

# King County Democrats 2008 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Rebecca Jean Graham
Position sought	King County Superior Court pos. 22
Residence LD	37 <sup>th</sup> LD
Are you the incumbent?	No. This is an open seat being vacated retiring judge Douglas McBroom.
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Committee to Elect Rebecca Graham
Web page	<a href="http://www.grahamjudge.com">www.grahamjudge.com</a>
Campaign Email address	<a href="mailto:info@grahamjudge.com">info@grahamjudge.com</a>
Manager	Maribeth Capeloto
Campaign mailing address	Committee to Elect Rebecca Graham P.O. Box 9100 Seattle, WA 98109
Campaign phone number	206 299 9314
Campaign FAX	206 299 9314

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience. See attached resume.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees. See attached resume.

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
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I am involved in the Fresh Start program through the Loren Miller Bar Association. We developed a program to go to schools and other organizations where disadvantaged youth are disproportionately represented to discuss the dangers of getting into trouble with the law and how to seal, vacate or expunge a juvenile record so that juvenile court records do not follow a youth into adulthood and negatively impact their chances of going to college, getting employment, and housing. I actively participated in the formation of this program, developed the written materials, and presented the material to the involved lawyers. I have participated in presenting the forum to youth. I estimate my time commitment thus far to be approximately 30 hours.

I am on the board of the Northwest Children's Fund, an organization that grants money to social service agencies that help abused and neglected children and their families. While I do not provide legal services, we fund agencies that provide legal services to children of immigrants.

This grant cycle, I had the privilege of visiting the Immigrant Rights Project to determine how much money we will give to their program that provides legal services to undocumented children so they may obtain legal residence. This is a working board and I spend approximately 10-15 hours monthly between fund-raising, visiting organizations, and board meetings.

I facilitated the Initiative for Diversity Governing Council, a group of diverse lawyers who are working on a resolution to ensure that all private, public, and government law firms recruit and retain a diverse legal work force. I spent approximately 10 hours on this one time opportunity.

I volunteered to represent an incarcerated individual who could no longer afford counsel and was no longer eligible for public defender services through the Northwest Battered Women's Coalition. I investigated my client's claim of spousal abuse, prepared a brief for the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) and argued the issue before the board. I estimate my time commitment to be approximately 60 hours.

I volunteered to assist the Hate Free Zone on their first fund raising auction and have given them financial support. The HFZ is an organization that provides free legal services to immigrants who have been targeted by discrimination. I estimate I spent 20 hours as a volunteer.

I am a mentor to law students both at the University of Washington and Seattle

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University. My current mentee is an African-American woman who wishes to be a judge. I was honored when she recently asked me to sign her “declaration of moral character” for admission to the Washington State Bar. I have mentored four law students.

Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?

I was a summer extern in law school for the Bernalillo County District Attorney in 1987.

Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?

Yes. I have represented hundreds of people accused of crimes as a state public defender in King County and in New Mexico. I have represented approximately 10 clients in private practice.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?

No.

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How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	I presided as a judge over 200 days in Municipal Court and appeared as an attorney in thousand of cases including close to 100 jury and bench trials.
District Court	I presided as a judge over 150 days including 4 jury trials in District Court and appeared as an attorney in hundreds of matters including over 20 jury trials.
Superior Court jury trials	I tried over 20 jury trials in Superior court and over 20 bench trials in the juvenile division. I presided over 4 bench trials and hundreds of contested matters. I have served as a judge in Superior Court over 250 times.
Arguments in Court of Appeals	None.
Arguments in State Supreme Court	None.
Federal District Court trials	None.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Municipal League	Not yet rated
King County Bar Association	Well Qualified
Washington Women Lawyers	Well Qualified

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Loren Miller Bar Association	Extremely Well Qualified
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	Well Qualified
Latina/Latino Bar Association	Well Qualified
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	Well Qualified

Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?  
Please see attached list of endorsements.

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?  
Justice Mary Fairhurst, Judges Theresa Doyle and Edsonya Charles

Have there ever been any successful claims made against you or your malpractice carrier? If "yes" please attach explanation.  
No.

List any complaints you have received through any Bar Association, Judicial Conduct Committee or Board, or private insurance carrier.

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(Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)None.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise? Judicial, juvenile justice, and criminal defense

What recommendations do you have for improving court system funding and administration?

