

**Clark County District Court
In the State of Washington**

Kristen L. Parcher
Chad E. Sleight
Darvin J. Zimmerman
Sonya L. Langsdorf
Kelli E. Osler
John P. Hagensen
Judges of District Court

Todd N. George
Abigail E. Bartlett
Court Commissioner



Amber K. Emery
Court Administrator

Bradley R. Alberts
Deputy Court Administrator

July 21, 2020

Dear Members of the Clark County Community:

Clark County District Court joins the Justices of The Washington State Supreme Court and courts throughout our state and nation in recognizing and denouncing systemic racism in our legal system and communities.

It is imperative that we acknowledge that in order to uphold our Oath of Office to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of judge to the best of our ability means we must recognize that racism exists in our community and is perpetuated in our justice system. As judges, we must commit to addressing existing injustices in order to more fairly serve the citizens of our community.

All citizens should be equal in the eyes of the law. We must develop a greater awareness of our own biases, both conscious and unconscious. We must reflect on our individual actions each day as well as support larger movements to eradicate racism. Every individual that appears in front of the court deserves justice rooted in equality and fairness. As a legal community we must improve meaningful access to justice by ensuring we take measures to remove barriers, including systemic flaws built upon racial inequities.

Clark County District Court must be a place where litigants, attorneys and employees are all treated with dignity and respect regardless of race or background.

We pledge to listen with open minds and educate ourselves as to what steps we can take to effectuate real change around the ongoing injustices faced by people of color.

Sincerely,

Clark County District Court