

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2020

1) Full name:

Christopher L. Garrett

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

No answer

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

Reed College, B.A., Political Science (1996)

The University of Chicago Law School, J.D. (2000)

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

Associate Justice, Oregon Supreme Court (2019-present)

Judge, Oregon Court of Appeals (2014-2018)

Oregon State Representative (2009-2013)

Attorney, Perkins Coie LLP, Portland OR (2002-2013)

Senior Policy Advisor, Senate President Peter Courtney (2005)

Law Clerk, Hon. Dennis Jacobs, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (2001-2002)

Attorney, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, New York NY (2000-2001)

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.

State of New York (2001)

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (2001)

State of Oregon (2003)

U.S. District Court, District of Oregon (2003)

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit

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

No answer

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

Adjunct Professor, Willamette University College of Law

Co-Chair, Oregon State Bar Futures Task Force (2016-17)

Oregon State Representative (2009-2013)

Governor's Commission on Public Safety (2011-2012)

Volunteer judge, Classroom Law Project

Past member of board of directors, Oregon Lawyers Against Hunger

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.

My private practice, which ended in 2013, concentrated on business litigation, representing mid- to large-size companies, with particular emphasis in antitrust, trade secret, and employment disputes. In addition to business clients, I represented elected officials, candidates, and organizations in political and election law matters.

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.

Associate Justice, Oregon Supreme Court (2019-present)

Judge, Oregon Court of Appeals (2014-2018)

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.

Judges of the Oregon Court of Appeals and Supreme Court are generalists. We hear cases presenting issues of criminal, civil, administrative, and family law, as well as tax and workers compensation.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

Multnomah Bar Association

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

Co-chair, Oregon State Bar Futures Task Force (2016-2017)

Member, Judicial Leadership and Education Committee

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 have been drawn to public service throughout my career. Serving as a law clerk to an appellate judge after law school sparked a love for this work that has endured. I have enjoyed my service on Oregon's appellate courts because of the privilege of focusing my professional energy on the most consequential legal issues facing our state.

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 have a crucial but limited role in our constitutional system. It is for judges to apply the law to the facts of a case and to have the final say on what the law means. The legitimacy of our power depends fundamentally on judges' commitment to impartiality, on our respect for the dignity of all people, and on our sensitivity to the proper role of the other branches of government. Judges must have integrity and the temperament to put our personal feelings and preferences aside to the best of our ability in arriving at a decision.

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.

Early in my career, I had the opportunity to be lead counsel on a pro bono appeal that was referred to my firm by an immigrant rights organization. My client was a Somali woman who had applied for, and been denied, asylum. Her personal story was horrific; she and her family were brutalized during the Somali civil war in the 1990s, after which she fled and ultimately arrived in the United States. The immigration court ruled against her, and the odds did not look good on appeal, but the Ninth Circuit reversed, allowing my client to remain in this country. Among the things this experience taught me were the importance of vigorous advocacy; that the law is not merely words on paper, but can alter the course of people's lives in the most profound ways; and the crucial role of the appellate process in identifying error.

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.

Despite our efforts to improve access to justice in recent years, vast numbers of Oregonians find themselves without professional legal help in areas such as family law and landlord-tenant law. I served as a co-chair of the Oregon State Bar Futures Task Force, which developed recommendations to address these needs, such as allowing licensure of para-professionals and improving other resources for self-represented litigants. I am encouraged by steps that our courts and bar are taking to address this issue.

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

I have learned a great deal from the work of Oregon's own Hans Linde. I became familiar with his scholarly work on direct democracy when I was writing my undergraduate thesis. He was an appellate jurist who also had experience in the legislative process, which gave him a valuable perspective on the interplay between the branches of government. His work has influenced me as a student, lawyer, legislator, and judge.

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