

**CANDIDATE COVER SHEET FOR KCBA JUDICIAL SCREENING**  
**Information Taken from Washington State Governor's Office**  
**Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire**

NAME: Leonid Ponomarchuk

Business Address: King County Superior Court

Business Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Sought:

- King County Superior Court
- Washington State Court of Appeals, Div.I
- Washington State Supreme Court

KCBA considers the responses to the following questions on the Washington State Governor's Office's Uniform Judicial Evaluation Questionnaire to be public information, which may be disclosed to persons other than the Judicial Screening Committee and, in the case of judicial elections, will be publicly available:

Position Sought, Name, Business Address, Business email

Professional History: #8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15,

Educational Background: #16, 17

Professional Experience: #18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32

Community and Civic Activities: #33

**Professional History**

8. Year admitted to practice law in Washington: June, 1987

9. Employment History (in reverse chronological order):

a. Start Date: August 26, 1998 Date: present

Organization: King County Superior Court

Address: 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98104

Phone No. 206.296.9335

Position/Title: Lead Family Court Commissioner

Supervisor: Unified Family Court Chief Judge James Doerty

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Preside over trials as judge *pro tempore* for dissolution, third party custody and parentage cases. Preside over trials by affidavit on modifications of child support, maintenance and post secondary educational support. Conduct hearings on the civil protection order calendar reviewing compliance with domestic violence protection orders. Preside over the enforcement of child support calendar and state sealed file parentage cases. Act as liaison to the judges and lead to the eight statutory court commissioners of King County.

Reason for leaving: Currently working with the court.

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b. Start Date: May 1, 1991 End Date: August 25, 1998

Organization: Law Offices of Leonid Ponomarchuk

Address: 207 East Edgar Street, Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone No. 206.322.2060

Position/Title: Attorney at Law

Supervisor: Self employed

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Trial attorney in domestic relations/family law. High frequency of court appearances on motions calendars and in trial. Conducted alternative dispute resolution and negotiation.

Reason for leaving: Appointed by the judges of King County to serve as court commissioner.

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c. Start Date: January 2, 1989 End Date: April 30, 1991

Organization: Anderson & Fields, Inc. P.S.

Address: 207 East Edgar Street, Seattle, Washington 98102

Phone No. 206.322.2060

Position/Title: Associate Attorney

Supervisor: Maintained an independent caseload. Senior partner was Wolfgang R. Anderson.

Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):

Trial attorney in domestic relations/family law. High frequency of court appearance on motions, *ex-parte* and trial calendars. Conducted alternative dispute resolution and negotiation.

Reason for leaving: The firm downsized but offered me rental space in the building.

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d. Start Date: June 1, 1988 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: December 31, 1988  
Organization: Law Offices of Richard M. Barney, Jr., Inc. P.S.  
Address: 19743 First Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98148  
Phone No. None available. Mr. Barney retired.  
Position/Title: Associate attorney  
Supervisor: Richard M. Barney, Jr.  
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):  
Trial attorney principally in domestic relations/family law, but in addition served as counsel in civil and misdemeanor criminal cases in Superior and state District Court.

Reason for leaving: Offered position with Anderson & Fields, Inc. P.S.

e. Start Date: June 28, 1987 \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: May 31, 1988 \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: Law Offices of Leonid Ponomarchuk \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 207 East Edgar Street, Seattle, Washington 98102 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. 206.322.2060 \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title: Attorney at Law \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor: Self employed \_\_\_\_\_  
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):  
Trial attorney litigating felony and misdemeanor criminal cases; landlord tenant and domestic relations/family law. High frequency of court appearances in municipal; district and superior court.

Reason for leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

f. Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nature of Practice (including frequency of court appearances):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reason for leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Please continue, if necessary, on a separate piece of paper in the above format as needed.

10. Please list all other courts and jurisdictions in which you have been admitted to practice law and the dates of admission. Please provide the same information for administrative bodies having special admission requirements.

Supreme Court of Washington June, 1987  
United States District Court, Western District of Washington June, 1987  
United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit June, 1987

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11. Please list all bar associations and professional societies of which you are a member and give the titles and dates of any offices that you have held in such groups.

Washington State Bar Association, Bar Number 16835

12. Are you in good standing in every bar association of which you are a member? Yes / No. If you answered "no", please explain.

Yes

13. If you have ever been a judge, please identify any court committees on which you have served or administrative positions you have held. Please state the dates of service for each.

