

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2018

1) Full name:

Mike Wetzel

2) Web site (if applicable):

N/A

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

Mt. Hood Community College (1986-1988)

Willamette University (1988-1991)

Vanderbilt University School of Law (1992-1995)

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

17 years private practice experience (1995-2012) in Oregon prior to taking the bench in 2013. 15 years (2002 - present) as a JAG officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and Oregon Army National Guard.

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, 1995

US District Court Oregon, 1995

US Tax Court, 1998

U.S. Court of Appeal for the Ninth Circuit, approx. 1998

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.

I have presented CLE classes for the Oregon State Bar, Portland State University Professional Development Center, and others.

From 2005 to 2008, I was on the Clackamas County Economic Development Commission.

I have volunteered for Clackamas United Soccer as a coach, served as a volunteer judge for the Classroom Law Project, and I am currently serving on the workgroup for the new Clackamas County Courthouse.

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.

I had a varied practice involving planning, transactions, and litigation. At various times, I focused on business matters and disputes, estate planning and litigation, tax, real estate, general civil litigation, and family law.

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 served as a circuit court judge in Clackamas County since January 2013.

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.

We are a general jurisdiction trial court, hearing jury and bench trials involving criminal, civil, family, probate and other matters. I currently am the judge for the DUII and Adult Drug treatment courts. I am one of four judges on the juvenile dependency docket, hearing cases involving abuse and neglect of children.

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

N/A

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

When in private practice, I served as an arbitrator in court mandated arbitrations, involving primarily collection matters.

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

I served on the executive committee of the Oregon State Bar Taxation Section and as the Chair of the OSB/CPA joint committee.

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

I served on the Clackamas County Elder Abuse Task Force, am currently the co-chair of the Clackamas Local Family Law Advisory Committee, and the workgroup for the construction on the new Clackamas County Courthouse.

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?

I believe in public service and doing what we can to make our community a better place. That belief was reaffirmed when I joined the military and continues today. I believe a judicial career is one of the best ways to serve the community, promote justice, lend a helping hand to those in need, and safeguard our liberty and freedoms.

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.

Judges are charged with applying the law impartially and fairly. Each judge must do so faithfully but with an eye towards how the law applies and justice is done in each particular case. One of our biggest challenges is applying these ideal principles in the face of high volume dockets. My goal is to make sure each individual that comes before me has an opportunity to be heard and leaves the court feeling that their voice was heard.

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.

I am most proud of my work on the juvenile dependency docket and my two treatment courts. In each, we strive to make families and the community safe while giving individuals an opportunity to work towards a fresh start and new life. The successes we see are truly humbling and make the hard work and extra effort all worth it.

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.

One of our biggest challenges is access to justice. Justice is done and freedom protected when all parties, irrespective of socioeconomic status, have access to legal representation and equal access to the justice system.

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

My father, the late Joe Wetzel. He always did what he could to help those in need and welcomed the challenge of representing the "little guy" against the government.

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

I thank the voters of Clackamas County for electing me to this position six years ago and I look forward to continuing to serve our county and state.