

# Superior Court

## Notice to the Bar & Public

March 12, 2007

**ATTENTION Law Office Personnel:** Please ensure that ALL staff, attorneys and non-attorneys are aware of the contents of this notice.

- **Judicial Assistants for Elected Judges**
- **Email Confirmation of Motions**
- **Family Law Settlement Conferences**
- **Guardianship Monitoring**

### Judicial Assistants for Elected Judges

Effective Monday, March 12th, all the new Judicial Assistants will be on the job. They will be undergoing training in several areas and division of labor details are still being worked out. More details will follow. They will begin taking calls for Judges, serving as trial bailiffs and managing their "special sets" virtually immediately. Attorneys and law office staff are reminded that Judge/Commissioner Copies are to be delivered to the Clerk's office, not to judicial chambers. The names of the JA's, their phone numbers and office locations are as follow:

Department 1, Judge Uhrig	Marsha Scevers	715-7461	Office Opposite Clerk Suite, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Department 2, Judge Mura	Christy Martin	676-6793	Judge Mura's Suite, 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Department 3, Judge Snyder	Carol Ortner	738-2457	Office Opposite Clerk Suite, 3 <sup>rd</sup>

**Email Confirmation of Motions** The court has authorized that required confirmation of civil and domestic motions hearings may be accomplished by email, in addition to telephonic confirmation. Effective April 2<sup>nd</sup> one may utilize the email confirmation option on the court's web page at [www.whatcomcounty.us/superior](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/superior). One will automatically receive an acknowledgement that the email was received. The confirming email should contain:

1. Name of Judicial Officer for hearing
2. Case number
3. Case name
4. Date/Time of hearing
5. Nature of the hearing
6. Name of the attorney and party confirming the hearing.

**Family Law Settlement Conferences** There is a significant backlog of cases needing mandatory family law settlement conferences. Cases are set many months in the future, delaying trial settings. In an attempt to address the backlog the Court has arranged for two "marathon" weeks of additional available settlement conference dates. Beginning April 2<sup>nd</sup> we will add four settlement conference times per day, M-F, for two weeks. Conferences will be conducted at 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 1:30 pm and 3:00 pm. Phone the Calendar Clerk, 676-7687, to request a date and time. Conferences will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis and may include those cases already scheduled for a later date. Monday and Thursday afternoon conferences will be conducted in Room 514 (5<sup>th</sup> floor). Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday morning and Friday conferences will be conducted in the Commissioner's Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Due to the pace of this effort, conferences will be limited to 1.5 hours each. Likewise, it will be essential for these settings that materials listed in the settlement conference setting letter issued by the Calendar Clerk are provided in advance, no later than 4:30 PM of the third court day preceding the date of the conference.

**Courtesy Notice:** The Lester and Hyldahl firm invites all members of the Whatcom County Bar to its 13th Annual St. Patrick's Day Open House at 217 Prospect Street, Bellingham (next to the Children's Museum), Friday, March 16th, 2007; Cocktails and Hors d' Oeuvres, 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.