

City of Seattle



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CITY CLERK

Judge Seattle Municipal Court

**Confirmation Packet
December 2, 2016**

Anita Crawford-Willis



City of Seattle
Mayor Edward B. Murray

December 2, 2016

The Honorable Bruce A. Harrell
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President Harrell:

I am pleased to present the City Council with the confirmation packet for Anita Crawford-Willis, who is my appointment to fill the vacancy on the Seattle Municipal Court, Position 4. Ms. Crawford-Willis is being appointed to fill the position previously held by Judge Judith Montgomery Hightower, who has retired from the Court.

Included in this packet are:

1. Ms. Crawford Willis's notice of appointment;
2. her oath of office;
3. her application materials and questionnaire; and
4. supplemental materials Ms. Crawford-Willis offered in support of her appointment.

Anita Crawford-Willis currently serves as the Assistant Chief Judge for the Office of Administrative Hearings in Seattle and serves as a Judge Pro Tem on the Seattle Municipal Court. Ms. Crawford-Willis graduated from the Seattle University School of Law and began her career as a public defender. The hallmark of her career has been her leadership in mentoring and empowering students of color in their pursuit of careers in public service. She has been an active member of the King County legal community for the past 25 years and serves on the Board of Regents for Seattle University.

If you have any questions about the attached materials or need additional information, please contact Ian Warner, Legal Counsel to the Mayor at 684-5452.

Sincerely,


Edward B. Murray
Mayor, City of Seattle

Office of the Mayor
Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
PO Box 94749
Seattle, Washington 98124-4749

Tel (206) 684-4000
Fax: (206) 684-5360
Hearing Impaired use the Washington Relay Service (7-1-1)
www.seattle.gov/mayor



City of Seattle Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Anita Crawford-Willis</i>		
City Department Name: <i>Seattle Municipal Court</i>		Position Title: <i>Judge, Position 4</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Specify appointing authority</i>		Term of Office: <i>Confirmation to 01/14/2019</i>
Legislated Authority: <i>RCW 35.20.150</i>		
Background: Anita Crawford-Willis currently serves as the Assistant Chief Judge for the Office of Administrative Hearings in Seattle and serves as a Judge Pro Tem on the Seattle Municipal Court. Ms. Crawford-Willis graduated from the Seattle University School of Law and began her career as a public defender. The hallmark of her career has been her leadership in mentoring and empowering students of color in their pursuit of careers in public service. She has been an active member of the King County legal community for the past 25 years and serves on the Board of Regents for Seattle University.		
Date of Appointment: <i>12/2/2016</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Edward B. Murray</i> <i>Mayor</i>



**CITY OF SEATTLE - STATE OF WASHINGTON
OATH OF OFFICE**

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF KING

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of judge of the Municipal Court of The City of Seattle according to the best of my ability."

Anita Crawford-Willis

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this _____ day of _____, 2016

(affix seal)

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk



**City of Seattle
Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire**

This questionnaire is confidential and will be used to facilitate the recommendation of candidates for the Seattle Municipal Court vacancy.

Instructions: Please answer the following questions in the space provided or on an attachment. The original questionnaire should be sent to JudicialVacancy@seattle.gov. If you have questions, please telephone the City Clerk's office at 206.684.8344.

1. First Name: Anita
Middle Name: Mae
Last Name: Crawford-Willis

2. Home Address: [REDACTED]
City: Seattle
State: WA
Zip: 98118

3. Business Address: 600 University St, Suite, 1500
City: Seattle
State: WA
Zip: 98101

4. Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Place of Birth: [REDACTED]

5. Years of admission to practice law? 29 years
In Washington? 29 years

6. List colleges and universities attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

Seattle University: 1978-1982 Degree Awarded: B.A.

7. List law schools attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

Seattle University School of Law: 1983-1986 Degree Awarded: J.D.

8. Provide the following information concerning your legal experience:

A. if a practicing lawyer, the general nature of your current and past law practice and identify the firms or companies with whom you have worked:

B. if a judicial officer, the court on which you serve, the dates of service, and your prior experience practicing law, including information responsive to 8(a) above:

I have served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings from September 1990 to the present. Prior to that, I served as a criminal defense attorney for The Defender Association from 1987 to 1990.

C. If you are neither a practicing lawyer nor judicial officer, describe with particularity the nature and extent of your legal experience.

9. List all courts and jurisdictions in which you have been admitted to practice and the date of admission. Give the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements.

