

Judge Christel has been a Magistrate Judge for the Western District of Washington since 2007 in a part-time capacity for southwest Washington for eight years and in a full-time position in Tacoma since April, 2015.

After being raised in Tacoma, Judge Christel earned his undergraduate degree from Washington State University in 1979 and law degree from the University of Washington in 1985. Before law school, he worked for his national fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega.

His legal career started with the firm of Diamond & Sylvester in Seattle in the commercial litigation group. He then joined Blair, Schaefer, Hutchison and Wynne in Vancouver, Washington before establishing his own firm in 2002. Over his legal career, he represented a major credit union, small businesses, and individuals with a focus on transactions, real estate, probate, guardianships, and business formation.

Committed to the community, Judge Christel served as a Board Member for the Vancouver School District and the Clark County Bar Association, volunteered as a hearings officer for school district discipline hearings, was active in Rotary International (serving as President), coached youth sports, and worked as a high school and college basketball referee where he officiated state tournament championship games.