

Biography of Dennis P. Hession

Born in Salt Lake City to an Irish Catholic family, I moved to Spokane to attend Gonzaga University. I graduated with a degree in Psychology, married Jane and returned to Salt Lake where I worked as the Director of Social Services for the Head Start Program. After a formative four year educational break, Jane and I returned to Spokane to pursue our graduate careers.

After graduating with honors from Gonzaga University School of Law, I took the bar exam and then moved our quickly expanding family to Gainesville. Nine months later I graduated from the University of Florida with an LL.M. in Taxation.

Returning home to Spokane, I went to work as a municipal bond and securities lawyer for the predecessor to K&L Gates where I was also the prosecutor on contract with the City of Deer Park. For the next 25 years I worked at Richter-Wimberley.

At Richter-Wimberley litigation was a substantial part of my practice. My trial experience included matters of tax, contract, business, employment disputes, estates and patent and trademark litigation. My practice took me to the State and Federal Court systems with many trips to the respective appellate courts. I was also privileged to represent a number of individuals and companies in transactional matters which complimented and enhanced my litigation practice. I have now carried these experiences down the street to teach first year law students at Gonzaga.

Throughout my life I also have been dedicated to community and public service. Board work with nonprofits and foundations, national and state boards as well as my election to public office, became a significant part of my life. It turned into a full time commitment when I was appointed as the Mayor of Spokane. In my years with the City I spent many hours engaged with the public, made many difficult decisions and crafted solutions to challenging public problems. My public service has made me a better lawyer and a better candidate for judicial office.

In my private time, I enjoy studying the life and writings of Abraham Lincoln, and I plan to be a runner for life.

BRIAN G. HIPPERSON: BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Current Practice

Since 1991, I have been a Partner in Goss, Hipperson and Sampson. At present, my practice focuses primarily on commercial matters with an emphasis on Business Law, Contracts, Estate Planning and Probate, Real Estate and general Litigation. I have pursued both routine and complex cases in State and Federal Courts on matters ranging from boundary disputes, product liability, will contests, and violations of Civil Rights.

Education

Graduate of Washington State University (Political Science '71) and Gonzaga Law School (Cum Laude '75).

Previous Experience

Police Officer, City of Pullman: 1971-1972

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Lincoln County, Washington: 1975-1977
Tried both Jury and Non-Jury matters, including misdemeanors and major felonies.

Associate, Gordon & Ripple, Spokane, Washington: 1977-1979
Worked under and was mentored by John J. Ripple, who later became a Spokane County Superior Court Judge – and thereafter I assumed his practice.

Principle, Gordon, Shogan, Hipperson & Devlin
Later known as Gordon, Shogan & Hipperson: 1979-1991

Service to the Legal Profession

For the Spokane County Bar Association, I have served on the Advertising Committee (1980) as well as the Continuing Legal Education Committee (2004-2008). I have also served the Washington State Bar Association as a member of the following boards and committees: Special District Counsel (1987-1995, intermittent), Fee Arbitration Board (1981-1998, intermittent), Consumer Protection (1996-1998), Court Congestion and Improvement (1994-1995).

Service to the Court

Spokane County Superior Court Arbitrator since 1985, through the Court's Mandatory Arbitration Program. I have also served as a Spokane County Court Commissioner, Pro Tem (1989-1997).

Service to the Community

I am an active member of Rotary International (1979 to present). I have devoted a great deal of personal time, financial resources and physical labor to local projects: refurbishing homeless shelters, providing books and other educational materials for low-income students as well as, purchasing and constructing playground equipment. I have also served on my Rotary Club's Board of Directors and held several elective offices, including Club President.

Personal

I am an avid racquetball player. My outdoor sports and activities include hiking—especially in the Grand Canyon. My wife of 39 years is the author/military historian Carol Edgemon Hipperson. We have two adult daughters.

Steve Kinn

I am currently a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in the Prosecutor's Office serving as statutory legal adviser to the Sheriff.

A Spokane native and graduate of Central Valley High, Eastern Washington University and Willamette University College of Law, I enjoy attending GU basketball, my son Thomas's sporting events and other outdoor activities.

After passing the Washington Bar, I worked in the Prosecutor's Office in Yakima where I was assigned as the sole deputy prosecutor handling domestic violence cases. When the Domestic Violence Protection Act was enacted, I assisted law enforcement, women's groups and legal aid in structuring the actual implementation of the act's purpose in mandating arrest for abusers and providing easy access to the courts for victims in need of protection orders and immediate services.

As a Spokane County criminal prosecutor from 1988 to 2004 I actually tried hundreds of criminal cases ranging in variety and complexity from DUI to Aggravated First Degree Murder. For instance, from 1999 to late 2004, I was assigned to the major crimes unit and actually took to trial and verdict approximately 45 cases consisting of Murder and other felony violent crimes.

In 2004 I was assigned to represent the Sheriff involving all of his business activities, labor issues and all of the constitutional issues involving inmate rights in the jail and use of force issues for patrol deputies. I assist and advise the Sheriff's Internal Affairs Investigators in dealing with disciplinary issues. I represent the county in administrative boards and in all Courts regarding all areas of employment law. I have advised the courts in their employment issues and the public defender's office in drafting caseload standards adopted by the Board of County Commissioner's for public defenders.

Principal cases I have handled include **Medlock**, a First Degree Murder case which served as the catalyst for the legislature to pass the "Becca Bill" enhancing the authority of the courts to structure relief for runaway children and further as counsel for the Spokane County Auditor in the **Border's** case which involved a suit against all 39 county auditors and the Secretary of State challenging the 2004 gubernatorial election results.

