



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

May 3, 2010

Ordinance 16819

Proposed No. 2010-0226.3

Sponsors Dunn

1 AN ORDINANCE documenting approval of the creation of  
2 criminal court commissioner positions of the King County  
3 superior court.

4 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

5 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

6 A. Article IV, section 23, of the Washington State Constitution authorizes the  
7 appointment of up to three court commissioners per county. The court commissioners are  
8 appointed by the superior court and are authorized to perform the same duties as a judge  
9 of the superior court at chambers, or as otherwise provided by law to aid the  
10 administration of justice. These duties include hearing matters related to probate, hearing  
11 and making determinations for small claims appeals, issuing temporary restraining orders  
12 presiding over arraignments and other pretrial matters in adult criminal cases and  
13 performing other judicial duties as required by the judge.

14 B. In addition to the constitutionally authorized commissioners, the Legislature  
15 has authorized supplementary court commissioners to assist superior court judges in  
16 specific areas of the law. These include mental health commissioners and family court  
17 commissioners. The duties of these commissioners are limited by statute to specific  
18 powers pertinent to assisting the court in mental health or family court matters  
19 respectively.

20 C. Chapter 140, Laws of Washington 2009 authorizes the presiding superior  
21 court judge in counties with a population greater than four hundred thousand to appoint  
22 new supplementary court commissioners to assist the superior court in disposing of adult  
23 criminal matters. The county legislative authority must approve the creation of criminal  
24 court commissioners.

25 D. The court intends to use existing family law and mental health commissioners  
26 to perform the criminal court functions authorized by Chapter 140, Laws of Washington  
27 2009. Prompt approval for existing commissioners to perform these additional functions  
28 will assist the efficient administration of the superior court.

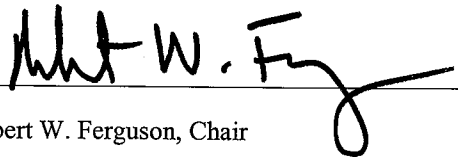
29 SECTION 2. By this ordinance, the county legislative authority approves the  
30 creation of criminal court commissioner positions, which functions shall be performed by

31 existing authorized family law and mental health commissioners to assist the superior  
32 court in disposing of adult criminal matters.  
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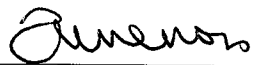
Ordinance 16819 was introduced on 4/19/2010 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 5/3/2010, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Ms. Drago, Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett,  
Ms. Hague, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Ferguson and Mr. Dunn  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

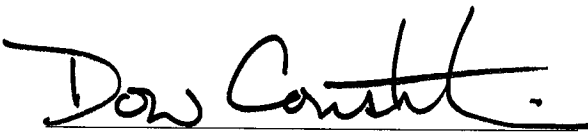
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Robert W. Ferguson, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.

  
Dow Constantine, County Executive

Attachments: None