



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
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December 16, 2021

THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON WELCOMES DISTRICT JUDGE LAUREN KING

On December 15, 2021, before her family, friends, judges, and court staff, Judge Lauren King was sworn in by Chief Judge Ricardo S. Martinez to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, seated in Seattle. Judge King's appointment fills a judgeship vacant since January 27, 2016, when District Judge Robert S. Lasnik assumed senior status. Judge King is the first Native American federal judge in Washington State's history, the second in the United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit, and only the third active Native American federal judge in the entire United States. Judge King is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation located in Oklahoma.

Judge King was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and received her Juris Doctor in 2008 from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was editor-in-chief of the Virginia Journal of Law and Technology. She received her Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, from the University of Washington in 2004.

Judge King was an associate at K&L Gates LLP (formerly Preston Gates & Ellis LLP) from 2008 to 2009 and Byrnes Keller Cromwell LLP from 2010 to 2012. She was a partner at Foster Garvey, P.C. (formerly Foster Pepper PLLC) in Seattle, where she practiced from 2012 until being sworn as a federal judge. She chaired the firm's Native American practice group. Judge King also served on the firm's Executive Committee in 2017 and 2019 and on the Compensation Committee in 2018 and 2019.

Judge King served as a Pro Tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System from 2013 to 2021. She served on the board of the Northwest Tribal Court Judges Association from 2015 to 2021. Judge King was also a member of the Mvskoke Reservation Protection Commission from 2020 to 2021 and served as a board member of the Seattle Indian Health Board from 2017 to 2019. In 2020, Governor Jay Inslee appointed her as a Commissioner on the Washington State Gambling Commission, where she served until the expiration of her term in 2021. Judge King also taught Federal Indian Law as an adjunct professor at Seattle University School of Law.

A formal investiture ceremony will be scheduled at a future date.