Washington Supreme Court 1987
U.S. District Court – Western District of Washington 1987
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals 1990

10. Are you in good standing in every bar association of which you are a member? If not, please explain. Yes, I am in good standing with every bar association that I am a member of.

11. Describe five of the more significant matters that you have handled and give the citation if the cases were reported.

I have served as an administrative law judge for over twenty-five years and have adjudicated thousands of cases. Each case is significant to the parties involved. Over the years, I have received numerous notes litigants thanking me for listening and giving them a chance to have "their day in court". I am proud of my record and reputation as a judge and advocate who is fair and sought justice for all involved parties. There are a few cases that stand out in my mind as ones that highlight the need for judicial approach that provides healing for victims, defendants and their families.

I presided over an administrative hearing for the Department of Transportation Toll Division. The appellant owed over \$6000.00 in civil penalties due to not paying the toll in a timely manner. During the appellant's testimony, she explained that she had been ill, been unemployed and had her home placed in foreclosure. I used my mitigation authority and waived all the late fees and the civil penalties. After the hearing, the appellant was so overcome by the stress she had been under for months, she cried. She thanked me for listening to her explanation and felt that she could now maybe get her life

back on track. She had just started a new job, and without the expense of the civil penalties and late fees, she might have enough money to keep her house. This is indicative of the type of matters I handle as an ALJ. The cases are significant because they deal with real life issues faced by the ordinary person. It is very fulfilling to serve the public in this way.

I spent four years working as a public defender in both Seattle Municipal Court and Juvenile Court. I handled hundreds of cases and took many cases to jury and bench trial. At Juvenile Court, I represented hundreds of young people—mostly kids of color. I left the practice in 1990 to become an ALJ and due to the passage of time I can't recall the specific names of my clients, the prosecutors, or the specific Judges I appeared before. My passion to be a lawyer was fueled by my desire to make sure poor people, marginalized people and people of color had quality representation. I felt all of my cases were significant because I was there to advocate for my client.

While working as a Public Defender at the Juvenile Court, I represented hundreds of young people, mostly kids of color. I have always been passionate about helping young people and inspiring them to achieve their dreams. I want them to realize that even though you have become entangled with the legal system, there is still hope for you to turn your life around. Your involvement maybe a temporary distraction, but does not have to be a permanent derailment. You can get back on track.

I represented a young African American at one point who nearly always had a number of cases open at one time. He also suffered from mental illness and learning disabilities. His family had become weary because of the many years and frequency of his involvement with the court system. I was able to educate everyone involved about the need to have services for this young man instead of just locking him up. I worked with his probation officer, his parents and his social worker from my office to develop a plan to support him during his time in detention and beyond. I convinced the judge to accept my recommendation for an exceptional sentence down based on the support systems I had put in place.

This was significant to me because it confirmed the importance of my role as an advocate, not only this client, but all my clients. I felt that I had made a difference in the life of this young man and his family. It was rewarding to be able to get treatment for his underlying problems and not just receive punishment/detention.

While defending an eleven-year-old charged with murder in the second degree for shooting and killing his younger brother, I was faced with language and cultural challenges as I helped this Vietnamese family access justice. I empathized with the family's devastation of possibly losing two sons if my client were to go to prison. By highlighting such factors as the young man's remorse for his actions, we were able to negotiate down the crime to involuntary manslaughter, ensuring he served only a year in prison, rather than seven. The outcome allowed the family to move forward and rebuild their life together.

I represented a young Native American man charged with rape. Although he was convicted, I persuaded the judge to lower the prosecution's recommended sentence by presenting to the court a snap shot of this young man's life without positive role models and guidance. I rather offered to the judge probation conditions that included alcohol and drug treatment, return to school, and other rehabilitation programs. Monthly status hearings were conducted to review his progress. In the end, he complied with all the conditions.

12. If you have had any other experience in the legal profession that you believe enhances your qualifications for serving as a trial judge, briefly describe it here.

I have served as an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for over twenty-five years. During that time, I have presided over thousands of Administrative Hearings. I have served as a Judge Pro Tem for Seattle Municipal Court for over 20 years. In that capacity, I have presided over every type of calendar including bench and jury trials. Prior to becoming an ALJ, I worked for The Defender Association in Seattle Municipal Court and King County Juvenile Court.

