



## Your Details

Basic information about yourself

<b>Name</b>	Brandon Casey
<b>Email</b>	info@caseyforcourt.com
<b>Address</b>	421 W. Riverside Ave, Ste. 1030 Spokane, WA, 99201
<b>Phone Number</b>	(509) 252-9700
<b>I am a candidate running for...</b>	Spokane County Superior Court, Pos. 8
<b>Website Address</b>	www.caseyforcourt.com

### Please list any/all social media account URLs.

Caseyforcourt at Twitter (x); Caseyforcourt on Instagram; Caseyforcourt on Facebook

## Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

### Tell us about yourself.

**I am a lifetime resident of Spokane County. As the father of five boys, who I raised in this community and live here, the safety and health of our community is important to me. Protecting individual rights and requiring accountability are Constitutional principles required to provide justice and protect our community.**

**My father, Greg Casey, is a lawyer who served our community. His fight for justice impressed on me how important the law is for individuals, and our entire community. After receiving a BA in Economics and in Philosophy, I was headed to law school. Instead of selling my 5 acres and moving my family to Moscow, ID, I accepted an offer do the WSBA Rule 6 program with my dad. It is a 4-year curriculum prescribed by the WSBA and the mentor acts as a teacher. It requires monthly testing, full-time work and study, and passing the Bar exam.**

**Today, I am the owner of Casey Law Offices. Our office represents and protects individuals and small business owners and their rights. We practice "personal injury" which focuses on accountability for unlawful injury to a persons, rights, body, property, or business. I have fought the government against taking of people's private property, because**

**property rights are important. I have fought against sex-offenders, preying on patients and children. I have chosen to advocated for individuals because at the end of the day, this is how our society becomes better, by taking care of people at the individual level. My law practice is a vocation not a job. It is how I serve my community. For me law is my calling.**

**My other calling is as a father. I have five boys. Four Eagles Scouts and graduates, and a sophomore in high school. I am very proud of them. The are hard workers and stand for what is right. For example, my oldest is working full-time, while trying to build a business. My second oldest, Nathan, is in the Army Reserves (8-years now). He is a 2nd Amendment advocate, and was a plaintiff in a case against Washington's restrictions on 18-year-olds owning firearms even though he was trained to use them while in the Army. Recently he was sworn in as a police officer in Post Falls, Idaho.**

**I think it is harder for parents to raise children in our community. I remember Spokane when I road bikes with my friends without fear. Now, parents worry about agendas that ignore accountability and put our community and children at risk. Our justice system should be working for all of us, providing accountability and upholding our rights. Rights and accountability are two sides of the coin.**

**My passion for justice, and my experience, in our community is why I am running for judge. Whether that experience is what our community used to be like and seeing how it is now, or if it is as an advocate, or as a father, it all points to we need good judges on our superior court bench.**

**List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.**

In my 19 years of practice, I have tried over 20 jury trials (not including bench trials or arbitrations) and handled hundreds of cases involving various aspects of our court system (probates, protection orders, etc.). As a general jurisdiction trial court, the Spokane superior court is where most civil litigation jury trials occur. Being a trial lawyer means that you must be familiar with the, procedures, rules, and law. As a trial attorney my role was not limited to advocacy. Often, I am guiding the judge and jury through the process with correct law and procedure, because it protects my clients. Improper procedure or application of the law creates violations of due process and leads to appeals. I have had several judges tell me that I am trying their first jury trial, or civil jury trial. I have also served as a court appointed arbitrator since 2010. The other thing my experience has taught me is how important it is to have a hard-working judge. There is truth to the statement that justice delayed is justice denied. Our courts have been backed up for years, and this has delayed a lot of justice. While we recently obtained a new 13th judge position, we still have an up to 90-day delays on decisions, or not being able to get simple hearings for 2-3 months, sometimes longer. I think a calling is more than a 9-5 job. I have experienced a handful of judges willing to show up early or work late hours. I have done this as a trial attorney and respect a judge who is willing to do the same. I will do this as a trial judge to get justice rolling for our citizens.

My legal career has also included appellate work. I am acutely aware of how a trial judge's error can create further delays in justice and harm to the parties. These errors can add years of delay, and a lot more work for our system. Just because an error can be fixed on appeal does not mean it did not hurt people. Trial judges matter to the people in front of them.

