

# Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Melvin Oden-Orr**

2) Web site (if applicable):

**Not available**

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

**Juris Doctorate**

University of Illinois College of Law, Champaign, Illinois, 1993-1996

**Bachelors of Arts, Political Science**

University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, 1989-1993

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

**City of Portland, Hearings Office**

*Chief Hearings Officer*  
2017

July 2016 to December

Overseeing the office responsible for conducting hearings on code violation complaints filed by the City of Portland; land use appeals and public hearings; and other appeals arising under the Portland City Code.

**Oden-Orr Law**

2016  
*Principal Attorney*  
Oregon

October 2005 to July

Portland,

- Represented entities and individuals, both as plaintiffs and defendants, in commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts addressing such issues as breach of contract, mortgage-related fraud, breach of fiduciary duties, residential and commercial landlord-tenant issues, and business torts.
- Advised clients on a broad range of public and municipal law issues, including public contracting issues, and public meeting and records laws.
- Advised clients on general corporate matters including entity formation, mergers, and other corporate issues.

**Portland Development Commission**

January 2005 to

September 2005

*Associate General Counsel*

Portland, Oregon

- Advised commission and staff on wide-range of municipal law issues, including Urban Renewal, public contracting, prevailing wage, Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business Enterprises, and public meeting and records.
- Advised on the creation and implementation of economic development programs, including technical assistance and loan programs, and drafting documents related thereto.

**TriMet**

2004

*Assistant General Counsel*  
Oregon

October 2000 to December

Portland,

- Acted as primary legal counsel for \$350 million light rail extension working primarily on legal issues related to capital projects, including construction, environmental compliance, real estate transactions and eminent domain, land use, federal grant and regulatory compliance, and disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE).
- Provided general corporate counsel services involving the identification of legal issues, analyzing the related risks and advising and implementing solutions designed to achieve agency objectives.
- Arbitrated and litigated tort, labor and employment matters in state and federal courts, including arbitrations arising under the agency's collective bargaining agreement.
- Spent close to two years working with the litigation group managing a caseload of personal injury, discrimination and employment related matters.

**Tarlow Jordan & Schrader**

2000

*Associate Attorney*  
Oregon

November 1999 to October

Portland,

Practice consisted of counseling and advising small and medium size business owners and managers on legal issues in the areas of finance, general business, including product distribution and management transactions, asset sales, corporate law and real estate transactions, as well as commercial litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

**Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP**

*Associate Attorney, Business Department*  
Oregon

September 1996 to November 1999

Portland,

- Conducted legal research and prepared legal briefs covering various areas of law including secured transactions, real estate, intellectual property and corporate law.
- Provided litigation support and assistance including preparing and arguing summary judgment and other motions, conducting discovery depositions and other pre-trial matters.
- Drafted intellectual property agreements including employee nondisclosure agreements, work-for-hire agreements, consulting agreements for copyright protection, and trademark assignments, as well as agreements in numerous other business transactions.
- Documented several multi-million dollar secured loan transactions totaling over \$200 million.

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 1996; Washington State Bar 2006 (inactive); United States District Court, Oregon 1997**

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

***Small Organization Compliance and Ethics Programs: No One Size Fits All***  
**Compliance & Ethics Professional Magazine, April 2014**

***DBE Certification, Control and Utilization Goals: Dealing With The New, Oregon Regime,*** NAMC-Oregon Newsletter, Fall 2010

***Special Problems For Real Property Acquisition Valuations: Billboards And Parking Lots***  
Transportation Research Circular, Number E-C058, November 2003, p 602

***Beyond The Regulations: Tri-Met's New DBE Program And Interstate Max***  
Daily Journal of Commerce, June 26, 2000

***Good Record Keeping Makes For Good Business Practices Under Oregon Limited Liability Company Act***  
Off The Record Newsletter, 2000

***Electronic Databases and Copyrights: What Rights Do You Have?***  
Insights Newsletter, 1999 (co-authored)

***Defamation Per Se: Presume the Worst, Litigate for the Best***

**Oregon Association of Defense Counsel (OADC) Newsletter, 1997**

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

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Member, Society of Corporate Compliance and Ethics**

