



The Municipal League of King County
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Seattle, WA 98104
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2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Staff

Saul Ettlin, **Director**

The Municipal League of King County requests every candidate who participates in the candidate evaluation process to **submit background information prior to his/her interview with a candidate evaluation committee**. The questionnaire is the basis of the League's research and interview process. The League's ratings are non-partisan; they are based on standards of Involvement, Effectiveness, Character, and Knowledge, all of which have been developed and refined over the past 90 years.

A printed version of the questionnaire is available for candidates who prefer to use the traditional format. To obtain a hard copy, please contact the League office. A copy of this questionnaire will be provided to Candidate Evaluation Committee members to help them prepare for your interview. Candidate responses, except the confidential section, will be available to the general public at the League website.

The Municipal League requests the following materials from candidates. Please check to make certain you have sent in your:

- Candidate Questionnaire**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Resume (education, employment, and professional activities)**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
 Check here if you DO NOT want your resume posted on the Municipal League website
- Campaign Materials**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Constituent Newsletters and other publications**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending
- Photograph**
Sent by: Email US Mail Fax Not Sending

Note: Electronically submitted questionnaires are strongly

preferred. All materials can be emailed to cec@munileague.org. They can be processed and made available on-line far more rapidly than handwritten or typed submissions.

For non-electronic submissions, please print clearly and legibly and return the application ***as soon as possible in order to allow the committee the greatest amount of time to prepare a complete report on your skills and experience.***

**We request that you return the Candidate Questionnaire
by June 1, 2008**

If you have not yet been contacted to schedule an interview, or if you have questions about the candidate evaluation program, please contact the League office at 206-264-1070.

If you have a disability and require accommodation to participate in the candidate evaluation process, please contact the CEC Coordinator at the League office.

2008 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Rebeccah	Jean	Graham

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

King County Superior Court, Position 22

3. Are you the incumbent? No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

Eighteen years.

5. How long have you resided in King County?

Eighteen years.

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:

Committee to Elect Rebeccah Graham

Address:

P.O. Box 9100

City/State/Zip:

Seattle, WA 98109

Campaign Phone:

206 299-9314

Campaign Fax:

206 299-9314

Campaign E-mail:

info@grahamjudge.com

Campaign
Website:

www.grahamjudge.com

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive ?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
None.			

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run
None.	

SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
- **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
- **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
- **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?

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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I am running because I am committed to giving back to my community, making a difference in the lives of people, and ensuring that all persons have equal access to and equal justice under the law. I am passionate about the challenges facing vulnerable families and children and am knowledgeable, experienced and well prepared to step into a position of leadership on the Court and will continue to work on issues of disproportionality, access to the courts, and the fair administration of justice.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

I am the daughter of an African-American father and first generation immigrant Jewish mother. My parents married in 1949, when interracial marriage was illegal in many states. I learned early on, the importance of fairness, due process, and equal justice under the law. My parents were pioneers who committed their lifetimes to fighting for equality for women and minorities. I bring this commitment to my life and work. My entire legal career has been in public service. For the last six and half years, I have served as a judge pro tem in King County Superior Court, District Court, and Municipal Courts in King County where I have demonstrated my commitment to treating all persons with dignity and respect, applied the law fairly and evenhandedly, protected the rights of the people who appear before me and balanced the need for public safety.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

I am active in many groups and organizations that help improve the lives of children in our community. I am a board member of the Northwest Children's Fund, an organization that helps abused and neglected children. I joined this board after I learned of the educational opportunities it afforded me as we conduct site visits and research each organization we recommend for grants. Many of these agencies interact with the Juvenile Justice system, such as Childhaven (therapeutic childcare for children in foster care), Ruth Dikeman (therapeutic care for emotionally and psychologically disturbed children), the PICC center (Pediatric Interim Care for newborns born by mothers with substance abuse), and Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (legal assistance to foreign born children without immigration status whose parents have abused or abandoned them). This work has given me the opportunity to learn about these agencies from a different perspective and I have forged relationships that will serve me well as I continue my work improving juvenile justice.

I also have committed many hours of service to educating children and youth about the importance of staying out of trouble with the law as a regular presenter at the annual Youth and Law Forums and as a founding member of the “Fresh Start” program, aiding youth in cleaning up their juvenile court records.

As a pro tem judge for the past six and a half years, I am proud of my service to the courts where I sit and the community. Everyday I sit on the bench, I work to treat everyone with respect and dignity, make fair decisions without bias or prejudice that are easily understood, and improve the public’s perception of the judicial system. I have made a smooth and successful transition from being an advocate to a neutral decision maker and have learned so much about the work of a judge. I have presided over jury trials, bench trials, domestic violence cases, protection/anti-harassment calendars, criminal sentencings, civil small claims, involuntary commitment (mental illness) calendars, and matters involving at-risk, truant, and abused/neglected children. Every matter is important to the people who appear before me and I consistently get high marks from the attorneys who appear before me for my patience, courtesy, demeanor, consistency, knowledge of the law, and compassion.