13. Describe your experience or interactions, both personally and professionally, with individuals from different racial, ethnic, religious or cultural backgrounds than your own. Please describe efforts you have made in order to promote diversity in your professional and personal activities and to assure equal access to the law for all individuals.

I am committed to promoting diversity in both my personal and professional life and involved in activities that ensure equal access to the law. Throughout my entire life, I have interacted with people from different racial, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The activities and volunteer activities I am involved in both personally and professionally include diverse people from various racial, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Additionally, my family and extended family is comprised of people from different racial, ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. See my attached resume for specific information about organizations and activities I have been involved with.

Please describe efforts you have made in order to promote diversity in your professional and personal activities and to assure equal access to the law for all individuals.

I am a current member of the Washington State Supreme Court's Access to Justice Board. I served as chair for the administrative justice committee which focuses on access issues in administrative hearings. Our initiatives include tackling access issues such as eliminating language barriers, representational accommodation and Implicit Bias training for ALJs.

I am committed to educating the public about our judicial system, while strengthening the legal profession's pipeline for diversity. I have devoted thousands of hours engaged in

activities to educate, mentor, and ensure opportunities for young people who may be interested in pursuing a career in some facet of the legal system. In particular, I personally mentored at least 100 law students from Seattle University and the University of Washington, providing personal, educational, and professional support to them as they pursue their legal studies and their respective places at the bar thereafter. I regularly speak to community organizations, church congregations, school groups, etc., about the legal profession, individual rights and responsibilities, and a host of related subjects. I do this not only to ensure the public understands the legal system, but so they might come to believe that it is through our system of justice that disputes are best resolved.

I served on the board of Northwest Women's Law Center (now, Legal Voice). Legal Voice has been the vanguard organization working to ensure justice for women in the Pacific Northwest for more than 30 years... making substantive, lasting changes through legislation and litigation designed to have a far-reaching public impact, and empowering women with knowledge about their legal rights. I was also a member of Washington State Trial Lawyers Association's (now WSAJ) Urban People's Law School 1994-95. This program gave information to urban dwellers to assist in navigating through common legal issues.

I am proud of my longstanding and active role as a mentor of students (primarily, although not exclusively, students of color) enrolled at both the University of Washington and Seattle University law schools. I took on this role soon after my 1986 law school graduation and, over the years, have mentored hundreds of young people seeking a career in the legal profession. In 1996, I helped establish a formal externship program with the Seattle University School of Law and the Office of Administrative Hearings. I have continued to supervise that program over the years as we have welcomed (and helped train) some 30 externs to date, to be leaders in their practice – championing justice and humanity. It is immensely satisfying for me to see my mentees pursue their legal studies with vigor and optimism, then to pass the Bar Examination and take up their respective roles in the legal profession. Many of them today are not only successful practitioners, they are mentors themselves.

14. Have you ever served as a judicial officer or sought appointment or election to a judicial officer? If so, give the details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, and the periods of service. Include service as a pro-tem judge, giving courts, approximate dates, and names, addresses and telephone numbers of various attorneys who appeared before you.

In October 1994, I applied for a King County District Court Commissioner position. This application did not require me to seek a judicial rating. I also applied for a Renton Municipal Court judicial position in 1998. I was one of three finalists.

Employer Seattle Municipal Court	Employer's Address PO Box 34987, Seattle, WA 98124
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-684-8709	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1996 To present	Supervisor's Name Judge Karen Donohue
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I preside over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing & review hearings.	
Reason for Leaving I continue to serve.	

Previous Employer King County District Court	Employer's Address 516 Third Ave., Seattle, WA 98104
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-296-3620	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1992 To 1995	Supervisor's Name David Admire
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I presided over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing and review hearings.	
Reason for Leaving Decided to focus on Seattle Municipal Court.	

Previous Employer Des Moines Municipal Court	Employer's Address 21630 11 th Ave S #C, Des Moines, WA 98198
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-878-4597	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1998 To 2000	Supervisor's Name Judge Albert Raines
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I presided over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing and review hearings	
Reason for Leaving I decided to focus on Seattle Municipal Court.	

15. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office, or have you ever been a candidate for such an office? If yes, give the details, including the offices involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service. No

16. Have you ever been arrested, charged or held by federal, state, or other law enforcement authorities for violation of any federal law, state law, county or

municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If yes, please give details. (Do not include traffic violations for which a fine of \$150.00 or less was imposed.) If any such episode occurred. No.

