

# Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

**Courtland Geyer**

2) Web site (if applicable):

**None**

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

**Juris Doctor, Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR (1993);**

**Bachelor of Arts, Speech Communication, Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA (1990);**

**One-year foreign exchange program, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, (1987-1988)**

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

**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, MARION COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (2011-Present)  
I currently manage an individual calendar of civil litigation, domestic relations and criminal cases. I am also frequently asked to conduct judicial settlement conferences on cases assigned to other judges.**

**TRIAL TEAM LEADER, CRIMES AGAINST KIDS AND SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT, MARION COUNTY DA'S OFFICE (2004-2011)  
Responsibilities included supervising a team of attorneys tasked with handling child abuse and sexual assault cases; reviewing police investigations for prosecutorial merit and assignment; primary attorney responsible for prosecution of high profile child sexual abuse and child homicide cases; community presentations on child abuse and mandatory reporting; coordinating training and inter-agency communication for agencies and individuals responsible for child abuse investigation in Marion County; frequent spokesperson for Marion County DA's Office and responsible for assisting other attorneys handling media matters.**

**DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, MARION COUNTY DA'S OFFICE (1993-2011)  
Prosecuted more than 2000 cases. Experience includes more than 100 jury trials.**

5) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission. If desired, list previous admissions.

**Oregon State Bar (admission 1993)**

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

**I have prepared written materials for many Continuing Legal Education ["CLE"] presentations (see paragraph seven (7)). Prior to becoming a judge, I wrote several guest opinions for the *Statesman Journal* on topics related to the prevention of child abuse. I have also been published in the *Marion County Bar Bulletin*.**

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

**Chair, Judicial Education Committee, 2018-2019; Member, Fall, 2012-Present**

**Member, Judicial Conduct Committee, Fall, 2012-Present**

**Member, Governor's Re-Entry Council, 2014-Present**

**Member, Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council, Fall, 2011-Present**

**Member, Oregon Asian Pacific-American Bar Association, 2011-Present**

**Member, Oregon Filipino American Lawyers Association, 2016-Present**

**Member, Oregon Minority Lawyer's Association, 2005-2010; 2017-Present**

**Presenter, Through the Eyes of a Child Conference, Juvenile Court Improvement Project, *In Camera Review* (CLE), August 7, 2017**

**Presenter, New Judge Seminar, Oregon Judicial Department, Office of Education, Training and Outreach, *Judicial Decision Making* (CLE), June 20, 2017**

**Presenter, Judicial Practical Training, Oregon Judicial Department, Office of Education, Training and Outreach, *Criminal Sentencing* (CLE), March 10, 2017; March 7, 2018**

**Professor, Willamette University College of Law, *Trial Practice Winter Intensive Course*, 2016, 2017 & 2018**

**Presenter, Oregon Women Lawyers Brown Bag CLE, *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE), December 3, 2015, at the Marion County Courthouse.**

**Moderator, Willamette University College of Law, *Sexual Assault: Consent and the Law*, sponsored by the Women's Law Caucus, October 27, 2015**

**Presenter, Oregon State Sheriff's Association Concealed Handgun License Conference, *Contested Hearings*, Bend, Oregon, October 15, 2015**

**Member, Oregon Law Commission, Collateral Consequences Workgroup, 2014-2015**

**Presenter, Oregon Women Lawyers Brown Bag CLE: *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE), June 18, 2014, at the Marion County Courthouse.**

**Presenter, Willamette University College of Law First-Year Summer Orientation Program, *Closing Argument*, 2012-2014.**

**Presenter, Juvenile Court Improvement Project Annual Conference, *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE), August 11, 2013, at the Oregon Garden.**

**Presenter, Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality Mock Trial Boot Camp for High School Students, July 24, 2013, at Willamette University College of Law (*Opening Statement*)**

**Presenter, Oregon Judicial Department Citizen Review Board Annual Conference, May 4, 2013, *The Science of Decision Making***

