

## Mission Statement:

District Court provides justice for all court participants, thus instilling public trust and confidence that the court is fair, effective and efficient without compromising due process.

JUDGE CLAIRE A. BRADLEY, DEPARTMENT NO. 1  
JUDGE JEFFREY J. JAHNS, DEPARTMENT NO. 2  
JUDGE MARILYN G. PAJA, DEPARTMENT NO. 3  
JUDGE STEPHEN J. HOLMAN, DEPARTMENT NO. 4

# District Court of Kitsap County, Washington

**Kitsap County Courthouse**  
614 Division Street, Room 106,  
MS-25  
Port Orchard, Washington  
98366  
KCDC@co.kitsap.wa.us  
<http://www.kitsapgov.com/dc>



**The Peoples Court**

## The Peoples Court

District Courts have long been called the peoples court and are well named for the wide variety of matters over which they have jurisdiction. The collection of fines and assessments generates considerable revenue, which funds both local and state programs. This revenue contributes to public safety and education programs, information systems, crime-victims compensation, public defense, drivers education programs in schools, law enforcement training and local probation/monitoring programs.

In addition to the law enforcement agencies (Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Patrol) and the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office, this Court also files and hears cases brought by the:

- Washington State Department of Wildlife
- Washington State Liquor Control Board
- Kitsap County Humane Society
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State and Kitsap County Parks
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries
- Kitsap County Department of Community Development/ Zoning Enforcement
- Kitsap County Board of Health

The **Kitsap County District Court** has jurisdiction over misdemeanors and gross misdemeanor crimes. These crimes carry a maximum penalty of one (1) year in jail and/ or a \$5,000 fine. The most common criminal charges include Domestic Violence (DV), Assault, and Theft. Criminal Traffic charges like Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) and Driving While License Suspended (DWLS) are filed into this Court. Traffic infractions including speeding, license tabs charges and equipment violations are also heard in this Court.

**Probation Services** monitors the defendants' compliance with sentencing conditions ordered by the Court. Defendants failing to provide proof of compliance and/or violating Court Orders are referred to the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office and summoned to court.

The **Civil Division** processes civil actions (\$100,000 maximum) and small claims (\$5,000 maximum). It has jurisdiction over unlawful harassment petitions (neighbor/personal disputes) and protection orders (family/ intimate partner matters). Petitions for name changes are also heard in District Court.



### Judge Claire A. Bradley

Claire A. Bradley was elected to the Kitsap County District Court in 2014. She was raised in New Canaan, Connecticut and graduated from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California in 1993. Judge Bradley came to the Pacific Northwest for law school, and graduated from Seattle

University School of Law in 1997.

Judge Bradley served as a Kitsap County Deputy Prosecutor for over 17 years, most of which was spent in the Special Assault Unit prosecuting crimes against children, sexual assault, domestic violence and homicide. She also served as a Chair of Kitsap S.A.I.V.S. (Special Assault Investigations and Victim's Services) for over 14 years. Judge Bradley was also selected to become a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney to federally prosecute the county's most violent offenders in the United States District Court. The last few years of her tenure as a prosecutor were spent as a Chief Deputy Prosecutor in the District and Municipal Court Division.

Judge Bradley has received the 2002 "Law Enforcement Memorial Award," 2003 "YWCA Unity Award," 2010 YWCA "Woman of Achievement Award," 2014 "MADD" Award and has been named a "Rising Star" several times by *Washington Law and Politics*. Judge Bradley was also certified as a trainer for prosecutors and law enforcement by the F.B.I, F.L.E.T.C (Federal Law Enforcement Training Center) and N.D.A.A. (National District Attorneys Association).

Getting involved in the community is important to Judge Bradley. She served the maximum term as a board member for the Kitsap County Domestic Violence Task Force, she is a Past President of South Kitsap Rotary and is currently the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for United Way of Kitsap County. She has volunteered several times at the Kitsap County Veteran's Assistance Program "Stand Down" event which provides support and resources to our community's veterans.

Judge Bradley lives in Port Orchard with her husband of 16 years and two sons.



### Judge Jeffrey J. Jahns

Jeffrey J. Jahns was appointed to the Kitsap County District Court in 2009, and elected in 2010. He was raised in Tacoma, Washington. Judge Jahns graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 1978, and from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1981. Judge Jahns was a

criminal defense attorney in private practice from 1981 to 1994. He joined the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office in 1995 as a chief deputy prosecutor where he served until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Jahns received the 1995 Kitsap County Bar Association Professionalism Award for his work as a criminal defense attorney. In 2004, he received the Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Award for his work as a prosecutor. Judge Jahns was named a "Super Lawyer" several times by *Washington Law & Politics*.

Judge Jahns has authored many professional articles and publications. His most recent publication, *TRAFFIC STOPS IN WASHINGTON STATE BENCH BOOK* (Administrative Office of the Courts May 2013), is a comprehensive textbook on Washington search and seizure law from a traffic stop perspective.

