

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2016

Judicial Candidate Questionnaire: Judge Version

1) Your full name:

Cynthia Lee Easterday

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

535 East Fifth Street, Room 236, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503) 434-7486

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.

University of Oregon School of Law, J.D., 1989;

University of Puget Sound, B.A. Politics and Government, 1983;

Lincoln High School, 1979.

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

Yamhill County Circuit Judge, 2009-2016; Attorney, Haugeberg, Rueter law firm, 2007-2009; Assistant General Counsel, Oregon State Bar, 2006-2007; Yamhill County Deputy District Attorney, 1990-2006; Judicial Law Clerk, Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Herrell, 1989-1990.

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

Oregon State Bar 1989.

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.

Advisory committee member of "A Family Place, Yamhill County Relief Nursery"; Local Public Safety and Coordinating Council; Chair of the Family Law Advisory Committee; Chair of the School Attendance Improvement Committee; Boy Scouts of America Troop 260, Merit Badge Counselor and committee member.

Previous board memberships: Yamhill County Commission for Children and Families; Oregon Community Foundation North Willamette Valley Leadership Council; Juliette's House Child Abuse Assessment Center; Lutheran Community Services Advisory Council.

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.

Criminal prosecution, measure 11 crimes; attorney ethics; general business 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.

Yamhill County Circuit Court Judge, 2009 – 2016.

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.

Family Law Judge, 2009 – 2014; General Circuit Court Docket 2014 – 2016; Women's Recovery Court, 2009 – 2016; School Attendance Diversion Court, 2012 – 2016.

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.

Unknown.

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

None.

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

Oregon State Bar. Past member of Oregon Women Lawyers.

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

CASA legislative task force committee chair, 2012 – 2014.

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?

To assist parties in the resolution of disputes and conflict. To fairly and impartially apply the law and administer justice.

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.

It is important to treat people with respect, to listen carefully to discern the facts, and to apply the law as is written. It is challenging to render a legal decision when I wish the decision or verdict could be otherwise, but I am charged with applying the law as it is.

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.

Over the last few years I have become more and more interested, involved and passionate about working with struggling families to assist them in overcoming barriers to help them succeed. I have been given this opportunity in presiding over Women's Recovery Court and in School Attendance Diversion Court, and also in being a founding board member of Yamhill County's Relief Nursery called A Family Place.

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.

There are so many people that come to court to resolve a legal dispute, assert their legal rights, and access a legal remedy who cannot afford an attorney to assist them in fully presenting their case before the court. It is important that the self-represented litigants have access to justice even if they are unable to afford an attorney.

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

"Law and order exist for the purpose of establishing justice, and when they fail in this purpose they become the dangerously structured dams that block the flow of social progress." -Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

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