17. Has a client, lawyer or other party ever brought a claim or suit against you for malpractice or filed a complaint or other grievance against you with a bar association or other entity or organization charged with investigating claims of professional misconduct, including organizations charged with overseeing judicial conduct? If yes, please give particulars and the results. No

18. Have you ever been a party or otherwise involved in any other legal proceedings? If yes, give the particulars. Do not list proceedings in which you were merely a guardian ad litem or stakeholder. Include all legal proceedings in which you were a party in interest. No

19. Are you aware of anything in your background or any event you anticipate in the future that might be considered to conflict with an appointment to the Seattle Municipal Court bench? No

20. What is the state of your health? Do you have any current medical condition that might diminish or impair your ability to serve as a judge during the next four years? If yes, please be prepared to discuss this with the Committee. My health is good and I do not have any current medical conditions which might diminish or impair my ability to serve as a judge during the next four years.

21. Are you now or have you ever been a member of an organization or club which excludes persons from membership on the basis of race, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or religion? If yes, please explain, and include in your answer any actions you undertook to change such policies. No

22. List any non-legal activities in which you have been involved that enhance your qualifications for the federal bench, whether civic, charitable, or otherwise. Also list any military service, giving branch, rank, dates of service, and type of discharge.

Seattle University Board of Regents	2008 – present
Seattle University Law School Board of Governors	2009 – 2014
Seattle University Alumni Board President	2006 – 2008
Seattle University African American Alumni Association Chapter Co-Chair	2005 - 2015
Seattle University Access to Justice Institute Executive Board	2000 – 2007
Washington State Supreme Court Access to Justice Board Member	2012 – present
Bar Leaders Planning Committee – ATJC Conference	2009 – present
National Association of Women Judges National Conference Planning Committee Member	2015 – present
The Defender Association (TDA) Board of Directors Member	2008 – 2010
Northwest Women’s Law Center (Now Legal Voice)	

Board Member and Executive Board Member	1991 – 1996
Urban Peoples Law School, Program Co-Chair	1994 – 1995
Washington State Trial Lawyers Association	

23. State those qualities that you consider to be most important in a person holding judicial office.

I aspire to be a judge who demonstrates respect, neutrality and patience. All parties appearing before me should feel heard, especially pro-se litigants. Communities of color believe that the justice system is broken, and I am committed to rebuilding faith in our court system, one case at a time. Our most marginalized community members need to see judges acting consistently in their rulings and interactions with the parties.

24. State your reasons for seeking appointment to the municipal court bench. Include those qualities you possess that you list in question 23.

I know I have the requisite legal experience, temperament and community ties. When I was eight years old, I witnessed the criminal trial of my first cousin. My father took me with him. I was deeply appreciative of the efforts of the lawyer on behalf of my cousin and fascinated by the legal system. I want the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of all the people coming before the court.

25. List any honors, prizes, awards, or other forms of recognition that you have received, whether professional or civic.

- | | |
|---|------|
| <i>Woman of the Year – for accomplishments in the legal profession, community service, and mentorship of women law students and young lawyers</i> | |
| Seattle University Women’s Law Caucus | 2014 |
| <i>Woman in Leadership Award – for successful women leaders in Seattle who encourage and inspire young women to become leaders</i> | |
| Seattle University | 2016 |
| <i>Social Justice Award – For the advancement of social justice</i> | |
| Loren Miller Bar Association | 2012 |
| <i>University Service Award – for extraordinary service to the university</i> | |
| Seattle University Alumni Board of Governors | 2011 |
| <i>Alumni Service Award – for extraordinary service to the School of Law, including recruitment and mentorship of students of color</i> | |
| Seattle University School of Law | 2010 |
| <i>Alumni Award – for mentorship and support of members of the Black Law Student Association</i> | |
| Black Law Students Association – Seattle University Chapter | 2008 |
| <i>Public Service Award of Distinction – for leadership role on the Access to Justice Board</i> | |

26. Give names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five attorneys or judges who know you best, including at least two attorneys who have opposed you in cases. The Mayor is not seeking letters of recommendation at this time.

