



Bardi Martin <judgebardimartin@gmail.com>

Your candidate questionnaire submission

1 message

KCD Web Services <infrastructure@kcdems.org>

Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 4:15 PM

Reply-To: endorsements-help@kcdems.org

To: judgebardimartin@gmail.com

Thank you for submitting your candidate questionnaire to the King County Democrats for consideration. A copy of your submission is at the bottom of this message for your reference. If you have any questions about this email or the process, please reply to this email or reach out to endorsements-help@kcdems.org. Thank you for participating! Your submission:

King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire**Candidate name**

Bardi Martin

Candidate name pronunciation

Bar-dee

Candidate pronouns

He/him

PDC Filer_name

Bardi David Martin

Campaign phone

(206) 385-2724

Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form

(206) 335-5603

Campaign emailjudgebardimartin@gmail.com**Link to candidate headshot**

<https://bmtlitigation.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/boyle-martin-theony-bio-bardi-martin.jpg>

Campaign manager name

John Winkler

Campaign manager email

ccolywa@aol.com

Campaign manager phone

(306) 402-1058

Jurisdiction of office sought

District Court

Specific office

West District Court, Judge Pos. 1

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers?

Yes

Please describe your background (education, employment, community and civic activity, union affiliation and political activity).

I am a lifelong King County resident and a graduate of the University of Washington and Seattle University School of Law. I have over 20 years of legal experience spanning criminal defense, civil litigation, and appellate advocacy. I began my career as a public defender at both the trial and appellate levels, representing indigent clients and safeguarding their constitutional rights. Since 2011, I have been a managing member of a Seattle law firm, handling civil and criminal matters across all phases of litigation, including federal court practice. In January 2026, I was unanimously appointed by the King County Counsel to serve as a judge on the King County District Court, after previously serving as a pro-tem judge where I presided over hundreds of civil and criminal calendars.

My community involvement includes board service with the Faster Than Cancer Foundation, volunteer work with youth and schools, and engagement in the local music community, including support for mental health and recovery resources. I am a former SAG-AFTRA union member; and current a SAG-AFTRA Health Plan participant who remains active in music and arts community.

Please tell us about your proudest accomplishment either through your civic, public and/or community involvement?

My proudest accomplishment is the role I have played—both as an attorney and now as a judge—in ensuring that people feel heard and respected in the justice system, particularly those navigating it without resources or representation. Throughout my career, I have represented individuals facing significant barriers, including poverty, language limitations, and mental health challenges. As a judge, I have focused on creating a courtroom environment where proceedings are

clear, respectful, and grounded in fairness. I am especially proud that even in high-volume calendars, I have been able to balance efficiency with dignity—ensuring that litigants understand the process and feel that their case was taken seriously, regardless of the outcome.

What injustices have you perceived, either within or outside the courtroom, and what was your response to those events?

Throughout my legal career, I have seen and addressed systemic inequities in the legal arena. These inequities have often been tied to economic disadvantages and related obstacles, the lack of direct access to quality legal representation, and language barriers.

In both my practice and now as a judge, I have seen how bail practices can disproportionately impact individuals without adequate financial resources. Too often the lack of financial means results in pretrial detention and/or cascading consequences such as loss of employment or housing. I have also seen how language barriers—especially during early interactions with law enforcement—can affect a person’s understanding of their rights and the accuracy of the record.

As a District Court Judge, I have worked to ensure that proceedings are clear, that litigants are fully heard, and that decisions are based on law and evidence rather than assumptions. I am mindful of implicit bias, I strive to provide clear reasoning on the record, and I ensure that all who appear in my Courtroom are afforded the dignity and the respect they deserve.

What will you do to restore faith in the integrity of the justice system?

I believe the restoring of faith in the justice system requires a commitment to procedural fairness, transparency, and the respectful treatment of all participants.

In my courtroom, I focus on ensuring that people understand the legal decisions that are being made. I’ve found that when litigants feel heard and understand the reasoning behind a decision, they are more likely to view the process as fair regardless of the outcome. Also important is consistency. Applying the law uniformly, while remaining aware of implicit bias and unequal starting points, helps build trust in the legal system. Public confidence is strengthened when the system is fair, predictable, and grounded in the rule of law.

In cases involving “malicious harassment” or hate crimes, what are some of the issues in balancing free speech rights against the need to control offensive activity?

Cases involving malicious harassment require careful balancing of constitutional protections under the First Amendment with the state’s interest in protecting individuals from targeted harm. Offensive or unpopular speech is generally protected. However, conduct that constitutes true threats, intimidation, or meets the statutory elements of malicious harassment may fall outside that protection.

The judicial role is to apply the law narrowly and carefully, ensuring that constitutional rights are preserved while recognizing that certain conduct—particularly when it is targeted and harmful—can properly be subject to criminal sanction. This requires close attention to statutory elements, factual context, and controlling precedent.

New technologies like AI and advances in practice are continually changing. How would you approach cases involving novel legal issues or emerging technologies?

When encountering novel legal issues or emerging technologies such as AI, I take a structured and disciplined approach. The initial step is to research governing statutes and applicable precedent, then examine analogous legal frameworks where direct authority may not yet exist. I seek focused briefing from counsel and remain open to learning, while ensuring that decisions are timely and grounded in established legal principles. This careful approach ensures that new technologies are addressed thoughtfully without compromising important elements of the judicial process.

A 2021 Gender Justice Study of Washington Courts found evidence of many gender inequities. How would you support a criminal justice system that rectifies these historical and systemic inequities?

The Gender Justice Study referenced provides context and findings of the need to address implicit and structural bias. I agree and I support practices that promote equity, clear communication, thoughtful use of discretion, and engagement with programs such as our therapeutic and community courts. We must endeavor to reach a justice system that actively works to identify and reduce inequities.

Attestation

- The candidate hereby attests that, to the best of their knowledge, the provided information is true and accurate.

Created on April 27th, 2026.