

<b>Respondent Name</b>
Sharon Raye Brown
<b>Complainant Name</b>
Roger Erich Lenk
<b>Complaint Description</b>
<p><u><a href="#">Roger Erich Lenk</a></u> reported via the portal (<i>Wed, 21 Oct 2020 at 7:42 PM</i>)</p> <p>See attached narrative and website pages.</p> <p>PDC Complaint - Sharon Brown.pdf 1.74 MB</p>
<b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>
Using Public resources to advance a campaign. See Attached
<b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>
See attached narrative and website pages.
<b>List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them</b>
Sharon Raye Brown, WSBA No. 31180.
<b>Certification (Complainant)</b>
I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

# **COMPLAINT TO THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

## **SHARON RAYE BROWN**

### **Candidate for Benton-Franklin Superior Court Judge Position 1**

**October 21, 2020**

**Page 1 of 3**

### **RESPONDENT**

Sharon Raye Brown, WSBA No. 31180, is a partisan Republican Senator representing the 8th Legislative District. Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, is an elected public official. Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, utilizes an address of 3706 W 42nd Avenue Kennewick, Washington 99337; has an email address of [sharonrayebrown@gmail.com](mailto:sharonrayebrown@gmail.com); has a telephone number of (509) 845-1390 and a text/email number of [5098451390@vzwpix.com](tel:5098451390).

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, filed for Benton-Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge on May 15, 2020. On May 21, 2020, Respondent Brown created a campaign website (see **EXHIBIT 1**).

Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180 prevailed in the August 4, 2020 Primary Election and is on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

Included on that campaign website is a photograph of a uniformed public employee firefighter beside his publicly purchased fire truck at a campaign function (see **EXHIBIT 2, page 1**) and is listed as an endorser. Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180 dons publicly purchased firefighter gear for the photograph.

In addition a photograph of two (2) fully uniformed public employee Police Officers at a campaign function (see **EXHIBIT 3, page 3**) who have endorsed Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180 are also included on the campaign website.

Metadata from the photographs appears to indicate that the photos were taken by public employees using public equipment.

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SHARON RAYE BROWN

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## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

**RCW 42.17 A.555 states, in part:** "No elective official nor any employee of his or her office nor any person appointed to or employed by any public office or agency may use or authorize the use of any of the facilities of a public office or agency, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition. Facilities of a public office or agency include, but are not limited to, use of stationery, postage, machines, and equipment, use of employees of the office or agency during working hours, vehicles, office space, publications of the office or agency, and clientele lists of persons served by the office or agency. However, this does not apply to the following activities: ... (3) Activities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency."

**WAC 390-05-273** defines the "normal and regular conduct" of a public office or agency as "conduct which is (1) lawful, i.e., specifically authorized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in an appropriate enactment, and (2) usual, i.e., not effected or authorized in or by some extraordinary means or manner."

**PDC Interpretation 04-02** includes a section for Uniforms and Related Equipment and discusses Permitted, Not Permitted, and General Considerations that includes the following under the Not Permitted column:

- Agency employees shall not use or wear their agency issued, agency-purchased, agency owned or agency replaced uniforms to assist a campaign or to support or oppose a ballot proposition. (Note- this prohibition applies to use of any part of such a uniform including the shirt, pants, shoes, hat, etc.).
- This same prohibition also applies to related equipment including but not limited to: firearms; badges; name tags; holsters; handcuffs; jackets; belts; vests; shoes; agency patches, logos, insignias, emblems; and radios.
- Prohibited uses include but are not limited to using or wearing those uniforms at campaign functions. Exceptions exist for officials to attend campaign functions in uniform and may be made on a case-by case basis under exigent circumstances.

# **COMPLAINT TO THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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## **VIOLATION AND CONCLUSION**

Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, is in violation of RCW 42.17A.555, WAC 390-05-273 and PDC Interpretation 04-02. Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, used public photographs, taken with public equipment at a campaign function. The photographs were of public employees; on public paid time; wearing public paid uniforms, name tags, badges, firearms, handcuffs, belts, shoes, agency patches, logos, emblems and radios; and a publicly purchased fire truck. These photographs were used by Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, in her campaign website. Respondent Brown, WSBA No. 31180, used public resources for the sole purpose of assisting her campaign for election to Benton-Franklin Counties Superior Court Judge, Position 1.

## Domain Name Registration Data Lookup

Enter a domain name

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) \(/faq\)](#)

sharonbrownforjudge.com

Lookup

By submitting any personal data, I acknowledge and agree that the personal data submitted by me will be processed in accordance with the ICANN [Privacy Policy \(https://www.icann.org/privacy/policy\)](https://www.icann.org/privacy/policy), and agree to abide by the website [Terms of Service \(https://www.icann.org/privacy/tos\)](https://www.icann.org/privacy/tos) and the [Domain Name Registration Data Lookup Terms of Use](#).

