

2010 Candidate Questionnaire

SECTION I

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

1. Name as it will appear on the ballot

First Name	Middle Initial or Nickname	Last Name
Michael	Salvador	Hurtado

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

Seattle Municipal Court, Position 6

3. Are you the incumbent? x Yes No

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

38 years

5. How long have you resided in King County?

38 years

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

7. If partisan, please indicate party:

CAMPAIGN CONTACTS

Campaign Name: TBD

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Campaign Phone: _____

Campaign Fax: _____

Campaign E-mail: _____

Campaign Website: _____

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)
SMC Judge, Position 6	appointed	1993	Pro-tem training
SMC Judge, Position 6	elected	1996-present	

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

Office Title	Year of Run
Not applicable	

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 re-election because I am uniquely qualified to continue serving the people of Seattle.

I bring a "people's perspective" to the courts. As a Latino male, growing up in Los Angeles and seeing the struggles of, as BP officials might have it, "small people," I never lose sight of this important lens or filter. I think my service in Viet Nam, my community service, and my 38 years as a father all help me to be thoughtful in exacting justice in my court.

I have the courage to make difficult decisions and it comes through experience as a judge. For example, I have to make many sentencing decisions on repeat DUI offenders, or crimes involving physical danger or the threat of physical danger to individuals, including SPD officers. I maintain compassion and empathy in adjudicating cases involving people with mental-health issues. I think Office Enright, who is assigned to my court (mental health), would be a good reference on how I perform my duties.

Finally, for the past 17 years as a full-time judge I have a reputation for being fair and firm, even while being compassionate and understanding of circumstances of individuals.

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

The traits and characteristics that I carry today were developed while growing up in South Central Los Angeles, site of infamous Watts riots. From this, my person was shaped.

My father had an 8th grade education and mother had 3rd grade education. We didn't have or know of entitlements, nor did we have the benefit of parents who could help us with our schooling, whether grade school studies or college finances.

Early on, I learned the personal lessons of hard work and perseverance. This was followed by service in Viet Nam, 56th Air Commander wing, in a base 90 miles from Hanoi. Here I learned the lessons of sacrifice and commitment.

I have developed a sense of compassion in dealing with people in crisis. And, in some form or another, many people in the courts are in crisis, whether it be due to poverty, abuse, mental health or just the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

These qualities and characteristics shape how I adjudicate in Seattle Municipal Court today.

These qualities and characteristics are why I believe I am of value to the bench.

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.

Since becoming a judge, dating back to 1993, my proudest accomplishment is in working with Seattle public schools, private schools, and non-profit organizations in helping students understand our legal system.

I have shared with students my personal experience to help them to understand that they have the power to shape their destiny—much like I had to do early on, at age 14, when I used a violent, near-death experience to choose a different path in life.

Since 1993, I have had an audience with more than 3,000 students where I facilitated mock trials and educational forums, and this work continues today. I take the occasion to tell the students, you don't want to come to my court, unless I invite you. Here, I also talk to them about the importance of basic survival skills, such as listening and speaking skills.

For my efforts, I was awarded KOMO/4 television's Hometown Hero Award in 1994. I have received numerous other awards for public service or my service as a judge, from the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, YWCA, Hispanic Bar Association, and Washington State Bar Association, and others.

I also contributed several years as a board member of the Concilio for the Spanish Speaking, an important social service and advocacy organization in the 80's and 90's. Here I learned about the every-day issues facing people who were unemployed or unemployable, and the many who live here without legal papers. They are particularly vulnerable and it continues to grow in our state and nation.

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.

Context for my involvement is stated above. A list of organizations that I have partnered with currently or in the past follows:

Concilio for the Spanish Speaking, Board of Directors, 1985-91

King County Boys and Girls Club, Board of Directors, 2004

Human Rights Commission, 1985-87

Goodwill Industries, Board of Directors, 2002-06

University Preparatory School, Board of Directors, 2000-04

Seattle Public Schools, Bringing Kids to Court, 1993-present

Pacific Science Center, Crime Solvers, Summer Program, 1995-present

Goodwill Industries, Education Program, 2000-present

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

The purpose of Seattle Municipal Court is that the municipal criminal and traffic code are adhered to and that alleged violations are heard in a fair and objective manner.

My duties, in brief, are to:

- ensure that all defendants are given opportunity for counsel before their case is heard.
- ensure that procedural, due process rights are provided to each defendant;
- ensure all parties are given and full and fair opportunity to be heard;
- ensure that convicted defendants are held responsible for post-adjudication conditions of sentence;

Not only must I comply with the legal duties such as those as listed above, I am personally obligated to respect all who come before me and to treat all defendants with compassion and empathy.

This is especially important in presiding over mental health court for the past two years.