

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2016

Judicial Candidate Questionnaire: Judge Version

1) Your full name:

DANIEL JAMES HILL

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

Umatilla County Circuit Court

915 SE Columbia Drive

Hermiston, Oregon 97838

541-667-3020.

3) Web site (if applicable):

NONE

4) List high school, college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, degrees awarded and your reasons for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.

Masters in Strategic Studies (MSS), 2014, US Army War College (Distance Education), Carlisle Barracks, PA (2012-2014)

US Army Command & General Staff College (Diploma)(Distance Education), 1997, (1995-1997)

Juris Doctorate (JD), 1986, Willamette University College of Law, Salem, Oregon (1983-1986)

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Business Administration, 1983, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, (1981-1983)

Associates of Arts (AA) in Liberal Arts, 1981, Blue Mountain Community College, Pendleton, Oregon, (1979-1981)

Hermiston High School (Diploma), 1979, Hermiston, Oregon (1976-1979).

5) List employment since graduation from law school, including dates employed, your position and the nature of the practice or activity.

Circuit Court Judge, 6th Judicial District (2005-Present);

Circuit Court Judge, PRO-TEM, 4/2000-4/2003 & 10/2004-12/2004;

Daniel J. Hill, Attorney at Law, PC, Private Practice of Law (1991-2004);

Hermiston City Prosecutor 8/1998 – 4/2000;

Hermiston Municipal Judge, 1991-1996 (elected 1990, 1992, 1994);

George L. Anderson, PC, Attorneys at Law, Hermiston, Oregon, 1990-1991;

US Army Judge Advocate, 1987 to present (Active Duty US Army, 1987-1990, Oregon Army National Guard, reserve officer, 1991 to present);

Oregon Legislature, Representative Charles Norris, Legislative Aide, 1987.

6a) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission.

Oregon State Bar, 1986

Army Court of Military Review, 1987

US Court of Appeals, Armed Forces, 1987

Federal District Court for Oregon, 1990

6b) List any previous admissions, including dates, and the reason why you are no longer admitted.

None

7) List publications and/or articles you have authored.

Co-authored:

Mentoring Afghan National Army Judge Advocates: An Operational Law Mission in Afghanistan and Beyond; US Army Lawyer, March 2007.

8) List community, teaching (Continuing Legal Education or otherwise) or civic activities.

Current:

Rotary Club of Hermiston, Oregon, 2009 – to present.

Formerly:

Oregon Military Council, member, May 1, 2003 to April 30, 2007 (Governor's Advisory Council).

West Umatilla County Facilities Committee, Chair 1999-2000.

Blue Mountain Community College, Board of Directors, Director, July 1999-April 2000.

BMCC Foundation Liaison July 1999-April 2000.

Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation, Director - April 1995 to June 1999; President, 1995-96.

Umatilla County Planning Commission, Chairperson, November 1993 to 1995; Commissioner, October 1992 to November 1993.

United Way of Umatilla County, Director, April 1992 - April 1993.

Rotary Club of Pendleton, Member, January 2005 – 2009.

Rotary Club of Hermiston, Member, 1993 to April 2000, 2000 Director (Community Service); 1999 Director (Vocation); 1997-1999 Sergeant at Arms Committee.

Hermiston 2000, Member - 1994 to 1996; 1998, 2000.

9) Prior to your becoming a judge, what was the general character of your legal practice? Indicate the nature of your typical clients and mention any legal areas in which you concentrated.

General Practice with emphasis on Business Law, Estates and Estate Planning, and Domestic Relations.

10) List your judicial experience, including as a pro tem, and/or service on an administrative tribunal, or justice, municipal, tax, circuit, or appellate court.

Municipal Judge, City of Hermiston, 1990-1996;

Circuit Court Judge, Pro-tem, 2000-2003;

Circuit Court Judge, Elected, 2005 to Present.

11) Describe the general character of your judicial work over the past five years. Indicate the nature of the cases over which you preside, any specialty courts or court programs, and any legal areas in which you concentrate.

