



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Joel C. Merkel</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Community Police 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Council <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Fill in appointing authority</i>	Term of Position: * 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2024 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Serving remaining term of a vacant position</i>	
Residential Neighborhood: <i>Ballard</i>	Zip Code: <i>98102</i>	Contact Phone No.: [REDACTED]
Background: <i>Joel Merkel has over 14 years of public service working in the U.S. Senate and the King County Prosecutor's Office.</i> <i>He served as Legislative Counsel for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, carrying out oversight over multiple federal agencies. He coordinated with the White House, other Congressional offices and constituent groups in carrying out this oversight, which included complex investigations into the causes and impacts of the 2008 financial market crisis and development of policy and legislative responses, including drafting and negotiating sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform law.</i> <i>In the King County Prosecutor's Office, he has tried dozens of domestic violence and sexual assault cases, working with victims, many of whom come from diverse and marginalized communities and often struggle with being thrust into the criminal legal system. He served on an office-wide Equity Action Workgroup to develop internal recommendations on criminal justice reform and racial equity.</i> <i>He utilized his policy background from work in the U.S. Senate to spearhead and lead an effort at the state legislature to expand drug treatment sentencing alternatives to incarceration for non-violent crimes in the state legislature, helping to draft the bill, working with stakeholders, and testifying before the legislature prior to passage of the bill.</i>		
Authorizing Signature (original signature): <i>Lisa A. Herbold</i> Date Signed (appointed):	Appointing Signatory: <i>Lisa Herbold</i> <i>Seattle City Councilmember</i>	

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

JOEL C. MERKEL, JR.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Seattle, WA

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

January 2013 - Present

Trial Rotations: Special Assault, Domestic Violence, Violent and Economic Crimes, and District Court

- Work with staff and law enforcement on case development, investigative follow up, and trial preparation. Tried 50+ jury trials. Work collaboratively with victims, victim advocates, witnesses, and community partners on complex and sensitive cases with a victim centered approach. Work with medical witnesses and the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab on forensic analysis, including DNA. Research and write evidentiary and appellate briefing and present oral argument. Successfully handled appeals following trial verdicts. Brief and argue constitutional challenges to statutes.

Negotiating and Charging: Homicide and Violent Crime, Special Assault, and Economic Crimes

- Make charging decisions, including in rush cases for in-custody defendants within a 72-hour filing period. Review warrants and collaborate with law enforcement on case investigations, including complex financial fraud and embezzlement cases. Assist victims and witnesses in navigating the criminal justice system. Negotiate with defense counsels on a high volume of cases with competing equities and community interests. Consult with law enforcement and victims on plea and sentence recommendations. Research and prepare likely evidentiary issues for trial deputies.

Policy and office mission contributions:

- Serve on hiring and legislative committees. Spearheaded and led the successful effort to expand state law on drug treatment sentencing alternatives for non-violent offenders and presented a CLE on the new law. Work with stakeholders and defense bar to develop legislative and office policy changes on sex offender registration for juvenile offenders. Serve on an office-wide Equity Action Workgroup to develop internal recommendations on criminal justice reform and racial equity.

U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL'S OFFICE, Washington, D.C. and Seattle, WA

Legislative Counsel

January 2007 - March 2010, and February 2011 - December 2012

Counsel on financial markets, energy, and natural resource policy. Led the Senator's investigations, oversight, and policy responses to the 2008 financial market crisis. Drafted and negotiated sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform law. Developed policy and political strategies in preparing the Senator for congressional hearings, meetings with the President of the United States, cabinet secretaries, executive branch officials, and constituent groups. Led the Senator's efforts to change the White House's legislative requests regarding financial market reform (documented in Ron Suskind's 2011 book: "Confidence Men: Wall Street, Washington, and the Education of a President"). Helped write and pass the Senator's oil market anti-manipulation law (Federal Trade Commission). Drafted comments on federal rulemaking.

SUMMIT POWER GROUP, Seattle, WA

Assistant Counsel

March 2010 - February 2011

Assisted the company's president and general counsel on legal, commercial, legislative, and policy matters related to the company's clean energy business, including federal contracts and clean energy tax incentive compliance.

