

# Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Jennifer Krumm Chapman**

2) Web site (if applicable):

[www.jenniferchapman4judge.com](http://www.jenniferchapman4judge.com)

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

**Juris Doctor, Lewis & Clark Law School (2000 – 2003)**

**Bachelor of Arts, University of North Texas (1997 – 1999) (double major in political science & psychology) (note: completed 4-year degree in 2 years through combination of summer school, AP credits, and maxing out the number of credits taken per term)**

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

**2011 – present: Legal Counsel, Oregon AFSCME Council 75 – labor, employment, administrative, general counsel, licensing**

**2005 – 2011: Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice – child support; debtor-creditor; lien enforcement; wage & hour; punitive contempt; civil commitments; collection and enforcement of restitution owed by criminal offenders; personal injury; bankruptcy; enforcement of orders by administrative agencies in circuit court; breach of contract; termination of parental rights; and other related state-plaintiff work**

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

**Oregon State Bar, 2003 – present**

**U.S. District Court for Oregon, 2003 – present**

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

**Author of article, "Genetic Discrimination in the Workplace" (Published in the Journal of Legal Medicine, December 2002)**

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

**I regularly volunteer at my children's elementary school. I also help my husband run McMinnville Volleyball Club.**

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

**Civil Litigation and Advice.**

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

**In the past 5 years, I have litigated cases in/ before: arbitrators; multiple circuit courts; the Office of Administrative Hearings; the Employment Relations Board; the Office of Child Care; the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training; the Department of Human Services; and the Oregon Court of Appeals.**

**The cases have involved contracts, labor & employment issues, professional licensing, review of administrative orders, and disputes involving public safety officers' exposure to the bodily fluids of inmates.**

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

**See above.**

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

**N/A**

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

**N/A**

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

**I have been member of the Yamhill County Bar Association since October or November 2017. I have not held any offices or had any committee/ project assignments. I was previously a member of the Multnomah Bar Association.**

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?

**I want to be a judge because giving back to my community is very important to me, and I believe that I am uniquely qualified for the position.**

**We need more judges that understand, and have experience with, a broad range of civil cases. I have that experience. At the same time, I am not a stranger to criminal law: I represented the Crime Victims Services Division of the Oregon Department of Justice for several years; I have handled punitive contempt cases (which involve the same rules and standards as criminal cases); and I have represented law enforcement officers, correctional officers, prosecutors, and criminal defense attorneys.**

**We also need judges who can help maintain the court's reputation for fairness, professionalism, and integrity. I graduated from law school near the top of my class, I have a solid reputation amongst attorneys and clients who have worked with me, and I do not have any bar discipline on my record.**

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.

**Good judges are smart; they are fair; they listen to the parties; and they issue unbiased decisions.**

**Great judges are smart but always eager to learn more; they are fair but firm; they understand how to make sure the parties feel listened to while not sacrificing efficiency and order; and they take steps to ensure that their decisions are not only unbiased, but also that the parties and onlookers have no reason to question the unbiased nature of the decisions.**

**One of the greatest challenges facing judges is how to manage a crowded court docket while properly balancing competing and important interests, including the interests of law enforcement, attorneys, public workers, individual parties, crime victims, and the community at large.**

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 have worked on many legal issues and litigated many different cases, and I am proud of the work that I have done on all of them. However, the work that I think is most relevant to this judicial race involves the conversations that I have had with clients behind the scenes. Giving people honest feedback about the strength of their legal position can be really tough to do when their legal position is flawed or has significant weaknesses, and giving people that type of feedback in a way that they can understand and appreciate is even harder. I repeatedly tell my clients that my job is to tell them what they have to hear, not what they want to hear. I am proud of the fact that I have had many of these conversations over the years, and I have developed a skill set for having these conversations in a way that make people feel appreciated, understood, and grateful (despite the bad news). I think this skill set will serve me well as a judge, because by definition the job involves making decisions that will make some people unhappy.**

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

**Our legal system can be confusing and intimidating for non-attorneys, and yet more and more people are being forced to appear before the court without an attorney (in civil cases) or with an often-overworked court-appointed attorney (in criminal cases). I worry that this disconnect is leading many in our society to see the court as a place that is not meant or designed to help them or serve their interests. I would like to work towards making sure that our justice system is accessible and relatable to everyone.**

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

**During my career, I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to appear before many different judges, administrative law judges, and arbitrators who come from many different counties, courts, and forums.**

**What I have discovered is that the best judges are usually the least memorable ones that people rarely talk about, because there is rarely a reason to talk about a judge who is able to quickly understand and apply the laws fairly, consistently, and with no obvious bias. I believe that Judge Joseph Guimond from Marion County (now retired) is a great example of this. I remember him being kind and welcoming to everyone who appeared before him, and he never seemed rushed or frustrated. At the same time, he successfully managed a busy docket and he dealt with some really difficult cases, attorneys, and litigants. While working for the Oregon Department of Justice, I appeared before him fairly regularly, and yet I have no idea what his political leanings were, whether he had "favorites" in terms of the people and attorneys appearing before him, and whether he even saw frustrating cases, attorneys, and litigants as being "frustrating." Judge Guimond was the kind of judge that people would say, "If I can't win before him, I couldn't win before anyone."**

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

**I am the mother of four boys, and I have lived in McMinnville for 13 years. My husband grew up in McMinnville, and we have a large extended family who is active in the community. I believe that being a parent and a long-time resident of the community will help me relate to and understand the competing interests of people who appear before me. It also adds valuable credibility to the decisions that I reach, even when those decisions by definition will make some people unhappy.**

**I also think that it is really important to note that many of the people who support my campaign come from many different perspectives: they include people of all political parties; people who hate politics generally; people from all different socioeconomic backgrounds; people that I have previously represented; current and former co-workers, supervisors, and client-representatives; and attorneys who have represented opposing clients.**