

**The original documents are located in Box 21, folder “Judicial Appointments - Washington” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Judge's slip*

January 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE HONORABLE HAROLD R. TYLER  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attached is a copy of a letter which I received from Robert Cooper, U. S. Magistrate in the Western District of Washington.

Although the writer and I were in Law School together, I did not know him well enough to form an impression of his abilities.

I have written to Mr. Cooper to acknowledge his letter and to indicate that I was passing on to you a copy of his letter and to suggest that he make his interest known to his U. S. Senators.

*P.W.B.*

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Attachment

cc: Mr. Douglas Bennett



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 23, 1976

Dear Bob:

It was a pleasure to get your letter and to be reminded of our days together at the University of Michigan Law School and to receive your comments on how our old Professors Aigler and Grismore might feel about my present assignment.

On the matter of the vacancy created by Judge Goodwin's death, I presume you are aware that the U. S. Senators from the State of Washington will become very much involved in the ultimate selection of a new judge. Also, in the Executive branch, the evaluation of various possible nominees takes place initially in the Department of Justice which in turn works with the American Bar Association.

For that reason, I will send a copy of your letter to Deputy Attorney General Tyler so that he will know of your interest. However, on your part, I believe you should make contact with your Senators.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,



Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Robert E. Cooper  
United States Magistrate  
United States District Court  
Western District of Washington  
408 Federal Building  
Tacoma, Washington 98402



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

January 12, 1976

ROBERT E. COOPER  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE

408 FEDERAL BUILDING  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402  
(206) 593-6307

Mr. Philip Buchen  
White House Counsel  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Phil:

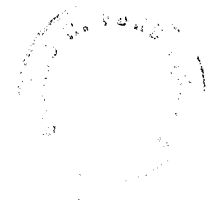
A vacancy in the federal judiciary in the Western District of Washington has arisen due to the recent death on December 31, 1975 of Judge William N. Goodwin of Tacoma, Washington. I am applying for an appointment to this vacant position and hope that I can prevail upon you to have my name reviewed along with others who may be brought to the attention of the President for such consideration.

To explain my identity, it is necessary to go back to law school days when we were classmates. Although this connection is at best a tenuous relationship on which to make this request, I do so with some justification as there appears to be an absence of any settled method by which one's name is brought to the attention of the appointing authority without the intervention of the Governor of the State.

After reading yesterday (1/8/76) in the local press of his suggestion that his administrative aide would be a good choice for the appointment, I decided it would be fruitless to expect a recommendation from this source.

My acquaintance with the President is probably even more remote than with you, although as a freshman football player, we probably scrimmaged at Ferry Field when he was the team captain. My subsequent football career at Michigan is probably best forgotten and I only mention it with the hope that there might be some spark of recognition.

Whether or not my credentials are worthy of an appointment to this important position must rest on my record as a practicing lawyer and service as a United States Magistrate for the past



Mr. Philip Buchen  
January 12, 1976  
Page 2

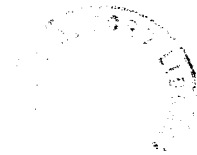
five years working under the direction of the late Judge Goodwin and Judge George H. Boldt, currently a senior Judge in Tacoma. I feel confident Judge Boldt would approve of my qualifications, if asked, although I believe it would be inappropriate for me to solicit a recommendation from a Judge currently sitting within the District.

My name has been submitted for approval to the local County Bar Association on various occasions for appointment to the Bench and I have always been among the top two or three on the list after a County wide poll of the members of the Bar. After moving to the Tacoma area in 1946, I have been actively engaged in the general practice of law and was selected as President of the County Bar Association in 1962-63. My selection as U. S. Magistrate in 1970 by the judges of the Western District of Washington precluded my further practice of law.

My particular qualification for this position is my close acquaintance with the handling of federal criminal cases which occupies well over half the case load insofar as time spent by the Judge is concerned. As the first full time U. S. Magistrate in the State of Washington, I have handled preliminary hearings and trials for several thousand cases during my tenure. Because of the close proximity of large military installations near Tacoma I have had one of the largest dockets of minor cases under federal jurisdiction in the country. At any rate with this experience I have developed a certain expertise in hearing criminal matters. In addition to the criminal case load, I have been called upon to serve as special master in many civil matters and have developed a familiarity with such litigation.

Prior to service as a U. S. Magistrate, I had been employed on a part time basis as U. S. Court Commissioner continuously since 1956. At the specific request of the Court I was asked not to engage in partisan politics since I was considered part of the judicial branch of the Government. This might explain my seeming lack of any political base from which to request a local political recommendation.

In my earlier residence in Tacoma, I did, however, take an active part in Republican politics having served on the County Central Committee as well as President of the Young Republicans for Pierce County Washington.



Mr. Philip Buchen  
January 12, 1976  
Page 3

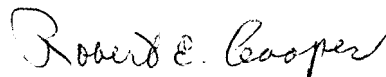
Enclosed is a brief resume of my background including my career as a lawyer and judicial officer in the event it is felt that consideration can be given to my application for this position.

