

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2012

1) Your full name:

Cindee S. Matyas

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

749 Commercial Street

Astoria, OR 97103

3) Web site (if applicable):

N/A

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.

**Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College,
Doctor of Jurisprudence, Portland, Oregon, 1987
University of Detroit Law School, 1980-1981; left to pursue employment
Western Michigan University; Bachelor of Arts,
Cum Laude, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1980
Bay High School, Bay Village, Ohio, 1976**

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

**Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge, 2007 – present
Municipal Court Judge for the City of Cannon Beach,
2001 – December, 2006
Pro-Tem Municipal Court Judge for the City of Cannon Beach,
1997-2001
Pro-Tem Municipal Court Judge for the City of Astoria,
1996 – December, 2006
Pro-Tem Municipal Court Judge for the City of Seaside,
2003 – December, 2006
Pro-Tem Municipal Court Judge for the City of Warrenton,
2003 – December, 2006**

Hearings Officer for Clatsop County, 2000 – December, 2006
Family Law Attorney, private practice, 1999 – December, 2006
Associate, Larson & Fischer, attorneys, Astoria, 1998-1999
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Program Director for
Clatsop and Tillamook Counties, 1997 –1998
Clatsop County District Attorney’s Office, Astoria –
Chief Deputy District Attorney, 1993 to 1995
Deputy District Attorney, 1991 – 1993
Multi-Disciplinary Team, 1993 – 1998
Child Abuse Investigations, 1996 – 1997
Clackamas County District Attorney’s Office, Oregon City -
Deputy District Attorney, 1989 – 1991
McKeon & Brindle, attorneys, Portland, 1989
Law Clerk, private firm, Saipan, Northern Marianas, 1988-1989
Law Clerk, Washington County Counsel, Hillsboro, approx. 1987 – 1988

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

Oregon State Bar Association, 1989 - present

Clatsop County Bar Association, approximately 1991 - present

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

Bar Association, Northern Marianas, approximately 1989 -1990; returned to Oregon

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

None

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

Clatsop Community College Instructor, Astoria, Winter Terms 1999 and 2000

Frequent guest speaker/trainer, for local, educational and community forums

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 an emphasis on Family Law

Municipal Court

Land Use Hearings

General Prosecutorial Duties

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 have been a full time Clatsop County Circuit Court Judge since January, 2007. Prior to that, I served as a Municipal Court Judge since approximately 2007 (both as a pro-tem judge and a sitting Municipal Court Judge), presiding over an assortment of matters brought before the court including arraignments, traffic violations, misdemeanors, and municipal code violations. From approximately 2000 through 2006, I served as a local Land Use Hearings Officer and presided over an assortment of land use requests, including conditional use permits, variances and appeals from planning director determinations.

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.

My judicial work consists of a variety of all cases filed in circuit court – ranging from criminal cases of all levels to civil litigation including: probate, guardianships, civil commitment hearings, dissolution cases, support enforcement, small claims and landlord tenant disputes. Since 2009, I have presided over the Clatsop County Treatment (Mental Health) 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.

I have presided over hundreds of court trials and several dozen jury trials.

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

My prior law practice and my current work as a circuit court judge provides numerous opportunities to mediate ongoing disputes.

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

Oregon State Bar Association Member

Former Local Professional Responsibility Committee (LPRC) Member

Clatsop County Bar Association Member, former president

Past Member, Bar Association Northern Mariana Islands

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

See above

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?

Before becoming a full-time judge, I participated in various aspects of the legal system, including the role of prosecutor, defender, attorney, advocate

and judge. I enjoy the challenge and I believe I have the skills to provide a fair and impartial review of matters in dispute and to provide the litigants a respectful forum for resolution.

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.

It remains my philosophy that an effective judge must be a good listener, must follow the law, must treat those who come before the court with respect, must be consistent and even-tempered.

In my view, no matter is small or insignificant. Each person who comes before the court deserves undivided attention and should leave the courtroom believing that, regardless of the outcome, the process was thorough and fair and that each litigant was afforded full consideration.

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 am very proud of establishing our Clatsop County Treatment (Mental Health) Court. In sum, we provide an alternative to traditional probation supervision. The participants meet weekly with the court and Treatment Court Team. Each participant has a personalized treatment and probation plan including ongoing opportunities for intervention, support, incentives or sanctions. Graduates of the program have successfully participated in treatment, have fulfilled their probation sentence requirements, have demonstrated stability of mental health or behavioral issues, have documented extended sobriety and have independently implemented an ongoing plan for continued success.

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.

As above, continuing to find appropriate avenues for handling the mentally ill who find themselves in the criminal justice system because of criminal behavior.

I am also interested in improving the experience and resources for self-represented litigants.

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

During my early years of practice, I appeared before a number of judges with differing demeanors and approaches to the role of judge. Those who

impressed me in a positive manner were plain-spoken, unpretentious and conveyed, by their sincere and common-sense approach, that they were genuinely concerned about each person and each issue brought before them. I strive to be this kind of judge.

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

Any interested person is welcome to visit my courtroom (courtroom #100) at the Clatsop County Courthouse in Astoria, Oregon.