



SPEAKER'S REQUEST FORM

Name of organization:

Date of event (include alternative dates, if possible)

Location of event:

Requested topic:

Contact person:

Telephone and e-mail address:

Please return this form to: Hilary Johnson by faxing to 509-574-2701 or e-mailing Hilary.johnson@co.yakima.wa.us

Presented by:

Yakima County Superior Court

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Further information regarding Washington's Judicial Branch of Government can be found online at www.courts.wa.gov

JUDICIAL SPEAKERS BUREAU



**Invite a Judge
to Speak to
Your Group**

ABOUT THE COURTS

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the state's highest court and consists of nine justices. Its opinions are published and become precedent for subsequent cases in Washington. The Supreme Court also governs the state court system.

Court of Appeals

There are three divisions of the state Court of Appeals, based in Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. The Court of Appeals hear all appeals from the superior courts and have the authority to reverse, remand, modify or affirm the decision of the lower court.

Superior Courts

Superior courts hear civil and felony criminal cases and have the authority to hear cases appealed from courts of limited jurisdiction. Each court has a presiding judge, who with the help of an administrator oversees operations and serves as the court's spokesperson. There are 30 judicial districts in Washington State.

District Courts

District courts have jurisdiction over both criminal and civil cases under \$75,000. They have jurisdiction over misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors and criminal traffic cases, including driving under the influence (DUI).

Municipal Courts

Violations of municipal or city ordinances are tried in municipal courts. Like district courts, municipal court share jurisdiction over gross misdemeanors, misdemeanors and infractions.

MISSION OF THE COURTS

To preserve the rule of law and protect the rights and liberties guaranteed to all Washingtonians in the United States and Washington State Constitutions, the courts will provide accessible, prompt and efficient forums for the fair and independent administration of justice, with a respect for the dignity of all we serve.

Understanding the court system and the role of the judiciary in our democracy is an important part of good citizenship. Washington's judges and court administrators welcome an opportunity to meet with your civic organization, club, professional organization or school.



You can invite a judge or court official to talk about issues that are important to your community.

SUGGESTED TOPICS

- [Courts 101: How the court system works in Washington](#)
- [A Jury Summons Arrives – Oh No! What to expect when called to serve](#)
- [Topic of Local Interest: Learning more about Juvenile Court; Drug Court; Mental Health Court or Family Courts](#)
- [A Day in the Life of a Judge](#)
- [The Third Branch: How the judiciary fits into our system of government](#)
- [Access to Justice: What are your Rights?](#)

Please keep in mind...

Judges and court officials can speak about any topic involving the administration of justice. They cannot address issues involving pending cases.

For more information about Washington Courts, go to the website at www.courts.wa.gov