Judge Jahns served on the editorial board for the *DUI BENCH BOOK* (Administrative Office of the Courts October 2013), authoring three chapters for the treatise. Additionally, his 2008 prosecutorial ethics and professionalism training manual, *THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE* (3rd ed.), continues to be a resource for criminal law practitioners and judges.

Judge Jahns is a Dean for the 2014 Washington Judicial College, a mandatory one week conference all new Washington judges are required to attend. He is also a member of the District and Municipal Court Judges Association's Board of Governors and is his court's Assistant Presiding Judge.

Judge Jahns has been married to his wife Therese since 1981, and has two adult daughters.



### Judge Marilyn Paja

Marilyn Paja has served as District Court Judge for Kitsap County since 1999. She was the 2006-07 Presiding Judge for the Court. She was the Presiding Judge for the Gig Harbor Municipal Court from 1994-98. As a lawyer, she also owned her general trial practice firm in Port Orchard from 1982 until her election in 1998. Judge Paja is a graduate of Willamette University and University of Puget Sound School of

Law.

In 2008/09 Judge Paja was President of the State Municipal and District Court Judges Association (CDMCJA) and still serves on the Board of Directors. For the last 10 years, she has been a member of the State Pattern Jury Instructions Committee helping re-write jury instructions to conform to changes in the law for use by attorneys and judges statewide. Judge Paja was elected statewide representative to the National Association of Women Judges for 2011-2012. She is past chair of both the Legislative and Diversity Committees of the DMCJA and a former member of the Board for Judicial Administration (BJA). Judge Paja taught new judges at the State Judicial College from 2004-2007 and continues to instruct continuing judicial education classes to judges around the state. In 2010 she was named DMCJA "Judge of the Year."

Judge Paja enjoys being a local volunteer. She has taught at the Peoples Law School, the KCSO Citizens Academy, and is a frequent speaker in schools and at community events. She currently chairs the SKHS Law Classes Advisory Council. She has been a member of the Kitsap County Law Week Celebration Committee since 1985. She is a member and past-President of Port Orchard Kiwanis, and has taught at the Kiwanis Youth Law Enforcement Academy for over ten years. In 2001, she founded the South Kitsap Bike Rodeo and Safety Fair in cooperation with S K Fire District 7, and has co-chaired that event ever since. She is a past advisory board member to the Kitsap County Ethnic Unity Council. Prior to her election as a judge, Judge Paja served as a founding member of the Kitsap County Domestic Violence Task Force, the Family Law Section of the Kitsap Bar Association, and the Volunteer Attorney Program (now known as Kitsap Legal Services). She served as an officer and member of the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Kitsap County.

The mother of three children in college, Judge Paja has been married for thirty years to her husband Alan, an attorney employed by the State Department of Labor and Industries. She enjoys playing tennis and she has lived just outside Port Orchard since 1980.



### Judge Stephen J. Holman

Judge Holman is currently the Presiding Judge. He was appointed to the Kitsap County District Court in 2006, and was elected to the position the same year. For the previous 16 years, he was the Presiding Judge of the Bainbridge Island Municipal Court and the Kitsap County District Court

Commissioner. Before becoming a judge in 1990, Judge Holman was a partner in a law firm in Silverdale, a deputy prosecutor in the Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and an associate in a law firm on Bainbridge Is. Judge Holman earned a BA at the University of California, San Diego in 1972, and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Santa Clara University School of Law in 1977.

Judge Holman was a board member of the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration from 2000 to 2006, and has served on numerous committees. He has been a member of the Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges Association since 1990, and served on the Board of Directors from 1996 to 1999. Judge Holman has been a member of the State Pattern Forms Committee since 1997. He was an instructor at the State Judicial College from 1998 to 2005. Judge Holman Served on the Supreme Court Project 2001 and 2003 Trial Court Funding Task Force. He currently serves on the DMCJA Technology Committee.

Judge Holman has been a member of the Kitsap County Law Week Committee since 1998. He was a founding member of the Kitsap County Trial Court Coordination Council and was the Chair of the Council from 2002 to 2006. He served as a judge in the YMCA Mock Trial competition and the American Legion Oratorical competition. He has been a lecturer at the PSNS Shoreline Community College paralegal program, the Judges in the Classroom program, the Kitsap County People's Law School, the Bainbridge Island Citizens Police Academy, and the Bainbridge Island Community Domestic Violence Forum. Judge Holman was a member of the board of directors of the Kitsap County Habitat for Humanity Affiliate from 2001 to 2006, and served as Secretary.

Judge Holman moved to Kitsap County in 1978. His wife, Mary, is an interior designer. His son, Seamus, lives in Tacoma and is a graphic designer, and his daughter, Lauren, is an organic farmer in Rochester,