

Candidate name(Required): Theo Angelis

Candidate name pronunciation:

Candidate pronouns: he/him

PDC Filer_name(Required): Theo Angelis for Justice

Campaign phone(Required) 206-719-4539

Number we can text or call if we have questions about this form(Required) 323-384-8683

Campaign email(Required) info@justiceangelis.com

Campaign website: angelisforjustice.com

Facebook:

LinkedIn:

Instagram:

X/Twitter/Bluesky/Threads/etc.

Link to candidate headshot <https://angelisforjustice.com/>

Other campaign link

Campaign manager name(Required)

First; Erin

Last: Schultz

Campaign manager email(Required) erin@nwpcconsulting.com

Campaign manager phone(Required) 323-384-8683

Consultant name

First Christian

Last Sinderman

Consultant email christian@nwpc consulting.com

Are you a Democrat? (Y/N)

As an elected judicial officer, pursuant to Code of Judicial Conduct Rule 4.1(a)(5), I may not publicly identify myself as a member or a candidate of a political organization.

Have you ever been a member of another political party? (Y/N)

Does your campaign have a code of conduct for staff and volunteers? (Y/N)

You have 1200 characters, about 200 words, to answer each question.

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

I am the son and grandson of immigrants, raised humbly to value public service and hard work. I attended college on 90% financial aid and 10% scholarships, won a Marshall Scholarship for graduate work in England, and graduated top of my class in law school. After clerking, I joined the law firm that best exemplified public service. I focused on using the firm's resources to help the community. I have represented immigrants, the homeless, tribes, and others locked out of the justice system. I coordinated the firm's pro bono efforts to ensure that we always recognized the privilege of practicing law. I joined, and later led, the leading bar associations (KCBA and the Federal Bar Association) to further their mission of building true justice. I volunteered at, and supported, legal clinics to remedy the wrongs suffered by those in our communities. I led the Middle Eastern Bar Association to honor my heritage and give back, and I raise funds for Washington Courts to pay for needed security. I have argued important appeals and led massive trial teams, with millions at stake, but my most meaningful cases are those in which I obtained justice for someone with nowhere to turn.

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

I led a pro bono team that represented Rennison Castillo. ICE detained Mr. Castillo for seven months—even though he explained, in detail and repeatedly—that he became a citizen while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. We sued the United States for violating his rights, and we overcame the federal officers' claims of qualified immunity. We ultimately settled in exchange for a \$400,000 payment to Mr. Castillo and a letter of apology from the U.S. Attorney's office authorized by the DHS Secretary. Newspapers around the country reported the result, including the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Seattle Times*. The National Hispanic Bar Association and other civil rights groups praised our work, but perhaps most significantly, the case has been used to support the ongoing litigation against ICE challenging the practice of using administrative warrants. As other lawyers have argued, the *Castillo* case would not have happened had ICE been required to obtain an arrest warrant—subject to judicial oversight. I am proud that our team obtained justice for Mr. Castillo and created a precedent supporting careful judicial oversight.

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

One of the most egregious injustices in our justice system is that children in immigration proceedings have no right to counsel. When I learned that unaccompanied children must face a prosecutor and judge alone, I convinced the firm to let me build a team to challenge that requirement. We joined forces with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, the ACLU, and other non-profits to bring a class action lawsuit. We sought to establish a right to counsel for children, and our work was helped when an immigration official bizarrely said that he could teach immigration law—largely recognized as more complex than any legal field other than tax—to children as young as 3 years old. We prevailed in U.S. District Court on jurisdictional grounds, and Judge Zilly signaled he likely would rule in our favor on the merits. The Ninth Circuit, however, vacated that ruling on jurisdictional grounds. It reasoned that Congress precluded class-wide challenges to federal immigration statutes. Subsequently, Congress and DHS made funding available for representation of all minors in immigration proceedings, which postponed the need to pursue this relief.

