

Judge Whitney Rivera was appointed as the Edmonds Municipal Court Judge in November, 2020.

Judge Rivera grew up in Edmonds and graduated from Edmonds Woodway High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in political science and literature from the University of Washington. She earned her Juris Doctor from Boston College Law School, where she worked as a student attorney at the Boston College Defenders representing clients charged with criminal offenses in Dorchester District Court.

After law school, Judge Rivera worked as a law clerk to The Honorable Judge Anita L. Farris in the Snohomish County Superior Court and then began working as a trial attorney at the Snohomish County Public Defender Association. She later transitioned to working as an appellate public defender at the Washington Appellate Project and has argued cases before the Court of Appeals and the Washington Supreme Court.

Judge Rivera later returned to the Snohomish County Public Defender Association and trial work. She served as the supervisor of the misdemeanor unit, where she trained and supervised trial attorneys practicing in courts of limited jurisdiction. She has presented at statewide training programs on social media evidence and objections at trial. She received the President's Award and two Certificates of Recognition from the Washington Defender Association. As a practicing lawyer, Judge Rivera tried cases in the courts of Snohomish County for 13 years before her appointment to the bench.

Judge Rivera is an avid runner and lives in Edmonds with her long-time partner, Snohomish County Superior Court Judge Paul Thompson, and their three rescue dogs.