

KING COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

Family Law December Section Meeting

1.00 Law & Legal CLE Credit – A/V Approval #1215110

Recorded on December 3rd, 2021

Meeting Location	Date	Time	Topic
We are continuing 100% remote access meetings.	Friday, December 3, 2021	12:10 PM to 1:30 PM	Q&A with UFC Chief Judge Janet Helson & Incoming UFC Chief Judge Sean O'Donnell

AGENDA

12:10 PM Introduction

12:20 PM Presentation: 'Q&A with UFC Chief Judge Janet Helson & Incoming UFC Chief Judge Sean O'Donnell', by Judge Janet Helson and Judge Sean O'Donnell, King County Superior Court

Judges Helson and O'Donnell will answer questions and give a status update on emergency orders, Family Law Motions practice, and tips on repeated errors the bench is seeing in family law. Questions that come in during the presentation will be answered as time allows.

1:30 PM Adjourn

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Judge Janet Helson, King County Superior Court – Judge Helson joined the King County Superior Court bench on May 4, 2015. She assumed the position previously occupied by Judge Kimberly Prochnau, who retired earlier in the year. Judge Helson is currently the Chief Unified Family Court Judge.

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 Sean O'Donnell, King County Superior Court – Sean P. O'Donnell is a Superior Court Judge for King County, based in Seattle, Washington. Judge O'Donnell is the former President of the Superior Court Judges' Association, a statewide organization representing the 192 trial judges across Washington. He currently serves as the Association's co-chair of its legislative committee. Since joining the bench in 2013, Judge O'Donnell has been on the court's family law, civil and criminal dockets, including two years as the Court's Chief Criminal Judge. He has presided over numerous 'all remote' jury trials and has helped lead efforts to implement the Court's virtual jury selection and virtual trial procedures and training during the pandemic. Judge O'Donnell lives with his wife and their two school-aged children in Seattle. He is the former chair of the St. Joseph School Commission, a current trustee and board secretary at the Lakeside School and a member of the Rainier Scholars Resource Council.
