

# Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Jennifer S. Hisey**

2) Web site (if applicable):

[www.HiseyforJudge.com](http://www.HiseyforJudge.com)

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

**Wenatchee Valley College, 1997 – 1998, AA transfer degree**

**Western Washington University, 1996 – 1997, 1999 - 2001, BA  
Political Science**

**University of Oregon School of Law, 2001 – 2004, JD**

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

**Attorney, Legal Aid Services of Oregon, Albany Regional Office,  
2006 – present.**

I represent and advise low income Oregonians in the areas of: family law with an emphasis on serving domestic violence survivors in dissolution and custody matters and biological parents in third party custody/guardianship cases; landlord/tenant law on behalf of tenants who receive public housing assistance; public benefit terminations, denials and overpayments; various senior law issues such as income cap trusts, Medicaid planning and elderly and disabled persons protective act orders.

I provide community education and outreach by presenting trainings, attending meetings and contributing to committees.

**Attorney, Lane County Legal Aid Domestic Violence Clinic,  
Eugene, Oregon, 2004-2005**

I represented low income survivors of domestic violence in custody cases, restraining orders, stalking protective orders and dissolution cases.

5) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are currently admitted.

**Oregon State Bar, United States District Court for the District of Oregon**

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

**N/A**

7) If desired, list any community, teaching or civic activities.

- **Linn County Family Law Advisory Committee**
- **Benton County Family Law Advisory Committee**
- **Vulnerable Adults Multidisciplinary Services Team for Linn & Benton Counties**
- **Sweet Home Medical Legal Partnership**
- **Linn-Benton Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Program**
- **Families & Communities Together (FACT) Albany School District**
- **Teen parent classes in Sweet Home & Lebanon High Schools**
- **Oregon Cascades West Senior & Disability Services**
- **Community Services Consortium (CSC)**
- **Heart to Heart Resource Fair**
- **Center Against Rape & Domestic Violence (CARDV)**
- **Jackson Street Youth Shelter**
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8) What is the general character of your practice? If desired, please indicate any legal areas in which you concentrate.

**Since approximately 2014 I have focused most of my work on family law, domestic violence and third party custody cases. Prior to that I was a general practitioner for several years doing family law, landlord tenant law and public benefits/administrative law.**

9) Describe any litigation practice in the last five (5) years and address both the courts and types of cases.

**My practice has been primarily litigation-based for my entire career. I appear in Linn and Benton County Circuit courts on a regular basis. The majority of my cases are family law (dissolution, custody, restraining orders, and third party custody).**

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**I filed one third party custody case with the Oregon Court of Appeals in 2011, but my client chose to dismiss the case after the brief was filed but before oral arguments.**

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

**I completed a 32-hour mediation training course while in law school but I have never served as an arbitrator or mediator.**

12) List any experience you have as a pro tem or municipal judge, and the names of the courts you have served.

**N/A**

13) List any bar association memberships, and if desired, any offices held or committee/project assignments.

**Linn Benton Bar Association general member 2006 – present.**

**Executive Committee of the Linn Benton Bar Association, Linn County Liaison, 2009 – 2014.**

**Oregon State Bar, Client Security Fund Investigator 2018 – present.**

14) 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 or parking offenses or traffic violations for which a fine of less than \$500 was imposed.*

**No.**

15) Have you ever been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney? If so, please give the particulars and the result. *\*\*Include only proceedings that were authorized for prosecution by the SPRB.*

**No.**

16) Why do you want to be a judge?

**I have dedicated my career to public service and the best way I can continue to serve with the greatest impact is to be judge. I want Linn County to be a leader in making the justice system as accessible and user-friendly as possible.**

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

**I believe the role of a judge is to apply the relevant statutes to the facts presented in a case and make a decision based on those statutes. A judge must also determine the credibility of the people who testify before them and weigh the relevance of all evidence presented. The most important qualities for a judge include but are not limited to: impartiality, analytical skills, equanimity, ability to communicate decisions concisely and clearly, and efficiency. I believe one of the greatest challenges for a judge is when they have to issue a decision that is correct according to the law but runs counter to their beliefs or personal sense of justice. However, the job of a judge is to apply the law regardless of their personal opinions or emotions.**

18) 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 work on third party custody cases on behalf of biological parents which concerns the constitutional right of parents to the care and custody of their children. The presumption established by the Supreme Court is that a parent acts in the best interest of their child and a third party must overcome that presumption in order to take custody away from a parent or to force a parent to allow visitation. The fact that a third party may be able to provide better care for a child than the parent or that the child's best interest is served by allowing the third party the relief they request are not issues that should be addressed until and unless the presumption is rebutted. This can result in me being in a position of advocating for a parent that I do not believe is the best placement for the child according to my personal opinion but the constitutional rights of the parent should be defended and that is what I do.**

19) Briefly describe an issue, related to Oregon's justice system, that concerns you, or that you have interest in working toward improving.

**I am very interested in continuing to improve access to the justice system for pro se litigants. I would like to continue to update and improve the forms database for pro se litigants.**

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

**I admire all of the female Supreme Court justices past and present because they have attained what I consider the best job available in the legal field, even though our profession is still predominantly male. In particular, I admire Justice Sotomayor because her judicial philosophy of fidelity to the law even when it conflicts with her emotions or personal beliefs aligns closely with my own. I also find the many things she has accomplished in her legal career despite growing up in a poor, single-parent household inspiring.**

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

**Thank you for your consideration and your vote.**