

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Debra Vogt

2) Web site (if applicable):

None

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

West Albany High School, Albany, OR – 1987 - diploma

Southern Oregon State College – Ashland, OR – 1987-1988 – transfer to OSU

Oregon State University – Corvallis, OR – 1988-1991 – BA Philosophy

Willamette University – Salem, OR – 1991-1994 - JD

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

Judicial Clerk, Lane County Circuit Court, 1994-1996

Deputy District Attorney, Lane County District Attorney's Office, Criminal Division, 1996-2006; 2004 promoted to Senior Prosecutor.

Lane County Circuit Court Judge 2007 to present

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, September 1994

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

N/A

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

Past President Eugene Active 20-30 Club, member from 1997 to 2007 – as part of this service organization, I participated in, and chaired, many children’s charity fundraisers including:

2001 Project Chair – Scream in the Dark – haunted house, children’s charity fundraiser – received outstanding local project chair award in 2002.

2000 Co-Project Chair – Scream in the Dark – haunted house, children’s charity fundraiser

1998 Project Chair – Coats for Kids – children’s winter coat drive

2004 Project Chair – Giving Tree – “child in need” Christmas gift drive – received 2004 Charity Project of the Year at 20-30 National Convention

1999 Project Chair – Fiesta Latina Pinatas – children’s community activity

1999, 2001 and 2002 sub-chair – Freedom Festival Fireworks show – 4th of July children’s charity fundraiser

2004 Project sub-chair – Em’s Concession Stand – summer-long children’s charity fundraiser

Christmas tree pickup – picking up Christmas trees for recycling

Duck pen bike parking – parking bikes at Duck football games

Special Olympics – working with, organizing and encouraging the disabled athletes during track and field events

Oscar Night Benefit for Pearl Buck Center, Special Olympics

Mardi Gras Benefit for the Child Center

Pearl Buck Christmas Tree Cutting – taking children of disabled parents to a Christmas tree farm to pick out and cut down a Christmas tree to take home

2001 thru 2006 - Board Member, Child Advocacy Center – non-profit center helping child victims of child sexual and physical abuse

2002 and 2004 thru 2006 – Instructor – Eugene Regional Basic Police Academy, Elder Abuse program

2004 thru 2006 – Instructor – Eugene Regional Basic Police Academy, Child Abuse Program

2004 thru 2006 – Instructor – Eugene Regional Basic Police Academy, Domestic Violence Program

2005 Guest Lecturer – U of O Law School – Crime Scene Investigation

2004 Guest Lecturer – U of O Law School – Jury Selection

2004 Guest Lecturer – U of O Law School – “Against the Grain: Working for the Public Interest”, First Annual Public Interest/Public Service Symposium

2001 Guest Lecturer – OSU Dept of Political Science – Legal Education and Legal Careers Course

2000 and 2002 – Instructor – Eugene Regional Basic Police Academy, Criminal Law Section A2.7

2001 – Presenter – “Basics and Beyond – The Art of Informed Investigation”; Oregon Department of Human Services Seminar, Portland

1999, 2000, 2004 and 2005 – Instructor – Eugene Regional Basic Police Academy, Officers in Court program

1999 – Instructor – U of O Law School Trial Practice

1998 Lecturer – Regional Violence Against Women Act Training Program – “Evidence Based Prosecution”

1997 to 2000 – Guest Instructor – U of O Law School Prosecution Clinic

1997 to 2000 – Instructor – Investigation and Prosecution of Domestic Violence, all local police agencies

Past Rotary member (Delta club)

Current member, and past chair, Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability (2013 to present)

Current member Oregon Prison Forecast Advisory Committee

Current member Oregon Public Safety Task Force

Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council Budget Committee member (2009 to 2017)

Current member Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council

Since my election in 2006, I have been an educator at too many continuing legal education forums to list here. Suffice it to say, I have stayed very active in that regard.

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 senior prosecutor with the Lane County District Attorney's Office assigned to the Major Crimes Division focusing on the prosecution of major violent felonies and child abuse cases. I was with the D.A.'s office from 1996 until I was sworn in as a judge in January, 2007.

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.

I have been a Lane County Circuit Court Judge since January, 2007. Prior to being appointed as our Presiding Judge in January, 2018, I served as the court's Chief Criminal Judge for over 8 years.

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.

See answer to 9) above. Along with those special assignments, I have also been a general jurisdiction trial judge since my original election in January 2007, regularly handling all manner of cases that come to our court including domestic relations, traffics, civil cases, small claims, FEDs, as well as criminal cases.

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

None

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

None

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

Oregon State Bar Association, member since 1994

Lane County Bar Association, member since 1994

Board Member, Lane County Bar Association 2002-2004

New Lawyer Committee Chair, LCBA, 1995

Judicial Administration Committee, OSB, 2005 to 2006

Oregon Women Lawyers Member

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

Current member, and past chair, Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability (2013 to present)

Current member Oregon Prison Forecast Advisory Committee

Current member Oregon Public Safety Task Force

Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council Budget Committee member/chair (2009 to 2017)

Current member Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council

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?

Before becoming a judge, I had spent my legal career, as well as a great portion of my private life, working to improve the quality of life in my community, with an emphasis on the importance of providing for the needs of children and families. I had seen that lives could be dramatically affected by our legal system. As a judge, I knew I could continue to have a positive effect on the quality of life in my community.

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.

A judge must have a strong work ethic, be someone who can put in the necessary hours to keep cases flowing steadily through a system that threatens to clog.

A judge must be willing to continually educate herself in order to improve the performance of her judicial duties with regard to every type of case that comes before her.

A judge must at all times promote public trust and confidence in the courts and the justice system.

A judge must have the patience to listen to each dispute, argument and fact before rendering a judgment.

A judge must have the courage to properly exercise judicial power with impartiality, honesty, fairness and discretion.

A judge must have the courage to do the right thing, even if it might be the hard thing.

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.

Singling out a particular case isn't something that I think is entirely appropriate in the context of this question.

Statewide, my work as a member of the Oregon Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability for the past 5 years has been challenging and reflective of my work ethic and professional philosophy.

Locally, I am particularly proud of my work on the PSCC Budget Committee, where committee members work in a collaborative setting to find the best way to fund the most impactful programs for our criminal justice system with too few funds.

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.

Overwhelming caseloads, overtaxed dockets, and underfunded courts.

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

Atticus Finch, To Kill a Mockingbird. This character exemplifies the professionalism that should be aspired to by all lawyers and judges.

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

None.