

# Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Rebecca Winters**

2) Web site (if applicable):

**[www.rebeccawinters.com](http://www.rebeccawinters.com)**

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

**B. A. Psychology, University of Washington, Seattle**

**J.D. Law, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**

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

**1999-2008 and 2010-2015 Mediator and Attorney, Family Law and Bankruptcy, Colorado**

**2008-2010 Court Mediator, Arizona**

**2015- Present Mediator and Attorney, Family Law and Bankruptcy, Oregon**

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

**Oregon Bar Association, Admitted to Oregon U.S. District 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.

**Volunteer mediator and court appointed special advocate for children in Colorado. After moving to Oregon, I volunteered at many various organizations, including Safe Haven as a dog walker and Neighbor2Neighbor as a mediator. I recently volunteered to gather food for the local food bank. I believe in giving back to the community and helping where possible.**

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

**Mediation, Family Law and Bankruptcy**

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

**Family Law Litigation including custody, parenting time, support, divorce, paternity, modification of orders, registration of out-of-state orders, reopening cases due to fraud, adoption, and restraining orders.**

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**I have researched and written and assisted other attorneys with the writing of numerous appeals.**

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

**Volunteered as a mediator at Jefferson County Mediation Services in Golden, Colorado and through Neighbor2Neighbor in Albany Oregon. Attended a 40-hour mediation training in Colorado in 2004 and attended a 32-hour mediation training in Oregon in 2015, plus numerous additional mediation trainings**

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

**[Click here and type answer]**

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

**Oregon State Bar Association**

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 been a practicing attorney since 1999. I had a law practice in Colorado before moving here. In 2004, I trained as a mediator. Since that time, I have volunteered as a mediator, been a court mediator, and had a private mediation practice. I have also participated in numerous mediations in Colorado, where it is common for attorneys to be present during client mediation sessions. I would appreciate the opportunity to give a voice to both sides of a case and help people reach agreements where possible. I understand how stressful court can be, both from representing clients and from being an unrepresented participant. I would have empathy for those going through the court system by listening and creating an atmosphere that does not add more stress to an already stressful situation. We all make mistakes, and I will show compassion while at the same time ensuring I enter rulings consistent with the law that keep the community and especially children safe. I enjoy continual learning and studying, and I am up for the challenge of being a Circuit Court judge.**

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 most important qualities are caring about people, especially children, and taking time to understand the needs of the community, the rules and the law. Also listening for inconsistent statements and representations within testimony and the evidence and not jumping to a conclusion early in the case. I believe the greatest challenge will be time restrictions. I want to find creative ways to meet this challenge while at the same time affording a full and complete opportunity to be heard.**

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 am most proud of what I have accomplished through mediation and settlement of cases involving children, where parties have reached a satisfactory agreement that works well for them. I have had several cases where parties were able to resolve highly contested and complex issues pertaining to parenting plans. In order to accommodate the needs of the parents and children, some of these parenting plans were extremely detailed, taking many hours to prepare and get just right. In the end, they were workable because of the detailed arrangements. If a judge had entered a judgment after a trial, it would not have served the parties and children nearly**

**as well. Having a good parenting plan that works for everybody and avoids arguments helps save children from experiencing high conflict between their parents. There is a great deal of satisfaction in being able to resolve a difficult case.**

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

**I believe that children need to be protected more in Oregon and that more safeguards can be provided to them to ensure safety. A tragedy should not have to occur before safeguards are put in place where it would have been appropriate and logical to do so in the first place.**

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

**Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird," because he takes a case that he knows will be very difficult. The case could cause repercussions to himself, his family and his law practice and he knows that he will almost certainly lose. Despite the opposition, he does the best job he can. He does this because he believes in always doing the right thing and in protecting an innocent person.**

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

**I believe that I can be neutral, openminded, fair and impartial. I believe I can facilitate agreements. I enjoy constantly learning, improving and serving the community.**