

Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission Member Biographies*

Hon. J. Wesley Saint Clair, Chair Citizen Representative

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

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**

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**

Kecia has worked within the criminal justice system for 28 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 the Vice-President for the Association of Paroling Authorities International.

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.

**Jon Tunheim
Prosecuting Attorney, Thurston County**

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

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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.

Cheryl Strange Secretary, Department of Corrections

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

Dr. Jennifer Albright is the Deputy Chief of Administration with the King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention where she oversees analytic and policy support resources for the Department. The Administrative Services Division provides project management, analytic reporting and other general support to the adult, juvenile and community corrections divisions. Dr. Albright is also an adjunct professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Seattle University where she regularly teaches courses in

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corrections, reentry, and research methods. Dr. Albright has 25 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 occasional analytic resource to the Cleveland Police Monitoring Team.

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

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.

Tye Menser Commissioner, Thurston County

Tye, elected to the Thurston Board of County Commissioners in 2019, has lived in Thurston County for nearly two decades with his wife, an elementary school teacher, and two teenage children.

In 1993, Tye graduated with honors from Harvard College, with a degree in Government. In 1997, he graduated from law school at the University of California at Berkeley. During his time in law school, Tye taught himself Spanish, spent a summer studying language in Morelia, Mexico, and spent one semester studying law, in Spanish, at the University of Chile in Santiago.

In September 1997 Tye began a 21-year legal career that included commercial and intellectual property litigation, criminal defense, and family law. Tye has been admitted to the state bar associations of Illinois, California, Alaska, and Washington. During the early part of his career, he spent 7 years in northern Alaska with the Alaska Public Defender Agency — half of that representing Native Alaskans in the remote Arctic village of Kotzebue — providing legal services to indigent clients who could not otherwise afford an attorney.

In 2007, Tye joined the law firm of Morgan Hill, P.C., as an associate attorney. Over the last decade, however, he continued to provide legal services to indigent citizens through Thurston County Public Defense. Between 2010 and 2013, Tye served as a Commissioner on Thurston County's Water Conservancy Board.

Tye has also been actively involved in the local music and arts community by playing the banjo in a traditional bluegrass band, The Oly Mountain Boys, since 2008.

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Jennifer Redman

Director – Operations, Safety & Security, DCYF - JR

Jennifer Redman was appointed to the newly established Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) Director of Operations, Safety and Security in March 2023. Prior to this appointment, she served as Superintendent of Green Hill School, the largest JR facility for young adults serving juvenile and adult sentences up to age 25. Jennifer has served in the juvenile justice system for 29 years in various roles in facilities, central office and the community. She has extensive knowledge of evidence-based programs, behavioral health, specialized populations, and national juvenile justice standards. Jennifer has been recognized nationally by the Performance-based Standards for positive outcomes related to the reduction of room confinement and isolation in a juvenile justice setting.

Jennifer earned bachelor degrees in Psychology and Law and Justice, and later her Master's in Criminal Justice Administration.

Jeremiah Bourgeois

Citizen Representative

Jeremiah Bourgeois, J.D., is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law (2023). In 1992, at age 14, he became one of the youngest children in the United States to receive a mandatory sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Miller v. Alabama* (2012)—in which the Court declared that imposing mandatory sentences of life without parole on juveniles violates the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment—Jeremiah was resentenced to an indeterminate term of twenty-five years to life, which made him eligible for parole and resulted in his release in after serving 27 years in confinement.

While confined, Jeremiah earned a bachelor's degree in legal studies and criminology with the financial support of his family. He also became a regular contributor to criminal justice news sites and published articles in law journals. In 2018, Jeremiah's legal commentary critiquing the parole board's practices resulted in a hearing in the Washington State Senate. Before being freed, the Washington State Court of Appeals adopted his legal analysis in a landmark decision which ended the unlawful confinement of prisoners serving sentences for crimes committed when they were juveniles.

Since his release, Jeremiah has become an active member of St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus Council #15143 in Spokane, Washington. He formerly served as a member of the Access to Justice Board, which is charged by the Washington Supreme Court with planning for the statewide delivery of civil legal aid services. Jeremiah currently serves as a law clerk for Judge George B. Fearing on the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division III.