

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Anthony Alexander Behrens

2) Web site (if applicable):

www.behrens4judge.com

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

Willamette University 1988 to 1992 – BA History. Willamette University College of Law 1992 to 1995 – JD

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

Umatilla County District Attorney's Office 1996 to 1998 – Deputy District Attorney

State of Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services Division of Finance and Corporate Securities 1998 to 2000 – Enforcement Attorney; Special Deputy District Attorney; Special Assistant Attorney General

State of Oregon Office of Administrative Hearings 2000 to 2005 - Administrative Law Judge

Marion County Circuit Court 2005 to 2007 – Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem

Law Office of Michael Knapp 2007 to 2008 – Attorney Private Practice (Primarily represented business clients.)

State of Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services 2008 to present – Legislative Liaison/Senior Policy Advisor

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

Oregon State Bar; Federal Bar for the U.S. District Court, District of Oregon.

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

N/A

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

CASA of Marion County, the Willamette Humane Society, the Union Gospel Mission, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, the Arc of Oregon, Mari-Linn School, and Stayton High School.

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

High-level state government adviser – Legislative and Administrative Law Drafting, Federal and State Policy and Law

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

For the last five years, I've been focusing on policy issues, legislation, and administrative law that impact all Oregonians rather than litigation.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

N/A.

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

I've received mediator training from the Oregon Department of Justice. As a Marion County Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem, a fair amount of time was spent mediating between litigants. I mediated Forcible Entry and Detainer (Eviction) cases often.

12) List any experience you have as a pro tem or municipal judge, and the names of the courts you have served.

Marion County Circuit Court and Visiting Circuit Court Judge Pro Tem in the Yamhill County Circuit Court.

I presided over and managed hundreds of cases including criminal cases, family law cases, mental commitment cases, stalking/restraining order cases, juvenile court cases, torts, contract disputes, small claims cases, drug court cases business law cases, and many others. I officiated hundreds of weddings for Marion County citizens. I issued search warrants and arrest warrants.

I developed the Marion County Circuit Court Traffic Diversion Program and implemented multiple process improvements to increase judicial efficiency.

I also spent 5 years as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Oregon presiding over thousands of cases, including complex securities cases, environmental cases, and licensing cases.

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

Oregon State Bar; Federal Bar for the U.S. District Court, District of Oregon.

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.*

No.

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.*

No.

16) Why do you want to be a judge?

Public service is important to me. I've devoted my professional life to public service and over 1/3 of in a judicial role (7 years) with the State of Oregon, including the Marion County Circuit Court. Judicial work is the work I am built for and am meant to do – it's my passion, and the best way I can continue to serve the people of my community.

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.

As a prosecutor, my goal was always to do justice. I was guided by the constitution and the principles of law, and I did not hesitate to dismiss a case if the evidence did not support the charge. I brought these same principles with me to the Marion County Circuit Court.

A judge is in the customer service business. People come before a judge to get justice, and it's the judge's job to treat them with dignity and respect, to listen to them, to set aside any bias or preconceived ideas, to get to the truth of the matter, and to deliver the right result – justice. A good judge provides good customer service.

The issues that come before a judge aren't always - in the grand scheme of things - the most important. However, when I was a judge, I treated each of the issues I heard like they were the most important because to the people before me, they were. I know what it's like not to get justice - I've experienced it personally, I've seen it happen to my family, and I've seen it happen to clients. If I'm elected, it will never let it happen in my courtroom.

Whether the case involves an indigent criminal defendant or a sophisticated business, I will always be fair and just; I will always treat attorneys and clients with dignity and respect; I will always be prepared and give thoughtful consideration to the arguments before me; I will always explain my rulings no matter how "big" or "small" the issue or case is; and I will always make decisions based on the facts before me, the law, and the Constitution. My personal opinions and beliefs will never control my decisions, and I will always remember that there is a person, a family, or a person's livelihood at the heart of every case.

