

The Honorable G. Helen Whitener



Superior Court of Washington, Pierce County
Judge Whitener was appointed to the Pierce County Superior Court in 2015 by Governor Jay Inslee. Prior to her appointment Judge Whitener served as a judge on the Washington State Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals, and as a pro-tem judge in Pierce County District Court as well as the Tacoma Municipal Court. She had previously worked as a Prosecutor and a Defense Attorney.

Judge Whitener is the 2019 recipient of the WA State Bar Association's C.Z Smith 'Excellence in Diversity & Inclusion' Award; the 2019 recipient of the King County Washington Women Lawyers President Award; the Seattle University School of Law, 2019 Woman of the Year Award, the 2019 Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association's Diversity Award. In 2018, Judge Whitener received the Pierce County Washington Women Lawyer's Woman of the Year Award.

Judge Whitener is very active locally, nationally, and internationally and speaks often on human rights, access to justice, and the rights and responsibility of the judiciary in ensuring the rights of all that appear before the court to basic dignity and respect in judicial proceedings. She is Co-chair of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, Co-Chair of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association

(SCJA) – Equity and Fairness Committee and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Association of LGBT Judges (IALGBTJ). Judge Whitener is also a member of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the American Judges Association (AJA). In 2017 she was appointed by the Washington State Supreme Court to the Office of Civil Legal Aid Oversight Committee (OCLA). She is a member of the Washington Women Lawyers and is a judicial member of the Advisory Council for the QLaw Association of Washington. In 2016 Judge Whitener did a TedxPOS Talk titled “Claiming your identity by understanding your self-worth” where she discussed the different labels used to identify her https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57FMau29O_g