

## King County Democrats 2026 Endorsement Questionnaire

<b>Candidate name</b>
Shantrice Anderson
<b>Candidate name pronunciation</b>
Shan (like hand)-Treese (like Peace) Anderson
<b>Candidate pronouns</b>
she/her
<b>PDC Filer_name</b>
Vote for Shantrice Anderson
<b>Campaign phone</b>
2067452010
<b>Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form</b>
3607312056
<b>Campaign email</b>
<a href="mailto:shantrice@andersonforjudge.com">shantrice@andersonforjudge.com</a>
<b>Campaign website</b>
<a href="https://andersonforjudge.com/">https://andersonforjudge.com/</a>
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Raven Tyler
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<b>Consultant name</b>
Erin Schultz
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**Jurisdiction of office sought**

Municipal Court

**Specific office**

Seattle Municipal Court Judge Position 6

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

No

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

I graduated from Gonzaga University with a Bachelors of Arts in 2011. At Gonzaga, I was the Vice President of the Multicultural Honors Society, Captain of the Gonzaga Bomb Squad, and a violinist in the Gonzaga Symphony Orchestra. I graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2014. During my time at Seattle University, I was the National Director of Community Service for the National Black Law Students Association.

I started my career as a Public Defender in Colorado. During that time, I also served as a Big Sister in the Big Brothers Big Sisters 2.0 program. I continued my career as a Public Defender at Associated Counsel for the Accused, at the Maleng Regional Justice Center. I am currently an Associate at Nicoll Black Altenbrun & Feig. I have served as a Member at Large and the Vice President of the Loren Miller Bar Association, a member of the Community Service Committee of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association, and a mentor with the Joint Minority Mentorship Program.

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

I am proud to be the first person in my immediate family to receive a Bachelor's Degree, as well as the first person in my family to earn a post-secondary degree. These accomplishments were not possible without the personal sacrifices and support of my parents, who are both Navy veterans.

I am also proud of my advocacy for/work with marginalized communities. As a Public Defender, many of my clients were new to the criminal justice system and faced corollary issues that were directly impacted by their criminal cases (i.e. immigration issues, mental health issues). As an insurance defense attorney, I have been appointed to represent Lyft drivers who are facing civil suit. Many of the drivers are

new to the United States, may not be fluent in English, and do not understand civil procedure and their rights within a civil case. This work dovetailed with my work as a Public Defender, as many Lyft drivers also faced corollary issues as a result of civil suit. Being able to connect with clients from all walks of life, in their time of need, and guide them through their cases has been a hugely rewarding aspect of my career.

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

The biggest injustice I have perceived, outside of the courtroom, is a lack of knowledge, by the population writ large, about the court process and their rights within it. I have perceived this issue in both criminal and civil matters. The judicial system is confusing and shrouded in formality, causing many people to be fearful or resentful of it. My response, in both my professional and personal capacity, has been to educate and empower people to know their rights, understand how the court operates, and assist voters in learning about who is running for judicial office and why.

The biggest injustice that I have perceived, in the courtroom, is a lack of racial, gender, sexual orientation and/or religious diversity. Courts should be as diverse as the communities they serve. I have sought to change this through mentorship of both law students and young kids who want to attend law school. I have also had direct conversations with my employers, including but not limited to the Colorado State Public Defender's Office, about the lack of diversity in my legal spaces. These actions demonstrate that everyone belongs in the courtroom, regardless of any immutable characteristics.

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

I will serve fairly and impartially. Neutrality and impartiality are the heart of the Court's checks and balances. These tenants ensure consistency in how justice is adjudicated, even as individual laws may change. It is important that those citizens have trust and respect for the system that the court enforces. That trust and respect can be fostered through neutrality and impartiality, because citizens can and should feel like they can walk into a court, be heard, and know that a decision will be based on all relevant facts, without unfairly taking sides or favoring one point of view over another.

I will also serve with kindness and humility. Most court participants are in a moment of crisis, and small moments of kindness matter, such as asking people how they are doing, making sure their names are pronounced correctly, asking for preferred pronouns, and giving people a chance to be heard. These actions may seem insignificant but can have a lasting impact. Humility is important in maintaining a

sense of perspective. Remembering what it is like to be on the other side of the bench is necessary in order to understand the impact of judicial rulings and decisions.

**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?**

Washington’s hate crime statute recognizes that bias-motivated crimes can and do cause serious harm to both individuals as well as their communities at large. At the same time, American citizens have broad protection under the First Amendment of the U.S. constitution and even broader First Amendment protections under the Washington State Constitution. It is important for a court to deter such hateful acts, while being mindful of the breadth of conduct that our current constitutions allow. This requires a balancing act, grounded firmly in the statutory and case law as well as a deep and individualized analysis of the facts of each case, and the previous history of any defendant (if any), in order to better understand the context and subjective intent of a defendant’s actions. Many of the actions that constitute “malicious harassment” or hate crimes, in Washington, are already defined as criminal conduct, and have a strong historical basis behind their significance. It is important to get this right, and to continue to evolve as the law and our society changes, so our communities have faith and trust in the system and their rights within it.

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

Technology is evolving faster than the law in many areas, and courts are increasingly being asked to address issues that previous generations of judges never encountered. When emerging technologies such as AI raise new legal questions, it is important for judges to stay informed and open to learning. That means engaging in ongoing judicial education, reviewing the latest rulings from other courts that address similar technologies, and remaining informed about how these technologies work and evolve, and the real impact that may have on my docket. At the same time, courts must continue to remain rooted in principles of fairness, equity, and due process. That means intervening to stop the use of any technology that impedes on those ideals.

Ultimately, while technology changes, the core responsibilities of a Judge does not: one must always remain committed to applying the law thoughtfully, protecting individual rights, and ensuring that every person who comes before the court receives a fair and impartial hearing.

**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?**

Judges are in a unique position to address these historic and systemic inequities through several avenues. This includes setting legal precedent that addresses how these inequalities present themselves, procedurally (i.e. the jury selection process), create resources for court-based childcare or allow more flexibility in how litigants show up to court so that childcare is not an issue, continued judicial education on personal biases, creating more access and facilitating assistance with and/or educational materials for pro se or low bono litigants who seek protective orders, changes to custody agreements, etc. Judges can also work to address pre-and post-natal care for pregnant persons who are in custody as well as increased training for Sheriffs, bailiffs and other court personnel in order to better detect and intervene in any cases involving potential gender-based violence or trafficking of any kind.

**Attestation**

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

Created on April 2nd, 2026.