Some of the cases that came before me when I was on the bench at the Marion County Circuit Court were quite frankly heartbreaking. It's hard not to take these cases home with you at night. This is what I found most challenging about being a judge.

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.

I recently led a project that will result in the receipt of over \$270 million from the federal government over five years to lower insurance premiums for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians who purchase their own health insurance.

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

I'm a problem solver and am always looking for better ways to do things. When I was on the Marion County Circuit Court, I developed the traffic diversion program currently in place. I also made a number of process improvements that sped up the disposition of motions.

In addition to increasing judicial efficiency, I'm interested in exploring creative sentencing and alternatives to incarceration for non-violent crimes and expanding the use of treatment and mental health courts.

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

Atticus Finch. Atticus is even-keeled and guided by his sense of justice and his belief in our justice system. I like to think I'm similar to Atticus in this regard.

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

What Makes Me the Right Choice for Your Next Judge

Professional Life

I'm the only candidate with experience as a prosecuting attorney. I have served as both a Deputy District Attorney, specializing in violent crimes and serious sex crimes, and as a Special Deputy District Attorney, specializing in complex financial crimes. I've also worked as a special Assistant Attorney General, recovering tens of thousands of dollars for elderly Oregonians defrauded by swindlers and crooks. I have the most state-level judicial experience, including experience as a Marion County Circuit Court judge. I've been in private practice, representing individuals, small businesses, and Oregon-based international, multi-million dollar corporations. Perhaps even more important than the extensive, traditional legal experience that I bring to the table, is the unmatched government and legislative expertise I possess.

Because the state capital is in our county, we see a lot of cases that other courts do not. Having a judge who understands how government works, who has written and shepherded laws from pen to paper all the way to the Governor's desk and through implementation is essential. We need someone who has worked on issues that impact the entire state and citizenry of Oregon.

Personal Life

I'm far from your stereotypical judge, prosecutor, or attorney. I grew up in a violent household. I was the son of a single mother who lived with an abusive man. As a child, I witnessed and experienced abuse and violence that no one should. I watched my mother spiral into depression, alcoholism, and drug addiction and saw her ultimately die of a heroin overdose.

Having grown up under these circumstances, I have a unique perspective on the opioid epidemic, children of drug addicted parents, mental illness, and domestic violence – significant issues plaguing our community. I understand addiction, depression, codependency, and what it's like to be a victim. I can readily empathize with victims and those struggling with alcohol and drug addiction and can show compassion when it's needed.

FAMILY

I think you can tell a lot about a person by his or her spouse and children. I've been married to my wife, Emily, a few months short of 20 years. She's the sweetest person in the world. She works at Stayton High School and is beloved by students and teachers alike. In fact, this year she won the district's annual Above and Beyond award for (you guessed it) going above and beyond what is required. My son, Henry is a sophomore at Stayton High School. He's a lot like his mother, in that he too is well-liked by both students and teachers. He's a hard-worker and is a straight-A student in the honors program. In fact, Henry has been a straight-A student for as long as he's been in school. (Yes, I'm bragging.) I couldn't be more proud of these two, and I'm lucky to be a part of their lives. We live in South Salem together with our three cats: Chuck Norris, Lottie, and Emmie.

COMMUNITY

I love Marion County and have lived here almost my entire life. I was born in Salem, went to grade school and middle school in Salem. I graduated from South Salem High School, Willamette University, and Willamette University College of Law. In the time that I've lived in this county, I've volunteered my time and donated money to numerous local charities and schools, including CASA of Marion County, the Willamette Humane Society, the Union Gospel Mission, Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest, the Arc of Oregon, Mari-Linn School, and Stayton High School.

HARD WORK

Because of my mother's struggles with addiction, I had to learn to be self-reliant at a very young age. If something needs done, I'll find a way to do it and make sure that it's done right.

I know the value of hard work. I've been working steadily since the age of 12, when I started picking berries to pay for school clothes. After I graduated high school, I went to work for a plywood mill in Mill City to pay for college and law school. I am still working hard, running a small business

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