

GEORGE FEARING
JUDGE
DIVISION III
NORTH 500 CEDAR STREET
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON 99201

*The Court of Appeals
of the
State of Washington
Division III*

(509)456-3922
george.fearing@courts.wa.gov



August 9, 2023

Email

Colin Charbonneau, Director
Spokane County Public Defender's Office
1033 W. Gardner
Spokane, WA 99260

Email

Victoria Blumhorst, Director
Counsel for Defense
1116 W. Broadway
Spokane, WA 99260

Email

Larry Jefferson
Office of Public Defense
Evergreen Plaza, 711 Capitol Way S.
Olympia, WA 98501

Email

Lawrence H. Haskell
Prosecuting Attorney
County-City Public Safety Building
1100 W. Mallon Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

Re: Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office Demand for Recusal

Counsel:

I presume the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office considers the Spokane County Public Defender's Office, Counsel for Defense, and the Office of Public Defense to be interested parties to its demand for recusal because the Prosecuting Attorney's Office copied the entities on its demand. I agree the three entities are interested parties.

In order to afford the Spokane County Public Defender's Office, Counsel for Defense, Office of Public Defense, and other interested parties time to respond to the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office demand for my recusal, I am temporarily recusing myself from all criminal appeals, in which the Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney's Office represents the

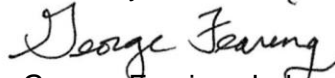
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state of Washington. I request that the three offices and any other interested parties file a response to the demand. In filing the responses, please address not only the question of whether I should recuse myself from all Spokane County criminal cases, but also whether I should recuse myself on a limited basis such as recusing in Spokane County cases only involving assault charges, sexual assaults charges, potential racism, an accused who is a member of a minority, or an African-American accused.

Mr. Haskell, please feel free to solicit submittals from additional entities. I will review all submittals before making a final decision.

I hope that responses can be filed by mid-September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Fearing".

George Fearing, Judge
Washington State Court of Appeals
Division III