



PUBLIC LAW LIBRARY OF KING COUNTY

W621 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104
206.296.0940

1North Maleng Regional Justice Center
401 4th Avenue North
Kent, Washington 98032
206.205.2900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 28, 2011

King County Law Library Announces Name Change, Appoints Director

SEATTLE – The King County Law Library Board has announced that it is changing its name to Public Law Library of King County and that it has appointed Rita Dermody as Director, effective May 1, 2011. As Director, Ms. Dermody will oversee operations and direct all activities of the library.

The library’s Board of Trustees chose the new name based on a recommendation from its Advisory Committee. Judge Mary Yu, President of the Board of Trustees, remarked about the change, “We just want to be known as widely as possible for what we are—a reliable public library that emphasizes legal resources. We wanted to be sure that non-lawyers feel comfortable utilizing our resources.” The library’s new name is intended to dispel the perception among self-represented litigants that it is only for lawyers or court personnel and emphasize the public nature of this resource, in hopes of making the public feel invited.

As the new Director, Ms. Dermody is dedicated to promoting the library as the first stop for members of the public who need legal help. She is devoted to ensuring access to legal research and is eager to represent the Public Law Library in the greater librarian and legal communities. Ms. Dermody joined the Law Library in 1998 and has served as branch librarian,

Collection Access Services Librarian, and Interim Director. After working in virtually every type of law library, she sees her appointment to this position as the culmination of her experience and passion for helping people. She strongly believes in the importance of this facility and wants to use her position to “touch more lives and have more impact on legal research.”

Stephen Ellis, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, stated: "Rita successfully served the Public Law Library as its Interim Director and when it came time to appoint a permanent Director we realized, following a thorough evaluation process involving trustees, staff and third parties, that we had no need to conduct a formal search. Our Director was already in place and performing well." Judge Yu echoed the sentiment, “The Board has total confidence in Rita’s ability to take the Public Law Library to the next level. Rita is a leader and known for her collaborative style. She works well with all of our partner agencies and customers, and her commitment to fostering access to justice is exactly what we need at this time. We are grateful that she accepted the position.”

For further information, contact Judge Mary Yu, President of the King County Law Library Board of Trustees at 206.296.9275. Interviews with Rita Dermody may be arranged by calling her directly at 206.205.6101.

Trustees of the Library are Stephen Ellis, Patrick McIntyre, Jim Brewer, Judge Andrea Darvas, and Judge Mary Yu.

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