General Jurisdiction, all nature of criminal and civil cases. Includes felony and misdemeanor crimes, domestic relations, civil law suits, post-conviction relief, habeas corpus, and mandamus proceedings. Chief Judge for Post-Conviction cases and Chief Judge for administering the Morrow County Circuit Court. Also, the Presiding Judge for the 6th Judicial District and as such the administrative head of the court.

12) Describe any judicial experience in appellate courts not included above.

None

13) State the approximate number of trials or contested hearings over which you have presided as the judicial officer during each of the past five years. Indicate roughly how many were jury trials and how many were trials to the court.

There are no exact records of jury trials, bench trials or contested hearings. Typically, 3-4 criminal jury trials are heard on an average each month, 1-2 criminal bench (judge alone) trials, 2-4 civil bench trials, and numerous contested hearings in stalking complaints, restraining orders, domestic relations, criminal cases, and post-conviction, habeas corpus and mandamus proceedings.

14) Describe any experience serving as an arbitrator or mediator.

In private practice I provided services as an Arbitrator for Court Mandated Arbitration.

15) List all bar association memberships, offices held and committee assignments.

Oregon State Bar, formerly on the OSB Ethics committee.

16) Describe any bar association or judicial department committees, task forces, or special projects in which you have been involved.

OJD Oregon eCourt Steering Committee, Vice Chair; formerly member of the Judicial Department Judicial Conduct Committee

17) Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any federal, state, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance? If so, please give details. Do not include parking offenses or traffic violations for which a fine of less than \$500 was imposed.

No.

18) Have you ever been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney or judge? If so, please give the particulars and the result. *Include formal proceedings only.*

No.

19) What attracted you to a judicial career?

I have always had a commitment to public service, and the road to the Judiciary started in 1990 after my Active Duty in the Army as a Judge Advocate when the opportunity arose through the Hermiston Municipal Court.

20) Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.

A fair, impartial and independent judiciary must seek at all times to operate in a manner to insure trust in the court system as essential for the foundation of the rule of law in a democracy. The judge must consider all proceedings as important to all parties to a proceeding, and treat everyone with the respect that all deserve. The court must seek to provide fair, impartial, and legally accurate rulings, adhering to Constitutional and statutory law, all the while maintaining the timely administration of justice, within the limitations and constraints under the Oregon and US Constitution and the statutes established by the legislature and Congress.

21) Briefly describe a case, or a legal issue on which you worked, of which you are particularly proud, or which is reflective of your legal ability, work ethic, judicial philosophy, or temperament.

I regularly review and independently research matters before the court to arrive at accurate legal conclusions, which I usually outline in extensive legal opinions to set forth the legal reasoning behind the judicial decision. The most unique and case of first impression in Oregon is reflected in *State v. Watters*, 156 P.3d 145, 211 Or. App. 628 (2007)(though the case fails to reflect the trial judge who was myself) (Wallowa County, 2007).

22) Briefly describe an issue, related to Oregon's justice system, that is of particular interest or concern to you, or that you have interest in working toward improving.

All aspects of improving the justice system, usually by addressing processes and procedures that can be used locally and can be pursued at the state level to gain efficiency and adhere to statute.

23) Briefly describe a legal figure, personal, fictional or historical, whom you admire and why.

My admiration goes to two historical figures, President George Washington and President Thomas Jefferson. President Thomas Jefferson must be admired for the drafting of the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, and President George Washington, who presided over the Constitutional Convention (1787). Through his approach he maintained a watchful eye on the development of the CONSTITUTION, keeping the minds of the delegates fixed on the ideas of self-government and preservation of fundamental human rights. Both along with many others created the legal foundation for our Nation. Without General George Washington, however, we would not likely exist as a separate and independent Nation.

24) State any other information that you regard as pertinent to your candidacy.

It is my privilege to have served the residents of Umatilla and Morrow County in various capacities since 1991, most recently as Circuit Court Judge and now Presiding Judge for the 6th Judicial District.

I have sought to always maintain the highest levels of integrity, impartiality and independence required of the judiciary.

As a lifelong resident of Umatilla County, I want to thank the Citizens of Umatilla and Morrow Counties for the continued opportunity to serve.