Jerome Roache, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Bellevue, 450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA, 98004 (425) 452-6822

Bruce Miyake, Assistant U.S. Attorney, 700 Stewart St., Ste 5220, Seattle, WA 98101-4438, (206) 553-2077

Ron Ward, Attorney, Ward & Smith PLLC and Past President, Washington State Bar Association, 1000 2nd Ave., Ste 4050, Seattle, WA 98104, (206) 477-1519

Anne Ellington, (Retired) Judge, Washington Court of Appeals JAMS, 600 University St., Suite 1910, Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 622-5267

Paris Kallas, (Retired) Judge, King County Superior Court/Judicial Dispute Resolution, 1425 Fourth Ave., Suite 300 1 Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 223-1669

27. Please provide information on:

A. Employment history (legal or non-legal)

1. Present or Last Employer Office of Administrative Hearings, State of Washington	Employer's Address 600 University St., Suite 1500, Seattle, WA 98101
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-389-3400	Your Title Administrative Law Judge
Dates of Employment From 1990 To present	Supervisor's Name Stephanie Croom-Williams
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I conduct administrative hearings for various State Agencies	
Reason for Leaving Presently Employed	

2. Previous Employer Seattle Municipal Court	Employer's Address PO Box 34987, Seattle, WA 98124
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-684-8709	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1996 To present	Supervisor's Name Judge Karen Donohue
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I preside over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing & review hearings.	
Reason for Leaving I continue to serve.	

3. Previous Employer King County District Court	Employer's Address 516 Third Ave., Seattle, WA 98104
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-296-3620	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1992 To 1995	Supervisor's Name David Admire
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I presided over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing and review hearings.	
Reason for Leaving Decided to focus on Seattle Municipal Court.	
4. Previous Employer Seattle King County Public Defender Association	Employer's Address 810 Third Av., Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98104
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-447-3900	Your Title Staff Attorney
Dates of Employment From 1987 To 1990	Supervisor's Name Molly Cohan
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I represented juvenile and adult misdemeanor and felony defendants. I appeared in court daily.	
Reason for Leaving Accepted position as an ALJ.	
5. Previous Employer Des Moines Municipal Court	Employer's Address 21630 11 th Ave S #C, Des Moines, WA 98198
Employer's Phone (Include area code) 206-878-4597	Your Title Judge Pro Tem
Dates of Employment From 1998 To 2000	Supervisor's Name Judge Albert Raines
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances and areas of special emphasis) I presided over criminal misdemeanor cases – motions, trials, sentencing and review hearings.	
Reason for Leaving I decided to focus on Seattle Municipal Court.	

B. Have you been ordered to pay sanctions to a Court? If your answer is yes, please provide details. No

C. Provide the names of five (5) professional references who have known you for at least five years.

Art Wang, Chief Administrative Law Judge, Washington Office of Administrative Hearings (Retired), [REDACTED]

Judge Richard Jones, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, [REDACTED]

Justice Bobbe Bridge, (Retired), Washington State Supreme Court, [REDACTED]

Judge Willie Gregory, Seattle Municipal Court, [REDACTED]

Judge Michael Spearman, Washington Court of Appeals, [REDACTED]

D. Provide the names and telephone numbers of at least three and no more than 5 personal references who have known you for at least five years.

Sharon Tomiko Santos, Washington State House of Representatives, [REDACTED]

Phyllis Campbell, Chairman, Pacific Northwest for JPMorgan Chase & Co., [REDACTED]

Grace Greenwich, Vice President, Counsel of Urban Real Estate, [REDACTED]

Daniel Johnson, Executive Management & Fundraising Consultant (former CEO King County Boys and Girls Club), [REDACTED]

Dr. Isiaah Crawford, President, University of Puget Sound (former Provost, Seattle University), [REDACTED]

E. Either in your own name or any pseudonym, have you written any published or posted article, editorial or opinion piece (paper or electronic), commented on any blog or other story, been quoted in any news article or blog post, or appeared in any content broadcast on the radio or television? If your answer is yes, please list all such items and provide copies if possible.

<i>Unemployment Insurance for Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking</i> Seattle University Law School	2004 & 2005
<i>Dealing with Difficult Litigants</i> National Adjudicators Association Conference	2014
<i>Access to Justice Update</i> Office of Administrative Hearings	2014
<i>Keynote Speech: Paving the Road for Tomorrow's Lawyers</i> Black Law Students Association Regional Conference	2015
<i>How Women Can Help Women Thrive Through Mentorship</i> Keynote Speaker, Seattle University Women Alumni Connection	2016

Anita Crawford-Willis



Profile



The Hon. Anita Crawford-Willis is currently an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for the State of Washington. She also regularly serves as a Judge Pro Tem in the Seattle Municipal Court. The hallmark of her professional career has been her leadership in mentoring and empowering students of color in pursuit of their dreams and careers in public service. She has been honored with numerous awards for her work and is a member of the Seattle University Board of Regents and a former member of the Seattle University Law School Board of Governors.

