

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Rafael A. Caso

2) Web site (if applicable):

n/a

3) List college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, degrees.

University of Puget Sound, 1993

Boise State University, B.S. 2003

Florida Coastal School of Law, J.D. 2007

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

2007 – 2013, Deputy District Attorney, Josephine County District Attorney's Office

2013 – 2016, Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice

2016 – 2017, Hearings Referee/Judge pro tem, Marion County Circuit Court

2017 – present, Circuit Court Judge, Polk County Oregon

5) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission. If desired, list previous admissions.

Oregon State Bar, 2007

6) If desired, list publications and/or articles you have authored.

n/a

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

High School Mock Trial Coach, Willamette Law School student mentor

8) Prior to your becoming a judge, what was the general character of your legal practice? Where appropriate indicate any legal areas in which you concentrated.

I prosecuted and defended criminal and civil cases in both state and federal court.

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

Hearings Referee/Judge pro tem, Marion County Circuit Court, 2016-2017

Circuit Court Judge, Polk County Circuit Court, 2017 – present

10) 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.

All manner of civil and criminal cases.

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

n/a

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

n/a

13) List any bar association memberships. Where appropriate, list officer positions, committee assignments or other notable work.

Oregon State Bar, Marion County Bar Association, Oregon Hispanic Bar Association, Inns of Court

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

n/a

15) 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.

n/a

16) 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.*

While at the Oregon Department of Justice an inmate filed a bar complaint against me. The complaint was dismissed as meritless.

17) What attracted you to a judicial career?

I love what I do.

18) 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 judge is the neutral party that ensures a fair hearing for all parties. A judge must be a good listener, work hard, and be able to treat everyone in court with respect.

19) 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.

n/a

20) 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.

Oregon's booming population creates issues with regards to an individuals access to justice through the courts. We are working hard to find new efficiencies; however, we are at the point where it is difficult to give each matter the time and attention it deserves. Our system, like many others, is overburdened.

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

n/a

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

n/a