I also have experience as a court appointed arbitrator since 2010. This is where an attorney serves as a private judge for the parties and decides the case. An arbitrator must rule on the law and facts. In this role I have practiced recognizing potential biases, and I have learned how to set aside my advocacy role and decide the issues in a fair, impartial, and just manner.

I have served as a volunteer for the Union Gospel Mission's legal clinic. In this role I helped individuals who were about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the 2-year recovery program or vulnerable families needing protection. This role gave me a chance to experience how important it is for everyone to have equal access to our courts, regardless of their financial resources. I have seen firsthand how providing access to justice can change lives.

### **Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.**

Our Constitution sets out the duty of every government official is to "protect and maintain individual rights." Wash. Const. art. I §1. Courts must serve the people "without unnecessary delay" Wash. Const. art. I §10. Our Constitution makes the superior court the front line for every individual's rights; making a superior court judge critical in protecting and maintaining those individual's rights. Wash. Const. art. IV §6. Everyone who comes in front of the superior court is there about their rights. This could be an accused criminal who may lose their liberty, or the injured victim needing justice. This may be parents who want to direct the education of their children. A small business may need to enforce its rights, so that its employees have jobs; or people who have lost health or property needing restitution to be restored. There are a variety of rights and their first place of being addressed is generally in our superior courts. The duty of a superior court judge is to provide speedy and open justice according to the laws of Washington and the United States. This is done for everyone equally regardless of their status outside the courtroom. I will perform this duty through:

1. Hard work. Decision making is difficult work. It means knowing the law, knowing procedure, and knowing the advocates in front of you. It also involves putting in the hours to make yourself available. I am aware that this job is difficult and it is not foreign to me. I anticipate some days requiring 14 hours or more. Working hard and long days is a small tribute to those who have truly sacrificed to protect the Constitution and our rights. I have done this in practice and intend to do this as a judge.
2. Experience. As laid out earlier, my years as a trial lawyer have given me experience in our courts. As a private practice lawyer for over 19 years, I have been forced find ways to cut through unnecessary delays and find ways to deal with the inefficiencies. I have seen how it hurts people that I care about. I will use my experience to eliminate inefficiencies and delays and better serve our citizens.
3. Empathy. Judges have a job to do in making hard decisions, and that means often doing the correct thing even during a painful story. The judge should be understanding and respectful of every person in their courtroom, which means understanding their stories. I have taken hundreds of people through the litigation process, and I am aware of the hardship it places on people. I will not forget this as a judge. Every person deserves respect, and security that they will be heard and that their case will be considered fairly.

### **What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?**

Justice, that is administered openly and without unnecessary delay, is the standard of our courts as laid out by the Washington Constitution. Wash. Const. art. I §10. There is no question that this is the ultimate success. The performance indicators may be harder to define because part of our system requires making sure that everyone get a full hearing of the evidence. However, our Courts have already established parameters to evaluate the success of the Spokane County superior courts. For example, our 90% of the civil cases are supposed to be resolved or tried in 12 months, which is not unreasonable. And 90% of all domestic relations cases are supposed to resolved or tried with in 10 months.

However, if it takes 3 months or more to have a hearing the case is going to get delayed. If you add three months until a judge decides, then there will be additional delays. The question of whether the cases were done without undue delay can be measured by how quickly I make decisions on the matters in front of me. How long a case takes is often up to the parties and their attorneys. However, the judge can facilitate this by giving a chance for them to have hearings and making quick but legally correct decisions. Our legislature has given 90 days for a judge to decide a ruling, but this should be reserved for exceptional situations. My courtroom will not be one operating at the very edge of acceptable standards of efficiency, it will be the model of timeliness and quality driven decisions.

Voters should judge my performance by the quality of the decisions I make and the timeliness of the matters that proceed through my courtroom.

## **What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?**

I have mainly been involved in supporting the Union Gospel Mission as one of six attorneys that participated in the UGM legal clinic from 2005 until 2018. Since 2004 I have been a Washington State Association for Justice, Eagle member and have focused my work here in Spokane through heading up roundtables and attempting to advocate for laws that will assist and improve Court efficiency. I have also participated with in Boy Scout Troop 313, with my sons with food drives, trail repair projects and participated in Eagle Scout panels.

