



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1961 - *Justice Court Reorganization Act*;

1962 – Court formed as a *Municipal Department* of the Pierce County Justice Court (now known as the *Pierce County District Court*);

TODAY - *Tacoma Municipal Court* has been a *Municipal Department* of the *Pierce County District Court* for over **60** years.

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LEGAL BACKGROUND

RCW Chapter 3.46 - Municipal Departments;
 RCW Chapter 3.48 – District Court Districts;
 PCC Chapter 2.54 – District Court Districting Plan;
 RCW Chapter 3.34 – District Judges;
 RCW 3.34.150 and GR 29 - Presiding Judge.

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RCW 3.46.020

“Each judge of a municipal department shall be a **judge of the district court** in which the municipal department is situated. Such judge shall be designated as a **municipal court judge.**”

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RCW 3.34.010 and PCC 2.54.020

Pierce County *must* have **11 District Court Judges**, **3** of which are designated as **Judges** of the **Tacoma Municipal Court**.

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RCW 3.46 and PCC 2.54

- Salaries of the Municipal Judges are allocated to Tacoma;
- Only Tacoma voters may vote for Municipal Judges;
- Municipal Court personnel are specifically designated as employees of Tacoma.

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RCW 3.34.150 and GR 29

- **1 Presiding Judge;**
- **Sole Responsibility** for **supervision of court daily operation, all personnel** performing court functions and **all personnel employed under the judicial branch of government.**

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MAJOR ISSUES

- No administrative or supervisory structure;
- Tacoma Presiding Judge;
- Tacoma Court Rules;
- Tacoma Court Operations and Procedures.

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IMPORTANT THRESHOLD FACTS

No Due Process Rights Were Violated.

The Municipal Court Remains And Always Has Been A Separate Branch Of Tacoma Government.

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REMEDY = New PCDC Rules

- Municipal Judicial Committee;
- Delegation of authority to Municipal Committee Chair;
- Reporting and Conferring process;
- Supervisory process;
- Revocation of TMC GR 29;
- Adoption of remaining TMC rules.

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PRACTICAL EFFECTS

No change to daily operations;
 No change to therapeutic courts;
 No change to daily supervisory authority, but with PCDC GR29 oversight;
 Personnel remain employees of TMC;
 All policies, regulations and contracts remain in effect;
 All court personnel supervisory chains remain in effect.

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QUESTIONS ?