

Dawn McIntosh is new presiding judge

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Judge Dawn McIntosh is the new presiding judge at Clatsop County Circuit Court.

McIntosh moved up to Courtroom 300 this month, which was previously held by Paula Brownhill, who retired at the end of October after 25 years on the bench.

"It's bittersweet coming up here because I love the courtroom, I love the view, but I would have stayed in the basement forever if I could have kept her around," McIntosh said. "But she earned it, she worked so hard for 25 years."

As presiding judge, McIntosh will take on additional administrative duties, including supervising the new trial court administrator, Julie Vredeveid.

Among her priorities are to continue Brownhill's work in meeting the Oregon Supreme Court standards for timely dispositions of cases.

"People deserve to have decisions and their cases handled timely. And in a manner that is respectful and gets all sides of the dispute heard," McIntosh said.



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Judge Dawn McIntosh

She will also lead the court's security committee.

"We face a number of the same issues that other rural communities face with a lack of security in the courthouse," McIntosh said. "We know what good security looks like, but we don't have it here. And it is something we're going to continue to work on."

McIntosh was elected in 2016 to a six-year term, replacing Judge Philip Nelson, who retired.

She began her career interning for the sex crimes unit in Multnomah County District Attorney's office after dropping out of law school.

"I was there a week and said, 'This is what I want to do.' So, I went back to law school the next term and I worked at the DA's office throughout law school, started trying cases when I was a third-year and I stayed there," McIntosh said.

She graduated from Lewis & Clark Law School in 1992 and was hired as an assistant district attorney in Multnomah County.

McIntosh moved to Clatsop County in 1998 to serve as chief deputy district attorney. She supervised child abuse and major sex crime cases until 2003.

She was named the Oregon District Attorneys Association's Child Abuse Prosecutor of the Year in 1999.

After spending about five years at the district attorney's office, McIntosh left to work as a defense attorney and work on domestic relations and juvenile cases in Clatsop and Tillamook courts.

She thinks having worked as a prosecutor and defense attorney has given her a good perspective as judge.

During her time as a lawyer, McIntosh tried many cases before Brownhill. She

said Brownhill was instrumental in her career before she took the bench because she gave her feedback after every trial.

"You could count on her for actual, real constructive criticism, never just a 'you did a great job,'" McIntosh said.

"It was very, very helpful as a fairly young lawyer ... every time I had a trial to be able to get some feedback on what worked and what didn't work and what I'd done better and what I'd not done better."

Brownhill also endorsed McIntosh when she ran for election in 2016.

"It felt really good because I knew she wouldn't have done it if she didn't believe I could do the job," McIntosh said. "The same way I know she wouldn't have retired when she did if she didn't know I could do the job. It's nice to know she has that confidence in me."



Courtesy photo

Preparedness event to be presented in Astoria, Seaside

Seaside Signal

Clatsop County Emergency Management, in partnership with the cities of Astoria and Seaside, presents the Tipping Point Resilience Cascadia Preparedness presentation.

The presentation will be offered Friday at 6 p.m. at the Liberty Theater, Astoria, and Saturday, Nov. 23 at 10 a.m. at the Seaside Convention Center.

Tipping Point founder Steve Eberlein's experience during the Sri Lanka tsunami in 2004 inspired a career focused on promoting preparedness in the Pacific Northwest, developing over

a decade while working for the Red Cross in Oregon. In 2016 he published "Prepare Out Loud," a community preparedness program aimed at building resilience in the Pacific Northwest for a 9.0-magnitude Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. His debut was a presentation of the TEDx Portland Talk "Why We Do Not Prepare for Earthquakes."

Eberlein's goal is to bring "the Pacific Northwest to the tipping point where earthquake preparedness becomes normal, expected and cultural." His presentation highlights his unique approach cultural preparedness and how to make this theory a reality.

State Supreme Court restricts ICE presence at courthouses

Agents must have a judicial warrant

By NICOLE BALES
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A new rule in Oregon prohibits U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement from detaining people at state courthouses without a judicial arrest warrant.

The rule also protects people going to or from court proceedings from being stopped in nearby entryways, sidewalks and parking lots.

Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Walters enacted the rule Thursday following concerns about ICE agents detaining people at courthouses through administrative warrants. Oregon is the third state, after New Jersey and New York, to prohibit ICE detentions in and around courthouses without a judicial warrant.

"Arrests in courthouses have interfered with judicial proceedings and removed criminal defendants before they have been sentenced or completed their sentences," Walters said in a statement. "We are adopting this rule to maintain the integrity of our courts and provide access to justice — not to advance or oppose any political or policy agenda."

After Ruben Vera Perez was detained by ICE agents outside the Clatsop County Courthouse last December, Judge Paula Brownhill, the presiding judge of the Circuit Court, said ICE enforcement actions at courthouses could deter criminal defendants, crime victims and witnesses from coming to court. Fabian Alberto Zamora-Rodriguez was detained inside the Clatsop County Courthouse in July following a hearing on felony charges. ICE agents used what appeared to be pepper spray against Zamora-Rodriguez's mother, partner and immigrant rights advocates while they tried to escort him away.

The detention was one of several in Oregon cited by civil liberties advocates at a



Immigration agents took Fabian Alberto Zamora-Rodriguez into custody at the Clatsop County Courthouse in July.

rally in August in Washington County calling for the end of ICE enforcement at courthouses.

"I think it recognizes that there are times when it's appropriate to take someone into custody in the courthouse and there are times

when it is not appropriate," said Judge Dawn McIntosh, who became presiding judge of the Clatsop County Circuit Court after Brownhill's retirement. "I think the chief justice struck a good balance on this one in terms of keeping our courthouses safe

... and to use them and not interfering with the federal laws that are out there."

Following Zamora-Rodriguez's detention in July, Sheriff Tom Bergin called for more support of ICE's efforts to detain people who are in the country illegally.

"If that's what the judge wants and that's what the judge orders than that's what we'll do. We always stand by the law," Bergin said of the rule change. "We work within the confines of the legal system and that's how we're going to continue to do it."

'Sensitive locations'

Some in Congress, including U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley and U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici of Oregon, want to codify an ICE policy that limits arrests at "sensitive locations" like schools and hospitals into federal law. They also want to expand it to include courthouses.

About 300 clergy leaders with the Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice signed a letter in August asking Walters to issue an emergency rule prohibiting ICE arrests at or near courthouses.

According to the Oregon Judicial Department, Walters and the chief justice of the Washington Supreme Court met with ICE representatives and the U.S. attorneys for Oregon and Washington state in October to discuss the reasons for immigration detentions in courthouses and potential court rules.

ICE declined to add courthouses to their list of sensitive locations.

In a statement, Tanya Roman, an ICE spokeswoman, said, "ICE ERO officers have been provided broad at-large arrest authority by Congress and may lawfully arrest removable aliens in courthouses, which is often necessitated by local policies that prevent law enforcement from cooperating with ICE efforts to arrange for safe and orderly transfer of custody in the setting of a state or county prison or jail and put political rhetoric before public safety."

ICE has said that enforcement actions inside courthouses can reduce safety risks to the public.

"It is ironic that elected officials want to see policies in place to keep ICE out of courthouses, while caring little for laws enacted by Congress to keep criminal aliens out of our country," Roman said. "Despite any attempts to prevent ICE officers from doing their jobs, ICE will continue to carry out its mission to uphold public safety and enforce immigration law, and con-

sider carefully whether to refer those who obstruct our lawful enforcement efforts for criminal prosecution."

'Simply a figment'

Roman said in an email that "Congress has established no process, requirement, or expectation directing ICE to seek a judicial warrant from already overburdened federal courts before taking custody of an alien on civil immigration violations."

"This idea is simply a figment created by those who wish to undermine immigration enforcement and excuse the ill-conceived practices of sanctuary jurisdictions that put politics before public safety."

Katherine McDowell, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon, said in a statement that "legal observers have repeatedly witnessed ICE officers profile, stalk and violently arrest community members in Oregon courthouses."

"The courthouse rule stops these frightening practices and ensures that everyone can seek justice in our courts."

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