

# FAMILY LAW ANNEX

Fall 2008

## Family Law Annex to Open November 3, 2008

### JUDGES at the ANNEX

Judge Edwin Poyfair  
Assistant: Gizella Darfler  
360-397-2354

Judge Scott Collier  
Assistant: Tracy Haxby  
360-397-2170

Commissioner Dan Stahnke  
Assistant: Rebecca  
Wittenborn  
360-397-2201

### MAILING ADDRESS :

P.O. Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA  
98666-5000

The Clark County Superior Court Family Law Annex will open for business on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, according to Presiding Judge Barbara Johnson and Chief Family Law Judge Edwin Poyfair. The Annex was approved by the Clark County Commissioners on November 20, 2007 to relieve the shortage of courtroom and chambers space in the Courthouse. The Annex will house two Superior Court Judges and one Superior Court Commissioner in approximately 14,000 square feet. Judges Edwin Poyfair and Scott Collier will be housed at the Annex. Current plans call for Commissioner Dan Stahnke to also be located at the Annex. There will also be space for

Judges Assistants, Court Clerks and other, as yet unnamed court staff. The County has a 5 year lease on the space with an option for another 5 years. When approved, the space was considered temporary until the County can fund and construct a larger Justice Facility for the Courts.

Plans are for the Court to hold Family Law trials, hearings and motions at the Annex as well as many Dependency matters and trials. In addition to the two Judges and Commissioner at the Annex, Superior Court Judge James Rulli will continue to hear Family Law cases in his courtroom on the third floor of the Court-



house. A second Commissioner, Carin Schienberg, will hear Juvenile and some Family Law matters either at the Courthouse or at Juvenile Court.

The Family Law Annex is located at 601 West Evergreen, on the corner of Evergreen and Franklin Streets, approximately 2 blocks south of the Courthouse. The entrance to the building is on the building's West side facing a courtyard. It is easily accessible from Evergreen Boulevard on the North or from the building parking lot, immediately South.

## Court Clerk Announces Annex Plans

Clark County Clerk, Sherry Parker, stated that initially her office will provide the same services to courtrooms in the Family Law Annex that are provided to courtrooms in the courthouse. Clerk's Judicial Proceedings Specialists will appear for all hearings and trials and files and documents will be transported to the facility as needed. Attorneys or pro se

litigants who need forms or copies of documents are asked to obtain them from the main Clerk's Office location on the first floor of the courthouse before the proceeding scheduled at the Family Law Annex. This will allow the hearing or trial to proceed as scheduled and not inconvenience the court or other participants.

Future plans are to expand the services offered by the Clerk's office at the annex. As budgeting allows, the Clerk plans to locate staff in the building, which would provide for filing and obtaining copies of documents, paying fees and fines and obtaining other services available in the main office.



## Family Court Remains at Courthouse for Now

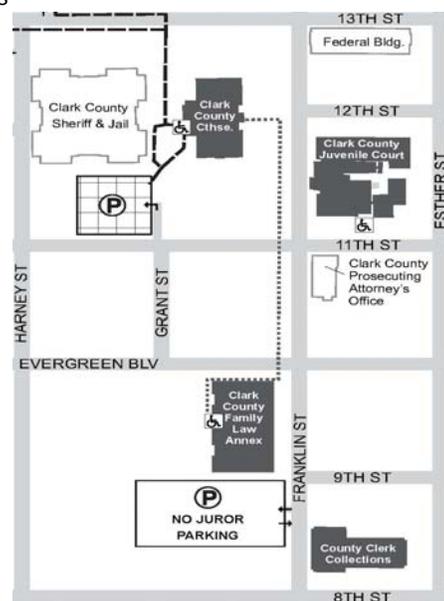
Family Court Coordinator Terry Vetter announced today that the Family Court will remain at the Courthouse on the fourth floor inside Court Administration where it has been for over 20 years. The current location is central to the Juvenile Court, the new Family Law Annex and the Courthouse, all of which will host Family Law hearings

and trials each week. Vetter explained that attorneys, Clerk's staff and most services associated with the Family Court already know its location and should have no trouble finding him.

Family Court serves as the Judges and Commissioners' eyes and ears in difficult Family Law cases involving

complex child custody and parenting disputes. Vetter and his staff interview parents having custody conflicts and make recommendations to the Court about potential solutions. Family Court serves as many as 200 families each year.

