JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

Judge Suzanne Parisien

King County Superior Court

Based on the 2023–2024 King County Bar Association Judicial Officer Survey (Survey Period: October 2019 – August 2023 — Published May 2024)

I. Background and Methodology

The 2023–2024 KCBA Judicial Officer Survey is the most comprehensive attorney-based evaluation of King County Superior Court judges available to the public. Conducted in December 2023 and January 2024, the survey invited attorneys to evaluate judicial officers they had appeared before between October 2019 and August 2023. Of 7,396 attorneys invited, 1,057 completed responses were used in the analysis.

The 2024 survey expanded on its predecessor by adding a fifth evaluation category — Virtual Appearances — reflecting the significant role remote hearings have played since 2020. The four categories carried forward from the 2020 survey are: Legal Decision Making, Integrity & Impartiality, Demeanor, Temperament & Communication, and Administrative Skills. The Integrity & Impartiality category was also expanded to include criteria addressing sensitivity to historically marginalized communities and equitable access to justice.

The survey covered 49 judges evaluated by 20 or more attorneys. Judge Parisien received **98 evaluations** — above both the survey mean of 72 and median of 64 — placing her results well within the range of statistically reliable findings.

Note on Composite Scoring

The KCBA deliberately did not design the survey to produce a single composite score, noting that the five categories are not necessarily equal in importance. That caveat stands. For analytical purposes, however, the most defensible approach is a simple unweighted average of all category scores — transparent, free of hidden assumptions, and easy to verify.

Critically: if categories were weighted to prioritize Legal Decision Making and Integrity & Impartiality over Administrative Skills — as a reasonable reviewer might — Judge Parisien's composite would only worsen. These are precisely the categories in which she scored lowest.

II. Category-by-Category Performance

The table below presents Judge Parisien's scores in each of the five survey categories alongside the all-judge average, the gap, and her rank among all 49 evaluated judges.

Category	Parisien	Peer Avg	Gap	Rank
Virtual Appearances (new 2024)	3.96	4.32	−0.36	#49 of 49

Category	Parisien	Peer Avg	Gap	Rank
Legal Decision Making	3.70	4.15	−0.45	#47 of 49
Integrity & Impartiality	3.87	4.29	−0.42	#48 of 49
Demeanor, Temp. & Communication	3.81	4.31	−0.50	#49 of 49
Administrative Skills	3.99	4.29	−0.30	#45 of 49
COMPOSITE (5-category avg)	**3.87**	**4.28**	**−0.41**	**#49 of 49**

Source: 2023–2024 KCBA Judicial Officer Survey, Tables 10 and 12–16. Composite = unweighted average of five category scores.

Judge Parisien ranked dead last — #49 of 49 — on the overall composite. She ranked last in two individual categories (Virtual Appearances and Demeanor & Communication), second-to-last in Integrity & Impartiality, and third-to-last in Legal Decision Making. She remained below 4.0 in every single category.

III. Key Findings

Finding 1: Last Place in the Majority of Categories

Judge Parisien ranks #49 of 49 — last among all evaluated judges — in two of the five categories: Virtual Appearances and Demeanor, Temperament & Communication. She ranks #48 in Integrity & Impartiality and #47 in Legal Decision Making. Her best ranking, #45 in Administrative Skills, still places her in the bottom 10% of the bench.

Finding 2: Below 4.0 in Every Category

Judge Parisien does not clear the 4.0 "Very Good" threshold in any of the five categories. Her closest approach is a 3.99 in Administrative Skills — the category most distant from core judicial function. The all-judge average exceeds 4.15 in every category and exceeds 4.29 in four of the five.

Finding 3: Significant "Unacceptable" Ratings in Every Category

Across all five categories, between 4.40% and 8.90% of responding attorneys selected the survey's harshest rating of "Unacceptable." The highest rate falls on Integrity & Impartiality (8.90%) — the category most central to judicial legitimacy. When "Below Expectations" ratings are added, between 14% and 20% of attorneys in each category found her performance at or below the second-lowest tier.

Finding 4: Demeanor and Communication Is Her Widest Gap

Her largest deficit from the all-judge average occurs in Demeanor, Temperament & Communication (−0.50 points), where she also ranks last. This is notable because demeanor-related conduct is the most directly and immediately experienced by every attorney who appears before a judge.

Finding 5: Sample Size Forecloses Statistical Objections

With 98 evaluations — above both the mean (72) and median (64) for the 2024 survey — Judge Parisien's results cannot be attributed to a thin or unrepresentative sample. Any rebuttal must engage with the volume and consistency of the responses.

IV. Composite Ranking Among All 49 Judges

Parisien composite score (avg. of 5 categories)	3.87
Parisien composite (4 comparable categories, excl. Virtual)	3.84
All-judge composite average (5 categories)	4.28
Gap from all-judge average	–0.41
Composite rank among 49 judges	**#49 of 49 — LAST**
Number of evaluations received	98

In 2024 there is no asterisk judge analogous to Steiner in 2020. Judge Parisien ranks last outright, with no caveat and no qualification.