

## Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Your full name:

**Christopher Andrew Ramras**

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

**1021 SW Fourth Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204. (503) 988-5544.**

3) Web site (if applicable):

**Not applicable.**

4) List high school, college and law school attended, including dates of attendance, degrees awarded and your reasons for leaving each school if no degree from that institution was awarded.

**University City High School, San Diego, CA 1981-1984 (HS Diploma)**

**University of California at San Diego 1984-1988 (BA in psychology)**

**Willamette University College of Law, Salem, OR 1993-1996 (J.D.)**

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

**1996-2001: United States Air Force, JAG. Prosecuted military members and represented the U.S. Government in various administrative matters. Spent 2 years as the Area Defense Counsel, the base equivalent of a public defender. Also handled administrative hearings and civil law related to damage claims, wills and tenant law.**

**2001-2002: Smith, Freed and Eberhard, Associate attorney. Civil litigation. Primarily insurance defense.**

**2002 – 2017: Office of the District Attorney, Multnomah County, Senior Deputy District Attorney. Supervised a unit that prosecuted violent and sexual crimes. Tried cases of Aggravated Murder, Murder, Rape in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First degree and many others.**

**August 2017 – Present: Oregon Circuit Court Judge, Fourth Judicial District. Preside over general docket involving both civil and criminal matters.**

6a) List state and federal bars, courts and administrative bodies to which you are presently admitted and the date of admission.

**Oregon State Bar 1996.**

6b) List any previous admissions, including dates, and the reason why you are no longer admitted.

**Not applicable.**

7) List publications and/or articles you have authored.

**Not applicable.**

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

**During my time in the DA's office I was a member of the Multnomah County Sexual Response Team and Alliance for Safer Communities. I made a variety of presentations, including on court room expectations to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and the law of self-defense to Women's. I also made a regular presentation to an organization designed to help recent Eastern European immigrants acclimate to the United States.**

**As a Judge I have participated in a panel advising law students on what employers look for in applications/interviews as well as a panel addressing the Multnomah Bar Association on the experiences and preferences of new judges. I am a member of the Inns of Court.**

9) Prior to your becoming a judge, what was the general character of your legal practice? Indicate the nature of your typical clients and mention any legal areas in which you concentrated.

**I was a prosecutor for the last 15 years prior to my appointment. My client was the State of Oregon, but I worked with many victims of violent and sexual crimes.**

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

**I have been a circuit court judge for a little over a year.**

11) 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 am on the general bench and preside over a variety of criminal and civil matters. I have presided over 13 criminal trials and 3 civil trials. I have conducted many settlement conferences for criminal defendants and am involved with the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP) as a settlement judge. I have also presided over many civil motions. These have included motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, motions to quash a subpoena, motions to compel and motions for relief from default judgment among others.**

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

**Not applicable.**

13) State the approximate number of trials or contested hearings over which you have presided as the judicial officer during each of the past five years. Indicate roughly how many were jury trials and how many were trials to the court.

**12 criminal jury trials and 1 criminal bench trial.**

**2 civil jury trials and 1 civil bench trial.**

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

**Not applicable.**

15) List all bar association memberships, offices held and committee assignments.

**Member of the Oregon State Bar.**

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

**I was previously a member of the OSB Judicial Advisory Committee. This committee was dedicated to making arrangements for judges to speak to interested community groups about the justice system.**

17) 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.**

18) 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.**

19) What attracted you to a judicial career?

**My early experience as a lawyer exposed me to both prosecution and defense in criminal cases. This impressed upon me quickly that there is always more than "one side to the story". I also knew that I would eventually want to step out of the role of an advocate. I hope that my experience in interacting with a wide variety of people from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds has taught me to be patient and understanding of all litigants.**

20) 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's most important qualities are a willingness to listen to all sides of a dispute and not to "pre-judge" the outcome prior to argument. A judge should also be as prepared as possible for a hearing before taking the bench. This means reading and digesting parties' briefings in advance. In criminal settlement conferences it is important to review a defendant's assessments and the alleged facts of the case prior to meeting the defendant. This helps a judge learn about the defendant's background and may help a judge build rapport with the defendant by allowing the judge to talk about pertinent matters from the defendant's past. Many defendants have an inherent distrust of the process. Recognizing this and showing a defendant that you know something about them as a person can help reduce such distrust.**

21) 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.

**There are too many to list! I am always amazed at the variety of differing factual situations the law must be applied to.**

22) 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.

**I am interested in the procedural fairness issue of giving participants in the justice system a greater understanding of how cases process through the system. I believe that many Judges and lawyers have great difficulty in abandoning legal terms and language when explaining such processes to non-attorneys. This is an area ripe for improvement.**

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

**I admire too many of my colleagues to list them all by name. I admire different judges for different aspects. Some attributes I admire are advance preparation for cases, teasing out the more important issues in dispute and treating all litigants with understanding and respect.**

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

**No person, or judge, is infallible. All judges are likely to have decisions overturned on appeal at some point in their career. I believe a judge should not become defensive about such matters and instead treat it as a learning opportunity.**