

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Your full name:

Cheryl Anne Albrecht

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

**1021 SW Fourth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
503-988-3835**

3) Web site (if applicable):

<http://courts.oregon.gov/Multnomah>

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.

**Lewis & Clark Northwestern School of Law, Juris Doctorate (1990-1993)
Louisiana State University, B.A. in Journalism with distinction (1986-1988)
University of Southwestern Louisiana (1983-1985 left to attend LSU)
Lafayette High School, Lafayette, Louisiana H.S. Diploma (1979-1983)**

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

**Circuit Court Judge, 4th Judicial District, Department 31 (2006-present):
General jurisdiction trial court judge handling civil and criminal trials and hearings.**

Full-time Judge Pro Tem for Multnomah County (2001-present): Presided over criminal jury and court trials, landlord/tenant trials, small claims cases, stalking hearings, criminal arraignments, traffic court and other hearings.

Attorney in Private Practice (2001): Served as attorney in Aggravated Murder case; Racketeering/Securities Fraud case; and other criminal cases.

Metropolitan Public Defenders Juvenile Unit (2000-2001): Represented parents and children in family court dependency, termination of parental rights cases and delinquency hearings.

Rieke & Savage, P.C. (1993-2000): Trial attorney handling large, busy caseload of felonies, including Aggravated Murder, Measure 11, domestic violence and other cases.

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

Oregon State Bar (1993)

Federal District of Oregon (1996)

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

N/A

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

I've written numerous legal opinions as a judge, authored materials for continuing legal education presentations, and drafted jury instructions for the Oregon State Bar Uniform Criminal Jury Instructions committee. Before going to law school, I worked through college and after college as a newspaper and magazine editor and reporter and published hundreds of articles.

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

Multnomah County Circuit Court Hearings Referee Training, "Managing High Stress Courtrooms while Providing Procedural Justice," February 2018

Multnomah Bar Association, Annual Appellate Update, November 2017

Oregon Judicial Conference, Annual Appellate Update, October 2017

Multnomah Bar Association/Oregon Women Lawyers Professionalism Panel: Practicing Diversity, April 2017

Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program, "Judicial Settlement Practices – Best Practices for Judges," April 2016; Judicial Settlement Conference Standards of Excellence Task Force, 2015-2016

MBA Multnomah County Circuit Court Breakfast for Legislators and Community Leaders, participant & speaker, November 2014; November 2015; November 2016; November 2017

Oregon Supreme Court Council on Inclusion & Fairness, Community Engagement sub-committee, 2017 to present

Multnomah County Court Training Committee, Chair, 2015 to present

Oregon Chief Justice's Access to Justice for All Ad hoc Steering Committee, June 2015 to August 2016.

Lewis & Clark Adjunct Law Professor & Coach, Moot court/Mock Trial (2009-2012)

Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court, 2003-present; Pupilage Group Leader for CLE presentations, President, 2010-2012

Oregon World Affairs Council, International Visitor Leadership Program, Panelist, 2012

American Inn of Court 9th Circuit Leadership Conference , Presenter, 2011

Oregon State Bar Diversity Section Convocation on Equality, Panelist, 2011

Oregon State Bar Bar/Press Broadcasters Council – Building a Culture of Dialogue Program, 2006, 2010-2013)

Oregon State Bar Leadership College, Exploring Leadership Opportunities Panelist, 2009

Presiding Judge's Committee to Improve Jury Service, CLE Presenter, 2007-2008

Opportunities for Law In Oregon (OLIO) - CLE Presenter, 2009; Participant in Mentor Program for incoming minority law students , 2008-present

Write Around Portland, volunteer and leader of creative writing workshops for low-income and disabled community members, 2003-2006

Rock and Roll Camp for Girls Advisory Board Member, 2011-2014

Lewis & Clark Law School Public Interest Law Project Advisory Committee, 2007-2010

Multnomah Bar Association Law Week Tell it to the Judge, ongoing

Multnomah Bar Association Young Lawyer Section Professionalism Program Panelist, 2008

Oregon State Bar Ethics of Negotiations CLE Panelist, 2006

Speaker for various additional continuing legal education courses, including stalking CLE's for judges, attorneys, law enforcement and victim's advocates.

Lewis & Clark Law School Mentor Program annual participant

**Oregon Women Lawyers Armonica Grant Mentor Program, 2015-2016;
2017-2018**

(Additional Bar Association activities listed below)

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.

Prior to becoming a judge, my practice focused almost exclusively on criminal defense. I represented retained and indigent clients in all types of misdemeanors and felonies, including Aggravated Murder cases.

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.

I served from 2001-2006 as a full-time Pro Tem Judge. I was elected to the bench in 2006 and now serve as an Oregon Circuit Court Judge for the 4th Judicial District, Department 31.

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.

