

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2020

1) Full name:

Adrian Lee Brown

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

<https://adrianforjudge.com/>

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

● **Lewis and Clark Law School**, 1997-2000, J.D. with Certificate in Environmental Law, May 2000. I worked part-time through my 2nd -3rd years of school, and as a student participated in the Public Interest Law Project, the Legal Aid Clinic, and Mock Trial. I was selected by faculty for the Cornelius Honor Society.

● **Indiana University**, Bloomington, Indiana, 1993-1997, B.S. with Distinction, Public Policy, June 1997. In addition to working part-time during college, I was also a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, and Air Force ROTC. Upon graduation, I was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force.

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

● **Assistant United States Attorney** (August 2008 – present): Civil Rights Coordinator for the District of Oregon

○ Lead counsel on affirmative civil rights investigations and litigation involving discrimination against individuals protected by the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA),

Unlawful Conduct of Law Enforcement (42 USC 14141), and The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (including discrimination in schools, places of public accommodation, and employment).

- **National Civil Rights Coordinator** (January 2014-June 2015): Personally recruited by then AAG Tom Perez to serve a 16-month detail within President Obama and AG Holder's Justice Department in Washington D.C. Worked as liaison between the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and the Civil Rights Division, developing programs and training to expand civil rights enforcement in U.S. Attorney Offices throughout the United States.

- **Special Assistant United States Attorney** (October 2007-August 2008): Federal prosecutor of mid and upper-level drug manufacturers and distributors for six counties as part of the Mid-Willamette Valley Task Force Justice Assistance Grant Program.

- **United States Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps** (November 2000-September 2007):

I am a veteran. I honorably served my country for almost seven years as a Judge Advocate. Throughout my service, I tried over 40 criminal trials -- charges just like those our state court judges handle -- domestic violence, child abuse, drug use, sexual abuse of children, fraud, rape, and negligent homicide, just to name a few. I served as a prosecutor in the interests of protecting victims' rights, just as our local Deputy District Attorneys serve the community, and I was competitively selected to serve as a public defense counsel representing individual service members charged with felony crimes, in the same interest as our public defenders. I have worked in extreme conditions, being away from home for more than half a year for over 3 years to prepare for and try jury trials across the Pacific Northwest, and through the European Region, including Turkey and Afghanistan.

- Circuit Trial Counsel, European Region, Air Force Judiciary: lead prosecutor on complex felony criminal trials, including sexual and physical abuse of children, rape, maiming, negligent homicide, and fraud.

- Area Defense Counsel: lead defense counsel, representing individual service members in jury and bench trials facing misdemeanor and felony criminal charges.

- Legal Assistance Officer: legal aid attorney representing service members and their families, including, wills and trusts, marriage dissolutions, and discrimination by landlords and creditors as protected under the Service Members Civil Relief Act.

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

Oregon State Bar and U.S. District Court of Oregon

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

- ***“COVID-19 crisis an opportunity to fix old flaws,”*** Portland Tribune, April 2020, published by Pamplin Media Group.
- ***“Sex Trafficking and Gangs: A Deliberate Approach,”*** USA Bulletin, Vol. 62 No.3, May 2014, published by the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Office of Legal Education.
- ***“Where Are We Going? Trailblazing the Next 50 years for Civil Rights,”*** Oregon Civil Rights Newsletter, June 2014, published by the Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section.
- ***“And Justice for All: Federal Civil Rights Enforcement in Oregon,”*** Oregon Civil Rights Newsletter, March 2011, published by the Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section (co-authored by Dwight C. Holton).