### Domain Information

**Name:** SHARONBROWNFORJUDGE.COM

**Registry Domain ID:** 2528599502\_DOMAIN\_COM-VRSN

**Domain Status:**

[clientTransferProhibited \(https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited\)](https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited)

**Nameservers:**

NS1.BLUEHOST.COM

NS2.BLUEHOST.COM

### Dates

**Registry Expiration:** 2022-05-21 02:58:00 UTC

**Created:** 2020-05-21 02:58:00 UTC

### Registrar Information

**Name:** FastDomain Inc.

**IANA ID:** 1154

### DNSSEC Information

**Delegation Signed:** Unsigned

### Authoritative Servers

**Registry Server URL:** <https://rdap.verisign.com/com/v1/domain/sharonbrownforjudge.com> (<https://rdap.verisign.com/com/v1/domain/sharonbrownforjudge.com>)

**Last updated from Registry RDAP DB:** 2020-10-21 02:41:28 UTC

**Registrar Server URL:** <https://rdap.fastdomain.com/domain/domain/SHARONBROWNFORJUDGE.COM> (<https://rdap.fastdomain.com/domain/domain/SHARONBROWNFORJUDGE.COM>)



Youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/icannnews>)



Twitter (<https://www.twitter.com/icann>)



Linkedin (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/icann>)



Flickr (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/icann>)



Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/icannorg>)



Newletters (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/global-newsletter-2018>)



Community Wiki (<https://community.icann.org/>)



# EXHIBIT 1

**Who We Are**

**Contact Us**

**Accountability &  
Transparency**

**Governance**

**Help**

**Data Protection**

© Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. Privacy Policy (<https://www.icann.org/privacy/policy>) Terms of Service (<https://www.icann.org/privacy/tos>) Cookies Policy (<https://www.icann.org/privacy/cookies>)

## Endorsements



**"Sharon Brown understands the law, works tirelessly, and is committed to treating every Washingtonian with fairness, dignity and respect.**

She has everything you would want in a judge: **intelligence, compassion, honesty and an unshakeable respect for the rule of law.** In the Legislature, she has been a passionate voice for victims and one of the Senate's hardest-working advocates for human trafficking awareness.

Sharon Brown is **by far the best choice to be the next Benton-Franklin Superior Court judge**; she has my full support and I am committed to helping her win."

*– Former AG **Rob McKenna***



**“Senator Brown is a tireless advocate for our community in many ways.** Her door is always open to listen to questions and concerns of community members and she is a powerful champion in seeking solutions to our challenges. I have had the opportunity to work with Senator Brown in the effort to **stop the sex trafficking of children** in our community. She is a frequent lecturer on **anti-human trafficking** and has participated in numerous local awareness events aimed at **educating the public** on this terrible crime. In the legislature, she is **actively engaged in strengthening our state laws against trafficking.**

Several years ago, she convened a group of community members who are leaders in the fight against child sex trafficking so that she could learn about the key issues and challenges. She then worked through the legislature **to obtain \$200,000 to assist law enforcement officers, medical professionals, first-responders, courts, educators,** and others in Benton County identify and fight human trafficking. She also works to **promote awareness of Domestic Violence** and is leading an effort to establish a **state-wide Suicide prevention** Tip Line. Sharon’s understanding of the laws that affect these **vulnerable populations** will be an asset on the Benton Franklin Superior Court.”

– Lura J. Powell, Ph.D.

**“Sharon is an excellent lawyer** who was able to help me understand complicated legal issues in my contract negotiations. Her fine attention to detail and patience is greatly appreciated. She will make an outstanding Superior Court judge.”

– Tien Wee M.D.

**“I am pleased to support Sharon Brown for judge.** She has the experience, ethics and dedication to serve honorably as a Benton Franklin Court Superior Judge.”

– Jody Easterday – Pasco



I have worked with Sharon over the past few years to establish laws pertaining to blockchain/distributed ledger technology. We were also both asked to be guest lecturers at UW to lead conversations at a Masters level class on technology and the laws in WA.

Sharon’s expertise in understanding very complicated issues will be an asset as a Benton Franklin Superior Court Judge.

– Arry Yu

There are currently only two women judges on the Benton Franklin Superior Court. I believe women judges bring real life experiences that tend toward a more comprehensive and empathetic perspective.

– Kathy Balcom, Pasco

Having spent most of my adult life close to the Benton-Franklin County legal system and with my involvement with the Drug Court program, I am convinced that Sharon Brown has the qualifications our Judiciary needs.

– Anne Rettig, Richland

Sharon Brown has Extensive Legal Knowledge and Courtroom Experience that will make her an outstanding Superior Court Judge.

