

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Daniel J. Wren

2) Web site (if applicable):

www.danwrenforjudge.com

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

Willamette University College of Law, JD (2002-2005); Willamette University, BS (1989-1993)

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

November 2016 - Present, Marion County Circuit Court Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee.

Serving full-time at the Marion County Circuit Criminal Court Annex where I manage a criminal docket that includes both felony and misdemeanor cases, from theft to murder. I preside over 950+/- criminal hearings each month, including arraignments, pleas, bail hearings, probation violation hearings and motions.

Before being assigned to the Criminal Annex, I served in the Referee's Office at the Marion County Courthouse. There, I handled the Miscellaneous docket and presided over hundreds of hearings and trials including small claims, evictions, restraining orders, civil commitments, traffic court, support enforcement hearings and domestic relations status conferences.

June 2013 to November 2016, Judge, Pro Tem for the Monmouth Municipal Court.

As a Judge, Pro Tem for the Monmouth Municipal Court, I presided over traffic offenses, municipal code violations and criminal driving offenses.

January 2011 to November 2016, President/Attorney, Castillo Wren Smith, P.C.

As an attorney, my primary practice focused on representing children and families in Juvenile Court. In 2011, I was part of a team that created the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court. This team organized and implemented a specialty treatment court focused on helping the military veterans who have sacrificed so much for their country and, upon returning to "civilian life", found themselves within the criminal justice system. My practice also included working in the areas of domestic relations, personal injury and criminal matters.

April 2006 – December 2010, President/Attorney, The Law Firm of Daniel J. Wren, P.C.

In 2006, I opened a solo law practice in Marion County. The focus of my practice was domestic relations, probate, personal injury and criminal matters. In 2008, I became a member of the Juvenile Advocacy Consortium, a specialized group of attorneys who handle the representation of youth offenders in juvenile proceedings and children/families who have become involved with the juvenile court system.

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

Admitted in the Oregon State Bar

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

N/A

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

Over the years, I have been very active in my community. I have coached different levels of Little League Baseball/Softball, YMCA youth basketball, Boys and Girls Club flag football and served as a Cub Scout leader. I am also active with my church.

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

Please refer to question 4. I do not currently work in a law practice. I serve as a full-time Marion County Circuit Court Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee.

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

Prior to becoming a Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee, I worked primarily in the Circuit Courts of Marion, Polk, Linn and Yamhill Counties.

I focused primarily on representing children and families in Juvenile Court matters and representing veterans in the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court. I also worked with personal injury matters and criminal matters.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

N/A

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.

From 2016-Present, Serving as a full-time Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee for the Marion County Circuit Court.

From 2013-2016, served as a Judge, Pro Tem for the Monmouth Municipal Court.

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

Willamette Valley Inns of Court

Criminal Law Section of the Oregon State Bar

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.*

N/A

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.*

N/A

16) Why do you want to be a judge?

Marion County is important to me. I grew up here and went to school here. I graduated from Willamette University and Willamette University College of Law. I am truly a product of this community and I want to give back to the community I call home. I spent 10 years in a private legal practice and was very proud of the work I did as an attorney, but felt I could do more to serve my community. I left my private practice and accepted a position with the Marion County Circuit Court as a Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee in 2016. In this position, I have been able to understand how I can affect change much more as a judge than I ever could as an advocate for one side, or the other.

Serving as a Judge for the court is one of the highest honors in the legal profession and I take the responsibility entrusted to me very seriously. I have proven my work ethic, demeanor, judicial temperament and commitment with the job I have done as a Judge, Pro Tem/Hearings Referee. I am seeking this office to continue serving my community with integrity, fairness and humility as the next elected judge for Marion County.

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.

Having to appear in court is a scary thing. It is easy to forget how intimidating walking into a courtroom for the first time can be. As a Judge, Pro Tem and attorney, the courthouse is where I spend most, if not all, of my professional time. Court appearances become second nature to attorneys and judges. However, for the people that appear before me, it may be the first time they have ever been in a courtroom and they are rarely there because of happy circumstances.

Every person should leave court, win or lose, and feel that they were heard by the judge and that they had a fair and impartial hearing. We have all heard the story of someone feeling as though they did not get a fair shot in a court proceeding. There may be many factors that figure into this equation, but it is their reality.

As a Judge, Pro Tem, I have learned that Judges play a direct and primary role in ensuring that every person has an opportunity to be heard. It is a Judges duty to make sure every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or economic background, is treated with dignity and respect. It is my job to listen to each party and reach a resolution that

complies with the law and makes sense in the situation before me. When every person gets to have "their day in court" and understands the reasoning for my decision, they will continue to have, or gain faith, in the system. As the ultimate decision maker, it is common to make one side unhappy with my decisions. However, I find that even when I rule against a party, when they are treated with respect and dignity, they leave my courtroom believing they were treated fairly and were heard. Our entire systems relies on people trusting they will receive a fair proceeding. It is the duty of Judges to earn and maintain that confidence.

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.

In 2011, I volunteered to be part of a team that wanted to create a specialty court focused on veterans that had become entangled in the criminal justice system. I had to work closely with each team member to create the structure of the court and received many hours of training on how an effective veteran's court should operate. In 2014, the Marion County Veterans Treatment Court officially began. This court allows the men and women who have served our county with honor to get the treatment and programs they need to get back on the track and become productive members of the community.

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

As a Judge, Pro Tem serving at the Marion County Criminal Court Annex, I interact with people daily who are suffering from a mental health condition. Usually, sitting in the jail is not the appropriate place for these individuals. While there is a process for obtaining mental health services, it often takes too long to access the appropriate care. Everyone needs to follow the law, but understanding there are sometimes circumstances which do not allow some to follow these rules, and give them the required support, is an issue I have an interest in improving within the Oregon justice system.

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

When I began my legal career in 2006, I appeared before some great judges in Marion County. However, one made a lasting impression on me. That judge is the Honorable John B. Wilson. When I am asked of what characteristics make a great Judge, I look back to appearing in Judge Wilson's courtroom. Judge Wilson treated every person appearing before him with dignity and respect. It was not uncommon

for a losing party to thank Judge Wilson when leaving his court. He had a way of presenting his rulings that made sense, were fair and impartial, yet showed compassion to all the parties. I never saw Judge Wilson raise his voice in court. Judge Wilson is the reason I wanted to become a Judge and as a Judge, Pro Tem, I aspire to follow the example he displayed as a Circuit Court Judge.

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

Since 2016, I have served as a Hearings Referee/Judge, Pro Tem for the Marion County Circuit Court. I am the only candidate currently serving as a full-time Judge, Pro Tem. I am doing the job every day.

I confront the serious problems facing our community. I protect the victims of crime, children and the elderly to make sure their voices are heard. I have earned a proven record of being tough on crime but also making fair, reasoned and impartial decisions. I judge each case on its merits and follow the rule of law.

I have also earned a reputation for a calm demeanor and fair judicial temperament. Everyone, including crime victims, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and defendants all have a fair and full opportunity to present their cases and to be treated with dignity and respect. I have learned that each case is unique and must be approached in that manner. I understand criminal sanctions must encompass a range of sentencing options including specialty courts and community-based treatment alternatives proven to reduce recidivism. I work with the parties to find an appropriate resolution to each case that comes before me.

My current position with the court coupled with serving children and families in the juvenile system, the Veteran's Treatment Court, and experience the areas of domestic relations, civil, probate, personal injury and criminal matters provides me with a wide base of legal knowledge which I use every day to makes decisions from the bench. I ask for your vote on May 15 to allow me the privilege to continue serving the people of Marion County and Oregon.