirm that all the information provided in response to this questionnaire is true, complete and correct, to the best of my ability, and that no relevant matter has been omitted.

Signature		Date: May 16, 2020
Printed Name	Carolyn Ladd	