



Mary I. Yu  
Washington State Supreme Court Justice

Mary Yu was appointed to the Washington Supreme Court on May 16, 2014, and subsequently elected. Justice Yu joined the Supreme Court after more than 14 years as an accomplished trial court judge in King County Superior Court where she presided over a wide variety of criminal, civil, and juvenile cases, and presided over hundreds of adoptions and other family law matters.

Prior to becoming a judge, Justice Yu served as Deputy Chief of Staff to King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and as a deputy in the Criminal and Civil Divisions. Before attending law school, Justice Yu worked in the Peace and Justice Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago first as staff and later as Director of that office following her appointment to the position by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin.

Justice Yu has an extensive record of service both on and off the bench, mentoring young attorneys, law clerks, and students; co-chairing the Court's Minority and Justice Commission; chairs the State's Board for Judicial Administration Public Trust and Confidence Committee; teaching at Seattle University School of Law and serving as Jurist in Residence; co-chairing the Washington State Bar Association/University of Washington Law School Leadership Institute; and serving on the board of FareStart and the advisory board for the University of Washington School of Law's Gates Public Service Program. She is personally devoted to the Civility Project of the Robert's Fund Foundation and to the Seattle Girls' School Mock Trials, serving as their judge for the last 14 years. Justice Yu is a member of the American Law Institute.

Justice Yu was raised in Bridgeport, a South Side neighborhood in Chicago, by immigrant parents; her mother came from Mexico and her father from China. She is the first in her family to graduate from college. She received her B.A. from Dominican University, her M.A. in Religious Studies from Mundelein College of Loyola University in Chicago, and her J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Justice Yu is the first Asian, the first Latina, and the first member of the LGBTQ community to serve on the Washington State Supreme Court.

Justice Yu is the recipient of the following awards: 2017 Recipient of "Lifetime Achievement Award" from Northwest Asian Weekly; 2016 "Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award" from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association; 2016 "Imagine Justice" Award from Columbia Legal Services; 2016 Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington; 2016 Seattle Women's Pride, Luminary Award; 2015 Seattle Storm, "Inspiring Women" award recipient; 2015 "Brava! Award" from the Women's University Club; 2015 "Woman of the Year" from the Seattle University School of Law and Women's Law Caucus; 2014 "Judge of the Year" from the Washington State Association for Justice; 2014 "Betty B. Fletcher Judge of the Year" Award from Washington Women Lawyers, King County Chapter; 2013 "Public Official of the Year" from the Municipal League

Foundation; 2013 Latina/o Amicus Award from Seattle University School of Law Latina/o Law Student Association; 2012 "President's Award" from the Asian Bar Association of Washington; 2012 "Difference Makers Award" from the American Bar Association Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division; the 2011 "Judge of the Year" award from the Washington State Bar Association (shared with Justice González); 2011 Seattle Girls' School Grace Hopper Award; 2009 Norm Maleng Award from the Washington State Bar Association; 2008 "Judge of the Year" from the Asian Bar Association; 2008 President's Award from Washington Women Lawyers; 2006 "Model of Excellence" Award from the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington; 2005 "Judge of the Year" award from the American Board of Trial Advocates; and 2005 Reah Whitehead Public Leadership Award from Seattle University School of Law.

Justice Yu maintains residency in Seattle and Olympia.

[Mary.Yu@courts.wa.gov](mailto:Mary.Yu@courts.wa.gov)