

# Alison H. Sonntag



**Alison Sonntag has been the Chief Deputy Clerk since 1993, and on August 16, 2017, the Board of County Commissioners unanimously appointed Alison to be the next Kitsap County Clerk.**

**She was born in Rapid City, South Dakota on January 1, 1947. She was the first baby born in the Black Hills of South Dakota that year, despite not entering the world until 7 PM. Alison grew up in various places, moving from South Dakota to Hannibal, MO when she was 5, then to Oregon, Washington and**

**California in rapid succession when she was in third grade. She spend 4 years in Southern California between ages nearly 8 to 12 ½ . She has lived in Washington State ever since, moving to Kitsap County in 2004.**

**Sonntag graduated Magna Cum Laud from the University of Washington and has a Fellowship from the Institute for Court Management, the educational arm of the National Center for State Courts. She is also a Certified Public Official through the Washington State Association of Counties.**

**She spent the greater part of her adult life working in the Justice System, acquiring experience in a private law firm, the Pierce County Clerk's Office and Superior Court. She spent nearly 24 years as the Chief Deputy Clerk here in Kitsap before being appointed as Clerk in August of this year.**

**Sonntag has been active in her community and supports many national and local causes. She is active at the state and national level in government and court associations.**

**She considers being a public servant the highest possible honor, and believes that if she has good colleagues in place, the office will literally run itself. Additionally, she considers filing as one of the most important jobs in the office and is never hesitant to point out, "One hundred years from now, the only thing that will matter is whether or not the record can be found."**

**Her focus has always on the job-at-hand. As an example, in a fiscally saving move, she delayed hiring a Chief Deputy to fill her former position until after she implemented Odyssey, the newest Superior Court Operations and information system.**

**As the Chief Deputy Clerk, in 2015, Sonntag was a key player in the Guardianship Facilitator bill which allowed counties to offer Courthouse Facilitator services for guardianship cases. Before that time the county facilitator program had been limited to family law cases only. Additionally, she and Peterson testified before the legislature in support of the bill, assisted in the writing of the bill, and in finding a sponsor. Sonntag keeps up with ever-changing technology, always moving ahead smartly, but always with a touch of nostalgia!**

# Alison Sonntag appointed as new Superior Court Clerk

*(Port Orchard, WA)* — The Kitsap Board of County Commissioners appointed Port Orchard resident Alison Sonntag as the Kitsap County Superior Court Clerk at their August 16th Board meeting. Ms. Sonntag replaces David W. Peterson who served as Clerk for 17 years and retired on August 4, 2017. She has served as Chief Deputy Clerk in the Kitsap County Clerks office since 1993. Her appointment is through the end of 2018.

"Alison is well respected by staff in the Clerks Office and by other elected officials. She has the support of her predecessors and I have confidence that she will provide continuity in Clerks Office services as well as the leadership to guide innovation," said Charlotte Garrido, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Sonntag's community involvement includes serving as an elected precinct committee officer for the Nebraska 223 precinct. She is a member of the Kitsap County Democratic Central Committee 26th District Democrats as well as a member of the Port Orchard Business Professional Women, and a past member of the Board of Kitsap Legal Services.

"Alison has worked in the justice system for over 35 years and understands the importance of keeping accurate, accessible court records. Her familiarity with the process and the needs of citizens and legal community will be beneficial especially as the Office looks to implement needed technology changes in the near future," said Commissioner Ed Wolfe, District 3 representative.

"Alison has a passion for public service and a demonstrated commitment to providing high quality customer service, as well as empathy, to the public who may be struggling with the legal system when they walk into the Clerks Office," said Commissioner Rob Gelder.

The Kitsap County Superior Court Clerks Office serves as the records keeper and financial agent for the Superior Court, creating and maintaining all Superior court files, staffing court hearings, providing jurors for all courts within Kitsap County, and offering passport services. Ms. Sonntag will oversee a staff of 37 employees.



**(Sonntag with then Clerk, Dave Peterson flanking Gov Inslee as he signs the Facilitator Guardianship bill in 2015)**



**(Judge Mills swearing in Alison as the new County Clerk)**