

NEWS RELEASE

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Sutton launches Court of Appeals race to sell-out crowd

OLYMPIA—Thurston County Superior Court Judge Lisa Sutton launched her campaign for Division Two Court of Appeals today before a sell-out crowd at the Olympia Red Lion.

More than 250 supporters from the local legal community and beyond joined Sutton for her first campaign fundraiser. District Two covers Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston Counties.

Campaign Chair Ed Younglove of Younglove & Coker served as Master of Ceremonies. Former Washington State Supreme Court Supreme Justice Gerry Alexander and former state representative and Thurston County Auditor Gary Alexander offered their endorsements as keynote speakers.

Rep. Alexander was Sutton's first supervisor when she served as a budget analyst at age 22.

"Lisa was one of the top budget analysts I've ever known," Alexander said. "I'm proud to endorse her, not just for her qualifications and skills as a judge but for her superior budgeting skills."

Justice Alexander described the role of a court of appeals judge in the legal system and explained why Sutton would be a perfect fit.

"Judge Sutton is an excellent judge for Thurston County Superior Court and she'll make a great Division II Court of Appeals Judge," he said.

Sutton announced her decision to seek a position on the Division Two Court of Appeals in early March when Judge J. Robin Hunt formally announced her retirement.

Judge Hunt also announced she would be endorsing Judge Sutton as her replacement. While she was unable to attend the kick-off, she sent the following statement to be read on her behalf.

“I enthusiastically endorse Judge Lisa Sutton, who is seeking election to the Court of Appeals Division 2, for which I will not be seeking a fourth term,” Hunt said. “The people of Washington in general, and the voters in the six counties that will vote in the November election, should be gratified that a person of Judge Sutton’s experience, skills, common sense, integrity and energy has stepped forward with a well-organized campaign to take on this demanding job.”

Sutton has also locked in endorsements from eight current members of the Washington State Supreme Court as well as many other court of appeals and district court judges, elected officials and members of the community. Endorsements may be found here: <http://friendstoelectsutton.com/endorsements.html>

About Judge Sutton:

Appointed in November 2010 to the Thurston County Superior Court Bench, Judge Sutton was re-elected in 2011 and 2012. She has served as the superior court’s Criminal Presiding Judge and as a civil trial judge. She now serves as the Presiding Family & Juvenile Court judge. In 2011, she graduated from the Washington Judicial College and the National Judicial College with distinction.

Before joining the bench, Judge Sutton served as Senior Counsel and Assistant Attorney General for more than 24 years in the Washington Attorney General’s Office under Attorneys General Rob McKenna, Christine Gregoire and Ken Eikenberry.

As a senior trial attorney and supervisor in the Torts Division, Sutton represented the state of Washington in federal and state courts at all levels in a variety of civil cases involving tort, contract, pension and health care benefits, education, civil rights, employment, and complex and class action litigation.

Judge Sutton is the judicial liaison for the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services Clinic and also serves on a statewide committee to improve access to justice.

She also serves on community boards, including Olympia Youth Chorus. She formerly served on boards for the Family Support Center and South Sound Briggs Branch YMCA.

Sutton volunteers for the Capital City Marathon, the YMCA Youth & Government state-wide Annual Mock Trial Competition and Law Day. She also volunteers in local schools where she speaks to students about the role of the judiciary.

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For more information:

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