

March 27, 2020

Greetings from Kitsap County Superior Court,

SUPERIOR COURT STAFFING

We will have more judicial officers available next week. Your hearing may be conducted by a judicial officer who is working off-site using Zoom. If you are not familiar with remote conferencing via Zoom, fear not. Please reach out to your colleagues if you have questions or need assistance. Zoom allows for those who do not have video conferencing capabilities to telephone in.

Please remember that the availability of a judge does not determine whether you will be heard on an “emergency matter”. The substance of the issue will dictate that. If you have any questions or seek guidance about what may or may not qualify as an “emergency matter”, all of the Emergency Administrative Orders are available on the Kitsap County Superior Court website at: <https://www.kitsapgov.com/sc/>.

FROM THE DESK OF JENNIFER KLUVER

I reached out to our Court Scheduler, Jennifer Klüber, to find out how her week went. Here is her report:

Honestly, everyone has been great. I’ve responded to a ton of emails. 130 on Monday, 156 on Tuesday and 140 Wednesday. That was to be expected, so no complaints really. People have been especially appreciative of our work, which is nice. We truly work with a wonderful legal community.

That’s awesome. Many thanks to the Bar! And as always:

1. Talk to the other side before emailing Jennifer: JKluber@co.kitsap.wa.us.
2. Bench copies and proposed orders to: superiorcourt@co.kitsap.wa.us.
3. Originals to the Superior Court Clerk’s office pursuant to their policies and procedures. Likewise, signed orders can be obtained through the Clerk’s office.

SUPERIOR COURT ARRAIGNMENTS

Starting on Monday: Superior Court arraignments will be heard at 1:30 pm in Courtroom 105.

FROM THE DESK OF JUDGE BASSETT

Judge Bassett handled our criminal matters this week. Here is his report:

The Zoom system is working rather well and those calling in are generally audibly clear. I haven’t heard of anyone trying to call in but finding they cannot because of too many users in queue. My only caution at this point is that anyone setting a hearing needs to be prepared to be on the line or in Court at the scheduled time. Hearings are going faster than expected and there are fewer cases, so if they don’t call in promptly, they have a chance of missing the client’s hearing. This happened Thursday morning when one attorney didn’t call in until after we had addressed the case. (Fortunately there was an attorney from OPD in the courtroom who stood in.)

FAMILY LAW

Attached is a document created by Clark County Superior Court which provides some valuable guidance to family law practitioners. Many thanks to those who forwarded it to me. While the bench recognizes that each individual case presents its own unique issues and circumstances, COVID-19, in and of itself, is not a basis to deviate from previously issued orders or the norm related to residential time and visitation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Attached is an article from a recent edition on The New York Times entitled: "Where Can Domestic Violence Victims Turn During Covid-19?". We may see an increase in incidents of domestic violence with quarantine and families in isolation.

Those seeking a domestic violence protection order are instructed as follows:

For the District Court Clerk's Office: call (360) 337-7109 and press "6".

For the Superior Court Clerk's Office: call (360) 337-4861 or email David Lewis at dlewis@co.litsap.wa.us.

The Kitsap County Courthouse is open. An individual walking in seeking a DVPO will receive assistance. A judicial officer in both Superior and District Court will be available to immediately review petitions.

PRAC & PRO

We will be having Criminal Law, Family Law and Civil / Guardianship / Probate Practice & Procedure meetings during the week of April 6th. You will receive more information next week regarding the specific dates and times of the meetings, as well as instructions on how to attend the meetings remotely via Zoom.

More anon, Kevin

Kevin Hull
Presiding Judge
Kitsap County Superior Court

