

2009 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Anne	L	Ellington

2. Office sought (include office, jurisdiction, position/district number):

Judge, Court of Appeals, Division One District One Position 3

3. Are you the incumbent? x Yes No

4. How long have you resided in this district/city?

40 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

40 years

6. Is the office sought partisan or nonpartisan? Partisan x Nonpartisan

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: **Committee to Retain Judge Anne Ellington**

Address: **PO BOX 1827**
Seattle 98111

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: **206 748 1488**

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: judgeanneellington@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.judgeanneellington.com (under construction)

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

1. Beginning with the most recent position, please list public offices you have held. Include positions on appointive boards or commissions.

Public Office	Elective or Appointive?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
Judge, Court of Appeals	elective	1995-present	Please see attached resume
Judge, King County Superior Court	elective	1984-95	Please see attached resume

2. If you ran for public office but were not elected, please list those races below:

Office Title	Year of Run

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SECTION II

In this section, we are seeking responses that reflect the four ratings criteria: involvement, effectiveness, character, and knowledge. These are defined as follows:

- **Involvement:** What has the candidate done previously in family, neighborhood, community, volunteer work, employment or public life to suggest readiness to accomplish challenging objectives? How do these activities demonstrate readiness for the challenges unique to the office sought?
 - **Effectiveness:** Has the candidate demonstrated promise of being productive in the office sought? Has the candidate shown the ability to work with other people?
 - **Character:** Do the candidate's personal traits show the ability to take on the responsibilities of campaigning for and holding the public office she or he is seeking? Is the candidate a leader, participant or observer? Is the candidate trustworthy, reliable and candid?
 - **Knowledge:** Has the candidate demonstrated the willingness and ability to learn and adapt? Does the candidate understand the duties and challenges of the office sought? Does the candidate have a firm grasp of the issues important to his or her constituency and their potential effects?
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1. In one page or less, why are you running for this office? (Note: the interview committee will be given a copy of this statement before your interview; at the beginning of your interview you will have the opportunity to expand on this statement in any way you wish.)

I hold this office now. I am committed to the work I do, and every day I am grateful for the opportunity to do it. I work hard, try to listen well, and search always for fairness in the result. I respect the litigants and I follow the rule of law. I try to write clear and understandable opinions that contribute to the orderly development of the common law.

The courts are the centerpiece of our democracy. Without independent courts and judges we would have no freedom. The work of the courts is the protection of individual rights and the resolution of disputes. If the public trusts this means of protection and resolution, we succeed. Otherwise, we fail (and lose the fundamental structure of our constitutional system). We judges must therefore work to keep the judiciary independent and the courts accessible and responsive.

Access to justice became my chief personal issue when I realized how many confused people were wandering our hallways in King County Superior Court. Since then I have been involved in many projects, most recently focusing on access for persons with disabilities. I served as editor of a publication titled "Ensuring Equal Access For People with Disabilities: A Guide for Washington Courts," which was the first such resource in Washington. Other parts of the same project have included a new court rule and successful lobbying for legislative creation of a statewide ADA coordinator for the courts. I have also been involved in various pro se litigant projects, including developing "unbundled" legal services. This work adds immeasurably to my understanding of my judicial role.

2. Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

It is important for an appellate judge to have intellectual integrity and an awareness of our part in the development of the common law. When a case presents difficult analytical issues, the appropriate rigor in the court's discussion shows respect for the parties and the law (and is less likely to lead to unexpected results in later cases). I am very aware of this aspect of my work and tend carefully to it.

Appellate judging is a collaborative process. It requires communication and "people skills." I am good at this, maybe because although I take the cases seriously, I don't take myself too seriously. This allows the collegial discussion to lead (usually) to consensus. It is also important to enjoy reading and research, since most of our work is solitary. Knowing something about writing is also very valuable. I write clear, direct, understandable opinions and try hard not to be boring.

Other qualities are patience, intellectual curiosity, listening well, and an even temperament.

3. Please describe, in sufficient detail, one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time in your personal, professional, or public life.

First, I am most proud to have a reputation as a capable and fair judge.

Second, I am proud to have been the first woman to be elected as Presiding Judge in King County Superior Court, and that I had a role in achieving security in the courthouse in King County. We had gained widespread support for courthouse screening, but funds were not forthcoming because of the resistance of certain members of the County Council. It took the shootings in 1995 to overcome that resistance.

Third, I am proud of the Guide for Courts mentioned above. It's good, and it's making a difference. Other states are borrowing our model.

I would also mention that I have had a number of cases that posed real challenges. I am proud that I was able to meet those challenges.

4. Please list or describe current and past activities in the community in which you have acquired skills that relate to the office you seek. Include your role in the activity and the year(s) in which you were involved. Involvement consists of many areas such as family, neighborhood, community, employment, or public life.

Please see attached resume.

5. Please describe the duties of the office you seek. Which are the most important duties and why?

Appellate judges hear and decide appeals from lower courts. Those decisions are our most important duties. We must also administer the court efficiently and in a way that makes access to the court as easy as possible (and in a way that costs little, especially now). Each judge is solely responsible for his or her own chambers operation (judicial assistant and two law clerks) but is also involved in the entire court's budget, judicial education and other issues.