

## Judicial Election Questionnaire

1) Your full name:

**Tom Ryan**

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

**1021 SW Fourth Ave., Portland, Oregon , 97204**

**503-988-3008**

3) Web site (if applicable):

**Not applicable**

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.

**Batavia High School, Batavia N. Y., High school diploma, 1978**

**Binghamton University, 1978 – 1982, B.A., 1982**

**University of Oregon School of Law, 1984-1987, Juris Doctorate, 1987.**

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

**1987 – 1989, Law Clerk, Oregon Court of Appeals. As law clerk at one of the nation's busiest appellate courts, I did legal research and drafted memoranda and opinions on every type of case heard in our state courts.**

**1989 – 2004, Attorney and Chief Attorney, Metropolitan Public Defender, Portland. As a public defender, I was in trial or in court for other hearings almost every day for over 14 years. I worked in adult and juvenile court. In juvenile court, I represented children and, at separate times, parents.**

**For four years in the 1990's, I was an adjunct faculty member at Lewis and Clark law school.**

**2004 - 2007, Full time hearings referee and pro tem judge in the Multnomah County Circuit Court. As a judge pro tem, I presided over misdemeanor trials, felony and misdemeanor pleas, release hearings and arraignments, landlord / tenant cases, small claims court and other matters.**

**March 1, 2007 – present, Circuit Court Judge, Multnomah County. As a Circuit court Judge, I preside over all types of cases.**

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

**Oregon Bar, member in good standing since 1987**

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

**(None)**

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

**I was a co-author and editor of the Defenses chapter of the Oregon State Bar Criminal Law Continuing Legal Education Criminal Law Book.**

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

**I have taught at legal education seminars sponsored by the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association and at landlord tenant legal education seminars. I speak to community groups about our court system, and moderate DUII victim impact panels, where persons charged with drunk driving learn from the victims of drunk driving.**

**I have been involved in youth sports, coaching baseball and girls' basketball.**

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.

**Before I became, a judge I was an attorney and chief attorney at Metropolitan Public Defender in Portland Oregon. I was in court almost every day and tried many cases. I represented persons charged with crimes who could not afford a lawyer. I also worked in juvenile court where I represented parents and children in our juvenile court system.**

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.

**Circuit Court Judge 2007 to the present.**

**Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem 2004-2007.**

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.

**From 2004 to February 28, 2007, I worked as a full time hearings referee and pro tem judge in the Multnomah County Circuit Court. In that position, I presided over misdemeanor trials, felony and misdemeanor pleas, release hearings and arraignments, landlord / tenant cases, small claims court and other matters.**

**I was appointed to the Circuit Court on March 1, 2007, and asked by the Presiding Judge to work in the court's large and busy Family Law department. I am one of ten judges assigned to the Family Law department.**

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

**I have argued cases in both the Oregon Court of Appeals and Oregon Supreme Court, but have never sat as an appellate judge.**

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.

**It is hard to estimate the number of trials and contested hearings I have heard as a Judge and Judge pro tem. I would estimate over 1000 contested hearings, over 500 court trials and over 50 jury trials.**

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

**Before becoming a judge, I served on Oregon State Bar fee arbitration panels. As a judge, I have helped settle (and in that sense mediated) many cases.**

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

**I am a member of The Oregon State Bar, The Family Law and Litigation sections of The Oregon Bar, The Oregon Minority Lawyers Association, The Gus J. Solomon Inn of Court, and The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.**

**I currently serve on The Uniform Civil Jury Instruction Committee and on the executive committee of the Oregon State Bar Litigation section.**

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

**I have been involved in many state and local bar committees over the years.**

**I am in the middle of a three year term on the state bar Uniform Civil Jury Instruction Committee. I currently serve on the executive committee of the state bar litigation section.**

**I was recently involved in the judicial department's Senate Bill 269 (2007) work group. That group was responsible for drafting Family Abuse Prevention Act Restraining Order forms, and related forms, for statewide use.**

**I am active in the Multnomah County Circuit Court's judicial outreach committee.**

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.

**Never.**

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.*

**Never.**

19) What attracted you to a judicial career?

**The opportunity to serve the state by working hard to creatively and compassionately solve problems.**

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.

**A judge's role is to work hard, listen well, and treat all persons appearing before them with respect and dignity. Patience, common sense and, I think most importantly, humility, are important.**

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 equally proud of all the cases I have worked on. Although each case presents its' own issues and some may be more complex than others, each case is important to the parties in that case. Therefore, I try my best to bring all my skill and effort to each case before me, from the most straightforward case to the most complex.**

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.

**I am particularly interested in the judicial department's e- court project, which, it is hoped, will bring the courts, and citizen interaction with the courts, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.**

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

**I admire the drafters of The United States Constitution, chief among them James Madison. The drafters wrote a document that insured our freedoms, representative government, and democratic values. The constitution has**

**withstood the tests of time. It has been studied and emulated in countries around the globe. It is a marvel.**

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

**I have been honored and privileged to serve as a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge. I would appreciate your vote, so that I may continue to do so. Thank you.**