**Presenter, Willamette Valley Inns of Court: 2011, *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE); 2012, *Legislative Update* (CLE); 2015, *Fast Times with Oregon Measure 91* (CLE)**

**Presenter, Oregon District Attorney's Association Winter Conference, 2011, *Brady v. Maryland: The Disclosure of Exculpatory Evidence* (Ethics CLE)**

**Presenter, Marion County High Conflict Family Symposium, January 8, 2010, *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE)**

**Presenter, Oregon Association of Administrative Law Judges, 2009 Fall Conference, *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse* (CLE)**

**Appointed by Director of Department of Human Services and the Governor's Health Policy Advisor to 2008 Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) Review Group**

**Presenter, Marion County Homicide Assault Response Team, *Investigation of Cases Involving Missing & Abducted Children*, 2008**

**Guest Lecturer, Department of Police Standards and Training, 2008  
Detective School, *Child Abuse Investigation and Karly's Law***

**Presenter, Marion County Bar Association Annual Child Abuse  
Reporting Continuing Legal Education, 2007 and 2008**

**Guest Lecturer, Trial Practice Class, *Motions Argument and Oral  
Advocacy*, Willamette University College of Law, approximately 1998,  
1999, and 2000**

**Co-Chair, Marion County Child Abuse Review Team (CART), 2004-  
2011. Responsibilities included conducting annual protocol training  
for child abuse investigators and community presentations on  
mandatory child abuse reporting. Trainer 1995-2011.**

**Member, Marion/Polk County Fire Investigation Team, 1996-2011**

**Honorary Lifetime Member, International Association of Arson  
Investigators (2011)**

**Member, Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force, 2006-2007**

**Marion County Child Abuse Prevention Team, 2004-2011  
Presented trainings at Salem-Keizer Elementary Schools for parents  
of students and staff on "Recognizing Child Molesters" since 2005**

**Marion County Sexual Assault Multidisciplinary Team, 2001-2004**

**Marion County Domestic Violence Multidisciplinary Team, 1994-1995;  
2016**

**Member, Steering Committee, City of Woodburn Weed and Seed  
Program, March, 2008 – Fall, 2009**

**Member, Oregon District Attorney's Association, 1993-2011**

**Member, National District Attorney's Association, 1993-2011**

**Member, Marion County Bar Association, Approximately 2005-Present**

**Member, Willamette Valley Inns of Court, 2011-2012; 2014**

8) Prior to your becoming a judge, what was the general character of your legal practice? Where appropriate indicate any legal areas in which you concentrated.

**Prior to becoming a judge, I was a criminal prosecutor for almost  
eighteen-years, focusing primarily on areas of child abuse, arson,  
explosives and homicide. I also managed a team of attorneys  
responsible for prosecuting child abuse cases in our county. All told,  
I worked on, prosecuted or supervised the prosecution of**

**approximately 14,000 cases. I appeared in court almost every day and acted as sole counsel or co-counsel in hundreds of trials.**

9) List your judicial experience, including as a pro tem, and/or service on an administrative tribunal, or justice, municipal, tax, circuit, or appellate court.

**Circuit Court Judge since September 1, 2011.**

10) 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 currently manage an individual docket consisting primarily of civil litigation, domestic relations and criminal cases. The civil cases vary from simple negligence cases to complex litigation. Criminal cases assigned to me range from shoplifting cases to homicide. I preside over all aspects of the cases, from pre-trial litigation up to and including the trial. I also conduct approximately 50 judicial settlement conferences per year. I serve as Chair of the Judicial Education Committee and I am the Deputy Presiding Judge for Marion County.**

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

**None.**

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

**I conduct approximately 50 judicial settlement conferences per year – mostly in criminal cases but also including many family law and civil cases. In 2016, I completed the 40-hour Civil Mediation course at the National Judicial College.**

13) List any bar association memberships. Where appropriate, list officer positions, committee assignments or other notable work.