## **Your Political Beliefs**

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

### **Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?**

There is no doubt that our rights are unalienable rights come from the Creator, as pronounced in the Declaration of Independence. Likewise, our Washington Constitution was created in "grateful[ness] to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for our liberties." Our rights pre-exist the government, and the government is in place to protect and maintain these rights.

The government cannot infringe or suspend our rights. However, there are times where protection of our rights requires a choice between one person's rights and another person's rights. Examples of this is if criminals use their liberty and rights to hurt someone else. Then using the judicial process (including trial by jury) we can suspend that criminal's right to liberty to protect the rights of others.

There are times that risk to the whole community requires a restriction of certain individual rights. Our federal Constitution recognizes this by allowing writs of habeas corpus to be suspended in times of rebellion or invasion. U.S. Const. art. 9 §9. During these times our judges should take an active role in protecting the individual and weighing the ability of the government to protect the general community. It has been acknowledged "we must learn from our history—a history which shows that in times of distress, courts all too often defer to the executive branch and sacrifice precious liberties, especially for our most vulnerable." *Colvin v. Inslee*, 195 Wn.2d 879, 903, 467 P.3d 953, 966 (2020), J. Gonzales dissent.

Our legal traditions have set out tests to protect individual rights from government overreach. Every judge should follow these since the Washington Constitution, which creates the government, states government's first role is to protect and maintain individual rights.

### **Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.**

Originalist if I must boil it down to one word. However, my judicial philosophy should be laid out a little better than with one word. Our constitutions (both state and federal) were adopted by "We the People." They have processes for their amendment by "We the People." If they have not been amended by the people, then they should not be changed by a judge. Constitutional interpretation should be based on the text, history, and caselaw of constitutional provisions.

### **What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that "purpose?"**

It is to protect and maintain individual rights. Wash. Const. art. I §1. It is also to secure the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for us and our children. I will work hard and use my experience, as described above, to administer justice openly and without undue delay. That is the only way for a judge to deliver on the purpose of protecting and maintaining individual rights.

### **When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?**

The United States Supreme Court has declared an unborn human being to be a "potential life." *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org.*, 597 U.S. 215, 257, 142 S. Ct. 2228, 2258, 213 L. Ed. 2d 545 (2022). In doing this, the Court gave the States the ability to balance the rights between potential life and a woman's health choices of abortion. In Washington, the legislature or people are to decide this balance.

As a superior court judge I will have sworn to uphold the laws of the United States and Washington. In doing so I will follow the legislature, or the initiatives passed by the people, even if that parts with my personal views. This is because, as a judge, I am not elected to make my personal beliefs binding on

people. I am elected to follow the law whether I agree with it or not. The government has a duty to protect life at all levels. While we often focus on the unborn human being, we often forget about the elderly or disabled. Our government has a special role in protecting the most vulnerable. I think it is self-evident in our Constitution and laws that protecting life, is a high priority in Washington. To the extent the law provides the ability to protect life, I will always protect it.

**Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?**

No convictions, bankruptcy, or unresolved tax liens.

Judges always face potential conflicts of interest. The rules require that in each case the judge not only look at actual conflicts, but potential conflicts that could compromise the appearance of fairness. I will always be looking at these in each case and recuse myself if they arise. In addition, our system provides that the parties to a matter, each have an opportunity to exclude a judge from the matter. This provides another layer of protection for individuals from bias, and to avoid a judge who is ineffective or inefficient.

**Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.**

This question is not as applicable for a judge as for other elected offices. I will be ruling on justice and the law. Washington Constitution. Wash. Const. art. IV §25 does allow judges to report each year to the Supreme Court any omissions or defects that based upon their experience, need to be addressed. This is an important function that I believe more superior court judges should participate in doing. Which I will do.

I do think our superior court judges should make themselves more available to those seeking justice by not just working a 9-5 day. I would make myself available for hearings off hours to make sure we can move justice without delay. It relies on the parties to present admissible evidence, briefs on the legal issues involved, and ultimately the jury instructions that will be argued to the jury. While the judge plays an important role of umpire, the judge relies on the attorneys to present the her or him with the necessary law. This is especially important in civil cases, which are mostly tried in Spokane superior courts. As an experienced trial lawyer, I bring to the bench not only knowledge of the law, but knowledge of trial procedures, and the ability to facilitate timely work from the parties and their attorneys.

**Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.**

Thank you for the chance to share with you.

**Upload your photo for promotional use here.**



**Please rate this process.**

