

Oregon State Bar Judicial Voters Guide 2020

1) Full name:

Sarah E. McGlaughlin

2) Campaign web site (if applicable):

www.VoteJudgeMcGlaughlin.com

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

Dartmouth College, B.A., 2007

Boston College Law School, *Juris Doctor*, 2014

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

Oregon Commission for the Blind, Rehabilitation Specialist (2015)

Josephine County District Attorney's Office, Deputy District Attorney (2015 – 2019)

- **Specialized in prosecuting complex property felonies, Measure 11 offenses, elder abuse, juvenile law, and animal abuse.**

Current Circuit Court Judge, Josephine County, Position 4 (2019-Present)

- **Primary Family Court Judge & Assoc. Judge of the Josephine Co. Mental Health Court**
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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

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.

Josephine County Model Court and Juvenile Advisory Team

Josephine County Family Law Advisory Committee

Associate Judge of the Josephine Co. Mental Health Court

Rogue Valley Transportation District, Board of Directors (2017 – 2019)

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.

Josephine County District Attorney's Office, Deputy District Attorney

- **Represented the State of Oregon and the community of Josephine County in bringing criminal charges; arguing evidentiary hearings; presenting cases to grand juries; sought just resolutions in criminal cases; and conducted jury trials.**
- **Specialized in prosecuting complex property felonies, Measure 11 offenses, elder abuse, juvenile law, and marijuana prosecution.**
- **Dedicated liaison on the elder abuse multidisciplinary team with DHS, Adult Protective Services, and local police agencies.**

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.

Josephine County Circuit Court Judge, Position 4 (2019-Present)

- **Primary Family Court Judge & Assoc. Judge of the Josephine Co. Mental Health Court**
- **Preside over all case types, including dependency, delinquency, criminal, family law, & other civil litigation**

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.

In Josephine County, all judges preside over all types of law – criminal and civil. As the primary Family Court Judge, my docket is concentrated on juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency. Juvenile dependency cases are those where DHS has become involved with a family and may have custody of a child and/or may have removed the child from their home. Juvenile delinquency cases are those in which a child under the age of 18 has committed offenses that would be called "crimes" if they were an adult.

I am honored to serve Josephine County as its Family Court Judge. The reason to have a judge dedicated to these types of cases is so that I can become familiar with the family/child, the situation that brought them into the justice system, and their progress over time. For dependency cases,

these means that I may make decisions about whether it is in the child's best interest to be returned to their parents and whether it is safe to do so. If the child is not able to be safely reunited with their parents, I may be asked to terminate their parental rights so that the child can be freed for adoption, or I may be asked to determine if it is appropriate for the child to be in another type of placement that affords them safety and security in the long term. Similarly, in juvenile delinquency matters, I am in a position to see that same child over the course of their case (or cases). Thus, I am in a better position to correct any problematic behavior, affirm positive behavior, and monitor their progress towards rehabilitation.

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

U.S. Immigration Court of Boston, Volunteer Law Clerk (2014)

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.

Oregon Women Lawyers

Josephine County Bar Association

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

Josephine County Model Court and Juvenile Advisory Team

Josephine County Family Law Advisory Committee

Associate Judge of the Josephine Co. Mental Health Court

Currently Developing a Juvenile Treatment Court for Josephine Co.

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 became a judge because I wanted to have a broader role in affecting positive change in Josephine County. As a prosecutor at the Josephine County District Attorney's Office, I worked in the trenches to improve public safety and accountability through our criminal justice system. Daily, I encountered the larger social issues that plague our community – increased crime, substance abuse and mental illness. As a prosecutor, I worked on these issues by holding offenders accountable through criminal convictions or seeking other just resolutions tailored to the offender and the particular facts of the case. This may have included seeking jail time and/or supervised probation or seeking prison sentences for serious offenses. In cases where it was appropriate, I would refer offenders to treatment courts like our Josephine County Drug and Mental Health Courts, diversion, or other programs designed to target the underlying cause of the criminal behavior and promote long term rehabilitation.

When the opportunity arose to become a judge, I saw my chance to continue to work to improve Josephine County in a greater capacity. As a judge, I have more power to hold individuals accountable, but also to treat the root causes of the issues. In some situations, that may be through our Josephine County Drug Court or Mental Health Court programs. In dependency cases, that may be holding parents accountable to become sober and safe parents, but also holding DHS accountable to helping the child be reunited with their parents. In delinquency and dependency cases, I get to be involved with these families more continuously, over a long period of time. That allows me to affect intergenerational change, by keeping families and youth on a path of positive growth.

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.

I believe the most important qualities for a judge are humility and a strong work ethic. The courtroom is where people access their rights under state law, the Oregon Constitution, and the Constitution of the United States. Because the courtroom is a place for the people, there is no room for a judge's ego.

My role as a judge is to honor those rights by providing a fair, balanced proceeding in which all parties are listened to without bias; apply the rules evenly to each side; be transparent in the basis for my rulings; and focus on just outcomes which are tailored to the unique facts of each particular case. That requires me to diligently research legal issues and prepare for each case in advance.

