

Chief United States Magistrate Judge Theresa L. Fricke

Judge Fricke was appointed to the federal bench on May 1, 2017, and was appointed as Chief Magistrate Judge on March 1, 2024. She is a graduate of the Seattle University School of Law, and the University of Washington Foster School of Business. Before becoming a United States Magistrate Judge, she served as an Assistant Attorney General representing the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) in construction litigation and advising on construction contracts.

Judge Fricke served as President of The Honorable Robert J. Bryan American Inn of Court in Tacoma from 2021-2022 and currently is an emeritus member. Judge Fricke served as co-chair of the Social Security Disability bench-bar committee of the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington from 2019-2023. She is a member of: The Ninth Circuit Magistrate Judges Executive Board; The Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington; Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group, and the Re-Entry Committee, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington; the King County Bar Association; the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association; the New York City Bar Association; and was chair of the Magistrate Judge Education Committee of the Ninth Circuit from 2020-2024.

Judge Fricke's judicial training includes Federal Judicial Center courses in Alternative Dispute Resolution (at Pepperdine University, 2018) and Intellectual Property (at the University of California, Berkeley, 2024).

Early in her career, Judge Fricke served as a trial and appellate attorney with the Washington State Attorney General (in the Corrections Division, the Human Rights Division, and the DSHS Division). She served as a part-time staff attorney with the Washington Pattern Jury Instruction Committee (2009-2012). She worked in private practice in Pierce County (1998-2009); and was a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney with the King County Prosecutor's Office in Seattle, leading the criminal division appellate unit, and handling cases in the Washington Supreme Court (1990-1998).

Judge Fricke enjoys running, attending hockey games, performances at the theater and concerts, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and traveling with family and friends.