

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

Candidate Questions:

1. Name:

Van Pounds

2. List college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, and degrees awarded:

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Dispute Resolution, 2002
Juris Doctor (J.D.), 1979
University of Missouri-Columbia

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in History, 1977
Southeast Missouri State University

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

From 1980 to 1982, I worked as an Assistant/Acting City Attorney for the City of Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

From 1982 to 1987, I engaged in private practice and represented individuals referred through the Bootheel Area Legal Assistance Program. I supplemented such practice with work as an Assistant Regional Public Defender for the State of Missouri (1985), and as an Adjunct Instructor of Business Law at Southeast Missouri State University (1986-87).

From 1987 to 2011, I served as a Managing/Senior Counsel and Special Assistant Attorney General with the Missouri Department of Revenue.

Since 2011, I have served the people of the state of Oregon as Chief of Enforcement and Securities, and now as a Senior Policy Analyst, with the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services.

4. List state and federal bars, court and administrative bodies to which you are currently admitted:

I am admitted to practice law before the courts of the state of Oregon, and the courts of the state of Missouri.

5. List any publications and/or articles you have authored:

Promoting Truthfulness in Negotiation: A Mindful Approach, 40 Willamette L. Rev. 181 (2004).

6. What is the general character of your practice:

Administrative and regulatory law.

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

My current employment has not involved a litigation practice per se; however, it has allowed me to develop a more comprehensive understanding of Oregon law, practice and procedure.

8. Describe any appellate court experience not included above:

I have practiced before the Eastern, Western and Southern Districts of the Missouri Court of Appeals, and the Missouri Supreme Court.

9. Describe any experience serving as an arbitrator or mediator:

I have completed advanced studies of appropriate dispute resolution practices, with emphasis in particular upon negotiation and mediation. I have also participated in Oregon-specific mediation training.

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

N/A

11. List any bar association memberships, any offices held or committee/project assignments:

I am a member of the Oregon State Bar (Administrative Law Section); The Missouri Bar (Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee; and, Labor & Employment Law Committee); and, the Marion County Bar Association.

12. Have you ever been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of any federal, state, county or municipal law, regulation or ordinance?

No.

13. Have you ever been the subject of a formal disciplinary proceeding as an attorney?

No.

14. Why do you want to be a judge?

I believe that I would bring a broad base of knowledge and experience, and a unique perspective, to the position. Also, I view this as an opportunity to contribute to the development of the law, and to the betterment of our system of justice.

15. Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges of the role:

Appellate courts, and appellate court judges, have a responsibility to not only resolve disputes, but provide timely and clear legal guidance. Judges should fully and fairly consider the law and facts in each case, and render decisions accordingly. I tend to favor opinions that are written clearly and concisely, and with a minimum of dicta.

Judges are challenged to be both impartial and connected.

16. Briefly describe an issue, related to Oregon’s justice system, that concerns you, or that you have an interest in working toward improving:

I am interested in improving the judicial selection process, to make it more publicly transparent and inclusive.

On the one hand, under the Oregon Constitution, judges are to be elected by the voters of this state. On the other, voters are offered little choice — as most Oregon judges are first appointed rather than elected to office, and then run unopposed in elections to retain their seats.¹ Voters are routinely left with the mere illusion of election.²

We should strive to better inform the public of the process by which judges get selected, and provide the public with an opportunity to participate in such process in a meaningful manner.

¹ See National Center for State Courts, *Judicial Selection in the States: Oregon* (visited March 31, 2018) <http://www.judicialselection.us/judicial_selection/index.cfm?state=OR>.

² See Hans A. Linde, *Selecting Oregon’s Judges*, 46 Willamette L. Rev. 497, 501 (2010).