



Mid Year Family Law Hot Topics COVID Reality Check

February 12, 2021

Webcast via Adobe Connect

1.25 Law & Legal CLE Credits

Note on the audio: There were some audio issues in the recording, intermittently during the first presentation starting at about 0:11:20-0:38:20, as well as the end of the second presentation. Captions have been added so the content is still included, but there is no audio for these portions. In addition, there were significant audio issues during the final presentation of the original program. That presentation has not been included in this recorded version, but the materials are included.

AGENDA

0:00:00-0:59:52

Litigating During COVID

Hon. Janet M. Helson | Chief Judge, Unified Family Court

Hon. Steve Rosen | Unified Family Court

0:59:52-1:23:00

From the Commissioner

Hon. Les Ponomarchuk

King County Superior Court



Mid Year Family Law Hot Topics: COVID Reality Check

Faculty Biographies

FACULTY CHAIRS

CYNTHIA B. WHITAKER
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CYNTHIA B. WHITAKER obtained her JD in 1976 from the University of Washington. She opened up her own practice following admission to the bar and has practiced in the area of family law exclusively since then. She has conducted and presented at numerous CLE seminars including chairing the King County Bar Association "Hot Topics" family law seminar every year since 2007. She served as a pro tem family law Commissioner from 1988 - 2013. She has consistently been named a "Super Lawyer" by Washington Law and Politics magazine and one of Washington's Best Lawyers in Seattle and Seattle Metropolitan Magazines.

KATHERINE KENT
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KATHERINE KENT has been practicing law in the State of Washington since 2000. She has presented at numerous family law seminars regarding family law issues and has been interviewed as an expert on King 5 and KOMO 4 based on her significant experience and expertise. She serves as a King County *pro tem* Family Law Court Commissioner and she has volunteered at the King County Bar Association cross cultural legal clinics regarding family law issues. She is a fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Attorneys. She has been consistently named as a "Super Lawyer" by Washington Law and Politics Magazine and one of Washington's Best Lawyers in Seattle Metropolitan Magazine.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

HONORABLE JANET M. HELSON
King County Superior Court
Courtroom C-203
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

JUDGE JANET HELSON joined the King County Superior Court bench on May 4, 2015. She assumed the position previously occupied by Judge Kimberley Prochnau, who retired earlier in the year. She was a Unified Family Court (UFC) Judge in 2019 and has been the Chief UFC Judge since January 2020. Judge Helson started her career with two federal court clerkships, the second of which brought her to Seattle to clerk for Judge Betty Fletcher on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She then spent four years as a staff attorney at Evergreen Legal Services and eight years as the Regional Director of Columbia Legal Services. While her practice at legal services focused on family law and domestic violence cases, she worked with colleagues on a wide range of legal issues affecting low-income clients. After 12 years at legal services, Judge Helson spent over 10 years in private practice with Skellenger Bender, where she continued her work in the area of family law. Judge Helson earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard/Radcliffe Colleges and earned her law degree from UC Berkeley (Boalt) School of Law. She has been active in the community, volunteering with Legal Voice, as a soccer coach with Mount Baker/Lakewood Soccer Club, with QLaw, and with a number of bono programs that provide family law services to low income clients.

RONI ORDELL
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RONI ORDELL joined Whitaker Kent Ordell PLLC in January 2019. He was admitted to the Bar of the State of Washington in June 2010 and joined the law practice of David J. Ordell in February 2011, with his practice focused on domestic relations. Prior to joining that firm, he was a faculty fellow and associate in public health law at Arizona State University (from April 2010 to December 2010), where he worked on publications related to the law and public health. During that time, Ron also served as Deputy Director – Western Region of the Public Health Law Network. Prior to becoming an attorney, Ron worked for two years as a Program Manager for Microsoft, and for more than four years for Nike as a Finance Business Systems Analyst.

HONORABLE LEONID (LES) PONOMARCHUK
King County Superior Court
516 Third Avenue, W-275
Seattle, Washington 98014

COMMISSIONER PONOMARCHUK has served King County Superior Court since August 1998. Prior to his appointment by the judges of Superior Court he was in private practice as a domestic relations and civil practice lawyer from 1987 to 1998. Les has served on the family law, domestic violence protection, juvenile offender, at-risk youth, civil commitments, status conference, anti-harassment, Sexual Assault Protection, truancy, dependency and *ex-parte* calendars serving at the Seattle Courthouse and the Maleng Regional Justice Center. In addition, Les was King County Superior Court's first appointed Criminal Calendar Commissioner. Les served as Lead Commissioner for 8 years. A frequent presenter for continuing legal education courses, and lecturer at local law schools, Les has also served on the faculty of the State of Washington Judicial College; training newly appointed and elected judges.

HONORABLE STEVEN G. ROSEN
King County Superior Court
Courtroom C-203
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

JUDGE ROSEN joined the King County Superior Court bench on January 9, 2017, having been elected to serve. Judge Rosen assumed the position previously occupied by Judge Richard Eadie, who retired from the bench. He has been on the Unified Family Court rotation for over a year.

Judge Rosen began his legal career in the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, where he handled computer crime and tried many jury trials. He later moved to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where he focused on drug charges and juvenile offenses. Still later, he moved to the Attorney General's Office, where he prosecuted the state's most dangerous sexually violent predators.

In 2003, Judge Rosen opened his own law firm and focused on misdemeanor and felony defense as well as civil class actions. He also owned and operated a licensed real estate brokerage. For several years, Judge Rosen frequently served as a pro tem judge in the Federal Way, Olympia, Renton, Everett, Buckley, Bonney Lake, Milton, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Black Diamond Municipal Courts, as well as in Pierce County District Court. In 2008, he was named as the part-time judge for the City of Black Diamond, and in 2010, he was elected to the Seattle Municipal Court bench, where he served until joining the Superior Court bench.

Judge Rosen earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Washington and his law degree at the University of Minnesota. During his time at Seattle Municipal Court, Judge Rosen became a leader in improving the racial diversity of our state's jury system.

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KEVIN ROWLES was admitted to the Bar of the State of Washington in November 2008. He has worked exclusively in family law since 2006, first for a medium-sized family law firm prior to and after admission to the Bar of the State of Washington in 2008, and eventually at his own solo practice before taking a position at King County Superior Court in 2013. During his seven and a half years with the court, Kevin conducted hundreds of mediations for pro se parties in family law cases. He also assisted judges and court staff at countless hearings and calendars, taught the Family Law Orientation to unrepresented litigants, and provided numerous trainings and presentations to judges and court staff. Kevin is a member of the WSBA, KCBA, and Domestic Relations Attorneys of Washington and co-author of Chapter 25, "Family Court Records," in the WSBA Family Law Deskbook (3d. Ed) pending publication in 2021. He joined Whitaker Kent Ordell PLLC at the beginning of 2021.