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

Community volunteer and civic service:

- **Oregon State Bar, Board of Bar Governors**, Elected Member, Region 5 (January 2020-present).
- **Multnomah Bar Association**, Court Connect, Attorney Volunteer
- **Multnomah County Circuit Court, Small Claims Court Mediator** (November 2018-present).
- **Start Making A Reader Today (SMART)**, (January 2019-present), Lawyers for Literacy Steering Committee (November 2018 – May 2019); Reader to pre-K and Kindergarten children (Oct 2019-Present).
- **Oregon State Bar, House of Delegates**, Elected Representative, Region 5 (January 2017-2019).
- **Oregon State Bar Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion**, Appointed by Board of Governors (2017).
- **Multnomah Bar Association, CLE Committee Chairperson** (September 2019- June 2020). Member of CLE committee (Sep 2017-June 2020). Responsible for leading monthly meeting of volunteer attorneys to organize and moderate 40 CLEs throughout the year.
- **Oregon Women Lawyers**, Member. Board Member of Queen’s Bench, 2018-2019; Roberts-Diez Award Committee, and Workplace Transformation Committee.

- **Oregon State Bar Civil Rights Section**, Executive Committee (2011-2015). Served as Secretary for 2012 term; and Chair for 2013 term. Assisted with coordinating speakers and sponsorships for 2011, 2012, and 2013 annual public forum, and for our annual CLE program in 2012 and 2013.

- **Anchorage Youth Court** (2001-2003). Served as a volunteer legal advisor for this non-profit organization which trains high school students as advocates and judges in actual juvenile cases held in Anchorage State Court.

Teaching experience:

- **Opportunities for Law in Oregon (OLIO)**, panel coordinator and speaker for student orientation, "Disability as a Diversity Value," August, 2019.

- **Professional Liability Fund**, CLE speaker, "Bridging the Disability Gap-- Making Your Practice and Workplace More Accessible: Improving Your Communication with Clients and Colleagues," November 2019.

- **Multnomah Bar Association**, CLE speaker, "What I learned as a JAG," March 2019.

- **National Advocacy Center**, CLE Speaker, Affirmative Civil Rights Seminar (2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2020). This three-day course provides AUSAs a foundation to practice federal civil rights enforcement. I have taught sessions on enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and building a civil rights practice at U.S. Attorney Offices.

- **National Advocacy Center**, CLE Speaker, Service Members Rights Seminar (2017). Served as faculty on a 3-day seminar to train AUSAs on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, and other federal civil rights laws protecting service members and veterans from discrimination.

- **National Advocacy Center**, Civil Mock Trial, CLE Student Advisor (2019). Served as a student advisor to new AUSA practicing trial skills from Voir Dire to Closing Argument.

- **National Civil Rights Coordinator** (2014-2015). During my 16-month detail to the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, I coordinated panels of speakers and presented training via webinar to all United States Attorney's Offices on topics involving the ADA, Discrimination and Harassment in Education, Veterans Reentry Courts, and prosecuting Human Trafficking cases.

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

My practice over the past decade has focused on increasing access to justice through the enforcement of federal civil rights laws for some of the our most vulnerable and underrepresented community members throughout Oregon -- including system change of how services are delivered to adults on Medicaid experiencing serious mental illness, enforcement of constitutional policing practices, employment services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, veterans employment rights, fair housing rights for persons with disabilities and families with children, access for persons with physical disabilities, and addressing bullying in schools.

I created the Civil Rights Coordinator Position within the local US Attorney's Office in 2009. I saw the gap in the access to the Justice Department at the local level and fought to change it. My position still exists today. As a result of my success in building this practice in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland, I was recruited by the head of the Civil Rights Division, Tom Perez, to serve as the National Civil Rights Coordinator. In this role, I implemented a mentoring and training program for attorneys in U.S. Attorney Offices across the country interested in civil rights work. I also successfully fought for dedicated funding for over 30 civil rights attorney positions in U.S. Attorney offices nationally, to ensure the work could continue regardless of the administration in D.C..

I brought about the first-ever federal civil rights suit involving the Portland Police Bureau. I was the singular line attorney in the Portland office to champion the request to open a pattern or practice investigation concerning policing practices. A key part of this process was developing trust and relationships with a range of community stakeholders, who are supporters of me to this day. Throughout my seven years of service on the case, I helped bring community partners into the investigative and negotiation process. We created a new norm of police response to persons in crisis and with mental illness, formalized the use of force review process, including officer accountability.

