

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Teri Lynne Plagmann

2) Web site (if applicable):

<https://teriplagmannforjudge.com>

www.oregondivorceattorneyservices.com

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

9/1988 – 6/1993 Oregon State University, Bachelor of Science Degree

9/1994 to 5/1997 Northwestern School of Law of Lewis and Clark Law School, JD received

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

6/1995 to 4/1998 Schroeder Law Offices, Law Clerk/Associate,
Assisted with civil litigation and appellate work relating to water law, real property, contracts and business issues.

5/1998 to 1/2000 Hagen Dye Hirschy & DiLorenzo, JD Paralegal then Associate, Assisted with civil litigation, business law and appellate work at large firm.

6/2003 to 10/2008 Marandas & Perdue, (later changed to Marandas, Perdue, Durham & Lowney, LLC), Associate Attorney, Handled civil litigation, family law, juvenile dependency and appellate work in small firm. Handled criminal matters relating to violations of restraining orders and nonpayment of child support.

10/2008 to 3/2014 McElroy & Durham, PC, Partner/Owner, Built and operated successful small law firm handling all matters of domestic relations, estate planning and probate work.

3/2014 to present Law Office of Teri Plagmann, PC, Attorney/Owner.

Solo practitioner handling all matters of domestic relations, including mediation. Additional practice areas of estate planning and probate work.

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

Oregon State Bar, admitted since 1997

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

While in college at Oregon State University, I worked as a reporter at the college newspaper, the Daily Barometer, and authored many news articles.

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

Columbia Regional Programs, board of directors

Oregon School for the Deaf, volunteer at Nightmare Factory

Albany Chamber of Commerce Member

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Coalition Against Domestic Violence, courthouse volunteer

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

I currently am a solo practitioner, handling all matters of domestic relations, estate planning and probate work. I handle cases in all counties throughout Oregon, however the majority of my practice is in Linn and Benton Counties. In having my own practice, I also have the flexibility to reduce my hourly rate to a modest means rate or pro bono if the case pertains an issue or it is a client that I deeply believe would benefit from legal representation.

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

My practice has always focused on litigation. From 2008 to 2014, I jointly owned a small firm located in Portland, although the practice was

throughout Oregon. The majority of my practice concentrated in family law. In 2014, I moved my practice to Albany, Oregon, full time. For the past four (4) years, I have been a solo practitioner with my office located in Albany. The majority of my cases still are in the area of family law, however I also handle some probates and contract issues. I have handled cases in the following courts in the last 5 years: Linn, Benton, Marion, Lane, Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Polk, Yamhill and Columbia counties.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

I have not handled any appellate court cases since approximately 2010. However, prior to this time I have significant appellate court experience that I received while working at Schroeder Law Offices, Hagen Dye Hirschy & DiLorenzo and at Marandas Perdue. I worked on appellate court cases relating to administrative law, civil litigation and family law. Most of my work involved legal research and writing appellate briefs for senior attorneys. However, I also was the primary attorney on cases as well and performed the oral argument at the Oregon Court of Appeals on four (4) occasions.

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

For the past 4 years, I have at times acted as a mediator on non-contested dissolution of marriage cases.

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.

Oregon State Bar member, family law section member

Linn Benton Bar Association member

Oregon State Bar Unlawful Practice of Law Committee member

Oregon State Bar State Lawyer Assistance Committee member

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 was born and raised in Linn County and my family has always been involved in our community. As a judge, I will be continuing my family history of working to improve our county and the lives of our citizens. As a litigation attorney with 20 years of experience, I have appeared in many different courtrooms in front of many judges. In doing so, I frequently witness the powerful role that a judge can play in improving the lives of people in some cases, while at the same time improving the safety of our community in others. My broad experience in handling a variety of cases throughout the State of Oregon, will be an asset to the Linn County court system. As our community continues to grow and the demands on our judges continue to increase, I am committed to ensuring that our court remains efficient and looking for ways to bring improvements. I intend to administer justice that is fair, responsive, and respectful, with litigants and attorneys leaving the courtroom having been treated with dignity, respect and understanding the court process.

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.

The role of the judge is to apply the laws faithfully as they are written, without legislating from the bench. Oregon has long held that our judges should be nonpartisan and leave behind any political views once a judge takes a position on the bench. This is because it is important for a judge to be fair, respectful, nonbiased, and to always consider what is just for everyone. However, the reality is that our world and society is always changing and our population is increasing. A judge's greatest challenge is how to apply substantive laws, which should remain unchanged, to an ever-changing society, while at the same time ensuring that the court structure continuously evolves in order meet the increasing demands.

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 worked on a wrongful death case in which an infant died in the hospital after surgery as a result of a medication error. The case involved voluminous discovery and issues that were both complicated and emotional. Ultimately, the matter did not proceed to trial and the hospital settled, with the settlement conditioned upon a change in hospital practices to ensure that this type of medication error would not happen in the future with other children. It was gratifying that the hospital listened to concerns, admitted there was an issue to be addressed and then took steps to resolve the problem. Having children with medical issues myself, I was particularly proud of the efforts expended in that matter, not only to obtain justice for the family who tragically lost their child, but also that we were able to help save other children and parents from such a tragic fate, which lessened some of the heartache that the parents endured.

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

Our population in Linn County continues to grow, while we have had the same number of judges on our bench for more than 30 years – only five. This issue is not present just in Linn County, however, but throughout the State of Oregon. Our judges are continuously faced with increasing demands, not just from an increasing number of cases but also an increasing number of unrepresented parties. At the same time, our judges must also ensure that statutory and court timelines are met. Our courts must continue to improve and keep pace with modern times so that we can continue to meet the needs of our citizens in the future.

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

Sandra Day O'Connor has always been an inspiration to me. She rose from humble country beginnings, similar to myself, which helped shape her career on the bench. These country roots gave her strong work ethics, self reliance and determination, which were assets as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Even those who did not agree with her opinions, have praised her fairness, temperament and devotion to the good of the people. She led by example and has a strong devotion to her family, tempering wisdom with diplomacy. Her legacy has made a difference to many women in the legal profession.

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

Linn County is my home. I intend to bring my practical experience as a hard-working, dedicated attorney to the bench to continue to build a better future for our citizens. Throughout my career, I have been a private practitioner, handling litigation for real people, who spend their hard-earned money to obtain working solutions to their problems. I have compassion for people and have earned the respect of many of my colleagues and judges. As a judge, I intend to uphold these principals:

- **Remember that real lives are at stake in every situation and give each case the attention it deserves**
- **Listen with an open mind and rule fairly, upholding the law**
- **Issue rulings and write opinions that are clear, concise and understandable**
- **Give dignity and respect to every individual that appears in court.**

I would be honored to serve the citizens of Linn County.