- Over 25 years of extensive fact-finding and decision-making expertise
- Extensive knowledge of the Rules of Evidence, Court Rules, and administrative and criminal law
- Proven ability to manage high volume caseload while maintaining order and proper judicial demeanor

Education

Juris Doctor (J.D.)	Seattle University School of Law	1986
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Seattle University	1982

Bar Admissions

Washington State Supreme Court	1987
U.S. District Court – Western District of Washington	1987
Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals	1990

Professional Associations

Washington State Bar Association	1987-present
Loren Miller Bar Association	1987-present
National Association of Women Judges	2015-present

Additional Legal & Judicial Training

National Judicial College -- Administrative Law – High Volume	1995
National Association of ALJ's Annual Conferences	1995, 1998, 2001
Certificate – Mediation Training – University of Washington Law School	2005
Certificate – WSQA/Baldrige Examiner training	2008

Employment as Administrative Law Judge

Administrative Law Judge	1990 - present
Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge	2001 - 2015

Employment as Judge Pro Tem

Seattle Municipal Court	1994 - present
King County District Court	1990 - 1995
Des Moines Municipal Court	1998 - 2000

Prior Legal Experience

The Public Defender Association (TDA) Staff Attorney	Seattle, Washington	1987 - 1990
Norton Clapp Law Center (Rule 9 intern) University of Puget Sound	Tacoma, Washington	1986

Professional Service

Seattle University Board of Regents	2008 - present
Seattle University Law School Board of Governors	2009 - 2014
Seattle University Alumni Board President	2006 - 2008
Seattle University African American Alumni Association Chapter Co-Chair	2005 - 2015
Seattle University Access to Justice Institute Executive Board	2000 - 2007
Washington State Supreme Court Access to Justice Board Member Bar Leaders Planning Committee - ATJC Conference	2012 - present 2009 - present
National Association of Women Judges National Conference Planning Committee Member	2015 - present
The Defender Association (TDA) Board of Directors Member	2008 - 2010
Northwest Women's Law Center (Now Legal Voice) Board Member and Executive Board Member	1991 - 1996
Urban Peoples Law School, Program Co-Chair	1994 - 1995
Washington State Trial Lawyers Association	

Legal Speaking Engagements & Contributions

<i>Unemployment Insurance for Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking</i> Seattle University Law School	2004 & 2005
<i>Dealing with Difficult Litigants</i> National Adjudicators Association Conference	2014
<i>Access to Justice Update</i> Office of Administrative Hearings	2014
<i>Keynote Speech: Paving the Road for Tomorrow's Lawyers</i> Black Law Students Association Regional Conference	2015
<i>How Women Can Help Women Thrive Through Mentorship</i> Keynote Speaker, Seattle University Women Alumni Connection	2016

Community Service

King County Boys & Girls Club Board Member	1994 – 2007
Corporate Board Chair	2003 – 2004
Rainier Vista Boys & Girls Club Board President	1997 – 2003
Parklake Boys & Girls Club Board President	1990 – 1996
Crista Ministries Board of Directors	2011 – present
Agape House Board of Directors, Vice President	2014 – present

Honors & Awards

<i>Woman of the Year</i> – for accomplishments in the legal profession, community service, and mentorship of women law students and young lawyers Seattle University Women’s Law Caucus	2014
<i>Woman in Leadership Award</i> – for successful women leaders in Seattle who encourage and inspire young women to become leaders Seattle University	2016
<i>Social Justice Award</i> – For the advancement of social justice Loren Miller Bar Association	2012
<i>University Service Award</i> -- for extraordinary service to the university Seattle University Alumni Board of Governors	2011
<i>Alumni Service Award</i> – for extraordinary service to the School of Law, including recruitment and mentorship of students of color Seattle University School of Law	2010
<i>Alumni Award</i> – for mentorship and support of members of the Black Law Student Association Black Law Students Association – Seattle University Chapter	2008
<i>Public Service Award of Distinction</i> – for leadership role on the Access to Justice Board Seattle University Access to Justice Institute	2006

Personal

Anita lives with her husband, Pervis Wills, and their 19-month old daughter, Taylor, in Seattle.

