WASHINGTON

Washington, once part of the Oregon Territory, became a state in 1889, and was organized as a single-district the following year.¹. It was reconstituted into two judicial districts, Eastern and Western, in 1905 with one judge for each district.²

WA.WD.01 originally served the entire state (see Judge Hanford's succession line), but was assigned to the Western District when the state was reconfigured jurisdictionally in 1905.³ WA.WD.03, originally created just for the Western District, was designated for both districts in 1940,⁴ then reassigned to its former status in 1961.⁵ The same statute created WA.WD.04 to serve both districts, and then assigned the judgeship exclusively to the Western District by the omnibus judgeship legislation in 1978.⁶ WA.WD.07 was created as a temporary position in 1984 and converted to permanent six years later.⁷

Under the provisions of 28 USC § 133,8 when a judge takes administrative leave, a temporary position is created during the interim. If said judge returns to active service, the next vacancy on the court is not filled. Judge Barbara Rothstein (WA.WD.05.01) became Director of the Federal Judicial Center on September 8, 2003, thus allowing for WA.WD.08.01.

Washington is in the Ninth Circuit, and has eleven authorized judgeships.

Statutory History					
Seat	Legislation	Authority			
WA.ED.01	Act of March 2, 1905	33 Stat. 824			
WA.ED.02	Act of October 20, 1978	92 Stat. 1629			
WA.ED.03	Act of July 10, 1984	98 Stat. 333			
WA.ED.04	Act of December 1, 1990	104 Stat. 5089			

¹Act of April 5, 1890, 26 STAT. 45.

²Act of March 2, 1905, 33 STAT. 824.

³Act of March 2, 1905, 33 STAT. 824.

⁴Act of January 20, 1940, 54 STAT. 16.

⁵Act of May 19, 1961, 75 STAT. 80.

⁶Act of October 20, 1978, 92 STAT. 1629.

⁷Act of December 1, 1990, 104 STAT. 5089.

⁸Act of December 1, 1990, 104 STAT. 5105.

WA.WD.01	Act of February 22, 1889	25 Stat. 676.
WA.WD.02	Act of March 2, 1909	35 Stat. 686
WA.WD.03	Act of May 31, 1938	52 Stat. 585
WA.WD.04	Act of May 19, 1961	75 Stat. 80
WA.WD.05	Act of October 20, 1978	92 Stat. 1629
WA.WD.06	Act of July 10, 1984	98 Stat. 333
WA.WD.07	Act of December 1, 1990	104 Stat. 5089
WA.WD.08	Act of December 1, 1990	104 Stat. 5089

Seat Histories						
Position #	Name	Date of Confirmation	Date of Departure	Reason	Party	
WA.ED.01.01	Whitson, Edward	March 14, 1905	October 15, 1910	Deceased	Republican	
WA.ED.01.02	Rudkin, Frank H.	January 31, 1911	January 9, 1923	Elevated to Ninth Circuit	Republican	
WA.ED.01.03	Webster, John Stanley	January 16, 1924 ⁹	August 31, 1939	Retired	Republican	
WA.ED.01.04	Schwellenbach, Lewis B.	May 6, 1940	June 30, 1945	Resigned	Democrat	
WA.ED.01.05	Driver, Samuel M.	April 9, 1946	September 9, 1958	Deceased	Democrat	
WA.ED.01.06	Powell, Charles L.	June 16, 1959	April 21, 1972	Retired	Republican	
WA.ED.01.07	Neill, Marshall A.	August 2, 1972	October 6, 1979	Deceased	Republican	

⁹Recess appointment, April 28, 1923.

