

Superior Court of the State of Washington For Thurston County

Anne Hirsch, *Judge*
Carol Murphy, *Judge*
James Dixon, *Judge*
Erik D. Price, *Judge*
Christine Schaller, *Judge*
Mary Sue Wilson, *Judge*
John C. Skinder, *Judge*
Chris Lanese, *Judge*



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Pamela Hartman Beyer,
Court Administrator
Indu Thomas,
Court Commissioner
Jonathon Lack,
Court Commissioner
Nathan Kortokrax,
Court Commissioner

May 2, 2018

To: Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
Linda Myhre-Enlow, Thurston County Clerk
Patrick O'Connor, Thurston County Public Defense
Chief Todd Thoma, Thurston County Jail
Marianne Clear, Director of Pretrial Services
Thurston County Bar Association

From: Pamela Hartman Beyer, Thurston County Superior Court Administrator

Re: Felony Leadership Improvement Project Update/Go Live Date June 1

Thurston County Superior Court is excited to announce that after many months of meetings with stakeholders, discussion around system changes and evaluating input, we are implementing a new felony case processing system beginning June 1, 2018. Our system changes are grounded in recommendations from a report from the National Center of State Courts. A copy of that report is available on the courts website:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/superior/documents/ncsc-report-20170601.pdf>

Specifics of the June 1, 2018 implementation

- New process to be implemented June 1, 2018 for all cases filed June 1 and after.
- Cases filed on April 30, 2018 and before must have a Consolidated Omnibus Order (COB) entered no later than July 31, 2018.
 - o For cases on or before April 30, 2018 COB's will be entered pursuant to agreement of the parties. If the parties are not agreed, they will need to set a hearing for argument on the issue.
- Prior to June 1, 2018, parties may use the new COB so long as it is agreed.

Documents explaining the new process and forms

- The Thurston County Superior Court Felony Case Processing document explains our new process. The document will be available on the Court's website (<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/superior/>) by next week.
- There is a new COB which will also be available on the Court's website by next week.

Change already Implemented to support system changes

- Trial Confirmations are now scheduled on Thursdays approximately ten (10) days prior to the scheduled trial date at 8:30 a.m. The court is phasing out the Status calendar on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Changes coming in the near future

- The Court is creating a dedicated criminal ex parte calendar on Mondays from 8:10 a.m. - 8:40 a.m. and Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays from 4:30 p.m. - 4:55 p.m. This will be implemented on May 7, 2018.
- We will be moving Treatment Review Hearings to Fridays at 8:30 a.m. to coincide with the non-compliance calendar. Beginning the week of June 4, 2018, please ensure that you are scheduling your Treatment Review Hearings at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays. If you have Treatment Review Hearings scheduled on a Tuesday past the week of June 4, 2018, those matters can remain set on a Tuesday, as currently scheduled.
- We will be creating a First Look calendar to accommodate the work that the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Thurston County Public Defense are doing to try to expedite and resolve cases. The First Look Calendar will be on Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. - 9:55 a.m. starting on June 5, 2018.
- The court will be creating a new calendar on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. to hear COPAS for cases set the following week, motions for discovery and motions to continue cases set for trial.
- Lastly, as parties attempt to resolve a backlog of about 600 cases from 2015, 2016, 2017 and through April 30, 2018, the court will add an additional COPAS calendar for a short duration to address the additional needs and capacity. We will hold the additional backlog COPAS calendar on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. beginning the week of June 11, 2018, and will continue to evaluate our backlog and capacity. In order to be heard on this calendar you must provide the completed plea paperwork to Court Administration before the Notice of Hearing is filed and the Notice of Hearing must be filed no later than noon the day before the calendar. We anticipate that this calendar will last no longer than three months.

We will continue to evaluate our FLIP process and make changes to our system based on data and input from our stakeholders to improve our criminal justice system.