

Joyce J. McCown

I have had the privilege of meeting many of you over the years in my presentations on the appellate courts at CLEs for new bar admittees and at other CLEs.

I have a wide range of legal experience. I currently serve as commissioner for the Court of Appeals, Division 3, since my appointment in 1996. I handle complex litigation and decide issues in all areas of the law, both civil and criminal. All my decisions must be in writing and state the legal reasons for the decision. I have read thousands of trial transcripts and decided thousands of appeals. Prior to my appointment as commissioner, I served Division 3 as the Clerk of the Court, Staff Attorney, Administrator and Acting Commissioner for nine years. In that position I learned the business side of the court, including budget planning. I also served as a judicial law clerk to two judges.

I graduated in 1980 with honors from Gonzaga University School of Law and earned my undergraduate degree from the University of Washington.

I serve and have served on the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission, WSBA Court Congestion and Improvement Committee, WSBA Diversity Committee, WSBA Board of Bar Examiners, Spokane County Bar Appellate Liaison Committee, Washington Appellate Court Rules Committee, Washington Appellate Court Law Library Committee, and a number of other committees. I am also the Law Librarian and on the Domestic Violence Resource Team for the Court of Appeals, Division 3.

I am involved in my community, serving on a neighborhood steering committee, teaching Sunday school, judging high school debate, and as a lay member of an order of Franciscan nuns dispersing loans and grants to non-profit organizations that work with women, children, and marginalized persons.

My judicial philosophy is to treat all who appear before me, whether experienced legal counsel or pro se litigant, with dignity and respect. I listen intently to their arguments, read their briefs, and apply the law fairly and without bias to the facts of the case in making my decision. I will continue doing so if appointed as a judge to the appellate bench.