



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Anita Khandelwal</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appointment OR <input type="checkbox"/> Reappointment	City Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> City Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission</i>	Term of Position: * 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2026 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Capitol Hill/District 3</i>	Zip Code: <i>98112</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: Anita Khandelwal practices law with the Pacifica Law Group. Prior to joining the firm, she spent a decade as the Director of the King County Public Defenders Office. She got her bachelors degree and her law degree from Yale University.		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): <i>Katie B. Wilson</i> Date Signed (appointed): 03/23/2026	Appointing Signatory: <i>Katie B. Wilson</i> <i>Mayor of Seattle</i>	

*Term begin and end date is fixed and tied to the position and not the appointment date.

EDUCATION

YALE LAW SCHOOL, New Haven, CT

J.D., May 2005

Activities: Yale Law Journal, Senior Editor

Yale Law Women Activism Committee, Founder and Chair

Collective of Women of Color, Co-chair

YALE UNIVERSITY, New Haven, CT

B.A. in Anthropology and History, 1998

Honors: Edward J. Bouchet Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Paul Mellon Undergraduate Research Grant

Graduated *cum laude* with distinction in both majors

EXPERIENCE

PACIFICA LAW GROUP

Seattle, WA, November 2024 to present

Partner.

- Represent State and Local governments in employment matters at trial and appellate level;
- Advise non-profits on employment issues and compliance issues

KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

Seattle, WA, November 2015 to October 2024

Director. (June 2018-October 2024).

- Management: Lead organization with over 400 employees and \$70 million annual budget; supervise management team; lead organization through pandemic, social change, and significant budgetary challenges.
- Legislation and policy: lead successful efforts to enact legislation on city, county, and state levels, including first-in-the-nation ordinance protecting children in custody from being interrogated without counsel.
- Litigation: supervise litigation, including civil suits and habeas actions, on issues related to indigent defense; represent individual clients; liaison with civil defense council on employment litigation.

Deputy Director/Policy Director. Second in command of 400-person government agency; audit caseloads to ensure compliance with contracts and Supreme Court standards; negotiate contracts with unions; review adequacy of internal investigations of attorney misconduct; review discipline imposed on staff; serve as general counsel; collaborate with law enforcement, prosecutors, and local government to reform criminal justice system (e.g. developing simplified *Miranda* warnings).

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER ASSOCIATION

Seattle, WA, July 2008 to December 2011, July 2013 to January 2016

Senior Attorney (July 2013 to November 2015). Identify criminal justice policies needing reform and propose and advocate for alternative policies. Litigate systemic issues facing criminal defendants, including *Trueblood v. DSHS* in the Western District and Ninth Circuit. Provide ancillary legal services to participants in pre-booking diversion program. Assist with implementing pre-booking diversion program (LEAD).

Staff Attorney (July 2008 to December 2011). Represented individuals accused of crimes, including jury trials.

FEDERAL DEFENDER FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Seattle, WA, December 2011 to July 2013

Staff Attorney. Drafted pre-trial motions, trial briefs, and appellate briefs on behalf of indigent defendants charged with federal crimes. Drafted habeas petitions on behalf of indigent defendants challenging state and federal convictions. Argued pre-trial motions in trial court and appeals before the Ninth Circuit.

HONORABLE WILLIAM WAYNE JUSTICE, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Austin, TX, August 2007 to July 2008

Law Clerk. Researched and drafted legal opinions with emphasis on criminal and habeas cases.

RELMAN & DANE, PLLC

Washington, D.C., September 2006 to August 2007

Civil Rights Fellow. Researched and wrote legal memoranda and briefs for civil rights firm. Involved in all aspects of litigation in federal court, including drafting complaints, motion for preliminary injunction, opposition to summary judgment, motions in limine, and other pleadings; took and second-chaired depositions.

HONORABLE DOLORES K. SLOVITER, THIRD CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Philadelphia, PA, August 2005 to August 2006

Law Clerk. Researched and drafted legal opinions.

ALTSHULER, BERZON, NUSSBAUM, RUBIN & DEMAIN

San Francisco, CA, May 2004 to July 2004

Summer Law Clerk. Researched and wrote legal memoranda and briefs for union-side labor law firm.

ACLU DRUG LAW REFORM PROJECT

Santa Cruz, CA, May 2003 to August 2004

Legal Intern. Interviewed clients and potential witnesses and drafted complaint in nationally publicized civil rights case alleging discriminatory law enforcement in South Carolina.

LANGUAGES: Hindi and Urdu, Conversational Spanish

BAR ADMISSIONS: Washington, Western District of Washington, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Memberships: King County Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, South Asian Bar Association, Washington Leadership Institute

Additional Activities: Keynote speaker at SABAW annual conference (2020); graduate of and regular speaker at Washington Leadership Institute; Mentor-in-residence at Yale Law School.

Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission

7 Members: Pursuant to Seattle Municipal Code 3.70.020, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3-year terms:

- 3 Mayor- appointed
- 3 City Council- appointed
- 1 Other Appointing Authority: Commission

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
1	F	3	1	Member	Anita Khandelwal	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	Mayor
6	M	3	2	Member	Evan M. Smith	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	City Council
6	M	5	3	Member	Kai Smith	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Mayor
2	F	3	4	Member	Vivian Vassall	1/1/25	12/31/27	1	Commission
6	M	7	5	Member	Jonathan Schirmer	1/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
3	F	2	6	Member	Andrea Lino	1/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
2	M	3	7	Member	Bobby Forch	1/1/24	12/31/26	1	City Council

SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART

	SELF-IDENTIFIED DIVERSITY CHART				(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Male	Female	Transgender	NB/ O/ U	Asian	Black/ African American	Hispanic/ Latino	American Indian/ Alaska Native	Other	Caucasian/ Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	1	2			1		1			1			
Council	3					1				2			
Other		1				1							
Total	4	3			1	2	1			3			

Key:

*D List the corresponding *Diversity Chart* number (1 through 9)

**G List *gender*, M= Male, F= Female, T= Transgender, NB= Non-Binary, O= Other, U= Unknown

RD Residential Council District number 1 through 7 or N/A

Diversity information is self-identified and is voluntary.