

## Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Amanda C. Thorpe**

2) Web site (if applicable):

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

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

**University of Oregon, Law; August 2003 through May 2006 JD**

**University of Oregon, Honors College; September 1998 through August 2001, BA Sociology with an emphasis on family, women and children, Magna Cum Laude, with departmental honors**

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

**Cauble, Cauble & Selvig, LLP: Of counsel, 2018 to present**

**Hughes, Rote, Brouhard, & Thorpe, LLP: Associate (2006-2009), Managing Partner (2010 to 2018).**

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

**Oregon State Bar**

**9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Federal Court**

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

**N/A**

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

**Josephine County Women Lawyers, Secretary 2007-present**

**Mock Trial Judge, GPHS 2016/2017 and Hidden Valley HS 2018**

**Project Graduation Will-a-thon volunteer attorney, 2006-2017**

**Providence Festival of Trees, Large tree designer, 2009 to present**

**Josephine County Family Law Advisory Committee, 2012 to present**

**Josephine County FLAC parenting plan subcommittee chair, 2012-2014**

**Organizer/presenter: Domestic Violence Project 2016**

8) What is the general character of your practice? If desired, please indicate any legal areas in which you concentrate.

**At both firms I maintain(ed) a general civil practice with an emphasis on civil litigation and family law, but also including all aspects of work related to the following fields of law: probates, landlord/tenant, restraining orders, business, contract, real property, debtor/creditor and other areas. My daily practice includes advising clients about their legal issues and assisting them in resolving their matter through the legal system if necessary. I serve my client as a legal advisor, advocate and representative.**

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

**I meet with approximately 200 people per year about their litigation matters. I am a litigator and often have approximately 30-40 cases pending in state court, primarily in the area of family law, but also in other areas of civil litigation. I appear in court every couple of weeks on a trial or hearing for clients. (Relative to other candidates this may appear low. The resolution of my cases without hearing or trial is related to the nature of the practice being family and civil litigation, which is often resolved without hearing or trial through skilled and diligent representation.) I love the courtroom work that I do and enjoy the opportunity to serve as an advocate for my clients when all other opportunities to resolve the matter have been exhausted.**

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**I have handled a limited number of appeals and when an appeal arises in a case that I tried.**

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

**N/A**

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

**I serve as a pro tem judge in Josephine County Circuit Court twice a month hearing traffic, county and city code violation, small claims, and eviction cases.**

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

**OSB Family Law Executive Committee, Secretary**

**OSB Policies and Procedures Committee, Member**

**Oregon Women Lawyers, Board of Directors**

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 love the law, not just any particular area of practice. My record of committee and board service shows that I am passionate about advocating for the legal needs of and advancing the practice of law in my community. I want to serve as a Circuit Court Judge so I can make a larger contribution to the legal needs of our community. I will do so by applying my passion for the law, day in and day out, in a fair, just and consistent manner to all matters that appear before me.**

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.

**The judicial role is multi-faceted. The technical job description includes presiding over and deciding the matters that appear on the judge's docket, as well as the work outside the courtroom on administrative matters and non-hearing/trial issues. However, a judge is also the figurehead of the judicial branch of the government, the branch that most citizens are more likely to have direct personal interactions with than any other. It is paramount to the judicial system that the judge not only carry out the judicial duties fairly, but that the participants in the system perceive that fairness. It isn't enough, if done well, for people to simply have their day in court. In order for the system to function at its best so that the community respects and utilizes the legal system, participants have to know they were heard. A judge that is deliberate about decisions, consistent in the application of the law, and fair and just to all participants can project that.**

**The case load in Josephine County (the 14<sup>th</sup> district) is one of the highest in the state. Even with the addition of this 5<sup>th</sup> judicial position (that I am seeking to be elected to), the caseload for judges will remain near the top of the list. The high volume docket is one of the greatest challenges to the role because delays are not good for anyone- the court or the individual appearing in court. Therefore, matters must be heard and resolved expeditiously while still giving each matter its due. It is a delicate balance that must be struck by anyone taking the bench in our county.**

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 could tell you about any number of cases that I am proud of, but I wouldn't be comfortable describing those detailed personal facts, even anonymously. I am proud of my casework because I offer candid, direct, and thorough analysis to my clients. We build on that to resolve their matters. My casework reflects my legal ability to tackle the hard work, including telling people what they don't want to hear, and to process complex facts and apply the law to those accurately and honestly. Colleagues consult with me on cases because of I am willing and able to quickly provide a detailed, informed, and reasoned legal analysis of facts and situations. I enjoy helping others, whether attorneys or individuals by discussing the application of the law to their legal matters. I am proud to serve as a resource and would like to apply that knowledge and skill set on the bench.**

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

**There is a lack of access to justice for many underserved populations and in Josephine County particularly for people with a lack of financial resources. It isn't simply a matter of being able to afford an attorney or not,**

**even the issue of transportation to court for hearings, or access to a computer to obtain or prepare forms can impair someone's ability to access or be treated fairly by the legal system. I would like to work within the system, while recognizing that there are limited resources, to make more resources, such as forms, available and by administering the cases in such a way to minimize the delay and set over of hearings and trials.**

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

**Senior Judge Michael Newman, now retired from the Josephine County Circuit Court, served as the family law judge from 2005 through 2017. In the matters that appeared before him he could be counted on for a deliberate and reasoned decision. Though his caseload must have kept him busy he still made time to serve on committees advocating for the improvement of our legal system and increased access to justice. What I admire most about him is that he never lost sight of the fact that those are *people* appearing in front of him, he saw the person not just a cog in the legal system, but as a whole person. He would make a decision applying the law to the facts presented to him. Then, often as not, he would offer to the parties comments from the bench that were compassionate, insightful, and understanding. Parties appearing in front of Senior Judge Newman knew that he cared, listened, and considered the matter thoughtfully, thereby enhancing their experience with the system regardless of the outcome.**

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

**I am committed to serving the legal needs of Josephine County. I have done so for over ten years. I have advocated for the needs of smaller counties while serving on bar and statewide legal committees. I have collaborated with the Oregon Law Center and other local organizations to offer reduced rate or pro bono services to victims of elder or domestic violence. I ask for you vote so I may diligently take on the duties of Circuit Court Judge and serve our community in an enhanced capacity.**