

United States Magistrate Judge Theresa L. Fricke

Judge Fricke was appointed to the federal bench on May 1, 2017. Before becoming a United States Magistrate Judge, she served as an Assistant Attorney General representing the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). In this position, Judge Fricke was a litigator, and also provided legal advice to WSDOT concerning major construction contracts such as the Colman Dock project for the Washington State Ferries. Judge Fricke received advanced instruction in a Federal Judicial Center mediation training for federal judges, hosted by the Pepperdine University School of Law, September 12-14, 2018. When she was an Assistant Attorney General with the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO), Judge Fricke attended the Northwest Dispute Resolution Conference, hosted by the University of Washington (attending three years, 2012-2014). Judge Fricke served as a part-time staff attorney and assisted with drafting civil pattern jury instructions for the Washington Pattern Jury Instruction Committee 2009-2012; she was appointed to that position by the Washington Supreme Court and the WPI Committee.

In addition, Judge Fricke presented at several CLE programs concerning trial advocacy and appellate practice, and served as co-chair of the statewide electronic discovery committee of the AGO. During various times in her career with the AGO, she also served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Social and Health Services Division, Human Rights Division, and Corrections Division and was lead counsel on cases in the United States District Court for the Western and Eastern Districts of Washington, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the Washington Supreme Court, and the Washington State Court of Appeals. She attended training seminars for advanced civil trial advocacy (in Boston) and advanced electronic discovery (in Philadelphia) that were produced by the National Association of Attorneys General.

Early in her career, Judge Fricke served as a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the King County Prosecutor's Office in Seattle (1990-98). Judge Fricke led the Criminal Division Appellate Unit. She specialized in appellate practice, presented many cases as lead counsel in the Washington Supreme Court, and also handled some jury trials as second chair, including an Aggravated First Degree Murder case.

Judge Fricke is a member of the Honorable Robert J. Bryan American Inn of Court in Tacoma. She is also a member of the Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington; a member of the diversity committee of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association; a member of the Magistrate Judge Education committee of the Ninth Circuit; and a Judicial Advisor concerning the Civil Jury Project, New York University School of Law.

When she is not working, Judge Fricke enjoys running half-marathons and trail running events, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and traveling with family and friends. Her hobbies are taking care of four small goats, and participating in a book club.