As someone who comes from a large, working class family, I know what it is like to feel powerless in the face of authority. Through the sacrifice and support of my family and community, I was able to achieve the education and training that allowed me to be confident in the courtroom. When I sit on the bench as a judge, I treat participants the way I would want a judge to treat a member of my own family – fairly, with dignity and respect, and without prejudice.

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.

Prior to becoming a judge, I was a prosecutor at the Josephine County District Attorney's Office. I specialized in prosecuting complex property crimes, like burglary and robbery. One day, law enforcement arrested a man who was a suspect in a Grants Pass burglary. The more they investigated, the more they realized that he was likely a serial burglar who had been burglarizing homes throughout the county. Because he spread the burglaries out over different regions, they were investigated by different law enforcement agencies who did not realize they were committed by the same person. Just as we were putting the pieces together, the suspect requested a "speedy trial." That means that I had 60 days to bring him to trial on all the cases we just discovered he committed. For the next few weeks, I worked day-in and day-out with law enforcement, witnesses, forensic experts, and the burglary victims to make sure we had all the evidence that I knew would convince a jury that he was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

While awaiting trial, the suspect escaped from the Josephine County Jail – the first person to ever do so since the jail had been built. He ran through the Walmart parking lot and attempted several car jackings before law enforcement successfully recaptured him. I charged him with those additional offenses. After he was found guilty of felony theft in the first trial, he pleaded guilty to a combination of burglary and robbery charges that resulted in a long prison sentence.

The reason I am particularly proud of this case is because of the enormously negative impact this person had on our community, and how we—law enforcement, witnesses, and the crime victims—all came together to ensure that justice was served.

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.

I am determined to create positive, long term change in Josephine County through early intervention with young people. I experienced firsthand the change that can be created by helping one person succeed. My life and the life of my family has been changed by my education. I grew up in a large family, where education was not easy to come by. My older three siblings did not graduate high school. Through the support of my family, and the mentorship of high school teachers, I was able to attend college and get a scholarship to do so. Even though I was the one attending college, my family was experiencing it together. My nephews and nieces have grown up seeing Aunt Sarah go to and from college, become a lawyer, and then become a judge. For them, it is not a question of whether they will finish high school, but what career they will pursue after that. Because they see what I have achieved, they know there is no limit on what they can do if they put in the work.

Because I have seen the ripple effect that my achievements have created in my family, I believe in the power to create positive, intergenerational change through early intervention. That is why I am creating a juvenile treatment court at the Josephine County Family Court. This court will target high-risk, delinquent youth to ensure they grow into responsible, law-abiding adults before they enter the adult criminal justice system. It will also help them become the kind of safe and stable parents who can pass on the values of responsibility and hard work to their own children. By working with our children now, we can create a better community in the future.

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

I admire Abraham Lincoln for his adherence to the principles of individual freedom and a democratic republic that is accountable to all its people. You may not remember this, but Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer before he became the 16th President of the United States. As a child, you learn about "Honest Abe" and his stove pipe hat, how he was born in a log cabin and learned to read by candlelight. In high school, you probably learned about the Gettysburg Address and his leadership during the American Civil War. Every now and then, he makes a splash in Hollywood, and then fades again into history texts.

My interest in Abraham Lincoln probably would have stopped there as well, if I had not gone to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was

late one night in the Fall of 2011. I had spent the last few months in Washington D.C. as an intern at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and I wanted to see the iconic memorial before I left for Oregon. It was fairly empty, which is rather rare. Because it is open in the front and sits at the top of long set of stairs, you have time to look at Mr. Lincoln as you approach. You walk past the long, placid reflecting pool, with the Washington Monument receding behind you. While every other monument is teeming with noisy tourists, this walk seems to affect everyone. By the time you walk up the steps and enter the monument itself, people speak, if at all, in hushed tones.

Immediately, you are drawn toward the statue of President Lincoln, seated on a chair, nearly 20 feet tall and almost as wide. Although 6' 4", Abe Lincoln sits low in this chair, his outstretched hands resting on the arms of the chair. He sits calmly, chin raised, eyes steadily focused in the distance. If you stand before him, then turn around, you see that on the inside of each wall next to the entrance there are words in letters two-feet high. On one side is his Gettysburg Address, given during the most divisive point in American history – the Civil War. On the other side is his Second State Inaugural Address, given just before the formal end of the Civil War when our battered nation was seeking a path forward together.

With the strong presence of President Lincoln behind you, you read the following words:

"[T]hat we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." (Gettysburg Address)

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan - to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations." (Second Inaugural Speech)

Standing there, in the hushed, warm light of the memorial, with Abraham Lincoln a stone titan at your back, you can feel the impermeability of the foundational principles of our nation - government for the people, by the people. We are strongest when united in the enduring strength of our constitutional principles. This is the bedrock of our legal system, and why I believe that service in the legal profession is not just a career, but a moral calling to serve these values.

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

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- **More candidate information at www.Vote411.org**
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