

1) Your full name:

Michael T. Clarke

2) Office Address and Phone Number:

**Clarke Griffin, LLC
52490 SE 2nd St., Ste. 100
Scappoose, OR 97056
503-543-4800**

3) Web site (if applicable):

www.Clarke4Judge.com

Facebook: Clarke 4 Judge

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.

Rainier High School, Rainier, Oregon 1993-1997, diploma

University of Portland, Portland, Oregon 1997-1998 (Business Major - transferred to UofO for more opportunities at a bigger school)

University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 1999-2001 (Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – includes international business study abroad through a University of Kansas program in Paderno del Grappa, Italy)

University of San Francisco, School of Law, San Francisco, California 2001-2004 (Juris Doctorate)

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

2005-2006: associate attorney at the James Law Group, Portland, working on complex transactions and complex commercial litigation matters.

2007-2013: sole proprietor attorney in Scappoose handling a wide variety of matters including but not limited to litigation, estate planning, contracts, employment law, real estate, criminal defense, landlord-tenant, contract work for other attorneys.

2012-2015: partnership with Stephen D. Petersen in Petersen Clarke, LLC in Rainier handling a wide variety of matters including but not limited to criminal prosecution (for the City of Rainier), litigation, contracts, elder law, city government, personal injury, etc.

2013-Present: partnership in Clarke Griffin, LLC in Scappoose and Portland handling a wide variety of matters including but not limited to litigation, estate planning, contracts, probate and trusts, landlord-tenant, employment law, real estate, and general problem solving.

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

California State Bar, admitted December 2004

Oregon State Bar, admitted June 2005

Federal District Court, District of Oregon, admitted January 2011

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

N/A

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

(I served on the University of San Francisco Maritime Law Journal while I was in law school, but did not individually author any published articles.)

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

Columbia County Legal Aid, Inc. – Treasurer for Board of Directors of not-for-profit organization providing legal advice and representation in civil matters (primarily domestic relations), to low-income residents of Columbia County (2007-Present)

Pro bono assistance through St. Andrews Legal Clinic – providing legal intake services and advice to low-income residents of Columbia County through the St. Andrews Legal Clinic, in domestic relations matters, on unpaid, volunteer basis (2007-2010)

Community Foundation for Student Excellence – Board of Directors of not-for-profit organization doing fundraising and managing projects to provide learning tools and opportunities for students in the Scappoose School District (2008-2012)

Columbia County Small Claims Court – provide volunteer mediation services to Columbia County litigants (2007-2013)

San Francisco Small Claims Court - provide volunteer mediation services to small claims litigants (2002-2004)

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 am in the business of providing legal services to good people. Throughout the years, this has led me to practice in a large variety of legal areas (see Q.5) and help clients from all walks of life.

I am currently practicing and managing cases in litigation, probate litigation, probate & trust administration, elder law, personal injury, business, and contracts. My current clients include local and regional people and businesses; Most came to me by word-of-mouth referrals.

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.

None.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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

I studied mediation in college and law school, then began mediating cases in the San Francisco Small Claims Court after my first year of law school. I have also mediated cases in Columbia County Small Claims Court. I really enjoy helping people and parties resolve their problems.

As an attorney I help my clients on their side of their mediation. But I am looking forward to helping all sides resolve their differences. It will be an honor being in a position where I am trusted by the people of this county to help them resolve their differences through mediation, guided problem solving, or trial.

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

California State Bar, admitted December 2004

Oregon State Bar, admitted June 2005

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

I have participated in Oregon State Bar's mentorship program where more experienced attorneys mentor less experienced attorneys. It's rewarding to help guide lesser experienced attorneys past some of the pitfalls I've fallen into.

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?

I wasn't able to put my finger on why a judicial career is attractive until recently. Although I never considered a judicial career until relatively recently, the underpinnings of such a goal have been present in me since high school. In college I studied a wide variety of topics but graduated with a business degree. In law school, no legal area was more interesting to me than any other. And now looking back over my 15+ years of a practice in various legal areas and representing people from all backgrounds, I know why a judicial career is attractive.

I have always wanted to understand people, and understand their problems, so I can help them in some way, hopefully efficiently. Law school obviously taught me how to help people in the legal field, but all of my experience has really been just training me to become better and better at helping people.

Business is about helping people in exchange for money. As a judge, I can help people without the monetary element involved, and I can help people more directly. A judge position will diversify my training and make me an even better problem solver for the benefit of the people in this county.

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.

My perspective is from an attorney appearing before judges, not as a judge. I see the judicial role as the leader of a dispute resolution service. The judge, particularly the Presiding Judge, is in charge of ensuring there is access to justice, protection under the laws, and all disputes brought before the Court are resolved with fairness, honesty, and compassion.

But working with people in crisis or financially stressed is not easy. Understanding the people, the problems, and the law is important. Knowing how to communicate so that people actually hear and understand is also important.

A judge's ability to maintain the public's trust appears to be a challenging problem in this county. Judges need to do what they say they're going to, and do the right thing even if no one is looking.

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.

I recall a large and complex business case where I was surrounded by much older and experienced attorneys, and I felt I was out of my league. So I worked even harder on the case, sorted through the facts, found the law, and created leverage to resolve the problem favorably for my client. I did my job, I did it well, and I helped my client.

I'm the type of person that regardless of personal cost, I fight when I know I'm right and I fight for the greater good. I want to help our local court system because it's time to fight for the greater good.

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.

Access to Justice is the term used to describe whether people are receiving the legal help they need. The "barriers" to Justice include the slow processing of cases, ensuring people's Constitutional rights are being protected, and the costs of getting to court (attorney fees, filing fees). With my experience on the legal aid board for the past 13 years, I believe there are ways the court and the programs supporting justice can better serve people. I am dedicated to finding a way to make our court system more efficient and easier to access by all of us.

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

Judge Ted E. Grove swore me into the Oregon State Bar in his chambers in 2005. Although I was sworn into the California State Bar the year before, my Oregon swearing-in was more rememberable. Judge Grove was so kind and accessible. With his Santa Clause look and his patient kindness, he was the first judge I ever felt comfortable enough to approach.

After practicing for years in Columbia County, I recall a downtown Portland attorney asking me whether Judge Grove was still in practice. He offered that Judge Grove was undoubtedly the person in the room with the most common sense. I may not be as witty as Judge Callahan, but I have the common sense of Judge Grove.

Judge Grove can smooth over problems; help people see their error; and speak to all people. I have always admired these abilities. This has resonated with me because these are also my attributes. I certainly don't have the experience of Judge Grove, but I have been using these skills as an attorney for years.

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

I do not like the turmoil in our county courthouse. Because I am blessed to have budgeted for this judicial race and I have a law license in the State of Oregon, I am one of few people in this region that is qualified to run for judge. As a lawyer that dives into a problem to solve it, I am in this race to cause a change in our locally elected State Officials on the Bench.

Columbia County Circuit Court and its supporting justice services can be the model for our state. We need the courthouse to start working together cooperatively with colleagues, commissioners and the services providers as a team toward the same goal. I have the desire, energy, and courage to bring our local judicial system in line with the stated mission of the judicial department.