

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY  
OF  
JUDGE SARA B. DERR

Judge Sara Derr has been a District Court Trial Judge for 15+ years having won two elections for her seat, most recently in 2006. She has been elected by her colleagues as Presiding Judge for 1997, 1998, 2006 and 2007 and has been in leadership on the Bench most of her terms. She is involved in the Board for Judicial Administration for 8 years, and other State committees including the DMCJA Board, the Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee, the Gender and Justice Commission, the Court Funding Task Force, the Title 3 Re-write Committee, District Court Local Rules Chair 2002-2005, and Budget Chair 2008-present. DMCJA committee membership both past and present includes Legislative committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Diversity Committee, Nominations Committee and Salary and Benefits Committee. She has been on the DMCJA Board and held offices from 1996-2000, when she was elected to the BJA, serving the local and state courts consistently.

Judge Derr established and currently presides over the Mental Health Therapeutic Court for the City and County of Spokane. This Court has reduced recidivism significantly. She also worked to establish the Domestic Violence Court in Spokane and was on the DV Policy Board for 10 years as well as sitting on the docket. She continues to be active in community education on these issues, and attends trainings regularly to keep current on the issues.

Judge Derr presents at State Court Conferences on issues including Pro se concerns in the Courts, Mental Health Courts in Washington, Interpreter issues, and Domestic Violence concerns in Washington.