

NEWS RELEASE

Date

Retiring Division Two Court of Appeals Judge J. Robin Hunt endorses Sutton

Sutton announces she will seek election to Court of Appeals

Division Two Court of Appeals Judge J. Robin Hunt, who will retire later this year, today announced she is endorsing Thurston County Superior Court Judge Lisa Sutton for election to District Two Court of Appeals, which covers Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston Counties.

“Judge Sutton has trial and appellate experience as an attorney, and superior court experience in all types of cases likely to be heard by the Court of Appeals,” Judge Hunt said. “Those qualities will serve the citizens and court well. I’m proud to endorse her for this position.”

Instead of seeking reelection to a fourth term, Judge Hunt will retire later this year to spend more time with family and to pursue other interests, including music, physical fitness, and a new mental health court for Kitsap County.

“Judge Hunt has advanced justice for the people of the six counties in Division Two for the past 18 years,” Judge Sutton said. “She’s served her local community as well as the larger legal community and the state with dedication and distinction. I look forward to continuing her legacy if elected by the voters.”

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 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.