

HON. KAREN MATSON DONOHUE
JUDGE
KINGS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Karen Donohue was appointed to the King County Superior Court by Washington State Governor Jay Governor Inslee, effective March 2018. Prior to her appointment, she served for seven years on the Seattle Municipal Court (SMC) bench. Judge Donohue was the Presiding Judge of SMC between 2016 and the time of her appointment. Prior to being elected, Judge Donohue worked as a Judge Pro Tem in several district and municipal courts, in a general practice firm, as a law clerk/bailiff, prosecutor and defense attorney, consultant and solo practitioner and as General Counsel at a global telecommunications consulting and network development firm. In 1998, Judge Donohue relocated to Dublin with her family for a year, where she also acted as General Counsel to an Irish mobile phone company.

Judge Donohue earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and her law degree from Seattle University School of Law. She is a board member of the Washington State District and Municipal Judges Association (DMCJA), is co-chair for the DMCJA education committee and has served on the DMCJA Department of Licensing Liaison Committee and the Uniform Citation Committee. Judge Donohue is the Chair of the Trial Court Coordinating Council, a member of the King County Bar Association Award Committee and the Regional Law, Safety & Justice Committee and regularly volunteers to judge law school and youth mock trials. In 2012, Judge Donohue co-founded Seattle Youth Traffic Court. In 2016, she was awarded the Nevins Award from the Washington Judges' Foundation.

Prior to her election as NAWJ's Vice President of Publications, Judge Donohue served as NAWJ's Washington State Chair, co-chair of the Education Committee for NAWJ's 2016 Annual Conference, and chair of NAWJ's Website Committee. She also served on several NAWJ committees, including its Incarcerated Women and Girls Committee. In 2016, she was awarded NAWJ's Justice Vaino Spencer Leadership Award.