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

I have practiced civil litigation over the past five years both in bringing civil actions to enforce federal civil rights laws, including disability access, as well as defending federal agencies against civil claims. I have litigated a range of motions involving complex medical malpractice claims, as well as

employment discrimination claims, and claims brought by incarcerated individuals

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

I have submitted written briefs and made oral arguments before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of the United States, in both criminal and civil appeals. I have also participated in the Ninth Circuit's mediation program on two complex systemic reform cases involving multiple state and local agencies.

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

I have served as a volunteer mediator for Multnomah County Circuit Court, Small Claims Division since November 2019. I sought out this opportunity to help regular community members solve real-world problems.

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

Justice Department ethics rules have prevented me from participating as a pro tem or municipal judge, as we are unable to practice law outside of our duties. In order to still give back to the community, I sought out the opportunity to serve as a volunteer mediator for Multnomah County Circuit.

13) List any bar association memberships, and if desired, any offices held or committee/project assignments.

• **Oregon State Bar, Board of Bar Governors**, Elected Member, Region 5 (January 2020-present),

• **Multnomah Bar Association**, (September 2017-present). **CLE Committee Chairperson** (September 2019-June 2020); Member of CLE committee (Sep 2017-June 2020). Responsible for leading a monthly meeting of volunteer attorneys to organize and moderate 40 CLEs throughout the year.

• **Oregon Women Lawyers**, Member. Board Member of Queen's Bench,

2018- 2019; Roberts-Diez Award Committee, and Workplace Transformation Committee.

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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 want to serve as a circuit court judge in Multnomah County to help ensure access to justice for underrepresented community members and families with children. I have personally felt the impact that a judge can have on a family. I was raised by a single working mom as a young child who fought for child support for me and my sister. It was only through the leadership and courage of a judge that we finally received justice, and the support we so desperately needed. With this life experience, I value public service as a way to make the right decisions for the right reasons, and to make a positive impact in our local communities.

Working with vulnerable communities over the past decade on civil rights issues at the forefront of our local courts has fueled my passion to serve as a leader in our local community, and the current public health crisis, as well as the groundswell of support for much needed justice reform, only magnifies the need for strong leadership from our elected officials, including our local judges. What I have found through public service, and particularly at the local, granular level, is an incredible opportunity to make a real difference in peoples' lives. My unique experience handling reform work is precisely the experience needed now.

While an attorney for a party represents a particular part of the system, a judge has the opportunity and the responsibility to ensure the justice system is accessible and inclusive for all. Our local courts have been thrust into handling issues at the forefront of our communities – including mental health care, housing rights, and policing practices. I look forward to using my almost 20 years of advocacy, community outreach, systemic reform, and litigation experience in all of these areas to move the work of the Multnomah County Circuit forward for our community.

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.

A judge has multiple roles. On a daily basis, the role of a judge is to ensure fairness in each of the matters before her, regardless of the type of case or severity of the issues. Most of these matters are criminal matters and a judge must be able to make decisions efficiently and fairly. I am ready to take on this work on day one. Also, individuals and organizations find themselves before a judge as a last resort – resulting in either trauma, emotion, time, and/or resources to have been expended long before the issues arrive in court. It is important for a judge to understand the human element wrapped into each matter on her docket and to be steady and compassionate, yet efficient and timely in her decisions in order to execute justice and move the work of the court forward.

A judge's role does not stop in the courtroom. Our circuit court judges are elected leaders, and as members of the third branch of the government, judges must also be leaders and remain involved in how to best serve our community. Finally, a judge must also be a mentor to both the attorneys who appear before her, as well as the next generation of children and students who will be our next attorneys and judges.

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.

