

Superior Court

Notice to the Bar and Public

March 30, 2018

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

GUARDIAN AD LITEM IN SUPERIOR COURT

Counsel are reminded that pursuant to RCW 26.12.177 (2) (a) Each guardian ad litem program for compensated guardians ad litem shall establish a rotational registry system for the appointment of guardians ad litem under this title. If a judicial district does not have a program the court shall establish the rotational registry system. **Guardians ad litem under this title shall be selected from the registry except in exceptional circumstances as determined and documented by the court.** The parties may make a joint recommendation for the appointment of a guardian ad litem from the registry.

Counsel may not deviate from the Whatcom County registry absent a finding from the Court. When circumstances arise requiring appointment from another registry, the Director of Whatcom County Superior Court Administration should be contacted to make arrangements.

OFFICE OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL SEEKING ATTORNEYS FOR CONFLICT REPRESENTATION IN DISTRICT COURT

Whatcom County is looking to enter into an agreement with individuals or firms to represent defendants in Whatcom County District Court when the Public Defender's Office cannot represent due to a conflict of interest. It is anticipated there will be between 15 and 20 cases per year.

The County is offering compensation as follows:

\$300.00 per case. The court may approve an additional \$60.00 per hour for extraordinary work on a case by case basis.

Trials would be reimbursed at \$150.00 for each half day spent in trial.

Counsel must carry the following in the way of insurance:

Property Damage -- \$500,000.00 per occurrence

General Liability & Property Damage for bodily injury -- \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence

Interested parties should contact Superior Court Director, David Reynolds, who oversees Assigned Counsel. Mr. Reynolds can be reached at dreynold@co.whatcom.wa.us