

Seattle Municipal Court

Update for Seattle City Council

Public Safety Committee

February 11, 2025

Anita Crawford-Willis, Presiding Judge

Josh Sattler, Court Administrator

AGENDA

- 1) Leadership Transitions
 - New Presiding Judge
 - New Judicial Executive Committee
- 2) 2024 Accomplishments
- 3) 2025-2026 Priorities
- 4) New Initiative
- 5) Challenges and Opportunities
- 6) Questions



Seattle Municipal Court

- The judicial branch of Seattle City government.
- Authorized under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.20.
- Adjudicates misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenses, infractions, and civil violations under the Seattle Municipal Code and Revised Code of Washington statutes.
- 7 elected judges, 5 appointed magistrates, 4 service areas.



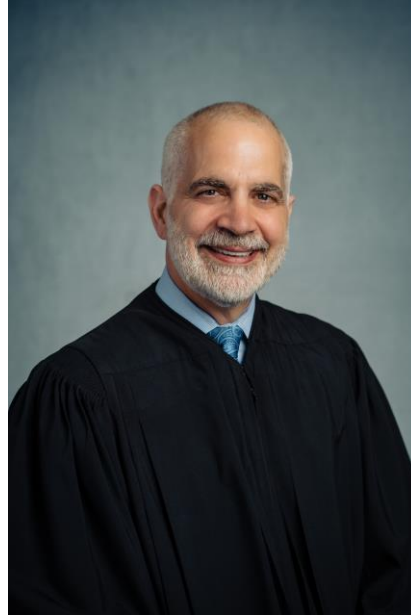
Seattle Municipal Court's mission is to provide a forum to resolve alleged violations of the law in a respectful, independent and impartial manner.



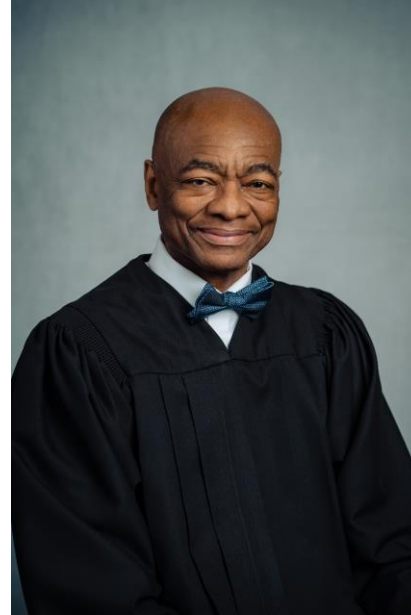
Judicial Executive Committee



Hon. Anita Crawford-Willis
Presiding Judge



Hon. Damon Shadid
Assistant Presiding Judge



Hon. Willie Gregory
3rd Member of Exec.
Committee

Presiding Judge leads the management and administration of the court's business, recommending policies and procedures that improve the court's effectiveness, and allocating resources in a way that maximizes the court's ability to resolve disputes fairly and expeditiously (General Rule 29, SMCLR 10.2).

Executive Committee reviews judicial policy changes prior to a full vote and information sharing about operational issues at the court.

2024 Accomplishments

Launch of New Technology: Successful implementation of new case management system (March 2024).

Project Governance & Portfolio Management: Implemented system for prioritizing project proposals and effectively manage court projects.

Ensure Adequate Court Funding: We are grateful for the City Council and Mayor Harrell's efforts to preserve funding for public safety.

Completed Reorganization: The court is organized into four service areas, Operations, Administrative Services, Technology and Strategy.

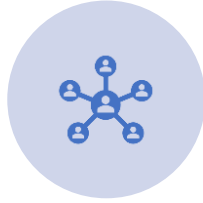
Strengthening Relationships: Continue to ensure timely and effective communication with system partners and other interested parties including City Council and Mayor's Office.

Advancing Equity and Engagement: Law Day, Community Relief Day, Staff work group to revise Dress Code policy.

2025 - 2026 Priorities



TECH STABILIZATION &
FUTURE
ENHANCEMENTS



EMPLOYEE WELL-
BEING &
ENGAGEMENT



ORGANIZATIONAL
RESILIENCE



OPERATIONAL
EXCELLENCE &
ACCOUNTABILITY



LEADERSHIP &
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



CITY & LEGISLATIVE
MANDATES



MAINTAIN JUDICIAL
INDEPENDENCE

New Initiative

Seattle Drug Diversion

- Collaboration with City Attorney's Office to implement a new diversion program for individuals charged with drug possession (SMC 12A.09.020) or related charge.
- The City Attorney will determine eligibility and present a diversion offer.
- SMC Pretrial Services will manage the program and coordinate referrals to community partners for case management and other services through Community Resource Center.
- Successful participation in the program will lead to dismissal of charges.
- Program will require new funding for Court and Prosecutor.

SMC Program Requirements

New Funding For:

Staffing: \$160,000 (1.0 FTE PC2 position)

Contract: \$180,000 (SUD Assessor)

Challenges and Opportunities

Marshal Staffing

Data Exchange with City Attorney

Future Traffic Camera Expansion

Budget



Questions?

www.seattle.gov/courts