– Kris Watkins, Richland



## **KENDRA'S LAW** *SSB 6429, better known as Kendra's Law thanks to Senator Sharon Brown:*

I am Kendra's Mom, Legal Guardian and Best Advocate. I shared with Senator Brown a scenario of fear, fear for my adult child with developmental disabilities if we were in a car accident and I was not able to talk to or for my daughter. If on her Washington state ID there was a DD designation, first responders would understand that they would need to treat this person differently. You see my daughter does not verbalize her needs and fears very well. She may seem resistant to most, when in fact she is scared and does not know how to tell you about her needs. This is an optional designation but one that I and many other families will find helpful, also included in this law are medical conditions and deaf and hard of hearing.

I am thankful for Senator Brown and her ability to listen, have compassion and care about all in her district that she serves. I trust Senator Brown and believe she will be an excellent judge!

*– Sharon Adolphsen*



I have known Sharon Brown in my capacity as an attorney practicing in the Tri-Cities and as Chair of the Washington State Commission of Hispanic Affairs since 2001. As an attorney and advocate for her clients, Sharon exhibited the highest levels of integrity and compassion for those she represented. Sharon has the highest respect for the rule of law while always focusing on being the best legal advocate for her clients. She is not only exceptionally talented she also has deep compassion for those she represents. Justice, fairness, and ethics are the three words I would use to describe her.

As a Washington State Senator, Sharon always voted her conscious after deeply researching bills and their related issues. Sharon has earned a reputation for being fair, honest, and having exceptional work ethic. As a Commissioner, we did not always agree on policy, but I always knew that Sharon diligently did her homework, worked hard to understand the issues, and insured her constituents always felt they were heard. These are all qualities that are critical in our elected officials, but most critically in our judicial officers. Communities need judges that are not only highly ethical and have respect for the rule of law, but don't leave their compassion and humanity at the door.

Sharon Brown is that candidate!!

Having practiced before dozens of judges in my career, I cannot imagine a better candidate to be elected as a Benton-Franklin County Superior Court Judge.

*– Gloria Ochoa-Bruck Attorney, Former WA State Commissioner on Hispanic Affairs*



**Integrity. Intelligence. Qualified. Trustworthy. Judicious.** We are confident that Judge Sharon Brown will be fair and sensitive to all who come before her. She is uniquely qualified to determine the facts of each case and appropriately apply the rule of law.

– Lee & Nancy Kerr

**Would you like to submit  
an endorsement for  
Sharon Brown?**

Contribute your message of  
support here!

Your Name (required)

Your Thoughts:

Send

## Accomplishments

### 💡 Changing laws to help those with Developmental Disabilities

#### **SB 6429 Kendra's Law**

Permits Washingtonians to add new designations on drivers license and indenticards People with DD, Medical conditions, member of deaf and hard of hearing community can voluntarily add this info to their documents. Will improve safety and communications.

**Access to health care/TeleMedicine** cosponsored legislation to mandate access to healthcare via telemedicine.

💡 Efforts to combat Human Trafficking
💡 Mental Health 2019-2020
💡 DNR Leases
💡 Remote Testimony
💡 Streamlining business licenses
💡 Meals on Wheels
💡 Manufacturing Tax Deferral
💡 Streamline Charity Wine Permits
💡 Jason's Law
💡 Cybersecurity
💡 Residential Recovery Act
💡 Transparency in Permitting 2014
💡 Disabled Vet Sales Tax Exemption
💡 Criminal Law: Smart on Crime
💡 Worked on / not sponsored

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CONTACT INFO

Phone: 509-438-9545

> Endorsements

> Accomplishments

**EXHIBIT 2**

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## Sharon Brown for Benton-Franklin Superior Court Judge, Position 1



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**Thank you for your  
interest in Sharon Brown!**

If you have a question, concern, or  
would simply like to get in touch, use  
this form to contact us.



Your Name (required)

Your Email (required)

Your Message

Send

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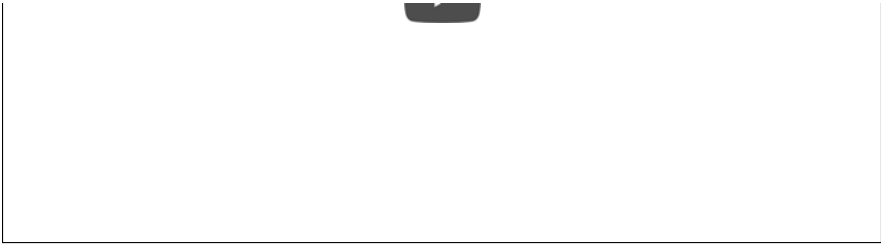
**LEARN MORE:** Watch the Campaign Video

Sharon Brown for Judge | 2020



**EXHIBIT 3**





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