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**SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR CLARK COUNTY**

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COMMISSIONERS
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July 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Clark County Legal Community:

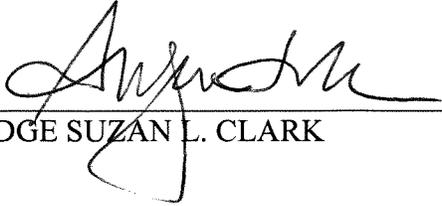
We join the Supreme Court of the State of Washington and other courts throughout our nation in addressing the role courts have played in the unjust treatment of Black Americans and persons of color. As our Supreme Court recently wrote in its June 4, 2020 open letter “systemic racial injustice against Black Americans...is the collective product of each of our individual actions – every action, every day.”

We recognize that our nation has a history of racism that continues to this day which is clearly evident by the overrepresentation of Black Americans and other minorities in our juvenile and adult justice systems, jails, and prisons. The legal community, judges and lawyers, bear responsibility both individually and collectively for allowing the injustice to persist.

We take this moment in history to reject racism, and vow to do better in recognizing our own biases and how they impact the justice system. In addition to honestly evaluating our individual actions, we must also examine our own institution and root out discriminatory practices -- in our everyday interactions with each other and our communities. This requires persistent work as we endeavor to apply principles of justice, fairness, and equity each day. We are committed to demonstrate in the coming months and years a sustained effort to reach this goal. As an initial step we have organized a standing committee to evaluate our court’s current practices and suggest necessary changes to promote racial equity.

We recognize that racism is enabled by a culture that tacitly accepts it. To combat silent complicity, we commit to lead local efforts to educate on individual, institutional, and structural racism and bias. In recognition of the responsibility we have to ensure that systemic racism is eradicated in all forms, we commit to ongoing education and analysis of the court’s practices and outcomes. We call on the legal community in Clark County to engage in these efforts as well.

It is only by committing to careful self-reflection and being personally accountable to the promise of change that we can fulfill the commitment to justice for all.



JUDGE SUZAN L. CLARK



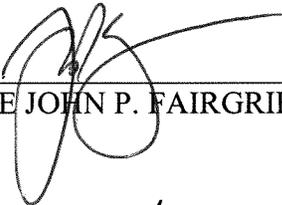
JUDGE ROBERT A. LEWIS



JUDGE SCOTT A. COLLIER



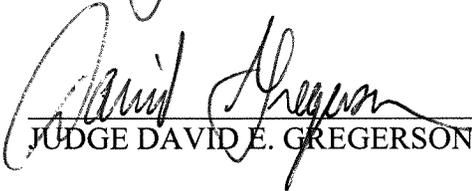
JUDGE JENNIFER K. SNIDER



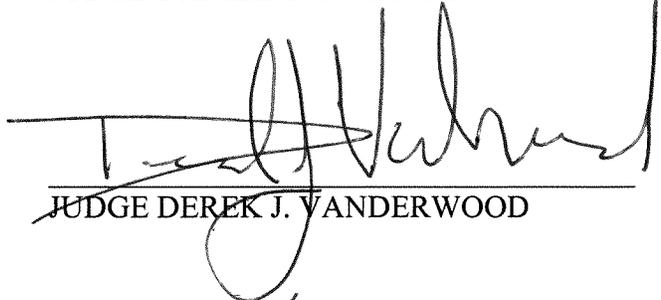
JUDGE JOHN P. FAIRGRIEVE



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JUDGE DAVID E. GREGERSON



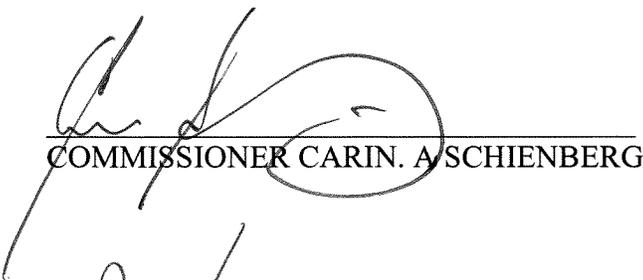
JUDGE DEREK J. VANDERWOOD



JUDGE GREGORY M. GONZALES



JUDGE BERNARD F. VELJACIC



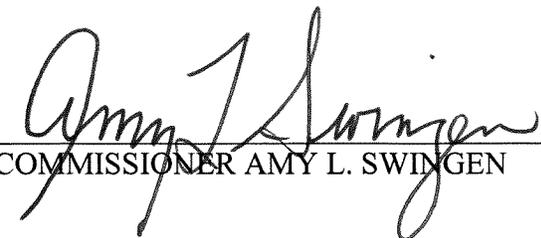
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