**Chair, Advocacy Committee, City Club of Portland: The GED: Better 2nd Chances for a Basic Education, 2014**

**Research Committee, City Club of Portland: The GED: Better 2nd Chances for a Basic Education, 2013**

**Member, Board of Directors, Albina Community Bank, April 2014-Present**

**City of Portland Fair Contracting Forum, September 2011 to 2013**

**Appointed, Oregon State Construction Contractors Board, (November 2011 to June**

2015)

Appointed, City of Portland, Design Review Advisory Committee, 2006-09  
Chair (former), Board of Directors, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiative,  
Inc. (PCRI),

2006-April 2014

Appointed, Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, 2003-04

Board of Directors, Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon, 2006-2014

Board of Directors, Youth Employment Institute, 2000-2006

Member, North/Northeast Portland Brownfield Community Advisory Committee,  
2000

University of Illinois College of Law, Recent Alumni Advisory Board, 1997-99

Member, OSB Fee Arbitration Task Force, 2010

#### **TEACHING/SPEAKING**

*Adjunct Professor*, Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College,  
Spring 2002

#### ***Professionalism Panel: Practicing Diversity***

Multnomah Bar Association/Oregon Women Lawyers

April 1, 2016, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Create, Connect Contract: Accessing Contracts for Minority and Women- Owned Businesses***

OSB, Diversity Section, Continuing Legal Education

September 24, 2015, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Getting Ahead of the Game*, Panel Member**

Portland Development Commission, N/NE Portland Neighborhood Economic  
Development Summit

May 26, 2013, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Contracts and Negotiations: Innovative Approaches with Sustainable Methods***

Business Diversity Institute, Inc. 2011 MED Week Training

September 28, 2011, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Joint Ventures, Teaming Arrangements, Strategic Alliances: The Do's and Don'ts*, Panel Member**

Business Diversity Institute, Inc. 2010 MED Week Training

October 6, 2010, Portland, Oregon

#### ***U.S. Department of Transportation DBE Roundtable Discussion*, Facilitator**

NAMC 2010 National Conference

June 17, 2010, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Landlord-Tenant Law: Beyond The Basics – An Ounce of Prevention*, Presenter**

Sterling Education Services Continuing Education Program

December 11, 2008, Portland, Oregon

#### ***Title IV: Are We Closer To A Color-Blind Society?***

American Contract Compliance Association 2008 National Training Institute,

**Presenter**

**August 29, 2008, Portland, Oregon**

***Guarding The Goodies: Copyrights, Patents & Trademarks, Co-Presenter***  
**2006 Northwest Minority & Women Business Excellence Conference**  
**October 7, 2006, Vancouver, Washington**

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.

**Business and real estate transactions and civil and commercial litigation**

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.

***Chief Hearings Officer, City of Portland, July 2016 to December 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.

**None**

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

**None**

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

**Mediator, Multnomah County Small Claims Mediation Program, 2009 to 2016**  
**Arbitrator, OSB Fee Arbitration Panel, 2005 to 2016**

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

**Chair (founding), Diversity Section of the Oregon State Bar, 2002-03**  
**Oregon State Bar House of Delegates, 2002-Present**  
**Multnomah Bar Association,**  
**Committee to Advance Equality in the Profession and Justice System, 1997-**  
**2000**  
**Multnomah Bar Foundation, 2014-2016**

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

**None**

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?

**My desire to support the Oregon State Bar's goal and efforts to increase diversity in the judiciary.**

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.

**To provide litigants and their attorneys an impartial arbiter and fair opportunity to make their best case.**

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.

**Recent appointee.**

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.

**Mass incarceration is an issue I hope to help improve. Multnomah County's evidence-based sentencing aims to reduce recidivism. I intend to contribute some of my time to criminal judicial settlements conferences.**

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

**Justice Thurgood Marshall used the law and the courts to change society by making the civil rights of all people.**

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