

Judicial Election Questionnaire

1) Your full name:

Kathie F. Steele

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

807 Main Street, Room 304

Oregon City, OR 97045

503-655-8678

3) Web site (if applicable):

None

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.

West Linn High School, 9/67-1/70, transferred

Columbia River High School, 1/70-6/71, high school diploma

Stanford University, 9/71-6/72, 9/73-6/75, 9/76-6/77, BA degree (psychology)

Reed College, 9/72-6/73, transferred

Northwestern School of Law at Lewis & Clark College, 8/77-6/80, JD degree

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

Circuit Court Judge, Clackamas County, August 2007-present

Kathie F. Steele, P.C., solo practitioner; Litigation practice with emphasis in criminal, domestic relations, probate, estate planning, guardianship and conservatorship law. 2004-2007.

Stewart & Steele, P.C., partner; General litigation practice with emphasis in criminal, real property, land use, probate, personal injury and domestic relations law. 1984–2004.

Crist, Stewart, Lowe & Maurer, associate; General litigation practice with emphasis in criminal, real property, land use and creditor/debtor law. 1983-1984.

Redman, Carskadon, Knauss & Kelley, associate; General litigation practice with emphasis on criminal, real property, land use and municipal law. 1980-1983.

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

Oregon State Bar Association, 1981.

United States District Court of Oregon, 1981.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, 1981.

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.

None.

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

2003-present, Lawyer coach for West Linn High School mock trial team.

1985-2007, Oregon Municipal Judges Association member.

1983-1990, ARC (formerly Association for Retarded Citizens) member.

Tri-County Joint Council (1986-87)

Clackamas County Chair (1985-86)

Clackamas County Board of Directors (1983-87)

1990-1995, Clackamas County Mental Health Council member

Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee member (1990-94)

MR/DD Training and Technical Assistance Steering Committee

Member (1992-95)

1990s-present, Oregon Women Lawyers member

1993-present, Elementary, middle and high school speaker on law, legal careers, women career/educational opportunities

1984-2007, Clackamas Indigent Defense Corporation member/board member

1982-2007, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association member

1981-1983, America Trial Lawyers Association member

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.

My legal practice was generally litigation oriented before I became a judge. My most recent legal practice emphasized criminal defense, domestic relations (divorce, paternity, custody), probate, estate planning (especially for parents of mentally handicapped children), guardianship and conservatorship law. I obtained extensive courtroom experience. A number of years ago before I started specializing in domestic relations work, I emphasized real property, land use and personal injury law.

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.

1998-2007, West Linn Municipal Court Judge (1 day/week). Misdemeanors, traffic and ordinance violations (arraignments, motions, probation violations, pleas, sentencings, court and jury trials).

1997-98, 1986-91, State of Oregon Pro Tem Circuit Court Judge. Small claims, traffic, FED, mental health commitments, misdemeanor and felony cases (night court, arraignments, omnibus hearings, court and jury trials).

1989-97, Sandy Municipal Court Judge. Traffic and ordinance violations (arraignments, pleas, sentencings and court trials).

1988-93, King City Municipal Judge. (arraignments, pleas, sentencings and court trials).

1984-2007, Pro Tem Municipal Court Judge in Canby, Gladstone, King City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Sandy, Tualatin, West Linn and

Wilsonville. Traffic and ordinance violations, misdemeanors (arraignments, motions, probation violations, pleas, sentencings, court and jury trials).

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.

As a Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge, my judicial work has been varied. In addition to handling a general trial court case load that includes domestic relations matters, criminal trials and civil disputes, I am in charge of the domestic violation deferred sentencing specialized court. I also hear motions and preside over settlement conferences in various areas of the law. As the Municipal Judge of the City of West Linn, I presided over court and jury trials, as well as arraignments, motions, probation violations, pleas and sentencings.

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

None.

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.

In the last year on the circuit court bench, I presided over approximately 26 civil and criminal trials (6 jury trials and 20 court trials). I have also heard numerous motions and presided over many show cause hearings. As a municipal court judge, I tried approximately 1 to 2 jury trials per year and 8 to 16 court traffic trials per week. In both jurisdictions, I presided over many contested criminal hearings including probation violation, sentencing and diversion revocation hearings.

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

None.

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

1981 to present, Oregon State Bar Association member

Committee on the Rights of the Handicapped (1981-86)

Judicial Administration Committee (1989-91; 1992-95)

Joint Committee on Creation of New Judgeships (1992-94)

LPRC member (2000-01)

1981-present, Clackamas County Bar Association member

Judicial Selection Committee (2003-06)

President (1992)

Secretary (1988)

Law Day Chair (1985)

CLE Committee (1984-85)

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

Oregon State Bar Association:

Committee on the Rights of the Handicapped (1981-86)

Judicial Administration Committee (1989-91; 1992-95)

Joint Committee on Creation of New Judgeships (1992-94)

LPRC member (2000-01)

Clackamas County Bar Association:

Judicial Selection Committee (2003-06)

Law Day Chair (1985)

CLE Committee (1984-85)

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.

No.

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.*

No.

19) What attracted you to a judicial career?

As a trial attorney since 1981, and judging part-time in municipal court for over 20 years, I have been a first-hand witness to the stresses and hardships people face every day of their lives, particularly when it comes to encountering the court system. I saw a full-time judicial career as an opportunity to use my skills and hands-on approach to find fair and equitable solutions to the difficulties and hardships litigants face, both in the courtroom and in their lives. In addition to enjoying the intellectual challenge of resolving the many and varied issues presented, I am comfortable dealing with self-represented litigants and attorneys in resolving disputes in the courtroom, and I feel that, as a judge, I can make a positive contribution to the community.

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.

I believe judges should seek to resolve legal disputes in a way that lets each litigant preserve their dignity and understand the complexities of the system and the decision rendered. I think a judicial "temperament" or demeanor that demonstrates respect for legal positions and people who appear before judges, personal integrity and integrity to the judicial process which rises above a judge's view of the world, common sense, and competence are important qualities for a judge. One of the judiciary's biggest challenges in today's society is accomplishing the continually growing amount of work with few resources, little time and too few judges. I therefore intend to work hard.

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 was assigned a summary judgment motion in an unusual domestic relations case last fall. It involved a foreign litigant and multi-national judicial orders. The issue was the applicability and enforceability of the foreign judgments in Oregon. The research required was extensive. Hearings went over the course of several days over several months while the parties and court waited for the results of some continued foreign litigation. Expert witnesses were called and testified in person and from various locations across the country. I continued the hearings into the evening to accommodate foreign witnesses who were travelling the next

day. I expected to be appealed by one of the parties (no matter my ruling) because of the unique nature of the issues before the court that had not previously been decided by the Oregon appellate courts. My decision was lengthy. It was, however, not appealed.

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 concerned about the role of mental illness in the criminal justice system. Many of the litigants that I have met in my private law practice and who have appeared in front of my as a judge were suffering from a mental health issue that affected their behavior. The judiciary as a whole is concerned about this growing problem and I particularly would like to be involved in addressing this issue.

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

I admire retired Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Raymond Bagley. He always tried to do the right thing in the case before him and did so with a smile on his face or twinkle in his eye (even if the rest of us didn't understand the humor in the situation).

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

I am a mother of two.