

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Kitsap County District Court is to be open and accessible to all litigants, defendants and other court users; to provide prompt and efficient resolution of disputes and issues and to meet its responsibilities to everyone affected by its orders and actions in a timely and expeditious manner; to provide due process and individual attention and justice in each case, and ensure that the courts actions and rulings are consistent with established rule and law; to maintain independence and parity with the legislative and executive branches of County Government; to be accountable to the public for the use of its resources; to ensure that the court's personnel practices and decisions reflect the highest standards of personal integrity and compliance among its staff; and to instill public trust and confidence that the court is fairly, efficiently and effectively operated.

JUDGE JAMES M. RIEHL, 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
Fax: 360-337-4865
<http://www.kitsapgov.com/dc>



The Peoples Court

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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.

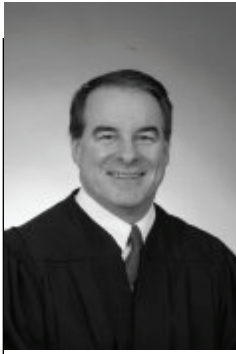
In addition to the law enforcement agencies (Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Patrol) and the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office, this Court also files and hears cases brought by the:

- 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 (\$75,000 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 James M. Riehl

Judge Riehl was elected as a Kitsap County District Court Judge and has served in this court since 1983. Judge Riehl was raised in Poulsbo and graduated from North Kitsap High School. A graduate of Western Washington University, Riehl returned to teach for one year at North Kitsap High School. A graduate of the University of San

Diego School of Law in 1975, Riehl practiced law in Kitsap County from 1975 through 1982, at which time he was elected to the bench.

Judge Riehl served as the President of the Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges Association from 1995-1996. He is a former member and past co-chair of the Board for Judicial Administration, which is responsible for setting policy for the judiciary of the State of Washington and is a member of the Washington State Gender and Justice Commission, as well as the Washington State Interpreters Commission. In 1996, the Washington State Misdemeanor Corrections Association named Judge Riehl "Judge of the Year." In 1997 he organized the first ever Kitsap County Domestic Violence Summit, which brought together the community to address the issue of domestic violence. In 2003 he was instrumental in obtaining a federal grant for Kitsap District Court to resolve inconsistent provisions of multiple domestic violence protection orders. He currently sits as the judge hearing those cases.

Judge Riehl has been active on the national level and served as past Chair of the National Conference of Specialized Court Judges of the American Bar Association, as well as the Judicial Division Liaison to the American Bar Association's Commission on Domestic Violence. He is also the past chair the Editorial Board for the ABA Judges' Journal. Riehl served as the American Bar Association's advisor to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws that drafted a model law for purposes of enforcing domestic violence protection orders nationwide.

Judge Riehl is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College located in Reno, Nevada and past served as Dean for the Judicial College for the State of Washington.



Judge Jeffrey J. Jahns

Judge Jeffrey J. Jahns was appointed to the Kitsap County District Court in February 2009.

He was raised in Tacoma, Washington. Judge Jahns graduated in 1978 from the University of Puget Sound with an undergraduate degree in political science. He graduated from the University of Puget Sound School of Law in 1981. He worked as a library page and clerk, and as a laborer for a construction company during his high school, college and law school years.

Judge Jahns was a partner in the law firm of Kindig & Jahns from 1982 through 1986. In 1987, he joined the law firm of Ness & Hill, which later became Ronald D. Ness & Associates, with an emphasis on criminal defense and appeals. In 1995, Judge Jahns joined the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office, and served as Chief Deputy Prosecutor in charge of the office's District & Municipal Court Division until his appointment to the Bench.

Judge Jahns received the Kitsap County Bar Association Professionalism Award in 1995, and the Washington State Bar Association Professionalism Award in 2004. He was also named a "Super Lawyer" several times by the *Washington Law & Politics* publication.

He has served several positions for the Kitsap County Bar Association, including president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and trustee. Judge Jahns has served on the Administrative Office of the Courts' Judicial Information System Infraction Subcommittee and Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Forms Subcommittee. He has also served on the Washington Supreme Court Subcommittee on Motor Vehicle Crimes Jury Instructions, and was a charter member of the Honorable Robert J. Bryan American Inn of Court-XXV (formerly Puget Sound American Inn of Court).

The father of two daughters, SarahAnne and Rhiannon, Judge Jahns has been married since 1981 to his wife, Therese ("Terry"), who is the manager of the outpatient imaging center at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tacoma.



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, WA.