The courts in Washington State need a specific, dedicated funding source to function adequately and provide efficient access to justice for its' citizens. I also favor establishing dedicated funding sources for indigent defense services, attorneys for parents in dependency proceedings, interpreter services, and CASA services. We should also use advances in technology to allow litigants to submit paperwork and legal pleadings on line. I favor making legal forms uniform and simplified.

What actions have you taken in the last five years on issues regarding access to the judicial system?

Each day I serve as a judge, I have worked to ensure that all litigants

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have the opportunity to be heard. That may mean ensuring that adequate interpreters are provided, participants are allowed to participate by phone, if appropriate, and that persons who appear before me understand the purpose of their hearing and what is expected of them in clear and understandable language. I have also participated in many community activities involving access to justice such as the Youth and Law forums (community based education for youth and parents about avoiding conflict with the law), the Fresh Start program (help youth clean up juvenile court record so it does not hinder them in accessing housing, college, employment), and I am the current chair of the Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee with the King County Bar Association which has as its' mission the promotion and inclusion of an ethnically diverse profession. One of our many roles is to recommend the distribution of minority scholarships to the law schools to increase the pool of minority lawyers practicing in King County.

What recommendations do you have for increasing access to the judicial system (Civil and Criminal)?

Adequate funding for indigent criminal defense, indigent defense for parents in dependency proceedings, adequate representation for children in dependency proceedings, and access to reasonable attorneys or para-legal assistance in family law proceedings are essential to increasing access to justice. I favor allowing paralegals or otherwise qualified legal assistance to provide limited representation in straightforward matters. I strongly believe we need to allow reasonable accommodations for persons with

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disabilities to our courts.

If a sitting Judge, what committees have you been appointed to and what are the significant accomplishments of those committees or yourself? If not, which committee assignments would you seek?

I am interested in access to justice issues, juvenile court, and dependency drug court.

Have you reviewed the General Rule Definition of the Practice of Law, and the Practice of Law Board's Work? - Do you have comments or ideas? Would you be in favor of the proposed Legal Technician Rule? This rule allows trained, tested and licensed non-lawyers to provide specifically defined legal services without supervision by a lawyer. Please explain.

I have reviewed the above. I favor allowing legal technicians to perform limited legal services. Our system of justice, particularly in the civil area, is inadequate to provide persons of ordinary means access to the courts. Many legal services can be handled very well and for far less cost, through a trained legal technician. We have a attorney referral system through the KCBA. This could also be utilized for legal technician and legal technicians could participate in our neighborhood legal clinics in an effective way.

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Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If “yes”, please give the details?

Yes. While in New Mexico, I was appointed to be a guardian ad litem for a child who had suffered abuse from her father. Her mother did not protect her from the abuse. I disputed the assistant attorney generals recommendation to return the child home and the case proceeded to trial. I argued, successfully, that the child should not be returned home.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

I have encouraged minorities and women to pursue career and educational opportunities and mentored minority women law students for many years. While I was the minority bar liaison for King County Washington Women Lawyers, I put together a CLE to encourage women, particularly minorities, to consider the bench as a career choice.

What are the main messages of your campaign? What is your campaign plan? How many doors have you knocked on to date, pieces of mail planned, budgeting, staffing? What is the fundraising goal for your campaign? How much have you raised to date? Why will you win?

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My primary message is that all persons who come before me will be treated with respect and dignity, that my decision will be made without regard to bias or prejudice, and that the persons who appear before me will understand the basis for my decision. I have a campaign consultant, over a dozen volunteers, and use Argo Strategies for website/printing/treasury. I attend as many LD meetings and events as possible to get my message out. I plan to do a 100,000 piece, targeting mailing. We are running a strong, grass roots campaign and limit costs by using volunteer labor and aggressive campaigning. I have a website, campaign piece, placards, ect... We plan to put up yard signs countywide. We are in the middle of extensive fundraising and I have excellent support from many diverse groups including law enforcement (sole endorsement from King County Police Officer's Guild), and democrats, including the sole endorsement of the 33<sup>rd</sup> LD and 43<sup>rd</sup> LD, as well as many WSTLA (Washington State Trial Lawyers Association) lawyers. I will win because I am the most qualified person in my race given my extensive trial and judicial experience and I have been out in the community working hard on my support and endorsements.

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I have read this questionnaire and understand and approve the content and all provided information.

Printed Name	Rebecca Jean Graham	Date
Signature		5/20/08