



Press Release

City of Edmonds

Mayor David O. Earling

For Immediate Release: January 14, 2015

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Mayor Earling Appoints Linda W.Y. Coburn to the Municipal Court Judge Position

Mayor Dave Earling is pleased to announce the appointment of Linda W.Y. Coburn to fill the Municipal Court Judge position. The City Council officially confirmed this appointment and conducted the oath of office on Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Ms. Coburn will begin her work on the bench today, January 14, 2015.

Linda W.Y. Coburn has been serving as a judge pro-tem at the City since 2013 in addition to having worked as an attorney with the Snohomish County Public Defenders Association, where she managed both misdemeanor and felony caseloads. She also previously served as a law clerk to Court of Appeals Honorable Judge Stephen Dwyer and Snohomish County Superior Court Honorable Judge George Bowden. She holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Washington, and a master's of science degree in journalism from Ohio University. After working as a reporter and editor for the Seattle Times, she returned to law school and graduated with honors from Seattle University, where she also served as Special Edition Editor on Law Review. Ms. Coburn is a member of the Washington State and Snohomish County Bar Associations as well as the Asian Bar Association of Washington, the Washington Defender Association and the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "I have always devoted my career toward public service, first as a journalist, then as a public defender," stated Ms. Coburn. I am looking forward to continuing that role as a Municipal Court Judge."

The Mayor was pleased to have a well-qualified pool of candidates for which to select from. Mayor Earling stated, "We are fortunate to have a quality judge such as Linda Li Coburn to continue the excellent work of Judge Fair."

The City opened this recruitment after the current Judge, the Honorable Judge Doug Fair, notified the City that he would be resigning in January of 2015 as he was running unopposed in an election for another judicial position in a neighboring jurisdiction. There were 5 candidates invited from this recruitment process to interview with the City on November 25, 2014. Each applicant interviewed with a panel which included the Honorable Judge Stephen Dwyer (current Washington State Court of Appeals Judge), retired Honorable Judge Joseph Thibodeau (former Snohomish County Superior Court Judge) and Snohomish County Deputy Executive Mark Ericks (who also served as the former Police Chief for the City of Bothell, and most recently as US Marshall for the Western District of Washington) as well as HR staff. After this interview process, the Mayor interviewed three applicants recommended by the panel. After careful consideration following the individual interviews, and a complete background and reference check, the Mayor then selected Linda W.Y. Coburn as the number one candidate. The City Council unanimously adopted a resolution on December 16th, demonstrating their intent to confirm Ms. Coburn as the Municipal Court Judge at the January meeting.

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