- 4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life**

For the last six and a half years, I have served over 600 days as a judge pro tem in Superior, District, and Municipal Courts in King County. I have a wide variety of experience as a judge and presided over criminal and civil matters including jury and bench trials, domestic violence cases including protection/anti-harassment orders, cases involving abused and neglected, at-risk and truant children, civil small claims, and mental health calendars. I understand the necessary hard work of being an effective judge and the importance of always striving to improve the administration of justice.

For thirteen years I was a public defender. First in rural northern New Mexico where many of my clients were non-English speakers or Indian, and then in King County. I have tried hundreds of cases from simple misdemeanors to complex felonies and was the first woman in my office to handle a complex and, at the time, novel, DNA trial. I know how to try a case, apply the rules of evidence and procedure, and run an efficient courtroom.

I chair the Ethnic Diversity in the Legal Profession Committee with the King County Bar Association (2007-present). Our mission is to continue

to improve and promote an ethnically diverse legal profession in our community. As Chair, I oversee many programs, including a courthouse tour for minority law students, scholarships for minority law students, and Continuing Legal Education classes aimed at promoting retention of minority lawyers. The Committee has one of the largest memberships in the King County Bar and I have coordinated with other minority bars to enhance our effectiveness. I have been actively involved in minority bar associations for many years, including co-chair of the Loren Miller Bar Association Judicial Evaluations Committee (1996-1998), board member and minority bar liaison, King County Washington Women lawyers (1998, 2003-04), “Fresh Start” Program volunteer attorney (2006-present) (drafted materials for use in presentations) and many other efforts outlined elsewhere in this questionnaire. Through these efforts, I am well educated about the challenges facing minorities in the legal system, disproportionality in the judicial system, and the need for equal access to justice. I am ready to work hard to continue to improve outcomes for the disadvantaged as a Superior Court judge.

I completed the Mediation Training Certificate Program through the University of Washington Law School (2005). Mediation skills are an important aspect of being a good judge. Active listening, restating differing view points, and getting opposing parties to see the validity in a different perspective are all skills I use on the bench and that I have improved through mediation training.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

Judges have the duty to uphold the law, apply the law in a fair and consistent manner, make decisions without bias or prejudice, and treat all persons with respect and dignity. This is critical to ensure the public's faith and respect in the judiciary.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report is distributed to voters in print and on our website. It includes a summary of the candidate's education. Please summarize your education in 120 characters (letters, punctuation, and space all combined). The League will delete material that exceeds the space limit by beginning with the last entry. Suggested order is (degree) (subject) (school) (year, if desired).

Note: *If this question is left blank the League will not include education information in your candidate profile.*

**Juris Doctor, University of New Mexico School of Law, 1988
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, State University of New York, 1981**

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION IN CANDIDATE EVALUATION REPORT

The Municipal League's Candidate Evaluation Report includes a summary of each candidate's civic involvement. Please summarize your civic involvement in the space below. We will make every attempt to include the information in the Candidate Evaluation Report as submitted. Due to space restrictions in the Report, your response is limited to 500 characters (letters, punctuation, and spaces all combined). It is important that you list your involvement beginning with the most important and ending with the least important. If you exceed the length of response permitted, or if the League should find it necessary to shorten responses for publication purposes, deletions will be made beginning with the last item listed.

Note: *This information will appear verbatim on the League's Candidate Evaluation Report. If this question is left blank, the Municipal League will not include information on your civic involvement in the Report.*

Check here if you would like the Municipal League to copy the first 500 characters from Question 4 to paste into this section.

- **Board member, Northwest Children's Fund**
- **Chair, Ethic Diversity in Legal Profession, King County Bar Association**
- **Co-Chair, Loren Miller (African-American) Bar Association, Judicial Evaluations Committee**
- **Board member, King County Washington Women Lawyers**
- **PTA Seattle Public Schools**
- **Volunteer, Mt. Baker Community Organizations and soccer coach**

- **Volunteer, Jubilee House, housing for homeless women**
- **Member, Temple Beth Am**
- **Mentor, minority law students from UW and SULS**
- **Volunteer panelist, Youth and Law Forums**
- **Volunteer attorney, Northwest Battered Women's Coalition**
- **Volunteer, Shelter for Abused Women and Children**
- **Intern, Westchester County District Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Unit**
- **Coordinator, neighborhood emergency preparedness committee**