

## **Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission Member Biographies\***

### **Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair, Chair Citizen Representative**

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Judge Saint Clair joined the Criminal Division of the Office of the King County Prosecuting Attorney shortly after his graduation from the University of Washington Law School and his completion of undergraduate work at Yale University. After leaving the prosecutor's office in 1986, he opened a private practice in Bellevue where he specialized in criminal defense work.

Judge Saint Clair was appointed to the Northeast Division of the King County District Court in September of 1991. He was elected the Presiding Judge for King County District Court in the fall of 2001 and served as presiding judge until July of 2004, when he was appointed to the King County Superior Court by Governor Gary Locke. In January of 2012, Judge Saint Clair was assigned to the King County Juvenile Court, where he presided over Truancies, Juvenile Drug Court, Offender Calendars, and Trials as Chief Juvenile Judge. He retired from his position March 1, 2019.

Judge Saint Clair has been active in the courts concerning technology, community engagement, and treatment courts. He has been recognized for his work in drug courts by the New York Times and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

In 2003 Judge Saint Clair was awarded the King County Bar Association's Outstanding Judge of the Year. In January 2009, Judge Saint Clair was the recipient of the King County Martin Luther King Jr. County Humanitarian Award. In 2018 he received the POCAAN (People of Color Against AIDS Network) award for judicial excellence. He received in 2019 the LifeTime Achievement award from the Loren Miller Bar Association for his contributions during his judicial career.

In 2020 he was appointed by Governor Inslee to serve as Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission and sits as well on the Washington State Legislature's Criminal Sentencing Task Force. He remains busy as Board Chair of the non-profit Building Changes, meditating, and consulting on organizational development based on restorative transformative practices and principles.

### **Hon. Tarra Simmons House of Representatives**

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Representative Tarra Simmons serves the 23rd District in the State House of Representatives. This includes East Bremerton, Bainbridge Island, and the Kitsap Peninsula. She is also the co-founder and director of the Civil Survival Project, a program that provides legal services and advocacy for formerly incarcerated people. The issue is personal to her, she is the first formerly incarcerated person to hold state level elected office in Washington and most likely in the United States.

A graduate of Seattle University Law School, Rep. Simmons was refused entry to the Washington State Bar because of her past. Rep. Simmons took a stand for everyone who has been incarcerated and challenged the Bar all the way to the State Supreme Court, where she won a unanimous, same-day decision. As a member of the Public Safety, Civil Rights & Judiciary, and Healthcare & Wellness committees in the Legislature, Rep. Simmons brings true lived experience to Olympia where she fights to reduce incarceration, increase access to behavioral and mental health, and ease the re-entry of formerly incarcerated people back into society.

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### **Hon. Claire Wilson Senate**

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Senator Claire Wilson's legislative work has built on her 25 years at the Puget Sound Educational Services District, where she was an administrator in early education and family involvement. Prior to that, Claire worked with pregnant and parenting teens at Mt. Tahoma High School and the City of Seattle. Most recently, she served as an elected school board director for Federal Way Public Schools for 8 years.

Claire is Senate Assistant Majority Whip, and in the 2022 legislative session, she will serve as chair of the Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee\* after serving on that committee since 2018. During the 2020 legislative session, at the request of the state Attorney General, Claire sponsored legislation ending the use of solitary confinement as punishment for youth as well as a bill providing post-secondary education opportunities in the Department of Corrections.

As vice chair of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, Claire has sponsored legislation to improve and expand access to childcare and early learning services, including the landmark Fair Start for Kids Act in 2021. She also sponsored successful 2020 legislation that requires comprehensive, medically accurate sexual health education to be offered to students in public schools across Washington.

She also serves on the Senate Transportation Committee, where she provides a voice for the considerable transportation concerns in her district.

One of seven LGBTQ lawmakers in the Washington State Legislature, she represents the 30th legislative district, which includes Federal Way, Algona, Pacific, Milton, Des Moines and Auburn.

\*Senate committee leadership positions are tentative until confirmed by a vote of the Senate on Jan. 10, 2022.

### **Kecia Rongen Chair, Indeterminate Sentence Review Board**

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Kecia has worked within the criminal justice system for 25 years, specializing with individuals who have committed sex offenses as well as co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance abuse disorders). Just prior to coming to the Board, she served as the Administrator for Sexual Offender Programs within the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. In addition, she has served on a number of legislative workgroups related to policies for people who commit sex offenses.

She has served as the Chair of the statewide Sex Offender Policy Board twice, a Board Member for the WA Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (WATSA) and is currently on the Board for the International Association of Paroling Authorities.

In 2016, she was awarded the Philip L. Russell Ph.D. Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributor to the Field of Sex Offender and Victim Rehabilitation by WATSA. She has a BA in Psychology and a MA in Counseling. The Governor appointed her to the Board in 2012 and appointed her as Chair in September of 2015.

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**Hon. William C. Houser**  
**Kitsap County Superior Court**

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Kitsap County Superior Court Judge William C. Houser graduated from Willamette University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence from Willamette University College of Law. He was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1983 and the Washington State Bar in 2003.

Judge Houser's varied career includes his work as a prosecutor, partner in a small law firm and public defender. Immediately prior to his 2014 appointment to the bench by Governor Inslee, he was an attorney with the Kitsap County Public Defender Division.

