

JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE

September 18, 2020

The Honorable Lorena González
President, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

The Honorable Lisa Herbold
Chair Public Safety Committee, Seattle City Council
Seattle City Hall, 2nd Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Council President González and Chair Herbold:

We are members of the Judicial Evaluation Committee representing several of the local Minority Bar Associations, the Seattle City Attorney's Office and The Public Defender Association. We write in support of the Mayor's appointment and request the City Council's confirmation of Pro Tem Judge Catherine McDowall to fill the current vacancy on the Seattle Municipal Court.

Pro Tem Judge McDowall has been a judge on the Seattle Municipal Court and King County District Court for over seven years. She demonstrated to the committee that she exhibits the criteria that we were asked to consider as part of our evaluation:

- Requisite Legal Knowledge – criminal procedure, evidence, jury trial experience
- “Hit the ground running” – Pro-tem or judge experience
- Diversity of work experience and innovation to support court's goal on criminal justice reform
- Fair and open-minded and good temperament
- Respected in the community and legal profession
- Team player and good communicator
- Experience in restorative justice principles
- Highest integrity
- Demonstrated ability to show respect and empathy in the courtroom

Also, pursuant to Ordinance 121698, we considered the candidates application materials, including bar association ratings from the King County Bar Association and the Minority Bar Associations in our evaluation. Pro Tem Judge McDowall received a rating of Well Qualified from the King County Bar Association, Qualified from the Loren Miller Bar Association, and Exceptionally Well Qualified from the Washington Women Lawyers.

The Committee recommends Pro Tem Judge McDowall be appointed and confirmed to the Seattle Municipal Court bench. She would be an asset to the court and will further the court's commitment and leadership to address issues of institutional racism in the criminal justice system and engage in reform efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed:

JUDICIAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Betsy A. Crumb

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Chair, Judicial Evaluation Committee, Washington Women Lawyers

AWat

Adrienne Wat
Asian Bar Association of Washington, Board Member

James F. Johnson

James F. Johnson
President, Loren Miller Bar Association

Shayna Israel

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QLaw of Washington, Board Member

Cheryl Lee

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Past President, Korean American Bar Association of Washington

Prachi Dave

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Legal Director, Public Defender Association and Co-Chair Community Police Commission

Stephanie P. Dikeakos

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