Seat Histories	1	1	T		1
Position #	Name	Date of Confirmation	Date of Departure	Reason	Party
WA.ED.01.08	Quackenbush, Justin Lowe	June 18, 1980	June 27, 1995	Retired	Democrat
WA.ED.01.09	Whaley, Robert H.	June 30, 1995	Active	Active	Democrat
WA.ED.02.01	McNichols, Robert J.	December 5, 1979	April 20, 1991	Retired	Democrat
WA.ED.02.02	Nielsen, William Fremming	May 9, 1991	May 30, 2003	Retired	Republican
WA.ED.02.03	Suko, Lonny R.	July 15, 2003	Active	Active	
WA.ED.03.01	McDonald, Alan Angus	October 16, 1985	December 13, 1996	Retired	Republican
WA.ED.03.02	Shea, Edward F.	March 27, 1998	Active	Active	Democrat
WA.ED.04.01	Van Sickle, Frederick L.	May 9, 1991	Active	Active	Republican
WA.WD.01.01	Hanford, Cornelius Holgate	February 25, 1890	August 5, 1912	Resigned	Republican
WA.WD.01.02	Howard, Clinton Woodbury	Unconfirmed recess appointment ¹	March 4, 1913	Not confirmed	Republican
WA.WD.01.03	Neterer, Jeremiah	July 21, 1913	June 1, 1933	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.01.04	Bowen, John Clyde	February 28, 1934	June 5, 1961	Retired	Democrat

¹⁰Recess appointment, August 26, 1912.

Seat Histories					
Position #	Name	Date of Confirmation	Date of Departure	Reason	Party
WA.WD.01.05	Beeks, William Trulock	August 15, 1961	May 31, 1972	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.01.06	Voorhees, Donald S.	June 13, 1974	November 30, 1986	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.01.07	Dwyer, William L.	November 5, 1987	December 1, 1998	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.01.08	Pechman, Marsha J.	September 8, 1999	Active	Active	Independent
WA.WD.02.01	Donworth, George	May 18, 1909	March 20, 1912	Resigned	Republican
WA.WD.02.02	Cushman, Edward E.	May 1, 1912	November 3, 1939	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.02.03	Leavy, Charles Henry	February 18, 1942	August 31, 1952	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.02.04	Boldt, George H.	July 14, 1953	October 30, 1971	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.02.05	Sharp, Morell E.	December 2, 1971	October 10, 1980	Deceased	Republican
WA.WD.02.06	Coughenour, John C.	September 25, 1981	July 27, 2006	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.02.07	Vacant				
WA.WD.03.01	Black, Lloyd Llewellyn	August 4, 1939	August 23, 1950	Deceased	Democrat
WA.WD.03.02	Lindberg, William James	April 25, 1951	March 1, 1971	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.03.03	McGovern, Walter T.	April 21, 1971	October 1, 1987	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.03.04	Zilly, Thomas S.	April 19, 1988	January 1, 2004	Retired	Republican

Seat Histories					
Position #	Name	Date of Confirmation	Date of Departure	Reason	Party
WA.WD.03.05	Robart, James L.	June 17, 2004	Active	Active	
WA.WD.04.01	Goodwin, William N.	April 21, 1966	December 31, 1975	Deceased	Democrat
WA.WD.04.02	Tanner, Jack E. ¹¹	May 17, 1978	January 28, 1991	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.04.03	Burgess, Franklin D.	March 25, 1994	March 9, 2005	Retired	Democrat
WA.WD.04.04	Vacant				
WA.WD.05.01	Rothstein, Barbara J. ¹²	February 20, 1980	Active ¹³	Active	Democrat
WA.WD.06.01	Bryan, Robert Jensen	April 24, 1986	November 1, 2000	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.06.02	Leighton, Ronald B.	November 14, 2002	Active	Active	Republican
WA.WD.07.01	Dimmick, Carolyn R.	April 3, 1985	September 1, 1997	Retired	Republican
WA.WD.07.02	Lasnik, Robert S.	October 21, 1998	Active	Active	Independent

¹¹First African American district judge appointed from Washington.

¹²First female district judge appointed from Washington.

¹³Judge Rothstein took administrative leave beginning September 8, 2003, to serve as Director of the Federal Judicial Center.

Seat Histories						
Position #	Name	Date of Confirmation	Date of Departure	Reason	Party	
WA.WD.08.01	Martinez, Ricardo S. 14	June 15, 2004	Active	Active	Republican	

¹⁴First Hispanic district judge appointed from Washington.