Lead Family Court Commissioner (appointed by the presiding judge) February, 2006 to present;  
Chair of the Family Law Operations Workgroup, King County Superior Court, 2005 to present;  
Family Law Operations Workgroup, 1998 to present;  
Judges Interpreters Committee, current chair Judge MacInnes, 1998 to present  
Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Committee, Region 4 chair Judge DuBuque; February 23, 2006, Judicial Workgroup subcommittee chair;  
Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Oversight Committee, 2007 – present;  
King County Superior Court Involuntary Treatment Court Courtroom Design Committee, 2005 – present;  
King County Superior Court Domestic Violence Hearing Courtroom Design Committee, 2007 to present;  
Judges Anti-Harassment Workgroup, chair Presiding Judge Trickey, 2007  
Judges Ad Hoc Pro Tempore Training Committee, chair Judge Lum, 2006-2007;  
Judges Language Forms Committee, chair Judge Yu, 2007 – present;  
Judges Unified Family Court Committee, chair Judge Doerty, 1998 to present;  
Judges Family Law Pro Tempore Selection Committee, chair Judge Hall, 2006 – 2007;  
Judges Family Law Commissioner Selection Committee, chair Judge Doerty, 2006  
Judges Superior Court Commissioner Selection Committee, chair Judge Kessler, 2007 to present;  
Judges Mental Illness Committee, chair Judge Spector, 1998 to present;  
Juvenile Court BECCA Workgroup, chair Judge Inveen, 2001-2002;  
Juvenile Court Dependency Operations Workgroup, chair Judge Doerty, 2004 – 2005.

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14. Please list up to five of your most significant professional accomplishments. (If applicable, please provide the case and court name and the citation if a case was reported (and copy of the opinion).

In 2006, I was recruited by the Washington State Superior Court Judges Association Education Committee to become a faculty member of the Washington State Judicial College for all newly elected and appointed judges from across the State of Washington.

In 2006, I was asked to be a contributor to the content revisions to The Domestic Violence Manual for Judges, 2006, published by the Washington State Gender & Justice Committee and the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In 2005, I was appointed by then King County Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard Eadie to serve as the Lead Family Court Commissioner on behalf of the other eight Family Court Commissioners.

In both 2000 and 2004, I was the highest rated family court commissioner in the King County Bar Association Judicial Evaluation survey based upon decision making; efficiency; demeanor; impartiality and overall performance.

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15. Please summarize up to eight of the most significant matters that you participated in as an advocate. Please include the dates of your participation and the reason each was significant to you. Please provide the citation if a case was reported. If you have been a judge, please include some cases that have been tried before you.

1987 – I was counsel for a young lumberjack charged with second degree assault stemming from a fist fight where he was alleged to have broken the cheek bone of the victim. Testing of my client confirmed that he was developmentally delayed with mild mental retardation. The case was in Skykomish where I had to travel in order to interview witnesses in a close knit community, wary of a “big city” attorney. The evidence became clear that after being punched, the victim fell against a fireplace mantle where he sustained his injury, but was too drunk to recall. The trial lasted for four days and jury came back with a verdict of guilty of simple assault. The value of preparation, the tribulations of representing challenged clients and an appreciation for the awesome power of the State have forever remained with me.

1991 – I represented a modification respondent custodial parent, *pro bono*, in a modification of a parenting plan where the allegations were that my client was an unfit parent. The mother did frequently move in order to accommodate her employment which frequently changed because she had no education but was trying to improve her financial status. Interviewed witnesses confirmed that the child was doing well in school, receiving proper medical and dental care, involved in school age activities and was very closely bonded to her mother. The significance of the matter was that without legal help this woman would likely have lost custody of the child. I have a heightened sensitivity to indigent litigants in that I do not want them to “fall between the cracks” and fail to have justice rendered based upon anything but the merits of the case.

1995- I was requested by attorneys Jan Dyer and Jan Burrows to preside as judge *pro tem* in a dissolution proceeding involving children. The husband/father was incarcerated for the rape of one of the parties’ children. The acrimony and frustration level was very high in his case, and although custody was not in dispute, property and debt division were. The significance of the matter was the application of specific property law to the salient facts with one party being very emotional, and the other party (despite the abhorrent nature of his crime) requesting equal treatment under the law. I achieved personal confirmation that I could separate my personal bias from cases before me to exercise proper and fair judgment.

1996 – I was requested by attorneys G. Geoffrey Gibbs and William Dye to preside as judge *pro tem* in a dissolution proceeding involving the custody of a teenage boy. The mother (who was married as a young teenager) had previously run away from a family controlled, isolated, religious community and later sought to regain custody of her son. The rancor between the parties was very high and experts on both sides provided diametrically opposed views on what was in the best interests of the child. The significance of this case was my ability to apply the statutory factor necessary for the determination of custody while at the same time being respectful to the positions of both parties.