MICHAEL S. SPEARMAN, JUDGE
ONE UNION SQUARE
600 UNIVERSITY STREET
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101-4170
(206) 464-6047
MICHAEL.SPEARMAN@COURTS.WA.GOV

The Court of Appeals
of the
State of Washington



October 9, 2016

The Honorable Mayor Ed Murray
Attention: Karinda Harris
City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Re: Anita Crawford-Willis Judicial Appointment to Seattle Municipal Court

Dear Mayor Murray:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my strongest support for the appointment of Ms. Anita Crawford-Willis to the Seattle Municipal Court.

I have known Anita since she was first admitted to the Washington State Bar and began working for The Defender Association. She was a strong advocate for her clients in the courtroom and in their personal lives. She sought to understand the barriers and challenges her clients faced and to get them the help they needed to stay out of the criminal justice system. Anita was their biggest supporter.

Anita will be an incredible asset to the Seattle Municipal Court bench. She has served there as judge pro tempore since 1994. She is knowledgeable about the law and court procedure. But she also has the ability to connect with litigants, many of whom are unrepresented. She will fairly apply the law, but with compassion and in a way that allows each litigant to feel that they have been heard. This is an extraordinarily important quality in a judge and Anita does it with ease.

Anita is well regarded in the legal community and the Seattle community as a whole. She has been honored multiple times by her alma mater, Seattle University, where she currently serves on the Board of Regents. Her continuing efforts to help young people succeed both as undergraduates and law school students have earned her well-deserved praise and accolades. Anita has a passion for people and the law. I have no doubt that she will be an excellent judge. I commend her to you without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "MS" or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Michael Spearman

The Supreme Court
State of Washington

CHARLES K. WIGGINS
JUSTICE
TEMPLE OF JUSTICE
POST OFFICE BOX 40929
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
98504-0929



(360) 357-2025
E-MAIL J.C.WIGGINS@COURTS.WA.GOV

October 11, 2016

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

Ian Warner
Office of the Mayor Legal Counsel
City of Seattle, Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124
and
Ian.Warner@seattle.gov

Re: Recommendation on behalf of Anita Crawford-Willis
For Seattle Municipal Court

Dear Mr. Warner:

I first met Anita Crawford-Willis when we collaborated in presenting an "Urban People's Law School" in the Rainier Valley neighborhood of Seattle in the early 1990's. People's Law Schools were a project of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (now Washington State Association for Justice). The goal of the program was to present a series of practical presentations on an aspect of the law that the public is likely to encounter in life, such as family law, juvenile court, personal injury, landlord-tenant and other common topics. We tailored the programs to an inner city audience and presented at a variety of African-American churches. Anita was enthusiastic, organized and well-prepared for her presentation. I was impressed by her concern for our target audience and her willingness to give of herself and her time.

Since the People's Law School, Anita and I have kept in touch, primarily through bar association events and activities. My initial impressions of Anita as a caring and generous person have been borne out by her record of service. Her tenure as an administrative law judge has demonstrated her ability to consider a case carefully and impartially, and her heart for service shines out in her pro bono activities, notably her willingness to serve on the Access to Justice Board. The ATJ Board is a hard-working and effective forum for developing, exploring and implementing improvements in the

Ian Warner
Office of the Mayor Legal Counsel
City of Seattle

administration of justice in Washington and Anita has contributed significantly to its mission.

I have not had the opportunity to appear before Anita, but I am confident from my experiences with her that she is an outstanding judge and I recommend her without reservation for appointment to the Seattle Municipal Court.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlie Wiggins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charlie Wiggins
Justice

Theresa Doyle

[REDACTED]
Seattle, WA [REDACTED]

October 11, 2016

Hon. Edward Murray
Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
600 4th Avenue, 7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: Anita Crawford-Willis

Dear Mayor Murray:

I write in support of the appointment of Anita Crawford-Willis to the Seattle Municipal Court. I am a former Seattle Municipal Court judge, now on King County Superior Court.

Judge Crawford-Willis substituted for me as a pro tem judge when I was a judge on the Seattle Municipal Court bench, from 1998 to 2004. She was on my pro tem list because she possessed all of the traits of an excellent limited jurisdiction judge: the ability to handle a high volume calendar efficiently while showing respect for our litigants, knowledge of the relevant law, sensitivity to issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and class bias as they affect the criminal justice system, and a respectful and patient demeanor.