I preside over a wide variety of civil and criminal trials and hearings, including murder cases and complex civil matters. I currently serve as the Chief Criminal Judge for the county handling a variety of hearings and administrative matters for the courts. Specially assigned cases and dockets have included the Mental Health Court docket, all matters related to the Occupy Portland cases, the Post-Conviction Relief docket and Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Project cases.

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

N/A

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.

I have not kept individual count of the cases we hear.

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

I conduct judicial settlement conferences in criminal cases. I have no experience outside my role as judge as arbitrator or mediator.

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

Multnomah Bar Foundation, Board of Directors, 2015 to 2017. Ongoing volunteer for MBF Public Outreach Committee

OSB Uniform Civil Jury Instruction Committee, 2015 to 2017

Oregon State Bar Diversity Section Executive Committee, 2006-2014; Collaboration & Communication Sub-Committee Chair; CLE Committee Chair

Oregon State Bar Bar/Press Broadcasters Council, 2010-2012

Oregon State Bar Public Service Advisory Committee, 2006-2008

Oregon State Bar Uniform Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, 2003-2005

Multnomah Bar Association Equality Committee, 2002-2005; Chair 2003-2004)=

Multnomah Bar Association YLS Pro Bono Committee, 1997-1999

Oregon Women Lawyers Queen's Bench Board of Directors, 2003-2005

Member, Oregon Women Lawyers

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

Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program, "Judicial Settlement Practices – Best Practices for Judges," April 2016; Judicial Settlement Conference Standards of Excellence Task Force, 2015-2016

MBA Multnomah County Circuit Court Breakfast for Legislators and Community Leaders, participant & speaker, November 2014; November 2015; November 2016; November 2017

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Oregon Women Lawyers Roberts/Diez Award Selection Committee (2009-2011)

Oregon State Bar Diversity Planning Task Force (2009)

**Presiding Judge's Committee to Improve Jury Service (2005-2008)
(Committee studied and formulated report on Recommended Practices for Jury Trials)**

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 enjoy using the constellation of skills required to be a quality judge, including listening, learning, analysis, creativity, insight, and communication. It makes it all the more worthwhile knowing that I am helping people gain access to the complexities of the legal system to resolve their most significant problems. At the end of the day, I get immense satisfaction if litigants who have sought assistance of the courts feel their concerns have been fully heard and fairly considered under the law.

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.

In its most basic form, the role of a judge is to listen carefully to disputes, determine facts, apply the law, and issue a ruling. Judges also act as stewards of the justice system and ensure jury trials proceed properly and fairly. The qualities most important for these tasks are the ability to undertake them with patience, thoughtful consideration, respect, wisdom, and diligence.

Currently, budgetary constraints are the biggest challenge judges face in fulfilling their duties. Increased docket pressures, reduced staff hours, and curtailed community resources present formidable obstacles in being able to carry out not only judicial functions but judicial rulings as well. These challenges not only interfere with the day-to-day work of the court system, they have far-reaching negative impact in the ability of the community to access justice.

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.

While there are individual cases or written opinions of which I'm proud, I strive to infuse every single hearing with respect, consideration, and clear communication so that all are reflective of my ability and temperament. One case does stand out, though. A gentlemen entered court one day and sat in the back of the courtroom with an angry, defensive demeanor. As he spoke, it was clear that he was very cynical and dismissive of the process. After the hearing, I issued my findings and explained how I came to the decision. It wasn't in his favor. As he left court, he turned to look at me and said, "You know judge, you're alright." That meant more to me than anything.

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.

So many issues clamor for attention, but there are two issues to which I devote a substantial amount of time. The first is enhancing diversity in the local and state bar. Our legal system is likely to see its authority erode if we are not more reflective of the community at large. For the past several years, I've worked with different groups to create more opportunities and access for ethnic and cultural minorities, women, sexual minorities, and those with disabilities. Maintaining the viability of jury duty for modern citizens is also crucial to the well-being of the courts. I've worked to examine, review and draft legal instructions read to the jury during trial. I also work with the Presiding Judge's Committee to Improve Jury Service to examine all facets of jury service and to recommend and implement changes to make jury service more a more accessible, understandable and satisfying experience.

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

As a college student, two figures shaped my desire to enter the legal field. The first was Justice William Brennan. As a journalism major, I read the classic First Amendment case *New York Times v. Sullivan*, and was inspired by his eloquence and vision. It was the first time I understood the scope and power of the law and its fundamental role in shaping our nation. The second was Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. As a young woman looking forward to my professional future, her appointment as the first woman Supreme Court Justice was a profound symbol that I could achieve my dreams.

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

I've served as a Circuit Court Judge and Pro Tem Judge since 2001. I have a front row seat in seeing the justice system at work and have come to understand how integral the law and courts are to the fabric of our society. I truly and deeply care about the well-being of our community and am grateful to be able to continue my service to the public in maintaining and bettering this vital institution and our community as a whole.