2008 – I was requested by an attorney and *pro se* litigant to preside as judge *pro tem* in a parentage action that involved the mother’s immigration status, domestic violence and complicated financial arrangements. The mother represented herself and because of her emotional status was a challenging litigant. The significance of the case involved insuring that a *pro se* litigant was given every opportunity to present their case, even though she were very difficult to deal with, without crossing the line of advocacy. I was very cognizant of the need for the appearance of fairness issue to the party being represented by competent counsel.

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**Educational Background**

16. Please list all undergraduate and graduate (non-law school) colleges and universities attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

University of Washington College/University	1979 – 1983 Dates of Attendance	Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in History Degree
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17. Please list all law schools attended, years of attendance, degree awarded and reason for leaving if no degree was awarded.

Seattle University Law School	1983 – 1986 Dates of Attendance	Juris Doctorate Degree
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**Professional Experience**

18. Please summarize, briefly, the general nature of your current law practice.

I am currently a Superior Court Commissioner serving in King County.

19. If you are in practice, please describe your typical clients and any areas of special emphasis within your practice.

Please see the response to question #18.

20. If your present law practice is different from any previous practice, please describe the earlier practice, including the nature of your typical clients and any area of special emphasis within your practice.

Please see the response to question #18.

21. Within the last 5 years, did you appear in trial court: N/A

Regularly                       Occasionally                       Infrequently

22. Within the last 5 years, did you prepare appellate briefs and appear before appellate courts: N/A

Regularly                       Occasionally                       Infrequently

23. Within the last five years, how often did you appear in the court for which you are applying: N/A

Regularly                       Occasionally                       Infrequently

24. Career Experience -- by virtue of my employment for the last 10 years, I have not served as an advocate.

(a) What percentage of your appearances in the last five years was in:

(1) Federal appellate courts	_____	%
(2) Federal trial courts	_____	%
(3) State appellate courts	_____	%

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(4) State trial courts	_____	%
(5) Municipal courts	_____	%
(6) District courts	_____	%
(7) Administrative tribunals	_____	%
(8) Tribal courts	_____	%
(9) Other	_____	%
TOTAL		100%

(b) What percentage of your practice in the last five years was:

(1) Civil litigation (excl. family law)	_____	%
(2) Criminal litigation	_____	%
(3) Family law litigation	_____	%
(4) Non-litigation	_____	%
TOTAL		100%

(c) What percentage of your trials in the last five years were:

(1) Jury trials	_____	%
(2) Non-jury trials	_____	%
TOTAL		100%

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- (d) State the number of cases during your total career that you have tried to verdict or judgment (rather than settled) in the following courts, and indicate for each court the following percentages: trials in which you were sole counsel or chief counsel; jury trials; and trials where you were the arbiter/decision maker. N/A

<u>Number</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>% as Sole / Chief Counsel</u>	<u>% Jury</u>	<u>% as the Arbiter</u>
_____	Municipal	_____	_____	_____
_____	State Dist.	_____	_____	_____
_____	State Superior	_____	_____	_____
_____	Federal Dist.	_____	_____	_____
_____	Administrative	_____	_____	_____
_____	Tribal Courts	_____	_____	_____
_____	Other	_____	_____	_____

- (e) Briefly describe no more than five significant litigation matters that you directly handled as the sole counsel. For each, please provide the name and telephone number of opposing counsel, the name of the judge or other judicial officer, and the citation (if applicable). N/A

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- (f) State in detail your experience in adversary proceedings before administrative boards or commissions during the last five years. N/A

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25. Please briefly describe any legal non-litigation experience that you feel enhances your qualifications to serve as a judge.

My upbringing in large part influenced me. My parents were displaced persons coming to the United States from Ukraine in the aftermath of the Second World War, escaping Nazism and Communism. They learned English only after landing on U.S. soil. Every member of my extended family has become a United States citizen; my siblings and I were all born in Seattle. Despite coming from an educated background in Europe, my grandparents had to retrain in order to find employment. My father served in the United State Air Force during the "Cold War" and faced hardships and prejudicial treatment because of his very ethnic Ukrainian name and surname. Because of the prejudice and stigmatization my parents experienced growing up in the United States, they endeavored to insure that their children were free of prejudice. My parents reveled in the appreciation and recognition of diversity and ethnic origin. Having grown up as a first generation American, I have demonstrated the ability to deal with immigrants and the issues of persons that are new to this country and have experienced difficulty with English as a second language.

26. If you are now an officer or director of any business organization or otherwise engaged in the management of any business enterprises, please provide the following: the name of the enterprise, the nature of the business, the title of your position, the nature of your duties, and the term of your service. If you are appointed and do not intend to resign such position(s), please state this below along with your reasons for not resigning.