**Cheryl Strange**  
**Secretary, Department of Corrections**

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Cheryl Strange was appointed Secretary of the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) by Governor Jay Inslee on May 15, 2021.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary of Corrections, Strange served as secretary of Washington's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the state's largest human service agency, where she was appointed to the position by Inslee in 2017. She is a respected and proven leader who has cultivated a humane, progressive and equitable institutional culture.

Strange has dedicated her life to public service, serving more than 40 years in government, non-profit or labor organizations, holding leadership positions in those organizations for over half of that time. She served as DOC deputy secretary from 2008 to 2011. She has also served as vice president for Pioneer Human Services where she worked on the important issues of reentry, work release, and behavioral health. Prior to serving as DSHS secretary, she served as CEO of Western State Hospital, and director of Health Benefits Trust for SEIU 775. Strange was also assistant director for the DSHS Mental Health Division, where she managed the state's public mental health system, including the state's three hospitals, and community outpatient mental health services.

Strange earned her bachelor's from the Evergreen State College, her Master of Public Administration from Seattle University, completed the executive management program certification at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, and a certificate in healthcare policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Dr. Jennifer Albright**  
**Citizen Representative**

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Dr. Jennifer Albright is a Project/Program Manager IV with the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention where she provides analytic, research and policy support to the adult, juvenile and community corrections divisions. Regular responsibilities include monitoring of staffing levels in the adult divisions, and support for technology systems, as well as all manner of ad hoc reporting and policy analysis. Dr. Albright is also an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Seattle University where she regularly teaches courses in corrections, reentry, and research methods. Dr. Albright has over 20 years of experience at the state and local levels in supporting both police and correctional agencies, including supporting the Seattle Police Department's reform efforts. She also serves as an analytic resource to the Cleveland Police Monitoring Team.

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Dr. Albright holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Idaho and Master's and Doctorate degrees in Criminal Justice from Washington State University.

### **Tim Wettack Citizen Representative**

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Career: Labor Relations. Retired in 2010 after 40+ years representing Management. Negotiated over 1,000 private sector labor contracts, including multi-employer and/or multi-union bargaining, in multiple industries with numerous labor unions.

Education: BS(1965) MS(1971), Business, University of Kansas

Military: US Naval Officer, 1965-1969. 2 combat deployments to Vietnam. SEAL platoon commander.

My interest in criminal justice and sentencing stems from my older son, Timothy. He graduated from UW in December 2010 with a degree in Law, Societies and Justice. His classes on prisons fascinated him. A February 2012 visit to the Concerned Lifers Organization (CLO) prisoner group at WSR Monroe made a huge impact upon him. Tragically, five days after his prison visit, he was killed in a motorcycle accident. I believe Timothy would have pursued his great interest in prisons. I am attempting to contribute in his stead and in his honor.

### **Kimberly N. Gordon Criminal Defense Attorney**

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Kimberly Gordon defends the criminally accused and the constitution. She has successfully litigated everything from misdemeanors to complex frauds and serious felony cases in Washington's city, state, and federal courts.

In addition to the Commission, Governor Inslee appointed Kim to Washington's Justice Reinvestment Task Force. She served on the Criminal Justice Act Standing Committee for the Western District of Washington and served on that jurisdiction's Local Criminal Rules Review Committee in 2013. Kim served as president of the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2012 and was a long-term Co-Chair of WACDL's Legislative Committee. In 2011, she received WACDL's President's Award, in recognition of her distinguished service to the criminal defense bar.

Kim is a founding partner of Gordon & Saunders PLLC, a firm dedicated to the representation (pre- and post-conviction) of individuals charged with crimes. She effectively argued numerous felony appeals for the Washington Appellate Project, began her trial practice at The Defender Association (becoming the Misdemeanor Supervisor in 2002), and was a member of the criminal defense team at Schroeter, Goldmark and Bender. Her education includes Hastings College, Tulane Law School, and the National Criminal Defense College.

Kim has been repeatedly named a "Super Lawyer" and one of the "Top Attorney's in Washington" in the area of criminal defense. She has lectured on criminal defense and criminal justice policy at a wide range of institutions and organizations, including the University of Washington School of Law, Seattle University School of Law, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Institute of Trial Advocacy, Washington Defender Association, Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, King County Bar Association, Washington State Office of Public Defense, and Washington State Bail Agents Association.

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**Jon Tunheim**  
**Prosecuting Attorney, Thurston County**

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Jon Tunheim is the elected Prosecuting Attorney in Thurston County and represents the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys on the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Originally from South Dakota, Tunheim earned his bachelor's degree at South Dakota State University and soon moved to Washington to attend law school at the University of Puget Sound School of Law. While in law school, he joined the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office as a legal intern. He was admitted to the practice of law in 1990, and immediately appointed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, serving the office in that capacity until elected Prosecuting Attorney in 2010. During his career, Tunheim personally prosecuted hundreds of cases, focusing on cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and crimes against children. As a deputy prosecutor, Tunheim was a leader in the effort to create Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center, an organization providing coordinated services to child victims of abuse and neglect. He is also a co-founder of the Family Justice Center, a similar program providing services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Tunheim is an active member of Washington's legal community. He is a past president of the Washington Government Lawyers Bar Association and of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. In addition to serving on the Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission, he is also the current president of the Washington State Association of Drug Court Professionals and serves as a co-chair of Washington's legislative Criminal Sentencing Task Force.