Whether or not I am considered for the appointment, it is hoped that the person selected be from Pierce County or another southwestern county of the State as this is the area primarily served by the Judge sitting in Tacoma. To date nearly all the names suggested by the Governor or mentioned in the press have been from the Seattle area where the other judges within the District preside. Hopefully, we can have someone appointed from among our own bench or bar within Pierce County with whose qualifications are acquainted.

It is pleasant to hear your name mentioned as White House Counsel and to see your face occasionally on the TV screen in connection with your duties. I have often thought how pleased Aigler or Grismore would be in being able to claim you as one of their students.

With best wishes, and I hope I have not imposed too much on your time or violated some sacred procedure in making this direct approach.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT E. COOPER

REC:FI  
Enc.



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: ROBERT E. COOPER  
ADDRESS: 10808 Colvos Drive N. W.  
Gig Harbor, Wash. 98335

OCCUPATION: UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE  
ADDRESS: 408 Federal Building  
Tacoma, Wash 98402  
PHONE: (206) 593 6307

DATE OF BIRTH: August 10, 1916 - Detroit, Michigan

EDUCATION: Elementary and High School, Detroit, Michigan  
University of Michigan - 1934-38 B.A. Degree  
Law School, University of Michigan - 1938-41 L.L.B. Degree

MILITARY EXPERIENCE:

U. S. ARMY - Nov., 1941 - Nov., 1945. Entered as a Private in Medical Corps. Attended Officers Candidate School and commissioned in Australia in 1943. Infantry Platoon Leader 41st Division in New Guinea. Later assigned as Chief of Criminal Investigation in New Guinea and Phillipines in Provost Marshal Division with rank of Captain.

EMPLOYMENT: Office of Price Administration, Detroit, Michigan 1945-46

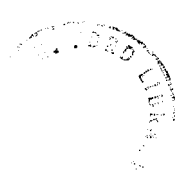
1946-1970 - Private practice of law in Tacoma, Wash., also serving as U. S. Court Commissioner from 1956- 1970

1971-1976 - U. S. Magistrate, Western District of Wash.

CHURCH and COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Ordained Elder, Presbyterian Church

Board Member YMCA, Kiwanis, Franke Tobey Jones Retirement Home.



January 31, 1976

*Holman,  
Nancy  
Ann*

Dear Dr. Chambers:

Many thanks for your letter to the President of January 26 in which you recommend Judge Nancy Ann Holman for appointment to the United States District Court in Washington.

I immediately referred your letter to the Department of Justice where recommendations for appointment to the Federal bench are initially considered.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen  
Counsel to the President

Dr. Marjorie Bell Chambers  
President  
American Association of  
University Women  
2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

PWB;ll





Friday, February 13, 1976

*Fed'l  
Judgeships*

The attached is from the Chief Justice. His note of a few days ago indicated he had given you the wrong judge as being deceased.



**GOODWIN, WILLIAM NELSON**

United States District Judge  
Eastern and Western Districts  
of Washington

**Office address:**

Post Office Box 1573  
Tacoma, Washington 98401

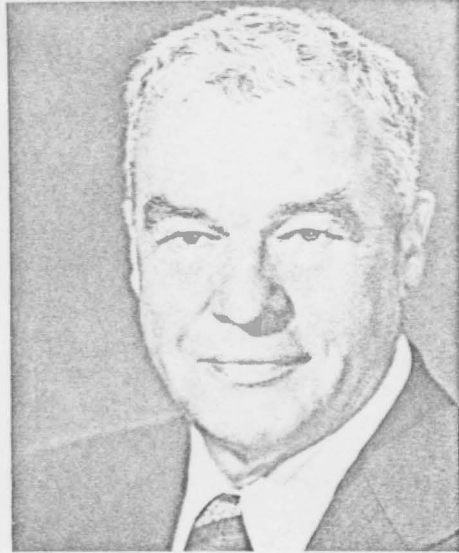
Phone: (206) MA 7-5411  
383-5275 FTS

**Born:** McKenna, Washington  
August 17, 1909

**Home address:**

13508 Spanaway Loop Road S.  
Tacoma, Washington 98444

Phone: (206) LE 7-7821



Judge Goodwin was appointed United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Washington on April 21, 1966 and entered on duty April 27, 1966. He served as Chief Judge of the Eastern District from April 19, 1972 through November 17, 1973 and is presently Chief Judge of the Western District since June 1, 1973. He received a B.A. degree from Washington State University in 1931 and an LL.B. degree from the University of Oregon in 1937. He served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington from 1964 to 1966.

Judge Goodwin is married to the former Beverly D. Bird and has five children: Carol J. Goodwin Lusk, William N. Jr., Mary Ellen Goodwin Anderson, Kathleen D. Goodwin Kuciamba, and Colleen. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

*Deceased 12/31/75*

*The Chief Justice*  
~~William Nelson Goodwin~~  
*Mark W. Cannon*

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 9 38 AM '76  
CHAMBERS OF THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE

