

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Meagan Aileen Flynn

2) Web site (if applicable):

www.JudgeMeaganFlynn.com

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

Gonzaga University School of Law, J.D., *magna cum laude* (1992)

Willamette University, B.A., *cum laude* in Philosophy and Political Science (1989)

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

Justice, Oregon Supreme Court (2017-present)

Judge, Oregon Court of Appeals (2014-2017)

Preston Bunnell & Flynn, Portland, OR, partner (2005-2014)

Preston Bunnell & Stone, Portland, OR, associate (1999-2004)

Pozzi Wilson Atchison, Portland, OR, associate (1994-1999)

Judicial Law Clerk, Oregon Court of Appeals (1992-1994) - law clerk to Honorable Robert Durham and Honorable Rick Haselton

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 - admitted 1992

Ninth Circuit Bar - admitted 1996

US Supreme Court Bar - admitted 1998

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

OSB Appeal & Review: Beyond the Basics, chapter 3 "Effective Written Advocacy" (2014), co-author

OSB Appeal & Review: The Basics, chapter 6 "Briefing" (2010), author

OSB Damages, 2007 Cumulative Supplement chapter 35, co-author

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

Oregon Law Institute, Board of Directors (2008-2016)

Speaker, Danny Santos Diversity Speaker Series, Willamette University (March 19, 2018)

Speaker, "The Art of the Possible," University of Oregon (October 27, 2017)

Speaker, Oregon Law Institute, various CLE programs (2009-2015)

Coach, "We the People" program on the U.S. Constitution, Franklin High School, Portland, OR (2017-2018)

Mentor to law students through OSB OLIO program

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.

Prior to serving as a judge, I handled civil trials and appeals in Oregon's state and federal courts for twenty years. I also handled administrative hearings and appeals before the Oregon Workers' Compensation Board and the US Department of Labor Benefits Review Board (longshore compensation). I primarily represented individuals harmed by negligence, defective products and work-place conditions, as well as insurance coverage disputes.

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.

Justice, Oregon Supreme Court (2017-present)

Judge, Oregon Court of Appeals (2014-2017)

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.

On the Oregon Court of Appeals and Supreme Court, the cases that have come before me include nearly every area of civil, criminal and administrative law.

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

All judicial experience is described above

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

I have not served as an arbitrator or mediator.

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

Multnomah Bar Association, member

Oregon Women Lawyers, member

**OSB Appellate Practice Section, chair and executive committee member
(2006 to 2013)**

OSB Consumer Law Section, executive committee member, chair (1995-1999)

**OSB Products Liability Section, executive committee member, treasurer,
newsletter editor and chair (2001-2007)**

OSB Uniform Civil Jury Instructions Committee, member (1995-1999)

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

Oregon Bench-Bar Commission on Professionalism, member (2018)

Oregon Law Commission, Standing Modernization Work Group (2014-2015)

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.

No.

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.*

No.

17) What attracted you to a judicial career?

I love thinking and writing about the law. I am passionate about truth and transparency and justice. As an appellate lawyer, I valued the service of careful and dedicated judges who gave me confidence in the Oregon justice system. I came to realize that I possess the talent and temperament to be a good appellate judge, and I am grateful for the privilege to be serving Oregon as a judge on the Supreme Court.

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.

Oregonians turn to the courts to resolve disputes about the most important matters of their lives -- personal, business, and family disputes. They must be able to trust that their concerns will be heard and then carefully and impartially considered. It is the responsibility of judges to perform their work in a way that promotes the trust that is essential to meaningful justice.

For an appellate judge, the most important qualities are a thoughtful and deliberative temperament, an ability to understand and carefully analyze the law, an ability to write clearly, and a dedication to performing the work in a thorough and timely manner.

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.

As a judge on the Court of Appeals, I wrote the majority opinion in the case of *Spearman v. Progressive Classic Ins. Co.*, 276 Or App 114 (2016), *aff'd*, 361 Or 584 (2017). The decision turned on the meaning of a complicated statute in the Oregon's Insurance Code. It ultimately was considered and voted on by all 13 members of the Oregon Court of Appeals and later affirmed by the Oregon Supreme Court.

I highlight the decision as a good example of my abilities to carefully analyze and clearly explain an area of law that is often thought of as confusing. But I am most proud of the process through which the dissenting judge and I collaborated, with each other and with other judges on the court, to identify and clearly explain the nature of the legal disagreement. Through that process, we presented for the Supreme Court, for lawyers handling that type of case, and potentially for future Oregon legislatures, the aspects of the statute that left room for differing constructions. Getting to that point involved a great deal of time and many revisions of the draft opinions, but I believe it is an example of an appellate court functioning at its best.

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.

I am particularly concerned that some Oregonians have less than full access to justice. There are a variety of reasons they face barriers in the justice system, including income, education, race and disability. As a lawyer, I represented many Oregonians for whom I was the only connection to Oregon's justice system, and I came to better-understand the barriers that exist. As a judge, in an effort to continue to address those barriers, I have served as a mentor to law students from diverse backgrounds, have spoken for and contributed to the Lawyers' Campaign for Equal Justice, and have worked with Portland high school students to teach them about our country's legal system and constitution.

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

A legal figure I admire is Justice Betty Roberts. I admire the way that she overcame obstacles raised against her effort to succeed as a woman in the legal profession by working harder and being smarter than others around her. I admire her service as an example and mentor to generations of Oregon women. I credit the example set by Betty Roberts as a key reason that Oregon's judges and other elected officials have started to look more like the citizens of Oregon as a whole.

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

Many supporters of my effort to retain my Supreme Court seat are the people who best understand the demands of the job -- current and former Oregon Supreme Court Justices:

Chief Justice Thomas Balmer
Chief Justice Paul De Muniz, *retired*
Justice Richard Baldwin, *retired*
Justice David Brewer, *retired*
Justice Rebecca Duncan
Justice Mick Gillette, *retired*
Justice Rives Kistler
Former Governor and Justice Ted Kulongoski, *retired*

Justice Jack Landau, *retired*
Justice Susan Leeson, *retired*
Justice Virginia Linder, *retired*
Justice Lynn Nakamoto
Justice Adrienne Nelson
Justice R. William Riggs, *retired*
Justice Martha Walters

Please visit my website for additional supporter information:
www.JudgeMeaganFlynn.com.