

King County District Court Judge Eileen A. Kato has announced her retirement effective March 1, 2016. Judge Kato was appointed to the court in Seattle by the King County Council in June of 1994. Judge Kato states that it has been a profound honor and privilege to serve the citizens of King County for over two decades and thanks its citizens for their confidence in electing her to six terms on the King County District Court.

Judge Kato has been actively involved in state, national, and international judicial organizations. She served as President of the Washington State District and Municipal Court Judges Association, Chair of the DMCJA Education Committee, received its Open Door to Justice President's Award, Dean of the Washington State Judicial College, and as a committee member on numerous state judicial committees. She has also been a member of the faculty of the National Judicial College since 2000.

She has been recognized for her distinguished judicial service by the Asian Bar Association of Washington with its Judge of the Year Award, and a Special Alumni Achievement Award from the University of Santa Clara School of Law.

Judge Kato served as chair of the American Bar Association Judicial Division Conference of Specialized Court Judges, a member of Justice Kennedy's Commission on Sentencing, Meetings and Travel Committee, the Diversity Center, Standing Committee on Judicial Independence, House of Delegates, State Co-Chair of the ABA Foundation Fellows, Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary.

She was also served on the Board of Directors for the National Center for State Courts, where she currently serves as a member of three of its advisory committees.

Judge Kato has also been an active member of the National Association of Pacific American Bar Association, having served on its Board of Governors and co-founded the NAPABA Judicial Council in 1997 and served as the Council President for four years.

Judge Kato currently serves as Vice President and Executive Committee member of Justice at Stake, a national organization promoting fair courts, and as Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the International Organization on Judicial Training.

Judge Kato has been active in our community as well, having served on the Board of Directors of the Museum of History and Industry,

Nikkei Concerns, The Empty Space Theatre, and the Northwest
Asian American Theater.