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

Washingtonians have lost faith in the justice system for several reasons. The most visible problem is attacks on judges and the judicial system. But in my experience, the high cost of legal representation is equally pernicious because it effectively bars access to the courts for working class and middle-class Washingtonians. We need creativity, and a renewed commitment to civil legal aid, to help restore faith in the integrity of the justice system.

Our Court can change rules regarding admission to practice to enhance access to justice while preserving the quality and professional obligations of the bar. For example, I plan to continue and become more deeply involved in Justice Montoya-Lewis' and Seattle University Dean Varona's work on alternative pathways to lawyer licensure—reflected in Supreme Court Orders 25700-B-710 and -711. I also plan to encourage and participate in a robust evaluation of non-traditional models for delivering legal services, such as those identified in the Entity Regulation Pilot Project. We need energetic judges to encourage non-profit and community organizations to join judges in thinking creatively about alternative delivery of legal services. We must consider the lessons from the LLLT program and determine what other models for delivering legal services, at reasonable cost, are viable.

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?(Required)

Washington law has long recognized that crimes motivated by prejudice and bigotry are especially horrible and are worthy of special condemnation. In RCW 9A.36.080, the Legislature singled out assaults, physical damage, and threats motivated by prejudice as “hate crime offense[s],” and it imposed special punishment because victims (and Washingtonians as a whole) suffer extra harm when a perpetrator commits bigoted attacks. For example, spray-painting a swastika or a racial epithet causes greater injury than spray-painting a name or slogan, and an attack coupled with racist, sexist, or homophobic threats causes more harm than an ordinary assault.

Hate crimes do, however, raise concerns about punishing thoughts and expressions. Article I, Section 5, of the Washington Constitution provides that “[e]very person may freely speak, right and publish on all subjects” The First Amendment likewise protects against criminalization of thoughts and expressions. In applying these protections, the Supreme Court must ensure that malicious harassment or hate crimes arise from odious *actions* rather than unpopular or repulsive expressions. Otherwise protected expressions cross the line into hate crimes when they are coupled with criminal acts and are intended to evoke fear and shame in vulnerable populations.

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

Since 2003, my practice has focused on emerging and novel technologies and legal issues. The best, and most successful, way to approach these cases is by carefully learning as much as possible about the new technologies. There is no substitute for the hard work of reading the entire record, all of the supporting materials, key secondary sources, and amicus briefs.

In my practice, I worked closely with experts, read books and journal articles, and carefully considered patents and inventions to ensure that I had a deep and meaningful understanding of the technology at issue. On the Court, I will do the same thing because a judge needs a thorough understanding of the facts before she or he can apply the law.

The same is true of novel legal issues. The law frequently has gaps and sometimes is internally inconsistent. A careful judge analyzes the constitution, statutes, and case law and asks probing questions about how each provision arose. The text, purpose, and history of each legal rule help the court to navigate novel legal issues and reach the right result.

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?*(Required)*

I have the privilege of succeeding Justice Madsen, one of the pioneers in the Supreme Court’s Gender and Justice Task Force and its groundbreaking 1989 report. Justice Madsen and I have discussed—and are working together to ensure—that I continue her pathbreaking work in exposing and remedying explicit and implicit gender bias in the courts. Justice Gordon McCloud now leads the General and Justice

Commission, and her leadership in creating the 2021 report has been truly exceptional. I have read significant portions of the 2021 study, and I am committed to working with her to implement each of its five recommendations.

Given my background, I plan to focus primarily on financial barriers that prevent women, and especially women of color, from accessing and participating in judicial proceedings. Those barriers infect both the criminal and civil justice systems and include user fees, lack of childcare options for defendants and jurors, lack of transportation options, lack of interpreters and language support professionals, and lack of access to lawyers and legal support professionals. The Court has done important work in addressing jury selection, but much more remains to be done in helping trial courts instruct jurors and manage their cases to combat explicit and implicit bias that harms women and undercuts evenhanded justice.