

## 2010 Candidate Questionnaire

### SECTION I

#### BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Stan		Rumbaugh

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number): Supreme Court Position One

3. Are you the incumbent?             Yes             No

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

**I have resided in Pierce County for 35 years (since 1975) except for a 4 year period I lived in Seattle, King County (1978-1982)**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan?     Partisan     Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name:                    Stan Rumbaugh for Justice

Address:                                603 Stewart St. #819  
Seattle, Wa 98101

City/State/Zip:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Phone:                   253 318 4621

Campaign Fax:                        \_\_\_\_\_

Campaign E-mail:                   rumbaughforjustice@gmail.com

Campaign Website:                 www.rumbaughforjustice.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)
Trustee, Bates Technical College	Appointive	2002-present	Chair, 2005-2006 and 2009-present
Commissioner, Tacoma Housing Authority	Appointive	1998-present	Chair, 1999-2002, 2007-2008

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.)

**For thirty one years I have practiced law with an emphasis on representing regular people, from all walks of life, and of extremely varied ethnicity and cultures. Protecting and vindicating the rights of everyday citizens has been my work and my passion. Much of this representation has been related to personal injury law in a broad array of contexts, along with addressing issues related to safety and health in the workplace, insurance law and wrongful death. My extensive experience in the crucible of the trial court provides me with a clear appreciation of the manner and circumstances in which the record reviewed by the Supreme Court is created. It is in the trial court that the foundation for the expansion of the common law and interpretation of statutory language to effect the true intent of the legislative enactments takes place. In the context of justly resolving real problems for those who seek redress in the courts we find the true value of the law.**

**In addition to working in the trial courts, the representation of my clients has taken me through the appeals process where we have either created new law or clarified unclear precedent. In the last 10 years, appeals from our small 4 person law firm (we work collaboratively on both trials and appeals) have focused on issues relating to meretricious relationships, insurance company's accountability to people who purchase the insurance, entitlement under the industrial insurance laws, ownership of intellectual property, statutory interest rates and jurisdictional issues on federal lands.**

**The varied and multifaceted issues that come before the Supreme Court would allow me to expand my own professional, intellectual horizons, which is a very attractive potential. Service on the Supreme Court will also allow me to take meaningful steps to ensure that all who come before the court, from the most powerful to the disenfranchised, receive a fair and impartial hearing and ruling based on the law as it is, not as anyone, including myself, might like it to be.**

**There is a second reason that I am seeking this office. As reflected in my resume, I believe in the principle that those who can must give back to their community, city, and fellow citizens. Government cannot do everything for those in need, and should not be expected to. We, as citizens and neighbors, must embrace public service and celebrate its importance and potential. That is why my decades of service on such organizations as the Board of Trustees of Bates Technical College, the Tacoma Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Planned Parenthood of Western Washington's Board of Directors and other public and private organizations was freely and gladly given, without thought of or desire for economic return. The same is true with my many years of service on the Board of Governors of the Washington**

**State Trial Lawyers Association, and on committees for my local bar association in Pierce County. Simply put, it is the right thing to do.**

**Ultimately, to be able to merge the passion I have for the law with my lifelong belief in public service creates a position I find extremely attractive and filled with potential. That is why I seek election to the Washington State Supreme Court.**



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

**On virtually every Board, Commission, Committee or other group where I have served, I have been successful in collaborating and building rapport with my fellow members. Understanding a group dynamic, along with listening and respecting divergent points of view are traits which have consciously spent much time and energy developing and implementing. Only through a willingness to keep an open mind to the ideas and positions of others, even when in the end there is disagreement, can the best, most rational decisions be made. One does not have to surrender reasoned and true beliefs, even if they do not carry the day, to add value and perspective to the decision making process. It is this quality that I think will be most valuable in completing the work of the court.**

**It would be incomplete to respond to this question without a word about personal integrity and ethical conduct. It is fair to say, I believe, that throughout my professional career I have striven successfully to gain a reputation for honoring my word. My reputation among both my adversaries and allies is that I conduct my activities above board and in a manner consistent with the letter and spirit of the rules governing the profession and the litigation process. Deception and dishonorable conduct would quickly destroy any possibility of collegial relationships and erode the necessary trust and respect that Justices should have for each other's opinions and representations. This type of behavior is simply not a part of who I am, and will not become so.**

**Finally, let's recognize that the law deals with human conduct, and must be applied with an eye toward that humanity. I do not intend to imply, and this comment should not be interpreted to mean that all conduct is tolerable or that bad behavior should be excused without consequences. My only point here is that the courts are institutions created to serve society, and effecting that service requires the court not to lose sight of the fact that all humans are imperfect, and come ready made with foibles and flaws.**

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.