None of her demonstrated excellent record surprises me. She and I served together as public defenders in the late 1980s at The Defender Association (TDA). Then, as now, she had excellent legal skills and a commitment to equal justice for all.

I have unqualified support for Judge Crawford-Willis for appointment to Seattle Municipal Court. Indeed, I have been encouraging her for many years to apply for appointment. Now she has finally done so. Seattle residents deserve the best. Appoint her to the Seattle Municipal Court.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,


Theresa Doyle

From: Nicole A. Gaines [<mailto:nicole@gaineslawoffice.com>]

Sent: Monday, October 10, 2016 3:43 PM

To: Warner, Ian <Ian.Warner@seattle.gov>

Cc: Harris, Karinda <Karinda.Harris@seattle.gov>

Subject: Re: Reference Letter for Anita Crawford-Willis

Mayor Ed Murray
Seattle City Council
600 Fourth Avenue #7
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Recommendation for the Appointment of Anita Crawford-Willis

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am delighted to write this letter in support of Anita Crawford-Willis. I have known Anita for almost ten years. In that time, I have observed her talents as a supervisor, mentor, leader, advocate and friend. In my opinion, she is the perfect candidate for one of the seats on the Seattle Municipal Court Bench.

I first met Anita during an interview for a position with Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). At the time, she was in charge of the entire Seattle OAH office. From the first time we met, I found her warm and engaging. Her supportive nature assured me that I DEFINITELY wanted to work for HER. My instinct proved correct. Although I did not know it at that time, Anita is known for her ability to support those around her to rise to their "best." During my tenure at OAH, I have personally observed Anita bring calm and compassion into situations where chaos and mistrust were rampant. As a manager, she is HIGHLY respected and liked by those she supervises. Why? Because she is trustworthy and always authentic with her words and deeds. She has compassion for every person she meets.

For instance, years ago I was presiding over a very difficult administrative due process hearing involving a mentally unstable participant ("Ms. Participant"). Ms. Participant's behaviors and vocalizations raised concerns for my safety and the safety of those in the hearing. My supervisor, at that time, suggested I end the hearing and find Ms. Participant in default. I expressed concern because I knew doing so would negatively impact Ms. Participant's ability to receive the public assistance benefits she desperately needed. Anita, who was not my supervisor at the time, overheard this conversation. She volunteered to privately speak with Ms. Participant about her behavior and how it was negatively impacting her right to a due process hearing. After sitting and talking with Anita for a few minutes, Ms. Participant's demeanor completely changed. The change allowed me to reconvene and complete Ms. Participant's due process hearing.

Shortly thereafter, I asked Anita what happened? Anita said, "Ms. Participant and I simply talked for a few minutes. I asked her what was going on and then I listened. When Ms. Participant finished telling me her story, I told her the only way she could get the help she wanted was if she calmed down so that you could do your job. After I explained this to her Ms. Participant promised that she would behave appropriately." I'm eternally grateful for Anita's intervention. If she had not volunteered to speak to Ms. Participant, I would have been forced to adhere to my then supervisor's directive. This would have negatively impacted Ms. Participant's ability to participate in the administrative hearing process. This is only one of many examples of times when I have seen Anita take the time to step away from an "easy" solution by taking the time to talk, listen and then develop an appropriate resolution. Seattle municipal court is a high volume court. It truly serves as the "people's court" for the citizens of Seattle. Being born and raised here in Seattle, Anita is well known for her commitment to the people of Seattle. She often speaks of the "love she has for MY city, the 206." As a member of the court, Anita would serve as a wonderful liaison in building a bridge between community and the legal system.

We need judges like Anita on this court who have the compassion and devotion to really "listen" to the needs of those who appear before them. The Seattle Municipal Court needs judges from the Seattle community who have the intention to remain a longtime member of the court. Anita Crawford-Willis is that person. With more than 30 years of legal experience, 25 of which she served as administrative law judge, Anita has the ability step on the Seattle Municipal Court bench and immediately be an asset. In doing so, she will inspire everyone within her sphere of influence, most importantly the people who appear before her, to rise their "best."

If I can offer any additional information on why I strongly support Anita Crawford-Willis as a candidate for the Seattle Municipal Court Bench, please feel free to contact me via email (Nicole@Gaineslawoffice.com) or via telephone (206-963-8900).

Sincerely,
Nicole A. Gaines Phelps