

## 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
Pete	S	Holmes

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

**Seattle City Attorney**

3. Are you the incumbent?       Yes       No

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

**24 years**

5. How long have you resided in King County?

**24 years**

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

#### CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: Pete Holmes for City Attorney

Address: PO Box 28331

City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98118-8331

Campaign Phone: 206-529-4050

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Campaign Website: www.holmesforseattle.com

#### 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)
Office of Professional Accountability Review Board	Appointive	2001-2008	Chair, 2003-2008
Democratic Precinct Committee Officer, 37-1647	Both	2004-Present	Region 8 Caucus Director

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 am running for City Attorney because I want to use the experience I have gained over my 25 year legal career to help the people of Seattle. This desire for public service brought me to the Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB)—Seattle’s civilian review panel for police misconduct—in 2002. There I discovered first-hand the problems with the City’s policies towards transparency, accountability, and law enforcement priorities. I worked directly with all levels of city government, from the Mayor to rank-and-file police officers. I participated in ride-alongs and roll calls in every SPD precinct, and eagerly participated in every training opportunity available, including the SPD Community Policing Academy. My OPARB experience left me with three firm convictions: that Seattle has one of the finest police forces in the nation; that SPD resources are stretched too thinly; and that mistrust of law enforcement in our minority communities especially compromises public safety. Working with the higher levels of Seattle government I discovered that our police were being handcuffed by policies that required them to pursue ineffective enforcement tactics like mandatory car impounds for drivers with suspended licenses (disproportionately, the city’s working poor). I also discovered that the mistrust in our communities stemmed from policies that undermined transparency and accountability. I did everything I could as the OPARB chair and legal representative to advocate for the public’s right to know, but there is much more to be done.**

**In addition to the shortfalls I discovered while on OPARB, as a citizen I saw the failure of the Sonics litigation as well as the massive monetary judgments against the City stemming from needless litigation, and knew that a fresh new approach was needed in the City Attorney’s Office. I want to ensure that Seattle has open, honest and effective government as a thoughtful servant-leader in the City Attorney’s Office. After consulting my family, friends and colleagues, I decided that seeking public office would be the best way for these issues to be addressed. As City Attorney, I will be in a position to use my values and legal experience to help the people of Seattle.**

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

**One of the biggest reason for my success as a lawyer and as a public servant has been my collaborative nature. As City Attorney, I will continue to build consensus by bringing all stakeholders to the table in order to find lasting solutions for the problems that address the Office of the City Attorney. Additionally, my belief in public service will provide a constant reminder for me as City Attorney to remember who put me there. My office will not be about wins and losses; it will be about providing real solutions to the problems that confront the City. This means stopping the enforce first, litigate first approach of years past and focusing more on working with community outreach organizations to restore trust in law enforcement so we can start preventing crimes. This means bringing people together to find solutions to civil disputes without the costly litigation process whenever possible.**

**Finally, I have always insisted on the highest standards in my legal practice—especially civility in litigation. As a consequence, I earned the highest marks possible from my fellow lawyers for legal knowledge and ethics: Martindale-Hubbell’s A-V ranking. I will model these standards for every lawyer in the Office of the City Attorney.**

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 of all, I am proud of my stand for transparency in the face of withering personal attacks from the Mayor and Chief of Police during my tenure on the OPA Review Board. Despite the harsh resistance from the highest levels of Seattle’s government, the work of the board ultimately led to the City making 29 changes in how it approaches police accountability. The people of Seattle need a City Attorney who will be their advocate in times of adversity and get results. I have proven that I am willing to stand up for what I believe in against any opposition.**

**While a partner at Miller Nash LLP, I undertook two major pro bono initiatives in defense of our poorest citizens: one seeking to end the practice of major financial institutions to end-run the bankruptcy discharge for impoverished citizens; a second seeking to affirm a bankruptcy court’s granting of a hardship discharge for student loans to a single mother and social worker. As City Attorney I will bring this dedication to those in our city that have been hit hardest by these hard economic times.**

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.

**At St. Joseph's Church since 1985, I have been a host at the homeless men's Winter Shelter and a member of the Sister Parish Ministry Steering Committee (San Bartolomé, Arcatao, Chalatenango Division, El Salvador). I take pride in my community involvement with my church; it has given me ground level experience with our city's homeless, who are too often put through the criminal justice system for the "crime of poverty".**

**I have been a PCO in the 37<sup>th</sup> Legislative District since 2004 and active member of the 37<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats. This has given me the opportunity to meet face-to-face with community members and talk about the issues that matter most to them. This experience has been integral in the development of my vision for the City Attorney's Office. I have been a member in good standing with both the King County Bar Association and the Washington State Bar Association since 1985. From 2002 to 2008 I was a voting member and lecturer for the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. Through NACOLE, I worked with other civilian oversight groups to help improve the effectiveness of their efforts.**

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

**The City Attorney is the chief legal officer in the Seattle Government, in charge of both criminal and civil departments. The City Attorney's prosecutorial responsibilities are limited to misdemeanors involving no more than one year in jail, while representing the City in all civil matters. While the City Attorney does provide legal council for the City government, as an elected official, the City Attorney is also accountable to the people. Maintaining the balance between the needs of the people and the interests of the City is the City Attorney's most important role because the problems facing the office require solutions that bring all sides to the table.**