

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2010

1) Your full name:

Robert D. Herndon

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

807 Main Street, Oregon City , Oregon 97045

503 655 8644

3) Web site (if applicable):

NA

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.

McLoughlin Union High School graduated 1962

University of Oregon BS Law 1966

University of Oregon School of Law JD 1968

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

Associate and Partner with Phil H Ringle Jr. 1968 to 1986

Partner: Hutchison, Hammond, Walsh, Herndon and Darling 1986 to 1997

Circuit Judge 5th Judicial District Clackamas County 1997 to Present

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

Oregon State Bar admitted 1968

US District Court for the District of Oregon 1968

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

NA

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

Oregon State Bar CLE publication on Real Property

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

Board of Directors Tri-City Chamber of Commerce, Rotary member 1975 to 2008, president Oregon City club 1981-1982, Explorer Scout leader 1970 to 1975. Board of Directors of Willamette Falls Hospital Foundation 1995 to Present, Chairperson of the Board 1999 to 2003. Little League and Babe Ruth youth baseball coach.

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.

General litigation practice including personal injury, domestic relations, criminal defense and probate and trust litigation regarding wills and decedent's intestate estates.

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.

Municipal Court pro tem judge for City of Gladstone, 1968 to 1986. Pro tem municipal judge at various times for cities of West Linn, Milwaukie, and Oregon City. District and Circuit Court pro tem judge for Clackamas County from approximately 1977 to 1997. Tri-met hearings officer regarding the applications of certain areas to withdraw from Tri-Met.

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.

I am a general trial court judge and preside over a variety of civil and criminal trials. I also serve as a judicial mediator for settlement conferences in civil cases and major criminal cases. I am responsible for the Clackamas County probate department and traffic violations bureau.

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

NA

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.

Hundreds of trials. In most years, we average about 2 jury trials per month although the number can vary based on the length and type of case.

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

I served as both an arbitrator and mediator while an attorney and as a judge I spend a considerable amount of time conducting judicial settlement conferences. I have had a great deal of success in resolving a number of major criminal cases including numerous homicides in Clackamas County.

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

NA

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

NA

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.

NA

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.*

None

19) What attracted you to a judicial career?

The ability to help others resolving their disputes.

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.

The most important quality for any judge and often the most difficult to attain is the ability to keep an open mind. Even in the simplest small claims case, it is critical we remember this case is important to the litigants and for them to believe the judicial system is affording them a fair process for the resolution of their dispute. The special thing about our system is the fact we have an independent judiciary available for resolving the legal disputes of the citizens and it is crucial for the continuation of our democratic way of life for citizens to believe in the fairness of that system. In when they lose, they should believe in the process.

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.

There are really too many to emphasize and particular case. Sometimes our best work is done when we assist litigants in resolving issues without trial.

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.

Access to justice and the implementation of Oregon's eCourt system.

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

The late Patrick D. Gilroy, the longest sitting Circuit Judge in Clackamas County history. Judge Gilroy and a passion and love for what we do as judges and the need to preserve an strong independent judiciary.

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

I love this job and hope to do it until the mandatory retirement age. Thanks to the voters for allowing me to do this great job.