Parish Board Member, Saint Nectarios American Orthodox Cathedral, January 1988 to present;  
President of parish council, Saint Nectarios American Orthodox Cathedral, January 1992 to present. (Chair board meetings, review budgets, advise the rector of the parish on matters; the position involves no direct fund raising, fund raising appeals directed at parish members are presented by the parish treasurer).

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27. Please list all chairmanships of major committees in bar associations and professional societies and memberships on any committees that you have held and believe to be of particular significance.

Domestic Violence Leadership Summit, Camp Brotherhood, Washington, May 4, 2007 (summit bringing together judges/commissioners; lawyers; advocates; treatment providers; evaluators; social workers; educators; medical professionals to address "best practices" in dealing with domestic violence).

Committee member, King County Regional Council on Domestic Violence and Firearms Safety, chair Seattle Assistant City Attorney Sharon Hayden (the council brings together representatives from the King Superior Court; King County Prosecutor's Office; Seattle City Attorney's Office; Seattle Police Department and King County Sheriff to address coordination or firearms surrender orders among the municipal, district and superior courts).

Committee member, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Family Law Workgroup, chair Merrill Cousin (the workgroup address multi-faceted issues in education, public awareness, judicial training; developing best practices and procedures in protecting survivors of domestic violence).

Board of Visitors, University of Washington, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Institute, 1990 – 1992;

King County Bar Association Gender Bias in Legal Profession Committee, 1992-1993;

King County Bar Association Ethnic Diversity in Legal Profession Committee, 1992-1993;

King County Bar Association Family Law Commissioner Screening Committee, 1993-1996 \_\_\_\_\_

**Judicial Interest and Experience**

28. In 50 words or less, please describe why you should be appointed/elected and are seeking a judicial position.

I have had the privilege and honor of serving as commissioner for ten years, presiding over all facets of the family and juvenile law departments. I have the requisite temperament, experience and ability to take on an even greater and more expansive role in serving the citizens of King County.

29. In 50 words or less, please describe your judicial philosophy.

All persons coming to court deserve to be treated with respect; receive careful and thoughtful consideration of their arguments and a well reasoned, legally appropriate ruling. A judge must apply the law in a fair, consistent, open-minded and, where appropriate, compassionate manner truly guaranteeing that everyone's voice is heard.

30. Have you ever held a judicial office or have you ever been a candidate for such office?  
Yes / No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the courts involved, whether elected or appointed, and the periods of your service.

No

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31. Have you ever held public office other than a judicial office, or have you ever been a candidate for such an office? Yes / No. If you answered "yes", please provide details, including the offices involved, whether elected or appointed, and the length of your service.

No

32. Please briefly identify all of your experience as a neutral decision-maker (e.g. judge (permanent or pro tem) in any jurisdiction, administrative law judge, arbitrator, hearing officer, etc.). Give courts, approximate dates, and attorneys who appeared before you.

My experience is completely working in King County Superior Court.

In reverse chronological order:

2007 to present – presiding over parentage, third party custody and dissolution trials as judge *pro tempore* assigned from Unified Family Court brokerage.

2005 to present – assigned to the King County Courthouse as commissioner conducting trials by affidavit dealing with modifications of child support; maintenance and setting of post secondary educational support. I conduct hearings on the civil protection order calendar reviewing the respondent's compliance with the terms of protection orders.

2005 to present – Lead Family Court Commissioner serving as liaison between the presiding judge and court departments and the eight other family court commissioners; serving as point person for administrative and procedural issues.

February 2004 to January 2005 – assigned to Juvenile Court and Regional Justice Center as Dependency Commissioner presiding over shelter care hearings; motions and status reviews in legally free; dependent and developmentally delayed youth cases;

July 2002 to February 2004 – assigned to Regional Justice Center as family court and domestic violence hearing commissioner presiding over an average of 12 hearings per morning calendar;

November 2001 to June 2002 – assigned to Juvenile Court as BECCA commissioner and on the Juvenile Offender trial calendar, presiding over juvenile felony and misdemeanor trials;

August 1998 to October 2001 – assigned to King County Courthouse presiding over family law hearings; support enforcement hearings and domestic violence protection order hearings.

**Community and Civic Activities**

33. Please list your community and civic activities, including dates and leadership roles held, over the last 10 years.

Parish Council President and Board member, St. Nectarios American Orthodox Cathedral  
Volunteer Guardian ad Litem with the King County Court Appointed Special Advocates  
Coach, SnoKing Youth Club, Girls Softball  
Lake City Elks, 2002 to present;  
Lake Forest Park Civic Club, 2002 to present;  
The Rainier Club, 2008 to present