For about seven years, I led a case concerning reform of policies and practices relating to police use of force against persons in mental health crises. This experience was transformative, professionally and personally. This case required skills reflecting the very core of judicial temperament – compassion, courage, community, and commitment to the rule of law:

Community. The case involved multiple parties and a range of stakeholders—each with different perspectives, each with different interests – the City of Portland, the Portland Police Association, the Albina Ministerial Alliance, and the public. As an attorney for the justice department, my work required patience and persistence to meet with the range of stakeholders who had personal and professional history involving the issues in the case. As a result of my professionalism and my genuine interest in listening and learning how to bring parties together to find common ground. Indeed, each party involved in the case has endorsed me in this race.

Compassion. The investigation into the concerns raised by community members and public officials required compassion – many people we spoke to felt that they had never received justice, and some individuals shared their experience in interacting with the police, or the interaction a close family member may have had, and some needed to speak with the assistance of an interpreter. I engaged in hundreds of conversations with community members, community leaders, and law enforcement – all of which required compassion simply given the complexity and history of the issues.

Courage. As the only line attorney assigned to the case from the United States Attorney’s Office, the decision to recommend we file essentially a class-action against the City of Portland concerning policing practices and use of force against persons in mental health crisis took courage. At the time, there was no precedent for such a case. Portland was the first policing case involving mental health issues and community oversight.

Commitment to the rule of law. The decision to bring the case was not a popular one amongst many of my colleagues. My decision rested with my commitment to the rule of law, and our duty as the Justice Department to enforce it. This was a defining case about making the right decision for the right reason.

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

For far too long, our broken mental health care system has only served to trans-institutionalize our most vulnerable, resulting in law enforcement being first responders to mental health crises, and our jails becoming the largest provider of mental health services in the state. The knowledge and array of stakeholder relationships I have gained from working on systemic

reform of the delivery of services for adults experiencing serious mental illness, will serve the court and the community well.

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

After the events of the last week, I must voice my admiration for Ruth White there are many, many figures I admire -- from the hundreds of unsung civil rights heroes, to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the many judges and justices who uphold our civil rights, there is only one person I admire as the reason why I am passionate about public service, and that person is my mother. And, here is why:

As a young child, I was raised by a single working mother in Muncie, Indiana. I saw her work hard and make many sacrifices so that my sister and me could have better opportunities.

My mother is why I am pursuing my passion -- she is my inspiration and my heart. She sacrificed many personal and professional opportunities in her life, so that my sister and me could have a solid foundation from which to grow and do good.

My mom did not value money, despite not having much of it, and instead valued knowledge and culture. I have memories of my mom cutting up credit cards she had maxed out – there were many days that credit and loans were how she kept us afloat.

Instead of expensive vacations, she took us to community meetings; she took us to free events sponsored by the local university – to hear Ralph Nader speak; and to absorb Maya Angelou’s wisdom. She signed us up to participate in local community theater and art classes. She introduced us to the world of libraries. And my favorite memory of all – her reading to my sister and me, every night, before bed – despite our humble surroundings in the little student-housing apartment the three of us shared, she made it special.

My mom opened up the world to me, not through a bank account, but through things that money can’t buy: love, sacrifice, and compassion. I am forever indebted to her for instilling in me values that have led me to this very moment – seeking election to serve as a local judge, while raising my own young child—hoping that the sacrifices, love, compassion, and the small moments we spend together, reading before bed, will instill in him the same strong values of community, compassion, and courage, to make a big difference.

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

My professional experience and personal background is unique and unmatched in this race, and will best serve our community in this moment, to move the work of the court forward, as described below.

• I have steadfastly worked with stakeholders in underserved communities and with law enforcement, as a public service attorney, to ensure federal civil rights are protected. As a result, I have established trusted relationships throughout our diverse communities. And as a veteran who represented service members in criminal trials and civil matters, I will bring unique insight to the court.

• I have experience on systemic reform concerning issues at the forefront of our local courts – from the delivery of community mental health services to best policing practices. My experience will help move the work of the court forward in these key areas involving both access to justice and public safety.

• I have a broad range of civil and criminal litigation experience – with service as a prosecutor and defense attorney. The array of cases I have litigated include a range of issues from complex drug trafficking to medical malpractice. I am ready to do the work of the court, all of the work of the court.