



CITY OF MERCER ISLAND MUNICIPAL COURT

# State of the Court

January 20, 2026



# Our Team

- Cheryl Lucero - Court Administrator
- Pauline Lee - Court Clerk
- Sabina Chang - Court Clerk
- Zack Gallimore and Mike McGuire Court Security
- Jeff M. Gregory - Presiding Judge





# Mercer Island Municipal Court's Emphasis

The undeterred *Administration of JUSTICE*

- **Accountability**
- **Transparency**
- **Reliability**





# Continued Home of the Court...

- Newcastle City Hall
- Clerk's office is in Suite 301 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of City Hall
- Court is held in Newcastle City Council's chambers





## Impact of City Hall Closure...

- Clerk's Office and Courtroom
- Off island hearings and court clerk's office business for MI residents.
- Courtroom not designed as one
  - Issues with technology, flow, procedure and other logistics
- Lack of Zoom options
- Security considerations/work arounds
- Travel time for def/vts/wits/ofc/staff
- In-Custody Remote Hearings
- Jury trials/evidentiary hearing logistics



# Technology update...

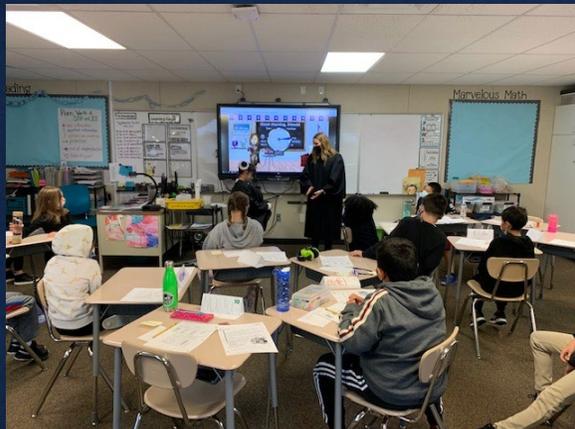
- Staff Telework Opportunities
- Electronic file conversion and repository
- Virtual Court Access for off court day in-custody hearings
- Department of Corrections Virtual Appearances
- SILL THE BIG ONE: Now scheduled for Go Live on **June 7, 2027**
  - Washington's statewide new CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CMS)
    - Rolling out now – designated stages by location across the state
    - Training now for jurisdictions that will get the roll out
    - Follow up training and constant tech support after roll out.
    - Specifics:
      - Unified
      - Windows vs. DOS base system
      - Information sharing
      - More immediate data entry/access
      - Includes: File management, calendaring tools, E-Filing, probation, LFO impute/tracking, etc....



# Community Connections



- Judicial Community
  - District & Municipal Court Judges Association
  - Municipal Judges Breakout Room
  - Current instructor on Judicial Independence for the Washington State Judicial College
- Mock Trials
- Day in Court Curriculum
- Judges in the Classroom
- Interviews/expose for MIHS Radio KMIH 88.9 the Bridge and the MIHS school newspaper
- Weddings
- Mercer Island Rotary
- MI Troop 647 Eagle Project
- Mock expert testimony at the NW Fire investigator conference



*What Is a Civil Ceremony?*



*Noun*

A secular, legal marriage ceremony officiated by a government official.

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*How to Make It Special*

- Invite your immediate family and closest friends
  - Book a photographer
- Plan a small celebration afterward
- Consider throwing a traditional wedding later on

BRIDES





# Staying Ahead of the Curve

- Policies to address the new public defense standards going forward
- Continued education, research and understanding on responding to the mental health crisis
- Increasing the services and support for Domestic Violence victims
- Increased access to jail alternatives when and where appropriate
- Implement procedural justice initiatives
  - i.e. Search Warrants, In-custody zoom hgs, infractions, motions, jury trials, WA AOC CMS!
  - Efficacy of justice
  - Accuracy of procedure applications
  - Increase in the value of the Court to the public
  - Side benefit – responsible costs consideration



## Closing comments...

- Excited with the progress made by the Court with the help of so many parts of this City....AND in the face of many obstacles
- As always, I encourage this City Council to stay in touch and visit the temporary municipal court location.
- Thank you for your time.
- Questions/comments?

