

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2020

1) Full name:

Bonnie Anne Lam

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

N/a

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

University of Arizona, August 1989-December 1992, BS in English, Cum laude

Golden Gate University, School of Law, January 1994-December 1996, Doctor of Jurisprudence

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

1997 to 2012, Law Office of Bonnie A. Lam PC, Private Practice Attorney, General Civil Practice.

2012 to 2016, Law Office of Lam and Richard PC, Partner-Private Practice, General Civil Practice.

2016 to Present, Lam Law Office PC, Private Practice Attorney, General Civil Practice

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

Oregon State Bar. Admitted April 15, 1997

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

N/a

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

Ousley Educational Fund, Scholarship Committee Chair. Appointed August 2, 2019 to current.

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

Civil practice with concentration in juvenile dependency, family/domestic relations law, estate planning, and probate

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

Termination of Parental Rights Trials, Klamath Juvenile Dependency Court.

10) Describe any appellate court experience not included above.

N/a

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

N/a

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

N/a

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

Klamath County Bar Association, President 1999-2001

Klamath Family Law Advisory Committee (FLAC) 1998-present

Klamath/Lake Local Professional Responsibility Committee (LPRC) 1998-2001

Klamath County Parenting Plan Committee 2009-present

**Klamath & Lake Counties Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP),
Model Court Committee 2018-present**

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.*

None

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.*

N/a

16) Why do you want to be a judge?

For nearly 24 years of practice, I have been fortunate to appear in front of over 10 sitting judges who have been great mentors to the job. Each judge has exemplified his or her unique personality, style, and professionalism in a role that I have admired for years. I have seen how judges have the ability to shape our community and did their part in helping our citizens. I hope to use my years of experience, the skills I have obtained in the practice of law, and my observation of our judges, to be a positive community supporter and role model too.

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.

The judicial role is to be the fact finder and to apply the law to those specific facts. In order to do so, a judge must be a good listener with patience, empathy, and a calm temperament.

The greatest challenges to the role is that litigants and attorneys are not always patient, calm, or respectful, thus testing the judge's ability to be the same.

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.

Termination of parental rights cases are complex and difficult cases to defend. The State of Oregon typically has a sound case by the time the case proceeds to trial. In representing this dad, I convinced the court that my client's parental rights should not be terminated as the State had requested. The Court agreed that the State had not met its burden. I am particularly proud of this case in that it is rare to "win" at a termination of parental rights trial.

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

Affordable justice. Litigation has become increasingly expensive, and many litigants' legal expenses increase as courts have become more understaffed and unable to handle the volume of cases in a timely manner. Increasing judicial efficiency would be helpful for this issue.

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

A legal figure I admire is the Hon. Rodger J. Isaacson who served on the Klamath County bench for decades before his retirement in January 2016. He is a thoughtful, considerate, and thorough legal scholar, and a judge that I could count on delivering a sound decision. I marvel at his attention to detail and practical problem-solving approach to handling cases.

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

Thank you for this opportunity. Klamath County has welcomed me and my family to this community, and allowed us to serve. I wish to do that for many more years to come.