**In 1942, the Salishan neighborhood was built as temporary housing for war workers at the Port and industrial area of Tacoma. This 180 acre neighborhood on the East side of Tacoma served as the City's primary affordable and public housing facility ever since the second world war ended. By the year 2000 it was dilapidated, unsanitary and falling down faster than the Tacoma Housing Authority could fix it. As chairman of the THA board, I initiated the effort to obtain a HOPE VI grant from HUD to act as seed money to rehabilitate and revitalize the area. The effort was successful, and with that 35 million dollars as seed money, additional sources of funding were located. These included additional federal and state funds, private borrowings, sale of market rate lots to private builders, low income housing tax credits and similar sources. The 225 million dollar end product is nearly complete. It is a model of urban redevelopment, and has won state and national awards for environmental innovation, architectural excellence, and most of all now provides 3500 people with safe, secure and affordable housing. THA was the first housing authority ever to receive a grant from the Washington State Dept of Ecology to study and implement surface water infiltration strategies for improvement of water quality.**

**The Salishan neighborhood is the most ethnically diverse neighborhood in Tacoma. The cultural mix is invigoration to the area and the City as a whole. To accommodate all the input from our residents, the public planning stage meeting and writing were available in 6 languages, simultaneously translated in numerous meeting with the individuals whose neighborhood it was, and remains.**

**While I did not act as legal counsel to the Board during this period, I was the only attorney on the 5 person THA Board. Consequently, and naturally, many questions about a variety of legal issues were brought to me for an opinion and analysis. Tax credit requirements, general contract interpretation issues, federal and state procurement law compliance, Real estate law**

and minority and historically underused business hiring and contracting laws were only a few of the broad ranging and complex legal questions about which I analyzed and pondered.

Consensus building with our many community partners required collaboration and understanding to reach many of the social goals associated with the Salishan project. These goals included job skills training for our residents in association with the contracting vendors and community training facilities like Bates Technical College. In conjunction with Community Health Care, we constructed and opened the Tanbara community health clinic that now provides affordable health care for residents throughout the eastside of Tacoma. Habitat for Humanity constructed over a dozen homes in the project, and working with that organization to create opportunity for home ownership where that opportunity had not previously existed was another gratifying facet of the overall buildout.

This project was transforming for many individual and families, and for the East side of Tacoma as a whole. It was an honor to be associated with the many people who worked long and hard to make the New Salishan come into being, and I am extremely proud of my role in the work.

Over the past 31 years, starting when I was 24 years old, I operated (later in conjunction with my partners) a small law firm which has helped thousands of working individuals, their families, disabled and elderly persons and other people through legal crises, great and small. Like any small business, the challenges of paying the bills, administering the staff, and obtaining work is ongoing. This is in conjunction with actually providing quality legal representation to those who we are honored to serve. Growing this practice from myself and a part time secretary to a stable organization where 14 or 15 people take home a paycheck, have a quality health care plan and are treated with respect and appreciation has been a success story that reflects the ambitions of many, both within and outside the legal profession. The gradual evolution of this law practice has allowed me to serve thousands of individuals over the years and do so in a manner that is consistent with my personal values and world view. It has also enabled me to act as a mentor to young lawyers and law students through our internship program and in association with the mentoring program sponsored by the Washington State Association for Justice.

The relationship with my partners over the years has been valuable to my practice and personally enriching as well. It is only with the consultation and consensus of my partners that I have been able to be innovative and successful in my trial work, and create a stable and respected law firm. This relationship has been symbiotic, and I believe my contribution to our firm discussions and decision making process has allowed for a greater degree of success for my partners as well. In the final analysis, our business relationship and professional relationship has been a source of great satisfaction and professional achievement for all associated with the firm.

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.

**My community involvements and civic work, along with my participation in professional organizations has been important to me personally and in my development as a practicing lawyer and prospective jurist. All these organizations have allowed me to develop a broader perspective of our society and the law, and how the law permeates virtually every endeavor of significant scope . So there is a lot of interplay between the legal profession and the laws which help define the increasingly complex relationships which develop in our business and personal lives. In no particular order, the organizations where I have served, and from which I have gained information and associations of value, are listed on my resume, which is forwarded in conjunction with this questionnaire.**

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

**The Supreme Court of Washington State is the final arbiter of the scope and application of the laws promulgated by the legislature, and applied by the trial courts in the State in the context of legal dispute resolution. A justice of the Supreme Court is obliged to impartially apply the letter of the laws passed by the legislature, consistent with the actual intent of the legislative authority passing those laws. An additional obligation of the Supreme Court is to ensure that ever citizen's constitutional rights are protected in both the letter of the law, and in its application. Supreme Court Justices are also responsible for administering the Courts of Washington State, and approving the court rules which define the manner in which the courts operate procedurally. The Supreme Court is also the ultimate authority for interpretation and enforcement of the rules of professional conduct that control the practices of attorneys in their work.**

**All these duties are important in the context in which they are applied. Justice of the Supreme Court is a position where the decisions made are ultimately final, with no further right of appeal or review. Great care must be taken to get the decision right, based on the rules as they are written. The ramifications of these decision are enormously significant to the personal and property rights of the litigant. Additionally, because the rule of stare decisis, makes the Supreme Court's legal rulings binding for many decades to come, there is no latitude for personal bias or prejudice to infiltrate the decision making process. The rule of law must be respected and maintained, and that is the most important obligation of any Supreme Court Justice.**