JULIE M. MCKAY

My name is Julie M. McKay. I am a principle in a small firm in Spokane. I received my JD in 1990 from Gonzaga School of Law. I started out as a sole practitioner then incorporated with my current partner, James D. Hatch, in 1995. I am a member of the Spokane and Lincoln County bar associations. Currently the main focus of my practice is in criminal and family law. I have been prosecuting for the Cheney Municipal Court since 1991. In addition, my practice includes some estate planning and probate with limited contract and personal injury work.

I have been appointed as a pro tem commissioner since 2003 for the Spokane County Superior Court and sit on family law matters, as well as in the ex parte department. My pro tem work also extends to sitting as a pro tem judge in the Spokane Municipal Court since 1997 and Spokane District Court since 1996 for criminal and civil matters.

I am married with two children ages 12 and 10. Outside of the practice of law, I am active in all of the normal activities that two children can get themselves involved in. I have become quite adept at juggling the demands of a practice and family and keeping both attended to.

Commissioner James Triplet volunteered in Spokane's Public Defender's office while an undergraduate at EWU. He worked his way through GU's night law school as a bailiff for Superior Court Judge Thomas Merryman. After passing the bar, he worked as an associate attorney in the office of Mary Schultz.

Commissioner Triplet opened his own law office in 1993, handling a wide variety of cases. His practice included jury and bench trials in criminal, medical malpractice, contract and family law cases.

He was selected by the Superior Court bench as a pro tem Commissioner in 1997 and became a full time Commissioner in 2004. Commissioner Triplet hears dozens of cases each week in family law, juvenile, domestic violence and the ex parte department. On any given day he has to understand and resolve landlord tenant, TRO's, minor settlements, guardianships, probates, adoptions and a myriad of other civil matters.

Commissioner Triplet has a reputation for hard work and thorough preparation on every case he handles. He consistently applies the law to the facts in a fair and impartial manner. He is committed to treating the public, litigants and the bar with dignity and respect.

Commissioner Triplet developed Spokane's Unified Family Court to assure one Judge/Commissioner follows each family throughout their case. His team system in dependencies has drawn positive attention around the state and in other jurisdictions. He has presented this system to legislators in private meetings and at public hearings. This system has documented improvements in timely processing of cases and increased reunification of children and families. Commissioner Triplet has produced a film now utilized in Spokane and other jurisdictions that outlines each step required to finalize dissolutions with children. He has been a speaker at CLE's and GAL training's on substantive topics as well as procedure and ethics.

Commissioner Triplet was named the 2010 "Professional of the Year" by the Washington State Bar Association, Family Law Section. Commissioner Triplet understands that a judicial officer holds a position of trust in our community and is grateful for the strong support of the Superior Court bench in his application for this appointment.

Mark E. Vovos Candidate for Division III Court of Appeals Judicial Vacancy

Biography:

Current Occupation/Employer: Lawyer, Mark E. Vovos, Attorney at Law

MARK VOVOS is a Spokane trial lawyer in both federal and state court, practicing criminal defense and personal injury for *forty-two* years. He teaches trial practice and dispute resolution at Gonzaga Law School, is an elected Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the American Board of Criminal Lawyers. Mr. Vovos has been the chairman and/or a member of the Washington State Bar Association Criminal Law Executive Board for over *thirty* years, and he is an appointed member of the Washington Supreme Court Death Penalty Qualification Committee.

Legal/Judicial Experience: Admitted to Washington Bar Association in 1968. Experienced arbitrator and mediator. Adjunct professor of litigation and dispute resolution, Gonzaga Law School.

Significant Career Experience:

- Recipient of Wm O. Douglas Award by Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (“for extraordinary courage and dedication to the practice of criminal law”)
- Recipient of the Michael Hemovich Award from the Federal Bar Association of the Eastern District of Washington in (For professionalism, advocacy and representation of clients in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Washington)
- I am AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale Hubbell (as rated by colleagues across the United States and Canada for “ethical standards and legal ability”)

Education: Graduate Gonzaga School of Law, cum laude, Bachelor of Arts Political Science St. Ambrose University.

Personal: 20 years as Spokane youth sports volunteer football coach.

GREG D. WEBER
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DEPARTMENT 2

I believe a fair and consistent justice system is vital to our nation and our local community and so are the judges who administer that system. I possess the legal knowledge, experience and skills to competently decide complicated and emotional issues and will treat all cases in the courtroom fairly and consistently.

I am a hardworking, organized, and experienced attorney. I have served as a Judge Pro Tem in superior, district and municipal courts. I have presided over all types of cases and hearings for both criminal and civil dockets. I interact with the public, support staff and other judicial officers with judicial demeanor at all times.

I have been a prosecutor for over 14 years as both an Assistant Attorney General, and as a county prosecutor. In April of 2010, I secured an aggravated murder conviction for Okanogan County as a special deputy prosecutor. At the Attorney General's Office, I prepared and prosecuted complex civil and criminal litigation statewide. I prosecuted murder cases, sexually violent predator civil commitments, and successfully recaptured millions of taxpayer dollars from both civil and criminal prosecutions in the Medicaid fraud unit. I received three special commendations from then Attorney General, Christine O. Gregoire, for my outstanding work and leadership. This experience has given me a strong background for this position.

I was born and raised in Spokane, graduating from Washington State University and *magna cum laude* from Gonzaga School of Law. My wife, Michelle Ressa Weber, is also from Spokane and we have two boys.

I promise to work hard and earn your respect as a servant of the rule of law in our community. I promise to earn and keep your support and treat every case with care and respect. I would be honored to serve as a Judge on the Spokane County Superior Court.