

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name	Steve Gonzalez
Position sought	Washington State Supreme Court Position 8
Residence LD	36 th
Are you the incumbent?	Yes
Campaign Information	
Campaign Name	Friends of Justice Gonzalez
Web page	http://justicegonzalez.com
Campaign Email address	info@justicegonzalez.com
Manager	Jake Faleschini – 718-564-0328
Campaign mailing address	PO Box 12316 Seattle, WA 98111
Campaign phone number	360-207-1789
Campaign FAX	N/A

Candidate Background: Community service, education, employment and other relevant experience.
Which undergraduate and law schools have you attended? Include Graduation date, degrees.
B.A. with Honors from Pitzer College 1985. J.D. from U.C. Berkeley School of Law 1991. Undergraduate work at Waseda University in Tokyo and Nanjing University in China. Graduate work in Economics at Hokkaido University 1988. Received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Gonzaga University School of Law in 2011. Served for ten years as a trial judge on the King County Superior Court hearing criminal, civil, juvenile, and family law cases. Prior to joining the court in King County, I practiced both criminal and civil law as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Washington, a Domestic Violence Prosecutor for the City of Seattle, and an Associate in the Business Law Department at the Seattle law firm Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson. Rated “exceptionally well qualified” or “well qualified” by every bar organization that has rated me to date, including nine ratings of “exceptionally well qualified.” Received “Judge of the Year” awards from the Washington State Bar Association, the Washington Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and the Asian Bar Association of Washington (2011). Received the “Exceptional Member” award from the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (2011) and the “Vanguard” award from the King County Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers (2009). Appointed by the Supreme Court, and served for seven years, on the Washington State Access to Justice Board, including the last two years as its Chair. Chaired the Race and Criminal Justice Task Force. Mentor to students through the Future of the Law Institute and many other organizations. I speak Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish and English.

Hours and types of pro bono work performed.
As a judge for the last 10 years, I was not allowed to do pro bono work. I did continue to volunteer as a mentor and the chair or member of various committees and boards. In private practice, 15 years ago, I did extensive pro bono work in immigration and family law matters. My pro bono was consistently over 15% of my time.

Have you ever been a prosecutor for any government entity? If yes, where and how long?
Yes, as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Washington (1997 – 2002), a Domestic Violence Prosecutor for the City of Seattle (1996 – 1997),

Have you ever defended a person accused of a crime? If yes, where and how many cases?
No.

Have you ever served as an arbitrator or Mediator? If yes, where and how many times?
Yes. I served as a settlement judge in civil matters about 10 times a year for the ten years I served on the superior court.

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

How many times have you participated as a judge or attorney in:	
Municipal Court	Dozens of cases as a prosecutor.
District Court	None.
Superior Court jury trials	Hundreds of cases as the judge. Civil and Criminal.
Arguments in Court of Appeals	None.
Arguments in State Supreme Court	None.
Federal District Court trials	Five as a prosecutor.

What ratings and endorsements have you received?	
Municipal League	N/A
King County Bar Association	N/A
Washington Women Lawyers	Well Qualified
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys	Well Qualified
Loren Miller Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
QLAW: the GLBT Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Latina/Latino Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Joint Asian Judicial Evaluation Committee	Exceptionally Well Qualified
King County Correctional Officers Guild	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association	Exceptionally Well Qualified
Cardozo Society Judicial Evaluation Committee	Exceptionally Well Qualified

Which organizations and individuals have endorsed you in this race?
I am honored have the endorsement of hundreds of Judges, dozens of elected officials, and hundreds of prominent attorneys and community leaders throughout Washington. Please contact my campaign manager for a spreadsheet of all endorsements.

Which judicial candidates have you endorsed in the past five years?
Pat Oishi Ken Schubert Bill Bowman Sean O'Donnell Lori Kay Smith

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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. (Attach on a separate sheet of paper.)

None.

What is your strongest area of legal expertise?

I have experience in commercial law, immigration law, family law, and civil litigation, but my strongest area is criminal law.

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

The Judicial Branch must make our mandatory forms easier to use. We must convert our forms to plain language. We must take the lead in adopting technological advances that allow all courts to communicate and receive electronic filing. The funding responsibility resides in the other branches of government. I am opposed to funding the courts with user fees.

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

For the last two years I was Chair of the Washington State Access to Justice Board. I served for five years on the board prior to becoming Chair. We worked on a number of projects, including, passage of a uniform fee waiver rule for the indigent, publication of a disability rights guide, and development of a State Plan for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid. We continue to work on a project to translate family law forms to plain language. I worked with colleague judges to produce a video guide for pro se litigants. I chaired the King County Superior Court Interpreter Committee.

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

I also served as co-founder and co-chair of the Race and the Criminal Justice Task Force. We made a series of recommendations to improve fairness in the justice system. I continue to work with the court and the ATJ community on access issues.

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?

Access to Justice Board – See above

Interpreter Committee – Developed Policy for the over 100 languages required in King County.

Court Security Committee for King County and the Board for Judicial Administration Security Committee – Developed State-Wide Security Guidelines for Courts and provided training for judicial officers and administrators.

Personnel Committee – Revised policies for the court.

Courts and Community Committee – Provided speakers for community events.

Pro Se Committee – My tenure here was short. I was appointed to the Supreme Court soon after joining this committee.

King County Democrats 2010 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

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.

Yes, I have. The ATJ Board supports the idea. The rule is in draft form. I am in favor of the idea and will await revised drafts before voting.

Have you been appointed as a guardian or Guardian Ad Litem? If "yes", please give the details?
No.

How have you promoted diversity within your staff?

I have worked hard on outreach and recruiting. I have had a very diverse staff over the years. I have had no problem doing so from among the many strong applications I have received.

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?

Main messages – Leadership, Access to Justice, and Trial Court Experience.

Plan – Gather Endorsements, Seek Ratings, Speak publicly and meet with many people and organizations, Raise money through a finance committee and dissuade potential opponents. Leverage organizations for get out the vote efforts and media coverage. Touch voters with targeted mailings and radio ads.

I have not been knocking on doors.

Fund Raising and Budget – We have raised approximately \$100,000 as of March 1, 2012. We will double this figure by May. I have a manager, a fundraiser, a consultant and a treasurer on staff. The paid staff is supplemented by a strong group of volunteers.

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

Printed Name		Date
Signature		