## ANNEX LOCATION



**Security at the Annex**

Visitors to the new Superior Court Family Law Annex will notice that the security requirements at the building's entrance are very similar to the Courthouse and the Juvenile Justice Center. Upon entering the building, visitors will place belongings on a conveyor belt leading to an X-Ray machine for screening and will then walk through a metal detector. Like all

Washington Courthouses, no guns or weapons of any sort are permitted in the building, except for those carried by on-duty law enforcement personnel. In addition to

front door security, the building is monitored by several cameras inside and outside of courtrooms.



**Parking at the Annex**

The Family Law Annex will be the only Courthouse in the downtown campus with its own parking lot. The Annex shares a parking lot with the Arthur D. Curtis Children's Justice Center. Parking is accessed from Franklin

Street and is immediately south of the building. The lot has 82 spaces, 25 of which are dedicated to the Children's Justice Center. Within the lot are some spaces marked "Reserved" for which agency staff pay by the

month. There is also nearby on-street parking.



**Special Features of the Annex**

Visitors to the Family Law Annex will notice an expanded waiting area with plenty of room to accommodate large dockets. Adjacent to the lobby is a children's waiting room with television, DVD player, VCR and toys. There are 2 private attorney-client meeting rooms and each courtroom will have the ability to broadcast into the lobby and children's waiting area to insure that no one misses a hearing.



**JUVENILE/DEPENDENCY/FAMILY LAW SCHEDULE\* - Effective 11/3 - 12/31/08**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
JUDGE COLLIER DEPARTMENT 10 ANNEX	DEPENDENCY TRIALS	DEPENDENCY DOCKET	JUVENILE DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)	DEPENDENCY/ SHELTER CARE DOCKET	DEPENDENCY TRIALS (JUVENILE #1)
	1:00 PRE COURT 2:45 DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT	DEPENDENCY/ SHELTER CARE DOCKET	PRO SE DOMESTIC DOCKET CASES ENDING* 2, 4, 6, 8, 0	PARENTING PLAN/ C.S. MODIFICATIONS CASES ENDING* 2, 4, 6, 8, 0	DEPENDENCY TRIALS (JUVENILE #1)
COURT COMMISSIONER SCHIENBERG JUVENILE #2	JUVENILE DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)	JUVENILE DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)	SHOW CAUSE DOCKET CASES ENDING* 4, 5 (CRIMINAL JUDGE COURTROOM)	JUVENILE DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)	SHOW CAUSE DOCKET CASES ENDING* 8, 9 (NON-JURY JUDGE COURTROOM)
	TRUANCY DOCKET (JUVENILE #1)	1:15 EX PARTE MATTERS (CRIMINAL JUDGE COURTROOM)	PRO SE DOMESTIC DOCKET CASES ENDING* 1, 3, 5, 7, 9	PARENTING PLAN/ C.S. MODIFICATIONS CASES ENDING* 1, 3, 5, 7, 9	EX PARTE (COURTHOUSE) 1:00 CHINS & COLLECTIONS FIRST FRIDAY OF MONTH (JUVENILE #1)
COURT COMMISSIONER STAHNKE ANNEX	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES	PROTECTION ORDERS/ DV DOCKET (CRIMINAL JUDGE COURTROOM)	SHOW CAUSE DOCKET CASES ENDING* 1, 2, 3 (NON-JURY JUDGE'S COURTROOM)	SHOW CAUSE DOCKET CASES ENDING* 6, 7, 0 (NON-JURY JUDGE'S COURTROOM)	JUVENILE DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)
	1:00-2:45 JUVENILE CHANGE OF PLEA DOCKET (JUVENILE #2)	SPECIAL SETS	1:15 EX PARTE MATTERS° SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES (2)	EX PARTE PROBATION VIOLATION DOCKET (CRIMINAL JUDGE COURTROOM)	SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES
JUDGE POYFAIR DEPARTMENT 4 ANNEX	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	FAMILY LAW DOCKET
	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	1:30 TERMINATION DOCKET — 2:00 ADOPTION DOCKET
JUDGE RULLI DEPARTMENT 7 COURTHOUSE	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	FAMILY LAW DOCKET
	EX PARTE TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	TRIAL	1:00 PRE COURT 3:00 JUVENILE DRUG COURT (JUVENILE #1)

\*Judges/Commissioners don't rotate

ANNEX

COURTHOUSE

JUVENILE = WHITE