MERKEL LAW OFFICE, Seattle, WA

Rule 9 Attorney and Attorney

January 2006 – January 2007

Drafted appellate and State Supreme Court briefs. Drafted and responded to interrogatories, assisted in depositions, and helped develop litigation strategies. Argued summary judgment motions.

KITSAP COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Port Orchard, WA

Rule 9 Attorney

May 2005 – December 2005

Tried non-felony and felony jury trials. Argued pre-trial and post-sentencing motions. Handled pre-trial calendars. Drafted an in-depth analysis of Washington State insanity defense law that was used to rebut an insanity defense during plea negotiations of a homicide and helped induce a guilty plea. Conducted legal research and writing for evidentiary motions.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR-ELECT CHRISTINE GREGOIRE, Olympia, WA

Transition Team Staff

December 2004-January 2005

Collaborated with stakeholders and prepared recommendations to the Governor-Elect on cabinet level and senior staff appointments and other transition related matters.

KING COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, Seattle, WA

Paralegal, Most Dangerous Offenders Project (MDOP) and Drug Unit

June 2003 – August 2003

Processed discovery and filed pleadings for trial deputies. Prepared trial notebooks and exhibits. Worked with witnesses and trial deputies on all aspects of trial preparation and case management.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL LICENCES

Member: Washington State Bar Association (2006)

Tulane University School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana

Juris Doctor, *Environmental Law Certificate*, July 2006

Selected Honors: Trial Advocacy *honors*
First and Second Year Class President
Criminal Law Defense Clinic *Student Attorney*

University of Washington School of Law, Seattle, Washington

Visiting Student (Hurricane Katrina), September 2005 – June 2006

Selected Honors: Environmental Law Clinic *Student Attorney*

University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science Honors Program, graduated *with distinction*, 2003

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WORK

Legal Foundation of Washington, Campaign for Equal Justice: Board Member (2021-present)

King County Bar Association: Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee Member (2021-present)

Washington State Drug Offender Sentencing Alternative (DOSA) Workgroup: Member (2018-2020)

Community Police Commission

21 Members: Pursuant to 125315, all members subject to City Council confirmation, 3

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 7 Other Appointing Authority-appointed (specify):

Roster:

*D	**G	RD	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
	F		1.	Member	Asha Mohamed	1/1/20	12/31/22	2	Mayor
			2.	Member	Patricia L. Hunter	1/1/21	12/31/23	1	City Council
			3.	Public Defense	Vacant	1/1/21	12/31/23	1	CPC
2	F		4.	Member	Suzette Dickerson	1/1/21	12/31/23	2	Mayor
			5.	Member	Douglas E. Wagoner	1/1/21	12/31/23	2	City Council
			6.	Civil Liberties	Prachi Vipinchandra Dave	1/1/21	12/31/23	2	CPC
			7.	Member	Vacant	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	Mayor
			8.	Member	Joel C. Merkel	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	City Council
4	M		9.	Member	Austin Field	1/1/20	12/31/22	1	CPC
2	F		10.	Member	Harriett Walden	1/1/19	12/31/21	3	Mayor
			11.	Member	Katherine Seibel	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	City Council
7	M		12.	Member	Joseph Seia	1/1/19	12/31/21	2	CPC
9	F		13.	Member	Vacant	1/1/22	12/31/24		Mayor
			14.	Member	Le'Jayah Washington	1/1/22	12/31/24	1	City Council
2	M		15.	SPOG	Mark Mullens	1/1/20	12/31/22	1	CPC
			16.	Member	Vacant	1/1/20	12/31/22		Mayor
3	NB	3	17.	Member	Alina Santillan	1/1/20	12/31/22	2	City Council
			18.	SPMA	Scott Bachler	1/1/20	12/31/22		CPC
			19.	Member	Jeremy Wood	1/1/22	12/31/23	1	Mayor
			20.	Member	Tascha R. Johnson	1/1/20	12/31/22	1	City Council
2	F		21.	Member	Erica Newman	1/1/20	12/31/22	1	CPC

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		5				2		2					2
Council	1	1	1			2	1						1
Other	4	2			1	2			1	1	1		
Total	5	9	1		1	6	1	2	1	1	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.