**Member, Oregon State Bar, since 1993**

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

**I have been a member of the Judicial Leadership and Education Committee (previously the "Judicial Education Committee") since 2012 and currently serve as Chair (through 2019). In addition to helping plan the continuing legal education programs for all judges statewide, I have taught both criminal sentencing and decision making courses for new Oregon judges the last two years. I have also been a member of the Judicial Conduct Committee since 2012. For other involvement and special projects in the legal community, see my answer in paragraph seven (7).**

15) 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.**

16) 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.**

17) What attracted you to a judicial career?

**Public service has always been important to me, both personally and professionally. As a prosecutor, I saw the difference that a judge could make on a daily basis. Being a judge is, for me, the ultimate extension of my goal of public service. I feel extremely privileged to be trusted with the office and am honored to serve our community in this capacity.**

18) 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 that a judge is responsible for providing parties with a fair and impartial process for resolving disputes. While the parties are concerned with the outcome, the judge must be focused on policing the process and making sound determinations of law.**

**In order to ensure a fair and impartial process, a judge must know the rules of evidence and the rules of procedure that apply to that**

**case and enforce them firmly but graciously. It is important that a judge exercise an open mind and patience in hearing the parties. A judge cannot promise the parties that they will prevail but only that they will have their day in Court and be heard. Finally, a judge must be able to explain their ruling in a manner that will be understood and will withstand scrutiny.**

**The greatest challenge for judges – but one that is inherent to the job – is making unpopular decisions. Frequently, the law or the Constitution requires a judge to make a decision the public will not like. Judges must have the courage to do so and the grace to explain the decision in a way that will be understood by both those affected by the decision and the public that judge serves.**

19) 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.

**Because I have worked on thousands of cases and with many partner agencies and community organizations, picking one case or even one issue is very difficult; however, I'd highlight my part in a prevention program I worked on with the Salem-Keizer School District and many other partner agencies.**

**In late 2004 (while I was still an attorney), following a high-profile child sex abuse case involving a teacher, the Salem-Keizer School District began a dialogue with agencies already on the front lines of fighting child abuse. One outcome of those discussions was the creation of a curriculum and teams of trainers to speak to parents of local elementary school children about how to recognize child molesters and keep children safe. The curriculum was evidence-based and more applicable than the dated "Stranger Danger" programs that, at the time, were the only educational material provided for parents. I played a key role in developing the curriculum and was a frequent presenter. That first year alone, the teams visited every elementary school in the Salem-Keizer School District to present our materials to interested parents. The training was then offered annually for every school in the District.**

**With prevention programs, it is always difficult to measure success; but, if even one child was protected from harm because of our efforts – and the statistical probability suggests that it would have been many more than that – it was an effort I am extremely proud of.**

20) 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.

**Continuing legal education for judges is an issue that is very important for me. Consider that there are 17 volumes of Oregon law, with each volume containing approximately 700 pages or more of statutes. There are thousands of appellate opinions interpreting those laws. New laws are being passed every year and appellate opinions written every week. Merely keeping up to date on the many legal issues that a judge faces every day is a challenge; getting ahead, considering and preparing for emerging legal issues before they land on your desk for a quick decision is still another matter. My involvement in training for new judges and continuing legal education for experienced judges (see paragraph seven (7)) is a matter of great interest to me and I've found my work in that area to be especially fulfilling.**

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

**I have always found former Justice of the Supreme Court Thurgood Marshall to be an incredibly inspiring individual and one who will forever have a substantial place in any legal history of the United States. Before ever becoming a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Marshall had an amazing career with the NAACP. He and his fellow NAACP lawyers would literally type legal briefs in the passenger seat of a car while driving from state to state in the Jim Crow-era United States to file and appear in civil rights actions. He advocated for others in these hostile venues at great risk to his own life and his work established legal and social changes that endure to this day.**

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

**None.**